

Ram's Horn

Marriage Retorno Newsletter
Summer 2007 Vol. 113

Strengthening Marriages
Through Scriptural Prayer



**Journey Together
To God**

From the editors

Mike & Maureen Oates

Greetings! In this issue of the **Ram's Horn** you will find:

1. [News and Notes](#)
2. [The Fall 2007 National **MR** Conference](#)
3. [A report on an **MR** weekend, presented by Joe & Mary Ward and Fr. Jim Fedigan](#)

1. NEWS AND NOTES

From Joe & Mary Ward:

We just returned from visiting Br. Ben in Beacon, NY. He is in Hospice care but still at the Infirmary where he has been living these last few years. He is bed-ridden. He is lucid with the same twinkle in his eye and wry sense of humor. He tires very easily. We spent about 15 minutes with him on Friday and then about an hour on Monday. We had some good conversation but he closes his eyes to rest in between talking. We said the rosary with him. His deep baritone was firm and loud. This is apparently his second round with Hospice care. He came out of the first time quite well. The last time we saw him which we think was late last summer, we ate lunch with him in the dining room with all of his brother friars. He was in a wheel chair but that is because he had had a few falls. Apparently this continued and he opted for bed.

It pains us to say that he probably will not be here much longer. He is 93 (we think) and has had relatively good health and appetite over the years. Hospice provides an aide to bathe and tend to him in the morning. It also provides therapy such as singing and exercise. There is a nurse on duty in the infirmary, so he is well cared for. The day nurse is very fond of Bernie as they all call him.

They read cards and notes to him so if you want to send a "thinking of you" greeting, it would be appreciated. He is no longer using his computer except for the music he has programmed into it and plays throughout the day.

*Keep him in your prayers. He is a very special person to **MR** and to us.*

His address is:

Brother Bernard Frey, OFM, cap
St Lawrence Friary
108 Sargent Avenue
Beacon, NY 12508

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We are all asked to pray for Vicki & Jack Owoc who continue to deal with health problems. Recently Jack broke his arm.

Prayers are also requested from the **MR** Community for Lillie James who has difficulties with one of her knees, high blood pressure and her heart.

From M et M:

In mid-May we found out that both of Maureen's knees have osteoarthritis. She is truly fine; she is just unable to walk. On July 17th and 18th we will get a 2nd opinion about her options at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. Then we will decide how we will proceed. We ask for your prayers.

See the **MR** web site for upcoming weekends; please pray for teams and couples.

2007 NATIONAL MARRIAGE RETORNO CONFERENCE

November 2-4, 2007 at
Graymoor Abbey
Garrison, NY

The Conference will start with a buffet dinner Friday evening and end on Sunday with lunch at noon. Arrangements can be made to stay extra nights for those who would want to come in early or stay a few extra days. Approximate cost for the weekend: \$250 per couple; \$125 single.

Please contact our Local Host Couple, Dave & Lillie James, and let them know that you plan to attend.

Phone Number: 518-785-5235

E-mail [Dave and Lillie James](#)

Theme for the 2007 **MR** conference (from our *Marriage Retorno* Coordinating Couple, Rick & Deb Giarusso):

It seemed appropriate to build on our theme of Communities of Salt and Light from last year's National *Marriage Retorno* Conference in NC. This year we will continue to build on this theme as we travel to Graymoor, NY, home of the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Atonement. From the beginning, the Society has focused on the word of atonement or at-one-ment, that is, they have been engaged in the work of reconciling Christians and their churches, making them one, and helping them to reflect on their real unity in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. *That all may be one as you, Father, are in me and I in you; I pray that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.* (Jn.12:21).

Notes on the conference site (from our Local Host Couple, Dave & Lillie James)

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Dear **MR** teams

We toured Graymoor with Fr. Jim, had lunch, and talked. He is a very accommodating man and we should have a great weekend. The chapels are beautiful, and there are many conference areas. He needs a schedule of our days to give us the right size rooms. He would like to have that by October 1st at the latest. There will probably be another group using the facility Meals times are not flexible, they are set, as everyone uses the dining room including the priests who live there.

Meal schedule is as follows:

B - 7:30-8:45AM

L - 12 noon (Sunday – 12:30 PM)

D – 5:30 PM

All meals are buffet and hot, fresh fruit is available at all meals.

The facility is very large and the grounds are extensive. Parking is good, however, the main parking lot is not accessible for those of us who are challenged by stairs. You may enter and unload by the bookstore, then proceed to parking lot. The bookstore is tremendous. Elevators are at the end of the hall near the bookstore.

All of the showers have a good 4 or 5 inch lip to step over. Showers and bathrooms are down the hall from the bedrooms. There are two private suites, but have only tubs and toilet. There is a sitting room and twin beds in the suite. I do hope that this is not a serious issue. Priests can stay on the same floor as us, the 5th, or go up to the 6th where more rooms are available.

[Tour Graymoor](#)

You may take a virtual tour of the facility by clicking on the link above. The facility is very large and sits on the side of a hill. Walking outside will always be a challenge as everything is up or down. You may venture up the hill further to an outcropping of boulders and see across the Hudson River valley. You might consider catching the sunrise from this vantage point. A statue of the Pieta sits there and the view is unsurpassed. See you all in November and dress warmly.

Please contact our Local Host Couple, Dave & Lillie James, and let them know that you plan to attend.

Phone Number: 518-785-5235

E-mail [Dave and Lillie James](#)

3. A report on an **MR** weekend, April 20th – 22nd in Aston, PA, presented by Joe & Mary Ward and Fr. Jim Fedigan



MR Group at Aston PA

While we only had three couples, it was a powerful weekend. (Like any time you invite the Spirit it won't be powerful!) One couple that came had been on our reservation list for two years and the weekend date turned out to be their anniversary. One couple came as a Christmas gift to one of the spouses. The third came as a gift to each other. In all it was a gift to the team as it confirmed our commitment to the weekend.

Thank you all for praying for our *MR* weekend. Fr. Jim Fedigan was terrific as usual. We had three strong couples thirsting for the Lord in their marriage and for couple prayer. One wife had never read the Bible and seemed to fall in love with the Word. We are most grateful for your prayers and good wishes.

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