

Eagle's Wings

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University Mission
and Ministry**

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Secretary

*Rosemary Bowman
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Merry Christmas 

**Weddings and
Baptisms at
Alumni Chapel**
Call Fr. John Maher
286-8415

Mass Intentions
are accepted for each
Weekday and Sunday
Mass for \$10 per Mass.
Call 286-8400 or stop by
the office.

**Campus Ministry
Web Page**
[www.niagara.edu/
ministry](http://www.niagara.edu/ministry)

Newsletter On-line
from the above website,
click on NEWSLETTER

Mass Schedule
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From the Director

I don't like to wait. I'm one of those people who's always early for things. So you can imagine how hard it is for me to hear the message of Advent every year. WAIT.

Waiting is one thing. Waiting patiently takes virtue. It challenges that part of us that likes and needs to be in control of the environment around us. Think about waiting in a doctor's office when you already don't feel well. I admit that I don't take this too well. Of course I try to read or look at the magazines, but after a while, I become irritated. I've even walked out! (By the time I get to the parking lot I usually regret my lack of patience and resolve to do something about it.)

So this year I have a plan. I call it my "Patience Plan".

- I will purposely place myself in settings where I have no choice but to wait, and I will associate that waiting experience with someone whom I know to be in need of prayer.
- I will go to the bank when I know it is most likely to be crowded, and as I wait in line, I'll think of Andy, a homeless man who I know who has asked me to pray for him. By the way, he didn't ask for money or food, just prayer)
- I'll choose the longer line at Wegman's, and while I wait, I'll say a little prayer for my Dad, who lives alone and probably misses the activity in the house that he was so used to. I'll still arrive early for meetings and appointments, but when I anxiously start to check my watch I will allow that action to remind me of those in our community who don't have a watch, or a car, or a home, or a job or any meetings to attend, those who don't have many of the things that I take for granted.

My goal: that during these four weeks of Advent, my "Patience Plan" brings me closer to the experience of the Blessed Mother as she waited in joyful expectation for the coming of the Savior, Jesus the Christ. How confused she must have been. How frightened, even though the angel who appeared to her tried to assure her that she had nothing to fear. How faithful she remained throughout her life. How much I have to learn from this beautiful and blessed Mother of God!

In the prophet Isaiah we read, "For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust your strength lies." (Isaiah 30:15).

I hope that this season of Advent, a time when many of the pressures of the semester come crashing down, be a time of quiet, calm, strength, trust and deeper prayer for you, and that the virtue of waiting for those things that you can't control will continue to develop further in your life, bringing you much peace and joy. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Holy New Year.

Sister Nora Gatto, DC
Executive Director of University Mission and Ministry

A Hymn to the Silence

“Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright...”

Silence: a word that brings a certain fascination and foreboding for all of us. We yearn for silence amidst the din of daily life. Yet, when we encounter it, we often become fidgety, restless, and distracted. Try being absolutely silent internally and externally for a short time. It is not easy, as thousands of thoughts fill up our minds. Letting ourselves become ‘empty’ to ‘make room for God’ is a challenge, even with the best of intentions.



That’s why when Jerod, one of our intrepid Campus Ministers, proposed a silent student retreat at the Abbey of the Genesee, I was somewhat skeptical. Would we get a decent student response? Would they be able to keep silence for a 24 hour period as we were requesting? Would students be willing to ‘take the risk’ right before exam week?

The answer to all of the above is a resounding Yes! We had 7 students come with us to a guest house at the Abbey of the Genesee the first weekend in December. We took part in liturgy and prayers with the Trappist monks, ate our meals in silence, prayed, and as a group took part in talks on prayer (the best one was led by the ever-entertaining Fr. Jerome, who could do stand-up if the monastery bread store ever moves to Wegman’s!)

It was a gradual, but wonderful thing to behold: in the silence, a community began to form. We helped each other with dishes and meal clean-up without being asked. We smiled and nodded to one another as we walked individually outdoors. We prayed and sang with the monks. We happily assisted one another in deciphering the monastic chant and learning how to use their parchment prayer books at each of our choir stalls.

Although silent, there was warmth and concern for one another. Maybe this is so because we learned in the silence, we find the One who always wants to speak to our hearts, but often gets shouted down by the noise of Niagara life. Maybe we also saw in making a place for God to deepen his dwelling in us, we had more space to offer others. It wasn’t Christmas, but to paraphrase the hymn, it was truly a ‘silent time, holy time’.

At the retreat’s end, we asked the group to evaluate this ‘first-ever’ silent retreat experience for Niagara students. Here are some of their comments: *“The silence and setting were awesome! The community atmosphere made us all feel like family.”* *“I liked the silence and learning how to cut out the extraneous noise in our lives.”* *“The time away helped center me and made me peaceful.”* *“I loved the silence and the chance to think.”*

In this Advent and throughout the Christmas Season, before time slips away on you, can you find some moments to be silent before the Lord? Can you allow the One who loves you to speak tenderly to your heart? As our silent retreat students found out, if you make time to be ‘alone with the Alone’ you won’t be lonely...or disappointed!

Fr. John Maher, C.M.
University Chaplain

B.A.S.I.C. BOUND

January 7 – 15, 2007 is swiftly coming upon us. Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the following who will be participating in this year's B.A.S.I.C. Vincentian mission service trips:

Brooklyn

Moderators

Kathy Sydor
Secretary-Religious Studies

Bill Newton

Assistant Director
Campus Activities

Students

Melissa Brierley
Julie Brigandi
Allison Crainer
Michael Daloia
Marianne Dejong
Jennifer Everts
Stephanie Gowan
Meghan Hagenbach
Peter Hamilton
Amber Hohman
Matthew Kwiatkowski
Natali Martinez
Tiffany Rockwood
Audra Silfee
Mallorie Spallino
Ryan Stevenson
Courtney Thompson
Julie Trzaska

Philadelphia

Moderators

Sr. Nora Gatto, D.C.
Director of University
Mission and Ministry

Fr. John Maher, C.M.

University Chaplain

Students

Brandon Bless
Christy Cardegna
Amanda Feola
Rob Hengesbach
Jared Karbowski
Scott Marracino
Peter Prager
Emily Smaldino
Alexis Smith
Alex Stugis
Michelle Urban
Kristin Wagner
Brenna Walsh

Trenton

Moderators

Jerod Sikorskyj
Campus Minister

Monica Saltarelli

Campus Minister

Students

Gary Damon
William Fils
Grant Sanford
Carolyn Skaros
Kristen Smiley
Jillian Sutton

*"Those who are kind
to the poor, honor
their Creator."*

Proverbs 14:31

**REGISTER NOW!!!
LIMITED SPACES
AVAILABLE.**

Stop by Campus Ministry
in LLGC to sign-up. Only
\$10. For more info,
contact Jerod Sikorskyj at
286-8412 or
ijs@niagara.edu.

Women's Spirituality Retreat
Friday and Saturday, February 23-24
Leave NU at 3 p.m. on Friday,
Retreat ends at 5 p.m. Saturday



Men's Spirituality Retreat
Saturday and Sunday, February 24-25
Leave NU at 3 p.m. on Saturday,
Retreat ends at 5 p.m. Sunday



MASS SCHEDULE Alumni Chapel

for Weekdays and Holy Days

Weekday Mass

**Mondays, Wednesdays
and Fridays**
12:15 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays
12:35 p.m.

Weekday Masses are held between

**Aug. 28 - Dec. 15 and
Jan. 17 - May 11**

No Weekday Mass will be held on:
March 12 - 16
April 5 - 9

Holy Day Masses

Immaculate Conception

Thursday, Dec. 7
5:05 p.m. Vigil Mass

Friday, Dec. 8
12:15 p.m.

Special Thanks

Many thanks to those who supported the works of charity and social awareness events of the NU Chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Pax Christi. We look forward to another semester filled with many

great opportunities. As Frederic Ozanam, the twenty year old founder of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, stated so eloquently:

“Charity must never look to the past, but always to the future, because the number of its past works is still very small and the present and future miseries that it must alleviate are infinite.”

Don't Stress

Each of you has received a special grace, so, like good stewards...put yourself at the service of others.

1 Peter 4:10

Did you ever wonder if there is life after Niagara University? Did you know that doing a year of service may help you figure out

what your life is all about and have your loans deferred all at the same time? Learn about the numerous opportunities that are available to you. Contact Campus Minister Monica Saltarelli at ms@niagara.edu for more information.



SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE Alumni Chapel

Dec. 3 – Dec. 10
11 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Dec. 17
11 a.m.

***Saturday, 12/23 - Fourth
Sunday of Advent***
Vigil Mass - 5pm

****PLEASE NOTE:
No Sunday 11am Mass***

***Sunday, 12/24 - Vigil of
Christmas***
Family Mass - 5pm
Vigil Mass - 10pm

Dec. 31 - Jan. 14
11 a.m.

Jan. 21 – March 4
11 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.



ADVENT 2006 Alumni Chapel

Sunday, 12/3
First Sunday of Advent
Mass at 11am, 4:30pm and 10pm

Monday, 12/4
Advent Penance Service - 7pm

Saturday, 12/9
Christmas Caroling - 1pm

Sunday, 12/10
Second Sunday of Advent
Mass at 11am, 4:30pm and 10pm
Pastoral Council Meets 12 noon: All are welcome
Christmas Caroling - 1pm

Sunday, 12/17
Third Sunday of Advent
Mass at 11am
After Mass - Christmas decorating

Monday, 12/18
Advent Evening of Recollection - 7pm

Saturday, 12/23
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Vigil Mass - 5pm

****PLEASE NOTE:
No Sunday 11am Mass***

Sunday, 12/24
Vigil of Christmas
Family Mass - 5pm