

## Letter From the Executive Director

May 2007

Dear Friends,

It seems spring just came at us “full bore” this year. Suddenly everything opened up and filled this holy hill with a beauty that engulfs us. Nature reminds me daily how God is present here. How tranquil is this place in every season! The mystery we celebrate at Easter has blossomed in the glory of nature, the warmth of the sun and the quiet brilliance of Bon Secours. If you are in the area and get a chance to come by, please do, the beauty is breathtaking!

Spring always promises a rich summer and this note is about the richness of the programs that we are looking forward to sharing with you in the months ahead. Sr. Suzanne Delaney, I.H.M., our program Director and the Center’s staff have been working with various presenters to prepare programs responsive to your requests. I trust they will give you another good reason to visit Marriottsville.

You can look forward to an edition of Bridges coming in June to give a fuller description of the 2007 programs. However, I want to give you a brief preview of the programs awaiting you in the next few months. Our 2008 Bridges will be completed and in your hands by the end of the calendar year with a full listing of the retreats, overnight and weekend programs we will offer in calendar year 2008.

The Friends of Bon Secours still gather here on the first Wednesday of each month for a Day of Prayer from 9:30 to 3:00 PM (Cost is \$25 per person, including lunch). Our leader in June, before a two month summer hiatus will be Sr. Carol Marozzi, S.S.J. The programs begin again on September 5 with Rev. Paschal Morlino, O.S.B.; Rev Gene Nichols on October 3; Rev. Isaac Karoor, on November 7, and on December 5, 2007, Rev. Lawrence Hunt will guide the session. No prior registration is required to join with the Friends group for these days, but we appreciate a call to let us know you will be coming (410-442-1320). Please plan to join us.

The programs for summer and fall 2007 begin with a film series on June 22, July 27 and August 24. We invite you to bring a picnic supper, enjoy the grounds, view a film and join a discussion led by Dr Gloria Carpeneto. We will be showing Two Brothers on June 22, Akeela and the Bee on July 27 and Happy Feet on August 24. The center grounds open at 5 PM for supper and the film starts at 7PM in the Angelique Geay Room. If you cannot stay for the discussion, the reflection questions will be posted following each event on our website ([www.bonsecoursspiritualcenter.org](http://www.bonsecoursspiritualcenter.org)) for your reflection back home. There is no charge for the events. Come and enjoy the evenings and these fine films.

Beginning in September we will initiate a series of sessions honoring the memory and spiritual influence of Thomas Merton. 2008 marks the 40th anniversary of Merton’s death and we are marking the time with a special commemoration which continues into the new year. Using materials developed and published by the Merton Institute in Kentucky we will explore Merton’s Spiritual Journey in an eight session series on September 8, 15, 22 and 29 October 6, 13, 20 and 27 at the Center. Mr. Joe Chamberlin will facilitate the sessions, assisted by yours truly!

I am especially looking forward to one new program with lots of appeal for a husband in awe of certain Moms I know. Ana Poole and Erin Pressley, will lead a a Retreat for Working Moms on September 30, 2007. I know few people more entitled to a day of prayer and renewal than these saints in our very own families. On October 13, 2007 we are excited to welcome Michael Wicks to lead a day of reflection on the spirituality of Theresa of Avila: A Profile of Grace. Michael has a knack for opening up the insights of this 16th century mystic to today's world. On October 20, we explore the spirit and prayer modes of the Taize Prayer community with Stephanie Hull and Barbara Cates, who have led Taize prayer in churches in the Baltimore area for many years. Our hope is that session will help us initiate more Taize prayer opportunities here beginning in the fall. We round out the month on October 28, with Sr. Martha Starrett, O.P., leading a day on Contemplation: A Loving Presence to What Is. Sr. Martha has been a gift and a special presence here at the center for many people over the years. I believe you will find benefit in spending time with her.

Karen Amelia Brown conducts a session on Grounded In Grace on November 10, 2007 and in November and December Ginny Niemeyer and her team lead Group Spiritual Direction sessions that continue monthly through the year. December will also bring our annual Advent Service of Readings and Song (December 8) and New Year's Eve Day of Prayer with Rev. Bart Karwacki, OFM Conv., on December 31, 2007. Why not plan to say goodbye to 2007 in Bon Secours style?

Along with these we are planning other programs and sessions that include an outdoors retreat, using our beautiful grounds as a place and resource for prayer and contemplation; some special events to honor the heroes in our midst who have fallen as they cared for others; and opportunities to celebrate sacred art, music and the glory of God demonstrated in the gifts of nature. We are also planning monthly chapel prayer services throughout the fall and some other special events you will find in Bridges in June.

If you have thoughts on programs you would like to see, please contact me at [Thomas\\_Little@bshsi.com](mailto:Thomas_Little@bshsi.com). I look forward to hearing from you. I hope you will join us for one or as many programs as might serve your spirit, confirm the gracious presence of God in your life and strengthen you on your journey in faith.

On a sad note, as I was finishing this letter word has come that Sister Gemma Neville, C.B.S., one of our retired Sisters on Marian Hall and a former director of the Spiritual Center has died. Many were her contributions to Bon Secours. Let it be said she was always a seeker after the Lord and now God has welcomed her home. If you knew Sister Gemma you were blessed, and, whether you knew her or not, please thank God for sharing such a jewel of a lady with us and ask God to supply us with the strength needed to bear the burden of this sorrow.

Till the next time, I wish you a beautiful spring and summer with many opportunities to experience and share the Good Help of our God with others along your way.

Best wishes,

Thomas E. Little, Ed.D  
Executive Director