

Mother of God  
House of Prayer

Spiritual Renewal Center  
Alva, Florida



# Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 2

November 20, 2009

Mother of God  
House of Prayer  
Presents our  
3<sup>rd</sup>

## ANNUAL SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

FEATURING

**PATRICIA LIVINGSTON**  
(Nationally known speaker and  
award winning author)

LETTING IN THE LIGHT

SATURDAY

January 30, 2010

9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Location to be determined

Registration Fee: \$45  
\$5 late fee after 1/15/09

Call 239-728-3614  
for a registration  
brochure

MOTHER OF GOD HOUSE OF PRAYER WAS FOUNDED TO PROVIDE A HOLY SPACE WHERE  
INDIVIDUALS MIGHT *COME HOME* TO THEMSELVES AND *COME HOME* TO GOD.

### DIRECTOR'S LETTER

We began this month of November remembering our loved ones who have gone before us and we end this month giving thanks as we celebrate Thanksgiving. These feasts take on special meaning for me this year in light of my recent losses. Both my friend Mary Ann and my brother Rick's funeral were opportunities to remember and celebrate their lives. Both suffered in their own ways and both lived a life of loving service to God and God's people. Both have invited me to reflect on my life and what is really important in life.

I did a reading at Mary Ann's celebration from Colossians 3 and it was such a gift to me. I heard it as an invitation for the way I desire to live my life. Listen and maybe you, too, will hear the invitation. "Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. And over all these gifts, put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one Body. Be thankful."

The scripture that we chose for my brother's remembrance card, Micah 6:8, also speaks to me about how I desire to live life. "This is what God asks of you, only this: to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God." Rick always strove to act with justice, to love all with a tender heart and he so desired to walk humbly with his God and invites me to do the same.

Thank you for your presence to me during this time of grieving my brother, Rick, and my good friend, Mary Ann. I have treasured every call, card and email. They have been such a comfort to me. I am so grateful to all of you who sent memorial donations in their memory. While I wish I could respond to each of you individually, I hope this general thank you will suffice. Know I am deeply grateful to each of you for your love and support during this difficult time. You are each carried and remembered in my heart with much gratitude, especially as we approach Thanksgiving.

As we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving with loved ones, let us remember and celebrate all those we hold dear. They are precious in our lives and we never know how long they will be with us. Let us all live in Love.

With a grateful heart,  
Sr. Carol

### Board of Directors 2009-2010

Sr. Carol Beevers  
Karen Gendreau  
Ashley Ryan Herbert  
Bill Loy  
Guenn Martin  
Lea Pascotto  
Jack Ryan  
Sue Ryan  
Laura Schulkins  
Letha Walsh  
Debbie Zornow

## ALL IS ONE

In the tannin-dark mirror of  
Cypress Creek,  
White clouds drift in a deep,  
deep sky,  
I see the vine-draped trees,  
And the long curved stripes of  
drooping grasses.

I see my own face reflected  
there.

This moment in time,  
This point in the flowing water,  
Is where God dwells.

God dwells in every moment  
And in every place.

This person – me –  
Reflected in Cypress Creek,  
Is a part of all that is,  
All that was, all that will be:  
Holy, sacred, and One.

Guenn Martin 2009  
Day of Reflection

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD... WORD OF MOUTH!

For the past couple of months we have been really focusing on answering the question; how can we get the word out about Mother of God House of Prayer? We all know what a wonderful place it is but how can we attract all the people who don't know what a gem is hidden in the woods of Alva? The best answer we came up with is and will always be: WORD OF MOUTH. You are the best advertisement for Mother of God House of Prayer. The best way to illustrate our house is to personally invite a friend, a loved one, a co-worker to the house. And then come out to experience a retreat together. We start to build community by building and strengthening the relationships we already have. So tell a friend about MOGHOP today; invite a co-worker (especially stressed co-workers) to experience the peace of nature found at our retreat center; strengthen your relationship with a loved one by reflecting and praying together at MOGHOP.

To help you in spreading the word about MOGHOP we have created a five-minute video that you can access on computer or iphone by going to youtube.com and searching for Mother of God House of Prayer. The direct link is... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6hCC5Z14Os>

Spread the word about MOGHOP today! Put the youtube video on your facebook, twitter, or myspace page (or have your kids/grandkids put it on their page)! If your business has a web page please consider putting the link on your website and/or on personal web or blog sites. Let's together get the word out to all people!

Lea Pascotto, Board Member

## THE BOARD CORNER

2009 has been an amazing year for the MOGHOP Board of Directors. Dealing with financial issues during the recession still continues to be a major focus of the Board, as do the ongoing programs and services, and the well being of the staff. With all of the challenges that have come up this year, one would think that we would be a tired, worried bunch.

While many individuals who serve on the Board ARE tired and worried, collectively, however, the challenges of the past year have had the opposite effect on the Board. We come together as one. Energized and focused because the blessings are so evident. We have tried to remain faithful in the little things, and God has remained faithful in the big things.

Current projects that the Board is working on include mounting an effort to better communicate with our faithful supporters, making sure that everyone knows just how appreciated they are, and developing a plan to make the presence of MOGHOP more known in the faith community in Southwest Florida.

We have had to change the way we do some things and the community has responded so generously in giving of their time, talents, and resources. It is a true blessing to serve with such a talented and committed group of visionaries.

(Our 2009-2010 Board members are listed on the front page)

Bill Loy, Board President

## HOUSE OF PRAYER WISH LIST

- ◆ Gift cards to Office Depot
- ◆ Gift cards to Lowe's
- ◆ Vacuum Cleaner
- ◆ Steam Cleaner
- ◆ Batteries for Golf Cart
- ◆ Sponsor a speaker / concert (airfare \$250 and/or stipend \$1000)

## FALL VOLUNTEER DAY

With the help of 30 inspired volunteers, Fall Volunteer Day was a huge success. Once again, the Brothers of Jesus Obrero Knights of Columbus were relentless on their attack of overgrown areas; including the trimming of all sixty palms along the main drive way; and special recognition for cleaning out our main drainage ditch. What a fantastic job! Members of St. Vincent de Paul Knights of Columbus handled the general yard work and pressure cleaned buildings, walkways and anything else that didn't move! We were blessed to have several new volunteers from Southwest Florida Call to Action who cleaned the office trailer like it's never been cleaned before!

Meanwhile, some of our steadfast regulars weeded our gardens, worked in the Retreat Center kitchen, and hauled quite a few loads of yard waste out to the street for pick up. Hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, beverages and desserts were enjoyed by all.

Thanks, volunteers, we couldn't do it without you!

Our next Volunteer Day is April 24, 2010. Hope you will join us.

Rick Stotz  
Administrative Assistant  
Finance and Building and Grounds

## A NEW WORLD

I wish for you to see the world new.  
To see nature in all it's splendor,  
to see purpose in everything.

I remember the first time I set my eyes on a moss tree...  
did I see it's beauty? No, I did not!  
Today, I look at it in wonder...30 something years after I first  
set my eyes on a moss tree and I still do not know why it hangs like  
matted hair needing to be brushed.  
I see more beauty today in this tree the way it sways in the wind,  
the way it makes the landscape it's own...  
the way it is the same for God as always but it is  
new for my eyes today.

This new world we talk about today for me is a looking beyond  
the ordinary, beyond the image and into the soul, maybe it's the soul  
of God, the heart, the beauty of all creation...even in it's visual ugliness.

Feel the breeze...let God of creation help you to see this world new,  
Beautiful, Loving, Complete.

Karen Gendreau 2009  
Day of Reflection

## CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE

**[www.moghop.com](http://www.moghop.com)**  
browse our new Web Site for  
upcoming programs or  
please refer to your Brochure  
or call the House of Prayer  
(239) 728-3614

## OUR 50/50 WINNERS

We are so grateful to all of you who participated in our 50-50 Fundraiser this year. Sr. Irene Utrup, a Sister of St. Joseph from Cleveland, was our early bird winner this year. Not only has Sr. Irene participated in the 50-50 each year but she has also been our top seller each year. Special thanks and congratulations to you, Sr. Irene!

Congratulations to our 10 lucky winners:

### ***50-50 Winners:***

***Jeanne Pare  
Terry Murray  
Pat Naime  
Catherine McGourty  
James & Joan Woolam  
Christine Stotz  
Joan O'Shea  
Veronica Pheney  
Jeanne Pare  
Joan Sturgis***

To all of you who shared so generously with us, may our Gracious and Generous God bless you and your family abundantly this Thanksgiving.



MOTHER OF GOD  
HOUSE OF PRAYER  
RETREAT AND SPIRITUAL  
GROWTH CENTER

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239-728-3614

EMAIL:  
moghop@gmail.com

WEB SITE:  
www.moghop.com

## WILL YOU HELP US REACH OUR GOAL?

We'd like to add **100 NEW** donors to our **PLEDGE FAMILY** who could give \$10 a month.

Our Pledgers love and support the House of Prayer by making a monthly or quarterly commitment and are truly **Partners in Ministry with us!** Take a moment to pray and see if the Spirit is inviting you to help us reach our goal. If you are moved to respond with your **YES**, please reply to this email or call 239-728-3614 and we will gratefully welcome you to our Pledge Family.

May you be blessed abundantly for your generosity!  
The Board and Staff of the House of Prayer



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