

Letter from the Executive Director

April 2007

Dear Friends.

The Peace and Joy of the Lord's Resurrection Life be yours today and all your days! In this Easter Season, it is a joy to greet you in the risen Lord and to share with you this Easter reflection. The Triduum at Marriottsville was a wonder-filled period! We celebrated the passage of the Lord from life to New Life and prayed for you, for all our guests and for all who have not yet come to this holy place. It was my privilege to assist during the Easter Vigil by singing the Exultet, the Easter song of praise announcing the resurrection. The phrase that struck me in a special way this year was... Rejoice, O Mother Church, Exult in glory!

The risen Savior shines upon you!

Let this place resound with joy,echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

I thought how this year of waiting for the different phases of the construction to be done will eventually result in a renewed place, truly a Center filled with the Spirit of the Risen One! I pray that Easter joy will echo in these halls always and instill in all who come here the resounding song of hope meant for all God's people, a song that fills space and souls with new life. May this time of water, light, word and table foster in us the hope and the courage to be Good Help to all who come our way seeking the promise of the Resurrection of the Lord.

One of the sure signs of hope at BSSC is the renewed activity in the construction area. During the last few weeks the work has slackened while awaiting the permits necessary to begin the construction phase of the effort. It was a slow time but not without its own activity. On March 27, Cardinal William Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, visited the Sisters of Bon Secours and inspected the center construction. He blessed a stained glass window in the entry area that memorialized the original band of Sisters who professed their vows in 1824 in Paris. The Cardinal also saw the "mock up" room that has been constructed on the otherwise bare third floor wing and encouraged us to be patient and ready to receive and welcome those who will return to Marriottsville in search of a place of comfort, hospitality and renewal. It is good advice, as he knows well from his experience in shepherding the renewal of the Basilica of the Assumption during the last few years in downtown Baltimore. We are taking his words to heart until we can welcome you here again. Another thing we will remember from this year is the "Easter on Ice" feel of the weather. The Easter fire was a welcome source of heat and light against the cold of Saturday's record low temperature. I never anticipated salting the hill on the property for Easter but it almost happened this year. The weather promises to improve during the coming weeks and I hope it will allow you to spend some time on the property with us. When you do come by, consider staying for lunch (You can buy a lunch ticket at the front office.) and plan on taking a few minutes to view the slide show now playing in the lobby. It is a safe way to "tour" the construction site and keep up with our progress. We hope to have the slides available on the website soon. The pictures tell a great story, well worth your viewing!

One of the places on the campus that is definitely not shut down for construction is the Bookstore. We are updating the offerings of books, cards and religious goods daily. The store remains open for your browsing pleasure from 12:30-3:00pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday and

Saturday. Stop by the bookstore after lunch at the center or allow us to serve you anytime by placing an order for the books or other items that will serve your own faith journey. If you wish to make a purchase and the bookstore isn't open please come to the front office and we will be happy to accommodate you.

Fostering journeys of faith continues in the planning for upcoming programs. We are finalizing plans for a series of offerings commemorating the 40th anniversary of the death of Thomas Merton and looking at ways to celebrate the Spiritual Center's own 40th anniversary during 2008. Interest in Merton's spirituality is growing and we hope to work with the Merton Institute for Contemplative Living to benefit from the insights of this spiritual master. We are also anticipating some programs for Moms of young children to support their needs for prayer and contemplation in the midst of very busy lives. Also, look for details next month on our new 'Summer Film Nights' and two upcoming workshops on Stress Reduction. Again, the Sisters join the staff of the Spiritual Center in praying for you and for those you hold dear. May the Good God who loved us to new life fill your life with all you need to rejoice and have hope in the promise of Resurrection.

My best wishes throughout this Easter season to you and yours!

Thomas E. Little, Ed.D.

Executive Director