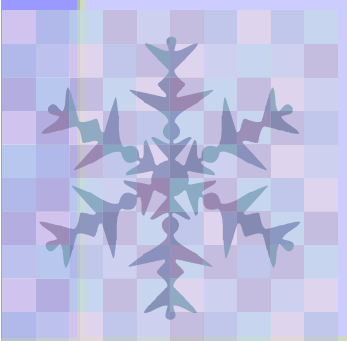




Loreto on the Plains Personal Care Home

# Living Today

*In the Palm of His Hand*



# It's Finally Here!

## Loreto on the Plains PCH is Open!

On November 22 of 2009 Many people gathered to Bless and Dedicate the Personal Care Home for the sick and terminally ill that has been in the planning and under construction since the Lord moved Ed and Nan to reach out to those who were dealing with end of life issues.

Gathering for the



Johnny Frantz, Brother Bob Dunstan, Fr. Ron Matthews, Nan and Ed Weber

ribbon cutting were members of St. Anthony's Parish and Amarillo Parishes , several non-denominational churches, Hartley Christian Fellowship, First Baptist Church and People's Church communities.

Loreto is a Home where people are loved and served until God brings them home to Him. Over the last 10 years of preparation nothing prepared us for the outpouring of love that has filled this home

from its very beginnings. We are writing a book entitled "The Miracle of Loreto" which recounts the story of the vision and God's hand in and upon it in spite of the many obstacles along the way. Watching and experiencing God working in all of us, His people, was truly a miracle indeed. Hearts were transformed, lives were changed, faith was increased, trials overcome, and doubts into great faith as He created One Body in the Lord, and one Heart to love and serve His people. Glory to God!

## "It's way too Heavy to carry on Angels Wings"

This is a line from the song "She's Gonna Fly" by Collin Raye. I often refer to this song when praying with a loved one or a family member that is overwhelmed by hurt and just can't seem to let go of that pain. The things of this earth are exactly

just that, things of this earth and are just too heavy to carry into eternity. We can only see with limited vision the impact of bitterness and resentment with it's effect on the soul. When we reach eternity it all becomes quite clear and we

begin to understand the poison we have allowed to fester in our hearts. So, as the song says, names, faces, memories, places, (resentment, bitterness, and unforgiveness, are way too heavy to carry on Angels wings. To fly we must say Good-bye!

### Inside this issue:

|                                                |   |
|------------------------------------------------|---|
| From the Father's Heart....by Fr. Ron Matthews | 2 |
| A Time to Remember by Nan Weber                | 2 |
| Father, Forgive Them.... By Ed Weber           | 2 |
|                                                | 3 |
| Things You Need to Know.....By Nan Weber       | 3 |
| Ordinary and extraordinary                     | 3 |
| Loreto on the Plains <b>We Care</b>            | 4 |
| About the Directors                            | 4 |

*This newsletter has four main themes each month.*

1. Words of encouragement, prayer, comfort, healing and faith
2. Sharing memorable stories from readers
3. Information on issues concerning the sick and terminally ill
4. Progress Notes and Days of Recollection

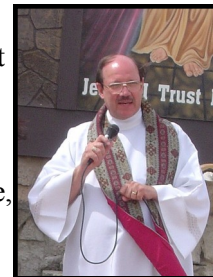
*Loving and Eternal Father God, touch my entire being and set me free. Heal and restore me that I may know, love and serve you in all the days of my life, in the Name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.*

Fr. Ron Mathews is the Chaplain for the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, a Franciscan Religious Community in Prayertown Emmanuel near Channing, Texas. He also is the Spiritual Assistant to the SFO and to the Holy Family Ministry Center and Loreto on the Plains ministry to the sick and terminally ill in Hartley, Texas. He has many years of ministry in hospital and mental health facilities and is well aware of the road of suffering and victory in that suffering journey.

I sit here with two broken wrists very glad there is a place I can go to for "personal care." Respite care is part of the overall healing initiative of Ed and Nan Weber, Sr. Mary,

Richard Romero, the "Angels of Mercy," and the many supporters who share the "vision." "Personal" care gets "real" when you cannot feed yourself, clothe yourself, or perform many of the personal functions you might normally take for granted. With all they have to do, the caregiving staff at Loreto on the Plains Personal Care Home have time to feed me, drive me to the doctor, button my shirt, even, or open a pack of sweetener for my coffee, which I drink through straw (no hands, remember...I broke both wrists in a clumsy home accident). I may be here for a few days, maybe a week or two, that is in God's hands, but I have total confidence in the care I am receiving, and appreciate

the love and care given me. I did not know that I would be the second patient/resident here, and find June, the other resident, in such good health of mind, body, and spirit, the obvious fruit of a loving and anointed healthcare plan. We at "Loreto," and I include myself, are strengthened and renewed as we witness the mercy of God "lived out" in this home environment. God bless this "holy house" with His continued "anointing," soothing the bodies and souls of His children. Our Lady of Loreto, pray for us! --- Fr. Ron Mathews



## A Time to Remember

by Nan Weber

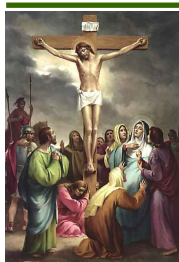
Pictures Galore! Are you one of those people who have tons of photographs that you are going to get out and organize some day? Well, if so you are like most of us. What kind of hidden treasures are tucked away and forgotten in those boxes? It's time to get them out and laugh, cry, be surprised and share times past and you can make them last forever. The Jewish people have a tradition in which they leave a legacy not of money or earthly treasures but of wisdom, stories, council and memories from the older ones to the younger ones. I realized that

we hadn't shared enough of our memories with our ten girls when at a PTA meeting a teacher very respectfully lamented over the death of my father, giving her condolences and congratulations at the tremendous sadness but great pride that I must have that my father was so brave that he went down with his ship during the war. I must have looked very weird at that moment for she just stared at me with my mouth gaping wide open! I didn't know what to say! I was speechless! "Who was that that shared that story?", I asked. "I believe it was

Theresa." The teacher was approached by another parent so the conversation dropped. When we got in the car I asked Theresa where she got that story and she said, "Well I saw a picture of Grandpa in his captains hat and since you said he had a boat and I never saw him or the boat I just figured he went down with his boat. So, the moral is, share your memories before they become epics! *Send us your funny or profound memories and let your story help others remember and share theirs.*

## Father Forgive Them.....

By Ed Weber



### Letting Go! The Power to Forgive .

As I gazed on the Christ Child so meek in the manger with the kings bowing and presenting their gifts I thought of the muir symbolizing the suffering and death which he underwent for our sins of unforgiveness. And then how he hung on the cross and said,

"Father forgive them for they know not what they do!" How about those who have wounded us in various ways? Our friends, our families, at work, at church. Jesus didn't ask us to wait until others asked for forgiveness. His example challenges us to take the initiative in asking or giving forgiveness. It's so hard to move beyond our feelings and humble our selves. Jesus decided to mount the cross for your and my sake and he hung there until the work of salvation was accomplished. Mindful of that, let's make

the decision to imitate him by following his example. In Joshua 24:15, Joshua said, "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." Can you say that for your house as we start the new year? By serving the Lord through asking and giving forgiveness. Can we resolve to repair and restore all of our relationships? Especially those between husbands and wives and between parents and children. Have hope and pray for the grace and courage to begin anew restoring hope where there is little hope.

# Members of the Community Pitch in to Get Ready for the Dedication

Below Appie Van Dijk and Sherry Frantz arrange certificates on the Office Wall. Others came all week to help.



Some were scrubbing, painting spots, finishing

septic, moving boxes and boxes of left over dishes, decorations, tools and general cleaning up. Others reclaimed the John Paul II Center and prepared for the Ceremony. Fr. Scott Raef, Fr. Ron Mathews, Rev. Bobby Medford, Mother John Marie Stewart and Brother Bob Dunstan sat in the place of honor

while Fr. Scott led the Service.

Members of the St. Anthony's choir joined with the Weber girls to bring an inspiring musical program to the crowd gathered.

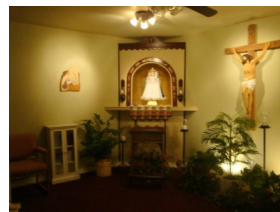


Life Challenge provided the "Bus" for those not able to walk and the St. Camillus Youth Corp Volunteers and the Angel of Mercy Volunteers served the refreshments and gave assistance to all who needed it.

Congratulations came in from those who could not attend including an

encouraging phone call with Bobby Shindler, Terry Scheivo's brother.

The "Intensive Prayer Unit" of Loreto is St. John the Caregiver Chapel, a small chapel greeting all



who enter there to find comfort and peace in the arms of Jesus.

The day ended with a wonderful reception and time of fellowship. God has built this home for His little ones with the work of so many who have answered His call to believe that "with God all things are possible."

## Things You Need to Know *Ordinary and Extraordinary Care*



When we are facing a terminal illness and have to look at the reality of our circumstances, we usually ask, What's going to happen to me?

Will I be in pain? Is there a cure? How long do I have to live? And added to that today is the question, Am I going to be a burden to my family? Will my care be covered by Medicare?

What is going to happen to me or my loved one? These and many more questions cloud the issue of the value of human life and the issue of what is ordinary care and what constitutes extraordinary care. **Ordinary care** is defined as the ordinary means that one needs to sustain life: food, water, warmth, cleanliness, repositioning. We add to that list: prayer, kindness compassion, listening, visiting, laughter, fellow-

ship, encouragement and more essential to the spiritual and emotional health of an individual. **Extraordinary Care** is that care which has become burdensome to the individual and beyond their ability to undergo further treatment without benefit. Who is to judge this? Surely the doctor will have information for the person but added to that is the persons desire and tolerance. (cont'd in discussion of Feeding Tubes)

### Feeding Tubes

**"I should like to particularly to underline how the administration of food and water, even when provided by artificial means, always represents a natural means of preserving life not a medical act."**

*Pope John Paul II on the Administration of Food and Water*

Before any decisions can be made an evaluation of the persons emotional state (depression) and physical (is pain controlled) need to be answered. As we continue the discussion on ordinary and extraordinary care we must look at several issues. At the top of the list, is whether or not to use a feeding

tube. Questions like, "To what stage has the disease advanced?" "Is the treatment going to be of benefit to the person or is the treatment going to more of a burden without bringing any relief of suffering or hope of cure?" All of this is a matter of the patient's comfort, tolerance or level of desire not the convenience of the

family. When we begin to make judgments based on convenience we have over stepped our boundaries and have begun to step into Gods role. Next issue will cover a study by Fr. Sheen, MD On feeding tubes and the importance of understanding their use, types and the ease with which they can be used.

## *The First Resident / Patient Arrives*



Loreto's first patient arrives. June came to live at Loreto on the Plains

PCH on December 11, 2009. God truly sent an Angel as the first resident/patient and we love her. She is a special lady and greets everyone that come to see her with grace and joy.

Loreto has three special rooms for those who need care. The Caregivers, Ed and Nan Weber along with the trained volunteers who are filled with the love of Jesus and ready to serve, care for the resident/ patients.

At this time we have 2 rooms ready for occupancy.

The home cooked meals and the family environment help to bring peace and comfort to all.

At Loreto there are 3 types of care pro-

vided. The home is designed for the sick and terminally ill, respite care, and interim care between the hospital and home. We are NOT A Rehab but a facility where you and your family can receive assistance as you prepare to go home after hospitalization.

Loreto is a private pay facility and a sliding scale is applied for those who need assistance. We do not want to turn anyone away that comes to us as long as we can provide care. Loreto is a not for profit outreach of the Holy Family Ministry Center and all donations help us to provide that assistance.

If you are interested in learning more about Loreto on the Plains please call us at 806-361-5097 or make an appointment to come to see what God has built here on the High Plains of Texas as Loreto on the Plains PCH opens its doors to serve those God brings. Loreto is an outreach ministry of Holy Family to the sick and terminally ill.

*Loreto on the Plains  
Personal Care Home*

*Giving Hope where  
there is No Hope*

*Where Prayer Makes  
the Difference.*



[www.loretoonthelains.org](http://www.loretoonthelains.org)

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Loreto on the Plains - 2010

