RISK & ADVENTURE

RETREAT SCHEDULE

20-22 JUNE, 2008

FRIDAY

P.M. 6:00 Meet at Retreat Center (cabin assignments) 7:00 Light Supper 8:00 Introductions and Opening Prayer 8:30 SESSION 1RISK & ADVENTURE 9:00 Group Discussion 11:00 Night Prayers (Chapel)

OPENING PRAYER

Priest: In the name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, there are many other things we could be doing this weekend. But each one of us has come here because of a desire in our hearts to discover our destiny. Like men and women of every age, we are seeking the personal fulfillment that only You can provide.

As true God and true man, your Son Jesus has proclaimed himself "the Way, the Truth and the Life" for man. Yet in our freedom, we recognize that this Way can be experienced as either a scary or exhilarating risk…an imposed or magnificent adventure.

Father, send your Spirit upon us this weekend, so we may continue to recognize the intimate companionship of your Son throughout our pilgrimage here on earth. We promise you our best efforts to make this a successful retreat. We offer you open hearts and minds. In return we confidently await your grace and strength now, and your blessings of love and peace in times to come. We make this covenant with you, Heavenly Father, and with Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Priest: Lord, you are the God of life and love.

All: Come and share your infinite life and love with us.

Priest: Lord, your word is always true and righteous. All: Instill in us a love for truth and righteousness.

Priest: Lord, you are the God of the fulfillment of our desires.

All: Give us the grace to be faithful to your law of life and love.

Priest: Lord, you call us to intimate union and obedient service.

All: Give us the peace of a good conscience and the joy of your personal

companionship.

Priest: Final blessing....

Session 1: Risk & Adventure

Deep in our hearts, every one of us desires a great life: passionate love, close friends, fulfilling work and interesting pursuits. This is the adventure of young adulthood. For some young men and women today, it is a time full of promise, excitement and responsibility; for others, it's a time of uncertainty, anxiety and fear. Why? Because young adulthood is the time to commit to the greatest human adventure of all—the adventure of Love. In a fallen world, the glory of that adventure naturally comes with risk and sacrifice. But those who never embark upon it never really live. Are you ready to commit everything to the Life and Love your heart craves?

Reflections:

Adventure \ad*ven"ture\
from Latin adventurus, future participle of advenire, to arrive.
v. To take a risk in the hope of a favorable outcome

"One dark night, / Fired with love's urgent longings / -Ah, the sheer grace! / I went out unseen/ my house being now all stilled."

--St. John of the Cross

"Whether we call it sacrifice, or poetry, or adventure, it is always the same voice that calls."
--Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

"Everybody feels the longing to love and to be loved. Yet, how difficult it is to love, and how many mistakes and failures have to be reckoned with in love! There are those who even come to doubt that love is possible. But if emotional delusions or lack of affection can cause us to think that love is utopian, an impossible dream, should we then become resigned? No! Love is possible, and the purpose of my message is to help reawaken in each one of you -- you who are the future and hope of humanity -- trust in a love that is true, faithful and strong; a love that generates peace and joy; a love that binds people together and allows them to feel free in respect for one another."

"Life is an adventure, dare it." —Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

SATURDAY

A.M.	
8:00	Rising
8:30	Breakfast
9:15	Morning Prayer & Mass
10:00	SESSION 2-Fantasy or Adventure?
10:30	GROUP DISCUSSION
P.M.	
12:00	Lunch
1:00	SESSION 3 -
	The Master of Our Risk
1:30	GROUP DISCUSSION
2:00	Penance Service & Confessions
3:00	Hour of Silence
4:00	The Rosary
6:00	Supper
8:30	Risk Movie
10:00	GROUP DISCUSSION
11:00	Night Prayers (Chapel)

Session 2: Fantasy or Adventure?

"When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things," says St. Paul (1 Cor 13:11). Yet today, many young men and women cling to their adolescence. Distracted by the "sim" and "cyber" fantasies of the popular culture, it is easy to put off the adventure of real life, and often the real people who surround you. Statistics show that many young people are taking longer to act upon major life decisions such as vocation, spouse and work. "There are too many doors, too many people, too much competition," laments one 28-year-old (Newsweek Magazine).

Reflections:

"In the past, people got married, got a job and had kids, but now there's a new ten years that people are using to try and find out what kind of life they want to lead. For a lot of people, the weight of all that possibility is overwhelming."

—Zach Braff, Actor, Director

"Either you face reality wide open...calling a spade a spade, embracing its entire presence, even its meaning; either this, or you place yourself in front of reality, defend yourself against it, almost with your arms flung in front of your eyes to ward off unwelcomed and unexpected blows."

--Luigi Giussani

"The modern economy is good at getting us to postpone our lives little by little in the expectation that, sometime, maybe soon, we will be able to let go and enjoy the world in a free and unbounded way." —John Waters, Columnist, Irish Times

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one....Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket--safe, dark, motionless, airless--it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable."

-C.S. Lewis

Session 3: The Master of Our Risk

Who can help us through the risk of a great Life and Love? Jesus Christ, the one who risked everything on the Cross by giving his entire self away to the Beloved. Now present and alive in the heart of the Church, Christ shoulders our risk in the vocation to which he calls us. Through the sacramental life, especially the Eucharist, he intimately participates in all the adventures of our lives...offering himself "in the flesh" through relationships of love within the Body of the Church...showing us the risk and glory of discipleship through his preached Word. Could we have a better Master than the one who calls himself "The Way"?

Reflections:

"I am only now beginning to encounter, as though for the first time, the utterly staggering dimensions of...Jesus, to grapple with the idea that...God came among us to tell us that everything would be all right. I am only beginning to glimpse the possibility that this story may answer my most fundamental questions in the way nothing else has ever done."

-John Waters, Lapsed Agnostic

"Whenever you gather for Mass, when you go to Confession, whenever you celebrate any of the sacraments, Jesus is at work. Through the Holy Spirit, he draws you to himself, into his sacrificial love of the Father which becomes love for all. We see then that the Church's liturgy is a ministry of hope for humanity. Your faithful participation is an active hope which helps to keep the world – saints and sinners alike – open to God; this is the truly human hope we offer everyone."

"It is not a matter of bravado, but of Christian courage, to expose oneself to risk."

—Hans Urs von Balthasar

"True love receives all things that come from the Beloved—prosperity, adversity, even chastisement—with the same evenness of soul, since they are His will."

—St. John of the Cross

Mary, Star of Hope

With a hymn composed in the eighth or ninth century, thus for over a thousand years, the Church has greeted Mary, the Mother of God, as



"Star of the Sea": Ave maris stella. Human life is a journey. Towards what destination? How do we find the way? Life is like a voyage on the sea of history, often dark and stormy, a voyage in which we watch for the stars that indicate the route. The true stars of our life are the people who have lived good lives. They are lights of hope. Certainly, Jesus Christ is the true light, the sun that has risen above all the shadows of history.

But to reach him we also need lights close by — people who shine with his light and so guide us along our way. Who more than Mary could be a star of hope for us? With her "yes" she opened the door of our world to God himself; she became the living Ark of the Covenant, in whom God took flesh, became one of us, and pitched his tent among us (cf. *Jn* 1:14).

-Pope Benedict XVI, Spes Salvi, 49

SUNDAY

A.M. 8:00 Rising 8:30 Breakfast 9:00 Morning Prayer SESSION 4— 10:00 The Open Road with an Open Heart GROUP DISCUSSION 10:30 11:30 Evaluations, Clean-up and Break P.M. Noon Lunch, Pack & Clean 1:00 Closing Mass 2:00 Depart Retreat Center

Session 4: The Open Road with an Open Heart

A heart ready for love is an open heart, and therefore, a heart that embraces everything life has to offer. The greatest adventurers of human history—the saints—knew that they needed the divine communion of the Church to remain this wide open to every person they encountered. On the open road there are lovers, friends and companions, as well as robbers, strangers and lepers. Sound too risky? The Lord does not want you to go alone. He desires to stay with you, and calls others to be together with you! This is why he sends his disciples out two by two. The companionship of family and friends who are attached to Christ are his intimate Way for us now in our pilgrim journey on the open road towards Him.

Reflections:

"With his hand in his mother's, the child will go into any unlit room in the world.

Only the communal dimension renders the human being sufficiently capable of overcoming the experience of risk."

—Luigi Giussani

"If a young man or woman stayed at home all the time without seeing anyone, nothing would ever happen in his or her life. To fall in love you have to spend time with people!"

--Father Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher of the Pontifical Household

"The opposite of a Christian people is a people grown sad and old."

—Georges Bernanos, *Diary of a Country Priest*

"The joy of Jesus will be my strength--it will be in my heart. Every person I meet will see it in my work, my walk, my prayer--in everything."

-Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

"As the saints teach us so vividly, prayer becomes hope in action. Christ was their constant companion, with whom they conversed at every step of their journey for others."

—B16

The Adventure with Christ through His Church

"The Risen Jesus makes himself our traveling companion as we go on our way...." -B16

Any vital relationship requires time—real time. How can you recognize Jesus Christ present and moving in your life and circumstances? Risk giving him some time each day to reveal himself to you and bring you his certainty about the Father's plan for your life. Following are the practices and acts where Christ is present to us through the life of the Church...

- Sunday and Weekday Mass
- Frequent Confession
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Praying the Liturgy of the Hours
- Scripture reading

- Rosary
- Fasting
- Small Group Communities
- Care for the poor
- The Gift of Self in Charity

Keep going in the greatest adventure... Make a commitment to:

- Attend Mass one additional day during the week
- Say an Act of Contrition every night before you fall asleep
- Spend an hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament
- Wake up 15 minutes early and read the Scripture readings for the Mass of the day; allow his Gospel to shape your heart everyday
- Say a decade of the Rosary on your fingers as you drive to work or walk to class
- Gather a group of friends for weekly prayer, discussion and dinner
- Take a week without dessert, the car radio or your favorite show...fasting is especially effective if you are praying very seriously about something to do or a risk to take or someone to love.
- The next time you see someone in some need, work to satisfy that need in charity with an open and generous heart.

Reflections:

"Have we perhaps lost something of the art of listening? Do you leave space to hear God's whisper, calling you forth into goodness? Friends, do not be afraid of silence or stillness, listen to God, adore him in the Eucharist. Let his word shape your journey as an unfolding of holiness.

—B16

"There is no other way of Christian prayer than Christ. Whether our prayer is communal or personal, vocal or interior, it has access to the Father only if we pray 'in the name' of Jesus. The sacred humanity of Jesus is therefore the way by which the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray to God our Father."

-Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2664

"The Only Master of the World..."

...He had been a good workman. A good carpenter. As he had been a good son.

A good son to his mother Mary.

A nice good child. Nice and docile.

Nice and dutiful. Nice and obedient to his father and mother.

A child.

Such as all parents would like to

A good son to his father Joseph. To his foster father Joseph.

The old carpenter.

The master carpenter.

As he had been a good son also to his Father.

To his Father who art in heaven. As he had been a good comrade to his little comrades.

A good schoolmate.

A good playmate.

A good play companion.

A good fellow workman.

A good fellow carpenter.

Among all other fellows.

Fellow carpenters. For all fellows.

Fellow carpenters.

As he had been a good poor

As he had been a good citizen. He had been a good son to his father and mother.

Until the day when he had begun his mission.

His preaching.

A good son to his mother Mary. Until the day when he had begun his mission.

A good son to his father Joseph. Until the day when he had begun his mission.

In short all had gone very well. Until the day when he had begun his mission.

He was generally liked.

Everybody liked him.

Until the day he had begun his mission.

Comrades, friends, fellow workmen, authorities.

Citizens.

Father and mother. Thought it was all right,

Until the day when he had begun his mission.

Comrades thought him a good comrade.

Friends a good friend.

Fellow workmen a good fellow. Not proud.

Citizens thought him a good citizen.

His equals a good equal.

Until the day when he had begun his mission.

Citizens thought he was a good citizen.

Until the day when he had begun his mission.

Until the day when he had showed himself another citizen. The founder, the citizen of

another city.

For he was a citizen of the heavenly city.

And of the everlasting city. Comrades thought him a good

comrade. Friends a good friend.

Fellow workmen a good fellow.

Not proud. Citizens thought he was a good

His equals a good equal.

Until the day when he had begun his mission.

Citizens thought he was a good citizen

Until the day when he had begun

his mission. Until the day when he had showed himself another citizen. The founder, the citizen of another city

For he was a citizen of the heavenly city

And of the everlasting city.

The authorities thought it was all

Until the day when he had begun his mission.

The authorities considered he was a man of order.

A serious young man.

A quiet young man.

A young man with good habits. Easy to govern.

Giving back to Caesar what is

Caesar's. Until the day when he had begun

Introduced disorder.

The greatest disorder in the world.

The greatest disorder there ever was in the world.

The greatest order there had

been in the world.

The only order.

There had ever been in the

Until the day when he had gone out of his way.

And in going out of his way he had disturbed the world. Until the day when he had

showed himself. The only Government of the

world. The Master of the world.

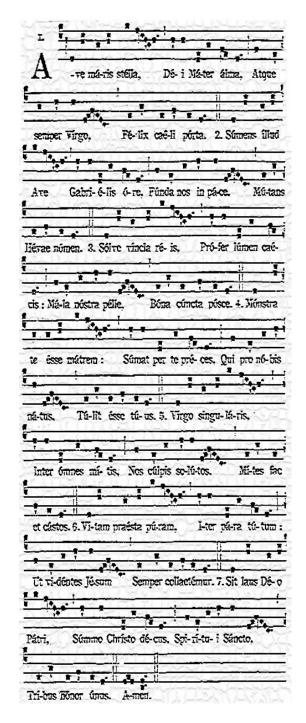
The only Master of the world. And when he appeared to all. When his equals plainly saw.

That he had no equal. And when he appeared to all. When his equals plainly saw.

That he had no equal.

At that moment the world began to think that he was too great. And to bother him...

—Charles Péauv



Risk & Adventure: Young Adult Retreat at Mattaponi

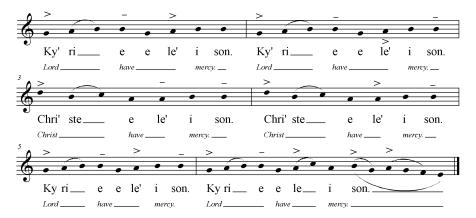
Music Hymnal



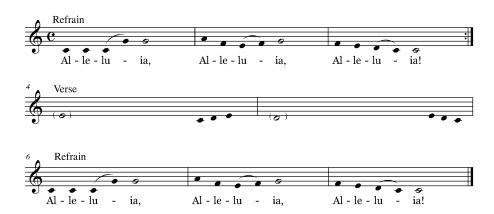
Veni Creator Spiritus



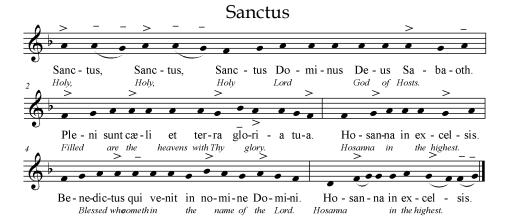
Kyrie



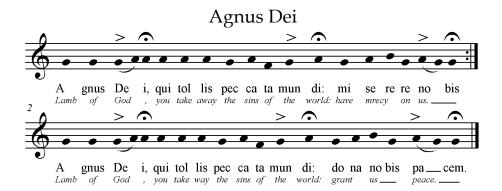
Alleluia



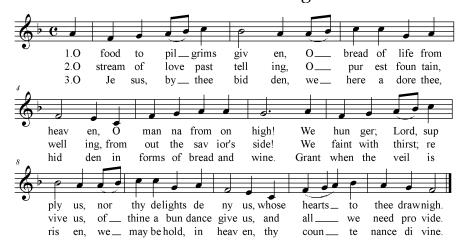








Communion: O Food to Pilgrims Given

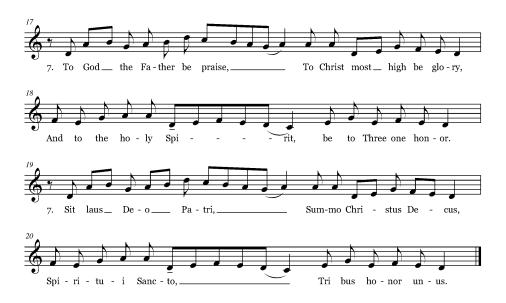


Melody: INNSBRUCK: Heinrich Isaac, 1539; harm. J.S. Bach, 1729 Words: Maintzich Gesangbuch

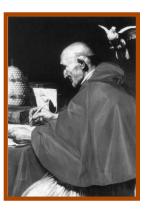
Recessional: Ave Maris Stella



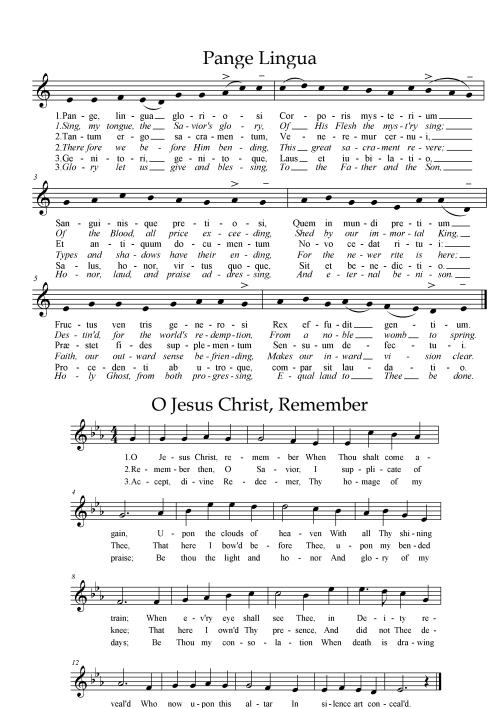








Pope Saint Gregory I



And glo-ri-fied Thy great-ness, Though hid from hu-man eye.

Be Thou my on - ly trea-sure Through all e-ter-ni - ty.

Salve Regina



Questions for Small Group

Risk & Adventure

- 1. What struck you about the witness talk? Did the armor analogy make sense to you? Why do you think the Church proposes "humility" as the perfect stance for a relationship with God and others?
- 2. Read the definition of "adventure." Why is risk always involved?
- 3. A famous quote from Vatican Council II states this truth: "man...cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself" (GS 24). Adventure naturally implies "putting your self out there"? Why?
- 4. Read the quote by John of the Cross. What does "my house being now all stilled" imply to you?
- 5. Do you think Pope Benedict XVI has a good sense of the worries and concerns of the young adult heart? Are you hopeful or skeptical after reading his words?

Fantasy or Adventure?

- 1. What struck you about the witness talk? Why do you think the witness was able to remain peaceful while he was discerning his vocation and path? How does that contrast with couples he encounters who seem fearful or unrealistic about the future?
- 2. Read the Zach Braff quote. Why is the future so daunting for many young men and women today?
- 3. Do you consider all the screens a contributing *cause* of young adult malaise, or the *effect* of deeper issues?
- 4. In his trip to America, B16 said: "The manipulation of truth distorts our perception of reality, and tarnishes our imagination and aspirations." How have the fantasy world portrayals of relationships between men and women, families, etc., affected you and your friends?
- 5. Read the Giussani quote. Discuss examples of the "open stance" toward reality, versus the "defensive stance."

Master of Our Risk

- 1. What struck you about the witness talk? Through his work, this witness was able to see, hear and give careful attention to men and women who have thoughtfully chosen to follow Christ in his Church. How are the vocations alike? How are they different?
- 2. "Real love is demanding. I would fail in my mission if I did not tell you so," said John Paul II. How does Jesus Christ change everything about the risk of attempting to love another intensely?
- 3. John Waters is the father of Sinead O'Connor's out-of-wedlock child, a columnist for the Dublin *Irish Times*, recovering alcoholic, cultural bad boy, etc. Suddenly, the living Jesus has had a profound impact on his life. Have you ever met this "Body of Christ" in the flesh, through real people you've encountered in the Church?
- 4. Read the quote from B16. Is this the way you experience the sacramental life of the Church? If not, how do you get there?
- 5. Read the Balthasar quote. How do the stories of the martyrs make more sense when viewed through the lens of risk and adventure?

The Open Road with an Open Heart

- 1. "Curve balls" are part of life on the open road. What struck you about the witness' personal experience of suffering, faith and companionship in family life?
- 2. John Paul II once said "Man cannot live without love...his life is senseless if love is not revealed to him...if he does not participate intimately in it." Why is companionship so essential to the human heart?
- 3. What is the dynamic at work in Giussani's statement: "With his hand in his mother's, the child will go into any unlit room in the world?"
- 4. Read the Bernanos quote. Part of the fear of adulthood is the fear of becoming "sad and old." In a culture obsessed with looking young and staying young, how does an authentic Christianity keep men and women joyful and young at heart, even into the elderly years?
- 5. Mother Teresa of Calcutta had a big adventure and took many risks in companionship with Christ, through the communion with her sisters. How does this happen within your own group of family and friends?

Pope Benedict XVI Speaks to Young People....

"Firstly, you have to know what we really want, right? Christianity, Catholicism, is not a collection of prohibitions: it is a positive option. It is very important that we look at it again because this idea has almost completely disappeared today. We have heard so much about what is not allowed that now it is time to say: we have a positive idea to offer, that man and woman are made for each other, that the scale of sexuality, eros, agape, indicates the level of love and it is in this way that marriage develops, first of all as a joyful and blessing-filled encounter between a man and a woman, and then, the family, which guarantees continuity among generations and through which generations are reconciled to each other and even cultures can meet."

--Interview in Valencia, Spain for the World Meeting of Families

"There is another aspect of prayer which we need to remember: silent contemplation. Saint John, for example, tells us that to embrace God's revelation we must first listen, then respond by proclaiming what we have heard and seen (cf. 1 Jn 1:2-3; Dei Verbum, 1). Have we perhaps lost something of the art of listening? Do you leave space to hear God's whisper, calling you forth into goodness? Friends, do not be afraid of silence or stillness, listen to God, adore him in the Eucharist. Let his word shape your journey as an unfolding of holiness....Dear friends, truth is not an imposition. Nor is it simply a set of rules. It is a discovery of the One who never fails us; the One whom we can always trust. In seeking truth we come to live by belief because ultimately truth is a person: Jesus Christ. That is why authentic freedom is not an opting out. It is an opting in; nothing less than letting go of self and allowing oneself to be drawn into Christ's very being for others (cf. Spe Salvi, 28).

--Speech to Young People in New York, April 19, 2008