

Living with Grace and Passion

A Seasonal Newsletter from Peggy Patenaude
Winter 2015

Coming Up

Spirituality for Everyday Living **Winter-Spring Mini-Retreats**

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Sacred Hearts Retreat Center
Wareham, MA

January 14: A Fresh Start

February 11: Being a Blessing

March 11: What to Do in the
Darkness

April 8: Ordinary Miracles, Sacred
Moments

May 13: Sing Your Own Song

June 10: Lighten Up ~ A Yard Sale
for the Soul

Women's Retreats

On the Way

January 16-18, 2015

Miramar Retreat Center
Duxbury, MA

New Beginnings

March 6-8, 2015

Sacred Hearts Retreat Center
Wareham, MA

My One Wild & Precious Life

March 20-22, 2015

Immaculate Conception
Putnam, CT

A Time for Everything

April 10-12, 2015

Sacred Hearts Retreat Center
Wareham, MA

For information & registration:

Contact Peggy at (508) 548-9149 or
timeoutretreats@comcast.net

For Peggy's complete calendar
and program descriptions visit
www.timeoutretreats.com.

Peg's Ponderings: *Are We Asking the Right Questions?*

Have you found yourself debating whether the movie "The Interview" should or should not have been shown to the public? Did you agree with Sony's original decision to not release the comedy about a CIA plot to kill North Korean leader Kim Jong-un?

Personally, I'd rather look at the issue from a different perspective. Of course, I think North Korea's response to the film should have been handled diplomatically without the alleged cyber attack. However, I'd rather not discuss whether the U.S. has a *right* to produce entertainment without censorship but rather suggest there might be a higher standard.

The more important issue is not about "rights" but about the promotion of peace. Did Sony not think a movie about the assassination of a *living and current leader* would not incite the North Koreans? Satire and humor have their place but at the expense of an already fragile relationship? I believe the real questions should be "*Will what we do be a move toward peace or unrest? Will our choices create harmony or discord?*" As the wise saying goes, "We can choose our actions but we cannot choose the consequences."

Surely, I do not know with certainty whether "The Interview" will ultimately do damage or perhaps even help the North Korean government. History will prove if the film was beneficial to an oppressed people. However, at a time when our world is fraught with violence, suspicion and conflict, anything that might contribute to the latter demands deep and careful reflection. In delicate situations it's always worth asking, "*Is there another way to achieve our goals?*"

Creating peace and harmony should be our number one priority. If we expect future generations to enjoy life on this planet, we cannot afford to stray from the task of peacemaking. Globally and personally, we must not limit our thinking to "our rights" but ask, "*Will my actions be constructive or destructive, kind or insensitive?*"

We recently celebrated the feast of Christmas ~ a time when we pray for peace and good will toward all. If we are to continue the work of Christ, we must be willing to go out on a limb and ask challenging questions. May each of us do all we can in 2015 to create peace in our homes, our communities and our world.



Passing It On

The Kindness Diaries: One Man's Quest to Ignite Goodwill and Transform Lives Around the World by Leon Logothetis

Though I have not yet read *The Kindness Diaries*, after hearing an interview with Logothetis on *CBS This Morning*, I do not hesitate to recommend this 2015 publication. It is a true story of one man's journey around the world with no money, food or places to stay in order to fulfill his dream of finding connection and kindness. His dependence on the generosity of strangers gives us much to ponder. To see the interview yourself, visit:

<https://www.yahoo.com/movies/v/kindness-diaries-traveling-world-generosity-141034716-cbs.html>

YouTube: To Believe by Jackie Evancho

No words can fully express how I felt when I first heard 11-year-old Evancho sing "To Believe" which was written by her uncle Matthew David. She has an absolutely incredible voice! The song is a prayer of an innocent child to believe that there is hope for healing in our world. To hear "To Believe" click the following link:

<http://www.staged.com/video?v=NtK>

Searching for What Is in Plain Sight: Women's and Men's Retreats
Fr. Stan Kolasa and Deacon Bruce Bonneau will facilitate *Searching for What Is in Plain Sight* January 23-25 for women and January 30-February 1 for men at Sacred Hearts Retreat Center, Wareham, MA. For more information call 508-295-0100.

Recent Events

A sampling of 2014 autumn programs . . .



"No Song Like Your Own" Women's Retreat
October 21-23, La Salette Retreat Center, Attleboro, MA

"The Healing Power of Jesus"

Walking with Purpose Women's Scripture Group
November 1, Christ the King Church, Mashpee, MA



"Look at the View" Mini-Retreat
November 12, Sacred Hearts Retreat Center
Wareham, MA

"In God's Womb"

A Retreat with Edwina Gateley

November 14 -16,
Sacred Hearts Retreat, Center Wareham, MA



"In Search of More" Mini-Retreat
December 10, Sacred Hearts Retreat Center
Wareham, MA

A Little Soul Food

A Franciscan Blessing



*May God bless you
with discomfort
at easy answers,
half truths, and
superficial relationships,
so that you may live
deep within your heart.*

*May God bless you
with anger at injustice,
oppression and
exploitation of people,
so that you may work
for justice, freedom
and peace.*

*May God bless you
with tears to shed
for those who suffer
from pain, rejection,
starvation and war,
so that you may reach out
your hand to comfort them
and to turn their pain
into joy.*

*And may God bless you
with enough foolishness
to believe
that you can
make a difference
in this world,
so that you can
do what others claim
cannot be done.*

