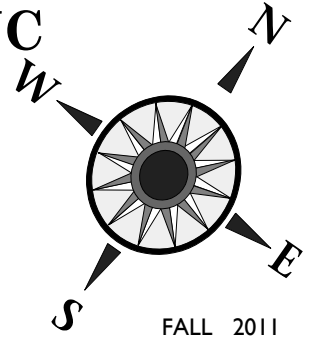


# The Compass



## ATLANTA AND BEYOND

**THERE IS NO  
OTHER WAY OF  
SPEAKING UP  
FOR THE POOR  
WITHOUT  
SPEAKING UP  
TO THE  
POWERFUL**

JOEL EDWARDS

### In This Issue

- When Needs Meet Gifts 2
- Brendan Updates 3
- Social Ministries Report
- Looking Ahead! 4
- Upcoming Events

In the blistering heat of mid-July, **Fr. Hector, Deacon Bob McGahran, Mary Hart and Kathy Doyle** set off for the LaSalette Lay Ministry Summit in Atlanta.

This wonderfully organized and powerful 3-day event was the fruit of the La Salette's 2006 General Chapter meeting that urged each Province to "create a program of Meetings, Encounters, and Workshops to deepen and develop La Salette spirituality for the laity."



*"Practice what you preach."* It's a familiar phrase, and probably one you have said from time to time.

The three La Salette parishes (St. Ann, Marietta; St Thomas the Apostle, Smyrna, and St Oliver Plunkett, Snellville) did a fabulous job of hosting nearly 2,000 people. In addition to insightful keynote speakers and thought provoking workshops, delicious food, inspiring worship services and wonderful entertainment completed a truly awesome experience.

Opening the summit, **Very Rev. Joseph Bachand, M.S.** Provincial Superior invited us

to reflect on the commands of Our Lady of La Salette to the children - *"Come near; Pray well; Make this known"* and encouraged the continuing formation of La Salette spirituality to the laity in their parishes.

So, *"Come near,"* there are some wonderful programs in the works!



## WE'RE GOING FAIR TRADE!

Beginning in September, St. Brendan will be using only **Fair Trade coffee and tea** in the Pastoral Center and at all social functions.

At a recent staff meeting it was agreed

that the increase in cost was not significant enough to prohibit the parish from making this commitment to be in solidarity with and in support of workers, small farmers and their families.

Social Ministries  
Office  
910-754-8548

# WHEN NEEDS AND GIFTS MEET

Ministry is relationship.

Since Vatican II, we have come to understand that the Church is not composed of *"two static groups: one doing ministry [ordained, religious] and one being ministered to [laity]; rather, ministry can be seen as a function of needs being met by gifts"* (Bachand).

Dr. Marti Jewell, in her keynote speech on 'The Developing Paradigm of Lay Ministry', commented similarly, saying there is a natural reciprocity in all communities, and *"parish, as community, does not exist for itself but for the mission."*

Jack Jezreel, MDiv, another keynote speaker (more about him on page 4), spoke of the 'Just in Justice. That God is a God of Love and *"not the architect of poverty."* Further, because the laity live in the heart of the world, this puts them in a unique position to be aware of the injustices that bind people.

In truth, *"spirituality and*

*ministry - are not opposed; and neither is optional."* Our lives/actions speak more eloquently than any words. Using St. Francis of Assisi as a model we can see that *"being something irresistible converts more surely than demanding something impossible."* (Bachand).



We have before us *"an unanticipated future"* (Jewell); a future open *"to the possibility...of things (and one's self) being other than they are. It all centers on the powerlessness of a God who graced us with free-will - the ability to choose, or not"* (Bachand).

God did not send Moses to Pharaoh's courts to take up a collection of canned goods, but rather to insist on political and economic change - *"Let my people go!"*

As with Moses, our message will not always be heard but biblical justice reminds us that the poor are at the heart of

God's mission. The role of the church is to obstinately seek accountability and justification of the state's priorities.

Where does the suffering of others grab your heart, what holds your attention, what 'gets your goat'? Abuse - domestic, animal, elder, drug; literacy; the disabled - adults, children, veterans; hunger - local, global; the shrinking Polar Ice caps; pollution - air, water; violence & pornography in media - TV, movies, games, commercials; criminal (in)justice; unsafe housing; abortion; war; the gap between the rich & poor, women & men?????

These are the situations that need to be addressed, the relationships that need to be restored. You are no accident. You were created by God, in this place and time, with gifts that are uniquely yours: manager, tutor, fund raiser, artist, office worker, listener, patience, caring.... Don't return them to God unopened. Choose to make a difference!



## SHARE YOUR TALENTS: GIFT YOUR TIME

Each year around Labor Day we encourage our parishioners to review our parish Stewardship Form.



If you're already in ministry (the outward expression of your faith), Thank You!

Maybe you are looking for a change or have an idea.

There are many ways to use

your talents/gifts - in our parish and the local community.

Put the completed form in the collection basket or call Social Ministries 754-8548, or come to the **Stewardship Fair on 9/29.** See bulletin for details.



## BRENDAN UPDATES

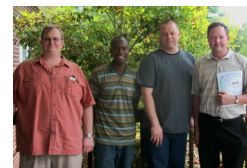
The **State of the Child program** cited St. Brendan for promoting enrollment in Smart Start, the pre-K class for 4 year olds; assisting families through our food pantry & diaper ministry, and for our summer Kindergarten preparatory camp. **Sr. Mary Teresa with Teresa & Osiris Mendoza** from our pantry and **Denice Patterson** who ran the camp will accept the award (which was canceled because of hurricane Irene).

A dietician from Autumn Care is working with **Mary Biesack and Bob Reddy** to discuss how we might improve the nutritional content of the food that we purchase for the pantry. We hope to employ some of her suggestions soon.

**Rita Canfield** has applied to the Leadership Brunswick County program, to represent our parish.

Your generosity (\$6,341) is helping the 6 new **La Salette seminarians**. Three of them

are pictured here (L - R: Mark, Emmanuel, Paul & Fr. Brian Schloth).



**Paul Wilkes'** passionate plea for his home for children in India raised \$13,541!

**Food Lion Rewards** income for this fiscal year totaled **\$1,443.71!** Get your card registered for St. Brendan's pantry. It's easy! Call Kathy Doyle 754-8548.

## SOCIAL MINISTRIES FISCAL 2010 - 2011 REPORT

From July 2010 through June 2011

### Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry fed:

*Figures in [ ] are for fiscal year 2009-'2010*

9,417 Families [7,198]  
 Avg. cost/family \$8.23 cost/person \$2.20  
 [Avg. cost/family \$12.40; cost/person \$3.19]  
 15,948 Adults [12,913]  
 13,913 Children [11,411]  
 4,680 Seniors [3,620]  
 35,107 People [27,944]  
 2,227 Packages of diapers distributed [1,814]  
 Income Total \* \$85,136.58 [\$89,663.20]  
 Expense Total \$77,525.40 [\$89,318.21]

\*From quarterly parish collection plus plant sale, memorial donations, alternative gifts, Food Lion rewards & service group awards which totaled about \$7,200 [\$6,000]

Pantry patrons donated back to the pantry food items valued at \$17,914.53 [\$14,033.28]

### Social Ministries Outreach served:

539 Families ( [421] Avg. cost/family \$76.68  
 410 Electricity [275] [Avg. cost/family \$87.35]  
 51 Rent [318]  
 32 Gasoline [34]  
 13 Medications [7]  
 10 Water [7]  
 9 Propane [14]  
 54 Miscellaneous [54]  
 \* Donations to Non-profits \$5,118 [\$5,249]  
 Parish Contribution \$29,198.38 [\$25,212.17]  
 Poor Box & Special Projects \$12,132.10  
 [\$11,563.07]  
 Total Expended: \$46,448.48 [\$43,396.77]

\*Crop Walk, 1st in Families, Habitat, Home Repair, Hope Harbor, Hospice, Inter-church Council, Free Clinics, La Salette Missions, Literacy, Relay for Life, local schools, Teen Shelter, Senior Resources, etc.



## LOOKING AHEAD!

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 - Labor Day - Pastoral Center Closed
- 11 - National Day of Caring/Patriot's Day
- 17 - K of C Chicken Cacciatore Dinner 5:30pm
- 19 - La Salette Feast Day
- 28 - *Lovely Dwelling Place* 6pm @ Sacred Heart
- 29 - Anointing of Sick @ 11am  
PotLuck Dinner @ 5pm  
*Love Without Exception* with Jezreel @ 7pm  
& Stewardship Fair (follows program)

### OCTOBER

- 2 - Respect Life Sunday
- 4 - St. Francis Feast Day Blessing of Animals  
5pm
- 6 - Senior Program with lunch @ St. Brendan  
10am

### A LOVELY DWELLING PLACE?

You're Invited!

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Southport** will host a special workshop/seminar on the issue of safe housing especially for seniors and the disabled

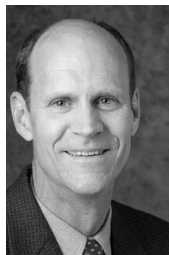
We all love our homes & expect to spend many years within their walls, but sometimes those idyllic thoughts are marred by the reality of illness and the vagaries of age.

If you believe that everyone deserves to live in peace, security and safety in their own "lovely dwelling place," then come out on

**Wed. 9/28 from 6 - 8pm** and discover how you can make that dream a reality.



### LOVE WITHOUT EXCEPTION



We were so impressed with Jack Jezreel at the La Salette Lay Summit that we booked him on the spot!

Before Jack developed the conversion-based justice formation program JustFaith he spent 6 years in a Catholic Worker community and has over 20 years experience encouraging Catholics/Christians to be engaged in outreach and social change.

He'll be at St. Brendan on **Thurs. 9/29**. We'll start with a **potluck dinner at 5pm**, Jack's **presentation @ 6pm**, then a **Stewardship Fair**.

**You don't want to miss this!**

**Bring a Meal to Share!  
Bring a friend!**

- 15 - K of C October Fest Dinner 5:30pm
- 15/16 - Kairos Cookie Weekend
- 16 - SBIC Fall concert at Calabash Pres. 3pm
- 22/23 - Loaves & Fishes Collection
- 25 - Helping Seniors & Caregivers from 9:45am at Southport Senior Center

### NOVEMBER

- 1- All Saints Day Mass at 9am & 7pm -  
Pastoral Center Closed  
Election Day
- 2 - All Souls Day Mass at 9am & 7pm
- 6 - Crop Walk at 2pm at Calvary Baptist
- 24 - Thanksgiving Day  
Thanksgiving Dinner in Brendan Hall
- 25 - Pastoral Center Closed
- 27 - 1st Sun. of Advent - Mass changes in effect



### SENIOR EVENTS

**Thurs. 10/6 from 10am - 1:30pm** with lunch at **St. Brendan. FREE!**

- ~ New Medicare Updates
- ~ Avoid Medicare Fraud
- ~ Short presentations from senior services & agencies
- ~ Register 754-8548



### Seniors Helping Seniors & Their Caregivers

**Tues. 10/25 from 9:45am - 3pm.** at **Southport Senior Center**

- ~ What services & volunteer opportunities are available
- ~ Present your needs & ideas
- ~ Lunch \$5
- ~ Register 253-2199