



NET MINISTRIES

NETWORKS

Challenging young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church

NET MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2018



NET TEAM 3 PUTS ON RETREAT FOR DEAF STUDENTS

St. Rita School for the Deaf in Cincinnati, Ohio hasn't held a retreat for their students in a long time - no one really knows for sure, but some teachers who have taught there for 30+ years can't remember a retreat taking place since they've been there. They say their students miss out on many things because of the language barrier, and that these students always respond and attend better when visiting groups can communicate with them through American Sign Language.

When St. Rita students first arrived the morning of the retreat, they looked at the NET members in their blue shirts cautiously. As soon as the first NET member came over and signed, "Hello, my name is [and finger-spelled their name]," the students' demeanor immediately changed. The NET team even performed a contemporary Christian song in American Sign Language for the students.

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NET is under the ecclesiastical vigilance of the
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.
It is governed by a national board of
directors, is a member of the Association
of Fundraising Professionals, and has been
audited by Lewis, Kisch and Associates, Ltd.

LEAVING A LEGACY

Dear Friends,

Earlier this spring, NET Ministries received a sizeable planned gift from a humble parish priest, Fr. Don Schwalm. Fr. Don served as a priest for 64 years before passing away just shy of his 91st birthday. He loved his faith and the people he served and was convinced that we are all called to look for ways to share our faith with others.

He saw the mission of NET and how it fulfilled his conviction, and so, many years ago he designated NET Ministries as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy he had with the Knights of Columbus. A simple and easy gift, yet the impact will be great. Fr. Don knew that the work of the Church would go on well beyond his lifetime, and he wanted to do what he could to help even after he was gone.

And isn't that true for all of us? The work of the Church, sharing the love and mercy of God to each new generation, will continue long after we each depart this life for the next. Don't we, like Fr. Don, want to see the work of the Church go on?

If you have never considered making a legacy gift to support the work of the Church, please consider the impact an estate gift can make for your favorite Catholic cause. In Fr. Don's case, **his generosity will fully fund three NET missionaries every year *perpetually*.**

(What could *your* gift do for your parish, school, or Catholic charity?)

Life insurance, IRA distributions, remainder trusts, naming a charity in your will, gifts of appreciated stocks, and real estate are just a few of the many options available to each of us to make a lasting impact. I am sure your favorite Catholic cause would be happy to provide you with more information.

If you would like more information about making a legacy gift to NET Ministries, please contact Jim Hastings (jimh@netusa.org) or Matt Vettel (mattv@netusa.org) for more information.

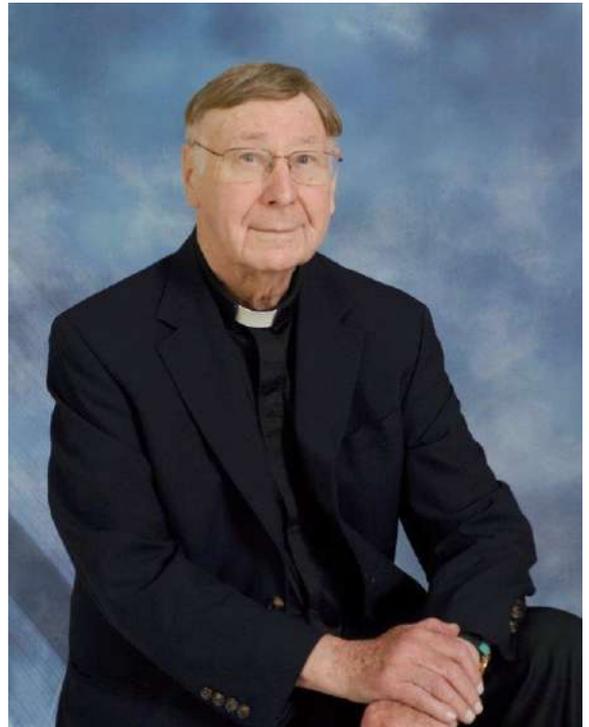
Thank you for your current support. I humbly ask you to consider making a legacy plan that will enable the work of NET to continue well beyond your lifetime or mine.



With my gratitude,



Mark Berchem, MSW, MTS
Founder and President
NET Ministries, Inc.



Fr. Don Schwalm

...RETREAT FOR DEAF STUDENTS (CONT.)

Staff members said the engagement between the NET team and the St. Rita students was unlike anything they had ever seen with a visiting group. The students were even teaching the NET team more signs during their meet and greet time.

The school did hire interpreters for the talks and skits, but the willingness of the NET team to learn basic ASL signs showed the students that the NET team placed a value on learning to communicate with the students in their own language. This made a great impression on both the students and staff.

Another challenge according to St. Rita staff, in addition to the language barrier, is that many of these students do not know who God is because, if they attend church, many worship services are not interpreted into American Sign Language for them. The school chose the retreat theme "Anchored in Hope," which was selected specifically to introduce their students to God in a way which could immediately impact their life.



The amount of work and coordination put into making this retreat a reality was no small feat. Site visits from NET staff, multiple classroom observations from the NET team, and more than 100 exchanged emails set the stage for the success of this retreat. We look forward to working with St. Rita to offer retreats for their students in the years to come.



ALUMNI EVANGELIZATION AWARD: PRO-LIFE DOCTOR, WIFE, MOTHER

Dr. Mary Paquette, NET alumna 1988-89

Dr. Mary served on NET Team 5 in 1988-89 after graduating from the University of St. Thomas in 1988. Shortly after, she was involved in the very first year of St. Paul's Outreach and attended medical school at the University of Minnesota.

She has often said that serving with NET was her best year of medical school because of the human and spiritual formation which she received. Mary has been married for 20 years, and together with her husband Dr. Matt, works at a pro-life family medical practice providing Christian healthcare to the Twin Cities area of Minnesota.

Having been trained at the Pope Paul VI Institute in Naprotechnology, she stands out as one of the few doctors who will treat infertility and recurrent miscarriage in line with Catholic teaching.

She has been training crisis pregnancy volunteers on medical issues for the past 20 years, teaches seminarians about Natural Family Planning, and speaks at marriage preparation retreats through the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, MN teaching on the same subject. She also speaks at parishes about both Natural Family Planning and abstinence until marriage for teens.

Mary volunteers her skills as a doctor during NET training nearly every year. Her hobbies include spending time with her husband and four daughters and growing flowers.

It is our distinct privilege to honor Dr. Mary Paquette as our Alumni Evangelization Award recipient in 2018.



CINCINNATI OFFICE UPDATE

FUNDRAISING BANQUET & MORE

When Archbishop Dennis Schnurr came to Cincinnati from Minnesota, one of the first conversations he had with Fr. Kyle Schnippel was how to increase the presence of NET Ministries in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Archbishop Schnurr sent Fr. Kyle to St. Paul to visit us multiple times to learn more. Fr. Kyle says that while the work of NET was very interesting, what was most fascinating were the young people that NET attracted.

He says,

"The transformation that happened in these young missionaries was incredible: normal young people, just like anyone else, but who willingly give up a year or two [to serve the Lord]. And they are happy, and joyous, and on fire for the Lord. Is this real life?"

"They let the Spirit into their hearts in a new and bold and dramatic way. Because, for the leaders of NET, there is something more important than the work that NET does: it's the work that the Spirit does in the hearts and souls and minds of the missionaries. Because it is the release of the Spirit within them that allows them to be so dramatically changed into something more than they were before!"

Fr. Kyle is now on NET's Regional Advisory Board in Cincinnati and has been a key player in helping us increase our presence in the Archdiocese.

On May 9, 2018 we held our inaugural Modern Missionaries Fundraising Banquet in Cincinnati. Archbishop Schnurr was the keynote speaker at the banquet. He said:

"Young people & many adults today are restless because they are looking for happiness and fulfillment in all the wrong places. That is where NET Ministries comes in. Our young people see in the NET missionaries their peers on fire with the faith and they say to themselves, 'I want to share in that joy!' Youth events where they can live out their faith is something they are hungry for."

At the banquet we boldly asked and the Lord provided: our banquet fundraising goal was reached, thanks to the generosity of the attendees. It was a small but strong beginning for a new banquet, attracting 180 attendees. Our plan is to continue growing this banquet, as we have done in Minnesota where we now annually see over 650 people attend. The hope is, as the banquet continues to grow, that we will be able to support several more teams that will be managed out of our Cincinnati regional office, enabling us to place a number of Discipleship Teams in parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, as well as field additional Retreat Teams to reach out to youth in the surrounding dioceses and states.



HONORING THE LIFE OF YOUR LOVED ONE

Part of life is parting with loved ones who are called to be with the Lord before ourselves. Frequently, family and friends of the departed wish to make a memorial gift to honor the life and memory of their loved one. One such gift that we at NET Ministries would like to suggest is the gift of an evangelistic retreat for youth who otherwise would not be given the opportunity to hear the Gospel dynamically proclaimed by NET team members and so invitingly encouraged to make a heartfelt response.

A memorial gift of \$1,500 fully underwrites a NET retreat and enables NET Ministries to offer a no-cost retreat to a Catholic parish or school that otherwise would not be able to afford it. Once such a retreat has taken place, memorial donors will be contacted and provided with the name of the parish or school where the retreat

took place, as well as information on the number and ages of youth who attended.

If you would like to make a memorial gift to fund a NET retreat and remember your loved one by ensuring that another 70 Catholic teenagers are introduced to the saving message of Jesus Christ and encouraged to embrace their Catholic faith, you may do so online at mission.netusa.org/memorialgifts, being sure to state the purpose of your gift and the name of your loved one in the provided "Comments" box. Alternatively, you can mail your gift to: NET Ministries, 110 Crusader Ave W, West St. Paul, MN 55118. Please include a note stating that your donation is a memorial gift and include the name of your loved one.

I thank you for remembering NET as you honor your departed loved one. Please know that you and they will be remembered in our prayers.

Jim Hastings, Development Director



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Pictured: NET's Founder and President Mark Berchem (left) and Director of Administration Deacon Dan Brewer (right), receiving a legacy check from John-Anthony Harwerth of the Knights of Columbus (center) on behalf of the late Fr. Don Schwalm. Fr. Don's gift fully supports three NET missionaries perpetually.