

What's Mime is Yours *from the desk of the artistic director Bob Kloos*

We still have a heart. It's just closer to home. After twelve years of hosting a fundraiser near the appropriate Valentine's Day weekend, Beacon Street has launched a new version of "Have A Heart." We could call it "HAH 2.0". Instead of gathering at Saint Noel's Party Center, we have asked two dozen faithful supporters to open their homes, set the table, and invite some of their friends to come to a "front row" and "back stage" encounter with our ministry.

No auction. No raffle. Just a host-provided meal, a few good stories, and answers for any questions the guests might have. It could be that those in attendance will have some marketing ideas or be willing to sponsor a program at a local church, school, or nonprofit. Every effort counts.

Before the end of the evening, however, we will deliver the "Sermon on the Amount." Guests will have been informed in their invitation that our gathering is a fundraiser and Beacon Street would very much appreciate their consideration. We have already hosted two "Have A Heart At Home" functions and several more are on the calendar. We sincerely hope this new adventure will help us reach our budgeted goal. A big thanks to all our hosts.

I was recently invited to share a few stories and leave a few encouraging words with the staff at Cleveland's Domestic Violence Center. Donations and funding are down there too, and some staff has been furloughed while calls for services are up significantly. All nonprofits have one need in common - funding. Our annual appeal letter is on page 5. Please use the enclosed envelope to properly direct your end of the year donation or ask us for Beacon Street materials to pass out. Just putting a brochure into the hands of a pastor or principal can often lead to a call and a new client. Thanks.

My last program before the Christmas break will be at Saint Peter in Lorain. The preschool has asked Beacon Street to provide something seasonal for the wee ones. And the older kids, the Kindergarteners, will be joining them. I will have

to be careful not to step on anyone! Earlier in the week, I will be back at Urban Community School (urbancommunityschool.org), offering the fifth in a series of ten sessions on inclusion. Beacon Street is working closely with the principal and teachers there to encourage children to make better choices early on. "You can't say; 'You can't play.'"

I am delinquent in my task to create several dozen lesson plans for teachers on bullying. My one and only New Year's resolution is to line those up for review and, hopefully, publication. It appears that "teacher-friendly" lessons may be the missing link that publishers are looking for.

Finally, All-school or Junior High Retreats and Catholic School Week assemblies continue to be the hot items in our schedule. I encourage principals to call our office with their first-choice date as soon as possible. Many Lenten dates are still available. And if your preacher will be away for a weekend, consider Beacon Street. We will work closely with your worship committee to create an engaging and participative Sunday morning.

All the best of this glorious season to you, your families, and those you serve.

Cover: James Finley PhD. Jim has offered a number of retreats in the Cleveland area over the years. I attended two at the former Saint Joseph Christian Life Center and he was in town again last summer. His study and exploration of how the East meets the West have given birth to some remarkable retreat topics. These three short lines were tucked in his most recent newsletter. "The writings of the mystics," Jim writes, "contain many guidelines to help us in our search for spiritual fulfillment for ourselves and others." His advice sounded like an Advent message to me, a message that could easily begin the first few steps of the rest of my life. Feel free to "meet" Jim at www.contemplativeway.org, and sign up to receive his newsletter and alerts regarding his retreat offerings in Cleveland or a site near you.

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