

MISSION PLAN

Peter J. Krebs, S.T. - "Sacred Thread Ministries" (STM)

Mission Site: ST. Mary's Abbey Retreat Center, along with other locations for retreats, parish missions and spiritual talks/programs, spiritual guidance and spiritual guidance training.

Each mission site is carefully chosen for its characteristics to offer rich architectural and natural surroundings that enhance the spiritual offerings which are adapted to the group's culture and socio-economic levels. Ecumenical in nature, STM ministry offerings have, thus far, resulted from word-of-mouth recommendations, promotional materials and newspaper ads and articles, such as the article from the Paterson Diocesan newspaper, *The Beacon*. (The editor called us for an interview, noting he had been hearing about us).

Number of people served: Sacred Thread Ministries serves many different constituencies, and numbers vary accordingly:

Retreat offerings: held monthly, they average about 20 people which, in recent months, are now including a number of men.

Parish missions: conducted on site in parishes within Morris, Somerset, Middlesex and Hunderdon Counties, they average about 200 to 300 participants.

Spiritual Guidance Institute (An Croi): initiated in 2008, each of the two-year courses averaged ten students. Their backgrounds vary, representing clergy, religious orders, psychologists, social workers, and lay apostles who proudly follow Fr. Judge's charism as lay missionaries.

Spiritual Guidance/Direction: about 25 per month, inclusive of those given by all members of the Sacred Thread Ministries Retreat Team.

Counseling: My therapeutic outreach to priests and religious continues under STM.

DATE OF PLAN: May 1, 2016. Peter J. Krebs, S.T., along with the Sacred Thread Ministries Team.

NAME AND DURATION OF THE PLAN: Sacred Thread Ministries mission plan for June 30, 2016 to July 1, 2017.

RATIONALE FOR THE PLAN: 9/11 changed my life, as it did to the millions of Americans affected by the destruction of the Twin Towers. In my long and in-depth counseling with survivors, the greatest challenge was to help them really believe that God was present in their lives, given what they experienced.

Thus, Sacred Thread Ministries was born and dedicated to the spiritual awakening, formation and development of all those who seek a greater intimacy with their God. We foster the belief that changes occur in everyone's life, but the one constancy is a thread, God's presence!

“There is a thread you follow. It goes among things that change; but it doesn't change....while you hold it you cannot get lost. Tragedies happen; people get hurt or die; and you suffer and get old. Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding. You do not ever let go of the thread.”

Following the charism of Fr. Thomas Judge, the fabric of an individual's spiritual life is given expression in fulfilling their Baptismal commitment as Disciples of Christ. *STM believes apostolic activity must flow from an apostolic spiritual training.*

PLAN

General Objective: spiritual growth and development within whatever journey a person may be on in his or her life. STM holds that God is always present and available to us, but we are not always present or available to God. STM's general objective then is to develop an awareness of God's presence and love in one's life journey. A person's spirituality leads to ministry; however a relationship with God must come first, then that relationship can be expressed in various apostolic endeavors.

Specific objectives: development of spiritual programming in the following areas: bereavement; those dealing with diminished cognitive functioning of a loved one; those facing terminal/serious illness or surgery; hospice care; expanding psychological/spiritual care for priests, religious and laity; those facing a failing relationship and reaching out to new students for our “An

Croi" spiritual guidance training. The "An Croi" program will be expanded in the Fall of 2016 to include "supervision training."

Action plan: Continued promotion of STM in ever changing environments, peoples and cultures where the question "where is God in my life" may be arising from individuals. STM will continue researching and developing spiritual programs that will be relevant to experiencing God in the challenges people are facing in their daily lives. We will also increase our outreach to parishes, parish staffs and school faculties through bulletins, flyers, ads in newspapers, Catholic and secular.

Period and Dates for Evaluation: In addition to STM's monthly team meetings "evaluation meetings" are held in the Spring and the Fall.

Observations: Sacred thread Ministries has had a very successful year, reaching out to people who, in keeping with Fr. Judge's charism, feel 'spiritually abandoned'. Enlightened as we have become, we are consistently reminded that regardless of culture or socio-economic status, people basically want so much to believe that God is present in their lives. There are people who return to us over and over, and it is obviously, rewarding and humbling to be part of their growing experience of God in their lives.

**"As one continues to weave the fabric of their spiritual life,
God provides the thread."**

MAY 4, 2016