

# GOOD NEWS LETTER

from The Healing Prayer Institute

Issue #1

September 2006

## WHY THIS NEWSLETTER

The Healing Prayer Institute (HPI) was incorporated in 2002 as a non-profit ministry with a Board of Directors. Its stated purpose was “to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ in power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. The institute provides seminars and opportunities to grow in the understanding and use of the healing gifts of the Holy Spirit ... It is devoted to fully following the teaching of the Catholic Church.” Between April 2003 and September 2005, HPI offered a series of 11 workshops on various aspects of the healing ministry. These were attended by a total of 220 different individuals, with attendance ranging from 20 to 100 per workshop. Workshops usually included inspiring teaching and time to actually practice healing prayer.

By January, 2006, the Board of Directors felt it was time to move to a new phase. After all, their original goal had not been just to increase people’s knowledge about Christian healing, but to spread the actual practice of healing prayer into more and more parishes throughout our diocese. This is beginning to happen, with the help of HPI Board members and HPI resources, and we hope you will be as excited as we are to hear about it! If you would like this kind of assistance in your own parish, please call HPI at 216-371-5133.

We would also like to know of any ongoing prayer ministry in your parish, such as Healing Masses, prayer teams available to pray with people for healing after Masses, or at a regularly scheduled prayer meeting. That too would be GOOD NEWS.

Yours in the Name of Jesus, our Healer,  
Sue Palmieri, Editor, for the HPI Board

If you would like to receive notices of future HPI events, please call 216-371-5133.

## **NEW HEALING MINISTRY AT ST. MARTIN OF TOURS, MAPLE HEIGHTS**

Parishioners at St. Martin of Tours in Maple Heights became interested in healing prayer after Dr. Nemeah held a healing service at their parish. A few people went to the Pastor, Fr. Lou Miola, and asked how they could start praying with their fellow parishioners. Fr. Miola responded positively and then personally invited others, bringing the total of those who were to learn about prayer for healing to 13.

A call was placed to HPI for information on how to go about training them. Sandy Zorn of HPI then arranged to lead a series of three weekly workshops at the parish. Sandy assembled a team which made presentations on the theoretical and practical aspects of healing prayer, demonstrated prayer for healing, and had the participants practice with each other.

These efforts culminated on Divine Mercy Sunday, when those who had been trained were commissioned at Mass, and were available afterwards to pray for healing with any who desired it. Sandy says, "I have spoken with Margie Gasparik of St. Martin of Tours twice, and she reported that the ministry is going very well and everyone is grateful."

## **FUTURE WORKSHOPS**

The HPI Board is currently planning workshops for the coming year. Father Larry Carew will be doing a workshop on February 24, 2007. Its topic has yet to be determined. Father Larry has a prison ministry and prays with prisoners for inner healing. He has often prayed with those who experienced sexual abuse as children.

Intercessors of the Lamb will also be offering an HPI workshop, date to be announced. Intercessors of the Lamb is an association of the Christian faithful "dedicated to the contemplative formation of all Christians for the powerful ministry of intercession," in the words of its foundress, Mother Nadine. They believe that effective intercession flows from a personal relationship with Jesus and the union of our hearts with His. This is what they strive to foster through workshops, seminars, retreats, and annual conferences for lay persons.

## MORE PARISH NEWS

Sandy and Bill Zorn and Rita Salak went to **St. Christopher's** parish in Rocky River, where they had been invited to meet with the healing team. The team, a group of ten people, has been praying together for years, but just recently received their pastor's permission to offer healing prayer after weekend Masses. Sandy and her group met with them for about two hours, talking about healing prayer and answering questions. "They were very excited when we left," Sandy said. Bill added that they were "very encouraged and encouraging."

In response to a request, Sandy has spoken with Elaine Gaughan of **St. Peter the Apostle** parish in Brook Park, and they have set dates in September for a series of three healing prayer workshops, to be offered for a small group of interested parishioners.

### PRAYING FRIENDS: HEALING MINISTRY AT ST. MATTHIAS' PARISH

During the last months of Deacon Geza Balassy's illness, the people of St. Matthias parish (Parma) responded to him and his family through prayer--all kinds of prayer. Eventually teams of people went to the Balassy home (I was part of this) on a regular basis to share in and experience soaking/healing prayer. It was a powerful time for all of us.

That experience touched me very profoundly. For months after Geza's death I reflected on the evenings spent with the Balassys, witnessing their faith and the courage and strength they showed, which came from the tender mercy of our Lord. I also kept thinking about how the community rallied around this family, how they responded so faithfully to the need for comfort and healing. That led me to the realization that we need to have in place in our parish a way for people to receive God's healing in their lives.

That led to conversation with people in the parish who ministered through healing prayer and the search to find a way to pray for healing for those in our faith community who were hurting. Initially, the conversations involved our pastor, Father Ray Sutter, as well as John Price and Ray Fazio, St. Matthias parishioners already knowledgeable about healing prayer.

Eventually, in early spring of 2005 an invitation went out to the parish, encouraging anyone who wanted to become part of this type of ministry to attend a meeting with Father Ray, Mary Lou Mallinak and myself to learn what healing prayer is all about and to decide what we would do as a community.

That meeting in May 2005 resulted in about 20 people coming forward to become part of what is now called "The Praying Friends." By July 2005, The Praying Friends were organized into four teams who were assigned one Sunday a month to come to our Blessed Sacrament Chapel before and after the 11:00 Mass and be available to pray with anyone who came. These same teams are still in place—though some of the teams have gone through a bit of reorganizing. If no one comes to be prayed with the team takes the time in Chapel to pray for intentions they know of, those in the parish book of intercessions and other prayer requests.

Another part of this ministry is to be sure there is an opportunity for people to celebrate the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Through the last year we have celebrated the sacrament, eventually coming to do so once a month at all three of our Masses.

Classes held by the Healing Prayer Institute have been hosted here at St. Matthias as a direct result of our Praying Friends Ministry. People on the teams expressed interest in learning more about healing prayer and this has become a way to respond to that need.

People in the parish have responded to this ministry, though maybe not as we were expecting—which is certainly how it goes with God! Perhaps not as many people come into Chapel as we would like, but those that do come express to me personally how wonderful a gift it is to have the friends there to pray with during a difficult time. And the number of people who celebrate the sacrament of Anointing is substantial and grows each month. During one Anointing Mass, practically the entire assembly received the sacrament, which speaks to me of people's need and desire for healing.

Ann Clark, Coordinator of Outreach Ministries, St. Matthias Church

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