

# ABERDEEN, IDAHO Retreat

August 21st, 2009

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The Our Lady of the Assumption's prayers group "Oasis de AMOR"

Had the joy in realizing a retreat to ABERDEEN, IDAHO at the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We departed from Our Lady of the Assumption at 2:45 in the afternoon on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. We drove approximately 890 miles and arrived at 7:00 the following morning. The journey was wonderful. We sang, praised, prayed the Holy Rosary and even had time to share our testimonies. The trip took approximately 16 hours heading north and almost 18 hours on the way back. It was a very enriching experience keeping in mind of course, that our Parish Pastor Fr. David T. Fitzgerald, gave us all his support and also offered a blessing Mass for the call to evangelization.

The experience was extraordinary; we realized that even though some of us did not have major experience going to retreats - unlike the coordinators who are continuously in formation attending to Diocesan courses in San Bernardino - we discovered that God's manifestation is magnificent when we respond with a "Yes" to his call. The daily call of God is a call to personal conversion, a process of transformation of our way of life. None of this derives from our own merits; it is only God who sets us in motion to say yes to his invitation as we see it in Philippians 2:13 "for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure".

The greatest gift we received was to experience God's overwhelming LOVE and FORGIVENESS for us and others. We take these gifts to our homes, our community, our jobs and where ever we go, irregardless of distance, time, exhaustion or discomfort; God gives us his love and forgiveness to be disperse amongst ourselves.

We also extend our appreciation for the hospitality we received and for Fr. Carlo's support who gave us a very warm welcome.

Some testimonies:

We slept very little, although I did not feel tired but felt PEACE and tranquility instead, as if I had rested plentifully. I also felt great HAPPINESS when I contemplated all the JOY of the community. At the end of the retreat, there was so much healing of so many people. I felt as if a great weight had been taken off of me. We ask all to live what St. Matthew tells us; 11: 28. 30 "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. My yoke is easy and my burden is light."

For all of us who have little knowledge of the Word of our Celestial Father: let's not knock on houses' doors but rather on our hearts' doors so that we can feel the Love of God.

Traveler, there is no path, ...the path is made as you walk, and if you look back,

As you walk, the path is made... ...you'll see the path that you are not to walk on again.