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June, 2010

Dear Friends of Bethany Ministries,

It's early **June** and we are preparing to tape two TV Masses for the Albany Diocesan *Table of the Lord* program. The close of our fiscal year, June 30th is fast approaching and we are reflectively and prayerfully looking at both our ministry and our future.

As we look back at the first six months of 2010, we find many rich relationships and experiences of ministry and prayer. **January's** first project was getting out our yearly newsletter. To reach all of those who are a part of the Bethany Ministries' web of relationships, some newsletters went by US Mail, others by email and we also posted it on our website. Our next venture was an evening of reflection on the Theology of Migration for a group of Sisters that minister in Schenectady [Daughters of Charity of the Most Precious Blood]. The sisters are from India and Africa even though their motherhouse is in Italy. They greatly enriched us by sharing their stories with us.

While a blizzard covered the Northeast in late **February** we received an education in "Cajun" culture when we travelled to Lafayette, LA to do a Lenten parish mission at Mary, Mother of the Church Parish. The Cajuns are a people of amazing resilience, strong faith and great food. In **March**, we did a weekend mission called "*Healing into Hope*" that focused on the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, with a prayer for Healing of Memories on Sunday evening. The parish, Our Lady of Hope in Fort Plain, NY, was born out of 3 parish communities where we had done a 4-day mission in 2000. In **April** we concluded a series of 9 Youth Masses for Holy Trinity Parish. It is a newly merged parish with worship sites in Hudson, Peter's home town, and Germantown, NY.

Just before **Holy Week** we led a Lenten Reconciliation service in Our Lady of the Valley Parish here in Middleburgh, NY. On Good Friday we were in the Reformed Church in Schoharie, NY. The congregation had requested that their co-pastors (ministers who are also husband & wife) ask us to lead the Stations of the Cross there. Since there were no stations in the church, images of them were projected from a computer.

In **May**, just before Mother's Day, we did an all day retreat called, "*A Pilgrimage with Mary, Mystic and Prophet*" which previously we had done in a week-long format. Later in May, Peter preached at the Presbyterian Church in Schoharie, NY. Around that time the newly formed Bethany Ministries Advisory Board, [Friar Richard Mucowski, OFM, Barbara Chepaitis, Peter & Anna] held its first meeting. One of the projects that came out of the meeting is our new informational [brochure](#) which Anna created. If you click on the link in this letter or on our home page, you will find a web friendly and printable version of it. We invite you to share it with anyone—parishes or groups you think might be interested in or benefit from our ministry. Even though there was the unforeseen expense of printing the brochure we see it as a sign of our hope for our future ministry.

We were in the black at the end of April but now we are facing expenses of around \$3,000 more than our projected income for May and June. And we will have additional expenses for the rest of the summer. Since last September we have been sharing one car which just had some expensive but necessary repairs and is beginning to cost much more to run. God has always inspired someone to gift us with a car just when we needed it since 1995. Pray with us that God inspires someone to give us a car in good enough condition for the many ministry miles we travel each year and with high enough gas mileage to make our gas bills affordable. This all reminds us of what we have always known, but are not always so conscious of: Gospel poverty, depending on God for all our needs, is both a grace and a challenge.

The Lord is still calling us to share the comfort/challenge of God's love & truth through the ministries of *Prayer, Proclamation & Hospitality*. We trust in God's Providence to be able to continue our ministry. Often it comes to us through people like you who have supported us in many ways. Pray for us and for those we minister to and with. Please consider sending a donation if you can. *All donations made out to 'Bethany Ministries' are tax deductible.*

Peace and all Good,

Peter

Anna

Friar Peter Chepaitis, OFM and Sister Anna Tantsits, IHM

PRAYER ~ PROCLAMATION ~ HOSPITALITY