



**Roamin' Catholics Southwest Chapter
Newsletter – December 2006**

Public Web Page: <http://www.fmcanw.org/rcsw/>
Members Only Web Page: <http://www.fmcanw.org/rcsw/members.html>
Contact Information: Helen White, President: 805-279-4740
Email: hwhite6942@aol.com
Betty Goodin, Secretary/Treasurer: 310-245-3837
Email: rich.goodin2@verizon.net
Donna Avila, Newsletter Editor: 626-446-2466
Email: mrzdotz@pacbell.net

Message from Our President:

I want to give a big THANK YOU to Ben and Donna Avila for arranging our camp out and participation in the Habitat Build in Santa Barbara. They couldn't have done a better job of planning something that our Roamin' Catholics could be proud of. We worked hard, we ate well, we socialized and we prayed, I think that covers what we stand for as a chapter. I know there will be a complete report on our rally so I won't try to repeat it, but I do want to thank all who were able to attend, those that could work, those that couldn't work, the support is what we need. Bob and Gen provided us with lunch one day and also desert after our delicious dinner at a local restaurant.

We have a schedule for the Indio Rally January 10th - 14th.

Wednesday January 10th
3:00 PM Meeting
4:00 PM Mass
5:00 PM Potluck

Please keep in mind that we do need a quorum for meeting so that it will count as one of our mandatory meetings.

We are lucky to have the Fine Arts Building available to us for 3 hours, we have had to really rush in the past but this should give us time to relax a little at our dinner. Does anyone want to volunteer to be in charge of our pot luck??

Father says he will be here, even though he has not retired, says he can't find a replacement.

The Mass Schedule:

Thursday 7:30 AM
Friday 7:30 AM
Saturday 4:00 PM? This may be 4:30 PM, I have not seen the program as yet.
Sunday 7:30 AM

We will have only 45 minutes for our morning Masses, so anyone that can help Father set up and put away his things please do so.

We also need help for the Chapter Fair. Anyone with ideas for decorating or that can help man our booth please let me know. A reminder: Dues are due January 1st, 2007

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Holy New Year.

Hope to see you in Indio,

Helen White, President

Message from Ben and Donna Avila – Wagon Masters for November 2006 Campout:

This weekend was filled with warm hearts, hard work, many accomplishments and good visiting!

The plans for this weekend were to work on the Habitat for Humanity worksite in Santa Barbara. This is a three-condo site that was ready for many types of work. There was a lot of interest in the weekend and we were delighted that there were 12 couples signed up to join us. Schedules being what they are – and car troubles cropping up at the last minute – we had seven couples – but what a wonderful group it was! (Goodin, Hogue, Perry, Tibbetts, White, Zimmerman, Avila)

We arrived Thursday afternoon and Habitat for Humanity had made arrangements for us to stay at the Earl Warren Show Grounds. We got together for dinner (lots of great appetizers) and spent the evening visiting. The weather was beautiful but it was interesting how damp the air got early in the evening because of the closeness of the ocean.

Friday morning we were ready to go to work at 9 am – worked till 3 or 4. Some of the jobs that we did were: putting Tyvek on the structure, adding wood molding to complete the structure, bringing lunch to the RCSW workers on site (our thanks to Bob and Gen), painting boards, recycling light fixtures, picking up nails with a magnet, moving supplies around, stripping wood flooring that was to be used on kitchen floors. That night was the potluck dinner and we spent the evening hearing great jokes – unfortunately, we can't remember any of them – but we had lots of chuckles!



Saturday we again went to work and followed up the day with dinner out at the Beachside Bar and Café right by the ocean in Goleta. I think this group REALLY likes shrimp. On the drive to the restaurant we were able to enjoy the beautiful sunset – some of us had a longer trip by taking the ‘scenic tour’ thru UCSB. When we got back to the campsite, we gathered around to enjoy the homemade apple cobbler dessert that Gen Perry had fixed for all of us.

Sunday morning we went to mass at the Santa Barbara mission which couldn't have been a better mass if we planned it ourselves. We had a high mass, terrific homily, charismatic celebrant along with a joyful congregation. After mass there was a breakfast back at the campsite. Joyce and Bill McCullough joined us. Bill is the job ‘Super’ on the site and Joyce is the Manager of the Santa Barbara Habitat for Humanity

office. She said how glad they were that we came to the weekend and what a terrific help we were at the site. They had been approached by the RV Caravaners who are looking for sites where there would be two weeks of work at a time. Joyce said the Santa Barbara Office was not able right now to accommodate that much help in a two-week time frame. But our two-day workweek fit in just perfectly.



Some Comments from the Group:

Pat and Ron Tibbetts: What a wonderful opportunity to lend a hand to people who have a real need! Habitat is a great way to make a difference in the lives of others. We all have something to offer...on various levels of ability.

Betty Goodin: Wow! What an experience worth repeating. Most fun: 1. wearing a hard hat 2. Putting up Tyrap with Ben who is as meticulous as I am.

Rich Goodin: Being on the roof was my highest achievement – this weekend!

Bob and Gen Perry: Even tho Bob nor I were able to work we enjoyed visiting the site, meeting the people in charge of the project, & learning the process for selecting of the site & the people who are able to qualify to purchase these homes. Also to hear of all the various trades people & others who contribute their time, talent, & financial assistance. We especially enjoyed attending Mass at the mission, dinner at Goleta, & the companionship of the group which I feel is much closer because of our religious belief.

Jack and Helen White: Jack and I are so proud of our Roamin' Catholics. Each time we are together we realize how special each couple is and what different gifts they have to offer.

Ben and Donna Avila: What a wonderful experience this was for us! The response from our Chapter was heartwarming. Many of you wanted to help Habitat for Humanity and that says so much about our Chapter!

After Sunday breakfast – and on another beautifully sunny day - we all then took off for our next adventure.

Our thanks to all of you who were a part of this weekend – whether it was in just wanting to be there – or actually being able to be there. You have given both of us a great present by your enthusiasm and participation.

Ben and Donna Avila

Check out these possible Upcoming Events which we will discuss at the Indio meeting:

Spring 2007 – Return to Mar Te Awa at the Viejas Indian Reservation, San Diego, CA. Richard and Ondina Hiel, Wagon Masters

September 2007 – Temecula, CA – Apple Festival in Apple Country – Bob and Gen Perry, Wagon Masters

August 3-6, 2007 – Trappist Monastery in Vina, CA (10 miles north of Chico, CA off the 99). This would be right before the International FMCA rally in Redmond, Oregon August 13-16. They have just been licensed to sell their wine and the Wine Tasting room is open on Saturdays and Sundays. Ron and Pat Tibbetts, Wagon Masters

A Little Humor: Here are 3 pieces of advice from the famous Will Rogers about growing older:

First ~ Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Second ~ The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Third ~ Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.



Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year!

Hope to see you all in Indio, CA January 10-14, 2007