Each second we live is a new and unique moment of the universe, a moment that never was before and never will be again.

And what do we teach our children . . . ?
We teach them that two and two make four and that Paris is the capital of France.

When will we also teach them what they are?

We should say to each of them, Do you know what you are? You are a marvel.

You are unique.
In all of the world there is no other child exactly like you.

In the millions of years that have passed, there has never been a child like you.

You may become a Shakespeare, a Michelangelo, a Beethoven.

You have the capacity for anything! Yes, YOU are a marvel!

And when you grow up, can you then harm another who is, like you, a marvel?

You must cherish one another.

We must all work . . .

to make this world worthy of its children!

Pablo Casals
**“Sister Says . . .”**

At a recent meeting of our Program Development Committee, we discussed a number of the various educational opportunities that Bethany House offers to our residents. The topic led us to speak of Bethany’s larger influence on the lives and futures of our young women and children. Our role as mentors compels us to provide the tools and techniques required for success. We realized that we have developed a unique and cutting-edge educational environment that provides each student with the skills and knowledge most needed for a successful future: Bethany University!

And so, this issue of Turning Point took shape. Our cover provides us some food for thought about educating our children – wise words from Pablo Casals! As mentors, we have prepared an overview of “BU” for you: Impressions of Bethany U gives a cross-section of views from the “university community.” Within our “Faculty,” you will meet our wonderful Amityville Dominican Sisters who inspire and teach us all! We also see how others help and support Bethany U: through our GOLF OUTING, the HIP HOP FUSION 3 Event, BOXTOWN XI at Molloy College, an Eagle Scout’s ambitious Project, and a youngster’s generous heart!

We realize that this is just a “taste” which, hopefully, will whet your appetite for a more detailed overview in the future. We do want you to know how very proud you can be of our efforts because your support helps make all this possible. And, as Pablo Casals reminds us: We must all work to make this world worthy of our children!  

Sister Primie

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**What’s in a Word: MENTOR**

Who mentored you? Chances are most of us have grown up in homes with parents who nurtured and supported us with unconditional love. Our parents were positive role models who empowered us with their wisdom and knowledge. They were teachers who made sure we learned the skills necessary for daily living. If we needed help or guidance with our school work, they were tutors. If we had trouble with a friend, they were listeners and advisors. If we made poor choices, they were supporters and problem solvers. They helped us grow into self-sufficient, independent adults. You could say: they were our mentors. Think about it. Mentor is not a familiar term we use when referring to our parents. However, it is appropriate. A mentor is defined as an “experienced person” who gives his/her expertise to a “less experienced person.”

Let us suppose that you are someone who never experienced any of this kind of “expertise.” You never had a mentor of your own, and somehow you now find yourself overwhelmed with difficulties - you don’t know where to turn. You need someone to care, to teach, to empower, to direct, to guide you. You need Bethany House – in fact, you need Bethany University!

For more than thirty-one years, people in need have come through our Bethany’s doors seeking shelter, acceptance and direction. We provide them with a warm, safe and loving home; we offer them guidance, encouragement, and the tools they will need to use when they are able to return to their communities once again, self-sufficient and independent contributors to society. We are their mentors.

Hasn’t that always been our role at Bethany?

Jessie Fentnor

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**Random Acts of Kindness**

Eight year old Michael had a problem. His notebook computer had a mishap, was broken, and couldn’t be fixed. His parents told him that if he wanted another one, he would have to earn the money to buy it himself. So, he decided to get to work. He earned his money in various ways: he did his chores regularly and saved his allowance. During the summer he received bonus money for reading extra books. Sometimes that wasn’t easy - you know how long those Harry Potter books are!

One day his special aunt arrived with a new notebook computer and, with his parents’ permission, she gave it Michael as a surprise. This was really great except - now he had another problem. He had earned quite a bit of money to buy his notebook and now must decide what to do with it. Of course, he could always spend it on himself but he didn’t need anything and he was quite happy with his aunt’s present.

So Michael decided to give the money he had earned to the children in Bethany House. He wrote a special note, too: I am giving this money to the children of Bethany House so they can buy something to make them smile.

When Sister Aimee received the note and the money, she called Michael to set a date to go shopping “to find things that would make the children smile.” They had a wonderful time choosing games, toys, books, and surprises for children of all different ages. And, best of all, his gifts truly DID make them smile! All of the children at Bethany truly appreciate Michael for his wonderful and loving Random Acts of Kindness!

Jessie Fentnor
UNLESS someone like YOU cares a whole awful lot
nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”   The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

someone like YOU . . . Bethany’s Sister Volunteers

What would we ever do without them - our special Mentors! We at Bethany are so fortunate to have several of our Amityville Dominican Sisters who come to Bethany and offer their many gifts wherever they are needed. These strong women of the Gospel are using their retirement years to continue their lifelong commitment to educate – to call forth knowledge from another– to teach and to preach, both by word and by the inarguable witness and vibrant example of their quiet, simple lives which speak so clearly to us all that “It is better to need little than to have much.” [St. Augustine]

Sister Claire Pfundstein has volunteered here at Bethany for twenty years! In addition to faithfully serving on our Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, S. Claire has been the moving force behind Bethany’s board development and the upgrading of our Board, Finance, and Personnel Manuals; our Bylaws; and many other official documents. S. Claire’s expertise and insights are invaluable to us and her friendship is truly one of our greatest blessings! Our Super Star!

Sister Christine Kennedy works in the field of Counseling and Self-Development. She shares her tremendous expertise and wisdom on Wednesdays, teaching a full course on Developing Self-esteem and Understanding Self-worth. In addition, S. Chris meets with Bethany’s staff twice monthly for training sessions, and is available for individual counseling as requested. Our “student residents” and our staff members look forward to her coming as they have all learned a great deal from her and with her! [In fact, after some of our guests have moved on, they return for S. Chris’ classes – a beautiful tribute!]

Sister Victoria Gabriel works at Bethany, Too with S. Aimee on Tuesdays and Thursdays as her Administrative Assistant and has taken on a number of heavy responsibilities on her shoulders. S. Eva writes all Bethany’s beautiful thank you notes, processes the daunting HUD Vouchers, manages the petty cash fund and oversees the Emergency Assistant to Families Program. She also takes Minutes for our Program Committee meetings, still finding time to spend a few moments with our guests, remembering each by name and each one’s story. And . . . S. Eva is our dog Shadrach’s extra special friend!

Sister Eve Ernandis works at Bethany, Too with S. Aimee on Tuesdays and Thursdays as her Administrative Assistant and has taken on a number of heavy responsibilities on her shoulders. S. Eva writes all Bethany’s beautiful thank you notes, processes the daunting HUD Vouchers, manages the petty cash fund and oversees the Emergency Assistant to Families Program. She also takes Minutes for our Program Committee meetings, still finding time to spend a few moments with our guests, remembering each by name and each one’s story. And . . . S. Eva is our dog Shadrach’s extra special friend!

Sister Eve Gilchrist comes to us each Monday at 10 AM and stays for as long as she is needed. She brings a kind and gentle presence which touches each of us with calm and peace. S. Victoria does all the statistical work on the weekly billing for the Department of Social Services as well as processing the mail and the employee credit card receipts. In spite of this heavy responsibility, she always finds time for a few kind words to our guests, young and old, and our babies are loved and kept warm by S. Victoria’s beautiful handmade blankets, sweaters, and hats.

Sister Eileen Nolan graces Bethany One on Thursdays. She wants to be with the children “to hold and hug the babies” after countless years in administration and leadership. And, once the babies are hugged, S. Eileen puts her skills to work for Bethany in many other ways, wherever she is needed, particularly in assisting with the rudimentary vouchering system for the Department of Social Services. S. Eileen brings efficiency to an art form and handles so many tasks with ease!

Sister Frances Marrinan, one of Bethany’s Founders, is an early childhood specialist who works with our children whenever her time permits. S. Fran is excellent at diagnosing developmental delays and other challenges in children and has been instrumental in helping Bethany University to develop effective educational programs for our little ones. S. Fran is also one of our best fund-raisers and spreads our “good news” wherever she goes.

Sister Peggy Byrne, our “resident artist” keeps everyone smiling and creative whenever she is at Bethany offering our guests the opportunity to relax and be open to the creative spirit that stirs just beneath the surface of our busy lives. S. Peggy is a certified Art Therapist and brings a unique expertise to her interpretations of creative expression. In addition, Bethany is close to Sister Peg’s heart as she travels around to provide spiritual renewal experiences to a variety of groups – somehow, Sister Peg always comes home with some extra blessings for Bethany’s children!

The caring and dedication of these remarkable women is inspiring and their gentle influence, immeasurable. They give so freely of themselves to help others, often at great personal sacrifice. It would be difficult for us at Bethany to ever be without them. We are very thankful for their presence here among us, helping so many in need.

Our Sisters are most definitely women who care . . . a whole awful lot! Thank you, dear Sisters!
Impressions . . . of Bethany University

**Herman Tibbs, President of the Board of Trustees**

You recently took over this position following the dynamic leadership of Margie Kelly, CSJ whose vision helped create Bethany U. How do you envision the future direction of Bethany University under your direction?

The future direction that I envision for Bethany University is a challenging and expansive one: we will continue to grow because the need for our style of education is growing by leaps and bounds - in this modern era, not everyone can devote four years to further their education; many have to take on the various responsibilities of adult life while trying to fit in their educational pursuits. Bethany University understands this, and it is at the heart of our success.

Within this growth I also envision that Bethany U will be seen as the model to be imitated because, quite simply, it works!

**S. Aimée Koonmen, Dean**

You have brought this University from its humble beginnings to one of the most successful in its field in the country. What do you see in its future?

Well, thank you for the compliment. I appreciate it but need to add that the success of Bethany University belongs to many, many individuals who have helped us to grow and prosper. Work like this is never done alone!

We hope that our future will look very different: eventually we hope that there will no longer be a need for residences for homeless families because our society will have advanced in its understanding of human needs and human rights; and our gracious homes will become Bed ‘n’ Breakfast Inns where guests will spend the night where the homeless once lived. This is our hope, our dream.

**S. Christine Kennedy, Senior Faculty**

We know that you have considerable experience in Counseling. What is an important concept that you convey to your students at BU?

Every person gets in touch with their inner self by understanding their feelings, not by focusing on their intellectual ability. "I cannot know who I am unless I know what I feel." Our classroom sessions are focused on the uniqueness of each person: we each have our own fingerprints, our own DNA - unlike any other. Thus, we are each totally unique! Our thrust is to celebrate who I am and start to tap into the inexhaustible number of ways that I can grow.

**Clarice Curry, Board Member and Faculty**

You teach an Empowerment Course for Women which is so important for all of our students. Can you give me an impression of wherein lies your success?

It’s not about my success. The Empowerment Course is about all of us as women and how we support, care for, and empower each other. As I interact with our students, I see so much trust and meaningful sharing emerge as we continue to gather and grow as a group. All of us - including myself - grow and thrive through mutual empowerment.
Barbara Sparrow-Pope, Board Member and Adjunct Faculty

So many of Bethany University’s young mothers speak of the life skills that they have learned in your classes. What are the main lessons that you convey to the students in your Parenting Skills Course?

In the Parenting Skills Course, our young mothers are presented with the basic principles of Parenting and Child-rearing. They learn specific parenting techniques that can be used in “every day experiences” as well as how to respond effectively in a crisis situation with a child. Our students also have the opportunity to interact with one another daily which helps them gain valuable knowledge and insight about themselves which they can then apply to the parenting of their children.

Barbara Sparrow-Pope, Board Member and Adjunct Faculty

Juanita Bopp-Doyle, Graduate

You are one of our recent graduates. You have given many testimonials about your experiences at Bethany U. What are some of the concepts you have learned that you now convey to others?

There are many concepts that have helped me achieve my goals at Bethany U. I like to tell others in simple terms: at BU, you either grow or you go – if you want to improve your life, all the tools are here for you. Every day is filled with lessons and blessing at Bethany U. There are numerous opportunities to be a student, but also many moments in which we can also teach each other, drawing on our own life experiences. Anyone who graduates from BU is well equipped to live a successful life. I am happy and privileged to speak about Bethany University.

Janie Howard, Volunteer

I know that you have participated in activities in the Children’s Creative Sessions at BU. What observations have you made about the value of these programs?

The children love the special attention they receive. We always encourage them to do their best, and they thrive on the positive reinforcement they receive for their efforts and any special talents they possess. Bethany’s children are fun, well motivated, and very engaging.

Bethany U: come join us!

You could offer to teach a course, act as a MENTOR or tutor, cover some hours in the Computer Lab . . . we welcome your involvement and support.

Juanita Bopp-Doyle, Graduate

Future Bethany U students relax with a book on campus.

Our next issue of Turning Point will continue our coverage of Bethany U: our campuses, our faculty, and our curriculum.
For $200 enter a chance to win a luxury golf vacation to Ireland for 4 people. All proceeds will go to help the homeless children of Bethany House.

Enjoy the majesty and elegance of the 5-star Adare Manor Castle Hotel and Golf Resort. Set amid 840 acres of formal gardens and rolling parkland, Adare Manor offers world-class facilities, which include a magnificent Robert Trent Jones Sr. designed championship golf course, luxurious spa treatment rooms, and fine dining restaurants.

As rich in beauty as it is in history, Adare Manor is an architectural masterpiece of towers, turrets, and stonework ornamentation surrounded by breathtaking gardens, majestic trees and fascinating ruins dating back over eight hundred years. The legendary 18th-century Manor is perched along the River Maigue and has been lovingly transformed from a private home into one of the world's premier luxury resorts, all the while maintaining that special essence which is so uniquely Adare.

Your package will begin with Irish hospitality on an Aer Lingus flight in their Premier cabin. Enjoy the comfort and amenities which constitute this service. Upon arrival in Ireland, you will be met by your private chauffeur who will whisk you off to Adare Manor for your 5-night stay, and will be at your disposal throughout.

You trip also includes 4 rounds of golf at some of the most prestigious golf courses in the world; Adare Manor Golf Course (recently voted 4th best golf resort by Conde Nast Traveler Magazine), Lahinch Golf Club, Doonbeg Golf Club, and Ballybunion Golf Club (three beautiful and world-renowned links courses).

Registration Form

Name: ____________________________
(First) (Last)

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City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: ______

Please mail Form and Check to:
Bethany House
102 White House Ave.
Roosevelt N.Y. 11575

*Please make Checks payable to
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- Car and chauffeur for the length of your trip

Other Inclusions:
- Full Irish Breakfast Daily
- 4 rounds of golf at Adare Manor Golf Course;
  Lahinch Golf Club; Doonbeg Golf Club &
  Ballybunion Golf Club

Save the Date!

Fourteenth Annual Bethany House Golf Tournament
Monday, July 19, 2010
Tam'O'Shanter Golf Club
Brookville, NY

This Year's Honoree Is
Chris Heckman

Sceptre Tours
Come and visit – see how we’ve grown!

www.bethanyhouseny.com

- sign up for our Golf Outing
- make a donation online
- or just come by to spend some time with us on our wonderful website!*
Remarkable Young Man Helps Bethany’s Families

I recently met a remarkable young man at Bethany House. His name is Paul Amato, and he is an Eagle Scout candidate from Scout Troop 56 in Garden City, NY. To become an Eagle Scout, Paul had to choose and complete a project in Community Service. Paul chose Bethany House and upon completion of his project, he had raised the equivalent of $4,450! How he accomplished this is an amazing story - it all began in the fifth grade when Paul joined his brother in Scouting. He liked it immediately because of his many friends and because “there were so many things to do.” As he progressed in scouting, Paul came to realize that scouting exemplified a way to live.

Having been involved with people in adverse situations on other occasions, for his Community Service Project he decided to continue to help those in need who couldn’t help themselves. But . . . who? He began by looking in the phone book and he found Bethany House. Then he went on line and printed some information about us. [He was even more persuaded when his mother realized that the Director of Bethany was her favorite English teacher in high school.] Paul then spoke with Linda Wilkonski, Bethany’s Director of Residential Services, and they discussed what things were most needed by the women and children living at Bethany.

Paul began a fund raising campaign on many levels. He sent letters to neighbors and relatives, wrote a special letter to the local newspapers in Garden City and to the Pennysaver who printed his plea asking for donations for Bethany. Many people responded with checks, and Paul wrote personal thank you notes to every donor. All this effort culminated with a visit to Bethany to meet Linda and present Bethany House with a check for $1,513 for our families’ needs.

Next he enlisted the aid of his troop to help collect additional funds outside a Garden City supermarket. The Scouts made posters, sat long hours at a table, and collected $726.97 more! In addition, Paul solicited [and received!] gift cards from Babies R Us, Target, and IKEA, and purchased items needed for the children and the houses. Last November, Paul distributed flyers asking for WINTER COATS AND JACKETS needed to help Bethany’s homeless women and children. 50 large black bags full of coats were collected! Paul enlisted the aid of local dry cleaners and laundromats who cleaned/washed all of these coats and jackets free of charge! Finally, Paul collected another $1,800 to purchase 400 METRO CARDS to get our moms to school and work!

In the spirit of the Boy Scout Motto, Paul wrote to thank us “for giving me the opportunity to help Bethany House. If you ever need my help or the help of my fellow scouts, please feel free to call me.” Before he left, I asked Paul if he had any advice to share about helping others. He said, “Just get started. Once you do it, you’ll want to finish. And when you do, you’ll want to do more.” I told you he is a remarkable young man, didn’t I?

Linda Wilkonski accepts a check from Eagle Scout Paul Amato

BETHANY’S Recycling Center

In each issue, Turning Point will request items that you may have and would be willing to recycle for our needs as we all try to “go green.”

Items Needed for Bethany’s Recycling Center:

Our Golf Outing Committee requests NEW sports memorabilia items and gift items that could be used as raffle prizes or silent auction items for our July 19th Outing.

Please contact Linda or Jane at Bethany (516) 868-6866

Any items valued at $250 or more will receive a tax donation letter if you indicate the item’s value.

Thank You!

Once again this April, the HIP HOP FUSION Dancers put on a star-studded performance to benefit the women and children of Bethany House. Many of us from Bethany attended and thoroughly enjoyed the high energy and amazing versatility of this group of young professionally-trained performers!

A special THANK YOU to Lancelot Theobald, Jr who directs, trains, and encourages these wonderful performers and to Danny Holstein Productions for their great generosity! This year HIP HOP FUSION raised $7,640 which will be used for the educational programs of Bethany.
In 1995, Molloy College and Bethany House hosted the first BOXTOWN. Now in 2010, we celebrated BOXTOWN XI - under the leadership of Sister Diane Capuano. OP. 150 students helped raise our consciousness and more than $8,000 for Bethany’s families! THANK YOU!
Bethany House
102 WHITEHOUSE AVENUE
ROOSEVELT NY 11575
516 868-6866
www.bethanyhouseny.com

THE AVERAGE PERSON SPENDS
365 HOURS A MONTH AT HOME.

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WHAT IT’S LIKE NOT TO HAVE ONE -

The Children’s Corner at Bethany U...

Hi again, everybody - Shadrach is back! I promised that I would keep you posted about my happenings at Bethany and at “Bethany U”.

I have to tell you that I have learned a lot living here. The great food, warm bed and the love and affection I receive from EVERYONE has made me feel very secure and given me new confidence – I have learned to trust my heart once more.

I love living here at “Bethany University” and I even have a new job: I’m the MASCOT! I welcome all the new kids and their moms and make them feel comfortable. I remember how scared I was when I first arrived so now if I see someone is feeling sad, I go to them, wag my tail, and stay by their side. They always pet me and then I roll over for my tummy rub. I make new friends every day this way and – we understand each other.

You see, here at Bethany U we all learn from one another. No one has all the knowledge, each of us has something wonderful to give and a special lesson to teach. Mine is simply to show these great little kids that, like me, they can learn to trust their heart once more.

It’s almost time for the kids to come home again so I’ll be busy listening to their stories. I try to help them to see not only how much they learned today, but also how much love they shared.

Aristotle left us this great thought: [See all I’ve learned here??]

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” Love,

Shadrach xxx