Are you ready to adopt?

Jay and Marie Ilch have invested much time in the lives of students at The Ministry Institute (TMI). Jay has been a conversation partner for several students over the years, especially priests from China who are here under the sponsorship of Maryknoll Father and Brothers. He and Marie regularly welcome these priests and nuns to experience American activities such as county fairs, folk festivals, and family dinners.

When asked why they continue to invite these students into their lives, Jay commented that it broadens their world view. He said it’s like when he saw television for the first time and realized that we are connected to a much broader community than our own home town or local area. These students from around the world bring a new perspective and understanding of global issues.

What Jay probably wouldn’t mention is how much he means to the students, and how they value his wisdom, his caring presence – and his booming laugh! They may spend a lot of time talking about English grammar, but it is really his warmth and concern that they will carry with them into their graduate studies and then back to their seminaries and communities in China.

If you would like to know how to be more involved with our students, and ways that your time can enrich their lives – and yours – please feel free to contact us!

Proceeds to benefit THE MINISTRY INSTITUTE
Mater Dei at Gonzaga University

- Pre-show reception with gourmet hors d’oeuvres and wine
- Doors open for reception at 6:30 pm
- Show starts at 7:30 pm
- Raffle drawing at intermission
- Raffle tickets: $2 each or six for $10

The sun will come out tomorrow and America’s favorite little orphan will lead the way! Winner of seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Popular songs include: “Tomorrow,” “It’s The Hard-Knock Life,” and “N.Y.C.” Based on the Little Orphan Annie comic strip. This young orphan girl will win your heart as she adventures to find her true family.

During this period of Lent and Easter, we take time to reflect on our lives and how our faith has supported our everyday efforts. Here at The Ministry Institute, we reflect on the many benefactors that support our mission of ministry formation and spiritual renewal.

As we sharpen our focus on this mission and develop spiritually strong programs for our participants, our diocese and our community, we are eternally grateful for your gifts of friendship and the support that you have given over the years. We continue to hold you in prayer.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**
**SKILLS FOR SERVICE WORKSHOPS**
Mar 10, Apr 14 Sign up today!
**FUNDRAISER: ANNIE**
May 22, 2012 Call for tickets!
The Spokane Team in NYC!

By Margaret Flynn, Heart’s Home volunteer in Spokane, WA, at The Ministry Institute

Before flying to New York, my three sisters of community (Amy, Jessica, Victoria) and I had spent four months trying to figure out what our mission in Spokane should encompass. Although no Heart’s Home is exactly the same, our house is unique by the fact that we are all students. We traveled to New York with the hope of miraculously trying to discover how we can live out the Heart’s Home charism more fully. Now that we have returned, we agree that although we did not learn the exact, one sentence, Webster’s definition of Heart’s Home, what we discovered in New York is much more valuable.

We were blessed to spend an entire day at the International Center for a Culture of Compassion (ICCC) in upstate NY with Fr. Thierry. We spent the day walking around the peaceful land and marveling at the beautifully painted walls of the house. The day concluded with a sending forth Mass in the chapel where we made our commitment and received our rosaries, handmade with prayer by Sister Diana. They dangled from our wrists, reminding us that the rosary is what brought our house together as a Heart’s Home in the first place. Although we had been living as a community together for four months already, our commitment put into words what we had been living and gave us a concrete goal to strive for in the next few months. While speaking with Fr. Thierry, we began to realize that you can’t define Heart’s Home and put it into a box, you must experience the mission to really understand it.

Over the next few days we really entered into the daily life of Heart’s Home in the middle of New York City. We prayed, ate, worked, and visited neighbors with the community, realizing that we truly do belong to the Heart’s Home family. We came to understand that Heart’s Home is not the result of extraordinary acts, but rather of very small, simple ones. The little things, such as listening to the stories of our friends in the nursing home, sharing coffee with the women at the shelter, or making a cake to celebrate a birthday, are far more effective than money, or medicine, or anything else. This simplicity is what we hope to take back to Spokane.

Our time in New York was precious. It was so good to see Melanie again and to meet Natalia, Severine, Laeticia, Sr. Regina, Marian, Fr. Paul, and Fr. Gonzague. We feel blessed and strengthened by the friendship we share with the New York community. We no longer are concerned with trying to define what Heart’s Home is for our friends. Our goal is to live and let our friends experience what it is through our presence to them. We look forward to continuing our journey in Spokane and we are very glad to know that we are not alone on the journey.

SKILLS FOR SERVICE WORKSHOPS:
Seeing with the Eyes of the Heart

Saturday, March 10
Wisdom from India – Dr. John Sheveland
Meditation practices from various traditions

Dr. John Sheveland is one of our favorite presenters on inter-religious dialogue. A TMI student recently said she felt more deeply rooted in her Catholic faith and her African culture, and simultaneously more open to other cultures after her sabbatical. John has been both a teacher and a model for such transformation. As a new father, he and his wife are enjoying the joys and challenges of parenthood.

Saturday, April 14
Wisdom in Native American Traditions – Drs. Catherine & John Reimer:
Prayers for observing God’s presence in our daily lives

Dr. Catherine Reimer attended Seattle University when Fr. Nigro taught there. He inspired her to earn a doctorate in counseling psychology, and to be certified in spiritual direction. Dr. John Reimer ran educational programs in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. They share their own Inupiat culture, and interweave Native traditions with their strong Christian faith. Students said our retreat at their lovely home was “the best activity so far.”