



Jesuit Retreat House
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The Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, fosters spiritual enrichment rooted in the Gospels, the Catholic tradition and the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Our ministry is dedicated to creating a rich variety of retreat experiences and providing an atmosphere of quiet, peace and prayer in which men and women of all faiths are encouraged to discover and respond generously to God's personal invitation to wholeness and holiness.

www.JesuitRetreatHouse.org

Knights of Columbus on Jesuit Island

Before the Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago came to be in 1961, retreats directed by Jesuits found a home on Jesuit Island in Lake Beulah, Walworth County, near East Troy, Wisconsin. JRH retreatant Charles Millmann of Wauwatosa shared with us photos commemorating preached retreats that the Knights of Columbus held there in September 1944 and 1945. The large group photo (*Photo #1*) is from the September 2-4, 1944, state K of C retreat, directed by (*Photo #2*) Fr. Benjamin L. Masse, S.J., editor of America magazine (right), and assisted by Fr. Thomas A. Finnigan, S.J. (left), shown standing alongside the photographer William George Bruce of Milwaukee (center).

The 1945 retreat (*Photo #3*) was directed by Fr. Joseph P. Mueller, S.J. (seated), who is flanked by John Claude, local K of C chairman (left), and State K of C Chairman Charles Millmann (right), who is the younger Charles' father. We welcomed in the spring some local Knights of Columbus and are now working with them to serve the retreat needs of more Knights sometime this fall so as to carry on what these photos reveal has been a long tradition.



Photo #1

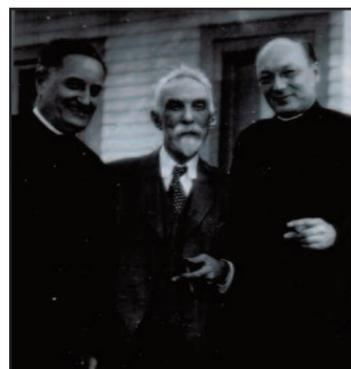


Photo #2



Photo #3

Prayer as preparation

"If I had eight hours to chop down a tree, I'd spend six sharpening my ax."

- Abraham Lincoln

Given this time of year when many – young and old – are heading back to school, my thoughts are about how we prepare ourselves for what comes in life and the cooperation that it requires. When facing a problem, a task, or a situation, this quotation attributed to Lincoln emphasizes both, i.e., "I cannot chop down the tree without an ax and it's better if the ax is sharp." The cooperation between the ax and myself, and my preparation in sharpening the ax, accomplishes the task.

Our formal education is one way that we prepare ourselves. We develop our intellect and critical thinking, increase our varied skills, and expand and deepen our interests and talents. The cooperation of others in this effort, and our cooperation with them, are essential. So, thank you, to all of you teachers, administrators, coaches, aides, support staff, advisers, and counselors! We also have others who prepare us: parents, siblings, extended family, peers, neighbors, mentors; and, we rely on work experience, mistakes, successes, intentional and unintentional adventures, tragedies, disappointments, etc., to do the same.

Some of our most significant learning experiences can be informal ones. For example, a woman golfer who I caddied for growing up passed onto me the love of books by giving me the books she had read and talking with me about them. Other golfers helped me prepare for life by giving me examples of how I would want to behave and speak and treat others as an adult.

Each day we're called to cooperate with who and what God places around us to help us prepare for what lies ahead of us in life. In the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, which inspires our retreat work here, the founder of the Jesuits (Society of Jesus) observed that all things have been created by God to aid us human beings in the pursuit of our end: to praise, reverence, and serve God. We are to use those created things to the extent that they help us toward that end, and free ourselves from them to the extent that they hinder us from that end.

Taking time out each day to pray, and setting aside an extended time of retreat, enable us to examine our lives with that end in mind. We consider if and how all that is happening in our lives and all of the people we encounter in our lives help or hinder us in our purpose of praising, reverencing and serving God in all that we do. The "spiritual sharpening" such prayer provides eases the stress one feels when faced with daily choices, situations, and problems. We are better prepared to face them, because our purpose and goals in life have been sharpened.

Fr. Chris Manahan, S.J.

Fr. Christopher J. Manahan, S.J.
Director



Burning the mortgage moving closer to reality

Beginning mortgage (July 2015) = \$2.5 million

Remaining mortgage (July 2017) = \$896,657

Retreatant generosity continues

The generosity of our retreatant donors continues to be a great blessing. As you read above, from July 2015 through July 2017, a variety of gifts and pledges totaling over \$1.6 million additional dollars have been used to rapidly pay down the interest and principal on the mortgage of the new Manresa Retreatants' Wing and renovated La Storta Conference Center.

Next goal: \$500,000 by Christmas 2017

If possible, we would like to challenge all past, current

and future donor retreatants and their families to help us payoff another half a million dollars on the principle between now and Christmas.

Your participation is key

Please pray on it and if you are able to help, please use the enclosed **50% Challenge Match** envelope or contact Deacon John in the Development Office at (920) 230-6992 or deaconji@gmail.com to help with pledges or stock transfers.

Blessings and thank you!

Casey's Crossing reconstructed

After forty-four years of faithful service to tens of thousands of retreatants, the demolition and reconstruction of our iconic Casey's Crossing A-frame bridge began on Thursday, July 20th. The project was awarded to Johnston Pile Driving, LLC of Omro, WI and work lasted approximately two weeks. The majority of the work was performed from a floating barge along the lake shoreline to minimize damage to JRH grounds (see Media Gallery on our website: jesuitretreathouse.org).

The new A-frame bridge design is very similar to the original bridge, however, the pitch of the ramped sections of bridge decking was lowered to meet ADA requirements and to improve access for the physically challenged. The bridge will be painted sometime in early fall to allow the treated wood to properly dry.

The final cost of the entire project came in at approximately \$33,000 which will be covered by donations from several retreatant families.



Hosting / Hospitality continues to grow

Since JRH opened its new and renovated facilities in January 2015, we have experienced continued growth in our **Hosting/Hospitality** services. We are very encouraged by the large number of requests by both religious and lay individuals and groups for private hosted retreat space in Campion Hermitage, Manresa and our other facilities. The following comparison of our hosted numbers is a quick snapshot of that blessing. Our fiscal year is from September 1st to August 31st.

FY 2015/2016 HOSTING:

Total Hosted Guests = 712

(539 guests or 75% from WI)

(173 guests or 25% from Out-of-State)

Total Hosted Facility Use Days = 217

(Campion = 142 days or 66%)

(Manresa/LaStorta/Loyola/St. Ignatius Chapel = 75 Days or 34%)

FY 2016/2017 HOSTING:

Total Hosted Guests = 746

(548 guests or 73% from WI)

(198 guests or 27% from Out-of-State)

Total Hosted Facility Use Days = 243

(Campion = 204 days or 84%)

(Manresa/LaStorta/Loyola/St. Ignatius Chapel = 39 Days or 16%)

Indoor labyrinth in place

We have added another resource for prayer at the Jesuit Retreat House with an indoor labyrinth in the unfinished conference room located on the lower level of the Manresa Retreatants' Wing. A labyrinth is a patterned path, often circular in form, used as a walking meditation or spiritual practice since the early centuries of the Church. It is arranged in such a way that the person moves back and forth across the circular form through a series of curves, ending at the heart or center of the labyrinth. By placing a labyrinth design within the carpeting chosen for Manresa's unfinished conference room we move a step closer to finishing the conference room and at the same time provide another place for prayer for retreatants. Sister Susan is preparing materials to guide retreatants who want to use the labyrinth. We also want to make the room an inviting place to pray. Our appreciation goes out to the retreatant whose anonymous \$4,000 donation initiated the effort, and to the many donors to our annual appeal who helped us complete it. (Visit jesuitretreathouse.org and click on Media Gallery to see carpet installation photos.)



Stock photo

Paul Eberle receives volunteer award

Paul Eberle, long-time retreatant and immediate-past chairman of the Jesuit Retreat House Advisory Council, will receive The Association of Fundraising Professionals of Southeastern Wisconsin's **Todd Wehr Volunteer of the Year Award** at the 2017 National Philanthropy Day® on Monday, November 20, 2017 presented by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. Mr. Eberle was nominated by Guest House of Milwaukee for the Todd Wehr Volunteer Award for his sustained volunteer dedication in raising philanthropic funds.

Paul has been a retreatant for nearly 20 years and is scheduled to attend his 20th silent preached retreat in 2018. He also served for two-plus terms on the JRH Advisory Council where he served as council chairman and member of the capital campaign steering committee during JRH's fundraising efforts that renovated the LaStorta Conference Center and built the new Manresa Retreatants' Wing which opened in 2015.



National Magis Retreat hopes to make JRH home

We were pleased to host for the first time the annual ICP National Magis (doing more for Christ and others) Retreat. The Ignatian Colleagues Program (ICP) is a national program of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities designed to educate and form administrators and faculty more deeply in the Jesuit and Catholic tradition of higher education.

Fifty-five administrators from sixteen states and the District of Columbia representing twenty-nine Jesuit colleges and universities spent seven days on retreat going deeper into how the power of Ignatian Spirituality may help them grow as administrators and disciples of St. Ignatius and the Lord in their respective academic settings. The ICP and JRH staffs hope to make the Oshkosh retreat house the yearly National Magis Retreat's permanent home.



Jesuits celebrate 60th jubilee at the Jesuit Retreat House

If you recall a little of the retreat house history, you'll remember that before it was sacred ground for silent retreatants it was a novitiate for young Jesuit novices from 1951 through 1960. In light of that history, from Friday, August 11th to Sunday, August 13th, approximately 18 Jesuits will be here celebrating sixty (60) years since their entrance into the Society of Jesus.

Many of them entered here at the retreat house which they fondly remember as the **Sacred Heart Novitiate** in Oshkosh.

Fr. Tom Sweetser, SJ, is coordinating the three-day celebration where there will be plenty of food, beverage, laughs and reminiscing about the "good old days". Fr. Jack Treloar will be joining the festivities as well. Keep these fine men in your prayers as they celebrate this milestone event.