



Jesuit Retreat House
4800 Fahrnwald Road
Oshkosh, WI 54902

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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

2017 retreat schedules arriving soon

The 2017 JRH Retreat Schedule Booklet will be arriving the week of **September 5, 2016**. Watch your mailboxes or emails. **ALL REGISTRATIONS** for 2017 Weekend Preached and Summer Directed Retreats will be accepted beginning Monday, September 13th.

PLEASE NOTE: retreat reservations are based upon the date we receive **both** your registration form and room deposit either online or through the mail.

ONLINE REGISTRATION BY CREDIT CARD ONLY. We accept American Express, Discover, Master Card, and Visa credit cards.

The world's largest flying-boat water bomber

Each year JRH hosts approximately 80 guests during the week-long EAA AirVenture Oshkosh fly-in event. This year there was an added bonus for our guests since the world's largest flying-boat water bomber, **The Mighty Martin Mars**, was moored just off of our shoreline at the EAA Seaplane Base.

The Martin Mars is the largest flying boat ever flown operationally, with a height of 38 feet, a length of 120 feet, and a wingspan of 200 feet (approximately the wingspan of a Boeing 747). Only six of the massive aircraft were built in 1942 with the two remaining in existence used as water bombers on forest fires throughout the western United States, Canada, and Mexico.



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Paying attention

For the past two years I've had the opportunity to experience the beauty of the people who staff and pray at the Jesuit Retreat House, and I've soaked in the natural beauty that blesses us here. While I am not as much of a regular walker as Father John, who preceded me, the grounds and surrounding neighborhood are persistent reminders for me to focus on God and to recognize God's presence in my daily life.

It has been a summer of beautiful weather, colorful sunsets (I'm not up early enough to see the sunrises), full retreats, dedicated retreat directors, and another chance to welcome visitors coming to Oshkosh for the EAA AirVenture. In the midst of all this activity I am making an effort to reflect upon how God is active through it all?

What comes to mind first are the unexpected things that have come my way: a lone Monarch butterfly (rare nowadays); a bright yellow goldfinch speeding by the window; two small frogs at the La Storta exterior door when I lock up at night; and a dark, furry creature three times the size of a squirrel, without much shape, lumbering in the grass on his way to the retention pond. Our own "Loch Ness" monster?

I then reflect on the varied ways that the colors of Lake Winnebago and the sky have taken my breath away during the past two years. Just the other day a shade of lavender I had not seen before caught my eye as it rested on the surface of the lake. It joins a growing palette of natural colors and mixtures of colors that the sky and lake have revealed since I arrived.

Finally, I recall the memorials and tributes dotting the grounds: trees, benches, statues, structures, and, yes, even the "puny" fountain in the inlet near the dining room that honors Fr. Dick McCaslin, SJ, as director, but that he good-naturedly suggested lacked the gravity of the gazebo dedicated to Sr. Marie Schwan, CSJ, his associate director. What sinks in is the depth of service and love for the retreat ministry that each memorial and tribute represents. I consider the retreatants and staff members who have left their mark, some anonymously, to provide signs of hope and faith and God's love for all who come here.

The unexpected, the varied, and the depth of ways with which God moves in these physical surroundings are indicative of the unexpected, varied, and deep ways God works spiritually amongst all of us who come here. For someone who learns best by example, I feel God has sat me down here like a schoolboy, which is an image St. Ignatius uses as well, telling me: "Chris, pay attention, and let me show you what can happen and all that I can do when your eyes, ears, and heart are open to 'see' me." I am overcome at times by what I experience. Have you had that experience, too?

Fr. Chris Manahan, SJ

Fr. Chris Manahan, SJ - Director



Planned & deferred gifts leaving an Ignatian Legacy

Planned, or deferred, gifts can provide you and your loved ones with important benefits now and in the future. Popular planned giving options include:

- Will bequests
- Gifts of retirement assets
- Gifts of life insurance
- Gifts of real estate
- Charitable gift annuities
- Deferred gift annuities
- Charitable remainder trusts
- Charitable remainder unitrusts

Contact Information

For additional information about **Leaving an Ignatian Legacy**, please contact Deacon John Ingala, Associate Director of Development, at either 920-230-6992 (direct line) or email him at deaconji@gmail.com. If you already have included Jesuit Retreat House in your estate plan, please let Deacon John know. Blessings.

Employee Spotlight

Adysun Werner kitchen staff



Adysun grew up only a few miles from the Jesuit Retreat House and joined the retreat house's kitchen staff in 2011 as a dining room server. Adysun is not the only person from her family to work at JRH. Her grandmother, Audrey Wenzel, was employed as a book-keeper during the 1980s. During the last five years, Adysun remarked that her experience working as the retreat house helped her grow in many areas. "When I started here I was a "young" 14-year-old, however, JRH helped me to be more responsible and to grow spiritually due to my exposure to these sacred grounds, the wonderful people I worked with and the retreatants I served."

Adysun graduated in 2014 from Oshkosh West High School and is now enrolled as an undergraduate at Concordia University in Mequon, WI.

Thank you and blessings from Father John



Two years ago I stood on the rubble of the old Manresa where my life as a Jesuit had begun 60 years earlier. When the morning sun brightens the new Manresa, I am amazed. I am leaving humbly grateful for having been welcomed into the lives of so many faith-filled, generous and holy women and men. Through you, retreatants and staff, God unleashed in me unsuspected gifts and even transformed weaknesses into strengths. I rejoice in all that WE have accomplished in the past 12 years. You have confirmed my call to follow Jesus as a Jesuit.

On August 1st I will join the staff of the Faber Center at Marquette University on a part-time basis. The Center offers spiritual direction and sponsors Ignatian retreats and programs for the faculty and staff. I will also be available for sacramental ministry. This is a good fit for my gifts and experience at this time in my life. Keep me in your prayer as I go through this transition process.

In our Lord, with continued prayer and affection.

Fr. John

Jesuit Community
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BURN the MORTGAGE
Sustaining Ignatian Spirituality



For more than 56 years our retreatants have provided humble, hearts-on-fire testimony to the life-changing, life-sustaining, and life-saving role that God has played in their lives through the Jesuit Retreat House.

Keep the flame of Ignatian Spirituality alive!

So that future generations may draw ever closer to Jesus Christ, and experience God's love for them, the flame of *Ignatian Spirituality* must be kept alive in the hearts of those who come here by ensuring that our energies and resources are focused on the retreats that we offer and the dialogue between God and his people that they engender.

As we continue to try to set the hearts of our donors on fire to help us pay down our debt and burn the mortgage ahead of schedule, we have been working hard to achieve that goal by planning and implementing many of the following initiatives:

- Personal face-to-face visits with major donor prospects
- Direct mail appeals
- JRH website 24/7 online giving
- Email eblasts with links to online giving webpage
- Facebook networking with links to online giving webpage
- VIP open house/tours of JRH
- Planned giving opportunities
- Grant writing process

If your heart is on fire with God's love, please respond by supporting and sustaining the Jesuit Retreat House and its sacred ground to the fullest extent possible. Help us wipe out the remaining \$2 million dollar obligation and **Burn the Mortgage by Easter 2017**.

Please contact Deacon John at (920) 230-6992 or email him at deaconji@gmail.com to discuss donor options.