



Reflections Newsletter
Jesuit Retreat House
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From the Director:

THANKSGIVING EUCHARIST JUBILEE

A few years ago a line in a poem intrigued me: “every year I pass the anniversary of my death.” I arrived at JRH April 2nd, 2001. Soon I will have passed the anniversary of my arrival **ten** times. In January JRH will be celebrating its **50th** Jubilee. January has come and gone fifty times since that first retreat.

So much happens in our lives. Our frantic pace often obscures the blessings and gifts that have brought amazement and transformation. I have been drawn to read and pray about the Eucharist. Three years ago a diocesan seminarian gave me a book recommended to him: **The Eucharist, Our Sanctification**. That led me to read Pope Benedict’s apostolic exhortation on the Eucharist, **The Sacrament of Charity**. This prayerful reading drew me into a new appreciation for the Eucharist. At the Eucharist we participate in Christ’ offering of himself totally to the Father in the redemptive sacrifice of his passion and death. Jesus’ self-offering flows out of his gratitude. Everything Jesus has is from the Father; he returns it all to God in his Eucharistic offering. I have always known this but never really spent time letting my heart absorb the significance of the Eucharist. Jesus truly is the Bread of Life.

This new awareness of the gift of the Eucharist suddenly illuminated the main purpose of JRH. For fifty years the Eucharist has been at the center of the retreats. A phrase from the morning offering summarizes the goal of a retreat at JRH: God our Father, I offer you my day. I offer my prayers, thoughts, words, actions, sufferings and joys in union with your Son, Jesus Christ who continues to offer himself in the Eucharist for the salvation of the world.
<www.apostleshipofprayer.org>

JRH has become a home for the Eucharist through the generous efforts of many retreatants the last fifty years. Jubilee is a time to remember gratefully those who have made this possible. Many changes, large and small, occurred over the years. 30 years ago Jim Bonin spent half the retreat in the boiler room trying to keep heat flowing through the pipes. Buckets were scattered around the lounge on rainy days. In 1989 the chapel moved from its dark, cramped quarters in the former garage into the inviting bright, spaciousness that connects the Eucharist to the beauty of God’s creation. The devastating storm in 2004 toppled 40 large stately maples and ash. Now young trees are beginning to mature and fill in the empty spaces.

The mission of JRH has remained the same throughout all the changes and passage of years. Each era strengthened different facets of the mission and enhanced its richness. During the coming year we will celebrate these blessings and draw on this inheritance for the next fifty. We invite you to remember the changes that have enriched your retreat experience. In the Eucharist Jesus invites us to join him in offering our lives to God out of complete gratitude for all that we have received from God.

As we recall the gift of the Eucharist, the 50th Jubilee and the gathering with our families for Thanksgiving, I am reminded of these lines from Ps. 116:

How can I repay the Lord for all the good done for me?
I raise the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Fr. John Schwantes, SJ.

Happenings

At JRH

Beginning at the end of May through June , July and August we began our six directed retreats. Other retreat directors came from different parts of the country to join our staff throughout the summer . This allowed us to offer spiritual guidance to three hundred retreatants who made these six retreats. Thank you to all the directors who were with us this summer. May you all continue to be blessed by God in your ministries throughout the coming year.

From August 16-18 we had a young group of adults who were here as part of the Spiritus Program led by Eden Foord from Mount Tabor. They spent the days in prayer and sharing as a way of getting to know one another better. As team leaders they will work with parishes throughout the state of Wisconsin who are preparing students in High School and Middle School for the Sacrament of Confirmation.



On August 25th we hosted a day of prayer and reflection for the teaching staffs of the United Catholic Schools of Oshkosh. There were close to ninety teachers, administrators and staff present.

The staff from Most Blessed Sacrament in Oshkosh were also here on August 28th. for a day of prayer and reflection as a way of preparing for the beginning of the new school year.



We have been working hard to bring the technology of the 21st century to the Jesuit Retreat House. One step we have taken to bring this about was to add a database program known as Donor Perfect.

On September 14 and 15 the staff of the Jesuit Retreat House were offered a two-day training overview of the many different functions and uses of Donor Perfect led by Kelly Ramage, a trainer for Donor Perfect. We had worked previously with Kelly on a two hour conference call as our initial introduction to the Donor Perfect Program.



From September 20-23 Bishop Ricken invited the active Priests of the Green Bay Diocese to join him at the Jesuit Retreat House for a four day retreat. The Retreat Master was Rev. Abbot Marcel Rooney, O.S.B., who is the President of the Liturgical Institute in the Diocese of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The theme for the retreat was "Spiritual Reflection on the Rite of Ordination." Close to forty-five priests were able to make the retreat.

We will be hosting the Fall Retreat sponsored by the Faber Center at Marquette University from October 29-31.

The theme for this retreat is "Mentors and Models for the Journey." The Director for this retreat will be Rev. Robert Morneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Green Bay.



Welcome

Fr. Tom Schloemer SJ

Rev. Thomas N. Schloemer, S.J. is a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He graduated from Marquette University High School and attended Marquette University before entering the Society of Jesus in 1955. He was ordained in 1968. Tom's full-time teaching experience was at Campion Jesuit High School during his Jesuit training. His priestly ministry has been in administration and pastoral work. He has served as a high school principal, assistant provincial, university alumni director, assistant to the university president, community superior, and community minister among other jobs.

On the pastoral level, Tom has served as pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Mankato, Minnesota and acting pastor (for 4-5 months each) at St. John's Church at Creighton University, St. Patrick Church in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, and Gesu Church (twice) at Marquette University. He was involved in Campus Ministry at Marquette and Creighton Universities. At both universities he served in academic advising and student residence hall chaplaincies.

Tom has been involved in retreat work for the past twenty years, directing weekend retreats at the Jesuit Retreat Houses at Lake Elmo, MN and here at Oshkosh. He has also led retreats for Sisters and AA groups in various places.

Tom comes directly to JRH from recuperation from brain surgery. His last position was Minister to (diocesan) Priests in the Milwaukee Archdiocese.

Tom jumped right into the ministry. His affirming style blesses us all.



Welcome

Trish Neuman

Trish Neuman is a native of Hortonville, Wisconsin, and now resides in Neenah, Wisconsin. She joined the Jesuit Retreat House in August of 2010. Her more recent work background was House Manager with Casa Clare, a women's residential treatment facility. Prior to that Trish worked at Step Industries Neenah, Wisconsin in the capacity of Human Resources Representative, Records Manager, and Team Leader. She has worked in Administration for the past 25 years.

Welcome Trish, it is a joy to have you join our staff.



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Jesuit Retreat House, 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.

Congratulations!



We would like to congratulate John Breidster who has made over 100 retreats here at the Jesuit Retreat House. May the Lord continue to bless you throughout the coming year.

JRH celebrates Silver Jubilee

2011 marks the 50th anniversary of the Jesuit Retreat House. In recognition of this important event, we will be celebrating throughout the year by remembering the history of the retreat house, expanding our touch to draw others into our practice of spiritual reflection and reaching out for support to keep our tradition alive and vibrant in the coming years. You will be hearing more about our Jubilee celebration in the coming months as a part of your retreat, as well as special events to recognize and give thanks to all of our participants who have helped make the JRH what it is today. Some of these events may require volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please contact our Jubilee co-chair Beth Klein via email; **beth-jake@hotmail.com**. We have much to give, praise, and thank God for as we join in celebration of our past and launch our campaign for the future. We look forward to your participation in our year of Jubilee.