



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.

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Prayer apps of interest

Weather forecast? There's an app for that!
Brewers' or Packers' scores? There's an app for that!
You name it today, there's an app! Yes, even for prayer.



Retreatants increasingly ask for advice for "prayer-to-go." We would like to highlight several Ignatian-themed prayer apps that you may enjoy investigating. Give each one a try and see which one works best for you. The apps suggested here are free in the App Store.

- ❖ **3 Minute Retreat** is an app from Loyola Press. A short meditation on a theme with a couple of reflective questions that engage the user. Background music is optional.
- ❖ **Jesuit Prayer** is a collaborative online ministry of the USA and English Canada Provinces of the Society of Jesus. This app features one of the daily Scripture readings, a reflection and a prayer. Fr. Chris and Sr. Susan have written reflections for this app. It offers a variety of resources in addition to the daily inspiration.
- ❖ **Re-imagining the Examen** allows the user to select from a variety of daily examens and choose the type of music that best suits one's mood.
- ❖ **Click-to-Pray** is a newer app shared by Pope Francis. The user can pray with the Pope, pray each day (there is a short prayer for the morning and the evening) and/or pray with the Pope's worldwide network by writing a prayer and "clicking" to pray.
- ❖ **Pray as You Go** is an app for those with more time to devote to a media-based prayer. Lasting 10-13 minutes, it combines music, Scripture and questions for reflection. It is produced by London-based Jesuit Media Initiatives, which gives it a British flavor tailor made for you.

"You've got a lot of spunk for a nun!" "Sister, I've never met a nun quite like you before!"



I have often heard these or similar words when meeting someone for the first time, yes, even here at the Jesuit Retreat House!

Raised by wonderful parents who encouraged my sister and me to ask questions and be curious about life, I appear to be a strange candidate for religious life. Yet, this summer I celebrate 40 years of religious profession as a Sister of Notre Dame along with three other Sisters in my vow group. Recently I was sorting through pictures from babyhood to the present to share at our community jubilee celebration at the end of June. Memories brought smiles and the solid assurance that I would not choose a different path. This is my way "home."

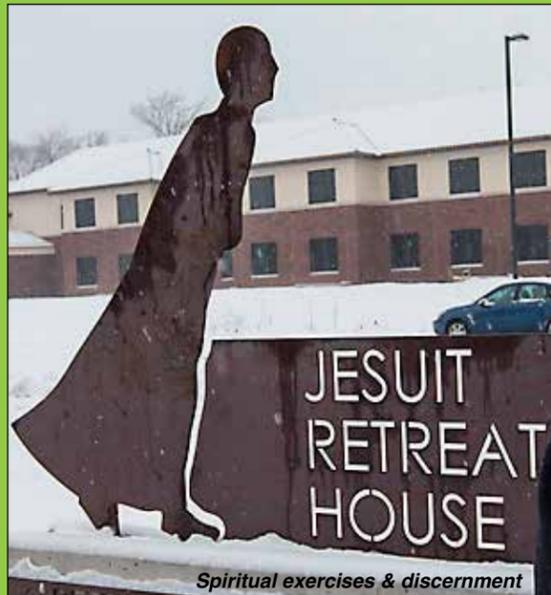
At our first profession in 1979, and again at perpetual profession five years later, our group used a song written by one of our Sisters with the words of Psalm 116: "How shall I make some return for all the kindness You have shown?" Perhaps the only return any of us can make for God's boundless goodness, everlasting compassion, and gracious kindness is the gift of our lives. For me that gift of self has been shared with God's people as a Sister of Notre Dame for forty years and, hopefully, forty more! Ministry as teacher, principal, religion software designer, and retreat/spiritual director has been my response in a call to serve the Church. "Join the convent, see the world" – or at least for me, the United States! – rooted me in Ohio, Michigan, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Undergirding these various works and places has been the overriding sense of a call simply to be "sister." As a young novice pondering my request to make profession, I became aware that all I ever really wanted to "be" or "do" was simply to be "sister" to God's people; "sister" to all that exists in God's beautiful creation. To be "sister" ... to walk **with** the people of God, not run ahead or lag behind, but **with**, to accompany, or as Carey Landry put it so well in the old song, to be "companions on the journey!"

As I look back on these years of my life in the Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame and look ahead to the newness that will assuredly come, I am in awe of God's work in and through me. I am grateful to have used my energy, vitality — and spunk! — to serve in a myriad of ways. I am blessed beyond belief in the many people whose lives have intersected with mine. Each retreatant that I have met at the Jesuit Retreat House these past three and a half years is a particular blessing in the mystery of my life.

As I participate in our summer celebrations in Ohio, I will be keeping you, my home community of faith in the spirit of St. Ignatius, in my heart and prayer. I humbly ask you to keep me in your prayer and love, too! Together let us walk as brother and sister with each other, proclaiming the goodness of God by our very lives!

Sr. Susan Keegan



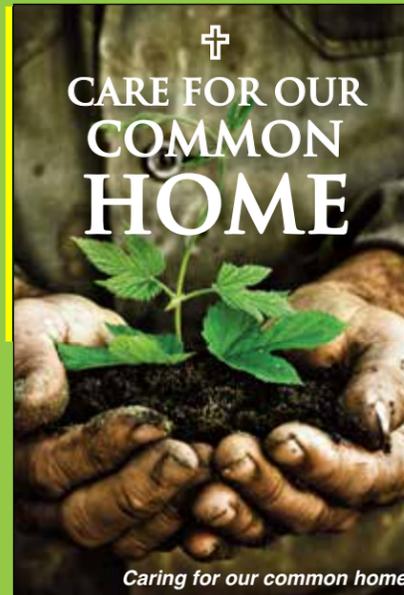
Spiritual exercises & discernment



Walking with the excluded



Journeying with youth



Caring for our common home

Employee Spotlight



Miranda Martin – cooking up a career

Miranda, born and raised Oshkosh, really loves interacting with people of all walks of life. “After graduating from Oshkosh North High School and because I love working with people, I entered the customer service industry for over 5 years. However, when I had an opportunity to work in a couple of local restaurants, I felt a real call to work in the culinary / hospitality industry.” Obviously, Miranda’s uncle Jeff Martin, JRH’s chef for 17 years, saw something special in his niece and offered her an internship at JRH. “Besides the fact that she was my niece, I really felt that Miranda’s personality and talent in the kitchen would be a perfect fit for her here at the retreat house. I have not been disappointed ... she has been a wonderful addition to our JRH staff.”

Miranda’s experience at JRH has been everything her uncle Jeff had promised. “I love the sense of community here at the retreat house. The staff works so well together, and along with the retreatants are so appreciative and caring. I have such a good sense of fulfillment.” After Miranda finishes her internship, she will graduate with a double major in Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management from Fox Valley Technical College.

Priorities to guide Jesuit works for the next decade

The Society of Jesus (Jesuits) discerns periodically what priorities will guide its members and its many works worldwide, and recently Pope Francis affirmed four universal priorities that are to guide members of the Society and its works from 2019-2029:

- A. To show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment;
- B. To walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice;
- C. To accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future;
- D. To collaborate in the care of our Common Home.

The Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago will be discussing and discerning our ministry goals and actions with these universal priorities in mind.

How are we already serving these priorities? In what other ways can we serve these priorities? As we discern our use of resources, staff, and time, how will we account for these priorities? These are among the questions likely to be discussed in the years ahead by our retreatants, our staff, and our Board of Directors.

You may notice that among the four priorities, in fact the very first listed, is our own ministry. We strive to bring the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the discernment of God’s will into the daily life of all who come on retreat and those who care for them while here.

Pope Francis noted in his letter affirming the four priorities:

“The first preference is crucial, because it presupposes as a basic condition the Jesuit’s relationship with the Lord in a personal and communal life of prayer and discernment. . . . Without this prayerful attitude the other preferences will not bear fruit.”

The same can be said for those who work with Jesuits in the varied ministries of the Society. Prayer and discernment are necessary for our ministries to be faithful in carrying out God’s will.

We realize our need to reach out so that more and more people come on retreat and discover the value of setting aside time to pray, to be silent, to listen to God, to examine our lives, and to be aware of God’s work in our lives, the lives of others, and in the world. Yet, with this ministry as a priority an even greater commitment is expected for all involved. Our attention, creativity, and experimentation will be needed to ensure that our ministry is effective in implementing the other three priorities as well.

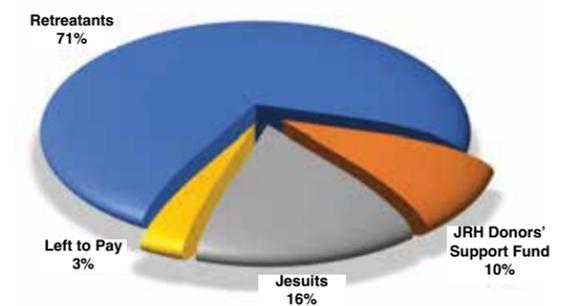
How do we walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice? How do we accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future? How do we collaborate in the care of our Common Home, which echoes the call to protect, preserve, and improve our natural resources and environment contained in Pope Francis’ encyclical Laudato Si’?

Share your thoughts as to how you think the attention that we give these four priorities may or should influence our ministry. Email cmanahan@jesuitretreathouse.org or write Fr. Chris Manahan, S.J., Director, Jesuit Retreat House, 4800 Fahrwald Road, Oshkosh, WI 54902, with your thoughts. We will include them in our discussions.

For information on each of the priorities follow these links to the Society of Jesus website:

- <https://jesuits.global/en/uap/discernment-and-the-spiritual-exercises>
- <https://jesuits.global/en/uap/walking-with-the-excluded>
- <https://jesuits.global/en/uap/journeying-with-youth>
- <https://jesuits.global/en/uap/caring-for-our-common-home>

\$6.2 Million JRH Building Debt



Our debt repayment: At-a-glance

We are grateful and humbled by the continuing support and generosity of the 1,235 retreatant donors who have contributed \$4.4 million toward the La Storta Conference Center and new Manresa Retreatants’ Wing. Combined with \$1 million from the Jesuits, and \$600,000 from the JRH Support Fund that came from earlier retreatants’ gifts and bequests, their generosity leaves less than \$200,000 to raise in 2019 as we continue our **FINAL PUSH** to be debt-free. All additional monies will help us cross the finish line yet this year.