



**Jesuit Retreat House**  
4800 Fahrwald Road  
Oshkosh, WI 54902

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www.JesuitRetreatHouse.org



*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.*

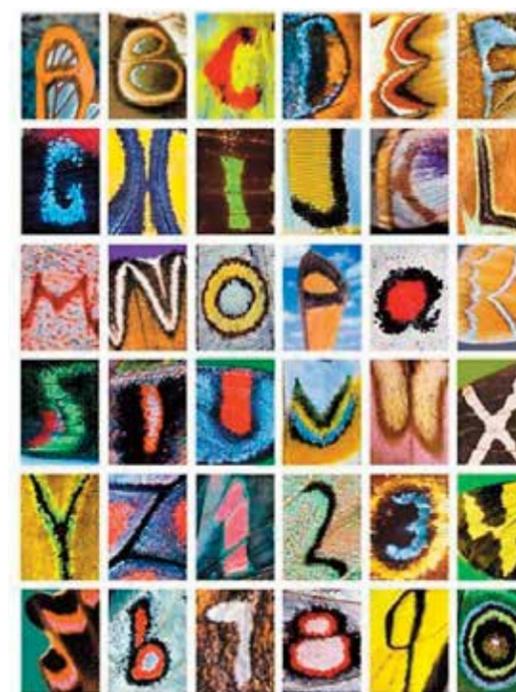
[www.JesuitRetreatHouse.org](http://www.JesuitRetreatHouse.org)

## Response to Annual Appeal is gratifying

Faced with a \$30,000 monthly deficit until the pandemic threat subsides, we appealed for help and you are responding generously. Since our Annual Appeal letter was mailed in late November, we have received \$255,917 in response, with \$130,865 designated for our Annual Appeal and \$125,052 designated for replenishing our Support Fund. Thank you.

Your generosity is enabling us to continue offering retreats and keep staff employed while we wait for more people to feel safe to attend our retreats. With retreat revenue and attendance one-third to one-half of normal, the \$193,000 goal set for the Annual Appeal is an estimate of what will be needed to carry us through May (\$150,000) and allow for this year's needed maintenance and improvements (\$43,000).

Your sacrifice to ensure that the retreat ministry continues during these times is so encouraging. Thank you, again. We keep in our prayers all who have lost their lives and livelihoods because of this pandemic.



Kjell B. Sandved (c) butterflyalphabet.com

## The Eye of the Beholder

“Beauty is in the eye of the beholder” means what is beautiful to one may escape the eye of another. When the setting sun casts a golden shine over miles and miles of Iowa cornfields ready to be harvested it's beautiful to me, but not necessarily to one who is trying to reach Omaha before dark with 200 miles to go.

Back in the 1980s I was working at the newspaper in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and I came across a Smithsonian Magazine feature about one of its photographers who had spent years capturing the beauty of butterflies. He took photographs of these colorful winged creatures around the world with a particular focus: the “letters” and “numbers” that he could see in the butterflies' natural beauty.

One of his many works accompanies this reflection. It is the one that caught my eye nearly 40 years ago. The novelty of it certainly attracted me, yet I think what most impressed me is what he could see that I would never have noticed. A newspaper writer for the Detroit Free Press is quoted on the [www.butterflyalphabet.com](http://www.butterflyalphabet.com) website in reviewing Sandved's work:

“(We) would love to see the world through Kjell Sandved's eyes. It would be like putting on a pair of magic glasses that revealed nature's hidden designs, such as the tiny alphabet Kjell discovered in the wings of butterflies and moths.” -- Patricia Chargot

St. Ignatius in his encouragement of contemplative prayer – where one asks God to guide my imagination as I place myself within a Scripture passage – could be very well “like putting on a pair of magic glasses” as suggested by Sandved's ability to see what others cannot see. Only God knows what greater knowledge, deeper insight, unexpected words, sensual memories, and interior movements might come in contemplating Scripture passages with similar attentiveness. I want to develop the “eye of a beholder” who does not miss what God wants to show me.

*Fr. Chris Manahan, SJ*  
Fr. Christopher J. Manahan, SJ  
Director



#1 Jesus is Condemned to Death



#2 Jesus Carries His Cross



#3 Jesus Falls the First Time



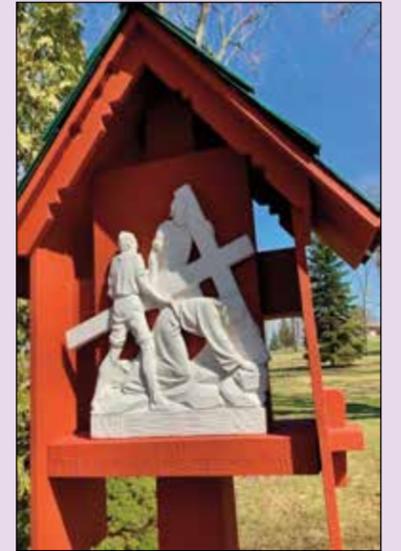
#4 Jesus Meets His Mother



#5 Simon Carries the Cross



#6 Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus



#7 Jesus Falls the Second Time

## The Way of the Cross as we walk it today

I've had the blessing of walking in the footsteps of Jesus along the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem while on a women's pilgrimage to the Holy Land in late Spring 2008. The Stations of the Cross or Way of the Cross became a way for Christians to make a spiritual pilgrimage if they could not go to the Holy Land to walk the actual path of the Passion of Jesus. It is one of the most popular devotions among Catholics, especially during the season of Lent. A bit of Lenten trivia: Did you know that other Christians — Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist and some Presbyterians — also embrace versions of the Way of the Cross? We all are united in following Jesus in his Passion and Death to the mystery of the Resurrection.

Our outdoor stations at JRH are beloved to many retreatants. Each winter retreatants bundle up in every parka and mitten and scarf imaginable to brave the below zero wind chill on Saturday afternoons rather than sit in the chapel or pray on the ramp. I admit to having some admiration of their daring in taking this on as a penance of remembrance.

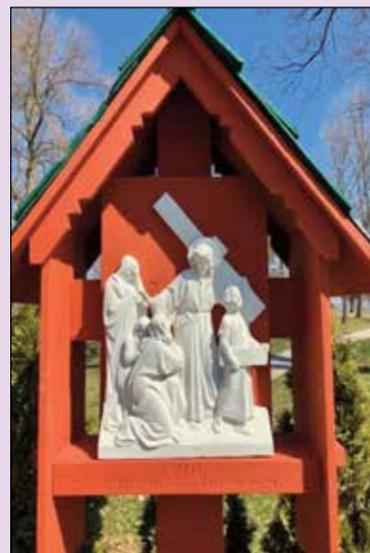
My heart challenges me to answer the call of Christ to reconsider the Way of the Cross in our time and place in the world. When I watch the evening news, I cannot tell you how many times I think to myself that I just witnessed Simon carry the cross as a nurse holds the hand of a patient dying of COVID ... or Jesus fall yet again under the heavy burden of unemployment ... or Veronica wipe the tears of a young wife and mother who lost her husband to depression induced suicide ... or the women of Jerusalem meet Jesus as they march in our streets protesting the violence inflicted on others because of the color of their skin ... or Jesus taken down from the cross as cities use makeshift morgues to hold the bodies of those deceased during this pandemic ... or "There's Good News Tonight" at the close of the newscast to remind me that there is Resurrection. And the list goes on.

In the spirit of St. Ignatius, I invite you to place yourself with Jesus in the distressing disguise of the scenarios I have delineated. Watch the evening news and ask for the grace to become aware of all those places where Jesus is on the Via Dolorosa today. Suffering abounds. We are the new Simons and Veronicas, the Marys, the women of Jerusalem, the Josephs of Arimathea, called to alleviate and heal the excruciating pain of the Christ in our midst. Do we have the courage to answer the call?

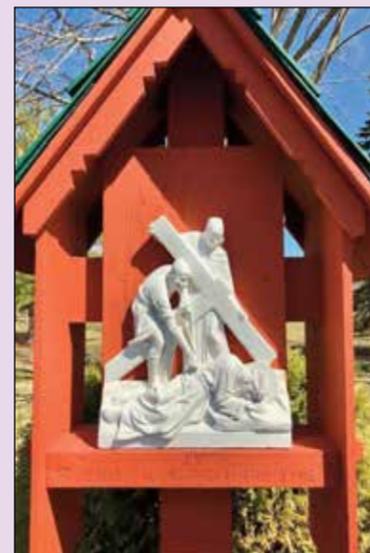
"We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,  
because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world."

Sr. Susan Kusz, SND  
Associate Director

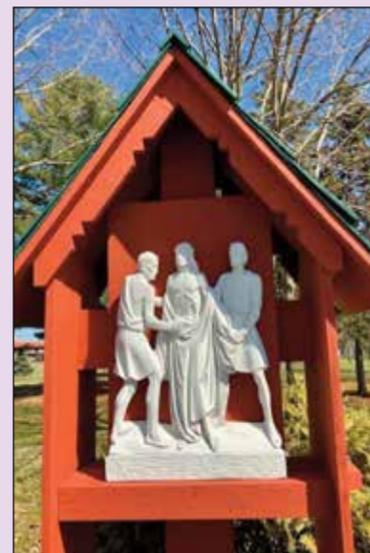
Photos provided by Sr. Susan Kusz, SND



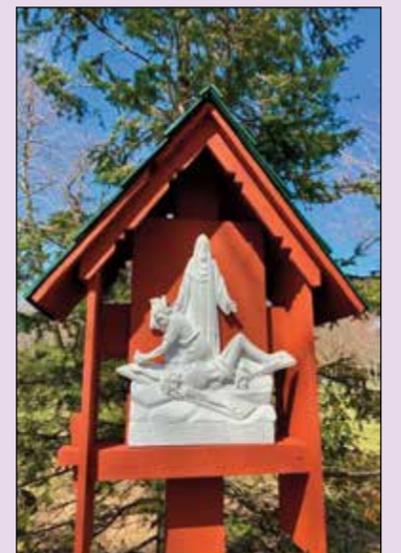
#8 Jesus Meets the Women



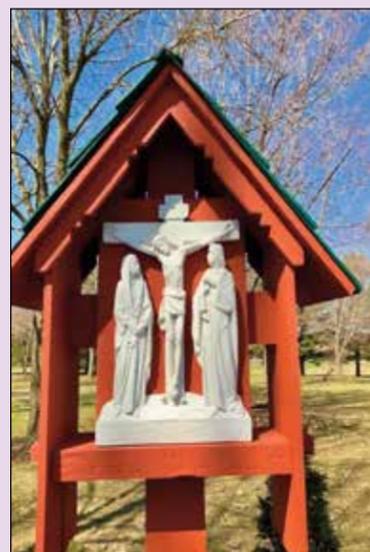
#9 Jesus Falls the Third Time



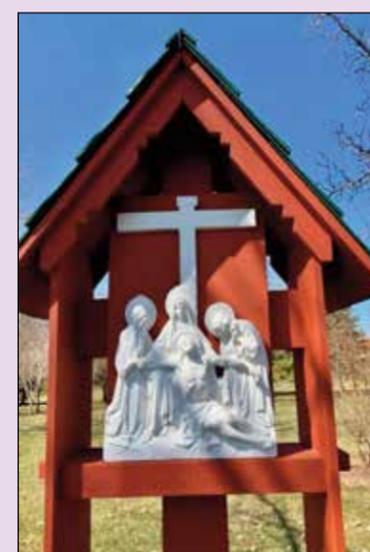
#10 Jesus is Stripped



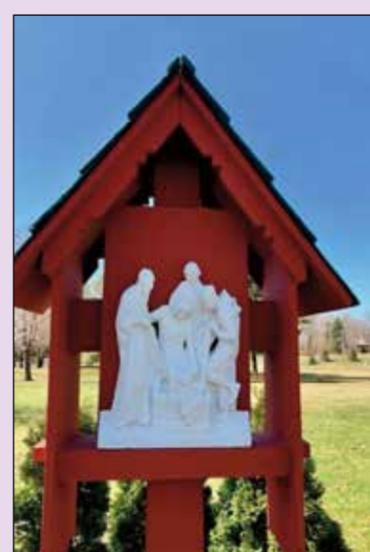
#11 Jesus is Nailed to the Cross



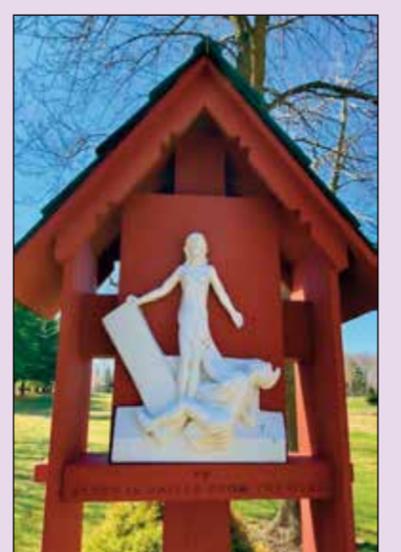
#12 Jesus Dies on the Cross



#13 Jesus is Taken from the Cross



#14 Jesus is Laid in the Sepulcher



#15 Jesus is Raised from the Dead