



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

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## Reflections Newsletter

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4800 Fahrnwald Road  
Oshkosh, WI 54902  
920.231.9060  
800.962.7330 (WI only)  
[www.JesuitRetreatHouse.org](http://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)

### Carrying Christ's Light

Last December, JRH welcomed the Peace Light to the shores of Lake Winnebago. This year, we plan to actively share that light and its message of peace and friendship.

The light is a continuous flame originating in the grotto of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. For almost 40 years, this flame has been shared around the world each December to remind people of Christ's message of love and the deeper meaning of Christmas. It is symbolic of the Light of Christ and promotes unity among all peoples. This is all the more important given the conflicts in our world today.



JRH is a Keeper of the Light, meaning that we maintain the Peace Light year-round. We do this in multiple locations at the retreat house so that the flame is never lost.

This year, JRH plans two events around the Peace Light. At both gatherings, the flame will be shared with those who wish to take it with them for their home, place of worship, or other location.

**Sunday, December 3, 2:30 p.m.**  
Ecumenical Prayer Service

**Wednesday, December 6, 5:00 p.m.**  
Candlelight Mass

Additionally, visitors are welcome to visit the Peace Light. While access to the retreat house may be limited due to retreat programming, a Peace Light will shine in the Shrine of the Sacred Heart throughout most of the Advent and Christmas Seasons. See [www.jesuitretreathouse.org](http://www.jesuitretreathouse.org) for information on visiting the Peace Light at JRH.

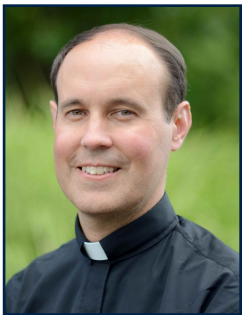
This Advent and Christmas seasons, let us carry within our hearts the peace and light of Christ!

More information on the Peace Light initiative is available at [www.peacelightnorthamerica.org](http://www.peacelightnorthamerica.org).

### Gratitude and Enthusiasm

On November 1, a group of people who in a variety of ways share their time, talent, or treasure with us gathered at the Jesuit Retreat House. We had an opportunity to express gratitude for their support of the ministry and updated them on the status of the retreat house. Highlights I shared with them included:

- Retreatants and donors are generous. JRH is financially stable. We continue to welcome anyone for a weekend retreat regardless of financial need. We strive to rebuild our ministry support fund. We desire to build up a substantial endowment to help keep retreats affordable.
- Fundraising continues to be essential to our ministry. (Page 3 presents a variety of ways to give financially to JRH).
- Last year's Annual Appeal was a success! The Manresa conference room is on track for hosting groups later this year. Installation of its audio-visual/IT capabilities will be completed in February.
- Last year, JRH welcomed over 1,450 retreatants. Roughly 20% of those people were visiting JRH for the first time. Most of them found out about JRH through word of mouth. Please share your experience of JRH with others and encourage them to come and participate in the silence, prayer, and community of a JRH retreat.
- An additional 350 people were overnight guests at JRH, making private retreats at Campion farmhouse or staying in Manresa as part of a hosted event. (Read the story on page 2 about the retreat hosted for Kriete Truck Centers.)
- In October JRH offered a new retreat in Spanish. (Its success story is told on page 2.)
- The Lakeside Speaker Series continues to draw people to JRH.



We celebrate with gratitude the impact of JRH's ministry this past year. We also look forward with enthusiasm to the year ahead:

- With your participation, we anticipate another successful Annual Appeal.
- This Advent, JRH plans new programming around the Peace Light (see page 4).
- A new option for making an individually directed retreat is available this January 8-13, 2024. Registration for that retreat is now open on JRH's website.
- Many of the January – May weekend retreats still have openings.
- Registration for summer retreats opens on January 1. The quickest and best way to register is online.
- Finally, the schedule of lakeside speakers for the first half of 2024 will be announced soon.

Thank you for being part of our success last year. Please participate in and support our retreat ministry in the coming year.

May the Lord's blessing be with you throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.

In Christ,

*Mark A. Carr, S.J.*  
Fr. Mark Carr, S.J.  
Executive Director



Forward with Kriete



For most people, rest from work comes on the weekends. But sometimes it is scheduled into the work week. This fall, David Kriete, CEO of Kriete Truck Centers, brought 25 of the company’s managers and executives together for a three-day retreat at JRH. These people are “our gift and our priority,” he says. “By giving this group of leaders the opportunity to 'slow down' and reset/reflect, I believe we're honoring our priorities.” The group came together for a similar retreat at JRH in 2021.



The time away at JRH fits well with the company’s slogan: *Forward with Kriete*. “Kriete can't properly and positively move forward if our leaders are tired, worn-out, and stuck in the daily whirlwind,” comments David. “A few days in silence at the Jesuit Retreat House is the ultimate reset buton for the team and allows all of us to Move Forward with zest.”

The Monday through Wednesday retreat shared much in common with JRH’s weekend retreats. It was silent, which was quite a break for a group used to being around big rigs. There were talks given by Frs. Jim Shea and Jack Treloar. The schedule included time for walking, reflecting, resting, and exercising. For those who wished to participate, daily liturgies were offered. Chef Jeff even baked a bounty of cookies.

The retreat talks were tailored to the group which professed a diversity of faith backgrounds or no particular religious identity. Talks focused on thinking of oneself as part of something greater, the gift of solitude, the need for active listening in our lives, and how we can work for the common good. One participant commented that the topics were a good fit with the workplace because David Kriete is always trying to instill a paradigm of servant leadership in the company.

“Among the many benefits of the retreat,” says David, is that “my team members draw nearer to one another and create a strong bond in the shared silence and conferences. It's a unique way to slow down, use one's brain and heart, and amidst the silence and solitude, grow closer to one another.”

While the Kriete group is the only corporate group that has come to JRH for an overnight retreat, at various times throughout the year the retreat house hosts other profes-sional groups for day-long retreats: groups of Catholic educators, a parish staff, and a hospital's spiritual care team. Information regarding bringing a group to JRH for its own meeting or retreat is available on JRH's homepage under “Hosting Services.”

¡Bienvenidos!

On the second weekend of October this year, thirteen women and men from Appleton, Green Bay, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, and Oshkosh participated in a new Spanish language retreat at JRH (#055).

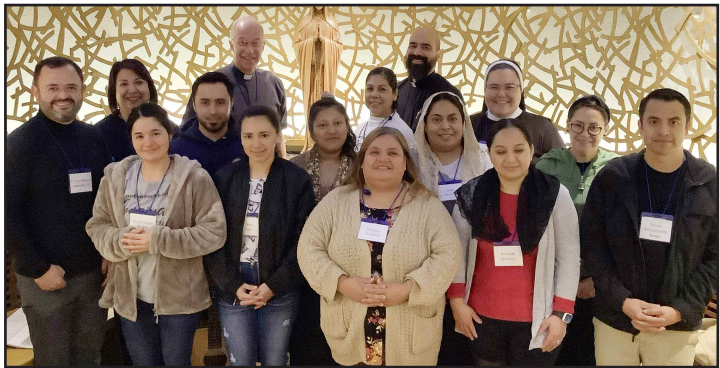
A silent retreat that would intentionally reach out to the Hispanic community in the Diocese of Green Bay was the dream of Fr. Phil Schoofs of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Hortonville, WI. In addition to being the parish administrator, Fr. Phil, a priest of the Archdiocese of Morelia in central/south Mexico, also serves as extern priest for Hispanic ministry for the diocese. Over the past ten months, Fr. Phil and JRH worked together to make this dream a reality. Early on, Fr. Phil said, “vamos a hacer un bien, bien" (we're going to do some-thing good and do it very well). We did that!

Fr. José Miguel Jaramillo, a Jesuit from Ecuador studying at Marquette University preached the retreat. Over the course of the weekend, he guided the retreatants through select parts of the Spiritual Exercises. Like other JRH retreats, the retreat included daily Mass, reconciliation and healing services, Eucharistic adoration, the rosary, and stations of the cross.

Given the smaller group size, the Spanish speakers used the Chapel of the Annunciation for morning prayer, Mass, and the rosary. They gathered for their retreat talks in the area below the St. Ignatius chapel. This allowed the women's retreat (#042) in English to take place that same weekend. “It wasn’t distracting at all,” commented Kasi, one of the women retreatants. The two groups took their meals together and celebrated a common bilingual Sunday Mass. “The Mass helped me realize that we are part of a larger universal Church,” said Julie who was making her first retreatant at JRH.

Sharing the JRH facilities and sharing of the Spiritual Exercises with even more people will be possible when the Manresa conference room becomes available later this year.

This new retreat complements the spring Spanish language retreat that Casa Romero Renewal Center has run at JRH for almost ten years. “Both retreats help people encounter Christ through the Spiritual Exercises,” said Guisela who has also attended Casa Romero’s retreat. JRH plans it next Spanish preached retreat for October 10-13, 2024. ¡Que Bien!



Support the Ministry: Ways to Give

In addition to retreat offerings, the Jesuit Retreat House, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, relies on donations of all sizes to continue its retreat ministry. Please prayerfully con-sider your support for our ministry through one or more of the following giving opportunities.

Annual Appeal

The Annual Appeal asks for your financial support for capital and special projects. Please join us and journey with us to help men and women discover and benefit from the gifts and graces offered by Ignatian spirituality and the Spiritual Exercises.

Memorials / Tributes

Donations (monetary, trees and/or swings) may be given to the Jesuit Retreat House in honor of or in memory of the life and/or legacy of a family member, retreatant, loved one or friend. The dollars are used to support the ongoing retreat ministry.

Ministry Support

Ministry support donations are unrestricted funds that may be used by the retreat house to support all areas of its ongo-ing retreat ministry. This type of gift may also be given in honor or memory of a family member, loved one, retreatant or friend.

12-Step/Recovery

This fund helps ensure the continuance of the retreat house's current retreat offering model that welcomes those who are unable to pay the actual cost of a retreat. Contributions to this temporarily restricted fund, support all 12-Step/recovery/addiction programs held at or sponsored by JRH and people in recovery/addiction programs participat-ing in other JRH programs.

St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, S.J. Endowment

The St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Endowment is intended to become the primary Endowment of the retreat house. All endowment gifts are permanently restricted. Income generated from the endowment's principal may be used only to support all retreats and/or programming offered by the Jesuit Retreat House.

Monthly Recurring Gift

Becoming a monthly donor will help continue JRH's mission to foster spiritual enrichment rooted in the Gospels, the Catholic tradition, and the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Your support will help us sustain a rich variety of retreat experiences and provide an atmosphere of quiet, peace, and prayer.

Stocking Stuffer

Stumped finding the perfect Christmas gift for a faith-filled friend or family member? Consider giving someone the blessing of attending a weekend preached retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House! A retreat is a “gift that keeps on giving” as the graces of a retreat continue to unfold in a person’s life for weeks and months. To purchase a JRH gift certificate, contact Tanya at (920) 231-9060 or office@jesuitretreathouse.org.



Additional Ways to Give

Matching Gift

Please check if your employer offers a matching gift pro-gram which may increase and, in some cases, double the im-pact of your donation.

IRA/QCD Donations

If you are 70.5 or older, gifts up to \$100,000 from your IRA may be directly transferred from an IRA to a qualified charity such as the Jesuit Retreat House, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Even though the SECURE Act raised the r equired minimum distribution (RMD) age to 72, the QCD age remains at 70.5, so QCDs can be used for charitable giving even before RMDs begin. Check first with your IRA administrator or tax advisor for more detailed information about Qualified Charity Distributions.

Appreciated Securities

To transfer stock ownership to the Jesuit Retreat House, the following information will help you and/or your financial advisor:

**DTC # 0141 | Account # 3632-0118**  
**Account Name: Jesuit Retreat House**  
**Transfers on behalf of JRH go to:**  
David F. Werner, Executive Vice President  
Innovative Retirement Associates  
5601 W Grande Market Dr - Suite G, Appleton, WI 54913  
(920) 202-5559  
David@iretirementassociates.com

Planned or Deferred Gifts

These can provide you and your loved ones with important benefits now and in the future. Some gifts allow donors to retain income for life and avoid certain capital gains taxes, all while assisting the Jesuit Retreat House in its mission. Popu-lar planned giving options include:

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

For more information on additional ways to donate or a monthly giving option, please contact **Deacon John Ingala at (920) 230-6992 or jingala@jesuitretreathouse.org.**