



Jesuit Retreat House
4800 Fahrwald Road
Oshkosh, WI 54902

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

In Memoriam – Leah Denslow

Leah Denslow, with her smile and pleasant ways of caring for each of us, served retreatants since August 2007 in the dining room, in housekeeping, and in the development office. After a three-year battle with cancer, Leah passed away at home on May 20, 2019, her 30th birthday.

When friends and family gathered to celebrate her life, the following reflection was offered by Father Chris as director of the Jesuit Retreat House and on behalf of the staff and retreatants:

“In Leah the retreatants saw goodness personified and were lifted up thanks to her smile, her gentleness, her care for them, and the sweetness that she brought to everything that she did for them.

“Hundreds of cards and letters from retreatants came to Leah while she was sick to encourage her and to make her aware of how she has been a gift to them during their retreats over these many years.

“Father Henry Nouwen captured in his book, ‘Here and Now,’ the goodness that I and so many others saw in Leah. He wrote, ‘God does not shout, scream or push. The Spirit of God is soft and gentle like a small voice or a light breeze. It is the spirit of love.’

“Leah’s gentleness, kindness, and beauty gave us a sense of that soft, small voice with which God’s love speaks. She has touched our hearts and we are better for it. She is now with God whose love she embodied.”

After being in the hospital for more than two months coping with the cancer and its side effects Leah was able to go home finally, as she hoped, and spent her last weeks with her family and friends, and her dog Chief. We miss her, yet her “little light” still shines in our memories.



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Debt-free at last; burning the mortgage next summer

We are debt free!

Fulfilling the promise and commitment that retreatants, staff, and Jesuits made in 2011 to provide facilities that can sustain this ministry for another 50 years, we made our final payment on the \$6.2 million project earlier this summer.

Gratitude. Relief. Joy. We have been waiting for this day. Thank you to all who were involved in the planning, completion, and initiation of the new facilities.

We will celebrate – burn the mortgage – next summer, Sunday, June 7, with Mass, a picnic, and time for all who come to enjoy the grounds. Save the date!

The new Manresa Retreatants' Wing and renovated La Storta Conference Center testify to the foresight that initiated the construction; the perseverance that completed it; and retreatants' dedication to carrying on our mission:

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the Catholic tradition, and the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola.
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generously to God's personal invitation to wholeness and holiness.*

We rest in the joy, relief, and gratitude of knowing the part we each played in making this happen, and how through the years God has blessed this place and the people who pray here.

With meager resources and fledgling retreatant groups in the early days it was clear from the beginning that our good stewardship of those resources, and retreatants' personal invitations to others to come, would be needed if the ministry was to survive and grow. Over the years, and to this present time, the pillars of this ministry continue to be good stewardship and reliance on retreatants who spread the word and invite others to experience the value of an annual retreat.

The generosity and stewardship of earlier generations helped pay off our debt earlier than planned when we used one-half of our Support Fund, or about \$600,000, to help pay off one of the loans more quickly and avoid additional interest payments.

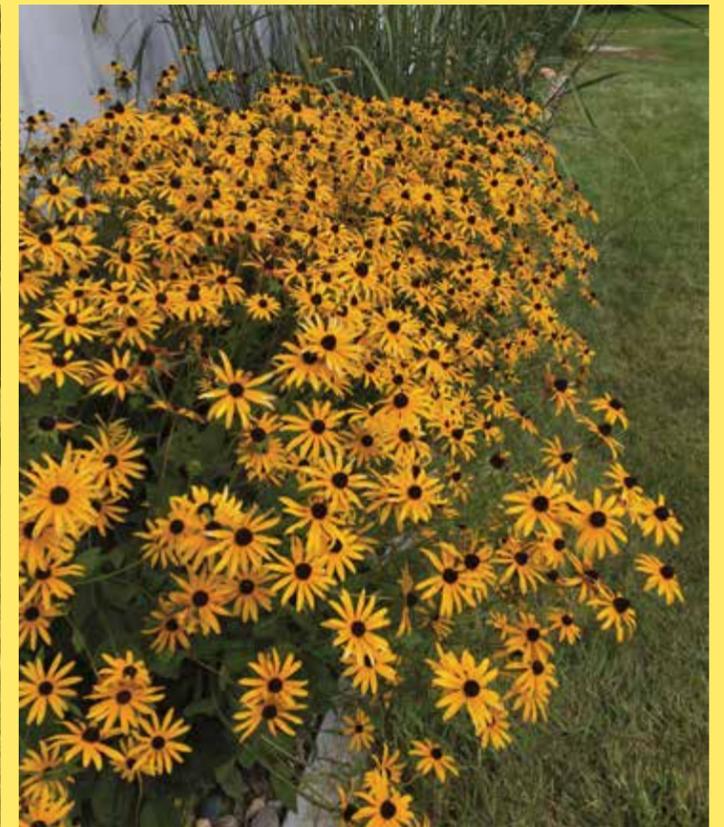
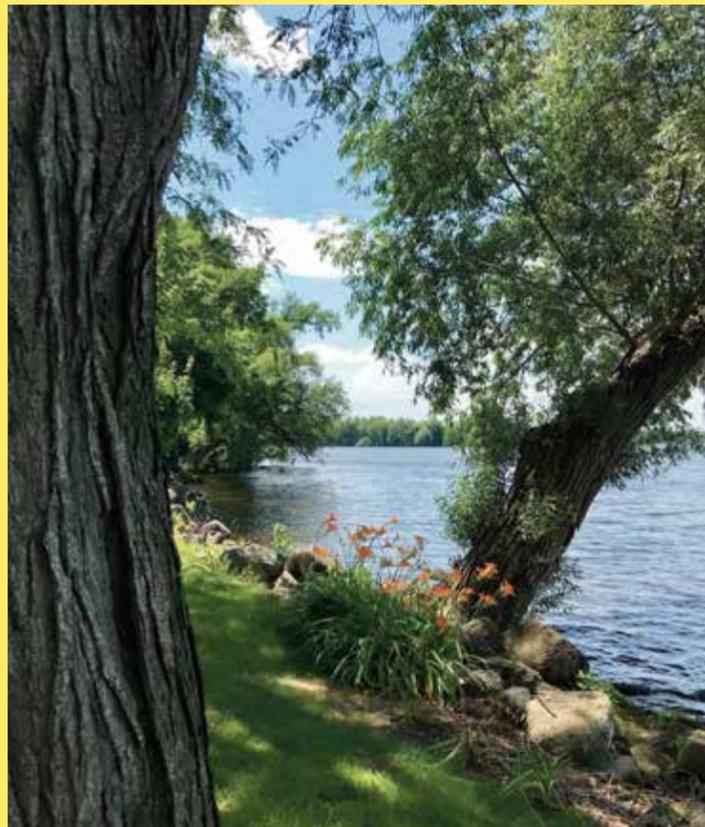
Now, our goal is to replenish the Support Fund by using any surplus we have from our annual operating budget and all unspecified donations from retreatants and supporters. We are well on our way with nearly \$150,000 given to the Support Fund from retreatant donations and operating budget savings this year. The Support Fund copes with emergency expenses and unexpected losses in revenue, and ideally would equal our annual operating budget. Please keep the Support Fund in mind if you are considering a donation.

Fr. Christopher J. Manahan, S.J.
Director



“Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them.”

-- Matthew 6:28b-29



New directors join JRH Board

Four new directors join the Jesuit Retreat House Board of Directors this month to help guide the staff in carrying on this ministry. The Board is vital in providing expertise, advice, and direction as needed and by overseeing the financial health of the ministry.



Bill Champion, Green Bay, is a member of Saint Matthew's Parish, and has been coming to the Jesuit Retreat House since 1987 in the footsteps of his father-in-law Peter Schumacher who was a 25-year veteran retreatant. He and his wife Jane have four children and a daughter-in-law. He is Vice President of Finance for Amerhart, Ltd, and has served on a number of boards in the Green Bay Catholic community. "JRH has been a special place to celebrate Holy Week for a number of years and I hope I can help continue the strong tradition of JRH."

Jim Janisse, Cedarburg, has attended what he considers "life-changing" retreats at the Jesuit Retreat House for six years. He is an independent consultant and advisor to the UW-Stout Leadership Development Institute, and previously was a consultant and manager with IBM Global Services; development manager with Fox Valley Technical College; and adjunct instructor with the UW-Stout Management Program. He and his wife Pam have two children.



Monica Mahler, Belgium, has been coming to the Jesuit Retreat House for more than 20 years. She says it is the spiritual rejuvenation that draws her back. With a dear uncle who was a Jesuit, and having completed her education at Marquette University, she feels a



kinship to the Jesuit community. Sharing her Human Resources experience on the Board will be one more connection.

John Novotny, Wauwatosa, accepted his dad's invitation to the Jesuit Retreat House as a college sophomore, and he has returned each year for more than three decades. He has volunteered for Jesuit Retreat House in different capacities for two decades. "Like my dad, wife, mom, brother, sister, daughter, cousins, and in-laws, I am renewed, challenged, and enriched by the Spiritual Exercises and their practical application in my life." John is an assistant dean for development at Marquette University. He and Therese have six children and one grandchild.



Quilts are her legacy

Our February newsletter highlighted the dozens of colorful quilts sewn by Pat Schraufnagel to add warmth and comfort to retreatants' rooms in the new Manresa building. Sadly, we received word of her unexpected death, April 27, while she and husband Dick were wintering in Texas. Both have been longtime retreatants.

In addition to her husband, of Hartland, she is survived by two daughters, a son, a son-in-law, three grandchildren, two sisters, and a number of niece and nephews.

Her memory will remain fresh for all who come and enjoy her quilts while on retreat. She said the quilts are her "way of giving back, because I love the retreats here." She made her last retreat, November 15-18, 2018, five months before her death.