



Jesuit Retreat House
4800 Fahrnwald 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

Now more than ever

The Linden tree that graces Loyola Point serves as our sentinel on Lake Winnebago, and is the image (right) that we have chosen to focus our efforts to replenish the Jesuit Retreat House Support Fund in the coming years.

Since March 18 we have been unable to have retreatants here in an effort to slow down the spread of the COVID-19 virus that has caused tens of thousands of deaths worldwide. Public health precautions likely will limit for some time the opportunities for retreatants to be here. Gratefully, the current level of the Support Fund – about \$680,000 – can keep us going without retreats, if need be, for several months. The fund already has helped keep staff employed and financially stable so that they will be with us when retreatants return. Yet, each month without retreatants depletes the fund further.

The wisdom of our Support Fund, begun several years ago to guard against revenue losses or unexpected expenses that might jeopardize financially this ministry, is evident now more than ever.

Our goal, even prior to this crisis, had been to return the Support Fund to the \$1.2 million level it was at prior to construction of the new Manresa Retreatants' Wing and renovated La Storta Conference Center. We used about half of the Fund a couple of years ago to pay off one of the two loans we had on those buildings to avoid the higher interest payments, which itself was a gift of having the Support Fund.

It is still our goal to get the Support Fund back to its full health. As good stewards we strive to pass onto the next generation this vital retreat ministry, which is open to all seeking to deepen their faith, grow in their



relationship with God, and serve others for God's greater glory. Like the Linden tree on Loyola Point we want to serve as a sign of hope and life to the world around us.

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Oshkosh, WI 54902
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www.JesuitRetreatHouse.org



When one's work is 'non-essential'

Retreats didn't make the cut earlier this year as state and federal health and homeland security officials defined what is essential while trying to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Being told one's work is non-essential at these times made me wonder what is being asked of the Jesuit Retreat House? Unable to offer the time and space for peace and quiet and reflection and prayer that retreatants seek, can we still be a "port in the storm" for people who need to take time to reflect on their circumstances and to find where God is in their lives?

Our "Take a Moment" reflections have been reaching out via email, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook to retreatants and friends on days we would have had a retreat. Each offers a thought, reflection, or Scripture verse to pray with and the assurance of our prayers for you. Sister Susan Kusz's guided contemplations during this time have opened a welcomed respite and experience of prayer for many as she led us through several Gospel passages using the Ignatian method of contemplative prayer. The loss in not having retreatants here for prayer and reflection has produced an unexpected gain in our finding ways to aid daily prayer and reflection at home.

"Blessings sometimes travel in disguise, even embedded in trials," according to Bryan Thayer, founder of Go Light Our World ministries, which formed after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans in 2005. In making this observation he shared an oft-cited Chinese proverb to illustrate his point:

A farmer had the good fortune of finding a stray horse but it ran away. "That's bad news," says a neighbor. "Good news, bad news, who can say?" the farmer replies. The horse brings back another horse. Good news you might say. But then the farmer's son is thrown off the second horse and breaks his leg. "So sorry for your bad news," says the concerned neighbor. "Good news, bad news, who can say?" the farmer replies. The next week when the emperor's men come to take every able-bodied young man to fight in a war, the farmer's son is spared because his leg is broken. Good news?

So many are suffering from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic: those who are sick, those who have died, health care providers, those who are separated from each other at life's pivotal moments, those who have lost their livelihoods due to economic repercussions, etc. None of the pain, suffering, sadness, grief, frustration, and worry can be dismissed. Instead, blessings embedded within this pandemic help us cope: people caring about their neighbors' welfare; families spending time together differently when not leaving home; teachers and students adapting to a new style of learning; each one of us appreciating the sacrifice of others who are serving our health care, nutritional, and daily needs; and, all of us finding simpler pleasures and simpler ways to be together.

Paul's prayer for the early Christian community in Philippi fits well with our hope now:

"That your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:9-11)

Increased knowledge and discernment of "what is of value" is a desire we share today as Jesus' example, Scriptures, and prayer, lead us through this current tribulation.

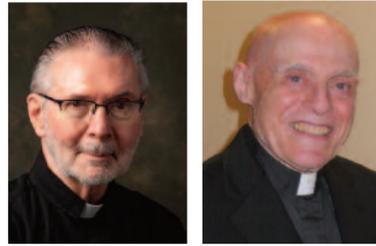
Fr. Chris Manahan, S.J.

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



50 years of priesthood

Father Gene Donahue, S.J., and Father Jack Treloar, S.J., who are integral parts of the retreat ministry here, are celebrating 50 years of priesthood this year. A few years back they marked 60 years in the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and reflected at that time on their Jesuit life. To note this milestone of their priesthood they were asked to outline the places and ministries they have served over the past half-century.



Father Jack Treloar, S.J.

1971-1975 Doctoral studies in philosophy at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
 1975-1984 Academic Dean, College of Philosophy and Letters, St. Louis University, MO.
 1985-2002 Philosophy Department, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI.
 1987-1992 as Assistant Chair
 1993-1999 as Chair
 2002-2006 Academic Dean, Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, CA
 2006-2013 Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus, Milwaukee, WI
 Provincial Assistant for Higher Education
 Business Manager for Theological Studies
 2012-Now Assistant Director, Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago, Oshkosh, WI

Father Gene Donahue, S.J.

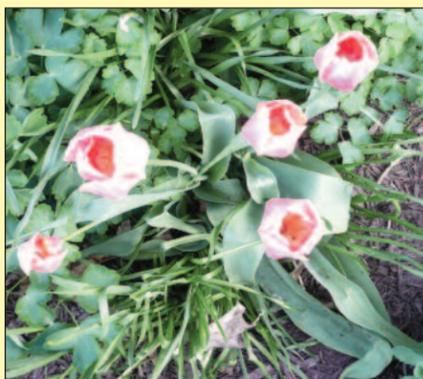
1970-1971 Post-Doctoral Studies in Philosophy/Theology, Munster, Germany
 1971-1977 Creighton University, Omaha NE
 1971-1974 as Assistant Professor, Philosophy Department
 1974-1977 as Chair, Philosophy Department
 1977-1978 Tertianship formation for final vows, Villa Manresa, Quebec, Canada
 1978-1985 Creighton University, Omaha, NE, as Associate Professor, Theology
 1985-1987 Master's in Economics, Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, IN
 1987-1996 Creighton University, Omaha, NE
 1987-1989 as Associate Professor, Theology and Business Ethics
 1989-1994 as Director, Christian Spirituality Program
 1989-1996 as Associate Professor, Business Ethics, Creighton University
 1994-1996 as Endowed Chair in Managerial Ethics, Creighton University
 1996-1998 University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, MI
 1996-1997 as Administrative Intern
 1997-1998 as Administrative Associate
 Superior, La Storta Jesuit Community, Minneapolis, MN
 1998-2002 Superior, Miguel Pro Jesuit Community, Milwaukee WI
 2002-2004 Provincial Assistant for Education and Pastoral Ministries, Milwaukee, WI
 2004-2005 Superior, IHM Jesuit Community, St Paul, MN
 Chair, Feasibility Study for Cristo Rey High School of Twin Cities, Minneapolis
 2005-2007 Pastor, St Francis Mission, St Francis, SD
 Minister to Priests, Rapid City Diocese, SD
 2007-Now Assistant Director, Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago, Oshkosh, WI
 2009-Now Superior, Oshkosh Jesuit Community, Oshkosh, WI

Gratefully, both now serve the staff and retreatants here at the Jesuit Retreat House where they offer their grace and wisdom gained through the past 50 years.



In Memoriam

Sr. Elizabeth Marie Hoell, SSND, who was a spiritual director for our summer directed retreats for decades, died March 26 at the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Elm Grove, WI. Known as "Sr. Liz," she also was a summer retreatant in recent years as well as a director. She made her final retreat with us last July. She was 87. In gratitude for her life, and inspired by her devotion to this retreat ministry, we pray for her eternal peace.



*Down near the willows
 at noon today
 I dug deep muddy holes
 in which I dropped
 three tulip bulbs,
 tucked them in tightly
 for a long winter sleep,
 certain of their waking
 in spring.*

Sr. Péronne Marie Thibert, VHM
 from her poetry collection, "Gentle Fidelity"



SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020

10 AM to 3 PM

11 AM Outdoor Mass

Noon Picnic Lunch

A time to be thankful
 for God's blessings
 and to burn the mortgage!

RSVP by Friday, May 22!

office@jesuitretreathouse.org

or call 920-231-9060, ext. 221

We'll have to wait and see . . .

. . . whether our Mass, picnic, and burning of the mortgage Sunday, June 7, can take place as planned. Regardless, let us know by May 22 if you would come if we are able to host it at that time. Email your name with the number of guests coming to: office@jesuitretreathouse.org or leave us a message when you call: (920) 231-9060.

The grounds would be open from 10 AM to 3 PM that day, with our outdoor Mass at 11 AM and a picnic lunch at Noon. If we are not able to get together June 7 we'll set our sights on a future date when it is possible.

So far . . .

Nine of our weekend preached retreats have been canceled, since March 18. Our first summer directed retreat will be a "virtual" retreat in which retreatants and retreat directors connect via telephone, Skype, Zoom, etc., rather than on-site. We are letting retreatants know 2-3 weeks ahead of time of the changes required because of public health restrictions and concerns. Thank you for your patience and understanding.