



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.

www.JesuitRetreatHouse.org

Summer & Fall: Grounded in Growth

Summer got off to a great start at JRH! On June 1 all available spots on our summer retreats were full. By the end of this month, we expect to have welcomed over 230 people on the five 5-day and 8-day individually directed retreats that we offered.

In addition to those retreats, in early June we hosted Jesuits in formation from the Midwest Province for their 8-day retreat. These men, ranging from first-year novices to men about to be ordained priests, are a hopeful sign of the future Church and Society of Jesus.

In mid-June we hosted faculty and administrators from Jesuit colleges and universities across the country for a 5-day retreat. These Jesuit educators are part of a multi-year program that forms them more deeply in the Jesuit and Catholic tradition of higher education. The retreat is a way for them to personally experience the spirituality that grounds Jesuit education and all the ministries of the Society of Jesus. We are grateful for this partnership that is now in its sixth year.

In late-July JRH welcomed a full house of guests for the EAA AirVenture. You can read about this annual happening on page 2. What struck me most this year was how these guests value many of the same aspects of JRH for which retreatants are grateful.

Over the summer, several projects were either started or completed. The vegetable garden, planted in late May, now produces a regular harvest. So far, retreatants have enjoyed kale, squash, zucchini, cucumbers, kohlrabi, peppers, and herbs from the garden. Soon, we expect green beans and tomatoes from the garden to become part of our menu. The 49 trees planted this spring continue to grow with each watering. Veteran trees continue to receive care, though in recent storms we lost three mature maple trees and several large limbs.

Retreatants arriving this fall will notice newly sealcoated and lined driveways and parking areas. In the Loyola lounge, they will see that the library collection is in the midst of a reorganization. Between retreats this fall, construction will occur on the Manresa conference room. That project will allow expanded programming and greater flexibility at JRH. (Thanks to all who contributed to this year's Annual Appeal to ensure successful completion of this project!) All these projects show continued care for JRH's facilities and attentiveness to ongoing improvement.

Thirteen weekend retreats are scheduled for this fall, including a new Spanish language retreat in October. Register for any of these retreats online at www.jesuitretreathouse.org.

Thank you for being part of our mission.

In Our Lord,

Fr. Mark Carr, S.J.



Lakeside Speaker Series

Last February JRH inaugurated its Lakeside Speaker Series. The series provides opportunities for non-retreatants to visit the campus, fosters new relationships within the community, and offers spiritual enrichment apart from retreats. Last winter/spring, Fr. Joe Laramie, SJ, spoke about the Jesuits' devotion to and promotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; two Jesuit novices (Jon Jue-Wong and Charlie Bulger) shared their vocation stories, discernment, and experience of novitiate; and Rev. Chris Corbin addressed the issue of food justice. The series will continue this fall with three more speakers:

- **September 13 – Amanda Lauer**, author of the *Heaven Intended* Civil War series and 2016 winner of the Catholic Arts and Letters Award, will speak on her vocation as a Catholic writer.
- **October 11 – Fr. Michael Maher, SJ**, adjunct instructor of history at Marquette University will speak on the Knights of Columbus' history of promoting civil rights.

- **November 8 – Candace Bahr**, former addiction and recovery counselor and guest director of 12-Step retreats at JRH, will present "The 12-Steps for Everyone: An introduction to the 12-Steps, especially for non-12-Steppers."

Lakeside speakers are scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30PM – 8:00PM. Each evening includes a presentation and time for questions and answers. These evenings are open to the public. Free will offerings are accepted. RSVPs are appreciated, but not required. To RSVP, call the JRH office at (920) 231-9060 or email office@jesuitretreathouse.org.

The series will continue in the spring on February 7, March 13, April 10, and May 8.



EAA Flying High!

At the end of each July, the buzz and rumble of airplanes overhead replaces the silence of retreats at JRH as Oshkosh hosts the EAA AirVenture. Again, this year—the 70th anniversary of AirVenture—JRH opened its doors for 10 days to host EAA exhibitors and attendees.

Guests came from as far away as Canada, France, and Australia and from as close by as Iowa and Michigan. Some came solo, others with a friend, spouse, or child, and some arrived as groups.

Fr. Paul Sisel, CM, has been staying at JRH during EAA for the past 32 years. He has fond memories of Frs. Dick McCaslin and Bob Dufford who he met during his early stays at JRH. Fr. Paul is not a pilot but became an aviation fanatic because of his dad's interest in planes. Fr. Paul regards himself more as a professional passenger. He has flown in a B-17 bomber, aerobatic bi-plane, helicopter, and hot air balloon. Over the years, he has brought his dad, brother, and nephew to EAA and JRH.

Two other priests that stayed at JRH during EAA 2023 are members of the National Association of Priest Pilots (NAPP). One of them, Fr. Gene Murray, easily managed to integrate airplanes into each of the homilies he preached at JRH. Fr. Joseph McCaffrey, past president of the NAPP, said, "I hope to return to this beautiful place for a directed retreat. I love it here!" Other members of the NAPP include lay associates who help train priests to become pilots, mostly for ministry in mission areas where



flying is the best means of transportation.



Another group that regularly stays at the retreat house during EAA is the Tuskegee Airmen and their families. This year, four of the original Tuskegee Airmen who flew with the 332nd Red Tail Squadron during WWII stayed at JRH: George Hardy, James Harvey, Gene Richardson, and Harry Stuart. Lt. Col. Harry Stuart did not differ from many retreatants in spending time each day gazing at the lake and watching sunsets. He did this often with his daughter at his side, looking out a dining room window or sharing a swing on the lakeshore, often in silence, enjoying each other's company.

While the Tuskegee Airmen—all nearing or having achieved their centennial birthdays—were JRH's oldest guests, students from St. Louis University's Parks Department of Aviation Science were some of our youngest guests. St. Louis University is the only Jesuit school with a flight program. Like other guests returning from a long day at the EAA grounds, these young women and men could be found outside many evenings sitting by the lake, reviewing the day, and sharing stories.

One of our guest pilots, a native of Tennessee, has been staying at JRH since the early 2010s, but has missed the past three years because of COVID. He was happy that JRH still welcomes EAA guests. He appreciates having a quiet place

to come back to every day. This year, he brought a friend with him. The friend was not quite sure what to think of JRH when he arrived. For a moment he stood a bit dazed, having a "wow" moment. "This place is unbelievable," he exclaimed.

Not all guests came for the air show. One woman chose to stay at JRH while her husband camped out on the EAA grounds. Except for one day when she joined her husband at AirVenture, she enjoyed herself reading in the quiet of Loyola lounge, strolling the lakeshore, and being creative in the art room. Similarly, the family that spent the week at the Campion farmhouse was divided between those who attended AirVenture and those who stayed behind. Another couple, on their return trip from a Door County vacation stumbled upon JRH as a place to stay. They were not aware of EAA going on, nor could they remember how they found out about JRH. We attribute their visit to the Holy Spirit.



As often happens on retreats, during EAA a community forms here at JRH. Folks watch out for and care for others. They catch up with each other and pray for each other and their families. They enjoy much of the same serenity as retreatants. Finally, they share their experiences with their friends. Like retreatants, it is mostly by word of mouth that EAA folks first discover JRH and then keep coming back.

A Tree Canopy Rising Like Prayer

*"A tree that looks at God all day,
"And lifts her leafy arms to pray;"*
— Joyce Kilmer

Many of our guests value the beauty of the grounds. "The grounds are absolutely beautiful!" wrote one retreatant this spring. "The grounds, the trees, the lake—I saw God in all," wrote another.

Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees" sees trees gazing at God all day and constantly lifting their branches in prayer. Sometimes people find trees good companions on their retreats, offering encouragement, support, and examples for living a good life.

If you would like to help ensure a tree canopy at JRH, consider honoring the life or legacy of a family member, retreatant, loved one, or friend with a memorial tree. The money raised from memorial trees is used to support our ongoing retreat ministry and keep our grounds beautiful. For more information or to select a tree, contact Dcn. John Ingala at (920) 230-6992 or by email at jingala@jesuitretreathouse.org.



Growing the Board

Since 2018 a Board of Directors has set the general policy and direction of JRH. Those who serve as Directors are appointed by a special three-member, all-Jesuit, Board of Members. In August 2023, the Board of Directors expanded by four people to a total of 17 Directors. Let us be grateful for the service of all past and present Board members. Current Board members are:

Board of Directors

Carol Ackels Dallas, TX	Pam Dowling Milwaukee, WI	Ruth Hoenicke Slinger, WI	Monica Mahler Belgium, WI	Jordan Skarr Chicago, IL
Catherine Androyna Milwaukee, WI	Jim Dunn Pewaukee, WI	James Janisse (chair) Grafton, WI	John Novotny Wauwatosa, WI	Susan Stabile St. Paul, MN
Bill Campion Green Bay, WI	Lisa Durocher Menasha, WI	Rob Lauer Elm Grove, WI	Jim Schlater Pewaukee, WI	Fr. Jack Treloar, SJ Oshkosh, WI
Fr. Mark Carr, SJ Oshkosh, WI	Mike Friedel McFarland, WI			

Mike Casey: Contemplative with a Gig

In February Mike Casey joined the JRH team as its accounting/data specialist. He has taken over bookkeeping and other business office responsibilities from Sue Philipp and become our liaison with our IT providers. During recent months, Sue and Mike have transitioned JRH to new accounting software and integrated new payment options. Mike will enjoy support from Sue as she continues to work at JRH on a limited basis through December.

Mike describes himself as "a bit of a jack-of-all-trades," and has worked in several different roles. Most related to JRH include his time as a youth/young adult minister and retreat worship leader in the Diocese of Green Bay, and as a freelance bookkeeper for area small businesses. Mike enjoys being able to combine his interest in JRH's day-to-day business processes with his enjoyment of the retreat ministry world.

Mike felt drawn to work at JRH both because of his experience as a retreat leader, and because of his strong belief in the power of contemplative silence to heal, focus, and reorient one's life. He had a very powerful, life-changing experience while sitting in silence at the Holy Resurrection Monastery in St. Nazianz, WI, and desires for all the retreatants who come to JRH to have the opportunity for their own spiritual renewal.

In his spare time, Mike gigs as a guitarist and singer in several local bands averaging between 25 and 40 shows a year. His main groups are Audiochonk, a high-energy rock cover band, and Brainstewed, a Green Day tribute act. He also plays in an acoustic trio and is grateful to be able to regularly join his dad (a tin whistle player) and other musicians in a semi-monthly traditional Irish music session.

