



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

Andy Hintz – groundskeeper beyond his years

Andy, who lives between North Fond du Lac and Van Dyne with his parents, is going into his senior year at Winnebago Lutheran Academy in Fond du Lac. He is back for his second summer as a team member on the facilities and grounds staff working with Dawn Gorenschek and Chuck Linde. According to Andy it was Dawn who brought him to JRH. "Dawn and I go to the same hair stylist and one day as we were getting our hair cut, she suggested that I give Chuck Linde (Facilities Manager) a call because there was a part-time summer groundskeeper position open. After a couple of meetings, he hired me which was great!" Chuck agrees, "Andy is mature beyond his years as well as a good and genuine person. We look forward to having him on our team again next summer after he graduates from high school."

It seems that Andy has always been older than his years. At age 14, he applied and became a cadet-in-training for the Van Dyne Volunteer Fire Department where he has worked with his dad for the last three years and now is a full-fledged firefighter. "I really enjoy meeting and working with different people both at the firehouse and at the retreat house." After graduating from high school, Andy will be enrolling at Fox Valley Technical College in the firefighter / paramedic program and will also be applying for a potential paramedic internship at North Fond du Lac Fire Department.



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Loyola Light nears golden birthday

A form of direction that is not spiritual is offered on the Jesuit Retreat House grounds if you pay attention after sundown or before the sun rises in the morning.

What you will see is a flashing blue light among the rocks below the walking path between the grandmother tree and Casey's Crossing. The Loyola Light since 1973 has lit the way for boaters and snowmobilers navigating Lake Winnebago. It provides direction to a neighbor boating home after sundown, a snowmobiler out of gas, or someone disoriented as they try to find their way home.



The friendship between Father Joseph Shinnars, S.J., director at JRH from 1963-1974, and "next-door" neighbor, Dick Snyder, brought about the light. Back in the '60s Snyder purchased property a few driveways from the retreat house, along Highway 45, and eventually built his home where he still enjoys the beauty and proximity of the lake. When he proposed the navigational light, Father Shinnars agreed. The two also agreed it would be a *blue* light since most other shoreline lights were white, red and green lights have restricted meanings for watercraft, and the uniqueness of the blue would help as a locator.

The light has served its purpose well, and for nearly a half-century Dick Snyder has serviced it and kept it going. Now that he is nearing 84 years old, he is handing the responsibility onto Chuck Linde, facilities and grounds supervisor. Chuck will continue the light's upkeep and solicit help from local boaters and fishing clubs who value the light as well.

While Snyder's vocation was as chief engineer for hydrodynamics at Mercury Marine, where he began work in 1959, his avocation for the past 30 years has been recreational boating safety. After being an active, longtime member of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council the U.S. Coast Guard two years ago honored him for his service on the federal level. A few months later, in September 2018, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators honored him with its first L. Daniel Maxim Distinguished Service Award.

Lest you think Snyder is all work and no play, a favorite story from his friendship with JRH is the joyride he was asked to give four nuns who were on retreat some years back. They had asked about getting on the lake, and the JRH staff came to Snyder for the favor. So, with his high-powered boat, with plush interior, etc., he took the four nuns in full white habits for a ride. Not wanting to alarm them he stayed at 35-40 mph, and then asked if they wanted to go any faster, to which all four nuns readily agreed. He sped it up to 60 mph, its top speed, to their delight and to his surprise as he looked back to see all four wide-eyed with broad smiles, and their hands on their heads holding onto their veils, which were flying straight as could be behind them.

Snyder still enjoys the water, the wildlife, the birds, the boating, the nearby Seaplane Base during EAA, and his daily walks by the Jesuit Retreat House. His suggestion many years ago to have a light that guides people while they are on the lake, and which Father Shinnars named the Loyola Light, reflects in a practical way what we hope happens for retreatants; that they be guided in their deepening relationship with God by the Light of the World.



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When things change

As someone who enjoys the familiar imagine how the uniqueness and ever-changing circumstances of the past five months have frustrated, worried, and saddened me. Yet, the suffering of those who have died from or who are coping with COVID-19, and the family, friends, health care workers, nurses, and doctors accompanying them, puts my worries, frustrations, and sadnesses in perspective.

The three points I want to make concerning our ministry at the Jesuit Retreat House:

- 1) We continue to offer retreats guided by the precautions and directives from public health officials. We will let you know three weeks prior to the start of the retreat whether it will be held on-site. Last-minute developments may lead to a retreat being cancelled for reasons beyond our control.
- 2) Public health directives require changes in our retreat format, amenities, and environment. We will outline those changes as best we can when we notify you as to whether your retreat will be held, and you can make an informed decision whether you want to be on-site or cancel your retreat.
- 3) We face a serious loss in revenue given that we cannot host as many retreatants as we have before and many retreatants have had to cancel their retreats because they are unable or hesitant to come until the pandemic threat subsides.

Continuing our ministry pumps life into the JRH staff, so despite the changes and the unfamiliar we continue to be blessed when retreatants are here. Your prayer and presence make this place peaceful. When you are here, we know we are fulfilling our purpose.

I find in the lyrics of the 1960's ballad, "Puff the Magic Dragon," an expression of how sad it can be when things change. The lyrics by Leonard Lipton and Peter Yarrow touchingly tell of the day when Little Jackie Paper grows up and moves onto other toys and no longer plays with his imaginary dragon Puff:

*A dragon lives forever but not so little boys
Painted wings and giant rings make way for other toys
One grey night it happened, Jackie Paper came no more
And Puff that Mighty Dragon, he ceased his fearless roar

His head was bent in sorrow, green scales fell like rain
Puff no longer went to play along the cherry lane
Without his life-long friend, Puff could not be brave
So Puff that mighty dragon sadly slipped into his cave....*

It has felt like we have "slipped into [a] cave" without retreatants here. Online efforts kept us in touch and reassured us that we have not forgotten each other, but I still wait for the time that the chorus to "Puff the Magic Dragon" recalls, "When we are back by the sea [Lake Winnebago] and can frolic in the autumn mist in a land called Honahlee [Fahrwald]." Prayers for you and your loved ones, and so many affected by this pandemic, may God guide us safely.



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



Still facing challenges

The process of bringing retreatants back to the retreat house for on-site, in-person retreats has been a challenge over the last few months. The ever-changing COVID-19 environment continues to slow down, stop and start, and evolve our efforts. While our retreatant numbers are about 50% of our normal summer directed retreats, our need to bring all of you back into this safe harbor is our primary prayer and hope.

As we mentioned in our May newsletter, we are grateful that our Support Fund which is currently about \$600,000 continues to help maintain operations and keep staff employed and financially stable. Yet, each month with only half of our summer retreatants in attendance and our projection of only two-thirds of our fall weekend retreatants able to attend the fund will be depleted further.

It is still our goal to get the Support Fund back to its full health of \$1.2 million. 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.

In that light, please pray about this ministry and the impact it has had in your personal and spiritual life and consider either a **one-time gift** or, if you have the means, please consider being a **monthly donor** to support our efforts. For more information on how to donate monthly, contact Deacon John at deaconji@gmail.com or call him directly at (920) 230-6992.

New board member: Jim Dunn

Jim Dunn, a longtime retreatant with Men's Retreat Group #044, has been named to the Jesuit Retreat House Board of Directors, which meets quarterly to provide needed direction and support for the ministry. He succeeds Dan Kolb, who has served the maximum two, three-year terms on the Board.

Jim and his wife, Sherri, and their three children live in Pewaukee and are members of St. Charles Parish in Hartland. He brings to the Board a wealth of retreat experience – this year marks milestone retreat #30 – and more than 30 years of investment experience. He currently is managing director, financial advisor and senior portfolio manager at Dunn Investment Management Group. He is active in Rotary International charitable causes, fundraising efforts for Marquette University High School, and in Andean Health and Development, which provides sustainable health care to the underserved in Latin America. As a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison he is an avid Wisconsin sports fan. He enjoys family time, tennis, water skiing, and snow skiing.

Jim joins the Board for his first, three-year term, along with two directors appointed to their second, three-year term: Richard Suslick and Glenn Higgins. Other members of the Board are Lisa Durocher (chair), Jim Janisse, Catherine Androyna, Monica Mahler, John Novotny, Carol Ackels, and Bill Champion. Fr. Gene Donahue, S.J., superior of the Jesuit community, and Fr. Chris Manahan, S.J., as JRH director, are also voting members of the Board. Jordan Skarr from the Jesuit Midwest Province staff serves as a liaison to the Jesuit provincial and is a non-voting Board member.



Jesuit joins retreat staff

Brother Lee S. Colombino, S.J., comes to Jesuit Retreat House having graduated in May with a Master's degree in Spirituality from Loyola University Chicago. As a Jesuit, Lee has spent most of his time in the classroom, either as a student or as a teacher, most recently having taught in the Fine Arts Department at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, IL.

Lee is happily settling in at JRH with everyone at the retreat house being welcoming and supportive. While he loved being in Chicago, Lee is looking forward to living and working in the quiet environment of the retreat house—a perfect environment to continue to explore the relationship between his spiritual life and his artistic practice.

Lee finds a wonderful dialogue between his artistic process and his spiritual journeys in life. He is particularly inspired by the creation story of Genesis 2, in which the Lord God creates by means of forming matter and breathing life into that matter and that all of this happens as a process over time. This is very much how Lee has experienced God working within his life.

Lee also is tremendously grateful for this time to grow in the Society's mission of journeying with people who are making the Spiritual Exercises and providing our retreatants with a deep sense of cura personalis as they seek to grow in God's love.



*Tree of hope ...
roots run deep*

*Replenish the
Support Fund*

*The mortgage is paid off! Please join us
as we rebuild the support fund which
pays for unexpected capital needs or
repairs.*

*For more information, contact Deacon
John at (920) 230-6992 or
deaconji@gmail.com*

