

October 12, 2020



**IMPORTANT MESSAGE
FR. CHRIS MANAHAN, SJ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Retreatants and Friends of JRH,

I want to let you know personally of a change coming to the Jesuit Retreat House next summer, and to assure you that we are working hard to make it a smooth one. The provincial of the USA Midwest Province has missioned me, beginning August 2021, to be his assistant for elder Jesuits (70 years and older) and Jesuits awaiting tertianship and final vows; as the result my tenure as director of the Jesuit Retreat House will conclude next summer.

After seven years as director, I am sorry that I have to go. It is especially difficult to leave as we cope with reduced retreat attendance and retreat offerings due to the pandemic. I now can imagine how Fr. John Schwantes, S.J., my predecessor, felt when I came as the new director when the new Manresa retreatants wing and renovated La Storta building still had a \$2.5 debt remaining. Thankfully, your strong support for this retreat ministry enabled us to pay off that debt, and do it a year earlier than planned.

The same success and healthy transition can come about in the months ahead as the search for a new director is undertaken by the JRH Board of Directors. While in the past the Jesuit provincial simply would mission a Jesuit to be the new director, with fewer Jesuits he has asked the Board to conduct a search instead. I am confident that God is providing the people, planning, expertise, and wisdom needed to find the right person to carry this ministry forward.

A search committee from the Board soon will talk with a sampling of retreatants, staff, and donors, to determine the qualities of the director best suited to continue the JRH mission of providing spiritual enrichment rooted in the Gospels, Catholic tradition, and the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola in an atmosphere of quiet, peace, and prayer for all faiths. Please hold the search for a new director in your prayers.

I hope in the months ahead I will be able to share with you more personally my love for this ministry and for each of you. You welcomed me warmly when I came in 2014 and have been a wonderful support ever since. I am sure you will do the same for my successor. Your presence here and prayerful and financial support of JRH is what keeps this a sacred space.

God bless,
Fr. Chris Manahan, S.J.
Director

Important Notice

Executive Director Search

December 10, 2020

The Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago near Oshkosh, WI, seeks a warm and welcoming, spiritual and inspirational, proven leader to serve as Executive Director. The successful candidate will have a bachelor's degree and be committed to Ignatian spirituality. A Master's degree and training in spiritual direction are both desirable. Knowledge of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and previous experience in development are required.

Primary responsibilities include:

- Humbly lead, manage, and sustain Ignatian spirituality and the Spiritual Exercises to enable the vision and mission of the Jesuit Retreat House.
- Exercise fiduciary oversight of the ministry including institutional advancement initiatives.
- Create, lead and sustain relationships with all key stakeholders to achieve the vision and mission of the ministry.
- Lead and manage all Retreat House staff in a team environment to achieve and sustain the ministry.

In addition, the individual will need the ability to:

- Collaborate effectively across different stakeholder groups.
- Manage the Ignatian vision, financial oversight and development of the retreat house.
- Dedicate the time and attention necessary to fulfill the mission of this ministry (including weekend retreats).

The retreat house offers resources to all who want to discern God's presence in their lives. At the same time, they also aim to help their retreatants to become "contemplatives in action," people who bring this spirituality into the everyday world.

Please click on this [LINK for additional information](#) or apply directly at [Application Page](#) or for a full job description please email patti.matthews@mranet.org.

Finally, please feel free to forward this information to people in your circle of influence who have the appropriate skill sets, qualities and dedication to serving the Lord in this type of ministry.

God bless,
Executive Director Search Team
Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago
Board of Directors