



**SACRED
HEARTS
RETREAT
CENTER**

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September 3, 2018

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all enjoying a break from your labors on this holiday.

People from all walks of life come to Sacred Hearts Retreat Center to enjoy some peace and quiet, to still the inner turmoil, to pray, and to put things in perspective. After a brief visit or a longer retreat they leave reenergized, ready to go forth with new determination, focus and clarity. This sacred place has that effect on all who pass through the gates.

50 years ago, on June 22, I first stepped on these grounds. I was 1 day old in the Congregation and the sisters were invited to a religious profession of several Brothers in the chapel in the woods. The chapel no longer exists and some of those brothers chose a different calling. A few have wandered back this summer to reminisce about their early days 50 years ago.

I never dreamed that I would be here full time a half century later. When I reflect on that, I feel immense gratitude to God. I receive so much from all our guests and visitors.

I was reaffirmed and strengthened in my mission just recently by the testimony of the leader of the New England Deaf Women's Retreat. The 53 women from as far west as Texas came together to celebrate their 10th anniversary of coming here. They were such a delight and we did all we could to make their anniversary celebration spectacular. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

It is impossible to be alive today and not be affected by all the bad news in the world but especially about the church and the scandals. Ours is a church that should be about "Good News". How do we seek justice and not blame all priests and all church leaders? I read Peggy Patenaude's Fall Newsletter. Her thoughtful reflection contains much to think about and a hopeful way through. I highly recommend it. I think you should be able to access it by clicking on this link. <http://timeoutretreats.tripod.com/autumn2018newsletter.pdf> Thanks Peggy.

Upcoming Retreats

Sr. Cynthia Bauer, O.P. continues her series of mini retreats "**Praying with the Mystics**" on Wednesday mornings: Coffee 9:30; Session 10:00- 12:30. Cost: \$25.00

September 19 Saint Therese of Lisieux

October Saint Teresa of Avila, and

November 7 Saint John of the Cross

Praying with Icons: A new series of morning retreats will be led by Sr. Madeleine Tacy, OP, D. Min. These Tuesday retreats will include an introduction to the history, development, and religious/spiritual use of icons. Since icons are referred to as "windows on heaven" time will be spent on the meaning of icons and how they can be used as an aid in prayer.

Sr. Madeleine is member of the Dominican Sisters of Hope. Her life-long interest in spirituality has led her to explore how various faith traditions express the yearning for the presence of God in their lives. Tuesday mornings: Coffee 9:30; Session 10:00- 12:30. Cost: \$25.00

October 9

November 13

December 11.

On Tuesday September 25 Kathy McNamara will guide a morning retreat entitled “**Poetry and Healing**”. Kathy is a native of Providence, RI and has enjoyed poetry since childhood. Poetry by Mary Oliver, Bertolt Brecht, Judy Sorum Brown & others will allow participants to initially respond “within.” Upon reflection, participants may choose to share how poetry presents in their life. Kathy welcomes all seekers to experience poetry as an opportunity for healing, comfort and companionship. Tuesday September 25: Coffee 9:30; Session 10:00- 12:30. Cost: \$25.00. See attached flyer for more information.

Peggy Patenaude needs no introduction. She has been leading retreats here for many years. Take time out for these fall retreats Coffee 9:30; Session 10:00- 12:30. Cost: \$25.00

September 12: Taming the Monster

October 10: Live Big

November 14: It’s My Pleasure

December 12: The Power of Kindness

We are fortunate to have Fr. David Reid, ss.cc. author of **The Grace of the Rosary** lead a weekend retreat of the same title in December. Mark your calendar: December 7-9, 2018. Friday after dinner through Sunday lunch. Cost \$190.00. Fr. Reid lives in Rome and will be here only for a brief time. Take advantage of this special retreat. Flyer with more information is attached.

We are happy to have for the first time, Kids 4 Peace Boston. They will be here from Sept 14-16. *Kids4Peace Boston educates, trains and inspires Christian, Jewish, and Muslim youth from diverse backgrounds to become interfaith peace leaders.*

Sermon on the Amount

Not a long sermon. I just want to report that our financial report for the 2nd quarter shows us operating in the black. Our retreat income was better than expected and our donations remained stable. Our budget for oil has pretty much been used up so we will continue to count on your support this winter.

Sacred Hearts Retreat Center Support Team

Raffle Winners

Since the last newsletter these lucky people won the raffle.

May: Maureen Kerr, Frances Murphy, Theresa Brosnan

June: Sr. Cynthia Bauer, OP, James Barton, Laurie & Lawrence Drago

July: L Barry Evans, Nicole Russell, Marie O’Connor

August: Richard Boucher, Gerard Csaposs, Sandra Clark

September: James Barton, Mary Iacobucci, Colleen and Bob Monahan

Thanks to all those who donated their winning back to the center.

Update

To help generate additional funds to support day to day operations, in October 2016 we established a Sacred Hearts *Retreat Center Support Team* with raffle prizes as an incentive. It was quite successful. At the two year anniversary we are looking to continue the Support Team and make the fundraising more efficient. We have decided to discontinue the raffle aspect because many people donated their winnings and the incentive seems unnecessary. Without the raffle we will save the money we have to pay the State in lottery taxes thus keeping your entire donation for the retreat center. **Effective October 1, 2018 the Retreat Center will no longer offer the raffle incentive for donations.**

Thank you for your past support and we hope we can count on your continued annual or monthly support. Later this month you will receive a flyer/Support Team renewal notice and we ask that you be as generous as possible. With your help we will be able to grow the programs and expand our outreach.

THANKS

Since our last newsletter we have had a beautiful addition to our facility. Thanks to Mr. Richard Boucher of Wareham we now have a permanent patio cover. It has been a blessing this summer. Retreatants can sit and enjoy morning coffee or just relax any time of the day under the new “pavilion” as we call it. Richard donated this in memory of Rev. Robert C. Donovan, Maria & Antonio Carreiro, Florence & Armand Boucher, Carol J. Ducey. Thank you very much Richard for your generosity.

Jodi Savage and Carol Lynn Doran have been coming almost weekly for over a year weeding the gardens trimming bushes. The front of the house is now pretty much under control thanks to their valiant efforts.

Mark Tran from Latvia is in Wareham for 2 months visiting his grandmother, Veronika Russett. Veronika has been taking care of all the indoor plants for many years here at the center. Shortly after arriving’ Mark asked if he could volunteer to help Mike with yardwork. He has fought the good fight with the weeds and won! He has helped to transform the “jungle” that surrounded much of the main house, into a tame and beautiful space. Thank you Mark and Veronika.

Judy Whiteside and Joe Leggett cleaned up and planted a three season garden in front of the Statue of the Sacred Heart beautifying the entrance to the retreat center property. Thank you for all your hard work and donation of plants.

You will see from the garden news below that Paulajean O’Neill has been hard at work. Thanks Paulajean for all your efforts and dedication.

Summer is also the time when free shipping and discounts prompt Eleanor Maurer Evans, fondly known as “the gift shop manager”, to stock up for the winter. This year with the high heat and humidity, Ellie’s task has taken super human effort. Thank you, Ellie for your years of dedication to this ministry.

The number of volunteers continues to grow. Thanks to all who help in any way to make the retreat center successful.

Mark your calendar

It is never too soon to start thinking about our annual Christmas Open House. This year it is scheduled for Dec 16, 2018 from 1PM-5PM.

GARDEN NEWS

By Paulajean O'Neill

Our garden has been giving pleasure to many people this summer. Visitors, staff and volunteers enjoy watching the progress and grabbing a few tomatoes as they walk through the kitchen. The sunflowers greet the various hikers on the property.

This first year, as our soil is basically sand, some plants were happier here than others. We are constantly improving the situation by adding material to the soil. A special thanks to Matt Rhodes and Edgewood Bogs for trucking in composted manure and to Sterling Pointe Farm for producing and giving us this essential item. We also continue to bring in lots of seaweed for mulch and to improve soil quality.

A better watering system is in the works for next year, especially in case we encounter the dry, desert like conditions we had this year. And, at the top of our wish list is help acquiring a rear tine rototiller capable of tilling the entire garden.

Besides eating the vegetables ourselves, we have been happy to be able to include them in the meals served to our guests here. This week we have begun to bring extra food to the Damien Food Pantry here in Wareham.

This newsletter is quite long but filled with gratitude and hope. Peace and blessings to all.

Sr. Claire

Sr. Claire Bouchard, ss.cc.

This newsletter update was sent only by email. Please pass the info on to all your friends.