



**SACRED  
HEARTS  
RETREAT  
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Dear Friends,

Happy Spring! This evening we will officially usher in this new season.

In the previous newsletter I reported that Fr. David Reid, ss.cc. would be coming to the retreat center as director and would reside here. He arrived February 14<sup>th</sup> and it has been wonderful having him here. We hoped that he would be here four or five years as we got the retreat center growing again. Unfortunately, this was not to be the case.

As you know the retreat center property has been on the market to be sold for about two years. Well, the day came when two prospective buyers made offers to purchase. Since the investment of Mass Audubon in the land restriction/easement project of 10 years ago, they had the right of first refusal. They exercised that right and were able to raise the money needed to match the current offers. Thus on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> they entered into a purchase and sales agreement with the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts. If all goes as projected, the sale will be complete and the closing/signing will take place in late July.

As you can understand, I could not wait until then to inform retreat leaders of the situation. That would not have given them time to find other locations for future retreats. So some people have been told. Now with this newsletter I want to inform all of you of this sad news.

Our last retreat will be the weekend of June 21-23, 2019. The following Friday, June 28, is the Feast of the Sacred Heart, the appropriate time for a closing Mass of farewell and gratitude for 76 years of service. Fr. Richard McNally, ss.cc., a former Director, will come from Hawaii to represent the Provincial Government at this celebration. I am aware that Friday is a work day and many may not be able to make the evening Mass. Activities will continue on Saturday and are still in the planning. Mark your calendars June 28 and 29. More details will be available as we approach the date.

Though it is not time yet for goodbyes yet, I want to say that I am very grateful for all the support and friendship you have given me over the twelve years I have had the pleasure of serving you.

All who have visited the retreat center will have the "Heart of Jesus burning with love for us..." painting by Stan, imprinted on their memories. The image of Jesus' Heart wrapped in real barbed wire reminds me that, like Jesus, we do not escape the pain associated with loving deeply. The gold on that wire reminds me that God chooses to be and is in fact with us in all circumstances. That is my faith and my consolation. It is my ongoing reflection during Lent. May your Lenten journey be blessed, and your Easter celebration be joyful!

*Sr. Claire*

Sr. Claire Bouchard, ss.cc.

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