



OUR LADY OF THE
PINES
RETREAT CENTER

Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy
1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, OH 43420

Volume VII Summer 2012

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OUR LADY OF THE
PINES
RETREAT CENTER

Newsletter, Summer, 2012

Volume VII

1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, Ohio 43420

419-332-6522

www.pinesretreat.org

**Mark Your
Calendar**

SUMMER SABBATH DAYS

JULY 11 OR AUGUST 8, 2012
9:30am to 3:30pm

Come to the Pines for a day of rest and renewal. Use the day to pray, read, create, walk, swim, or just be.

We will begin with an opening reflection on how to keep the Sabbath and provide some re-energizing time for yourself.

COST: \$25.00 (Morning snack and lunch are included)

EVENING PRAYER SERVICE
MERCY DAY EVENSONG

SEPTEMBER 24, 2012
7:00pm

The evening will include psalms, music and readings of Mercy prayed on this feast of OUR LADY OF MERCY.

There will be time for quiet reflection in gratitude for graces received for the 100 Years of the Sisters of Mercy serving in the Diocese of Toledo.

Facilitator: Sr. Breta Gorman, RSM

Visit page 4 for calendar details or our website a www.pinesretreat.org

**Retreat Center
Administrative Staff**

- Sr. Christine Pratt, OSU
Executive Director
 - Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM
Retreat Coordinator
 - Judy Zavala
Finance & HR Specialist
 - Brenda Havens
Administrative Assistant
- Retreat Center
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 - Mr. Jason N. Kinn
 - Deacon Alfredo Diaz
 - Judge Michael Burkett

Dear Friends of the Pines,

The Pines welcomed an unexpected early Spring and Summer with many guests who were able to enjoy our outdoors on the days when it was not raining. With our busiest season upon us, the pool is open, the bikes ready and the grounds, thanks to the work of the grounds crew from St. Bernadine Home, are beautiful and inviting for rest and reflection.

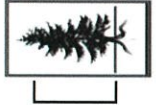
There are three things in this issue to which I invite your attention and prayer. First of all, the Sisters of Mercy of South Central Region are celebrating 100 years of service within the Northwest Ohio Diocese of Toledo. In this issue, you will find on page 7 the summary of the foundation of the local community in Tiffin Ohio in 1912. Sr. Marianne Longo, RSM former Director of The Pines Retreat Center shared this history with those who gathered at the May 11th evening prayer held at St. Mary Church in Tiffin, which formally opened their century celebration. The next issue we will have Sr. Patricia Schnapp share the meaning of Mercy Charism. The Sisters will also have a celebration in September at St. Ann Parish in Fremont, Ohio, where they spent many, many years serving the faith community as teachers in the school. Of course, the Sisters of Mercy are very much present in Fremont through their sponsorship of The Pines Retreat Center and their hospitality at St. Bernadine Home, the retirement home for the Sisters of Mercy in Northern Ohio. We ask that you pray with them in gratitude for their many ministries of health care, education, spiritual formation and prayer that they provided and continue to bring to this geographic area.

On page 8 we are also introducing our newest development effort. We are initiating an annual appeal toward our Pines Partners Restricted Fund. This fund subsidizes guests who come to our sponsored retreats who do not have the financial means to fully meet our financial needs to serve them. We share with you under the *Mercy Alive* banner what Pines Partners means to our guests and to The Pines as we continue to be a place of spiritual, mental and physical refreshment so needed by all who come here.

And finally, we said goodbye to Jim Walter who died earlier this year. Jim was tireless in his quiet yet strong participation on our Fund Development Committee. Through his extraordinary determination we were able to auction a ride in the Goodyear Blimp during our Evergreen Elegance dinner-the most popular-and a football signed by Archie Griffith-an Ohio State University legend! After Jim died his wife Jean forwarded several memorial donations to us and gave us Jim's golf cart which is used by our staff and our guests in need of a ride around the property. God bless you Jim and Jean for your support of our ministry here at The Pines.

In the Spirit of Mercy,
Sr. Christine Pratt, OSU, Executive Director

"The only return God requires of us for all His favors is a return of love."
Quote from Venerable Catherine McAuley



Around The Center. . . .



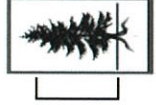
At the beginning of March several women enjoyed a late Sunday afternoon event, "Lent by Candlelight".



FROM THE DOCUMENTS OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY

*We strive to witness to mercy when we reverence the dignity of each person, create a spirit of hospitality and pursue integrity of word and deed in our lives.
Recognizing our own human weakness, we know that only through God's mercy can we be merciful.*

Taken from Reflections of Living the Charism of Mercy. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, 2011



Catherine's Corner...



"Catherine's Corner" offers a space to reflect on quotes from Venerable Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas who sponsor Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center. Catherine offers both practical and profound words that teach us how to be prayerful people who respond to the Gospel and action in the everyday events of our lives. Catherine McAuley's practice of hospitality, offering a "cup of tea", reflects the spirit of welcome that we offer at Our Lady of the Pines.

The Sisters of Mercy began their ministry within the Diocese of Toledo one-hundred years ago. They are celebrating this anniversary with many activities throughout the year, both internal to the community and with the public who have received so richly from their many acts of mercy in ministry throughout the last century. Their public celebration began with a prayer service on Friday, May 11th in Tiffin, Ohio where they first began. Below is the reflection by Sr. Marianne Longo, RSM shared during that prayer service.

READING: THE COMING OF MERCY

One-hundred years ago, the Sisters of Mercy came to the Diocese of Toledo at the request of Bishop Joseph Schrembs. Two women, Mother Mary Bernardine McMullen and her sister Mother Mary Anthony McMullen traveled from Grand Rapids, Michigan to Toledo, Ohio stopping for the young and lovely Ann Manor as they proceeded on to Tiffin, Ohio.

Ann Manor became the first postulant received in this church receiving the name of our very own and

beloved Sister Mary Joseph, so very well known to most of us. And thus began the Mercy Ministry to serve the poor, the sick, and the children.

This ministry began by Catherine McAuley in Dublin, Ireland in 1831 and brought to America by Frances Warde in 1840, the ministry which continues today throughout the world and is celebrated here this year in prayer and ritual.

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About the author: About the author: Sister Marianne Longo was born and raised in "Little Italy" in Tiffin, Ohio. She worked in Mercy Hospital in Tiffin and you know the rest...In her first life she was a teacher. In her second life she was a principal. In her third life she left the mountains of Tennessee to serve as Director at the Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center for twenty-two years. She continues her ministry of Spiritual Direction at Tullamore Convent on the Pines campus.

PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGE IN YOUR ADDRESS OR IF YOU'D LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL.

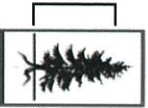
Visit our website at www.pinesretreat.org

In February the Maumee Bay Quilters visited us for the first time. Over 40 ladies enjoyed quilting for the weekend and watching it snow on the grounds.



Deacon Joseph Malenfant visited The Pines in early May to speak to 20 men about "Manly Spirituality in an Oprah World". The gentlemen then enjoyed a wonderful BBQ prepared by the staff of the Retreat Center.





Mercy Alive...

INVITATION TO SUPPORT PINES PARTNER 2012

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americans in their Constitution state: ***We strive to witness to mercy when we reverence the dignity of each person, create a spirit of hospitality and pursue integrity of word and deed in our lives. Recognizing our own human weakness, we know that only through God's mercy can we be merciful. #8***

Hospitality is the cornerstone of Mercy. In Mercy, spaces are created where each person may find peace and welcome and the potential to grow into their full potential as human beings cherished by God.

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center carries out this mission as it welcomes all who seek a closer relationship with God, themselves, the human community and all of creation. However there are those who at the most challenging times of their lives are in greatest need of the peace the Pines has to offer but do not have the resources to allow them that experience.

Pines Partners is a restricted fund that is available to assist those guests who are unable to fully pay the cost of their retreat stay. The funds expended have not been able to sustain the need. Last year over 100 requests were fulfilled, but due to economic conditions, many more guests of The Pines Retreat Center are requesting financial support that the Pines is unable to give.

The Pines Partner fund will afford more guests the opportunity to stay at the retreat center, experience the solitude and stimulation of taking time off for themselves. Recently, we had a female guest call the center to request a week long private retreat with spiritual direction. Due to the economic downturn, she was really in need of rest and renewal. With the help of the Pines Partner fund, she was able to schedule her retreat and include the much needed spiritual direction she requested for the entire stay. On another occasion, we had a gentleman who was very much in need of spiritual

direction, but unable to pay for a director. With the help of our Pines Partner Fund, he was graciously given the spiritual renewal he was in need of for his mind and soul.

Immediate Goals:

- Raise \$100,000 over three years to sustain opportunity to serve those in financial need.
- Setting reserve so that funds can be expended within timeline of yearly budget expenditures.
- Market the Pines Partners to community as a viable feasible value to engage and encourage support.

The Pines Retreat Center, a 501(c3) retreat center, is a viable and needed resource for the community of Northwest Ohio and beyond. With the added value of the Pines Partners fund, it becomes a beacon for serving the underserved as they strive to re-connect with their inner selves.

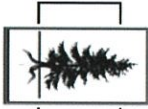
In the past few years with requests well over the fund capacity, it is strategically necessary to make the Pines Partners Fund grow with the community need and raise needed funds that will support and meet the financial support of guests and help the Pines to support and sustain its mission.

While the Pines Retreat Center is a not for profit, the Pines Partners Fund will strengthen and support the mission of helping those in need.

Please consider a gift of any amount, and know that your gift will help others. An envelope is enclosed in this newsletter for your financial support of this giving program.

Pines Mission Statement

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, offers a space for all seeking a deeper relationship with God, self, others, and all creation. The Spirit of Hospitality, a Mercy Charism, pervades the place, welcoming all who come.



Around The Center . . .



"An Ode to Carlow"

The character of the Hermitage of Carlow:

Be aware or you might miss the deer come to its big front lawn, the sunrise to its back at dawn.

Be sure to listen carefully to birds as they sing beautifully.

Do watch the movement of the trees, appreciate the whispered breeze.

A stroll will give you many chances to gather up some small pine branches to decorate with slender cones (but put them back-they're nature's loan.)

You may sleep late or not at all, while honoring your body's call. Go walk the Labyrinth or rest. Your soul will tell you what is best.

The shower goes up to the ceiling and clean is such a blessed feeling.

Relax into the easy chair to read or write as you may care.

Try to eat a meal outside with squirrels as they scoot & hide.

Carlow's peace has touched your soul, you feel yourself becoming whole.

Don't head right to its comfy bed, go to the porch to pray instead, to look at stars, to find the moon. Then settle in its safe cocoon.

Now let God bless you through the night so when you wake all will be right.

You'll sleep within God's loving care, while deeply breathing pine-filled air.

Then way too soon it's time to go to join again the faster flow.

Now keep the peace of Carlow near. Be grateful that God brought you here.

Written By: Diana Dunsmore, a guest in the Carlow Hermitage in March, 2012.



The lecture and book signing by John Dear, SJ, was well attended by over 50 guests in late March. He was touring the United States to promote his newest Book, ***Lazarus Come Forth!***

FALL OVERNIGHT RETREAT

FOR MEN AND WOMEN

"Intimacy with Jesus in Prayer through Reflection on His Experiences"

Friday, September 28 to Saturday, September 29, 2012; 7:00pm Friday to 3:00pm Saturday.

In this brief retreat, we will focus on many interesting moments in Christ's life that show how He related to the different groups of people whom He encountered, and how they "felt" about His presence to them. Through reflection on these experiences, perhaps we can discover some insights into praying in a more personal and down-to-earth way.



PRESENTER: Fr. Eugene Lauer, a priest of the Diocese of

Pittsburgh, recently completed a three-year term as director of the National Pastoral Life Center in New York. Before moving to New York, he had been director of the Hesburgh Renewal Center at the University of Notre Dame for seventeen years. Fr. Lauer had the rare experience of doing his doctoral studies in Rome during the last two years of the Second Vatican Council.

COST: \$105.00 (includes overnight accommodations and meals)

COMMUTER RATE: \$50.00 (includes Friday evening snack and Saturday lunch)

MARRIED COUPLE RATE: \$165.00 (limited rooms are available)

DEPOSIT is \$25.00 (required for all rate options.)

Program Calendar 2012



July

July 11: Summer Sabbath Day—9:30 am to 3:30 pm—Cost \$25.00 (Morning Snack and lunch are provided.) Come to the Pines for a day of rest and renewal. We will begin with an opening reflection on how to keep the Sabbath and provide some reenergizing time for yourself. Use the day to pray, read, create, walk, swim, or just be. Massage is available for an additional fee. Reservations need to be made in advance.

July 21-27: Directed Retreat—Begins with supper Saturday at 5:30pm to 10:00am on Friday. Cost \$410.00 With the assistance of a spiritual director, the retreatants are aided in noticing God's presence in their life. Scripture, nature, and other prayer resources allow retreatants to listen for God's activity in every day events. An environment of silence is an important part of this retreat. **Spiritual Directors: Sr. Peggy Duffy, OSU; Sr. Breta Gorman, RSM; Sr. Marianne Longo, RSM; Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM; and Sr. Pat Meyer, OSF**

July 27-29: Silent Contemplative Retreat: Heartfulness and Centering Prayer—Begins Friday at 4:00pm to 1:00pm Sunday. Cost: \$175.00 (if registered by June 8, 2012); \$185.00 (after June 8, 2012). This program will feature sections of the *Heartfulness: Transformation in Christ* series which condenses the accumulated wisdom of Fr. Thomas Keating. The retreat will also provide an opportunity to deepen the practice of Centering Prayer in an atmosphere of silence and community support. This program is sponsored by Contemplative Outreach Northeast Ohio. To register contact **Andrea Kneier at 440-591-5103.**

July 30: Prayer Evening: Walking the Labyrinth with a Prayer for Forgiveness. 7:00pm—Cost: Free will Offering
The labyrinth is a form of walking meditation that has been used by many cultures. This month we will walk with a prayer for forgiveness for ourselves and for others.

August

August 8: Summer Sabbath Day—9:30am to 3:30pm—Cost \$25.00 (Morning Snack and lunch are provided.) Come to the Pines for a day of rest and renewal. We will begin with an opening reflection on how to keep the Sabbath and provide some reenergizing time for yourself. Use the day to pray, read, create, walk, swim, or just be. Massage is available for an additional fee. Reservations need to be made in advance.

August 27: Prayer Evening: Walking the Labyrinth with a Prayer for New Beginnings. 7:00pm (followed by refreshments) Cost: Free Will offering. The labyrinth is a form of walking meditation that has been used by many cultures. This month we will pray for the gift of new beginnings.

Check our website: www.pinesretreat.org for further details on the above retreats and presenters.

September

September 11: Reflection with a Cup of Tea; Being Beatitude People—9:00 am to 10:30 am—Cost \$7.00 (reservation required.) If we honestly live the Beatitudes we will both experience the blessings of God's justice and call for this blessing of justice to the world. We will explore these blessings in light of Matthew's Gospel and how we may be salt for the earth and light for the world. **Presenter: Sr. Christine Pratt, OSU**

September 19: Lunch and Lecture: A Cup of Joy—Noon to 2:00pm. Cost \$15.00 (reservation required). Perhaps we've heard this phrase: "Let joy be our music in this dance of life. " But what is "joy"? Is it the same as "happiness"? Reflecting on these questions will open us to the meaning of "perfect joy!" **Presenter: Sr. Pat Meyer, OSF**

September 24: Evening Prayer: Mercy Day Evensong—7:00pm (followed by refreshments). Cost: Free will offering. This evening will include psalms, music and readings of Mercy prayed on this feast of Our Lady of Mercy. There will be time for quiet reflection in gratitude for graces received for 100 years of the Sisters of Mercy serving in the Diocese of Toledo. **Facilitator: Sr. Breta Gorman, RSM**

September 28-29: Fall Overnight Retreat for Men and Women: Intimacy with Jesus in Prayer through Reflection on His Experiences—7:00pm Friday to 3:00pm Saturday. Cost: 105.00 (includes overnight accommodations and meals); Commuter Rate: \$60.00 (includes Friday evening snack and Saturday); Married Couple Rate: \$165.00 (limited rooms available—call early); Deposit: \$25.00 (required for all rates). In the brief retreat, we will focus on many interesting moments in Christ's life that show how He related to the different groups of people whom he encountered, and how they "felt" about His presence to them. **Presenter: Rev. Eugene Lauer, a priest of the diocese of Pittsburgh, he had the rare experience of doing his doctoral studies in Rome during the last two years of the Second Vatican Council.**



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Time, Talent, Treasure...



As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ~1Peter 4:10

Pines Partners

Sr. Donata Ovelgonne, RSM
John and Leanne Sheizer
Mike and Marilyn Freas
Anonymous Donors
Susanne Wing
Sr. Marianne Longo, RSM
The Sandusky Girls

Donations in Memory

Of Jim Walter
Robert and Sally Heid
Bob and Linda Snyder
Jeanne Walter—Golf Cart
For The Pines Use

Volunteers

Laurie Brown
Marcia Reardon
Barb Ronski
Margaret Boltz
Sr. Dorothy Dalton, RSM
Sr. Rose Olivieri, RSM

Donations in Memory

Of Larry Halbeisen
Raymond Drown

WISH LIST FOR THE CHAPEL RENOVATION

The final stage of The Pines renovation project is moving even closer toward completion with the renovation of the Chapel. The interior design at this writing is yet to go to Bishop Leonard Blair, Diocese of Toledo and the Leadership of the Sisters of Mercy, South Central Region for approval. However, we are offering the opportunity for interested donors who may desire to help us in the purchase of the liturgical items needed for our Mass celebrations. All donors will be recognized by a plaque near the chapel and in our newsletter and on our website. The Chapel Renovation Committee will be choosing the items listed below.

Items Needed:

Keyboard—Donated
Processional Cross—Donated
Chalice—\$400.00
2 Cups—\$300.00 each
2 Patens—\$300.00 each
6 Wooden Candlesticks—\$100-150.00 each



Looking Ahead

Thursday, October 25: 7:00pm; Say "Yes" to the Call of Aging. This lecture will offer older adults a way to re-vision aging and become spiritual elders in their family and faith communities.

Presenter: Ann Billard, OLM, Ph.D.; is a member of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy since 1962. She currently serves on the leadership team and is the General Secretary of the congregation. Sr. Ann coordinates



Transformation Aging programs providing spiritual direction, retreats, and workshops on the spirituality of aging, grief recovery, change and transition. **Cost: \$10.00 (registration is required., refreshments to follow.)**

Saturday, November 17: "Sisters History is American History"; 10:00am to 3:00pm:

Catholic Sisters are really the unsung heroines of American history. Not only did they establish hundreds of schools, hospitals, and the social service agencies, they were the first sizable group of female corporate executives and modeled new forms of leadership long before the secular women's rights movement was even imagined. Sister's history is American history, in many and often unexpected ways. **Presenter: Margaret Susan Thompson, Ph.D.,** is Associate Professor, History and Political Science at Maxwell School of Syracuse University. She has done extensive research on Catholic Sisters in American History. **Cost: \$50.00 (includes morning snack and lunch, registration is required.)**



Check our website: www.pinesretreat.org for further details on the above retreat and presenters.