



OUR LADY OF THE
PINES
RETREAT + CENTER

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

Volume XI Summer 2013

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OUR LADY OF THE
PINES
RETREAT + CENTER

Newsletter, Summer, 2013

Volume XI

1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, Ohio 43420

419-332-6522

www.pinesretreat.org

Prayer Evenings At The Pines

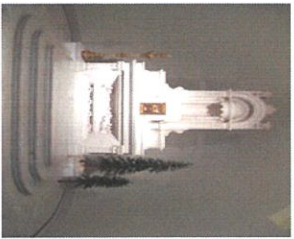
Mondays at 7:00pm

Centering Prayer

July 1st
August 5th
September 9th

Evening Prayer

June 17th
August 19th
September 23rd



Come out to The Pines and join us!
Visit our website for more details.

Mark Your Calendar

A Silent Six Day Directed Retreat

August 17—23, 2013

Directed Retreat at The Pines sponsored by The Wellstreams Program: An Ecumenical Training Program in Spiritual Formation and Development in Columbus, Ohio-- Begins at 4:30pm on Saturday and ends at 4:30pm on Friday.

To enroll complete the registration form on The Pines website by **June 15, 2013** or you may register online at www.wellstreamscolumbus.org

For more information please contact: Sr. Carol Ann Spencer, OP: 614-228-8867 or email: carol.spencer.1@luno.com



Wellstreams Program
of Columbus, Ohio
*I thirst for the water
the living water....*

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

Retreat Center Administrative Staff

Sr. Mariella Bradley, RSM
Executive Director
Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM
Retreat Coordinator

Judy Zavala
Finance & HR Specialist
Brenda Havens
Administrative Assistant

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Dear Friends of Our Lady of the Pines,

On behalf of the Sisters of Mercy and the Pines Board of Trustees, I am pleased to announce that Sr. Mariella Bradley, RSM, has been hired as the new Executive Director of Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center beginning June 22, 2013.



Sr. Mariella Bradley is a Sister of Mercy who has extensive experience as a teacher and principal in Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She has received many awards throughout her ministry, including the Golden Apple Award for Principals. She loves assisting God's people on their life journey, and is very excited about coming to the Pines Retreat Center. Please warmly welcome her to Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center.

In the Spirit of Mercy,
Sr. Dorothy Thum, RSM,
President of the Board of Trustees



Quote from Venerable Catherine McAuley
"I will do this duty as well as possible, I will take the greatest pains with it, because I do it to please God, whom I love, who sees me, and who Himself will be my reward."



Around The Center. . . .

Our most recent addition to our newly renovated chapel is a processional cross. It completes the redecorating of this Sacred Space.



Women's Cursillo #248 posed for a group photo during their Retreat Weekend in April.



Quote from Venerable Catherine McAuley
"A good use of mental prayer, and a great love for the hidden life, will be necessary to effect union with God."



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.



This quote, from Mary Catherine McAuley's sayings, stimulated the following reflection: **"Lord Jesus, implant your love in my heart. It is all I desire in this world or in the next."**

Not long ago some of us Sisters were sharing stories about how and when we decided to become a Sister. I recalled, with a laugh, my letter of request to Mother Scholastica Condon, the Provincial of the Sisters of Mercy, in Cincinnati. I wrote: "I want to become a Sister so I can love God more, save my soul and help others save their souls." (Now, it seems like such a simplistic response when comparing it to the process women are engaged in today.) About two weeks later I was informed that a **special delivery letter** was awaiting me at the Post Office in little Kirby, OH. I was arranging flowers for the altars in St. Mary's Church when the news was relayed to me. I was so excited that I ran out of church and a couple of blocks to retrieve my letter. It was **August 11, 1954, I had been accepted to enter the convent-become a Sister of Mercy.** Twenty-seven days later, I arrived in Cincinnati and donned the garb of a postulant.

"Lord Jesus, implant your love in my heart..." Now the works of "implanting" was intensified. Five years of prayer, lectures on Catherine and the vows, college education, and much meditation and reflection grounded me in Mercy spirituality and prepared me for my future. The sixth year—off we went to teach or engage in some other ministry (to save souls). At the completion of that year we returned to complete the training process and make final vows. That's when we received the ring. We were to choose a motto that

would be engraved into the band—a reminder of our commitment and purpose.

In my home parish of St. Mary's, there was a large statue of the Sacred Heart in the main altar. I often placed flowers there. In those days, special devotion to the Sacred Heart, the novena and the nine first Fridays, were common practice. Later, I learned that Catherine also had devotion to the Sacred Heart. I often prayed the ejaculation: **Jesus meek and humble of heart, make my heart like yours.** I thought of having it engraved in my ring, but there were way too many words. After some consultation and prayer the phrase became simply: **Jesus make me humble.** Little did I realize how Jesus' love was transforming my heart space with love and compassion. After some 17 years of teaching, which included liturgy and music, I was lead to the ministry of hospital Chaplaincy. For 32 years, the Lord allowed me to use the skills and compassion I was developing in the early years to literally, "save souls". And now, after nearly 60 years, my heart is quite worn. Jesus says: "Come and rest in me." I have come back to the womb of beauty and peace to bless and be blessed by all whom I encounter on this holy ground of Our Lady of the Pines.



About the author: Sister Noel Frey is a Sister of Mercy. She received a BA and MA and was certified by the Association of Professional Chaplains. Among other things she continues to use her skill arranging flowers in the chapel and as a musician and liturgist at St. Bernardine Home.

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

Retreatants reflected on images of beauty during the May evening of prayer facilitated by Sr. Marianne Longo, RSM.



Fr. John Blaser presented the Spirituality of Vatican II at the Men's Barbecue evening on May 23. This event offers men an opportunity for spiritual input and fellowship.





Mercy Alive...

The Welcoming of Strangers

The word *stranger* means someone unknown, someone alien, someone "other" who is not like us. Strangers stand outside of our group; they don't belong. Their presence among us stirs anxiety. That is not how God views strangers. In fact, the second most frequently repeated mandate in Scripture is to welcome strangers and treat them kindly.

From God's perspective, offering hospitality to strangers is a matter of justice, not of charity. The Hebrew people knew from experience what it meant to be exiles, wayfarers depending on the kindness of others. Consequently, reciprocal kindness was woven into their moral code. Not that it was easy! Perhaps that's why the command appears so often—to remind us, to goad us, to impress upon us that this is how God acts, so this is how we must act.

The practice of offering hospitality to strangers wasn't just an obedient response to a command. Creating space for strangers, inviting them into one's own circle of friends and family—this was a concrete way of encountering the Holy One. In the Scriptures the stranger is not merely someone who needs our hospitality; the stranger is the one who *brings us blessings*.

When I worked in Nong Khai refugee camp on the Laotian border where thousands of persons lived in unnaturally crowded conditions, allotted a mere eighteen inches of living space per person, I learned a great deal about hospitality and welcome and blessing. To mark life's transitions (births, weddings, comings and goings) the Lao people always have a "baci"—a ceremony wherein the honored guest sits next to a bouquet of elegantly arranged flowers, from which hang thin white strings. One by one, each person at the event comes up to the honoree, kneels down in front of him/her, takes a string from the bouquet and ties it around the person's wrist while speaking a spontaneous blessing. The strings remain on the person's wrist for the next three days as a sign of blessings being carried, a remembrance of who bestowed them, and proof that we are all "tied" to one another.

God calls us to keep on blessing, to keep on extending the circle of our concern until no one is left outside, no one is a stranger any longer. The dominant voices in our world today tell us what a foolhardy stance that is, and that we should instead "circle our wagons," protecting what we have

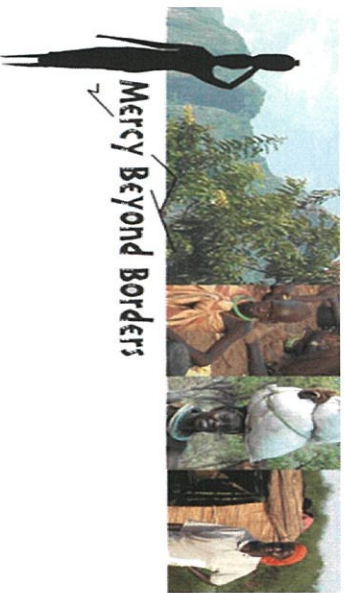
from those who have less. Our way of measuring whether our love is genuine, therefore, is to examine how far we've extended the boundaries that determine whom we are willing to be in relationship with. When these borders reach out as far as they can go, there will be no one left outside; there will be no more strangers. All will be welcome.



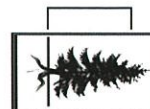
Marilyn Lacey, a Sister of Mercy, founded MERCY BEYOND BORDERS (MBB) in 2008 to offer welcome, hope and healing to displaced women and girls in South Sudan. The nonprofit has since expanded to Haiti. MBB provides academic scholarships and leadership training for girls, literacy classes and micro-enterprise loans for adult women, projects that improve maternal/child health, and advocacy for systemic change through weekly radio programs promoting the rights of women.

Sr. Marilyn's memoir, **THIS FLOWING TOWARD ME: A Story of God Arriving in Strangers**, is available from amazon.com.

To learn more about MBB at www.mercybeyondborders.org, contact Sr. Marilyn at 650-815-1554 or email her: mercybeyondborders@yahoo.com.



Sr. Marilyn was our guest speaker at a **Lunch and Lecture at The Pines on Wednesday, May 1**. Her presentation was a collaborative effort with Mercy Healthcare Center in Toledo, OH where Sr. Marilyn also spoke on Tuesday, April 30, 2013.



Around The Center...



Dan Chudzinski, instructor at Terra State Community College, shared his journey of creating two religious sculptures as part of his Master's thesis from Bowling Green State University on April 24.

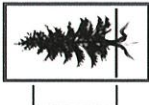


Sr. Marilyn Lacey, RSM spoke at the Pines in May on her ministry with Mercy Beyond Borders. She shared with us the spirituality of welcome.



Wish List

- NSF approved Food Processor
- Dyson Sweeper
- Monetary donations for art room supplies
- Canvas covered boards for wedding clay
- Vinyl/ White Round Table Clothes
- White Hand Towels
- 30 Cup Coffee Makers
- Large Ice Buckets
- Digital Camera
- Twin Sheet Sets (Regular and Extra long Sizes)
- King Sheet Sets
- Standard Pillows for the bedrooms
- Glass Water Pitchers



Program Calendar 2012

July

July 1: Centering Prayer—7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering
Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us. The focus of Centering Prayer is the deepening of our relationship with Jesus.
Facilitator: Fran Benlein is a liturgist, musician, spiritual director, and presenter in the Diocese of Toledo.

July 7 to July 13: Directed Retreat--Begins with supper at 5:30pm and ends 10:00am on Saturday. Cost: \$440/Non-refundable Deposit: \$25 Directors: Peggy Duffy, OSU, Breta Gorman, RSM, Stephanie Helfrich, OSU, Marianne Longo, RSM, and Pat Meyer, OSF. (See our website for bios.)

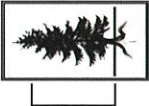
July 21 to July 26, 2013: Conference Retreat: Sustaining the Graces of Vatican II-- Begins at 7:00pm to 10:30am Friday—Cost: \$465 Overnights/\$235 Commuter/Non-refundable Deposit: \$25 This preached retreat will focus on the legacy of Vatican II during this 50th anniversary year. While the presentations will highlight major themes from that Council, the aim is prayer not discussion. We will continue to seek personal renewal with reverence for the priorities Vatican II offered the world as well as the community of faith. **Presenter: Howard Gray, S.J.** has been the Assistant to the President at Georgetown since 2007 where he continues to give retreats and talks both in the USA and abroad.

July 30: Summer Sabbath—9:30am to 3:30pm. Cost: \$25 (Registration is required). Come to the Pines for a day of rest and renewal. We will begin with an opening reflection on how to keep the Sabbath. Use the day to pray, read, create, walk, swim, or just be. Massage is available but a reservation for it needs to be made in advance. Morning snack and lunch are included.
Presenter: Sr. Margaret J. Marszal, HM is the Retreat Coordinator at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center.

August

August 5: Centering Prayer—7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering
Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us. The focus of Centering Prayer is the deepening of our relationship with Jesus. **Facilitator:** Fran Benlein is a liturgist, musician, spiritual director, and presenter in the Diocese of Toledo.

August 17 to Friday, August 23: Directed Retreat at The Pines sponsored by The Wellstreams Program: An Ecumenical Training Program in Spiritual Formation and Development in Columbus, Ohio--Begins at 4:30pm on Saturday and ends at 4:30pm on Friday. Cost: \$480 includes room, meals, daily spiritual direction. Non-refundable Deposit: \$100 (See back of this newsletter for more information.)



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 Partner Donations

Sr. Noel Frey, RSM
Phylip J. Divine
Crown Battery, Mr. Hal Hawk
Robert Drewior
Pam Oatis

Member of Maumee Bay Quilters Guild
John and Leanne Shetzer
Sr. Donata Ovelgonne, RSM

Other Donations Received

Dr. John Nissley—Durarite Reversible Markerboard

Volunteers

Laurie Brown
Sr. Dorothy Dalton, RSM
Sr. Rose Olivieri, RSM
Mary Shaffer



Looking Ahead

Women's Fall Retreat Day: Happiness, Saturday, October 26; 10:00 to 4:00pm. Description: Being grateful, generous people, connected to one another and to God, and living THIS day are all essential characteristics of happy people. We will explore the activities and dimensions of sustainable happiness and show how these can be incorporated into our daily lives. We'll use some of Ann's greeting cards for reflection and discuss how the practice of "card sending" nourishes the happiness of others and ourselves.



Presenter: Ann Kertz Kernion is the owner/artist of Cards by Anne, an international greeting card company founded in 1986 which specializes in inspirational messages. Her cards are sold online and in stores in the US, Canada, England, Ireland and Australia. Anne taught Theology part-time for 14 years at Carlow College in Pittsburgh. **Cost: \$45** (Includes morning snack and lunch--registration is required.)

Grandmothers in Faith Together Retreat Day:

Grandmas—Saints and Sinners! Saturday, November 9; 9:30am to 4:00pm. Description: From Old Testament scripture, Ruth, Naomi, and the wife of Tobit were wives, mothers and grandmothers who lived in uncertain times.



Dorothy Day, Venerable Conchita of Mexico and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton were three modern-day women who were also mothers and grandmothers. Through their letters and writings, they reveal their hearts to us. Spend a day in the company of grandmothers both ancient and modern. Share your experiences as grandmothers with other women who see being a grandmother as a special calling.

Presenter: This will be the third retreat for grandmothers led by **Ann Cavera**. In addition to being a mother and grandmother of four grandchildren, Ann has been a Peace Corps volunteer, teacher, college admissions counselor and Religious Education Director. For fourteen years she and her husband Jim wrote "The Second Half," an award winning column for people of faith in the second half of life. Currently, they write "Grounded in God," a monthly column for the Catholic Chronicle for the Diocese of Toledo. They are also the authors of "Grounded in God," a book of reflections published by Liguori Press. **Cost: \$35** (includes morning snack and lunch--registration is required.)

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.