



OUR LADY OF THE  
**PINES**  
RETREAT CENTER  
1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, OH 43420

Volume XV Summer, 2014

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OUR LADY OF THE  
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Newsletter, Summer, 2014

Volume XV

1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, Ohio 43420

419-332-6522

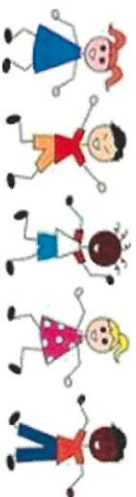
www.pinesretreat.org

### 3Rs Kids' Camp RENEW, REFRESH and RELAX!

**When:** Tuesday and Thursday  
August 5 & 7, 2014 - Time: 9am to Noon

**Where:** Our Lady of the Pines Retreat  
Center & Grounds, 1250 Tiffin St., Fremont

Girls and Boys, Ages 6-10



**Cost:** \$30 for One Day, \$50 for Two Days

To register: Call 419-332-6522, registration open  
until June 30, 2014. Hope to see you there!

### Mark Your Calendar

#### ANNOUNCING

**Evergreen Elegance  
Fundraising Dinner**

**Friday, October 31, 2014**

And

**Saturday, November 1, 2014**



More details

Available in the Next Newsletter!

Visit page 4 for calendar details or our website a [www.pinesretreat.org](http://www.pinesretreat.org)

#### Retreat Center Administrative Staff

St. Mariella Bradley, RSM  
Executive Director

Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM  
Retreat Coordinator

Brenda Havens  
Administrative Assistant

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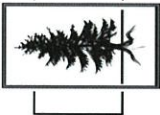


Dear Friends,  
Have you ever taken the time to just marvel at how God works in your life? I really am amazed at how things turn out when you are convinced there is no possible solution to a problem, or when there is no reasonable answer for what has occurred. Then all of a sudden, a door opens! It's at that ah-ha moment that you can begin to see that if THIS did not happen then THAT couldn't have happened. And THAT happened because things were asked to begin with. In Morning and Evening Prayers of The Sisters of Mercy, there are a number of occasions when God is addressed as GOD OF SURPRISES. The first time I read that salutation, I smiled to myself because it was one of those occasions when I was reflecting upon an outcome which I would never have anticipated, suspected, or even hoped for! Truly, our God is a God of Surprises!

This spring, it's been a SURPRISE every time we've had a warm day with blue skies. Evergreen Elegance, our previously scheduled January fundraising event, is SURPRISINGLY (but of necessity) going to move to October 31/November 1 this year (Indian summer weather as opposed to January blizzards, hopefully!). Participation in the Summer Dress-Up Raffle continues to grow! The SURPRISE will be which business will make the winner happy with the \$1,000.00 gift card—Lowe's or Target? YOU have until June 21 to add your name to the potential winners. Maybe the God of Surprises is looking at you.

As we approach and live the days of summer, anticipate the God of Surprises, who will identify Himself at a most unexpected moment, in the most unobtrusive way. May you marvel at your ah-ha moments! Happy Summer-filled with one surprise after another!

Sister Mariella Bradley, RSM



## Around The Center. . . .



Lent by Candlelight was held on the first Sunday of Lent with guests being led in prayer and reflection by Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM, based on Having A Mary Heart In a Martha World by Joanna Weaver.



Sr. Pat Meyer, OSF, at a Refresh Your Spirit Day, presented "God Floods My Being with Gratitude". All participants were encouraged to approach the Easter experience through a deeper awareness of how our senses, our memories and the present moment inspire us to touch the reality of Christ's Resurrection.

The Mercy Conference Room became the dining area for our Mother's Day Chicken Barbecue which served 343 moms and families. Special thanks to all who enjoyed the day with us and to our wonderful volunteers. Our proceeds exceeded \$2,200! Thank you, Everyone!



## 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.***

The simplest and most practical lesson I know—is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow. Let us take one day only in hand, at a time, merely making a resolve for tomorrow. Thus we may hope to get on, taking short, careful steps, not great strides.

*Quote from Venerable Catherine McAuley*



## 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.

***"We may hope to get on taking short, careful steps, not great strides."***

*-Venerable Catherine McAuley"*

In reflecting on the history of the Sisters of Mercy in Northwest Ohio, it is evident that they took short, careful steps as they established themselves in the surrounding counties.

In 1912, Bishop Joseph Schrembs invited the Sisters to come from Grand Rapids, Michigan to found Mercy Hospital in the Toledo Diocese: Tiffin, Ohio. Not only was the hospital begun as requested, (with careful steps), but the Sisters of Mercy, two of whom were Mother Mary Bernardine McMullen and her blood sister, Mother Mary Anthony, immersed themselves in every aspect of community life thus spreading the charism of MERCY to all attracting young women who wanted to live a life of MERCY.

In 1925 Evergreen Hill (the very property of Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center and St. Bernardine Home!) was being sold by Charles Green, a gold miner and prospector. Because women were joining the Sisters of Mercy, a motherhouse was needed along with a novitiate for those young women who hoped to live their lives as Sisters of Mercy. The purchase was made for \$50,000.00 and included these lovely 63 acres of pine/evergreen trees!

In 1936, taking short, careful steps, this site was used as a retreat house for women. As life changed so did the focus of the Sisters of Mercy, always responding to the needs of the times. In the 1940s, Mother of Mercy Academy for Girls was opened and thrived for almost two decades. When the school closed in the 60s, the need for a retirement home became the next footprint to be followed. Careful steps led to building the present structure adjacent to Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in 1970, St. Bernardine Home. These steps resulted in a major renovation of Our Lady of the Pines expanding the retreat ministry to what we presently know it to be—a gem, a place of solace for everyone, especially women, searching to develop a closer relationship with God.

The short, careful steps of our history enable us to proclaim: **MERCY IS ALIVE!**

Even though Catherine McAuley was dead 71 years when the Sisters of Mercy came to Ohio her words continue to be a source of wisdom to guide us as we spread our charism of Mercy: **"We may hope to get on by taking short, careful steps, not great strides."**

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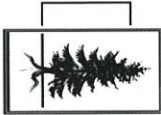
**About the Author:** Sr. Mariella Bradley, RSM,

Is a member of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the America's with roots in NYPPAW, specifically, Pittsburgh, PA. She is currently completing her first year as Executive Director of Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center and her first year with NORFA, Northern Ohio Regional Flute Alliance.



## Wish List

- Vellux blankets—twin size
- Twin Sheet Sets
- Mildew resistant shower curtain liners
- Twin size mattress covers
- Iron
- Thick hand towels and wash cloths



## Mercy Alive...

### Give Yourself the Gift of Quiet

Sometimes we say to ourselves, "If I could only have some peace and quiet, my life would be different." What would you do with that peace and quiet? In the midst of life transitions, decisions or difficult life events, it is helpful to stand back and take the long view and recognize how God is present in all of it. In the flurry of life activities, this is sometimes very difficult to do. This fall, The Pines is offering a mini-directed retreat to give you the space to reflect on what is going on in your life. With the help of a spiritual director, you will have the opportunity to reflect with the assistance of Scripture, nature, and prayer resources on God's presence in the circumstances of your life.



The Directed Retreat will offer you time for quiet so that you can listen to your thoughts, your feelings and what is going on inside of you and around you. It allows you time to "catch up with life." Spiritual direction is a centuries-old practice in Christianity. In earlier times it was sought out by men and women in religious life. Today, more and more lay people are seeking spiritual direction as a path to further their spiritual growth as well as a help in making major life decisions. The practice today has become interdenominational.

The Directed Retreat can be as long as thirty days or as short as an overnight. It is based on spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. In an Ignatian Directed Retreat, your spiritual director is trained in understanding the movements of the exercises. The retreat begins in recognizing God's care of you. The purposes of the exercises are very practical. They are to help you grow closer to God, assist you in making good decisions, and impact how you relate to others. A desire to grow in service to others may increase as an outcome. It is the role of the director to be a listener to God's movements in your life. If you have a desire to grow closer to God and deepen your prayer life, the mini-directed retreat is an opportunity to answer this inner call.

6

We invite you to take the long view, and make space for a weekend that can help you to put life into perspective knowing that God is with you. The mini-directed retreat is scheduled for **Friday, October 10 to Sunday, October 12, 2014**. It begins with supper at 5:30pm and ends at 1:30pm. **Directors: Debbie Brenneman, Pat Meyer, OSF, Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM and Sr. Wanda Smith, RSM** (See our website flyer for bios.) Cost: \$215 (Includes meals, housing, and spiritual directions); Deposit: \$25 (Registration is required.)



### Please consider:

- ..... Remembering Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in your will.
- ..... Cash donations, pledges, stocks, or bequests in support of The Pines Ministry to those seeking a deeper relationship with God.
- ..... A charitable planned gift during your lifetime or as an estate gift.

### We thank our donors for their heartfelt generosity.

Cash Donations: According to the Internal Revenue Code, you are entitled to a tax contribution deduction equal to the value of your donation. In consideration for your contribution, Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center acknowledges that, as of receipt of this contribution, our organization as IRC 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service. Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center affirms that you received no material benefits, goods or services for this contribution.



## 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. ~1 Peter 4:10

### Pines Partners

Sr. Rita Mary Wasserman, RSM  
Sr. Patricia Raelene  
Sr. Donata Ovelgonne, RSM  
Rosaria Sortino & The Sandusky Girls

### BBQ Volunteers

Sr. Rose Oliveri, RSM  
Sr. Dorothy Dalton, RSM  
Howie & Ruth Ann Stultz  
Donna Hoffman  
Sr. Marianne Longo, RSM  
Sr. Mary Jane Magers, RSM  
Sr. Kathleen Noonan, RSM  
Sr. Noel Frey, RSM  
Sr. Betty Foss, RSM  
Cindy Beier  
Robbyn Eakin  
Louise Fillater  
Sr. Linda Kaman, RSM  
Sr. Mary Ann Brady, RSM  
S. Kathleen Mary Moross, RSM  
Sr. Pauline M. Swirt, RSM  
Sr. Margaret Wasserman RSM  
Deb Herr

### Evergreen Elegance Event

**Diamond Sponsors**  
**\$1,500**

Fremont Federal Credit Union

### Other Donations Received

Hand Towels/Mattress Pad—  
Rita Dorobek  
New Mattress/Box Spring Sets  
—Ray D'Angelo

Picture and Stamps—  
Sr. Mary Jane Magers, RSM

White Board—Paul Cook

Pots and Pans—  
Sr. Judy Thompson

Golf Cart Batteries—  
Hal Hawk

China Dishes—  
Sr. Edith Ryan, RSM  
Sr. Virginia Harris, RSM

Bishop Hofman Catholic Schools  
Bloom by Jillly Gray  
Cassie Molyet  
Color Haven Paint & Supply  
Chud's Gille  
Dairy Queen, West  
Deb Martorana  
Root's Poultry  
The 818 Club  
The Cookie Lady



practical spirituality. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1 from noon to 2:00pm. Cost: \$20 (includes lunch).

If you are interested in the natural habitat of the area, Debbie Haubert from the Sandusky County Park District will offer *Night Time Filers* on Saturday, October 4 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. While walking on our beautiful grounds, you will learn more about the natural history of our native bats and owls. This is a great educational opportunity for the whole family. Cost: Free will offering

We welcome Fr. Jerry Chmell back for our Fall Just for Men: Barbecue Spirituality on Thursday, October 23, 2014 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. His presentation is entitled: *Some Things I wanted to Know about the Bible, But was too Cool to Ask*. Come for a great presentation and a barbecue dinner. Fr. Jerry Chmell is a priest from the Toledo Diocese in Senior Status. Cost: \$15.

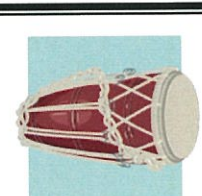
Check our website: [www.pinesretreat.org](http://www.pinesretreat.org) for further details on the above retreats and presenters.



## Looking Ahead

### Fall Highlights

Our Fall Programs offer a wide assortment of activities. On Wednesday, September 17, we will have a Drum Circle entitled Green Rhythm Gatherings at



7:00pm on the lawn by a campfire, weather permitting. Amy Slatter and Donna Steinbauer will share with you the history and nature of drumming and drum circles. You will also learn about the drums being used and even get the opportunity to participate in a drum circle. No previous musical experience is needed. Families are welcome. Cost: Free will offering.

Sr. Melannie Svoboda, SND will be returning to The Pines to offer a Lunch and Lecture entitled:

*Where is God When Life is Rough*.  
Using scripture, stories, and song, Sr. Melannie will attempt to answer this important life question. She will also have her books available to purchase and will be doing a book signing. Sr. Melannie is the author of 12 books and numerous articles on



## Program Calendar 2014

### July

**July 7 to July 13: Silent Directed Retreat--begins with supper at 5:30pm and ends 10:00am on Sunday.** 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. **Directors: Sr. Peggy Duffy, OSU, Sr. Breta Gorman, RSM, Sr. Stephanie Helfrich, OSU, Sr. Marianne Longo, RSM, and Sr. Pat Meyer, OSF.** (See our website for bios) **Cost:** \$450 (\$25 non-refundable deposit)

**July 18 to July 19: Summer Overnight Retreat: A Time to Plant: Life Lessons in Work, Prayer, and Dirt Begins with supper at 5:30pm and ends at 3:00pm on Saturday.** This retreat will help participants learn to care about Creation as an exciting spiritual adventure with the Author of nature. **Presenter: Kyle T. Kramer** is the director of graduate lay degree programs and spiritual formation for St. Meinrad, a Benedictine monastery and school of theology. He is the author of *A Time to Plant: Life Lessons in Work, Prayer, and Dirt* (Ave Maria Press, 2010). **Cost:** \$130 Overnight (includes all meals and housing); Commuter Rate \$90 (includes Friday supper and Saturday lunch). (\$25 non-refundable deposit)

**July 20 to July 25: Conference Retreat "Pausing to Grow in Awareness"; begins Sunday with supper at 5:30pm and ends Friday at 10:30am.** This retreat seeks to search out ways to become aware of what is deep within us, namely, the very presence of God. With the insights of some spiritual giants such as Meister Eckhart, Anthony de Mello, Karl Rahner, Ronald Rolheiser, John Shea and others, this retreat seeks to help its participants realize their blessedness by removing the obstacles they/we hold on to which conceal the Kingdom of God within. **Presenter: Fr. James Friedel, OSA** has served in several ministries in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Since 1990, Fr. Jim has been conducting parish missions and retreats throughout the United States and Canada. **Cost:** \$475 overnight (includes all meals and housing) \$245 Commuter (includes lunch and supper). (\$25 non-refundable deposit)

**July 29 to August 4: Silent Directed Retreat at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center sponsored by Wellstreams, an Ecumenical Training Program in Spiritual Formation and Development, Columbus, OH; Tuesday, July 29 to Monday, August 4; begins at 4:30pm on Tuesday and ends at 4:30pm on Monday** Directors for this retreat are trained spiritual directors who have three or more years experience in the contemplative approach to spiritual direction. To enroll complete the registration form on the Pines website no later than **June 15, 2014** or you may register online at [www.wellstreamsolumbus.org](http://www.wellstreamsolumbus.org) For more information please contact: Sr. Carol Ann Spencer, OP: 614-228-8867 or email: [carol.spencer.1@uno.com](mailto:carol.spencer.1@uno.com) **Cost:** \$490 includes room, meals, daily spiritual direction. **Non-refundable Deposit:** \$100

### August

**August 4: Centering Prayer; 7:00pm** 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. It is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer but rather add a depth of meaning to all prayer forms. The focus of Centering Prayer is the deepening of our relationship with Jesus. **Cost:** Free will offering

**August 6: Summer Sabbath; 9:30am to 3:30pm** 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. Golf is available across the street. Massage is available but a reservation for it needs to be made in advance. Contact Brenda at 419-332-6522. Morning snack and lunch are included. **Cost:** \$25 (Registration is required.)

**August 9: Workshop: The Caregiving Journey; 9:00am to 11:00am.** This program will consist of a presentation along with shared discussion covering the calling, the costs, and the blessings associated with caregiving. **Presenter:** Deacon Cavera is a retired clinical social worker with years of experience in psychiatric and medical settings. **Cost:** \$10 (Registration is required.)

**August 18: Evening Prayer: Walking the Labyrinth to Music; 7:00pm.** Music can help us to quiet ourselves. For this walking meditation, we will walk the labyrinth to a variety of hymns played by musicians on site. **Cost:** Free will offering

### September

**September 2: Centering Prayer; 7:00pm to 8:00pm.** **Cost:** Free will offering (See August 4 for a description).

**September 9: Reflection with a Cup of Tea: Coming Home to Yourself; 9:00am to 10:30am.** Based on Venerable Catherine McAuley's emphasis on Mercy hospitality with a cup of tea, this morning will offer nourishment for body, mind, and spirit with light refreshments and a presentation on faith and spirituality. Prayer and reflection will be on your longing for coming home to yourself and your thirst for God. **Presenter: Sr. Marianne Longo, RSM,** former Director of Our Lady of the Pines for over twenty years is now involved full time in the ministry of spiritual direction. **Cost:** \$7 (Registration is required.)

**September 17: Drum Circle--Green Rhythm Gatherings; 7:00pm to 8:00pm.** Amy and Donna will share with you the history and nature of drumming and drum circles. You will also learn about the drums being used and then get the opportunity to participate in a drum circle. No previous musical experience is needed. Families are welcome. **Presenters: Amy Slatter and Donna Steinbauer--Amy Slatter** has been passionately drumming since 2010. **Donna Steinbauer** is new to drumming but has been playing various musical instruments since the age of 10. **Cost: Free will offering** (Registration is required.)

**September 22: Evening Prayer: The Rainbow and the Cross; 7:00pm to 8:00pm.** Our Church gives us a beautiful feast, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Our prayer will raise us to a deep awareness of God's covenant relationship with each one of us and our connectedness with all creation. **Presenter: Sr. Pat Meyer, OSF** is a Franciscan Sister of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Louis, Missouri.



## Around The Center. . . .



**Dr. Paul Wright, personal physician to Mother Teresa of Calcutta, was deeply influenced by her life. Dr. Wright presented the spiritual attitudes Mother Teresa taught her co-workers to find sustainable inner peace and happiness at a Lunch and Lecture on Monday, May 19, 2014 to a "full house".**



**Springtime at The Pines, late in coming this year, but it has beautifully arrived!**

## Our Lady of the Pines Gift Shop

Come and browse during our working hours to choose from a number of books and gift items.  
We now have Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, and Wedding Gifts.