

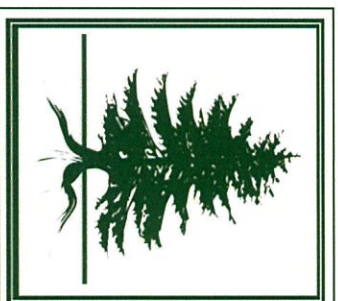


OUR LADY OF THE
PINES
RETREAT + CENTER

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

Volume III Spring/Summer 2011

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OUR LADY OF THE
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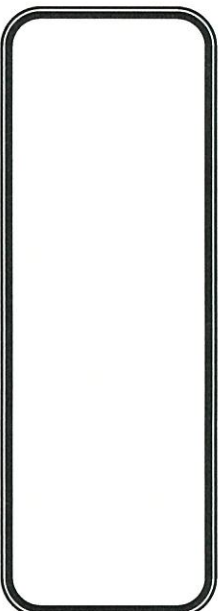
Newsletter, Spring/Summer, 2011

Volume III

1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, Ohio 43420

419-332-6522

www.pinesretreat.org



TREE OF HOPE 2011

Mark Your
Calendar

A Tree of Hope

Lighting Ceremony and Prayer Service

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Donations will be accepted prior to
lighting the "Tree of Hope"
and included in our Book of
Remembrances.

Refreshments to follow!

SECOND ANNUAL
EVERGREEN ELEGANCE

...An Evening to Benefit the Pines

Friday, January 20, 2012

And

Saturday, January 21, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Watch for more details.

CALL TO BE PLACED ON OUR GUEST LIST!

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

**Retreat Center
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St. Christine Pratt, OSU
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Denise Biddle
Finance & Operations Director

St. Margaret Marszal, HM
Retreat Coordinator

Brenda Havens
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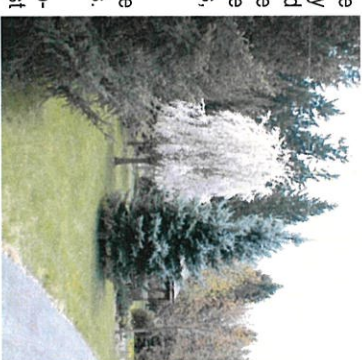
St. Cheryl Erb, RSM

Mr. Jason N. Kinn

Dear Friends of the Pines,

The Easter season reflects the hope of the coming of Spring at The Pines as we pass through dark, rainy days to sun struggling to stream through the windows-a reminder daily of the passage from death to life we experience in our lives, the life of the Church and nature. The grounds are green and the trees and flowers that grace the property are coming to full life. However, if you come to see us you will notice that the front of The Pines building does not have the landscaping-yet-that it had in the past. In October we needed to do major foundation work that required removing all trees and landscaping. The work was a great success but our mud-garden continues until we become dry and warm enough to replant.

Despite the lack of color outside our building, inside we are alive and flourishing. Although the economy continues to be a challenge for us we see increased interest in our programs and receive calls daily for the use of our facility and hermitages. Groups using The Pines include pastoral councils, retired teachers, Toledo diocesan parish business managers and numerous church groups and the Toledo Diocesan Deacon Formation program who continue to see The Pines as their place for work and spiritual retreats.



St. Margaret and I continue to provide outreach programs to parishes and other groups. During the last three months we learned a Mission for a rural parish in the diocese. St. Margaret gave talks for distributors of Holy Communion of the Fremont parishes, the Fremont Ecumenical Good Friday Service and Leadership of Sandusky County. I provided classes on Catholic Social Teaching for deacon formation, two parish RCIA classes, and an RCIA retreat. St. Margaret and other contracted spiritual directors continue to offer spiritual direction and daytime retreat opportunities.

In all, you continue to bless us by your prayers, support and involvement in all we do at and through The Pines. Please be sure to check out our upcoming summer programs on Page 4 in this newsletter or visit our website pinesretreat.org. All are welcome to come and experience The Pines. We look forward to seeing you.

In the spirit of Mercy,

St. Christine Pratt, OSU

"Your whole life should be a continual act of praise and prayer."

Catherine McAuley



Around The Center. . . .



LENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Several local women hosted tables for their friends and family members for an evening of prayer and fellowship.

Sister Margaret offered two Lenten reflections. Refreshments and decorations were provided by each table hostess.



THE MOTHER/DAUGHTER ART RETREAT

Sr. Margaret facilitated a Mother/Daughter Art Retreat on Saturday, May 7th. Mothers and daughters had a chance to creatively express ways they could bring balance in their lives. The day included time for reflection, sharing and creativity.



Wish List

- Heavy Duty Steam Iron
- NSF approved 4 slice toaster
- NSF approved Food Processor
- Dyson Sweeper
- Bath towels/ washcloths
- Vellux blankets—twin size
- Monetary donations for art room supplies
- Canvas covered boards for wedding clay
- Clear Glass Cream and Sugar Sets

Special Request:

Golf Cart for handicap and elderly to view the grounds



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.

MUSINGS ON A QUOTE OF THE FOUNDRRESS

Much as I love Catherine McAuley and admire her work, I've always had problems with one of her sayings, quoted far too often (in my opinion) by my first novice mistress: "A perfect Religious is a perfect lady." More than once I was summoned to Mother Zita's office where, on my knees (calloused from overwork back then), I would be chastised for my "unladylike laugh." "Try to laugh more quietly," she'd say. "Laugh for me now as a lady should."

I hardly need say how hard it is to fake a laugh, but I'd attempt a little titter and promise to work on this problem. The next night, though, one of the novices would tell a joke during Recreation. (Recreation was the hour when we could actually talk while darned our stockings and hemming our veils.) Everything struck me funny back then, and inevitably an explosive noise somewhere between a whimmy and a guffaw would trump all the sounds of regular conversation and—I'd be in trouble once again.

I think of the "perfect lady" line often. Even now. I thought of it today when I was frantically preparing class in my office at Siena Heights University. The door was open for ventilation. Suddenly, a garrulous student stood there wanting to chat about a summer plan of his. I explained that I would talk with him later, that I had a class to get ready and only a few minutes left to finish some papers.

He continued to stand there as if I'd said, "Great! Let's hear all about it!" On and on he rambled until, at my wits' end, I said, "Scram, John! We'll talk later, okay?" John, undaunted, continued to chatter on. "SCRAM!" I said more firmly. "Do you know what that word means?" John grinned and turned away.

Into my brain marched the hated little line: "A perfect Religious is a perfect lady." Would Catherine McAuley have ordered someone to "Scram"? I asked myself. I felt qualms, even though I

knew John was un-offended. I would never be a lady. Did Catherine mind?

Certainly her words present her as a lady, even as a prim Victorian, though her sayings and counsels reflect, no doubt, the piety and language of her day. Her novitiate was made in a community of cloistered nuns in which humility and obedience was especially esteemed. This influenced Catherine, of course, as seen in a saying of hers like: "How contrary to humility would it be to hear a Religious speak in an authoritative tone...." Which I just had.

She goes on to urge each sister to "consider her opinion as nothing and herself a nobody." Pretty dreary, depressing stuff—though standard spirituality for cloistered orders at that time.

But then I remember again her charming advice, written in rhyme, to a sister who had just become a superior. She counsels her to address the faults she observes, but "often in a playful way."

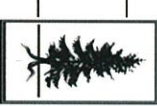
She tells her to "avoid all solemn declarations." And she actually says in another place: "Turn what you can into a jest." Yes! This, I believe, is the Kitty beneath the Catherine, the humorous, down-to-earth woman seeping through the "perfect lady" she also was. And there is much wisdom in her words: "Turn what you can into a jest."

In our tumultuous world, with wars and rumors of wars, with catastrophes of nature and economic struggles everywhere, and with violence seeming to be on the rise, we soberly acknowledge these realities and both pray for and address them in what ways we are able. But then, knowing the balm in humor, we can, with Catherine's blessing, I'm certain, try to create an oasis of laughter when possible, turn what we can into a jest. After all, we are still in the comforting shade of the Easter season, with memories of merry daffodils and magnolias and brilliant tulips reminding us of Resurrection—all resurrections—and illustrating, as new life springs from apparent death, the great jest God plays on us every year—just as we are about to give up hope.

About the author: Sister Patricia Schnapp, RSM, a Toledo native, is a classroom veteran. Currently, she teaches English at Siena Heights University in Adrian, MI. She is also a volunteer teacher at a nearby state prison. Pat co-edited *The Best American Catholic Short Stories* (Sheed and Ward, 2007) and published *Alleluias and Amens*, poem-reflections on various gospels, in 2010. She's currently trying to learn to play a few chords on the banjo.

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



Mercy Alive...

Mercy Alive provides a glimpse of the charism and ministries of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Each issue of the newsletter will highlight information related to the Institute, the South Central Region or a Sister of Mercy or Associate. Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center is a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, South Central Region. The region is comprised of some 700 sisters, 600 associates, one companion and thousands of staff members who also serve in Mercy sponsored programs and institutions in 18 states, Guam and Jamaica. All these affiliations strive to carry out the mission set forth by their foundress, Catherine McAuley. To learn more, visit www.mercysc.org.

ASSOCIATION: LIVING THE CHARISM OF MERCY

Mercy Associates are women and men who hear and respond to a call from God, an invitation to Gospel holiness lived through sharing in the mission of Mercy. They desire to walk with and care for those who are poor, sick, and uneducated. Associates, while maintaining individual lifestyles, seek to embody the spirit of Mercy in partnership with the Community of the Sisters of Mercy through a mutual covenant. As identified by Foundress Catherine McAuley, the mission of Mercy is central for Associates, who share in prayer, community, ministry, and friendship.

The lay women and men associates respond to a call deeply rooted in their baptism and lived out through the vision statement of the Sisters of Mercy, South Central Community. They are covenant people who commit themselves to prayer, service, and community with the Sisters and other associates as well.

MERCY ASSOCIATE VISION STATEMENT

In humility, we realize that no one of us can live into our Vision Statement completely; however, in union and charity, we realize we can achieve **together** what no one of us could achieve alone.

Our Vision Statement for our South Central Mercy Association tells us what we do and where we are going as a Community grounded in Christ, Catherine, and Mercy. We do not presume to have "arrived" in our living into this statement. Rather, we recognize and celebrate our role as pilgrim people on a journey, creating a path, charting a course, and living into our Baptismal commitments, both in action and in contemplation, as Mercy associates.

Our Vision is to become disciples of Christ and servants of the poor in the Spirit of Catherine McAuley.

"It is therefore by being united to Jesus Christ that we are united with each other."

Catherine McAuley

As Mercy Associates, we recognize that our primary "Mission" is to live into the "Identity" we have claimed for ourselves as lay Mercy's. We, therefore, live our "Mission" and grow into our "Identity" as Mercy Associates, in partnership with the Sisters of Mercy by:

- Ministering to and advocating for the sick, poor, and uneducated.
- Helping people overcome the obstacles that keep them from living full and dignified lives.
- Living a life of prayer, service, and fellowship with other associates, sisters, and our families.

This commitment will impel us to work in partnership with the Sisters of Mercy to:

- Develop and act from a multicultural and international perspective;
- Speak with a corporate voice;
- Work for systemic change;
- Practice non-violence;
- Act in harmony and interdependence with all creation; and
- Call ourselves to continual conversation in our lifestyles and ministries.

Catherine McAuley has these words to say about the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy: "The spiritual and corporal works of mercy which draw religious from a life of contemplation, so far from separating them from the love of God, unite them more closely to God and render them more valuable in God's holy service."

About the Author: Lincoln Sigwald, is the Director of Mercy Associates, South Central Community. He can be reached at his office in Belmont, North Carolina, or by email lsigwald@mercysc.org.

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. . . .

SANDUSKY COUNTY CANCER CARE

was welcomed to the Pines for their first event - a memorial in honor of Sherry Sprouse. Tours of the building were offered to all guests who attended this program.



Marsha Rivas with Deacon Tom Lambert and Mrs. Connie Raktian, the lead presenters for the Retreat for Those with Mental Illness and their Families offered in collaboration with The Pines, Diocese of Toledo, and NAMI of Sandusky, Seneca and Wyandot Counties.



FOR MEN ONLY—BARBEQUE SPIRITUALITY
Picnic Supper following prayer and spiritual reflection by Father Ray Ensmann, P. Clinton, Ohio.

CONFERENCE RETREAT

JULY 31—AUGUST 5, 2011

Sunday, July 31 to Friday, August 5, 2011
(7:00 pm Sunday to Friday Brunch)



This guided retreat is for older adults who wish to deepen their ability to live more fully. This experience invites the older adult to say "yes" to the on-going call of the spiritual journey by living in the promise of the resurrection while surrendering to the losses of aging. This retreat will guide participants in using spiritual tools to grow a deeper relationship with God. There will be two conferences daily with time for prayer, personal reflection, and optional processing with retreat facilitator.

Presenter: Ann Billard, OLM, Ph.D.: Sr. Ann is a Sister of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy. She has presented at national conferences and to groups of older adults throughout the USA, Canada and Australia.

COST: \$425.00 **COMMUTER RATE:** \$235.00 (includes 9 meals)

Program Calendar 2011

June

June 7: Reflection with a Cup of Tea — 9:00 am to 10:30 am Cost \$7.00 Based on Blessed 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. We will explore the *Art of Listening*. Presenter: St. Margaret Marszal, HM

June 13 to 18, July 5 to 8, July 10 to 15: Summer Private Retreat Days During these days, you are welcome to stay overnight at the Pines for prayer and reflection. Meals will be provided. Contact us at 419-332-6522 for pricing. Also, if rooms are available, private retreats may be scheduled during the week long retreats and weekend retreats.

June 20: Prayer Evening: Walking the Labyrinth — 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm—Cost (free will offering) We will meet at the retreat center then proceed to the Labyrinth. This month we will walk the Labyrinth using quotes from Scripture. Refreshments will follow. Presenter: Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM

June 24 to June 26: Art Retreat: Mandalas: Woven and Drawn Begins Friday with Supper at 5:30 pm and ends at 1 pm on Sunday—Cost \$170.00 (overnight) and Commuter Rate: \$75.00 During this retreat, we will create mandalas out of clothesline and yarn using a Native American weaving style. We will also create drawings using colored pencils on black paper. No art experience necessary. Presenter: Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM

June 29: Spiritual Book Discussion: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Cost (free will offering) We will discuss and reflect on the book: *The Shack* by William Paul Young. Call us by June 8th if you would like us to order you a book.

July 6: Refresh Your Spirit Day—9:00 am to 3:00 pm Cost \$25.00 This day will offer time for input, prayers, reflection and quiet. Lunch and morning refreshments are included. The theme will be *Praying with Nature*. Presenter: Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM

July 8 to July 10, 2011: Mercy Retreat Weekend—Catherine McAuley: Woman of God. Cost: 180.00 (includes overnight and meals) Commuter Rate: \$80.00 This weekend experience focuses on Catherine's life of Christian discipleship. Presenter: Sr. Marilyn Sunderman, RSM, Ph.D.

July 21 and August 10: Summer Sabbath Days—9:30 am to 3:30 pm - Cost \$25.00 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, and just be. Massage is available for an additional fee. Reservations need to be made in advance. Lunch and morning refreshments are included.

July

July 24 to July 31: Directed Retreat—7:00 pm Sunday to 10:00 am Sunday—Cost: \$485.00 Directors: Fran Benlein, Sr. Marie Bohn, HM, Sr. Peggy Duffy, OSU, Sr. Breta Gorman, RSM and Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM (See our website for their bios.)

July 31 to August 5: Conference Retreat: "Saying Yes to the Call of Aging": 7:00 pm Sunday to Friday Brunch—Cost: \$430.00 (overnight) Commuter Rate: \$235.00 (includes 9 meals) This guided retreat is for older adults who wish to deepen their ability to live more fully. This experience invites the older adult to say "yes" to the on-going call of the spiritual journey by living in the promise of the resurrection while surrendering to the losses of aging. Presenter: Ann Billard, OLM, Ph.D.

August

August 11: Dances for Universal Peace—7:00 pm to 8:00 pm Cost: \$5.00 The Dances of Universal Peace are simple circle dances, based upon sacred phrases, scripture, and poetry of many spiritual traditions. No musical or dance experience is required. Facilitator: Sr. Sandy Sherman, OSU has presented the Dances for Universal Peace in a number of sites in Northwest OH.

August 22: Prayer Evening: Walking the Labyrinth— 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm—Cost (free will offering) This month we will walk the labyrinth using a prayer of gratitude. Presenter: Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM

September 7: Courageous Women: Lunch and Lecture-Walking in the Footprints of Jesus— Clare of Assisi-12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Cost: \$15.00 You are invited to meet Clare and to be refreshed by her radiance and goodness. The 'spark of light' which comes from your own deep faith in Jesus will be 'enkindled!' Presenter: Sr. Pat Meyer, OSF

September 13: Reflection with a Cup of Tea—9:00 am to 10:30 am. Cost \$7.00 Skills to Make Good Decisions on Life Questions. Based on Blessed Catherine McAuley's emphasis on Mercy hospitality with a cup of tea, this morning will offer nourishment for body and spirit with a light breakfast and a presentation on faith and spirituality. Presenter: Sr. Margaret Marszal HM

September 17 to September 23: Directed Retreat—5:30 pm with Supper to 10:00 am Friday—Cost \$410
Directors: Sr. Janice Bachman, OP, Sr. Judy Cole, SCJ, Sr. Patricia Meyer, OSF, and Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM
(See our website for bios.)

See our website for more detailed information on our programs at www.pinesretreat.org.



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

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Pam Wertz
Rita Dorobek
Father Ted Miller
Susan Ingraham
Sr. Donata Ovelgonne, RSM
Anonymous Donors
H2O Church
Church Doctors Ministry
First Presbyterian Church
Whispering Meadow
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Other Donations

Joyce Smith
Father Ray Enzman



PINES PARTNERS

All of us can benefit from the time for prayer and reflection provided by the programs at The Pines, but perhaps no one more than those who are struggling financially on a day-to-day basis.

- PINES PARTNERS** are donors who financially assist by:
- Subsidizing persons who otherwise could not afford to come to the Pines
 - Allowing persons whose budgets do not include "extras" such as a retreat or day away from spiritual growth to choose the program that meets their needs rather than their budget

Partner with The Pines to ensure that no one is denied the solace offered by programs at The Pines. Please make check out to Our Lady of the Pines. Please designate PINES PARTNERS and mail to: 1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, OH 43420.



Looking Ahead

Friday, September 16, 2011:
"Sisters History is American History"—Friday Night Lecture, 7:00pm

Saturday, September 17, 2011:
"Concentric Circles of Sisterhood"—Saturday Workshop, 10:00am to 3:00pm



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.



Sr. Melannie Svoboda, SND is the author of ten books and numerous articles. She currently writes and gives talks and retreats nationally. Sr. Melannie is a Sister of Notre Dame from the Cleveland Diocese.

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