



OUR LADY OF THE
PINES
RETREAT + CENTER

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

Winter Newsletter 2011

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OUR LADY OF THE
PINES
RETREAT + CENTER

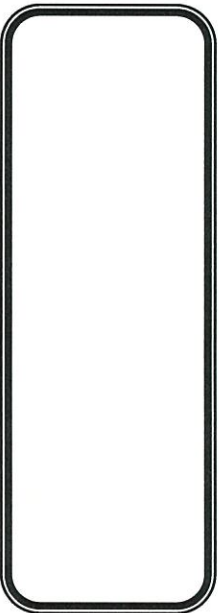
Newsletter

1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, Ohio 43420

419-332-6522

www.pinesretreat.org

Winter 2011



**Mark Your
Calendar**

**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

**"SAY YES TO THE
CALL OF AGING"**

**Conference Retreat: Sunday, July 31 to
Friday, August 5, 2011.**

**Cost: \$430 (Sunday to Friday brunch)
Commuter Rate: \$235 (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: Sr. Ann Billard, OLM, Ph.D., is a Sister of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy. She has presented at national conferences and to groups of older adults through the USA.

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

**Retreat Center
Administrative Staff**

St. Christine Pratt, OSU
Executive Director

Denise Biddle
Finance & Operations Director

St. Margaret Marszal, HM
Retreat Coordinator

Brenda Havens
Administrative Assistant

**Retreat Center
Board of Trustees**

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Mr. Jason N. Kinn

Dear Friends of the Pines,

As I write this letter we are having the first real thaw of winter. The beautiful snow laden trees are giving way to sun on the green branches of the pines and the spruces. These hopeful signs of spring to come are a symbol of the new life and growth that we witness at the Pines every day as new individuals and groups discover us and our sponsored programs bring in ever increasing participants.

December brought two annual events which have grown with each year. Our Tree of Hope lighting brought eighty people who prayed and sang as we lit the tree this year. Many generous donors helped light the tree this year. The evening included the Bishop Hoffman School System children's choir and Cub Scout Den #306 and their parents. Our dining room resembled a huge family reunion as the 80 guests enjoyed homemade cookies and cocoa.



The annual dinner for Liberty Center Family Shelter of Sandusky County was another Christmas gift to us. St. Ann Catholic Community provided the volunteers and the financial support which allowed us to purchase the food for all who attended and for the gifts Santa gave to the families. The evening ended with a visit to chapel and the reading of the first Christmas story.

On January 21 and 22, 2011 we welcomed guests back to The Pines for our first major fundraising dinner since the renovation. *Evergreen Elegance*, organized by the Fund Development and Marketing Committee, was a great success and has set the foundation for future growth for this event. The meal was prepared by Chef Keith Mosser and served by volunteers wearing bistro aprons with the names of our major sponsors printed upon them. All who attended continue to speak of the wonderful event and look forward to 2012.

We are blessed by your generosity, prayers and support as we continue to invite and serve the many who come to us. Without you we could not provide this special place. Be assured of our prayers for you.

In the Spirit of Mercy,

Sr. Christine Pratt, OSU

*"It is not sufficient that Jesus Christ be formed in us;
He must be recognized in our conduct." Catherine McAuley*



Around The Center. . . .



LIBERTY CENTER CHRISTMAS GATHERING

December 9, 2010

For the second year, Our Lady of the Pines Staff in collaboration with St. Ann's Catholic Community, Fremont, hosted the Liberty Center Family Shelter Christmas Dinner.



TOAST THE TREES FOR COUPLES

Valentines Day 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 with 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 perfection of the spiritual person depends, not so much on doing extraordinary actions, as on doing extraordinarily well the ordinary actions and exercise of every day."

Catherine McAuley lived a life full of ordinary actions. She grew up in the 1800s in Dublin, Ireland. By the time she was a young girl, her mother and father had died. Her brother and sister were split up and sent out to different families. Catherine ended up with the Callaghan family and became their servant. Catherine did their laundry, cooked meals, washed dishes, cleaned their house, and hosted the many guests that came to visit. In her spare time, Catherine visited the sick and the poor in the neighborhood. She so endeared herself to the Callaghan family that she became the sole heiress to the Callaghan's estate, equivalent to approximately \$1 million. Because of her experiences in her life, Catherine used the inheritance to build a house to shelter young women and educated and train them. The first House of Mercy opened on September 24, 1827 in Dublin, Ireland.

Catherine's life holds relevance for us today. We may feel overwhelmed by the tasks of each day. Besides the laundry, the cleaning, the cooking, we often are going to meetings in our spare time or transporting children to school or sport events or taking care of sick relatives. "What is our 'doing' doing to us?" is a profound spiritual question. We can trust that God holds out a hand to us each day and promises to be with us. God brings us along into the next place on our journey, so we can experience life in a different way.

God calls each of us to offer our unique gifts and talents to serve others and to bring about good in the world. God made each of us an original blessing. He made each flower differently, each fall leaf a different color, and each snowflake unique. We know when we create a special art project or fix up our home, we often step back in admiration and joy when the task is complete. God is so intimately involved in our lives each day. Nothing is too small or too big for God's action. Our job is to be alert and open.

Catherine McAuley encouraged people to cultivate awareness of God using simple practices. She encouraged her Sisters who were taking care of cholera victims to see the face of Jesus in the suffering people. We can cultivate the practice of repeating simple words, like "Jesus" or "love" or "patience" as we go about our tasks each day. Spiritual writers encourage us to become aware of our breathing and to be grateful for the gift of life. There is no better time than today to begin.

About the author: Sister Dorothy Thum, a Sister of Mercy, is Senior Vice President of Mission and Values Integration with Mercy Hospital in Toledo. She is also President of the Board of Trustees, Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center.

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



STAFF & SPOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 2010



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 wedging clay
- Clear Glass Cream and Sugar Sets

Special Request:

Golf Cart for physically disabled to view the grounds



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.mercy-sc.org.

Taken from the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Americas website.

"The Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas call us to respond to the critical needs of our times. Because of that, Sisters from the South Central Community are active at national, state and local levels where government policy decisions are made. Policy made in the United States affects the world, and it is important we express our concerns to legislators about the impact of their decisions. A number of methods are available to us, including e-mail, writing letters, making phone calls, and face-to-face meetings with legislators."

This year the Sisters are focusing on care for earth, one of the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching. On their website they state: "Mercy Earth Harmony Network brings together Sisters and Associates engaged in heightening awareness of the Earth community and our sense of responsibility in preserving our natural world."

In developing the Mercy Environment Guidelines the South Central Region (which sponsors The Pines) calls on their regional communities, ministries and sponsored works to embrace these guidelines. The guidelines are listed below:

As Sisters of Mercy, Associates, and co-ministers, we seek daily to approach our lives and ministries with an awareness of God's gift to us—our co-creative role and our interrelatedness to all EARTH life.

"To have Jesus Christ formed in us is to think as He did, to speak as He spoke, and to will as He willed."

Catherine McAuley

We will strive to:

- Live simply and resist consumerism.
- Eliminate products that are only good for one-time use, whenever possible.
- Begin meetings by asking how what we do here affects people who are poor and all other living things. "Does what we intend to do ignore, inhibit or foster a mutually enhancing human-earth community?" (Thomas Berry)
- Conduct a periodic environmental audit in our institutions and homes of those elements that impact the bioregion's air, water, land and all of nature, and develop a plan with annual self-evaluation steps.
- Look for environmentally sensitive specifications on goods and services we purchase.
- Continue converting our vehicle fleets to more environmentally friendly models whenever possible.
- Promote the efficient use of energy by investing in energy-efficient heating, cooling, lighting and water systems.
- Incorporate sustainable design principles in existing and future buildings and land use.
- Update practices constantly in light of advances in earth friendly technology and new understandings in health, environmental science and eco-theology/spirituality.
- Review annually the environmental criteria for our corporate investments and continue to operate in a manner that protects EARTH.

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. . . .

EVERGREEN ELEGANCE—JANUARY 21-22, 2011

Evergreen Elegance, an evening to benefit The Pines, welcomed guests on two of the coldest nights of the year. Despite the temperatures those attending enjoyed an evening of soft lights, beautiful table setting and a delicious gourmet meal including filet mignon and chicken with truffles prepared by Chef Keith Mosser. The activities included hat box auctions and 50/50 raffle. The return of the dinner to The Pines after a five year absence was a grand success and has set the pattern for years to come.

We would like to thank the Event Committee and Sponsors listed below for their generosity in sponsoring our dinner this year. God bless all of our event donors and volunteers who participated in this event. We look forward to 2012!



DIAMOND SPONSORS (\$1,500): Crown Battery Mfg., Lochotzki Masonry, LLC, and Hal and Diane Hawk.

EMERALD SPONSORS (\$1,000): Mercy Health Partners, Bella Cosa Floral Studio, Fremont Memorial Hospital, Fremont Federal Credit Union.

RUBY SPONSORS (\$500): Valley Electric Co., Herman-Kinn Funeral Homes, Elmwood Healthcare Center, Wonderly-Horvath-Hanes Funeral Homes.

SAPPHIRE SPONSOR (\$200): Hohler Furnace & Sheet Metal

WINE & BEER DONORS: Karen and Al O'Neal

EVENT COMMITTEE: Joseph Wasserman and

Sr. Christine Pratt Co-Chairs, Debbie Brenneman, Brenda Havens, Jeanne Heintschel, Msgr. Bill Kubacki, Joan Schmidt, Mary Shaffer, Jim Walter, and John Yanes
ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS: Bob Arthur, Andrew Biddle, Jamie Biddle, Matthew and Natalie Biddle, Jon Brenneman, Tim Distel, Sr. Cheryl Erb, RSM, Sr. Regina Fisher, SND, Tyler Foster, Jeff and Martha Hall, John Havens, Steven Havens, Bill Keating, Rae Kistner, Debbie Koebel, Heath Martin, Marian Miller, Jim & Janet Morley, Robin Mygrant, Gary and Marie Perkins, Paul and Joan Wasserman.



Event Donors: R & R Identification, Ginny Miller, Keith Mosser, Jim Walter, Color Haven Paint, A Cut Above Beauty Salon, The Pines Retreat Center, Terra Community College, Josh Smith Barber, The Hungry I, Bella Cosa Floral, Chateau Tebeau Winery, Roots Pouly, Golden Dragon, Subway, CoCo Beans, A Variety of Shades, Randolph's TV, Dairy Queen West, Green Hills Golf Course, Post Net, Sprouse Insurance Agency, 818 Club, Fremont Cycle & Fitness, Fremont Ross and SJCC Athletic Departments, Fremont YMCA, Fremont Athletic Supply, Wang's Buffet, Perrysburg French Quarter, Toledo Symphony, LaScola Restaurant, Papa Murphy Pizza, The Mary Alice White Estate, Rileigh's Closet, Harvey Oaks Jewelers, Bloom by Jill Gray, Gift Baskets & Bouquets, The Summer Kitchen, Eagle Isle, Chris Smith Painting, Veh & Sons, Greg & Mary Kuns, John Hahn, Hair Artistry, Perfect Ten, Studio One/Mary Beaston, The Cutting Crew, DaVinci's, Lori Price, Martha Darr.



Hat Box Auction Items



Program Calendar 2011

March

March 30: Spiritual Book Discussion for Lent - 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - Cost (free will offering) ~ We will discuss and reflect on the book: *God Never Blinks: 50 Lessons for Life's Little Detours*.

April

April 6: Reflection with a Cup of Tea - 9:00 am to 10:30 am Cost: \$7.00 This month's presentation will be: *The St. John's Bible and You*. Presenter: Rev. Ted Miller, a priest of the Toledo Diocese, is presently pastor of Gibsonburg and Millersville, OH.

April 10: Outdoor Stations of the Cross - 2:00 pm Cost (free will offering) ~ As part of your Lenten practice, come to the Pines to pray the Stations, walking our outside Way of the Cross. Refreshments will follow.

April 13: Just for Women: Courageous Women Lunch and Lecture: Catherine McAuley, Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy - Noon to 2:00 pm - Cost: \$15.00 ~ Enjoy a delightful lunch while hearing how a simple Irish woman overcame many obstacles to achieve her dreams of helping others. Presenter: Sr. Breta Gorman, RSM, is spiritual director and retreat director.

April 18: Evening Prayer: Taizé for Lent 7:00 pm Cost (free will offering) ~ This prayer form of light, scripture, music and quiet will be held in the Conference Center. We will have live musicians and fellowship. Refreshments will follow.

May

May 7: Mother/Daughter Retreat: Making Spaces for the Things that Make us Whole - 9:30 am to Noon—Cost \$20.00 Mothers, daughters, granddaughters, and friends will spend this morning creating house designs that reflect those things that keep them whole and happy. No art experience is necessary. Cost: \$20 (includes refreshments and art materials) Presenter: Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM

May 12: Just for Men: Barbecue Spirituality: Does God Have a Name? 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Cost: \$15.00 Pre-senter: Fr. Ray Ensmann, a retired priest in the Toledo Diocese is both a pastor and an educator. This men's evening of prayer includes spiritual reflection, outdoor barbecue and fellowship.

May 18: Refresh Your Spirit Day (formerly Desert Day): The Dwelling Place of God—9:00 am to 3:00 pm.—Cost \$25.00 This day will offer time for input, prayer, reflection and quiet. Lunch and morning refreshments are included. Presenter: Sr. Pat Meyer, OSF

May 23: Prayer Evening: Praying the Images of Christ 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm—Cost (free will offering) ~ The evening will include Scripture, song, and reflection. Facilitator: Fran Benlein is a liturgist, musician, spiritual director, and presenter in the Toledo Diocese.

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: Sr. 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 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.

July

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



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

Tree of Hope 2010

Sisters of Mercy,
South Central Region
Advantage Ford
Joanne Berry
Deborah Brower
Sr. Dorothy Dalton, RSM
Robert & Jane Daniel
Lucy Eckstein
Jim & Jane Ewald
Ken & Pat Gabel
Jeff & Judy Good
Sue Hamilton
John & Brenda Havens
Mike & Delores Herbert
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Margaret & Peggy Moss
Sr. Rose Olivieri, RSM
Fred Recktenwald
Elaine Denman
Joette Rozanski
Jim & Diane Seiler
Simplex Grinnell Fire/Security
St. Bernadine Home
Philip Steidle
Howie & Ruth Ann Stultz
Jim & Jeanne Walter
Paul & Joan Wasserman
Pat & Barry Wilhite
Sr. Noreen Gray, RSM
Pat Aselytne, IHM
Jamie & Denise Biddle
Sr. Patricia Carter, RSM
Raymond D'Angelo
Sr. M. Macrina Dorian, RSM
Jim Eisenman
Norman & Jean Foes
Rich & Linda Geyman
Ed & Mary Lou Guyer
Suzanne Hauser
Jeanne Heintschel
Mrs. Theresa M. Hoffman
Sue Idczak
Beebe Kindred

Pines Partners

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Tom & Cindy McLaughlin
Constance L. Bradford
Elizabeth Shefler
Ann Cavera
Bishop John Manz
Kathleen Seward
Richard & Conceta Hoffman
Glen A. Ginesi
Sr. Margaret Wasserman, RSM
St. Bernadine Home
Sr. Gloria Auer, RSM
Sr. Lee McCrady, RSM
Father Joseph Benafed
Susan Pratt Trust
Alan & Mary Sheibley
St. Joseph Maumee
St. Joseph Fremont
Larry Hulisz
Cathy Herron
Ann Smith
Ron and Patricia Neill
Honor 2010
Jubilarians
Sr. Fran Repka, RSM
Sr. Rita Wasserman, RSM

Volunteers

Jeff Rosengarten
Jim and Janet Morley
Laurie Brown
Barb Ronski
Marcia Reardon
Beebe Kindred



Additional Evergreen Elegance Donors

Jim Walters
Jeanne Heintschel
Msgr. William Kubacki
Kathy Otermat
Sr. Cheryl Erb, RSM
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Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM
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Leonard Reino

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Moyer
Joe Wasserman
Sr. Noel Frey, RSM
Sr. Rose Olivieri, RSM
Catholic Charities
Mike & Cheryl Schroeder
Tom & Joanne Hoffer
Father Tom Extejt
Linda Keys

OTHER DONATIONS

Hal and Diane Hawk
Joseph Wasserman
Jim Slough

Looking Ahead

September 16, 2011: "Sisters History in American History" Lecture, 7 pm - Presented by Margaret Susan Thompson, Ph.D.

September 17, 2011: "Concentric Circles of Sisterhood" Saturday Workshop, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Presented by Margaret Susan Thompson, Ph.D.

October 28, 2011: Fall Women's Retreat: "Seeking the Holy in Every Nook and Cranny"
Retreat from Friday 7:00 pm to Saturday 3:00 pm
Presented by Sr. Melannie Svoboda, SND

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