



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

Volume IIII Fall 2011

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PINES
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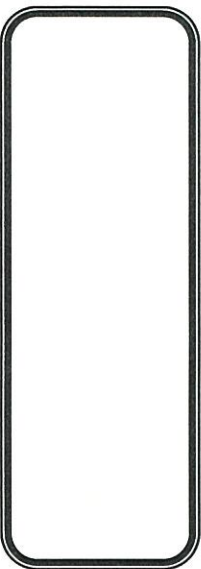
Newsletter, Fall, 2011

Volume IIII

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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Sr. Christine Pratt, OSU
Executive Director

Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM
Retreat Coordinator

Brenda Havens,
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Dear Friends,

The summer is quickly coming to an end. We have been blessed these months with the presence of many groups and guests who have encountered God through private and directed retreats, conference retreats and day and evening programs. From the facility and program evaluations received we are reminded continually of the gift of peace they find here. Our staff, with your generous support, continues to provide all they can to assure that the Mercy Charism of hospitality is experienced by all who enter.

With the waning of summer and the coming of fall we are reminded too that change is inevitable in our lives and with change comes both sadness at a loss and joy at newness for those involved. One major change occurring at The Pines in the last weeks has been the resignation of long-term employee Denise Biddle. Denise began years ago as receptionist and became a valuable leader of operations through the renovation. In the last year she became Director of Finance and Operations. Her skills, gifts, commitment and life lived as a Mercy Associate were continually reflected in all her duties throughout her time with us. She has moved on to a ministry which she shared will allow her more time with her family. Denise has taken a new position of leadership at St. Mary Parish, Vermillion Ohio. She is missed at The Pines, but what a gift she will be to the parish ministry. We say good bye to her with prayers of gratitude for all she and her family have brought to the ministry of The Pines.

Denise's departure reminds us that changes, losses and opportunities come in many forms. The staff, along with the Sisters of Mercy who reside next door, and our guests have experienced all that life has to offer. Illnesses and deaths of loved ones, family members deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and other war-torn areas, tears for the spiritual and physical well being of family and friends are among the needs that have all been brought into our prayer. Births and graduations, weddings and family reunions are celebrated.

Although early, we are reminding our friends in this newsletter that The Pines memorializes all those moments that our friends and benefactors ask us to honor and pray with through our December Tree of Hope prayer service. This event and donations for the remembrances are both an opportunity for you to include your living and deceased loved ones in our prayer that evening and throughout the year and also to support the ministry of The Pines. Please consider entering your loved ones in our Tree of Hope prayer and ritual on December 13, 2011. See article on page 5 and check the website for details.

Be assured of our prayers for you, especially in our weekly staff prayer together.

Sr. Christine Pratt, OSU
Executive Director

"We belong to God - all in us is His."

Catherine McAuley



Around The Center. . . .

The Purrfect Quilters Ministry returned to The Pines in June. We have enjoyed two unique quilters groups in the retreat center this Summer.



The Current Deacon Class from the Toledo Diocese enjoyed a day retreat with their spouses here at The Pines. After a day of training, they enjoyed a evening barbeque on our beautiful grounds.



After the Prayer Service for our area Farmers, everyone enjoyed refreshment and fellowship. At the end of June we hosted a weekend Art Retreat. Participants worked on Mandalas, that were both drawn and woven.



Wish List

- Heavy Duty Steam Iron
- 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 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.

TIME, LAUGHTER, AND PRESENCE

Both Italy and Ireland claim the birth and gifts of St. Patrick....Many years ago as a young sister, I was often called to portray Catherine for a Chapter or an Assembly. It was indeed a humbling experience for an earthy Italian to become a delicate, gracious, Irish Catherine McAuley!

I called on my friend Pat Schnapp to help me create some parodies for these moments. We soon became know as "Rodgers and Hammerstein."

One of the community's favorite songs was "Those Were the Days my Friends"....It seemed to fit many occasions even now!

Catherine loved music, singing and dancing. Catherine had a deep sense of time and God's action and timing in each moment of life.

Her words, which rested in my heart then and still do, are "Each day is a step we make towards eternity." She also had strong feelings about our countenance. In her attitude about time, she challenged the Sisters to "try to view passing events as you will in a year hence."

Her invitation to the Sisters was a call to keep a balanced sense of mindfulness to what really matters in time and in our lives.

Time, cheerfulness and love to Catherine were treasured gifts from God. This attitude influenced the motto I wanted on my ring, "*Servite Domino Cum Laetitia*", Serve the Lord with Gladness."

She often said, "You must be cheerful and happy animating all around you." Adding this to her intimate sense of God's abiding presence was the way Catherine chose to live the moments of her amazing life.

In our time and in our history, Catherine's fresh, powerful words and attitude continue to challenge and gift us.

Servite Comino Cum Laetitia

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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 see 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



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.

MERCY ALIVE IN JAMAICA

On May 1, 1880, one inspired woman, Jessie Ripoll, made a home for a little orphan girl at a cottage, the sole building on forty three acres of land she had purchased from her own savings and from donations made by interested friends. She called the property "Alpha" since it was the first building on that road that lay outside the city limits, and also because the project she had undertaken, namely, the care of the orphan, was the beginning, the Alpha of a ministry that would have far reaching implications. Jessie Ripoll is known to all Sisters of Mercy in Jamaica and to their charges as Mother Mary Peter Claver, RSM, the renowned foundress of Alpha who was rewarded for her inspiring and generous example.

At the invitation of Jamaica's first Bishop, Rev. Charles Gordon, S.J., a small group of Sisters of Mercy came from Bernondestey, London, England, to continue the good work. Jessie had started by helping and teaching poor boys and girls whose numbers had rapidly increased. The Sisters who came were the spiritual daughters of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, who, by a fortuitous coincidence, arrived in Jamaica on the 12th December, 1890, the anniversary of Catherine's founding the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy, 12th December, 1831. Jessie and her two companions entered the Mercy community in February, 1891 and persevered as vowed members until their death. There are other similarities between Catherine's and Jessie's early beginnings. They both started as committed lay-women whose passion was to reach out to the needy of their time. The work of the Sisters of Mercy in Jamaica was not confined to the care of orphans. Within four years of foundation, they branched out into fields of Secondary and Elementary Education and in 1914 had founded a Business College that was, for most of its existence, the leading institution of its kind in the Caribbean, but which, unfortunately, had to be closed in the early years of the 21st Century. Today, in addition to Secondary,

Primary and Infant schools, the Sisters conduct two Children's Homes for Boys, one at Alpha and the other, St. John Bosco, in the hill country of Mandeville in the centre of the island. Sisters are also involved in Pastoral adult education and Lay Training at the college level and in community outreach through Trade Training Centers in Kingston and in Mandeville.

The majority of Sisters today are from Jamaica, but the group remains a cosmopolitan one with members from the United States, Ireland, Belize, Canada, and Kenya. The English and Maltese Sisters whose presence in the community lasted for more than 100 years, and whose contribution was of the highest caliber, have gone to their reward, but their memory lives on in the hearts and minds of those who now carry on the work they began. Because the Sisters of Mercy take a vow of service, they have always reached out to the Poor, the Sick and the Uneducated. Almost from the time the Sisters arrived in Jamaica, they have visited the sick in their homes and in the hospitals. Prison ministry also has been a very important area of their outreach.

The decrease in religious vocations has been felt very keenly in Jamaica as in so many other areas of the world and this has resulted in the Sisters' withdrawing from apostolates where they were formerly very active and effective. More than 131 years have passed since Jessie first started the work at Alpha, and more than 121 years have elapsed since the Sisters of Mercy came to Jamaica. Although the numbers of Sisters remain considerably reduced, the charism of Mercy is very much alive.

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About the Author: Sister Mary Bernadette Little is a retired educator who spent most of her teaching and administrative career at the High School operated by the Sisters of Mercy in Kingston, Jamaica. She is currently engaged in retreat work and spiritual direction and in writing the story of the Sisters of Mercy in Jamaica for publication.

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 . . .

"New Faces Coming To The Pines"

We are delighted to be hosting two guest speakers in the Fall: Sr. Melannie Svoboda, SND, and Regina Brett. The programs vary from two hour presentations, to a day workshop to an overnight retreat.

Sr. Melannie Svoboda, SND will be our speaker for the Fall Women's Retreat. Sr. Melannie is the author of ten books and numerous articles on practical spirituality. She is humorous and down-to-earth in her presentations. Sr. Melannie is a Sister of Notre Dame from the Cleveland Diocese. This retreat will begin on Friday, October 28, 2011 and end Saturday, October 29, 2011 at 3:00 pm.



Finally, we are pleased to host Regina Brett in November. Regina was named a Pulitzer Prize finalist twice, in 2009 and 2008 for columns she wrote for the Plain Dealer, Ohio's largest newspaper. Regina will speak on her book *God Never Blinks, 50 Lessons for Life's Little Detours*. This book is an inspirational collection of essays and stories about the lessons life taught her along the detours of life. Regina will be coming on November 15 from noon to 2:00 pm. This will be a lunch and lecture and will be followed by a book signing. If you would like to order a book, let us know when you register.



We hope that you will be able to participate in one or more of these programs. Check our website for more details on pricing for these events at www.pinesretreat.org or call Brenda at 419-332-6522 to register.

SUMMER RETREATS FOR 2012

Private Retreat Days: June 11-15 or July 21-27, 2012

Directed Retreat: July 21-27, 2012

Conference Retreat: June 22-27, 2012 "Hope in the Midst of Global Concerns" with Sr. Carol Zinn, SSJ

Living in Hope in the Midst of Global Concerns: We live in times marked by a hunger for God everywhere we look! We see faces of hunger, poverty, illiteracy; we hear voices of oppression, injustice, discrimination; we feel mixed emotions over war, race, immigration; we sense sorrow individuals, families, nations; and we touch pain in children, women and our elders. Yet it is these very realities that God's breath of life is felt and the Spirit's presence is made known. If you wonder where Hope can be found and how you can be a witness of Hope to others, then come and join us as we reflect, pray, discuss the power of Hope and the Gospel challenge to live in Hope especially in the midst of concerns that are personal, communal, national and global at one and the same time. Bring the readings of the day and a Hope-filled heart!



Dr. Carol Zinn, a Sister of St. Joseph from Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA has ministered in the formal and non-formal education profession. Dr. Zinn worked in grassroots-based international movements as consultant and facilitator. In particular, she worked on the United Religious Initiative and the Earth Charter. She works with multi-sector and multi-issue groups in helping people deepen an understanding of global realities, local efforts, and their connections. Dr. Zinn also worked as the Education Program Director of Global Education Associates, a non-governmental organization working to further global systemic change.

From a Summer Retreatant:
"Keep this retreat center opened, THIS IS HOLY GROUND"



Program Calendar 2011

September

September 7: Courageous Women: Lunch and Lecture-Walking in the Footprints of Jesus—Clare of Assisi—12:00pm to 2:00pm. Cost: \$15.00 You are invited to meet Clare and to be refreshed by her radiance and goodness. **Presenter:** Sr. Pat Meyer, OSF

September 13: Reflection with a Cup of Tea: Skills to Make Good Decisions on Life Questions. —9:00am to 10:30am. Cost \$7.00— **Presenter:** Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM

September 17 to September 23: Directed Retreat—5:30pm with Supper to 10:00am Friday. Cost \$410 (Registration required with \$25 deposit). **Directors:** Sr. Janice Bachman, OP, Sr. Judy Cole, SCJ, Sr. Patricia Meyer, OSF, and Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM (See our website for bios.)

September 26: Prayer Evening: The Mustard Seed and Faith—7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering. Facilitator: Sr. Pat Meyer, OSF

October

October 5: Refresh Your Spirit Day: St. Therese of Lisieux and St. Teresa of Avila—9:00am to 3:00pm. Cost \$25.00 (Registration required). This event offers time for input, prayer, reflection and quiet. Lunch and morning refreshments are included. **Presenter:** Fran Benlein

October 6: Just for Men: Barbecue Spirituality: If Life Gives You Lemons, Make Lemonade and Add a Little Gin—6:00pm-8:00pm. Cost: \$15.00 (Registration required). We will look at how to deal with difficult life lessons and turn them around into positive experiences. This men's evening of prayer includes spiritual reflection, outdoor barbecue and fellowship. **Presenter:** Fr. Tom Wehinger

October 12: Spiritual Book Discussion: The Gift of Peace—7:00 pm to 8:30pm. Cost: Free will offering (Registration required). This is a beautiful reflection by Cardinal Bernardin on how we can find inner peace even in the center of life's difficulties. **Facilitator:** Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM

October 24: Prayer Evening: Praying for the Deployed and their Families—7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering. All are welcome to this evening of prayer and fellowship. Refreshments will follow

October 28 to October 29: Fall Women's Retreat: "Seeking the Holy in Every Nook and Cranny" - 7:00pm to Saturday, 3:00pm. Cost: \$100 (includes meals and overnight accommodations); Commuter Rate: \$55— Deposit: \$25 (required for both rates). Detailed information located on Page 3. **Presenter:** Sr. Melannie Svoboda, SND

November

November 8: Reflection with a Cup of Tea: Eucharistic Prayers and the Mass— 9:00am to 10:30am. Cost \$7.00 **Presenter:** Fran Benlein

November 15: Lunch and Lecture: Lessons for Life's Detours Big and Small— Noon to 2:00pm. Cost: \$20 (includes lunch and lecture—Registration is required).—Detailed information located on Page 3. Presenter: Regina Brett

November 28: Prayer Evening: Prayer for Family and Friends—Cost: Free will offering. Refreshments will follow.

December

December 6: Reflection with a Cup of Tea: The Gift of Waiting 9:00am to 10:30am. Cost: \$7 (Registration required). **Presenter:** Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM

December 9 to December 10: Advent Overnight Weekend: Praying with Scripture—7:00pm to Saturday 3:00pm. Cost \$85; Commuter Rate \$40.00 (Registration required with \$25 Deposit). This weekend offers background on how to pray with Scripture and make it a regular practice in your daily meditation. There will be time for group instruction, group sharing and individual prayer. **Presenter:** Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM

December 12: Evening Prayer: Advent Taize- 7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering.

December 17: Refresh Your Spirit Day—The Secret Garden of our Memories—9:00am to 3:00 pm. Cost \$25.00. **Presenter:** Sr. Pat Meyer, OSF

See our website for more details on each of the above programs. For financial assistance, contact us for scholarship 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

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Jerry Kuras
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Dr. Candilee Butler
Dorothy Bettiker/Just Quilt It
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Our Lady Of The Pines Retreat Center
Invites You to our Annual

A TREE OF HOPE

Lighting Ceremony and Prayer Service

December 13, 2011 - 7:00pm

Everyone is invited to *A Tree of Hope* lighting ceremony and prayer service on December 13, 2011 at 7:00pm. Donations will be accepted from those who would like to remember a loved one, express gratitude to another, or make a particular petition.

During the service, the names of those being remembered or recognized will be read and a light on the tree will be illuminated for each. The Children's Choir from Bishop Hoffman Schools will perform; homemade cookies and coffee, tea, and cocoa will be served.

Those being remembered will also be included in the weekly prayers of the staff and will be included in the *Book of Remembrance*. Donors will be listed on a sign in the retreat center, on the website, and in our quarterly newsletter.

For more information or to reserve a tree light for your special remembrance contact Brenda at 419-332-6522, visit us at www.pinesretreat.org or simply pick up a form at The Pines.