



OUR LADY OF THE  
**PINES**  
RETREAT + CENTER

1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, OH 43420

Volume IX Winter 2012

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OUR LADY OF THE  
**PINES**  
RETREAT + CENTER

Newsletter, Winter 2012

Volume IX

1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, Ohio 43420

419-332-6522

www.pinesretreat.org

**THIRD ANNUAL  
EVERGREEN ELEGANCE**

...An Evening to Benefit the Pines

Friday, January 25, 2013

And

Saturday, January 26, 2013

6:00 p.m.



**CALL TO BE PLACED ON OUR GUEST LIST**

**Mark Your  
Calendar**

**TOAST THE TREES  
DINNER 2013**

...For Better or Worse: How to Keep a  
Relationship Going.

Monday, February 11, 2013

6:00—8:30 p.m.



Presenter: Fr. Michael Zacharias, Pastor of  
St. Ann and St. Joseph Parishes in Fremont.

**Retreat Center  
Administrative Staff**

Sr. Christine Pratt, OSU  
Executive Director

Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM  
Retreat Coordinator

Judy Zavala  
Finance & HR Specialist

Brenda Havens  
Administrative Assistant

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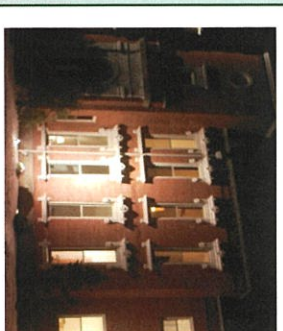
Dear Friends,

As we transition from Thanksgiving into Advent and the Season of Christmas, we are mindful of all of you who have supported us over the past year. You have been present to us through your prayer, financial gifts and volunteer service. We, the Board of Trustees and the staff, are grateful to you for another year which has experienced a continual growth in both knowledge of and use of The Pines programs and facilities. Through you we have received blessing upon blessing as we continue the ministry of Mercy hospitality to all who come here in search of a closer relationship with God and peace in their work and personal relationships.

Please be assured that you will continue to be in our prayers, especially our weekly staff prayer during which we particularly mention all those whose support is so needed for the growth of our ministry. May you know God's many blessings on you and your families and friends as you celebrate Christmas and the coming of the One who brought the promises of love, joy and peace.

Let us together believe, pray and live out the words of the Christmas Day Mass entrance antiphon:

**"Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for the Lord our Savior has been born in the world.  
Today, true peace has come down to us from heaven."**



Once the Christmas season is over, The Pines will be preparing for its Third Annual major fundraising event, Evergreen Elegance. Keith Mosser, of Thyme to Cater, returns as our chef offering a wonderful menu for the four course meal. Please check page 3 for both a copy of the invitation and the menu. As in the past we will be providing the best time to enjoy a superb meal, great conversation with family and friends and an opportunity to bid on items during the silent and hatbox auctions. This year there will be an early viewing of the items beginning at 6:00 PM each night. We look forward to seeing you here.

Our prayer during this season is that all may know peace in our hearts, families and indeed the world.

St. Christine Pratt, Executive Director and the Staff of Our Lady of the Pines

**"May God look on us with love...then we shall be able to do anything God wishes us to do, no matter how difficult to accomplish."  
Quote from Venerable Catherine McAuley**

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



### Around The Center . . .



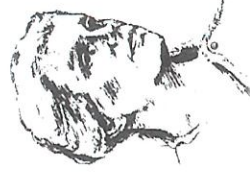
This Fall, Margaret Susan Thompson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, History and Political Science at Maxwell School of Syracuse University, spoke on the History of Sisters in the United States and how their history is a part of American History.



Prior to the Inauguration of Dr. Jerome Webster as President of Terra State Community College, his family and friends enjoyed a Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast held at the Pines Retreat Center. (Picture Provided by Terra State College)



### Catherine's Corner...



"Catherine's Corner" offers a space to reflect on quotes from Venerable Catherine McAuley, founder 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.

Deepening one's relationship with God is an important part of Mercy Spirituality. Venerable Catherine McAuley tells us that "We have one solid comfort amidst this little tripping about: our hearts can always be in the same place, centered in God, for whom alone we go forward or stay back." She also advises us to "put your whole confidence in God. He never will let you want necessities for yourself or children." She was strong in her belief in prayer when she wrote: "Prayer is a plant the seed of which is sown in the heart of every Christian, but its growth entirely depends on the care we take to nourish it."

One way to deepen our relationship with God is through ongoing spiritual direction. Spiritual direction assists us in looking at our relationship with God and how that relationship affects the whole of our lives. Just as any relationship needs to be nurtured to keep it whole and alive, so we need to tend our relationship with God. The primary focus of spiritual direction is on our relationship with God in prayer and in the ordinary events of daily life. God who loves each of us is concerned about our hopes and dreams, our sorrows and failures, tragedies, family concerns, discernment for an important decisions and all of our fears and celebrations. Noticing how we grow in compassion, how we are not alone in life's struggles, and how life events can help us grow in integrity, perseverance, and wisdom are positive outcomes of this process.

The Spiritual Director's role is a listener and accompanies the directee by helping the individual be attentive to the movement of the Spirit and conscious of one's own response to God. Counseling, problem solving, and therapy are not the focus of spiritual direction.

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.

On the part of the individual seeking spiritual direction, she/he needs to make a commitment to daily prayer, reflection on events on one's daily life, as well as a willingness to enter into open dialogue with the director. Spiritual direction sessions are scheduled monthly and last about one hour. The time frame is negotiable. Confidentiality on both the part of director and directee is a given in the process. The spiritual directors on our campus have had professional training in centers that specialize in spiritual direction. We have three certified spiritual directors that are either on our staff or contracted to come to Our Lady of the Pines. You can read their bios on our website. At the Pines we suggest a \$40 donation for spiritual direction. If you would need assistance with this, please let us know.

To deepen our relationship with God is to grow in inner freedom. In the words of Catherine: "May God bless and animate you with His own divine spirit; that you may prove it is Jesus Christ you love and serve with your whole heart."

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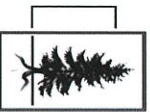
About the author: Sister Margaret Marszal, HM, is a Sister of the Humility of Mary, and is the Retreat Coordinator at Our Lady of the Pines. She has a BSE in Education from St. John's College of Cleveland, an MA in Art Education from Miami University of Ohio, and an MA in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska.

**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](http://www.pinesretreat.org)



In August these six wonderful ladies called "The Anointed Vessels of Faith" visited the retreat center for a time of rest, renewal and reflection. They are from the Detroit Area.

<p><b>Wish List</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSF approved Food Processor</li> <li>Dyson Sweeper</li> <li>Vellux blankets—twin size</li> <li>Monetary donations for art room supplies</li> <li>Canvas covered boards for wedding clay</li> <li>Portable White Board</li> <li>Vinyl White Round Table Clothes</li> <li>Glass Water Pitchers</li> <li>100 or 30 Cup Coffee Makers</li> <li>Large Ice Buckets</li> <li>Glass Water Carafes</li> </ul> <p><i>"It is an established opinion that the way to virtue, and to piety is shorter by example than by preaching."</i> Quote from Venerable Catherine McAuley</p>
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Mercy Alive...

**We wanted to share with you a number of quotes from our recent participants who have found Our Lady of the Pines a place of rest, renewal and growth in God.**

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**Your meals are excellent, with plenty to eat and plenty of choices.** Retreatant from Cursillo

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**I LOVED my bedroom, the privacy and closeness with God is what I felt in my room!** Retreatant from St. Paul's Outreach College Ministry.

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**Your staff is very sweet....I loved my stay here!** Retreatant from Rosaria's Faith Group

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**From the beginning, I could feel the kindness of the entire staff. They were all extremely inviting!**

Retreatant from House of Praise

**My entire stay was wonderful. You all deserve an A+ perfect.** Retreatant from House of Praise



Thirty college-aged young women from St. Paul's Outreach College Ministry from Ohio State University spent a weekend at The Pines.

Ann Cavera facilitated our "Grandmothers In Faith Together" Workshop. The ladies really enjoyed their day!



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**It is a wonderful, peace-filled place here.**

**I especially love your pine trees!**

Retreatant from Loyola Institute for Ministry

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**You seem to have thought of everything here!**

Retreatant from Limex Training

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**The hermitage is a perfect place of renewal.**

Retreatant from Carlow Hermitage

### 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. . . .

Please Join Us For  
*Evergreen Elegance*  
2013

- an evening to benefit  
Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center

Friday January 25  
and

Saturday January 26  
6:30 P.M.

Early auction viewing 6:00 P.M.

We welcome you for a festive evening of fine food and fellowship.

In order to better accommodate our guests, we are offering a choice of a

Friday or Saturday evening seating.

Tables accommodate eight people

located throughout the Center's main floor.

\$85.00 Per Person Ticket

Cash Bar / Wine and Beer

Liquor License Compliant

Each evening will offer an opportunity to take home auction items.

Valet parking available

*Evergreen Elegance*

Our Lady Of The Pines  
January 25 & 26, 2013

Thyme To Cater

Chef Keith Mosser Presents:

- Appetizer Trio
- Wild Rice Riesling Soup - a great favorite last year
- Seared scallop on anguilla with pine nut chutney on Asian spoon.
- Brie wedge with grape compote
- Vegan-Tomato crostini

Salad with already applied dressing

Entrée

- Pork loin stuffed with ricotta, baby spinach and sun-dried tomato
- Pesto Crusted pan seared halibut
- Vegan-Risotto stuffed portabella
- Vegetarian-Traditional Italian Manicotti
- Red Skin hazelnut mashed potato
- Baby Vegetables

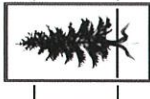
Dessert Trio

- Vanilla Strawberry Salad
- Chocolate Swirl Crème Brulee
- Homemade Eclair

If you have special dietary needs, please Call The Pines @ 419-332-6522

TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR OUR DINNER

Contact Brenda Havens at 419-332-6522 or email [brenda@pinesretreat.org](mailto:brenda@pinesretreat.org)



## Program Calendar 2013

### January

**January 15: Reflection with a Cup of Tea: Holding Change and Transition with Grace and a Sense of Humor-- 9:00am to 10:30am. Cost: \$7 (registration required)** 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. Any change or transition whether good or difficult, places us into some turmoil. We will explore how change can provide new insights on how to deal with life events. **Presenter: Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM**, Retreat Coordinator, Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center

**January 28: Evening Prayer: Joy of Mid Winter Prayer-- 7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering (Refreshments will follow.)** Spend a few quiet moments reflecting on inner beauty. Lift your spirit with a simple and precious evening prayer. Refreshments will follow. **Facilitator: Sr. Breta Gorman, RSM** is a long time educator, retreat director and spiritual director and has served at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center for many years.

### February

**February 4: Centering Prayer--7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering** We are reintroducing Centering Prayer at Our Lady of the Pines. 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. **Facilitator: Fran Benlein** is a liturgist, musician, spiritual director, and presenter in the Diocese of Toledo.

**February 6: Refresh Your Spirit Day: Mercy, Compassion, and Forgiveness--9:00am to 3:00pm. Cost: \$25 (registration required)** In a world of competition, being "1", and getting even, Jesus' message of mercy, compassion, and forgiveness often gets overlooked. We will explore these virtues as ways to not only impact the lives of others but a call to transform ourselves. The day includes a morning snack, lunch, a morning presentation, reflection time, and a closing prayer. **Presenter: Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM**, Retreat Coordinator, Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center

**February 11: Toast the Trees for Couples--6:00pm to 8:30pm. Cost: \$50/couple** This year's presentation offers couples time to dine together and receive some practical input on how to deepen their relationship with each other. **Presenter: Fr. Michael Zacharis**, Pastor of St. Ann and St. Joseph Parishes in Fremont.

**February 25: Evening Prayer: Heart Time --7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering.** Refreshments will follow. Come to this time for a prayer reflection of amazement with both the "physical heart" and the "spiritual heart." How does the Sacred Heart live and rest in your heart? **Facilitator: Sr. Marianne Longo, RSM.**



## 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

Carolyn Spieldenner  
Pat Heck  
James and Jane Ewald  
Norman and Jean Foos  
Ken Gabel  
Rich and Linda Geyman  
Jeff Good  
Mary Lou Guyer  
Sr. Donata Ovelgonne, RSM  
Fr. F. Anthony Gallagher  
Andrew & Margaret Natale  
Fr. Jim Steinle  
Mike and Sue Hartenstein  
Suzanne J. Hauser  
Bob and Sally Heid  
Patricia A. Henry  
Lisa Hoffman  
Harriet Eberly  
John & Leanne Shetzer  
In Memory of Catherine Fournier  
The Oakwood Community  
Dominican Sisters

### In Honor of Mercy Jubilarians

**Sr. Rita Braun, RSM**  
**Sr. Nancy Merkle, RSM**  
**Sr. Patricia Connolly, RSM**  
**Sr. Jean Vogelsang, RSM**  
**Sr. Rita Marie Lipps, RSM**  
**Sr. Mary Ann Brady, RSM**  
**Sr. Kathleen Moross, RSM**  
Margaret Jean Moss  
Sommy & Carolyn Bing-Nieset  
Northern Ohio Mercy Associates  
Sr. Rose Olivieri, RSM  
Scott & Kathy Oermtat  
Our Lady of the Pines Board

### In Memory of Howard & Helen Hoffman--Sam & Mary Ruggiero

Conceita Hoffman  
Helen Shannon  
Doris A. Shurmer  
Sisters of Mercy, Cincinnati  
Louie & Joanne Smith  
Chert Strodes  
Joan Steinle  
Howard Stienwalt  
Sr. Dorothy Thum, RSM  
Jeane Walter  
Paul Wasserman  
Jerome Webster  
Pat & Barry Wilhite

### Volunteers

Barb Roniski  
Marsha Reardon  
Laurie Brown  
Sr. Rose Oliveira, RSM  
Sr. Dorothy Dalton, RSM  
Sr. Pat Carter, RSM  
Marian Miller  
Laurann Kleinthans

### Tree of Hope Donations

Advantage Ford-Lincoln  
Patricia Aselyme, IHM  
Bill & Lavonne Babione  
Eugene & Cecelia Babione  
Debbie Breneman  
Deborah Brower  
Browning-Smith PC  
Sr. Patricia Carter, RSM  
Sr. Dorothy Dalton, RSM  
Robert & Jane Daniel  
Sr. Mary Macrina Dorrian, RSM  
Jim Eisenman

### 2012 Pines Partners Giving Campaign

**\$100-\$400**  
Carolyn Bing-Nieset  
Fr. James Steinle  
Mary and Paul Nungester, Sr.  
**Under \$100**  
Fr. Nicholas Weibel  
Rev. John McDonough

## Looking Ahead

### Summer Retreats for 2013

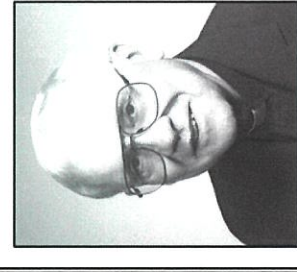
**June 10-June 14, 2013: Private Retreat Days:** Private Retreat Days provide meals and housing for private retreatants. Private Retreat Days are also possible during the Conference Retreat and Directed Retreat if rooms are available. Contact Brenda at 419-332-6522 for pricing. Massage and Spiritual Direction also available upon request.

**June 21-June 23: Summer Art Retreat Weekend: "Card Creations Inspired by Prayer and Journal Writing."** During this weekend, you will have an opportunity to create your own cards based on prayer experiences that you will have throughout the weekend. We will be using collage, stamps, and watercolor. Materials are provided. No art background is necessary. Come to play and pray. **Presenter: Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM. Cost: \$195.00 Overnight/\$105.00 Commuter (\$25 Non-Refundable Deposit Required.)**



**July 7-July 13, 2013: Directed Retreat:** 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 to God's activity in every day events. An environment of silence is an important part of this retreat. **Directors: Peggy Duffy, OSU, Breta Gorman, RSM, Stephanie Helfrich, OSU, Sr. Marianne Longo, RSM, and Pat Meyer, OSF. Cost \$440.00 (\$25 Non-Refundable Deposit Required.)**

**July 21-July 26, 2013: Conference Retreat: "Sustaining the Graces of Vatican II":** We are delighted to have Fr. Howard Gray, SJ offering a preached retreat which will focus on the legacy of Vatican II during this 50th anniversary year. While the presentations will highlight major themes from that Council, e.g. the Church as the people of God and mystery, dialogue with the world, the universal call to holiness, etc., the aim is prayer not discussion. We will continue to seek personal renewal and reverence for the priorities Vatican II offered the world as well as the community of faith. **Presenter: Howard Gray, SJ. Cost: \$465.00 Overnight/\$235 Commuter (\$25 Non-Refundable Deposit Required.)**



**Tree of Hope Donations:** A special thank you to all our partners who have supported the Tree of Hope project. Your generosity helps us maintain and expand our outreach programs. For more information, please contact us at 419-332-6522.

