

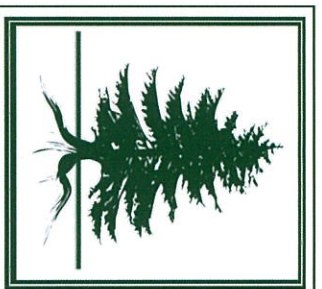


OUR LADY OF THE  
**PINES**  
RETREAT + CENTER

1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, OH 43420

Volume XIV Spring, 2014

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

Newsletter, Spring, 2014

Volume XIV

1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, Ohio 43420

419-332-6522

www.pinesretreat.org

**Mother's Day**  
**May 11, 2014**



**You're Invited to a**

**Mark Your**  
**Calendar**

**Directed Retreat**  
**July 7-13, 2014**

With the assistance of a spiritual director, the retreatants are aided in noticing God's presence in their life.

**Spiritual Directors**  
**Sr. Peggy Duffy, OSU**  
**Sr. Breta Gorman, RSM**  
**St. Stephanie Helfrich, OSU**  
**Sr. Marianne Longo, RSM**  
**Sr. Pat Meyer, OSF**

See the registration form on our website or call our office at 419-332-6522.

Treat Mom to an "already prepared" Chicken Dinner at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center

Noon—4:00pm

Adult Dinner: \$10.00; Children's Meal: 5.00

*Meal Includes: Barbecue Chicken, Cheesy Potatoes, Corn, Applesauce, Roll and Butter, and Cookie.*

*Eat in our Center or Take Outs Available*  
For Tickets, Call 419-332-6522

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

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**Retreat Center**  
**Administrative Staff**

Sr. Mariella Bradley, RSM  
Executive Director

Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM  
Retreat Coordinator

Judy Zavala  
Finance & HR Specialist

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Administrative Assistant

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Dear Friends,  
Although you will receive this newsletter when we are in the depths of Lent, isn't the thought of spring, flowers, sun, and new life, life-giving? It makes me wonder what we would ever do without the Gospel value of HOPE which helps us look "for tomorrow", "the something beyond", "the more", "the what is yet to come", "the positives", that are, undoubtedly, an integral part of our everyday lives and are so often overlooked.

As most of you know, Marty Haugen is a contemporary composer who wrote a song, *Sing Out Earth and Skies*. It's a cantata/All/Refrain piece and the final line of the refrain is: **DANCE TO THE LIFE AROUND YOU!** I love that line! It makes me think that you can't possibly be negative or sad even during Lent. There's no way one could sing or read the last line, **DANCE TO THE LIFE AROUND YOU!**, and not think of moving, or recognizing that life does call us to look at the life that is all around us. It calls us out of ourselves to celebrate, to HOPE, to dance.



The Stations of the Cross, so long a devotional prayer of the Lenten season, has in recent years added Station XV, the Resurrection. HOPE is alive and does prevail. There are so many reasons to be happy, to be positive, to be hope-filled, to enjoy one another, to dance to the life around you. Perhaps, as we continue the Lenten journey, you can add a two step, or a soft shoe as you dance to the life around you, or simply smile as the crocuses appear, the buds burst forth, and a reason to HOPE is evident everywhere.

Sister Mariella Bradley, RSM  
Executive Director



### Around The Center. . . .

Dear Friends,

I'd like to express my deep gratitude to all who supported our 4th Annual Evergreen Elegance Dinner in January, 2014. Despite the weather conditions resulting in the declaration of Levels 2 or 3 for most counties for some part of the day, the gourmet dinner occurred, was thoroughly enjoyed by all our guests, and was a warm and celebratory moment amid the arctic blast of this winter.

A profound THANK YOU is extended to our guests, supporters, volunteers, and pray-ers. Together, you provided not only the elegance for our event but the proceeds of \$17,832.28 for our ministry at Our Lady of the Pines.

I think, though, this winter has convinced us that we need to find a new month to host Evergreen Elegance! Any suggestions? We will keep you posted in a timely fashion.

THANK YOU, EVERYONE!

Sister Mariella Bradley, RSM



The Liberty Center Christmas Party has become an annual event, sponsored and supported by St. Ann Parish of Fremont. Volunteers from Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Parishes assisted in the effort. Santa is a very welcome guest!



The Loose Threads Quilting Group had the distinction of being the first retreat of the year.

**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.*

<p><b>Wish List</b></p> <p>Vellux blankets—twin size King, Full, or Twin Sheet Sets Mildew resistant shower curtain liners Twin size mattresses and boxed springs Twin size mattress covers Iron Thick hand towels and wash cloths.</p>	<p><i>Quote from Venerable Catherine McAuley</i> "We can never say, 'it is enough'."</p>
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### 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.*



**"This is your life, joys and sorrows mingled, one succeeding the other."** Catherine McAuley

The belief that our life is a cycle of "joys and sorrows mingled, one succeeding the other" engendered in Catherine McAuley a serenity of spirit. This serenity is seen in the quiet mind and heart she fostered through acceptance of circumstances she could not affect or change. (*Tender Courage*, p. 115) "Some great things which God designs to accomplish would have been too much without a little bitter in the cup. Bless and love the fatherly hand that has hurt you. (God) will soon come, both hands filled with favors and blessings." In words such as these Catherine expressed her unwavering confidence that suffering was a passing phenomenon—that God would not permit her to remain long in pain. Joys and sorrows wove themselves throughout her days. Her response to this rhythmic experience of God's presence enabled her to find peace in the midst of suffering—and, indeed, in any experience.

Careful consideration of Catherine's response to suffering reveals not only her trust that joys and sorrows succeed one another but that, submission to God's will—generously, courageously and lovingly taking up our cross—enables us to find joy in the sorrow. Thus a playful spirit often creeps in when she is describing some difficult experience. We come to know her, in these descriptions, as one who not only

looked for glimpses of joy in adversity but who actively sought to create it for others.

When Mary Ann Doyle developed an inflammation of the knees from crawling on her knee from cot to cot nursing cholera victims, Catherine lightened the experience for her with a poem which begins,

**Dear Sister Doyle**  
**accept from me**  
**for your poor suffering martyrs,**  
**a laurel wreath to crown each knee**  
**in place of former garters.**

When the foundation to Birr was made in the midst of winter, she encouraged the sisters to "Dance every evening" to warm themselves up before getting into bed between cold, damp sheets. In these, and other ways, she actively looked for ways to alleviate sorrow through fun.

Catherine offers us a marvelous example for how to make our way through the recurring phases of joy and sorrow in our lives—by accepting the sorrow as coming from the hand of God, by actively looking for ways to ease the sorrow of others and by trusting that "God will soon come, both hands filled with favors and blessings."

.....

**About the Author:** Sheila Camey RSM is a member of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. She currently ministers as Special Assistant to the President for Mercy Heritage at Carlow University. In addition, Sheila directs retreats, writes and speaks about Catherine and about our Mercy heritage. For the past six years she has served as Vice Postulator for the Cause of Catherine McAuley in the Americas.



**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.**



## Mercy Alive...

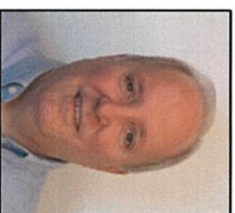
### Creating a Sustainable Planet

#### Part of the Mercy

charism is to promote care and protection of Earth. Many of us do this on a daily basis as we recycle, watch our use of water and electricity, and become more informed on how we can maintain the planet that we have been gifted with.



This spring and summer at Our Lady of the Pines we are offering two programs that will offer some light on this global concern. Both of our presenters have "hands on" experience with planting. On Wednesday, April 30, at 7:00pm Vincent Kirchner will offer an evening session on *Permaculture Basics*.



Permaculture is a way of bringing together in a sensible system: ourselves and our communities, with whatever bit of land/space we are tending. It can be as small as a window with sprouts or as large as a farm or a bioregion.

Permaculture addresses the way we live on this planet in a graceful and healthy way, respecting the plants and animals around us, and leaving the biosphere in a more productive and healthy state than we found it. Our presenter is Vincent Kirchner from Tiffin, OH. Vincent received his Permaculture Designers Certification in 2010, followed by his Permaculture Teaching Certification in 2011. He is also an OSU Master Gardener of Seneca County. The cost for this program is a free will offering. Registration is required.

We will have a Summer Overnight Retreat entitled: *A Time to Plant: Life Lessons in Work, Prayer, and Dirt* on July 18-19. This retreat will help participants learn to care about Creation not just as an urgent moral necessity, but as an exciting spiritual adventure with the Author of nature.

Our presenter is Kyle T. Kramer, the director of graduate lay degree programs and spiritual formation for St. Meinrad, a



Benedictine monastery and school of theology. With his wife Cynidi and their three young children (Eva, Clare, and Elijah), he farms organic fruit and vegetables on 27 acres in south-central Indiana and lives in a solar- and wind-powered home he designed and built himself. He is a former columnist for America magazine, serves as Catholic Climate Ambassador for the USCCB-sponsored Catholic Coalition on Climate Change. He is the author of *A Time to Plant: Life Lessons in Work, Prayer and Dirt*. (Ava Maria Press, 2010). Kyle's writing and speaking mainly concern the intersection of simple living, ecology and Catholic spirituality. This retreat will begin at 5:30pm, with supper on July 18 and will conclude at 3:00pm on Saturday, July 19. Cost: \$130 Overnight; Commuter Rate \$90 (includes Friday supper and Saturday lunch, \$25 non-refundable deposit.)

We hope you can attend one or both events.

To register, contact Brenda at 419-332-6522 or E-mail: [olpcc@pinesretreat.org](mailto:olpcc@pinesretreat.org) or find registration forms at [www.pinesretreat.org](http://www.pinesretreat.org).

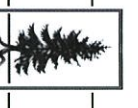
#### Please consider:

- ..... 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 Services.

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

- Dennis and Liz Gottemoeller—Bartelme
- John Bialorucki
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- Brendan Gillen
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- Debra Muntis
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- Neal Tallak
- R. J. Willey

#### **Emerald Sponsors**

**\$1,000**

- Fremont Memorial Hospital
- Keller-Ochs-Kooh-Mason Funeral Home
- Mercy Health Partners
- The Mosser Group

#### **Ruby Sponsors**

**\$500**

- Wonderly-Horvath-Hanes Funeral Home
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- Al & Karen O'Neal

#### **Sapphire Sponsors**

**\$200**

- Dr. Howard & Kay Stierwalt
- Action Printing-Dan Laitly
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- John T. Halm Investments, LLC—Pinnacle Capital Management

## Looking Ahead

### New Speaker Coming to The Pines

**May 19: Lunch and Lecture: "Mother Teresa's Message of Finding Inner Peace and Happiness in Service"; Noon to 2:00pm.** We are delighted to have Dr. Paul Wright, MD, author of

*Mother Teresa's Prescription: Finding Happiness and Peace in Service*, as our presenter for our May



Lunch and Lecture. Dr. Wright ministered with Mother Teresa and was deeply influenced by her life. In this presentation, he will be discussing the answer from a Christian perspective to the eternal question of "Why am I here?"—"What is the purpose of life?" He will also present the spiritual attitudes that Mother Teresa taught her

co-workers to find sustainable inner peace and happiness. This event will begin with lunch, followed by a presentation and a book signing. Dr. Wright's book will be available for purchase. **Presenter: Dr. Paul Wright, M.D.**, worked directly with Mother Teresa the last five years of her life, and has been a co-worker of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity since 1992. He first met Mother Teresa in 1992 and began treating Mother Teresa as her personal physician in 1994. Dr. Wright received the Catholic Bishops' 2003 Voice of Hope Award, which is given to an individual who reveals excellence, creativity and leadership in charity and justice. Dr. Wright is a cardiologist and graduate of the University of Notre Dame. In 2004 he received the Thomas A. Doolley Award from the Notre Dame Alumni Association for exceptional service and care for humanity. **Cost: \$15** (Registration is required.) **To register, contact Brenda at 419-332-6522.**

**July 20-25: 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 in which to become aware of what is deep



within us, namely, the very presence of God. With 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 including associated director and director for the Marriage & Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Chicago, director of his province's graduate theology program, and pastor in a Chicago parish. Since 1990, Fr. Jim has been conducting parish missions and retreats throughout the United States and Canada. **Cost: \$475 overnights/\$245 Commuter (includes lunch and supper) (\$25 non-refundable deposit)** **To register, contact Brenda at 419-332-6522.**



## Program Calendar 2014

### April

**April 2: Refresh Your Spirit Day: God Floods My Being with Gratitude-9:00am to 3:00pm. Cost: \$25** (Registration is required.) Love, nature, friendship opens us to deep gratitude for all the people, events and sacred moments of our life. During this Lenten season, we approach the Easter experience through a deeper awareness of how our senses, our memories and the present moment inspire us to touch into the unique and incredible life given to us in the reality of Christ's Resurrection.

**Presenter: Sr. Pat Meyer, OSF** is a Franciscan Sister of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Louis, Missouri. Most of Sr. Pat's ministry has been in education, retreat, and parish work.

**April 7: Centering Prayer--7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering** 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.

**April 13: Outdoor Stations of the Cross -2:00pm. Cost: Free will offering.** As part of your Lenten practice, come to The Pines to play the Stations, walking our outside Way of the Cross. We will conclude the prayer with conversation and refreshments.

**April 28: Evening Prayer: A Reflection on Spring--7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering.** This evening prayer will reflect on spring and giving birth to new life. **Facilitator: 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.

**April 30: Evening Lecture: Permaculture Basics--7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering** (Registration is required.) During this planting season, be open to a unique way of tending your backyard. **Presenter:** Vincent Kirchner received his Permaculture Designers Certification in 2010, followed by his Permaculture Teaching Certification in 2011. He is also an OSU Master Gardener with Seneca County. (see page 6 for more details.)

### May

**May 3: Breakfast and Bird Watching: Beginning Birding--7:30am to 10:00am. Cost: \$12** (Registration is required.) Come for breakfast followed by some basic bird watching information with a walk to identify the wildlife on our beautiful grounds. **Presenter: Debbie Haubert** has been a naturalist for 18 years, educating people of all ages about the wonders of nature.

**May 5: Centering Prayer--7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering**

**May 8: Just for Men: Barbecue Spirituality: A Look at Pope Francis--6:00pm to 8:00pm. Cost: \$15** (Registration is required.) We will take time to reflect on the example of Pope Francis, a person who has inspired people around the globe. Come for an evening of input, fellowship, and a barbecue dinner. **Presenter: Fr. Jerry Ceranowski** is a retired priest in the Toledo Diocese. He was a former pastor at St. Ann's Church in Fremont.

### May

**May 13: Reflection with a Cup of Tea: Mary Did You Know? --9:00am to 10:30am. Cost: \$7** (Registration is required.) May is the month when we pause to reflect on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Together we will explore her "yes" and her role in the life of her Son. **Presenter: Sr. Wanda Smith, RSM** is a Sister of Mercy of the South Central Community. She has years of experience in directed, guided and preached retreats.

**May 19: Lunch and Lecture: Mother Teresa's Message of Finding Inner Peace and Happiness in Service--Noon to 2:00pm. Cost: \$15** (Registration is required.) We are delighted to have Dr. Paul Wright, MD, author of *Mother Teresa's Prescription: Finding Happiness and Peace in Service*, as our presenter for our May Lunch and Lecture. This event will begin with lunch, followed by a presentation and a book signing. Dr. Wright's book will be available for purchase. **Presenter: Dr. Paul Wright, M.D.** (See page 5 for more details.)

### June

**June 2: Centering Prayer--7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering**

**June 9-13: 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. If rooms are available, private retreats can be scheduled during our one week long retreats and weekend retreats.

**June 16: Evening Prayer: Walking the Labyrinth While Praying Mary's Prayer, the Magnificat--7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering.** We will reflect on a modern translation of this prayer and use it as a resource for our walking meditation. **Facilitator: Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM**

**June 18: Refresh Your Spirit Day: Recognizing Miracles--9:00am to 3:00pm. Cost: \$25** (Registration is required.) Miracles can happen at any moment, we simply need to become awake to them. The day includes input, reflection time, a morning snack and lunch. **Presenter: Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM.**

**June 19-22: Silent Contemplative Retreat Weekend--begins at 4:00pm Thursday and ends on Sunday at 1:00pm.** This program is sponsored by Contemplative Outreach Northeast Ohio at Our Lady of the Pines. To register: Go to [www.coneo.org](http://www.coneo.org).

**June 25: Summer Book Discussion: The First Phone Call from Heaven by Mitch Albom--7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering.** (Registration is required.) This novel tells the story of a town on Lake Michigan that gets worldwide attention when its citizens start receiving phone calls from the afterlife. This book is an allegory about the power of belief. **Facilitator: Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM.**

**June 27-29: Summer Art Retreat Weekend: Mandalas: Woven and Drawn--begins Friday with supper at 5:30pm and ends at 1:00pm on Sunday. Cost: \$205 Overnight (includes housing and all meals)/\$115 Commuter (includes lunch and supper) (\$25 non-refundable deposit).** During this retreat, we will create mandalas out of clothesline and yarn using a Native American Weaving style and drawings using colored pencils on black paper. No art experience is necessary. Materials are included in the fee. **Presenter: Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM**

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## Summer "DRESS-UP" Raffle

**\$1,000.00 Card to Target OR Lowe's**  
(choice of the winner)

**to be awarded on the first day of summer, June 21, 2014.**

Dress up your home, your wardrobe, or the season by participating in the **SUMMER "DRESS-UP" RAFFLE** sponsored by *Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center*.

 <p><b>\$1,000.00 Target OR Lowe's GIFT CARD</b> Sponsored by Our Lady of the Pines</p> <p>Name: _____ (Please print) Phone: _____ 1 ticket: \$5.00 OR 6 tickets : \$25.00</p>	 <p><b>\$1,000.00 Target OR Lowe's GIFT CARD</b> Sponsored by Our Lady of the Pines</p> <p>Name: _____ (Please print) Phone: _____ 1 ticket: \$5.00 OR 6 tickets : \$25.00</p>
 <p><b>\$1,000.00 Target OR Lowe's GIFT CARD</b> Sponsored by Our Lady of the Pines</p> <p>Name: _____ (Please print) Phone: _____ 1 ticket: \$5.00 OR 6 tickets : \$25.00</p>	 <p><b>\$1,000.00 Target OR Lowe's GIFT CARD</b> Sponsored by Our Lady of the Pines</p> <p>Name: _____ (Please print) Phone: _____ 1 ticket: \$5.00 OR 6 tickets : \$25.00</p>
 <p><b>\$1,000.00 Target OR Lowe's GIFT CARD</b> Sponsored by Our Lady of the Pines</p> <p>Name: _____ (Please print) Phone: _____ 1 ticket: \$5.00 OR 6 tickets : \$25.00</p>	 <p><b>\$1,000.00 Target OR Lowe's GIFT CARD</b> Sponsored by Our Lady of the Pines</p> <p>Name: _____ (Please print) Phone: _____ 1 ticket: \$5.00 OR 6 tickets : \$25.00</p>

Please mail your completed tickets along with your check to:

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center 1250 Tiffin Street Fremont, OH 43420

The lucky ticket will be drawn on **June 21, 2014**, winner called by phone, and the "good news" announced in the August Newsletter.

**THANK YOU** for your participation in this raffle and for your support of the Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, Fremont, Ohio.

