



OUR LADY OF THE
PINES
RETREAT CENTER
1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, OH 43420
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Volume XVI | Fall 2014

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Newsletter, Fall 2014
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**EVERGREEN ELEGANCE
DINNER**

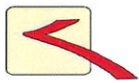
Friday, October 31, 2014
OR
Saturday, November 1, 2014
Invitation—p.2

**Tree of Hope
Prayer Service and Lighting Ceremony
Tuesday, December 9, 2014
7:00 P.M.**
Remember your loved ones! Details p. 5



Show your appreciation for:
Shower curtains-pillow cases-shower mats
Wash cloths, hand and bath towels
Label maker—brooms—art supplies

Especially this month we would appreciate any items or donations (such as gift cards) for our Evergreen Elegance Dinner raffle and auction.



Retreat Center Staff

Sr. Mariella Bradley, RSM
Executive Director
Judy Koebel
Finance / Human Resource
Ruth Ann Stultz
Guest Assistance
Robbyn Eakin
Dietary
Cynthia Belier
Housekeeping
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Dear Friends,
Almost everyone who comes to Our Lady of the Pines is in search of something. Depending upon the scheduled event, our guests may want to make their annual retreat and simply spend time with God, perhaps they want to provide time to assess their spirituality and take the necessary steps to advance, maybe they want to rest in the peace of God's presence here at The Pines, or maybe a transition in their journey of faith is becoming more evident and they are looking for ways to make the transition smooth, seamless, or less traumatic.

No matter what the reason for people visiting the Pines, I thought about all our guests (and my own life) when I read the article "Change Changes Every-thing" by Pam Shankman. According to Erik Olesen, author, there are 12 steps to mastering change:

- 1) View change as a challenge;
- 2) Build your commitment through goals and passion;
- 3) Stay committed when the going gets tough;
- 4) Know when to control, when to let go;
- 5) Deal with setbacks and go forward;
- 6) Be optimistic;
- 7) Use humor;
- 8) Learn from mistakes;
- 9) Maintain perspective;
- 10) Tune the body;
- 11) Build self-confidence;
- 12) Communicate effectively.



To me, the above mentioned steps seem to be common sense and a natural plan to follow. Why is it, then, that the thought of change, the hint of change, the fear of change, or the reality of change causes such imbalance and unrest in life? Besides the obvious answer of losing control, I think we miss the first and most important step. We forget to view change as a challenge, as a step toward growth, as a stepping stone to the next chapter in our lives, or as an invitation to something more.

One of the changes at Our Lady of the Pines this year is that EVERGREEN ELEGANCE, the annual fundraising dinner, will move to OCTOBER 31 and/or NOVEMBER 1, 2014, just 10 weeks away. Please mark your calendars and practice all 12 steps noted above. We've learned from the gala in January these past four years (Steps 4, 5, and 8) in the depths of winter and want to invite everyone to attend this year's celebration in better and inviting weather (Steps 6, 7, 9, 11). Now for STEP 12: Mark your calendars for OCTOBER 31 and NOVEMBER 1 for **EVERGREEN ELEGANCE** or in the spirit of this year's Italian theme, **Sempreverde Eleganza!**

Sister Mariella Bradley, RSM Executive Director



Please join us for

Evergreen Elegance

Sempreverde Eleganza

Come and enjoy a GALA Evening
at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center
on Friday, October 31, 2014

OR

Saturday, November 1, 2014

A choice of Friday or Saturday evening seating is available.
Tables accommodate eight people

\$65.00 Per Person

Early auction viewing 6:00 PM

Take home auction items each evening.

Cash Bar/Wine and Beer
Liquor License Compliant

Evening to benefit Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center

Valet Parking available

An Italian Cuisine to be presented by John and Jill Zimmerman of 'Ole Zims

Hors d'oeuvres to accompany wine: mini antipasti and meatballs.

Italian tossed salad in prepared dressing

Seven layer lasagna with red meat sauce and Italian sausage link, OR

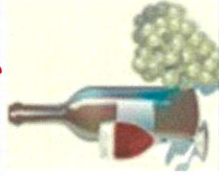
Chicken Marsala in a traditional Marsala wine sauce

French cut green beans Almondine

Garlic bread sticks and warm dinner rolls

Raspberry sherbet topped with fresh raspberries

Italian Cookie



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.



"It comforts me exceedingly to hear you are happy."

-Venerable Catherine McAuley"

As I was reading the introduction to Catherine's Corner I started to wonder how many people (who are not Sisters of Mercy) know who Catherine McAuley is? That question probably leads you to surmise Catherine and the Sisters of Mercy fit together like a hand in a glove. You are so right!

All Sisters of Mercy, worldwide, trace their roots to their foundress, Catherine McAuley, an Irish Catholic lay-woman, who founded the Sisters of Mercy (RSM) in 1831 in Dublin, Ireland. Then, as now, Religious Sisters of Mercy respond to a call to commit themselves to follow Jesus Christ ministering to people who are poor, sick and uneducated. They sponsor ministries to respond to particular needs and to witness to Christ's mission. Within these ministries the Sisters, together with their co-workers endeavor to model mercy and justice and to promote systemic change according to these ideals.

Even though Catherine McAuley never came to America she sent a young member, Sister Frances Warde, to Pittsburgh PA, to establish the Mercy community on Dec. 21, 1843. Because Frances Warde came from Carlow, Ireland one hermitage is called Carlow, that's why we have a Frances Warde Conference Room and McAuley Room in the Retreat Center at the Pines. And our other hermitage Bellbrook? That was the beloved childhood home of Frances Warde in Ireland.

Catherine and her Sisters were women of kindness, confidence, compassion, tolerance, and strength; but most of all, they were forgiving and welcoming. Catherine shared her time and friendship, her appreciation for music and laughter with the Sisters encouraging them to pass those gifts on to those whom they served.

Catherine McAuley's prayers and thoughts, powerfully express the faith and the confidence in God's providence that characterized her life and her work. Catherine always prayed for acceptance of the divine plan as she lived her own life's struggles and knew of so many others who suffer in life. Catherine's main desire was to be the person God wanted her to be. The prayer of Catherine McAuley best known as the Suscipe shares her deep desire to resign herself to God.

Suscipe

My God, I am yours for time and eternity. Teach me to cast myself entirely into the arms of your loving Providence with a lively, unlimited confidence in your compassionate, tender pity. Grant, O most merciful Redeemer that whatever you ordain or permit may be acceptable to me. Take from my heart all painful anxiety; let nothing sadden me but sin, nothing delight me but the hope of coming to the possession of You my God and my all, in your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Walking the Pines property today you can feel the beauty of God's artistic eye. Breathe in the peace and exhale the stress, thus relieving your heart of all painful anxiety. Catherine would be very much at home here at Our Lady of the Pines.

And hospitality, the charism of the Sisters of Mercy? There is a quote that Catherine McAuley, said to one of her sisters on her deathbed: "Be sure you have a comfortable cup of tea for them when I am gone." Since then a tea cup has become the symbol of Mercy hospitality. Do you recall there is a *Reflection with a Cup of Tea* scheduled every month at the Pines? Don't wait any longer! Take time today for a comfortable cup of tea and think of Catherine McAuley foundress of the Sisters of Mercy and how alive she is at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center.



Author: Sister Linda Kaman, RSM

Credits: Sisters of Mercy who have shared the Mercy History, Morning and Evening Prayer of the Sisters of Mercy

Read more about Catherine at:

www.sistersofmercy.org click on "about us" and history

www.mercyworld.org click on Catherine McAuley



Mercy Alive...

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.

Fall is a very celebratory time for the Sisters of Mercy! First we celebrate "Mercy Day", September 24th. This is the feast day of Our Lady of Mercy and therefore all the Mercy ministries worldwide celebrate this day as our own. The schools have special liturgies and often particular ceremonies. The health care institutions have unique gatherings for employees which generally include both prayer and receptions. Social ministries find a way to make the day truly a gift for their constituents and those who serve them. You can hear echoes of "Happy Mercy Day" as we celebrate our heritage and spirit of Mercy. It is a truly wonderful way for us to remember the great inspiration that our foundress, Catherine McAuley, gave to us: sisters, associates, fellow workers in ministries, students, patients, residents, those in need in any way. We celebrate with a joyful spirit as Catherine was fond of saying to our sisters statements like, "Dance every evening" and "No cold, stiff souls among us." Celebrating the spirit of Mercy is the same as celebrating all the wonderful things God in His mercy has done for us and what can we do but celebrate with gratitude!

The next big feasts are Catherine McAuley's birthday on September 29th and her death date – or her birthdate in heaven – November 11th. These two bookends of Catherine's life are additional times of remembering who we are as Mercy. We remember the blessed gift God has given us through Jesus' examples of Mercy. There are so many in the Gospels but a couple of my favorites are the wedding at Cana and the widow at Naim stories.

At Cana, another great celebration, the groom somehow failed to provide enough wine which was a great embarrassment to the family. Mary, the mother of Jesus, saw the stricken look on the young man's face and on his mother's I imagine, and she jumped into action. She said to her son so simply, "they have no wine" but my guess has more to do with the look in her eye which clearly said to Jesus, "Do something!" Then of course, she went one step further, knowing that He understood, and said to the servers, "Do whatever He tells you." Her mercy which she had also taught her son yielded great results.

The story of the widow of Naim was surely one where Jesus' merciful heart was clearly demonstrated. The widow whose loss was so great, not only of her son, but probably of any source of support was truly alone. Jesus saw and without any plea of hers or those in the crowd, stopped those carrying the stretcher and called the young man forth, then gave him back to his mother. It is a story of giving life to one another, a call each of us has daily.

There is yet one more feast of the Sisters of Mercy and that is December 12th, the day the Sisters of Mercy were officially founded. What a joy to all of us who are Sisters of Mercy and what a cause of joy for all of those who live out the spirit of Mercy Catherine gave us! From that point on, our community has spread far and wide, from Australia to Alaska, from South America to Newfoundland, from Ireland to South Africa. God has blessed this multiplication of the people of Mercy, whether vowed religious, or people living out the spirit. We truly all are "Mercy" to the world.

So, "HAPPY MERCY DAY"



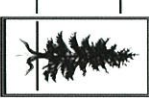
Written by Sr. Nancy Merkle, a Sister of Mercy. Sr. Nancy is a long time educator and administrator, having served as a Math, Chemistry, and German teacher as well as Principal of McAuley High School, Toledo and Mother of Mercy High School in Cincinnati. She serves now as the Community Life Coordinator of St. Bernardine Home, the convent where many of the retired Sisters of Mercy live. St. Bernardine Home is adjacent to Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center.

COME AND SEE

Our Lady of the Pines Gift Shop

Open Monday – Friday 8am-3pm

We have wonderful items celebrating Catherine McAuley!

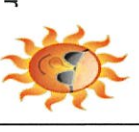


Time, Talent, Treasure...

CONGRATULATIONS to Deacon Alfredo Diaz who celebrated 35 years of ministry in the Diocese of Toledo. Deacon Alfredo is on The Pines Board of Directors and is always a smiling face here at the Pines. He presently serves at Sacred Heart Parish.

Pines Partners

- Bob Bonnici
- James Ellis III
- Brendan Gillen
- Father Frank Kehres
- Sr. Marianne Longo, RSM
- Debra Munitis
- Sr. Donata Ovelgonne, RSM
- Shelia Preston
- Mary Warren
- Sr. Rita Mary Wasserman



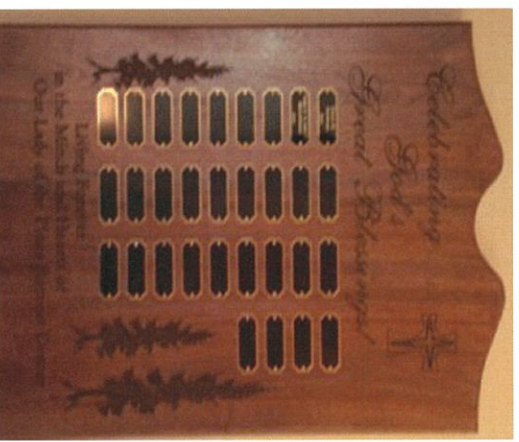
Special thanks to all participants in Our Summer 'Dress Up' Raffle! Congratulations to our winner Sister Joan Laboon, RSM

Anticipate our next raffle-coming soon!

Other Donations Received

- Sister Patricia Hodge, RSM - Iron and Wish List Items
- Jack Lapata—religious materials and heirloom china
- Sister Virginia Harris and Sister Edith Ryan, RSM—table stand
- Dr. Don Ross—Religious reading materials

God's Great Blessings!



We thank our donors for their heartfelt generosity as seen on our new memorial plaque!

Please consider
...Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in your will.
...Cash donations, pledges, stocks, or bequests in support of The Pines Ministry.

Fall Speakers for 2014



Have you ever wondered what dreams were all about? Our Lunch and Lecture on Thursday, November 6 is entitled: "Forgotten Language of God—An Introduction to Dreams". Fr. John Blaser will delve into what dreams tell us, how we can remember our

dreams and why dreams are filled with seemingly useless images. Fr. John is a retired priest of the Toledo Diocese. He has served in various parishes, as Director of Continuing Education for Priests, and Office of Religious Education. He recently completed a two year program for Dream Leader. This program is from noon to 2:00. **Cost:** \$15.00 (lunch/lecture)



Those of you who are grandmothers will enjoy **Grandmothers In Faith Together (G.I.F.T.)** on Saturday, November 8 from 9:30—4:00 PM. This is Ann Cavera's third presentation at The Pines. This year's topic is "Becoming 'Bread' for Our Families". Ann will explore the lives of Ruth in the Bible and 20th century activist, Dorothy Day and how both of these grandmothers provided bread for others. In addition to being a mother and grandmother, Ann has been a Peace Corps volunteer, teacher, college admissions counselor and Religious Education Director. **Cost \$35.** morning snack/lunch

Sister Marianne Longo, RSM will be the presenter for our annual **Advent Overnight Retreat** on Friday, December 12 to Saturday, December 13. This year's program is entitled "Holy Listening". Come for a wonderful opportunity to prepare for the birth of Jesus with a heart of listening. It will offer you time to refresh and deepen your ability to listen in your journey of life. Sr. Marianne is the former Director of Our Lady of the Pines and is now involved in the ministry of spiritual direction. **Cost:** \$110 (housing and meals); \$65.00 Commuter Rate - 3 meals; **Deposit:** \$25.





Program Calendar 2014

October**

**registration is required

October 1: Lunch and Lecture: *Where is God When Life is Rough?*; Noon to 2:00pm

It's easy to believe in God when things are going our way. But where is God when life gets rough? Using scripture, stories, and song, Sister Melannie will attempt to answer this important question. She will also have her books available to purchase and be signed by her. **Presenter: Sr. Melannie Svoboda, SND** is humorous and down-to-earth in her presentations. Sr. Melannie currently writes for publications, gives talks, and facilitates retreats. **Cost: \$20** (includes lunch) **

October 4: Nature Walk: Night Time Fliers 6:00pm -7:30 pm Learn about our nocturnal predators and native bats and owls. Bring the whole family. No binoculars are needed. Free will offering**

October 7: Centering Prayer; 7:00pm to 8:00pm Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer in which we experience God's presence within us. It is meant to add a depth of meaning to all prayer forms. The focus of Centering Prayer is the deepening of our relationship with Jesus. **Cost: Free will offering****

October 8: Refresh Your Spirit Day: *An Autumn Invitation*; 9:00am to 3:00pm Spend quiet time with God and gaze at autumn's beauty as you remember how much you are loved and affirmed by God who hears your prayers.

Presenter: Sr. Breta Gorman, RSM is a long time educator, retreat and spiritual director, and has served at The Pines. **Cost: \$25**

A morning snack & lunch are included in the day.**

October 10-12: Mini-Directed Retreat; begins with supper at 5:30pm and ends at 1:30pm. Sunday.

With the assistance of a spiritual director, the Retreatants are aided in noticing God's presence in their lives. Scripture, nature, and other prayer resources allow Retreatants to listen for God's activity in every day events. **Directors: Debbie Brennehan, Pat Meyer, OSF, Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM and Sr. Wanda Smith, RSM** (See our website flyer for bios.) **Cost: \$215** (Includes meals, housing, and spiritual direction); **Deposit: \$25.00****

October 20: Evening Prayer: *Evensong with Strings, Keys, and Nimble Fingers*; 7:00pm to 8:00pm An evening of prayer and live music. Let music fill your spirit. **Facilitator: Sr. Noel Frey, RSM** is a retired chaplain from St. Rita's hospital in Lima, OH. **Cost: Free will offering****

October 23: Just for Men: Barbecue Spirituality: Some

Around The Center. . . .



Prayerful environment prepared by Sister Marianne Longo, RSM during Directed Retreat, July 7-13, 2014.



A Tree Of Hope

Prayer Service and Lighting Ceremony

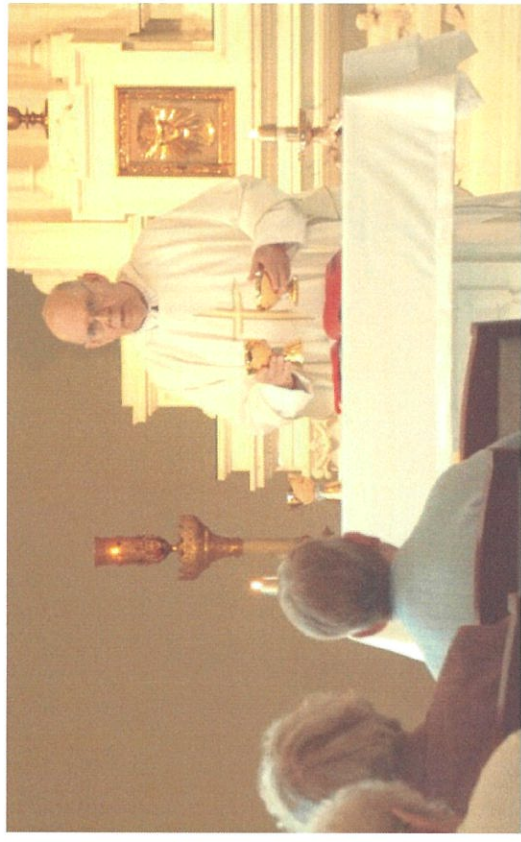
Everyone is invited

to our annual Tree of Hope Lighting Ceremony Prayer Service on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

For a light on the "Tree of Hope" and inclusion in our prayer listing please complete the enclosed envelope or e-mail us at olprc@pinesretreat.org.

During the prayer service the names of those being remembered or recognized will be read, followed by the lighting of the outdoor tree. Return the Tree of Hope Ceremony Envelope with prayer intentions noted by December 5, 2014.

Homemade cookies, coffee and cocoa will be served.



Father James Friedel celebrating liturgy during conference retreat, July 20-25, 2014.



Seminarians attentive to Msgr. Singler during their retreat Aug. 13-16, 2014

