



OUR LADY OF THE
PINES
RETREAT CENTER

1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, OH 43420

Volume XIII Winter 2014

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OUR LADY OF THE
PINES
RETREAT CENTER

Newsletter, Winter 2013

Volume XIII

1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, Ohio 43420

419-332-6522

www.pinesretreat.org

**Mark Your
Calendar**

**A TREE OF HOPE
PRAYER SERVICE**

Lighting Ceremony with light refreshments
to follow!

Tuesday, December 10, 2013



Service Starts at 7:00pm

**FOURTH ANNUAL
EVERGREEN ELEGANCE**

...An Evening to Benefit the Pines

Friday, January 24, 2014

and

Saturday, January 25, 2014

6:00pm



Call Today to RSVP for our Dinner!

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

**Retreat Center
Administrative Staff**

St. Mariella Bradley, RSM
Executive Director

St. Margaret Marszal, HM
Retreat Coordinator

Judy Zavala
Finance & HR Specialist

Brenda Havens
Administrative Assistant

**Retreat Center
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Dear Friends of OLPRC,
If you ever wanted to see the magnificence of God in nature, this is the property to visit! Between the bright colors of the autumn and the beauty of the snowfalls, Our Lady of the Pines' property is simply breathtaking! I say that for all who visit us in the summer months when the pool, the sun, and the opportunity to walk everywhere are so very attractive. Really, God is truly present in this sacred space at every season of the year!

As the space continues to manifest the presence of God each day so do the people who support us in this wonderful ministry by visiting The Pines. The spirit throughout this house for our First Chicken Barbecue was outstanding due to the presence of the Sisters of Mercy, their families, and so very many friends. And, the bluegrass quintet, coordinated by Ms. Donna Steinhauser, added such a nice touch! Plus, the volunteers were tremendous! There is no amount of money that could have paralleled the camaraderie of that last Sunday in September. Thank you to all who worked, came, or enjoyed a delicious dinner! Plan ahead! We're hoping to schedule Barbecue #2 in the latter part of September, 2014.

The months of November, December, and January are not typically busy months at our retreat center, I'm told, but I am happy to say that the Hermitages continue to be used almost daily. In addition, we've had 20 different groups during November taking a respite with the Lord. 13 groups are scheduled for December, and I am hopeful that as we begin 2014, the search for peace will continue to be a priority among God's people who will find their way to us.

Our Lady of the Pines has an assessment survey, which is optional, for each retreatant/visitor to complete following his/her stay with us. One of the most recent forms gave credence to the beauty of the people and this space:

"I was greatly impressed with my feeling of peace at The Pines. May God continue to bless you in your mission to provide a place for people to retreat from the world for a day or two and be refilled with God's goodness so they can go into the world and do His work."
(Quote with permission)

I couldn't agree more! So in both the spirit of Thanksgiving and the Advent of our God let us continue, together, to search for Him. You are invited to come away to The Pines at any season!

**A blessed and successful Advent season!
A happy and holy birthday of the Babe!
A peace-filled 2014!**
Sister Mariella Bradley, R.S.M., Executive Director





Around The Center. . . .



The First Chicken Barbecue at The Pines

Sunday, September 29, 2013 was a busy day at The Pines as we turned the Retreat Center into a dining hall for the first ever, Chicken Barbecue! Even a guided hay wagon ride around The Pines property was available. Thank you, everyone, for the memorable day! We even realized a profit of \$1,955.98.



The Fall "Happiness" Retreat with Anne Kertz-Kernion focused on sustainable happiness and how to incorporate it into our daily lives. Cards by Anne may be purchased in our Gift Shop.



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.



"The Tender Mercy of God has given us one another." Catherine McAuley

As I reflect on my last seven years and the many beautiful people who have touched my life here at Our Lady of the Pines, my memory takes me back to my first visit. It was a warm fall evening as my husband and I rounded the curve on Tiffin Street. Memories of my childhood in the late 1950s flooded my mind as I remembered my family traveling past The Pines Estate and always wondering who resided in such a beautiful place.

My husband and I entered the winding drive. We both declared, "This is holy ground!" The beautiful fall colors evident in the trees and flower beds plus the warm fall breeze took your breath away! As we turned and parked the car we noticed several deer dancing and playing behind the barn. Slowly we walked toward them to get a closer look. They noticed us, stopped their play, and slowly disappeared behind St. Bernardine Home. We continued to walk the grounds taking in all the sounds of nature, the wide variety of wild life, and the song of the warm breeze as it blew through the majestic pines. We absorbed all of God's beauty in a few short hours but the memory will last forever! Another time we met the Sisters of Mercy who had opened their home for Cursillo closing. It was as if I had known them all my life! ("The Tender Mercy of God has given us one another.")

On December 25, 2008 the Mercy of God touched my life once again. My husband, the love of my life, laid lifeless on the floor. EMTs and doctors worked on him while my daughter called to have the Sisters and our Cursillo Family pray. As my son and I made our way to Toledo all I could

say was "Thy will be done." As we entered the heart center at St. Vincent, the Mercy Cross caught my eye and I felt safe. When my husband asked for me, I knew that "The Tender Mercy of God had given US one another!"

Venerable Catherine McAuley must be proud of her Sisters of Mercy and the staffs who work hard to keep these holy grounds and buildings so lovely that touch the lives of our many guests. Never did I realize that one day I would be welcoming guests to these holy grounds. Since I have worked at The Pines I've shared in the experience of remodeling the entire kitchen and dining area while still keeping the Center open, the major renovation resulting in closing down, the pulling together of all staff persons on the grounds, the various construction crews to complete the work at hand, and the many changes that have taken place in order to reopen Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center. As Guest Assistant, the culmination of the renovation came on March 23, 2013 when Bishop Leonard Blair blessed the renovated chapel permitting the Eucharistic liturgy to be, once again, in our house.

Through my ministry, I have come to realize that the tender mercy of God brought me to this holy place to serve His people. He has given us one another! I am convinced, now, that it is "my duty", day in and day out, to remind all those with whom I interface that the tender mercy of God is among us.

About the Author: Ruth Ann Stultz, is a Guest Assistant at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center. She is married, has 5 children, eleven grandchildren and has hosted ten foreign exchange students. Ruth Ann has worked at The Pines since 2007, she knows that the Retreat Center is on holy ground which keeps her ever mindful of the gifts God has bestowed upon her.

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.

Wish List

- Vellux blankets—twin size
- Two 8" skillets
- Mildew resistant shower curtain liners
- Twin size mattresses and boxed springs
- Used but newer Lazy Boy Chairs
- Iron
- Thick hand and bath towels

*"Thousands of thanks and praises to His Holy Name."
Quote from Venerable Catherine McAuley*



Mercy Alive...

Sipping Tea with Catherine

Yesterday was November 11, the anniversary of the death of Catherine McAuley in 1841.

Although it is a day remembered in prayer by Sisters of Mercy across the world, I thought of another idea, another way of celebrating and remembering this occasion.

You see, Catherine's last words, as recorded by a sister who was present at her deathbed, were:

Will you tell the sisters to get a good cup of tea—I think the community room would be a good place—when I am gone, and to comfort one another—but God will comfort them.*

So I went to our retirement center on the campus, borrowed fancy plates, cups and saucers and sent out an invitation to the 5 other sisters with whom I live that after dinner we would have a "good cup of tea" in our community/living room. Of course, that meant also finding some teapots, fixing decaf coffee for those who do not drink any teas, running to the store to get some fancy cookies, and preparing the living room.

But what a wonderful Mercy experience! We gathered, two of us served the others, and we told stories for the next two hours! We laughed, remembered faith-filled women in our Mercy past, some of whom have gone to heaven before us, told our favorite stories about Catherine, and decided we wanted to do it again next year. God sometimes gives us little nudges, suggestions, ideas that just pop into our heads. We may think it is all our own doings. But, like

yesterday morning, the idea I had at 8:30am was not my own. I am sure it came to me from Catherine and the Spirit. Luckily, I was attuned enough to hear them whisper their suggestions into my head. And I am quite sure they enjoyed their time with us sipping tea, and enjoying stories together. We certainly enjoyed their presence with us!

Sister Marilyn Gottemoeller, RSM
St. Louise, MO

*quoted by Mary Vincent Whitty to Cecilia Marnion, quoting Catherine McAuley, November 12, 1841.



About the Author:
Sr. Marilyn Gottemoeller, RSM, spent most of her 59 years of religious life ministering in the Toledo Diocese as a high school teacher, pastoral associate, and pastoral minister. Currently, she is working in St. Louise, MO as Ministry Formation Coordinator for the South Central Mercy Community.

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 © (3) status with the Internal Revenue Services.



Please Join Us for

Evergreen Elegance 2014

Welcome to a festive evening of fine food and fellowship
Friday, January 24

or

Saturday, January 25
6:30 PM

at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center

A choice of Friday or Saturday evening seating is available.
Tables accommodate eight people throughout the Center's main floor.

\$85.00 Per Person
(\$150.00 Couple)
Cash Bar/Wine and Beer
Liquor License Compliant

Early auction viewing 6:00 P.M.
Website viewing 1/21/14: www.pinesretreat.org
Take home auction items each evening.

Valet Parking available

Evening to benefit Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center



Chef Linda Lambert and Chef Tom Lambert present: HORS D'OEUVRES: Chicken Apple and Cheddar Empanadas, Caponata with Toasted Bruchetta, Spanikopita. **SOUP AND SALAD:** Crab and Corn Chowder Soup with Mini Cornbread Muffins, Salad Nicoise. **ENTREE:** 5oz. Filet Mignon and Chicken Breast with Calvados Stuffing and Chicken-Calvados Sauce, Rosemary Roasted Fingerling Potatoes, Green Beans, Freshly Baked Baguette Roll and Rosemary Roll. **DESSERT:** Apple Torta with Cognac Whipped Cream.

TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR OUR DINNER

Contact Brenda Havens at 419-332-6522 or email

Brenda@pinesretreat.org





Program Calendar 2014

January

January 6: 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. The focus of Centering Prayer is the deepening of our relationship with Jesus.

January 14: Reflection with a Cup of Tea: Fallow Time--9:00am to 10:30am. Cost: \$7 (Registration is 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. Just as nature needs fallow time, time to restore itself, so do we. The reflection will focus on ways we can renew ourselves in the winter months. **Presenter: Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM**, Retreat Coordinator, Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center

January 29: Winter Book Study: The Glass Castle -- 9:00am to 10:30am. Cost: Free will offering (Registration is required.) *The Glass Castle* is a memoir of the life of the author Jeannette Walls. She grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. It is a story of how a young woman was able to survive in an unusual family situation. **Facilitator: Sr. Margaret Marszal, HM**

February

February 3: Centering Prayer--7:00pm. Cost: Free will offering

February 5: Refresh Your Spirit Day: The Landscapes of Your Spiritual Journey--9:00am to 3:00pm. Cost: \$25 (Registration is required.) This day will offer you the gift of praying with and deepening your understanding of the geography of your spirituality. It will provide time to reflect on your experiences of "place and space." A morning snack and lunch is included in the retreat.

Presenter: 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.

February 6: Between Santa and the Easter Bunny--Presentation for Parents and Guardians of Young Children--9:30am to 10:30am. Cost: \$5 (Registration is required.)

Recognize the time between Christmas and Easter as graced moments. This hour talk will provide hints on how to enrich the ordinariness of each day and bring balance to family activities. Light refreshments are included. **Presenter: Sr. Margaret J. Marszal, HM**

February 11: Toast the Trees for Couples: Enduring Love, Holy Love: God's Plan for Marriage--6:00pm to 8:30pm. Cost: \$50/couple (Registration is required.) When God calls us into relationship, we are chosen to make each other holy. In this invitation, we are encouraged to find the goodness in each other. How do we keep this relationship going in the difficult moments and the routine moments? The evening event will include appetizers and dinner followed by a presentation. **Presenter: Deacon Alfredo Diaz** is a Deacon for the Diocese of Toledo and is currently ministering at Sacred Heart Parish in Fremont, OH.



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

Pam Boughton
Carol Harper
Fr. James Steinle
Sr. Rita Mary Wasserman, RSM

Joan Kessler
Men's Cursillo Team 149
Marcella Bina
Michael Marcum
Rosaria Sortino and The Sandusky Gals
St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marblehead
Katherine Murphy
Dennis & Kathleen Vanwey
Carolyn Bing-Nieset
Rev. Tony Gallagher
Sr. Donata Ovelgonne, RSM
Sr. Joan Marie Warnement, RSM

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Grund Drug
John & Brenda Havens
Sandusky County Fair Board
Dairy Queen, West
Tiffin Paper & Supply
St. Bernardine Home
Nickles Bakery, Inc.

Other Donations Received

Sisters from St. Bernardine Home--Lazy Boy Chairs
Rita Dorobek--White Towels
Jeanne Walter--Ice Buckets
Gertrude Stefaniko--"Remembering Me..Mother Catherine McAuley" Journals
Sr. Patricia Schnapp, RSM--Recently Published Books

Center Volunteers

Laurie Brown
Sr. Rose Olivieri, RSM
Sr. Dorothy Dalton, RSM

Chicken BBQ Volunteers

Jamie and Denise Biddle
Patti Boca
Phillip Boes
Sr. Joanne Boellner, RSM
Sr. Mariella Bradley, RSM
Sr. Mary Ann Brady, RSM
Laurie Brown
Sr. Dorothy Dalton, RSM
Jerry and Robbyn Eakin

Looking Ahead

Summer Retreats for 2014



July 18-19: Summer Overnight Retreat "Finding God in Our Own Back Yard", begins Friday with supper at 5:30pm and ends at 3:00pm on Saturday. 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. **Presenter: Kyle Kramer** is the director of graduate lay degree programs and spiritual formation for St. Meinrad, a Benedictine monastery and school of theology. He is the author of *A Time to Plant: Life Lessons in Work, Prayer, and Dirt* (Ave Maria Press 2010). **Cost: \$130 Overnight; Commuter Rate \$90 (includes Friday Supper and Saturday lunch) (\$25 non-refundable deposit)** 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 the 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 director and associate 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 overnight/\$245 Commuter (includes lunch and supper) (\$25 non-refundable deposit)** To register, contact Brenda at 419-332-6522.



See our website for other retreats being offered in the Summer of 2014 at www.pinesretreat.org

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