

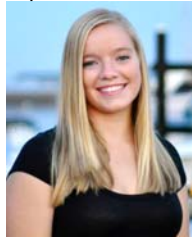
A SENSE OF COMFORT AND ACCEPTANCE

I have been working at St. Joseph Retreat Center since July 2010. In my position as a Dining Room Assistant I wash dishes, help serve the meal, and clean up around the house. I work all year round, with more retreats during the summer. I have met amazing people while working there. Most people do not understand why I enjoy working at a silent retreat when there are plenty more 'interesting' jobs. The staff of the retreat is not silent so I am able to talk to women who have done incredible things in their lives and are also interested in what I can do with mine. These women take pride in recounting my accomplishments and are always happy to see me. That sense of comfort and acceptance is wonderful and contributes to my success.

Secondly, the peace and quiet is something I love. For two hours I get to be productive, but I still have time to think and reflect. I am able to process everything without interruption and with clarity.

Lastly I have learned many skills that will serve me in the future. Not only have I gained cooking and cleaning skills, but I have also enhanced my time management, cooperation, and respect skills.

Eloise Lucas



A view from inside the front door of the Retreat Center
Photo by Lisa Ashton

PROGRAMS FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND THE NEW YEAR

MORNINGS OF PRAYER

9:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Friday, December 9

Waiting With Mary of Nazareth,
Anne D'Arcy, CSJ

Friday, January 13, 2012

Experiencing the Love of God in Creation
Kathy Simisky

DAY OF PRAYER

9:30 AM - 3:00 PM, Sunday, December 11

Twelve-Stepping

Through the Christmas Season
Kathleen Short, CSJ

PRIVATE OR DIRECTED RETREAT DAYS

December 27 - January 1; January 2 - 6;

January 6 - 8; January 27 - 29

HOSTED GROUPS

St. Joseph Retreat Center welcomes Hosted Groups including parish groups, school staffs, prayer groups. All religious denominations are welcome. The Center offers meeting space for groups of up to 30 people for a day and overnight accommodations for up to 16 people. The following dates are available:

2011: December 10, 13-16, 18-21;

2012: January 9-12, 15-19, 23-26, 30-31;

February 1-2; March 12-15, 18, 20-22;

April 22-23, 27-28; May 5-6, 14, 20, 30;

June 8-10; September 6-7, 19, 24;

October 4, 6, 16, 28-30; November 11-20

QUOTES FROM RETREATANTS

WHAT DID YOU LIKE BEST . . . ?

I was spoiled beyond my wildest imaginings. Never in my life have I been so blessed with a room from which to gaze at the sea in all its moods, the sky with clouds and stars; wonder and awe filled my days.

I appreciated the wisdom of the spiritual direction sessions.

The location is magical. Where else can you look out and see an ocean liner in your back yard?

Silence is very important. Everyone was very respectful of it.

The height and depth and breadth of God's creation abound in beauty within and around this holy place.

. . . the food is so wholesome, so delicious, so varied and so available, the spirit of hospitality . . .

. . . the sea, surf, sounds; the deep quiet and silence of the house and all the people.

The entire site is its own "Babette's Feast!" Much more than just the food, everything is here to benefit the retreatant.

Everything is well organized, clean and plentiful.

. . . lovely music at meals, tables and chairs on porch

. . . the center as a whole . . . the contemplative spirit of this space

. . . the periodicals and books available, everything clean, and being carefully supplied for every need.

God was everywhere!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE, CALL OR EMAIL FOR MORE RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES AND DETAILS

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

After contemplating the first page of this newsletter with its beautiful picture looking out from inside the Retreat Center and the inspiring, affirming words of Eloise and so many retreatants which give an awesome glimpse of what occurs inside people at the Retreat Center, I am once again interiorly moved to bow my head and bend my knee at the extraordinary presence and action of God who dwells everywhere— in nature, inside our hearts, and at the Retreat Center.

Recently the team at St. Joseph Retreat Center has become seriously engaged in looking at our past with a vital interest in the future. We are part of a 12-member Program Committee and are engaged in a 5-month process to finalize the design of a three-year Strategic Plan. With the competent assistance of Suzanne Kearney, Director of our Congregation's Office of Sponsored Ministry, and the support of our congregation leadership we are daring to dream how to sustain what is already profound while begging the Spirit to expand our perspective on the facility, our programs, the thousands of people being served each year, people we need/want to serve more and the ever-evolving needs.

Within the past week over thirty people eagerly met to share their experiences of the Retreat Center during its 37-year history and their dreams for its future. The group included retreatants, former Retreat Center staff members, adjunct directors and volunteers. The enthusiasm and sharing were at a fever-pitch! It was yet another glimpse into God's magnificent grace experienced within the hearts of so many people who have lived, worked and prayed at the Retreat Center. In addition to echoing many of the comments on page one they raised up the spirit of collaboration, diversity, reverence, hospitality, reliability, outreach, professionalism, integration, growth in spiritual development and the image of walls thick with prayer.

God sees it all, the inside of each heart and spirit, the outside beauty, the present moment, the years gone by and the days yet to come. At the Retreat Center always and especially at this Christmas Season we do bow low and bend our knees in awe and gratitude for such Presence, Action and Comings of God into our midst!

Joan M. McCarthy, CSJ

Glad Tidings from all of us!



**A CONTEMPLATIVE SABBATICAL PROGRAM
FEBRUARY 3 - MARCH 7, 2012**

The Sabbatical Program, built on enhancing personal renewal in a contemplative spirit, is a 34-day program offering a selection of opportunities including two *Extended* Directed Prayer Weekends, Mornings and Days of Prayer on particular themes, weekly individual spiritual direction and other possibilities. Participants are invited to partake in whatever appeals to them. Quiet time and solitude are priorities. The ambiance will be one of reverent silence. There is one room available for the full sabbatical and, if you cannot come to the full program, perhaps you would like to inquire about coming for part of it.

If you live in the vicinity, you are most welcome to register for Mornings and Days of Prayer.

PLEASE APPLY TO ALL PROGRAMS ON OUR WEBSITE INCLUDING THE 2013 SABBATICAL

OLD AND NEW

Thou hast made me known to friends whom I knew not.

Thou hast given me seats in homes not my own.

Thou hast brought the distant near and made a friend of the stranger.

I am uneasy at heart when I have to leave my accustomed shelter;

I forget that there abides the old in the new, and that there also Thou abidest.

Through birth and death, in this world or in others, wherever thou leadest me it is Thou, the same,

the one companion of my endless life who ever linkest my heart with bonds of joy to the unfamiliar.


When one knows thee, then alien there is none, then no door is shut. Oh, grant me my prayer that I may never lose the bliss of the touch of the one in the play of many.

Rabindranath Tagore

RETREAT CENTER STAFF

Joan M. McCarthy, CSJ, *Director*
 Jean Martin, *Administrative Assistant*
 Maria Puno-D'Antonio, *Co-Support Services Coordinator*
 Jenny Talbot, *Co-Support Services Coordinator*
 Karen Sugar, *Secretary*

**A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT
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 St. Joseph Retreat Center
 339 Jerusalem Road • Cohasset, MA 02025
 781-383-6024 • RetreatCenter@csjboston.org
 www.csjretreatcenter.org

DONATIONS TO ASSIST THIS SACRED MINISTRY ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATED
 Please make your check payable to **St. Joseph Retreat Center**

Wish List 2011
St. Joseph Retreat Center
 We are extremely grateful for your generosity now and over the past 37 years.

Would you like to contribute to the following as we endeavor to improve and upgrade the Retreat Center for the future?

- 1.) Mattress and box spring
- 2.) Remodeling of Euphrasia Hall
- 3.) Flowers
- 4.) Scholarship fund
- 5.) Operating expenses
- 6.) Any of above

No donation is too small. Every donation is deeply appreciated and a great help.

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