



Be Still and Know that I am God... Retreat centers recommended by pastoral ministers

THE ABBEY OF THE GENESEE, 3258 River Rd., Piffard, NY. 14533; (585) 243-0660
<http://www.geneseecollege.org/>

Acres of beautiful farm land with river and trails tied to the Abbey where Trappist monks live a contemplative life. Three retreat houses offer a total of 52 single beds with kitchen access for groups and Individual retreats. Guests welcome to join in the daily prayer liturgies. Directed retreat offered by special request. \$ 65 per night in main retreat house, Bethlehem, (meals included, 2 night minimum). Group houses and apartments (you cook your own meals) at variable costs.

CHRIST THE KING RETREAT CENTER, 500 Brookford Rd., Syracuse, NY 13224; (315) 446-2680
<http://ctkretreat.com/>

Run by the Diocese of Syracuse, CTK provides a quiet, contemplative atmosphere in an ideal environment for renewing, refreshing and refocusing! Open to people of any religious affiliation. Topical and private directed retreats. 8 double and 41 single rooms. \$80 per night, with dinner and breakfast.

EASTERN POINT RETREAT HOUSE, 37 Niles Pond Rd., Gloucester, MA; (978) 283-0013
<https://easternpoint.org/>

"Eastern Point Retreat House, a place of rare spiritual beauty, is devoted to practicing the Spiritual Exercises as St. Ignatius designed them." Directed retreats conducted in silence.
38 single rooms; \$90 per night. Special retreats individually priced.

ENDERS ISLAND, (St. Edmond's Retreat House) 1 Enders Island, Mystic, CT 06355; (860) 536-0565
<http://www.endersisland.com/>

Nestled in Fishers Island Sound, Enders Island is a place of great beauty, solace and peace. The many gardens, pathways, and shrines on the island provide opportunities for reflection and appreciation of what the poet Manley Hopkins called "the grandeur of God." Directed and undirected retreats offered. \$135 per night with meals- single occupancy. \$105 per person-double occupancy.

THE JESUIT CENTER, 501 N Church Rd, Wernersville, PA 19565; (610) 678-8085
<http://jesuitcenter.org/>

Renew yourself in 240 acres of "natural beauty, welcoming quiet and spiritual sustenance." Retreats, programs and spiritual direction offered for individuals, colleges, church groups. Beautiful accommodations and grounds. Many forms of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises offered. \$85 per night for individual retreatants apart from programs.

MERCY SPIRITUALITY CENTER, 65 Highland Ave. Rochester, NY 14620; 585-473-6893
<http://www.mercyspiritualitycenter.org/>

"A sacred place of peace and hospitality for those seeking spiritual enrichment, personal growth and deeper self-awareness". Offers spiritual direction, retreats, days of reflection and programs for people of all faiths. Gathering spaces available for group programs or retreats. Double and single rooms. Overnight guests have complimentary breakfast. Kitchen available for group programs. \$65 per night.

MOUNT ST. BENEDICT MONASTERY, 6101 E Lake Rd, Erie, PA 16511; (814) 899-0614
<https://www.eriebenedictines.org>

"The hospitality of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie invites the guest into the rhythm of life in the monastery. The daily horarium provides an experience of community in which all can come to know God through the monastic way of praying, eating, conversing, and working. The beautiful grounds



God Calls. We Respond.

By Cathy Kamp, Pastoral Associate, St. Joseph's Parish, Penfield
Chair of the Executive Committee

This was the theme of our Pastoral Associates/Pastoral Ministers Professional Development Day in October: God Calls. We Respond. It was a privilege for Father Jim Schwartz, pastor of St. Joseph's in Penfield, and me, to open our day with reflections on collaborative ministry.

When I reflect on the call to lay ministry, returning to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2005 *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*, is a great source of inspiration and affirmation. "Ministry in the Church continues the ministry of Jesus...the Spirit calls forth new ministries and new ministers to serve evolving needs, as the history of the Church shows," the Bishops wrote. "In our time, lay ecclesial ministers have emerged, men and women working in collaboration with bishops, priests, deacons and other laity, each responding to the charisms bestowed by the Spirit."

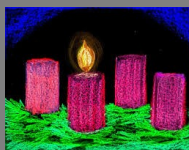
In the Diocese of Rochester, lay ecclesial ministry did

emerge in recent decades and fruitful, collaborative ministry between clergy and laity evolved in many parishes and ministries. In Rochester, as in other places, it is true that we too have responded to the many diverse charisms bestowed on us by the Holy Spirit. Every time our association attempts to determine what our Pastoral Associates and Ministers actually do the list grows and expands based on the emerging needs of our communities and the gifts of our membership.

Now we have the opportunity to look forward in our ministry. Where is God leading us to grow anew? Where is the blessed synergy of our calls from the Spirit and the needs of our Diocese and faith communities? In our daily prayer and in our days of retreat, let us join hearts in praying with the words of the Second Vatican Council's *Lumen Gentium* that we "may zealously participate in the saving work of the Church."

Retreat..... Prayer..... Quiet..... Meditation..... Peace..... Rest..... Christ..... Joy

Pastoral Associates'/Pastoral Ministers' Association Executive Committee



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The Gifts of Retreat

By Margie Benza, Pastoral Associate at the Church of the Transfiguration, Pittsford

It can be quite a challenge for many of us to take the time to go away on retreat. The many responsibilities, securing coverage and the gnawing feeling of knowing what can lie ahead on our return. What will I do with all that time? You might have talked yourself into taking a day or two off to spend some time in prayer at home with no interruption in total silence. How is that working for you? What is the resistance truly about?

These were some things I held in conversation with myself many years ago until I was prompted by a Spiritual mentor's personal invitation to take an eight day silent retreat. The time frame prompted its own anxiety but God was indeed calling. To my surprise, I found this time with God to be one of the most gifted spiritual experiences of my life.

Retreat offers us an opportunity to take time out of hectic and sometimes overwhelming pastoral and personal schedules. As I look back, these were eight days in which God cared for me so graciously and tenderly. To sit with God. Laugh with God. Cry with God. It brings us back to the close and deep relationship God yearns to have with us.

The silence offers an openness to be present to God's gentle whispers and clear challenges for life. Prayer filled days, prepared meals, the presence of others on the journey and the wisdom of daily spiritual direction are wonderful gifts. Daily reminders of God's ways of soothing our souls, tending to the broken parts of ourselves and healing our hearts sending us out into the world to serve God and others in returning this gracious hospitality.

Consider this opportunity and gift of retreat. To purposely and intently carve out time for you and God to get reacquainted and nurture a deeper and more loving relationship with your Creator. An invitation for refreshment and rejuvenation found in a retreat of three, five or eight days. One never knows the bounty of God's love until we open our hearts to step in. Lace up those spiritual shoes and prepare yourself for an unexpected gifted journey.

What Joy it is to know God through the Latinos!

By Sister Kay Schwenzer, RSM, Hispanic Pastoral Minister
in Wayne, Ontario, Yates and Seneca counties



Recently I was asked what I liked most about my pastoral ministry as a Sister of Mercy in Chile and in my present ministry. I did not have to stop to think. PEOPLE! My ministry is about people of all ages, and if I were only to concentrate on the paperwork, meetings, organization, beautiful liturgies... forgetting about for whom I am doing all of this, I would be lost. I love people and how much I desire that they know the God who loves all of us, and that they know Jesus of the gospels and his mission! God lives, and God's face, embrace and kiss shows self to me in the many people who daily touch my life. For forty years (thirteen years in Chile) I have been involved in this ministry, and thanks to co-ministers and the people with whom I have ministered I have gained so much.

After having served the Hispanics of St. Michael Parish, Rochester for sixteen years, since 2007 I have been ministering among the Latinos in four counties (Yates, Seneca, Ontario and Wayne) of the Finger Lakes area. I have offices in Geneva and Newark, but go at least weekly to Penn Yan and many other scattered towns—as far as Cayuga Lake. How fortunate I am to know and minister among people from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Guatemala, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic. Relating to each individual in any ministry presents challenges, but interacting with Latinos also challenges me to understand the many cultural and language differences. I also get to savor lots of new foods!

My pastoral ministry responsibilities include the whole gamut of parish ministry: visiting the sick and infirm, baptismal and matrimonial preparation, annulments, preparation of families for quinceañeras, RCIA, adult Confirmation, liturgical ministers' preparation, training of leaders and home visitors, liturgical preparation, including the music for a weekly Mass in Geneva (monthly one in Newark and occasional

ones among the migrants). I am the interpreter for those in other ministries in the parishes where I serve: social ministry (translation), faith formation (meet with Spanish-speaking parents, translate into Spanish the letters and forms mailed out, telephone contact), sacramental preparation of older youth, Catholic school registration, Camp Stella Maris contact. Ah, then there is the furniture ministry! Sometimes families arrive with no or little furniture I help find items needed and work to get furniture picked up and carried to the family of need. For those without documents, I write letters of support to help them in their process of legalizing their presence. I am the contact person for those from outside the parishes who have questions about Hispanic ministry, or wish to help the Latinos through their organization. Communication occurs through Spanish-language announcements at Mass, listing of weekly activities in the bulletins and weekly bulletin articles. I attempt to be attentive to both the Church and national news from the lands of the origin of our community members, so as to better relate to their concerns. Many have family members back home.

There is a quest for a deeper faith-life and prayer life, so we have three weekly faith-sharing groups which have been a great help for leadership development, the deepening of a lived Christian life, and learning more about the Scriptures. A charismatic prayer group has begun to meet monthly. The Spirit has been blowing ever so gently during these nine years. Some couples seek to develop a more harmonious relationship and a deeper spiritual life. To respond to concerns and needs in the Geneva parish there is a monthly planning and evaluation of activities and events; in Newark and Penn Yan it is done during the weekly group meeting. We plan a combination of celebrations trying to be sensitive to the practices and traditions of members' countries of origin, including daily praying of the rosary in com-

munity during May and October in Newark, celebrating the feast of each country's patroness, plus the prayer and sung novena going from home to home before the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with the *mañanitas* at 5:00 a. m. on Dec. 12, and Mass and a meal that day in the evening. Later in December are the *posadas* going from home to home with prayer and song, and a welcoming of María and José into the homes to give them *posada*, a place to stay. Also there is the celebration and gift-giving for Three Kings, and the procession carrying the cross through the streets of Geneva on Good Friday. Religious traditions are important; they give life and spirit to our members, and I attempt to respect these practices.

A special part of my ministry is outreach to migrant farmworkers who, due to few jobs and low wages in their own countries, seek employment in the U.S. under the guest worker program during the farming season anytime between April and December. They do not have transport, so we go to them—many of whom live in crowded houses or trailers provided by the employer. With some members of our community I visit, responding to concerns, and questions of faith, gifting them with bibles and reflecting upon Scripture. They need a strong faith to carry them through the difficult and lonely times far from their families.

Some wonder why the Hispanics don't go to the English-language Mass. Ah, assimilation cuts off the lifeline to their faith and prayer, and replaces it with expressions foreign and in a language that is uncomfortable; this does not touch the heart. We do things in the parishes to help encourage contact and communication among all, including bilingual Masses and meals, but it's important that we also respect the needs and traditions of others. I thank God that I have grown to know, love and be enriched by so many diverse people in God's family!

2016

Sunday, November 27 **First Sunday of Advent**

2017

Wednesday, February 1 **"Creating A Parish Culture of Invitation"** Leadership Workshop; 1:00-4:00 pm. St. Bernard's. Flyers with details coming soon.

Tuesday, March 14 **"Marinating Spiritual Wholeness in the Busyness of Parish Life"** .
9:00 am– 3:00 pm. Leadership Retreat Day. St. Bernard's. Flyers coming soon.

Wednesday, March 1 **Ash Wednesday**

Tuesday, March 28 **Day of Penance**, Noon-7:00 pm

Sunday, April 16 **Easter Sunday**

Tuesday, April 18 **The Gathering of the Ministerium.** Speaker: Father Donald Senior, CP, President Emeritus, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. Theme and Place - TBA

Monday, April 24 to
Wednesday, April 26 **Convocation of Priests and Pastoral Administrators.** 2 pm Monday –noon, Wednesday.

Thursday, May 18 **Pastoral Associate/Minister Retreat.** 9:00-3:00 pm. Notre Dame Retreat Ctr.

(Retreat centers...continued from page 1)

offer a place to encounter God in creation. The gentle quiet allows the possibility to hear God with the "ear of the heart." Offers spiritual direction and accommodations.

MT. IRENAEUS FRANCISCAN MOUNTAIN RETREAT, 3621 Roberts Rd., Clarksville, NY 14786; (585) 973-2470
<http://www.mounti.com/visit-us/>

Located in the Allegheny hills of Southwestern New York State, Mt. Irenaeus rests on 387 remote acres including forest and clearings with at least 10 miles of trails, six prayer cabins varying in size, Holy Peace Chapel and a large community House of Peace. "As a contemporary expression of early Franciscan life, we celebrate prayer, work and leisure daily, open to our guests." Cabins for couples/families, hermitages and single guest rooms spread throughout main buildings.
\$60 per night. Communal cooking, eating and prayer.

MT. SAVIOR MONASTERY, 231 Monastery Road, Pine City, NY 14871; (607) 734-1688;
<http://www.msaviour.org/>

A Benedictine community of monks, "striving to live a simple, genuine and full monastic life according to the Scriptures and the Rule of St. Benedict." Acres and acres of hills, the Chemung River, skiing trails and monastic buildings in the Southern Tier. Private retreatants welcome, families, couples and individuals.

2 Casas and 2 apartments for couples or families; 15 single rooms for men and 2 double rooms and 4 single rooms for women and children. \$55 per day, includes meals, although apartments can do their own cooking.

NOTRE DAME RETREAT CENTER, 5151 Foster Rd., Canandaigua, NY; (585) 394-5700
<http://notredameretreat.org/>

The retreat House has been run by the Redemptorist Order since 1967. Fifty acres ideal for strolls or hikes, overlooking beautiful Canandaigua Lake. Center sponsors regular retreats and conferences. Have three conference rooms (40- 120 people) and beautiful chapel. Individuals and couples welcome for personal retreats. 85 rooms; 60 singles, 25 doubles. \$150 for weekend program with meals. Donation suggested for private retreats.

WESTON PRIORY (THE BENEDICTINE MONKS OF), 58 Priory Hill Rd, Weston, Vt. ; 802-824-5409
<http://www.westonpriory.org/>

Situated at the edge of the Green Mountain National Forest, the community of Benedictine monks seeks to be "an embassy of the Reign of God. We hope that we will, in some measure, foster the healing and reconciliation of the whole human family." No spiritual direction or directed retreats offered. Accommodations available for individual and group retreats. Men and Women Guesthouses. No couples' rooms. Individual retreatants eat meals with the monks. Groups provide their own meals with access to kitchen, dining room and living room in large guesthouse for groups. Financial offering suggested. Prefer 2 night minimum.