This 8-Day Directed Ignatian Silent Retreat is based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola which has profoundly influenced the lives of countless people since the sixteenth century.

There are as many reasons to go on retreat as there are people who attend them. Some of the reasons others have made this retreat include: wanting to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, desiring to spend quality time in prayer and reflection, wanting to learn more about yourself in relationship to God and to others, preparing to make a significant decision, and becoming more aware of responding to the movement of the Spirit. Retreatants should have attended 3 or 4-day retreats in advance of an 8-day, this simply prepares one better for an enriching experience.

Fr. Robert Dufford, S.J., was born in Chicago, grew up in Omaha, entered the Society of Jesus in 1961, was ordained in 1973, and received two Masters degrees from St. Louis University, one in philosophy, and one in theology (spirituality). He is probably best known for his work in composing liturgical music (Sing to the Mountains, All the Ends of the Earth, Like a Shepherd, Love One Another, Be Not Afraid, etc.) which have been published in various hymnals and missalettes around the world. He has given around 400 workshops in liturgy and liturgical music around the U.S., Canada, and Australia. For 11 years he worked with liturgies at St. John’s parish at Creighton University in Omaha. For 14 years he was on staff at the Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh, WI, providing music for the liturgies, giving retreats, and writing the occasion liturgical tune. Fr. Dufford currently resides at the Creighton University Retreat Center in Griswold, IA where he provides spiritual direction for clergy in the Des Moines diocese, serves a pastor to two small parishes, and is still toying with music for prayer and liturgy.

Amy Hoover was appointed Dir. of the Retreat Center in March 2013 and is also the resident Spiritual Director. She received certification in spiritual direction from the St. Joseph Educational Center in Des Moines in 2003. She continued her education and received her Master’s degree in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University in 2010. She is experienced in individual, group and retreat direction using the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. She is also a trained supervisor of spiritual directors. Amy and her husband Charlie are members of the Christian Life Community and work with the Catherine of Siena Institute as teachers of the Called and Gifted Workshop; a program to help people to begin discerning their spiritual gifts.

Jim Preiner attended and completed graduate courses from the Christian Spirituality Program at Creighton University where he received his certification as a spiritual director. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He retired from a 25 year career in Law Enforcement as a Sergeant where he was involved in various assignment of Patrol, Investigations and Training. He presented Ethics Training in Law Enforcement to numerous agencies. He resides in Omaha, NE where he is actively involved at St. Vincent de Paul parish in ministries of RCIA, Religious Education and Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound. Jim spends other time reading spiritual and religious material along with physically exercising himself and walks with his dog Iggy (named after St. Ignatius of Loyola).