

The Retreat Center

Creighton
UNIVERSITY

November 2016



HERE IS THE LATEST
NEWS AND INFORMATION
FROM THE CREIGHTON
UNIVERSITY RETREAT
CENTER.

Falling Leaves

By Amy Hoover

It has truly been a beautiful autumn in Iowa. Every time we transition to a new season, I hear myself say, "This is my favorite season." In truth, I think I like all the season but I know autumn always speaks to me.

This year, I have been very aware of the wind and the falling leaves. More than once, I have been sitting in the chapel when I notice the leaves are falling like rain. I am not sure why this captures my attention. Perhaps they are reminding me to surrender and the invitation to fallowness, rest, death.

The phrase "falling like rain" reminds of the phrase grace like rain. These two thoughts together bring me right back around to the Paschal Mystery. We are constantly and continuously in the cycle of the Paschal Mystery; living life, experiencing death, followed by resurrection. Sometimes we are experiencing all of these pieces at the same time. Sometimes we are very obviously in one phase or another. I think, though, especially as we are falling like the leaves, we need to remember that we have grace, like rain, falling with us. And, it is with grace alone that we can surrender or die to whatever needs to be let go of, and experience the new life that is promised.

What invitations do you hear in the falling leaves this autumn? Whatever they are, I hope that you can hear and answer them and claim the graces God has for you.



Tongues of Fire Retreat

This weekend retreat, to be held Dec. 2-4, will be directed by the Rev. Bob Dufford, SJ. Based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, it will involve specially composed instrumental music and texts to help retreatants enter into moments in the life of Jesus. Participants are asked to bring an iPod, iPad, MP3 player, or computer earphones or earbuds. Space is limited; register early. The cost is \$175. Contact [Terri Lou](#) for more information. [Flyer](#) | [Registration Form](#)



More Retreat Opportunities

Put these upcoming 2017 retreats on your calendar:

- March 6-15, 8-Day Silent Directed Retreat (cost and details to come)
- March 17-19, Married Couples Retreat directed by Fr. Greg Carlson SJ, and Fr. Larry Gillick, SJ. **Note the change in date**
- March 24-26, Lenten Retreat directed by Fr. Bob Dufford, SJ
- May 19-21, Weekend Preached Retreat directed by Fr. Bob Dufford, SJ



Prayer Meditation Deck

As you can see from our most recent picture, the Outdoor Prayer Meditation Deck is well underway. We look forward to its completion in the next couple weeks. If you have suggestions for a name for our newest space, feel free to send them to Amy at AmyHoover@Creighton.edu. Additionally, we will need to furnish the space and we are accepting monetary donations for this purpose. Again, contact Amy.



New Observatory

The Creighton University College of Arts and Sciences is nearing the completion of a new observatory at the retreat center. The observatory will house a telescope that can be accessed remotely by students on Creighton's campus. Via the internet, students can request pictures of the night sky from the telescope. The telescope can then download the pictures for class the following day.



Fiber Optic/Wireless

Fiber optic installation will be complete in November. With this improvement, the retreat center should have wireless access in most buildings and conference rooms.



Word of Mouth

The retreat center continues to experience an increase in the number of new visitors and guests. Since the center does not advertise, people must be sharing stories of their own positive experiences and the updates and changes occurring at the center. We appreciate hearing your stories and of course the referrals you are making. It is a joy to share this sacred space with new and returning guests.



Scheduling Retreats

One of the great gifts of the Creighton University Retreat Center is to be able to offer eight- and 30-day Ignatian retreats year-round. The center recommends scheduling these retreats at least 30 days in advance. Small groups wishing to schedule retreat time at the retreat center will find better availability three to six months out. Large groups are encouraged to schedule a year in advance.



Thank You!

If you or your group would like to help with maintenance or trail work, please don't hesitate to contact Director Amy Hoover at 712.778.2466 or amyhoover@creighton.edu. You can contribute online [here](#). *(Fill out your information, then scroll down to Gift Designation. In the "Other Designation - Specify Here," type in Creighton Retreat Center.)*



About the Retreat Center

The Creighton Retreat Center is located at 16493 Conrail Ave., Griswold, Iowa, 51535. The center offers eight- and 30-day Ignatian retreats upon request. Accommodations can be made based on your individual schedules. Please contact [Terri Lou](#) for more information.

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Questions?

Contact Director Amy Hoover
AmyHoover@creighton.edu

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