

# The Retreat Center

Creighton  
UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2019



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

## Gratitude for 25 YEARS of Retreat Ministry!

We had a wonderful time celebrating our 25 years on July 7. It was good to see so many longtime friends and some new ones. Thank you to the staff who worked tirelessly to prepare for our celebration. Below is a portion of the article written by Terri Lou Duggan that ran in the *Griswold American*. Prayers for another 25 years!

**Terri Lou Duggan**

**Edited from the *Griswold American***

As the 25th year approached, we began thinking about the many ways the Creighton University Retreat Center has been blessed, including the history before the purchase. We are grateful for the support of the Griswold and surrounding communities, including the past and present employees, the many volunteers through the years and each person who has offered material or financial support. Additionally, there are times guests go into Griswold for supplies or food, and we hear stories of how they were welcomed with the “small-town” greetings that reflect well on our community. We hold the stories with care and will always be grateful for your prayers.

Some history, in 1978 the Rev. Lavern Wingert of the Des Moines Diocese purchased Camp Wakonda from the Boy Scouts of America to establish what he envisioned as a “spiritual hospital” for those in need of inner healing.

The property came with the original lodge (built in 1948) and a caretaker’s residence. In addition to those buildings, Fr. Wingert



oversaw the building of log-sided cabins over a period of 10 years to house his ever-expanding program. To generate income for the property, he rented it to various groups.

In 1994, Fr. Wingert became interested in Creighton University purchasing the property, with the agreement that Creighton would continue to operate it as a retreat center. Fr. Wingert sold Creighton 154 acres and the buildings on them and retained 57 acres on the far western quarter of the property, which is now owned by a private party.

Creighton modernized and remodeled much of the property and continues to do so today. The center now sleeps 105 people comfortably in beds and the lodge can accommodate an additional 70 people in sleeping bags.

Through the dining hall, members of the kitchen staff offer delicious, home-cooked meals. The wooded acres, all-natural trails and prayer gardens offer guests a quiet environment in which to pray surrounded by the beauty of God's creation. Few places so close to Omaha or Des Moines are as beautiful, peaceful and accommodating.

In the years that Creighton has been offering retreats, we have grown to welcome more than 6,400 weekend guests annually and now serve more than 17,000 meals a year. We continue to serve a growing number of University groups as well as regular returning faith-based groups. We also offer a small gift shop with religious books and items.

You might ask, why retreat and what happens during a silent, spiritual retreat? The purpose of a spiritual retreat, in addition to daily spiritual activities, is to temporarily leave behind the usual distractions we all face for a time that is long enough to allow relaxation and for an inner change to occur – the ongoing conversion of heart that is critical to deepening one's faith. Retreatants may meet with a director a couple of times a day, set aside prayer-periods daily, and may attend Mass or worship services, all in an effort to be attentive to how God is inviting one to be open to the Spirit and grow in awareness to how God is working/moving within their daily lives.

Because Creighton University programs are known globally, people come from around the world. Africa, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Korea, Mexico, Singapore, Trinidad, Uganda and Vietnam are just a few, as well as many places from across the United States.

Thank you to Griswold and all who have supported our retreat ministry the past 25 years.

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## Upcoming Retreats

**Silent Retreat:** The Christian Spirituality Program at Creighton will offer an Eight-Day Silent Directed Retreat March 6-15, 2020, and May 24 to June 6, 2020. These retreats are directed by students in Creighton's Christian Spirituality Program, under the supervision of Creighton faculty. We would love to take your early registration! Contact Colleen Hastings at 402-280-2303, [colleenhastings@creighton.edu](mailto:colleenhastings@creighton.edu), for registration or more information.

**Private retreat:** Enjoy quiet time away and time for spiritual conversations between you and God. How much time do you need? One, two or three days, or even eight or 30. Check your schedule and contact us with proposed dates at 712-787-2466 or [curc@netins.net](mailto:curc@netins.net).

[Learn more about upcoming retreats.](#)



## Thank You!

Once again it is a joy to be able to say "thank you" to the 17 adults and students from Dowling Catholic High School who spent the day with us in July, helping out with various projects. They created some base support for our Stations of the Cross, cleaned chairs and moved rocks to improve aesthetics and drainage. Afterward, there was time for prayer and exploring the grounds. We appreciate all of your time and effort in tending to our sacred space.



## Would You Like to Volunteer?

It is that time of year when we need volunteers helping us out around the grounds. If you have interest in helping with some flower beds, brush removal or general small maintenance projects, let us know.



## Support the Retreat Center

If you would like to financially contribute to the Retreat Center, please [visit us online](#).

Under "Select Your Gift Designation(s)," select "Find Area(s) of Your Choice" and "Other," and then indicate that you would like your gift directed to the 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.

**Phone:** 712.778.2466 | **Fax:** 712.778.2467 |  
**Email:** [curc@netins.net](mailto:curc@netins.net)

### Questions?

Contact Director Amy Hoover  
[AmyHoover@creighton.edu](mailto:AmyHoover@creighton.edu)

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