

The Retreat Center

Creighton
UNIVERSITY



August 2016

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

The Grace of Silence

By Barbara Wood Bennett

Recently, I had the privilege of spending time with 18 individuals as they prayed and reflected on Scripture during their eight-day silent retreat. Over the course of days, a community formed.

You may wonder how you form community in silence. The only conversation is between a director and retreatant for a very limited amount of time each day. During daily Mass, our voices combine in prayer and song. All attention is directed toward the God who has called each of them to this place. As each individual prays and reflects through silent walks, communal prayer and personal reflection in and around the grounds, a sacred connection is formed. By the end, we still know nothing personal of the others, but we have prayed for each other and recognize we are connected. We have silently become a community of faith.

We learn so much in this powerful silence. What is it that I take away? We each received a piece of each person: the reverence, intensity, sadness, joy, smiles, intentionality, kindness, simplicity, awareness and sacredness of all.

This time has been a bright light shining in this peaceful forest. Grace was flowing between and among us, and we returned to the busyness of our lives with the wisdom of silence in our hearts.



Fr. Dufford Joins Center

The Creighton Retreat Center officially welcomed the Rev. Bob

Dufford, SJ, to the pastoral staff on July 21. Fr. Dufford most recently served as pastor at Our Lady of Grace in Griswold, Iowa, and St. Timothy's in Reno, Iowa. Fr. Dufford was born in Chicago, grew up in Omaha, entered the Society of Jesus in 1961, was ordained in 1973, and received two master's degrees from Saint Louis University. He is best known for his work composing liturgical music, and was a member of the St. Louis Jesuits musical group. For 11 years, Fr. Dufford worked with liturgies at St. John's Parish at Creighton University. At the retreat center, he will be offering spiritual direction, celebration of sacraments and helping with retreat direction.



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.



Reminder: 2017 Retreats

Put these upcoming 2017 retreats on your calendar:

- Feb. 3-5, Married Couples Retreat, directed by the Revs. Greg Carlson, SJ, and Larry Gillick, SJ
- March 24-26, Weekend Preached Retreat, directed by the Rev. Bob Dufford, SJ
- May 19-21, Weekend Preached Retreat, directed by the Rev. Bob Dufford, SJ



Bountiful Blessings

How does the center's garden grow? Wonderfully, thanks to volunteer Peg Marshall, who tends the garden and helps with various jobs weekly. The year's harvest is bountiful, and includes onions, summer squash, zucchini, tomatoes and peppers. She is also currently helping stain the center's extensive boardwalk.



Helpful Hands

This summer, Dowling Catholic High School moved furniture, cleaned out some spaces, did some painting and helped with yard work as part of their annual work day. The center's staff appreciates the many helpful hands and the spirit that accompanies the students from Dowling.



Prayer Meditation Deck

The center's staff members are excited to report that funds have been raised to build an outdoor Prayer Meditation Deck. Permits have been filed and construction is scheduled to begin soon, with a completion date of early fall. Thank you to all who donated and prayed for this project.



Facility Updates

The LaLemant Apartments now have new windows and carpeting. Interior painting has also begun there. Dreams for this year include a remodel of lower Daniel Cabin and a "sprucing up" of the St. Kateri Chapel and Xavier Conference Room.



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.



We Need 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
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