

The Retreat Center

Creighton
UNIVERSITY

October 2015



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

Gratitude

By Amy Hoover

As I was putting together this issue of the newsletter, I realized my heart was filled with gratitude. There are many things happening and projects coming to completion at the retreat center and, as I reflect, I am acutely aware of all the people, coordination, ideas, dreams, money and hours it has taken for us to get to this point.

This led me to a prayer of gratitude for all these but also the beautiful autumn weather we have been having in Iowa, the gift of family and friends and numerous volunteers, short impromptu conversations and the gift of the harvest.

I then remembered someone saying, "All is a gift". So I began reflecting on how pain and suffering can be gifts, as they can lead us to growth and dependence on God. I read somewhere this week that anger gives us the ability to say no. For me, this is a new perspective on anger. Could anger be a gift, something I could be thankful for? Even death can be a gift in the release from suffering or again the invitation to reflect on the meaning of life and the Source of life.

All of this gratitude then led to reflection on the generosity of the Source of all gifts and how we are invited to participate, through the Incarnation, in God's generosity. Then, believe it or not, I received an email response from Christy Sheaff talking about Dowling Catholic High School's Kairos retreats (see the "Kairos 100!" item below) and this little reflection came full circle.

I sit in awe and gratitude this day. I am humbled by the working of the Holy Spirit. I also wonder, How am I called to respond to the many gifts of God? The answer is through generosity, of course. I invite you to take moment to reflect on gifts you have received recently. After expressing your gratitude to the Source, ask how you are being invited to be generous this day.



Valentine's Retreat

Frs. Larry Gillick, S.J., (*near right*) and Greg Carlson, S.J., from the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Creighton University, will offer a Valentine's Day weekend retreat at the Creighton Retreat Center, Feb. 12-14. The weekend will begin at 6 p.m. on Feb. 12 and conclude Feb. 14 after lunch. Come and spend the weekend together in the beauty of God's creation. Cost for this retreat is \$375 per couple and includes conferences with Frs. Gillick and Carlson, room and six delicious homemade meals. Come celebrate Valentine's Day with your spouse! **Space is limited so register early.**

[Learn More](#)



Dining Hall Now Complete

We are happy to announce that the Loyola Dining Hall expansion is complete! After many years of dreaming, planning and fundraising, we can now comfortably seat more 140 guests for meals. We are able to offer a private dining space for small groups or individual retreatants, and we are moving the office and gift shop to the new space. During the Mission and Ministry Division Retreat, Fr. Kevin Schneider, S.J., offered a blessing of the new space. Thank you to all the donors, Creighton departments and construction crews involved in this project. May God's grace and peace fill your hearts.



All We Want for Christmas ...

Our Christmas gift this year will be the completion of the **Jogues Lodge renovation**. The exterior is almost complete. The planned rewiring will begin in mid-November, with expected completion before Christmas. The renovated space maintains the historic feel of the Boy Scouts Dining Hall but boasts an expanded kitchen, updated windows, lighting, insulation and siding. Jogues Lodge is ideal for large groups visiting for the day or overnight guests who don't mind sleeping on the floor.



100 and Going Strong

Creighton University Retreat Center was privileged to host Dowling Catholic High School's 100th Kairos Retreat this October. The four-day retreat is for juniors and is based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Close to 3,000 Dowling Catholic students have participated in the retreat over the past 15 years. Congratulations and thank you to all involved in this retreat ministry. Creighton University Retreat Center is humbled to be a part of such life-changing ministry.



A Gazebo Dream

One of our dreams at the Creighton Retreat Center is to put a three-season gazebo in the woods. We believe that a gazebo would be a wonderful place to prayerfully experience God's creation. We plan to put the gazebo just past Mary's Garden overlooking the ravine. The gazebo will be screened in and will have sliding windows. The cost to purchase and install the gazebo is estimated at between \$15,000 and \$20,000. We hope to fund this project through donations and to have the gazebo in place before summer 2016. Contact Amy Hoover, 712-778-2466 or amyhoover@creighton.edu, if you would like to contribute to the Gazebo Fund.



Thank You

We would like to offer a special prayer of gratitude to the **Sheaff family** for their donation this fall to our Gazebo Fund in honor of Christy and Tim Sheaff's 25th wedding anniversary. Tim and Christy have been friends of the retreat center for more than 10 years and their ministries to the youth at Dowling Catholic High School truly show the love of Christ. Congratulations and thank you, Tim and Christy.



We also appreciate all of you who have generously "rounded up" your bill to contribute to our scholarship fund. We appreciate all the prayers and other support received from our generous patrons.

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. Thank you to all who are helping to bring our dreams of renovation to fruition. 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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