

The Retreat Center

Creighton
UNIVERSITY

February 2014



Winter Reflections

By Amy Hoover

Several years ago, in the middle of winter, my husband, Charlie, and I attended our first couples retreat here at the retreat center. We arrived Friday night in the midst of rain turning to snow. When we awoke Saturday morning, there was a fresh, 11-inch blanket of snow covering the cars and the ground. Later that morning, we took a walk in the woods and down the trail to the river. We were the first to put on our boots and venture out. The experience of walking (and sliding) on untouched snow in the middle of profound silence and stillness that only snow can offer was beautiful and extraordinary. It was impossible not to notice God in creation that day.

I was reminded of this a couple of weeks ago, when, on one of those very windy days in Iowa, I was sitting in the sunroom of Manresa. The wind was howling and snow flurries were blowing in all directions. It was very chaotic outside, and I was feeling chaotic inside as well. I remember thinking that what I was watching outside was a very good image of what I was feeling inside. As I continued to sit, a blue jay came and alighted in the magnolia tree outside the window. He sat very still in the wind and then suddenly began to call out. He was close enough that I could see him move when he was chirping. He stayed for a long time, still and content in the midst of chaos. It was not hard to notice God calling me in creation that day.

God speaks to me here in a multitude of ways. Today, I am grateful!



LifeSHIFT Retreat

Life is about managing change: career, personal, family and spiritual. The LifeSHIFT retreat, scheduled for May 16-18, is an opportunity to reflect on life and faith while considering new career, job, work and/or retirement possibilities.

[More Information](#)



Silent Retreat

The center will host an eight-day silent, directed Ignatian retreat, May 29-June 7. This retreat is a time of being (rather than doing), a time of entering more deeply into one's relationship with God. Directors will be third-year Christian Spirituality graduate students from Catholic and varying Protestant denominations trained in the evocative-contemplative approach of spiritual direction.

[More Information](#)



Around the Grounds

We are excited to continue updating of our facilities. While we still await approval for the dining hall expansion, by spring, the Isaac Jogues Lodge will have new carpet and some new paint. We are also preparing for the installation of fiber optic cable to our campus. This will give us faster Internet service and the ability to wire the cabins with important safety notification features.



From the Dining Hall

Donna Casey is often praised for her cooking and extra efforts in the kitchen. We asked her to share one of our favorite recipes, chicken tetrazzini. [Download the recipe.](#)



Thank You!

We wish to thank Bill and Linda Ebbinga for their donation of light fixtures for the Isaac Jogues Lodge, Beta Theta Pi fraternity at Creighton for their service hours this fall and Dowling Catholic High School and Carol Kuemper High School for their time and service work at the center.

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.

If you would like to contribute, please [visit us online](#). To donate, fill out your information and then scroll down to "gift designation." In the "other designation," please 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.

Phone: 712.778.2466 | **Fax:** 712.778.2467 |
Email: curc@netins.net

Questions?

Contact Director Amy Hoover
AmyHoover@creighton.edu

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Creighton University
2500 California Plaza
Omaha, NE 68178

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