Praying with the Seasons

By Amy Hoover

It was such a joy to welcome Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr along with 50 women from across 10 states to the retreat center last month. Joyce and Macrina shared their wisdom with us about praying with the seasons of the year. We shared stories, and celebrated with rituals and liturgy. For reflection, I would like to share a poem by Joyce from the book *The Circle of Life*.

**Falling Leaves**

O falling leaves of autumn,
what mysteries of death
you proclaim
to my unwilling self

what eternal truths
you disturb
in the webbings
of my protected heart

what wildness
you evoke
in the gusty dance
of emptying winds

what mellow tenderness
you bravely breathe
in your required surrender

what challenge
you engender
through your painful twists
and turnings
what howl of homelessness
you shriek
with your exile of departure

what daring task
you evoke
as you feed the hungry

O falling leaves of autumn,
with each stem
that breaks,
with each layer of perishing,
you teach me
what is required,
if I am to grow
before I die.

Landscape of Waiting

An Advent SoulCollage retreat will be held Dec. 1-3. Join us for a weekend of reflection and small-group interaction using the intuitive art process SoulCollage. Contact Deb Richards for more information or registration, 515.422.4510, Yobel49@yahoo.com.

Silent Directed Retreats

It is not too early to plan for next year! The Christian Spirituality Program at Creighton will offer three, eight-day silent directed retreats. These retreats are directed by intern directors, supervised by Creighton faculty. Next year’s dates are: March 2-11, May 31-June 9 and Aug. 5-14. Contact Colleen Hastings at 402.280.2303 for registration or more information.
Around the Grounds

At the end of October, the original Boy Scout Trading Post, which has served as a maintenance shed for many years, was razed. It will be replaced with a new shed that will house equipment and machinery. The foundation walls of Daniel Cabin have been waterproofed, and the lower level will be refreshed and remodeled in December.

Thank You!

Many thanks to all our volunteers and those who pray for us and our ministry. This month of Thanksgiving, we would like to especially thank Ceal Schwartz and Julie Adams who help us in many ways but recently have spent many hours in the gift shop. Thank you, ladies, for your love, care and support. If you or your group would like to help at the retreat center, 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 Contrail 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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