

## OUR STAFF

Reeny Wilson, Director  
Amber LeFaive, Associate Director  
Rev. Steve Biegler, Spiritual Advisor

### Catering Services

Barb Fritz, Director  
Ruth Allison  
Amanda Fritz

### Hospitality Services

Jolene Peltier  
Michelle Obineche  
Marlys Sears  
Lizzy Werner

### Maintenance

Mark Hazel

### Volunteers

Sr Lorane Coffin, OSB, Garden of  
Gethsemane Caretaker  
Mary Coffin, Librarian  
Sr Carol Kovarik, OSB, Keeper of the  
Sycamore Trees  
Sr Florence McManamen, OSB, In-door  
Plants  
Greg Sass, Website Administrator  
Sr Edna Marie Stephenson, OSB,  
Sacristan & Altar Linens  
Lisa Wattenhofer, Lead Sacristan  
Joyce & Larry Williamson,  
Evening/Weekend Hosts

## OUR ADVISORS

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Patty Cresalia (2014)  
Barb Honeycutt (2014)  
Christy Horn (2015)  
Liz McCarthy (2013)  
Steve Mousel (2013)  
Darrell Sawyer (2012)  
Sr Marie Schwan, CSJ (2015)  
Rev. Steve Biegler (ex officio)  
Reeny Wilson - Chair

### PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Rev Steve Biegler - Chair  
Sr Lorane Coffin, OSB  
Brett Hanson  
Shawna Hanson  
Dcn Marlon Leneagh  
Rhonda Leneagh  
LuAnn Lindskov  
Rev Mark McCormick  
Tina Niggeman  
Pat Roe  
Susan Safford  
Sr Marie Schwan, CSJ  
Jill Sowers-Legner  
Reeny Wilson

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's hard to believe that a little more than a year ago, we opened the doors to the retreat center. Our first retreat was the Pastoral Ministers Retreat, sponsored by the Office of Vocations, on January 13-14, 2012. We had literally moved furniture into sleeping rooms nine days before without the use of an elevator – and going up three stories; a group of volunteers from Our Lady of the Black Hills made beds and set-out towels and soap several days after that. We were still cleaning the dust and debris from the hallways and meeting rooms just hours before our first guests arrived. We didn't have a functioning kitchen and the main dining room was still off-limits.

But, we welcomed more than 40 people that first weekend; what a great start to realizing the full potential of this investment we've made in further developing our faith life as a diocese.



In March of 2012, we gained access to a few more spaces following renovation as we prepared for Pastoral Ministry Days – a diocesan event when close to 300 people from western South Dakota come together to learn and grow in our faith. In April, a few more spaces opened up for our use – again with us doing final cleaning in the minutes before a scheduled group arrived for their weekend retreat. In May, we held the rededication of Holy Cross Chapel, the elementary school and the retreat center. By fall of 2012, we were in full swing with all renovations being complete.

Thankfully, during this time, our staff expanded to meet the growing demands of our scheduled events and retreats. From January through June, an outpouring of volunteer support made things happen – we had more than 200 people volunteer close to 2,000 hours during our first nine months of operations (whew, I thank the Lord every day for the amazing support from so many). In June, we were able to hire several people to assist with hospitality services. In August, our staff expanded to include a maintenance person. During the ensuing months as business increased, additional hospitality services staff were also brought on board. In February, Amber LeFaive joined our team as the Associate Director.



Continued on page 2

## EXERCISE ROOM

Several groups have asked for an exercise room at the retreat center . . . nothing fancy, just the option to be able to get a work-out in if they are here for a few days. We're cleaning up one of the rooms in the Cloister to serve this purpose. We have a donated treadmill that is in good shape. If you have some quality exercise equipment you'd like to donate, please keep us in mind. We don't mind a bit of dust ☺.

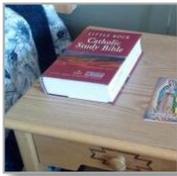
### WISHLIST ITEMS:

- An elliptical
- Exercise bike
- Hand weights
- Exercise mats/ flooring

We can arrange pick-up of your donations if you're within 30 miles of the retreat center. Please call us at 605-716-0925 if you'd like to help make the Exercise Room a reality.

## A BIBLE IN EACH ROOM

We knew from the start that we wanted a good Catholic Bible in each sleeping room. So, we invested in Little Rock Catholic Study Bibles – and each sleeping room now features a quality bible. We'd appreciate your help in off-setting the cost of this investment.



Consider sponsoring a bible for just \$30. Donations can be made on-line at <http://terrasancta.org> - then just let us know if you'd like to have your name listed as the sponsor within the Bible.

We also have a few of these Bibles for sale – just stop by the retreat center if you'd like to purchase one.

## OUTDOOR STATIONS

Temporary stations are in place – permanent ones are coming soon.

FROM THE DIRECTOR, continued from page 1

In December, we finalized a plan with the Rapid City Catholic School System to utilize their food services staff as our catering services team. Under the direction of Barb Fritz, the catering staff has been providing delicious meals direct from the kitchen at Terra Sancta for our retreat guests for several months now with rave reviews. In addition to retreat meals, our catering staff has also served exceptional dishes for more formal events, small luncheons, large banquets, including tasty hors d'oeuvres and amazing desserts.



We extend our thanks to the catering companies from the Rapid City area that helped us out as we made this transition. A special thanks to Chris and Lisa from the Beanery Deli & Bakery who spent many early mornings and weekends with us to ensure our guests had top quality meals during their stays.

During this same time, we were also working with two volunteer boards. The Advisory Committee worked together to develop a vision and mission statement for the retreat center as well as goals and objectives. The Committee then worked with Kolbe Media to develop a logo and consistent look for our printed and electronic materials. The Committee now meets quarterly and provides support and insight as we keep our goals and objectives in focus.

The Committee for Program Development focuses on programming for the retreat center. Keeping in mind the needs of all constituents of the diocese, the group discusses what types of retreats and events the retreat center should offer. From this group, we've identified the need for offering multiple silent retreats throughout the year, developed an approach to ensuring families can utilize the retreat center through Faith & Family events (potluck dinners, weekend experiences and more), and worked to ensure the retreat center remains a place of prayer (starting with monthly Taizé, Adoration during Lent 2013, and Stations of the Cross).



Respectfully,



Reeny Wilson, Director  
Terra Sancta Retreat Center

## Silent Retreats

**July 25-28 Silent Retreat for Men**

Directed by Fr Tim Hoag

**October 3-6 Silent Retreat  
for Men & Women**

Directed by Fr Rick Abert, SJ

**December 12-15  
Silent Retreat for  
Women**

Directed by Susan Safford



Come aside and rest in God at Terra Sancta Retreat Center. Silence, solitude, reflection and prayer. Open yourself to a deeper relationship with God.

Find out more and register on-line at <http://terrasancta.org/retreats>

## A HOUSE OF PRAYER

As part of our mission, the retreat center is focused on ensuring this holy ground remains a place of prayer. With the help of Lorraine Reith-Ptacek, Director of Liturgy/Music Ministry for Our Lady of the Black Hills (Piedmont, SD), and the Rev. Kathy Monson Lutes, Rector of St Andrews Episcopal Church in Rapid City, monthly Taizé services started in October of 2012 in Holy Cross Chapel. Taizé is a prayer experience that combines songs, silence and scripture. An icon or image of Christ is the focal point, the lights are dimmed and dozens of pillar candles are lit. In addition to this meditative style of prayer, Taizé serves another purpose – it is truly ecumenical, inviting all Christians to be united in solidarity with each other. Why is this important? The USCCB states "The fostering of Christian unity and mission to grow in understanding and friendship with other churches and religious groups is at the heart of our Catholic identity."

On April 13, we were honored to host Brothers John and Emile, who are visiting from the Taizé Community in France. They are in South Dakota to prepare for the international gathering at Red Shirt, Pine Ridge over Memorial Day Weekend. A diverse group joined us for dinner, conversation and prayer. We invite you to join us for prayer, song and silence on the second Wednesday of each month (October – May). To find out more



about Taizé, go on-line to <http://www.taize.fr/en>.

## CALLING FORTH GIFTS

Lisa Wattenhofer has been a volunteer for Terra Sancta in many ways . . . she was part of the crew that helped clear the hiking trails. She spent time doing construction clean-up and she now takes care of the sacristy for both Holy Cross Chapel and the Cenacle. Lisa, a native of Faith, SD, is the Director of Liturgy & Music for Blessed Sacrament Church (Rapid City). "I love doing all aspects of this work – from cleaning wax off candle holders to being sacristan at Year of Faith masses at Holy Cross Chapel, because great or small it's in service to God and our community. As Mother Theresa says, 'it's how much love we put in the doing that makes an offering something beautiful for God.' I find my time



at Terra Sancta to be a wonderful way to serve God," said Lisa. As a sacristan for weddings and larger masses at the retreat center, Lisa spends about five to ten hours a month volunteering at Terra Sancta.

## OUTDOOR FEATURES



Through the help of many volunteers, we have some great outdoor features that are available for groups staying overnight, as well as day-use guests. If you're having a workshop or staff retreat and want to include some outdoor time, consider using Terra Sancta Retreat Center. The campus features:



- Hiking Trails
- Sand Volleyball Courts
- Challenge Course
- Amphitheatres (bench seating) – one with an altar
- Fire pit
- Picnic Tables
- Patio and Courtyard Space





Coming Soon . . .  
Terra Sancta Retreat Center Gear!



**Terra Sancta**  
Retreat Center

**Shirts, caps, and more!**

Items will be available on-line  
and at the retreat center.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

The stained glass window at the front of Holy Cross Chapel depicts the story of St. Martin. The face of Christ is in the top third of the image. He has an angel at each of his shoulders as well as one above him. St.

Martin and the beggar with whom he shared his cloak are in the lower third of the image. Find out more about the details of Holy Cross Chapel on-line at <http://terrasancta.org>.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**472**

Days in operation  
(Jan 13, 2012 through  
April 2013) . . . that's  
67 weekends.

**83**

Groups stayed  
overnight at the  
retreat center

**144**

Quilts donated.

**226**

Lunches served  
during Pastoral  
Ministry Days 2013.

**5**

Weddings  
scheduled  
in 2013 at Holy  
Cross Chapel.

**1,568,800**

Dollars in revenue since opening in January 2012.

