

OUR STAFF

Reeny Wilson, Director
Rev. Steve Biegler, Spiritual Advisor
Barb Fritz, Catering Manager

Catering Services

Ruth Allison, kitchen manager/head chef
Amanda Fritz, line prep
Cathy Hanson, dish washer (event based)
Lisa Kinyon, cook/baker (seasonal)
Janelle Scherr, cook (event based)

Hospitality Services

Marlys Sears, lead for lodging services
Judy Zetah, lead for dining services
Michelle Obineche
Lizzy Werner
Kerry Wilson

Maintenance

Dan Brechtel

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
Lisa Wattenhofer, Lead Sacristan
Joyce & Larry Williamson, Kitchen/Dining Services

OUR ADVISORS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Patty Cresalia (2014)
Barb Honeycutt (2014)
Christy Horn (2015)
Sr Marie Schwan, CSJ (2015)
Rev. Steve Biegler (ex officio)
Reeny Wilson - Chair

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Rev Steve Biegler - Chair
Sr Lorane Coffin, OSB
Lisa Fahey
LuAnn Lindskov
Germaine Little Bear
Rev Kerry Prendiville
Susan Safford
Dcn Greg Sass
Nancy Sass
Sr Marie Schwan, CSJ
Jill Sowers-Legner
Reeny Wilson

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As with anyone who works for the church, I often work on weekends. When people ask what my weekend plans are I reply that I get to work this weekend! Regardless of the day of the week, I am blessed to work at a fabulous facility with amazing staff and wonderful guests. The Lord has truly blessed our diocese . . . and I'm thankful to be a part of that.

It's been a great year. We've hosted more than 5,000 people since July – weddings, Totus Tuus summer camps, clergy retreats, individual guest stays, luncheons, dinners, prayer services, confirmation retreats, faith formation workshops, family gatherings and more. We continue to make connections with more and more people and groups. And we appreciate your help in letting people know we're here and ready for guests to come away and rest in God at Terra Sancta!

As of the end of February, we exceeded our projected income for this fiscal year by more than \$32,000 – and the fiscal year ends in July! We were conservative with our estimated income, but the other good news is that our expenses are holding at less than 10 percent more than projections. As you may know in the service industry, many expenses are driven by the number of guests you have – so praise the Lord for our staff's ability to be frugal. We will continue to work on growing our business; we definitely have the capacity to host more groups on weekdays. Weekend business is steady – often with two or three groups on-campus at the same time.

During the first year we were open, one of our guests said we “erased distractions” and allowed his group to fully enter into their retreat. It was a wonderful compliment – and we continue to strive to do just that for all of our guests. Thankfully, the facility allows for multiple groups to stay with us without being distractions to one another; they may have to adjust their schedule a bit to accommodate chapel use, but that's all part of being in community with Jesus and one another.



We were able to add a few features to the retreat center at little to no cost – find out more about the renewal of the Solarium inside this newsletter. With generous donations of a treadmill, an elliptical machine and a stair climber, we now have an Exercise Room for our lodging guests.

We welcomed new staff members during the past year (Judy Zetah, Kerry Wilson and Dan Brechtel) and we say best wishes to Amber LeFaive as she starts her new ministry as Music Director at Cathedral of OLPH.

We look forward to having you stay with us – soon and often.

Respectfully,



Reeny Wilson

WHAT OUR GUESTS HAVE TO SAY

During the past year, we've had a number of different groups stay with us. What a blessing to have a great place for people of all faiths to come away and rest in God! Here are comments from just a few of our more than 5,000 guests that have joined us in the past 10 months.

Going on retreat at Terra Sancta has been a wonderful gift. As a member of Cathedral staff events like RCIA Retreats, Confirmation Retreats, Staff Retreats, Silent Women's Retreats (yes, I was silent), Year of Faith and VSI have all been powerful events because of the great staff and facilities at Terra Sancta. I love the Chapels, the variety of meeting rooms, being able to spend the night, the FOOD and the supportive help from staff. My spiritual life is better because of Terra Sancta and I look forward to spending many, many more spirit filled days and nights there.

*Linda Baldwin – Generations of Faith Director, RCIA
Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City, SD*

Terra Sancta is the favorite place for our Young Life staff, leaders and committee to go to for retreats, staff meetings and personal get-a-ways. Our leaders and staff spend countless hours every week investing in the lives of hurting kids and it can take its toll on us as we journey with them through the turbulent waters of adolescence. It is such a blessing to have a place to get away, spend time with Jesus and renew our souls and that place for our team is Terra Sancta Retreat Center. I highly recommend Terra Sancta for anyone who is seeking to grow in their journey with Jesus.

Corey Harouff - Rapid City Young Life Area Director

Terra Sancta Retreat Center provides a space of welcoming beauty. During our diocesan priest-retreat (for the Diocese of Cheyenne) the past two years, we enjoyed the blessing of ample grounds and prayer in two chapels. Well-appointed accommodations and provided meals enabled a natural easing into our time of retreat; which sustained (our) encounters with the Lord.

*Fr. Steve Titus – Pastor, St. James Parish, Douglas, WY and
Our Lady of Lourdes Mission, Glendo, WY*



Terra Sancta is a beautiful place in which to hold a retreat. The staff are incredibly welcoming and took great care of us; the facilities are very good; and the food was fantastic. Holy Cross Chapel is an amazing worship space with some of the best acoustics I've ever encountered short of Washington National Cathedral, and the Cenacle is a marvelous worship space for small groups of people. Both bring you into God's presence and hold you in God's spirit. I look forward to more retreats at Terra Sancta in the future.

*The Rev. Lauren R. Stanley - Priest-in-Charge,
Rosebud Mission West, Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota*

In my role as a Leadership Consultant for the Catholic Leadership Institute over the past 5 ½ years I have stayed in 42 retreat centers in 23 states. I evaluate retreat centers on four criteria; sleeping accommodations, meeting room, food, and hospitality. The first three were very good, and the hospitality was exceptional. Every person was not



only hospitable, but went out of their way to make sure that everything was ok. I have a personal rating system and Terra Sancta rose to the top of my list.

*Dennis VanAuken - Leadership
Consultant, Catholic Leadership Institute*

Silent Retreats at Terra Sancta

† July 12-20, 2014

Directed 8-day retreat with Sr Marie Schwan, CSJ

† July 26-29, 2014

Preached retreat with Fr Tim Hoag & Susan Safford

† December 11-14, 2014

Preached retreat with Fr Peter Etzel, SJ

† February 26 - March 1, 2015

Preached retreat with Fr Michel Mulloy



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>

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Outdoor Stations of the Cross are fully installed with benches located at each station for guests to rest and contemplate our Lord's final journey before His crucifixion. Work will begin soon to finish the path that will be wheelchair accessible. You're welcome to visit and pray the stations. Until the path is complete, it might be a little muddy! †



SOLARIUM RENEWED

In August 2013, during a lull in guest use at the retreat center, we decided to deep clean the Solarium. Our deep cleaning revealed that the curtains the Sisters had left behind were not only a little dusty (we hadn't washed them after construction); they were literally crumbling from exposure to the sun. So we found a sale at a local retailer and a donor to cover the expense, and started to replace the curtains with sheers. With the curtains down, we saw the room needed to be painted. Not letting the temperatures outside of 90 plus degrees stop us, the staff took on the painting project. With two donors willing to purchase the paint needed, we were able to rejuvenate the space at little expense. Another donor left us several large indoor plants. Sr Florence McManamen, OSB keeps the plants looking fabulous – and guests find the room a great place to rest in silence or have informal meetings. †



FAITHFUL STEWARDS THROUGH HOSPITALITY

Larry and Joyce Williamson of Our Lady of the Black Hills (Piedmont) began their volunteer work at Terra Sancta in 2012. They helped to build benches for the amphitheaters and were among the many that did cleaning during the first months the retreat center was open. Larry and Joyce were instrumental in making sure the monastic lodging rooms were ready for the very first retreat in that wing. We had just a few days between getting access to the area and having our first guests arrive. Joyce and Larry were literally running towels and soaps to rooms when the guests started to arrive.



Larry, Joyce and the dish washing machine at Terra Sancta. Thousands of dishes have been cleaned, sanitized and put away by the Williamsons.

When asked why they volunteer at Terra Sancta, Joyce offered the following, "It may have helped to have Fr. Biegler as our parish priest, encouraging parishioners to volunteer, or that we knew Reeny Wilson; but we have also participated in retreats and diocesan meetings that were held at non-Catholic retreat centers and were pleased that there was finally a retreat center that we could call our own." Larry continued, "Retreats have been an important part of our personal spiritual growth, and it is important to us that Terra Sancta is successful and able to provide the opportunity for that experience to others."

After helping with multiple aspects of the retreat center, Larry and Joyce felt they were being called in the long term to help with meals for retreatants. Prayer and contemplation are hard work and Larry and Joyce find great joy in helping to provide nourishment to those present at Terra Sancta.

They assisted with meal service from the beginning – before we had our own staff, let alone actual space to prepare meals. "There has been quite a bit of change since our early times to now, but the importance of giving of our time has not changed." Larry offered, "Gift of time and talent are as important to us as gifts of treasure." Joyce explained further, "Volunteering at Terra Sancta allows us to spend time together in this wonderful and sacred space. The staff at Terra Sancta are easy to work with, accommodating of our personal schedules, and always appreciative of our work."

The Williamsons have been members of OLBH for more than 30 years and have 10 children and 16 grandchildren. †

Interested in volunteering at Terra Sancta Retreat Center?
Find out more on-line at <http://terrasancta.org/volunteer>
or call us at 605-716-0925.

**We invite you to
Stay & Pray with us when
you're in the Black Hills!**

Located just 15 minutes from
downtown Rapid City,
Terra Sancta Retreat Center
offers a quiet setting in a peaceful
valley surrounded by wooded hillsides.

Traveling as a group/parish?
Planning a staff retreat or reunion?
Contact us today!



Terra Sancta
Retreat Center
Come away and rest in God.

Call us at 605-716-0925
Email stay@terrasancta.org
<http://terrasancta.org>