



OUR STAFF

Accounting

Megan Hamer

Catering Services

Barb Fritz, Director
Ruth Allison, Kitchen Manager
& Head Chef
Chrissy Fisher
Amanda Fritz
Cathy Hanson
Barb Philippe

Director

Reeny Wilson

Event Coordinators

Holly Baughman
Samantha Hough
Stephanie Lindsley
Bob Thompson

Hospitality Services

Brett Beyer
Kerry Beyer
Sam Haug
Linda Hofer
Marianne Hofer
Kelsey Koch
Michelle Obineche
Meghan Schlichte
Marlys Sears
Elizabeth Wagner
Lisa Wattenhofer
Lizzy Werner
Thérèse Wilhelmi
Kerry Wilson
Judy Zetah

Maintenance

Dan Brechtel

Spiritual Advisor

Fr Mark McCormick

FROM THE DIRECTOR

We've come a long way from our first year of operation in 2012. We've grown from hosting a few retreats each month to having three or four events each weekend. Thankfully, we have also expanded our staff to meet the increased activity at the retreat center.

We are blessed with an amazing team (listed on the left) who see their work at Terra Sancta as a ministry, not just another job. Most of our staff are event based;

meaning they work when we have events. This helps our bottom line as we are able to keep our personnel expenses more in-line with our income. We're grateful for all of our employees: for their dedication to ensuring our guests have great experiences at the retreat center and for being flexible with their schedules to best meet the needs of our many guests. As a diocesan

retreat center, we provide many services at no cost to diocesan programs. This is off-set by the very generous support the retreat center receives from the Diocesan Annual Appeal.



Since our last Year in Review, we welcomed out-of-town lodging guests for the priestly ordinations last June. We were happy to help the Hofer family with their luncheon celebration for almost 200 people following Fr Adam Hofer's first mass. The Totus Tuus for Girls Summer Camp was the largest it's been since we opened. There were more than 130 people here including staff, volunteers, religious sisters from twelve communities as well as all the campers.

In July of 2014, we hosted the Executive Council of the North American Lutheran Church. Representatives from around the US traveled to the retreat center for several days of meetings, a public listening session and prayer. We also partnered with Our Lady of the Black Hills to host Level II training for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. We provided on-line registration and the ability to take payment on-line, too. CGS is a Montessori-based faith formation program used by several parishes in the diocese. Catechists from Hawaii, Canada, Montana and North Dakota as well as from throughout the diocese joined us for this 8-day workshop; many will return this summer for part 2 of this training.

A south parking area with 73 stalls was added to accommodate overflow traffic during large gatherings this past fall. Chad Hilt provided the dirt work at cost. Also, Chad donated labor to grade the gravel road (leading to Hidden Valley Rd.) so that it would shed water. A sidewalk was constructed from the new parking addition to the main entrance of Holy Cross Chapel. Lighting for the new walk will be added in the near future.



OUR ADVISORS



The additional parking spaces have helped tremendously with large events and on weekends when multiple events are happening. One large weekend of activity included a Cursillo Weekend Experience; A Weekend of Hope & Healing with Immaculeè; Veritatis Spondor Basics Retreat; Just Faith: Permanent Diaconate Formation Program; the Catholic Daughters Anniversary Mass & Luncheon; and then the Srodowski Thanksgiving Feast. Approximately

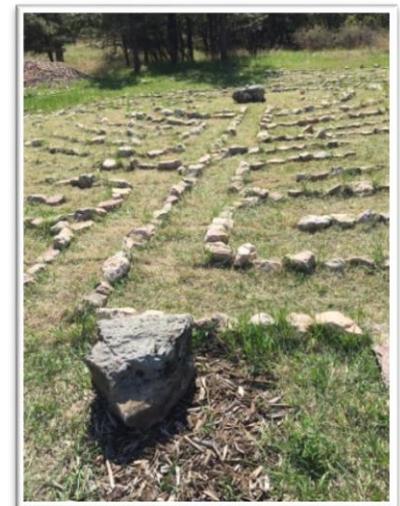
420 people were in and out of the retreat center within this three day period in mid-November.

In January, we assisted the Catholic Leadership Institute with the graduation luncheon for our clergy who successfully completed the Good Leaders, Good Shepherds program. The first retreat weekend for engaged couples, Heart to Heart, was also held in January. We look forward to continuing to provide support to this important ministry of the diocese.

We restructured our staffing to provide more on-site management during events. Subsequently, we hired one full-time person (Holly Baughman) and three part-time staff (Samantha Hough, Stephanie Lindsley and Bob Thompson) to serve as Event Coordinators. The ECs work in partnership with our Catering & Hospitality Services teams while providing a main point of contact for our guests. Additionally, Megan Hamer joined our team as our accounting assistant. As more and more events take place at the retreat center, we are in need of additional event based staff. We continue to hire as needed for these positions.

The retreat center advisory groups (listed on the right) met this spring with Dr Lily Bruckner, EdD. Lily facilitated a strategic planning process for us pro bono. We will be submitting updated mission and vision statements, as well as revised goals and objectives to Bishop Gruss for approval in the next week. We look forward to continuing to make the retreat center the place in western South Dakota where God's people are able to "Come Away and Rest in God."

Several projects took place this year to enhance our outdoor offerings. These projects include the completion of the Outdoor Labyrinth; special thanks to Sandi Ohlen for leading this project. Meditation locations have also been completed along the hiking trail – thanks to several people for making this happen. Fr Steve Biegler had assistance from Ralph Kopp, John Lang (Eagle Scout project), Cody Wilson, Derrick Siemieniak and Dcn Walt Wilson with developing the trails, posting signage and installing large rocks



ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Patty Cresalia (2017)
Robert Satter (2018)
Larry Williamson (2018)
Fr Mark McCormick (ex officio)
Reeny Wilson - Chair

RETREAT DEVELOPMENT

Fr Mark McCormick - Chair
Sr Lorane Coffin, OSB
Lisa Fahey
Tabitha Goodhouse
Luanne Lindskov
Germaine Little Bear
Fr Kerry Prendiville
Susan Safford
Dcn Greg Sass
Nancy Sass
Jill Sowers-Legner
Reeny Wilson



BY THE NUMBERS

29 The number of Catholic Study Bibles that still need to be sponsored. Each of the 56 lodging room at the retreat center has a Little Rock Catholic Study Bible. Sponsorship is just \$30 and can be made on-line, in person or by mail. Thanks to all who have donated and sponsored 27 of the Bibles.

10,916

Guests at the retreat center from July 1, 2014 through April 31, 2015. That's 3,000 more than the same time period in 2014.

9 Confirmation Retreats this year: Blessed Sacrament (2); Cathedral of OLPH; Our Lady of the Black Hills; St Francis of Assisi; St John the Evangelist; St Joseph & St Paul; St Therese Little Flower; and one independent make-up retreat.

Staff hours worked during Pastoral Ministry Days (this doesn't include salaried staff time).

185

\$19,440

Gross income from lodging in July 2014

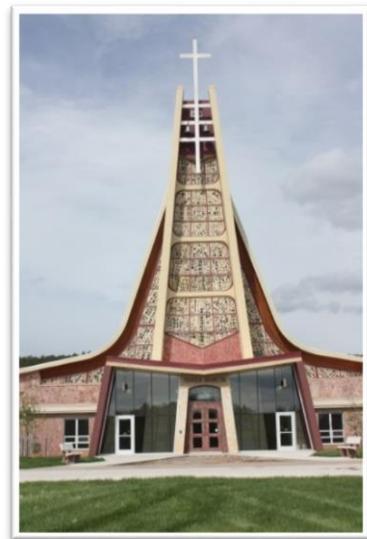
as benches for nine meditation areas at scenic settings adjacent to the trails (around the property). At the "Burning Bush" meditation area, Jane Glanzer and Mary Langbehn donated and helped plant a burning bush shrub (*Euonymus alata*). Two additional Eagle Scout projects by Zachery Curtis and Liam Schroeder brought to fruition the steps leading from the west parking lot to the north end of the Mt of Beatitudes Amphitheater and a sign near the steps which will feature a map of the hiking trails and information about other outdoor features. Additionally, the sidewalk from the south parking lot through Via Dolorosa (the outdoor stations) is complete.

The landscaping in front of Holy Cross Chapel is also nearing completion. Enviroscapes continues to provide great landscaping design and care of the grounds. Dcn Walt Wilson completed the rock columns that encase the former altar railings and installed the benches along the center of the promenade to the main entrance of Holy Cross Chapel.

Tony Berendse and a few folks from Berendse & Sons power-washed the large stained glass window on the façade of the main chapel and then painted the trim. Not only does it look great from the outside, the stained glass is especially brilliant in the morning hours now that sun can shine through without construction dirt and grime blocking its path.



Before



After

Follow us
on



We look forward to another wonderful year serving our Lord through our ministry at the retreat center. We hope you can join us ... soon and often!

In Christ,

Reeny

Maureen "Reeny" Wilson
Director



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



GARDEN OF GHETHSEMANE
Sr Lorane Coffin, OSB

"Perhaps 40 or more years ago, Sister Elaine Ettel, who was an excellent gardener, planted rose bushes in what is now called the Garden of Gethsemane. She tended them for many years, and when she could no longer do the work, I volunteered to do it. After we Sisters moved to the new monastery, I saw that (the roses needed tending), so I volunteered again. Some of those bushes are dozens of years old, and there are several that were planted recently. I consider it a privilege to share in the creative activity of God by working the earth, and it's a joy for me to see the flowers grow and bloom each year." *Sr Lorane*

PLANT MAINTENANCE

Sr Florence McManamen, OSB

"Taking care of the indoor plants at Terra Sancta Retreat Center is rewarding in many ways. Plants add to the healthful and peaceful environment of the Center. I also enjoy working in the facility that brings many happy memories of our Sisters and the activities that took place there. Mondays and Fridays are the usual plant care days for plants in the Center. Often while watering, I reflect on the spiritual and physical needs and benefits of water in our daily lives. Likewise, the Gospel tells us of the necessity of pruning and clearing away of the things that lessens our 'beauty' in the eyes of God." *Sr Florence*



Depending on the season, there are as many as 50 plants to maintain. We're grateful that Sr Florence brings many of the patio plants from the monastery to spend the winter with us at the retreat center.



MAY SHOWERS bring beautiful waterfalls along the hiking trails. This photo was taken by Fr Mark McCormick (our spiritual advisory) near Mt Sinai.



LOOKING AHEAD

As we near the end of the 2015 fiscal year, we're thankful for the opportunity to have served God's people through our ministry at the retreat center. We also look forward to hosting many groups in the next 12 months:

- Diocese of Cheyenne Annual Priests Retreat;
- Graduation Parties;
- Weddings;
- Family Reunions & Celebrations;
- Totus Tuus Summer Camps;
- Youth Group Mission trips from outside the Diocese;
- Reunions for St Martin's Academy, St Johns School of Nursing and St Thomas More;
- Lodging guests looking for a quieter place to stay;
- Retreats and workshops for VSI, our Seminarians, our Priests, our Permanent Deacons, our Parishes, RCCSS staff and students, and others.
- Several new groups including – Grace Bible Church (WY), the BH Zone Lutheran Women's Missionary League, and NPWS
- And groups that have stayed with us before such as BHADA, BHQG, Episcopal Diocese of SD and SDWIA.

Looking ahead, we'll be starting work in Holy Cross Chapel to create eight permanent confessionals in two phases. During large retreats and when St Elizabeth Seton Elementary School holds reconciliation services at different times during the school year, we often need 8-10 reconciliation areas. Currently this involves lots of set-up time (we only have one actual confessional). Phase one will involve creating four reconciliation rooms on the north side of the chapel. This investment will be a welcome addition to Holy Cross Chapel. While providing more comfortable and confidential spaces for reconciliation, this project will also reduce personnel expenses incurred for hauling chairs, lamps, crucifixes and more to all corners of the chapel each time a group has reconciliation.

Phase 2 will renovate and repurpose storage closets and current confessional space along the back of Holy Cross Chapel (the east wall). This will provide a total of eight reconciliation rooms and still allows us to add 3-4 more confessional areas if needed.



Terra Sancta
Retreat Center
Come away and rest in God.

A YEAR IN REVIEW
May 2015