

Spring 2020

Website: jesuitspiritualitycenter.org

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3, 5, AND 8-DAY RETREATS

8-day retreats begin on first date.

3 & 5-day retreats begin on either date.

Mon., Apr. 20 or Thu., Apr. 23
Fri., May 1—3 & 5 days only
Mon., May 11 or Thu., May 14
Mon., May 25 or Thu., May 28
Mon., Jun. 8 or Thu., Jun 11
Mon., Jun., 22 or Thu., Jun. 25
Mon., July 6 or Thu., July 9
Mon., July 20 or Thu., July 23
Mon., Aug. 17 or Thu., Aug. 20
Mon., Aug., 31—3 & 5 days only
Tue., Sep. 8 or Fri., Sep. 11
Mon., Sep. 21 or Thu., Sep. 24
Mon., Oct. 5 or Thu., Oct. 8
Mon., Oct. 19 or Thu., Oct. 22
Mon., Nov. 2 or Thu., Nov. 5
Mon., Nov. 30 or Thu., Dec. 3

Thirty-Day Retreats

Mon., Jun. 8 to Sat., Jul. 11
Mon., Oct. 5 to Sat., Nov. 6

WEEKEND PROGRAMS IN 2020

Retreat for Young Women
Jane L. Hebert June 5 — 7

Bearing our Sacred Mysteries:
Contemplative Retreat for Women
Robin Hebert Oct 1— 4

Intro to Icon Painting for Beginners
Faye Drobnic Oct 15—18
PLUS Oct 29—Nov 1 **ALSO**

Zen Practices for Christian Living
Fr. Robert Kennedy, S.J. Nov 12 – 15

AA Weekend
Fr. Tom Weston, S.J.
Wed, Nov 18— 22



Father Hernando Ramirez, S. J., a director at the Center for the last 12 years, is on sabbatical this Spring, and expects a new assignment following the sabbatical.

During 2019 the Center hosted about 843 people. Of that number, 483 made directed retreats, the largest number in the last six years since the renovations were completed. Further, 168 participated in weekend programs, and another 192 came for other programs. These statistics do not include those who come regularly for on-going spiritual direction.

Some 73% of individually-directed retreats were made for 3 or 5-days, the remainder for 8 or 30 days, about the same number as for each of the past six years. About 25% of retreatants were priests and religious, a slight decrease; and the remaining 75% were lay men and women, a slight increase. Women represented the largest percentage of all retreatants with 63%, a slight decrease; and men were at 37%, a slight increase. One hundred and eighty-three, or 38%, of directed retreatants were “first-timers” at the Center. The Center welcomes non-Catholics, and about 10% of all retreatants each year describe themselves that way.

Each year the Center “shuts down” from about December 12 to January 8 to allow the Jesuit community to use of the facilities for a number of events. The Central and Southern Province vocation team and the Novitiate host two “Discernment Retreats” December 17-21 and January 2-6 for young men who are considering entering the Jesuits. This year 11 attended the first program and 20 attended the second. Young Jesuits in formation return to Grand Coteau for a few days following Christmas for a gathering. Finally, the first-year seminarians from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans come for a directed retreat January 8-13. Following these events, the Center resumes its usual retreats and programs.

All of us at the Jesuit Spirituality Center wish all our friends a most joyful, grace-filled, and blessed Easter Season.

Christ is Risen.
He is truly Risen.



From the Director— For many years I’ve listened to the anguish of parents and others whose loved one(s) have “left the Church.” Their anguish also includes the question: What can I DO to bring them back? I have borrowed the following thoughts from the Jesuit priests at Our Lady of the Oaks. I hope it will be of some help.

What might be some good strategies for responding to this sad challenge, approaches that might make a difference in your life and in theirs?

A first response would be to demonstrate the joy and comfort you find in living your faith. Your good example of personal prayer, faithful attendance at Sunday Mass, Bible study, making retreats, doing good works are the best forms of “preaching” you can offer them. St. Francis of Assisi said: “Preach always, use words if necessary.” Let them see you practicing the faith.

The second important response is to continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide them back to the

practice of the faith. That is what St. Monica did for many years for her wandering son, Saint Augustine, who returned to the faith, and became the great theologian of the Latin Church. Practice and Pray!

Thirdly, look for the good in their lives, in what they say about themselves and through their actions. That means you watch for and listen carefully and compassionately to know the positives in their lives. You will hear many good things: their love for their family, their neighbors, the poor, and their hope for a better world, and many other good and holy actions and desires. Encourage them in all the good they are doing and give thanks to God for His love in their lives.

Remember with gratitude the words of the First Letter to Timothy: “God our savior wills everyone to be saved.” (1 Tim 2:4) What God wants he can accomplish, even when we don’t see it, understand it, or even accept it.

Tony Ostini, S. J.

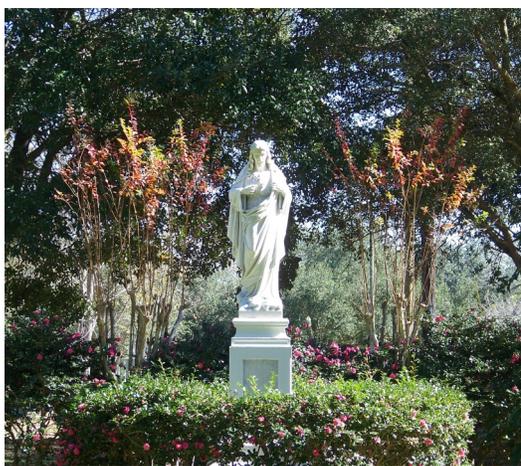
Did You Know?

Jesuit retreat directors sometime refer to “Ignatian indifference,” a term that can confuse and even anger some people. In the consideration called the “Principle and Foundation” in the Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius declares: “We must make ourselves indifferent to all created things . . . not prefer health to sickness, riches to poverty, honor to dishonor, a long life to a short life. The same holds for all other things.” Is he serious? No one can be “indifferent” to sickness, poverty, dishonor, and so forth!

Ignatian “indifference” is not apathy or disinterest. By indifference St. Ignatius means detachment, or **freedom**, from the hungers and cravings and worries that limit our inner freedom—things such as craving for fame, worry about what other people think, fears of poverty or loneliness. St. Ignatius called these anxieties “disordered affections.” These desires and anxieties can be good; they can also become a kind of bondage when they dominate life and control decisions. It’s no exaggeration to place health, prosperity, and reputation on the list of potential disordered affections. They can dominate us as thoroughly as anything else.

By indifference St. Ignatius wants **spiritual freedom** for us— “freedom from and freedom for,” as Fr. Howard Gray, S.J. states: “freedom from all created reality and freedom for God’s ownership over a person’s life.”

Actually, St. Ignatius did not invent something new here. Jesus Christ himself warns us repeatedly in the Gospel not to worry—especially not to worry about “your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear.” (Matth. 6. 25)



The ministry of the Spiritual Exercises which the Jesuit Spirituality Center offers is made possible thanks to the generous contributions, both large and small, of its supporters and benefactors. The Jesuits of the Central and Southern Province of the United States also contribute substantially to its ministry. The Jesuit Spirituality Center is a non-profit and tax exempt ministry. It is one of only a few retreat centers in the United States that offer individually-directed retreats of three, five, eight, and thirty days. The Staff of the Center remember gratefully in prayer all the benefactors and supporters of the Center.