



**SACRED  
HEARTS  
RETREAT  
CENTER**

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February 2017

Dear Friends,

The New England Patriots celebrate winning another Super Bowl. We celebrate another year of ministry and service to God and neighbor. The Pats struggled for three quarters but continued to play as if they were ahead. The message was clear- **give it your all and never give up**. It is not easy to keep going, whether in football or in our daily lives. And the results are not guaranteed. Our personal faith and hope in God may be strong, but if ministry, like the retreat center is to go on **it takes a team**.

Some people have asked me if the Retreat Center will continue now that Fr. Stan is no longer here. Though he was the “greatest quarterback” for the 8 years he ministered here, there were lots of wonderful people who made an impact. Many groups have called this place “home” for over 30 years and they will continue to retreat here for as long as possible. Dedicated people like yourselves, have and continue to support the ministry financially, and with much enthusiasm.

**Greetings from Fr. Bill Petrie, ss.cc.**

Allow me to introduce myself. Having completed being pastor at St. Damien Church on the island of Molokai, I was scheduled for two months to be in Fr. Damien's former area of the Hansen's Disease patients called Kalaupapa and Kalawao. Our SSCC Provincial Fr. Johnathan Hurrell requested that I spend the next two months at Wareham. What a blessing to be in such a sacred place. There was only one Fr. Stan Kolasa, gifted in so many ways, and now it is a transition time until a permanent appointment of a Priest Director is made by the Congregation. I bring with me the experience of being connected with St. Mother Teresa's charism of "being and doing something beautiful for God" no matter where you are. Sr. Claire Bouchard has significant spiritual and administrative talents. Also the staff, volunteers and those who attend daily Mass are an inspiration. I look forward to meeting all who arrive at our Sacred Hearts Retreat and Spirituality Center. For those who receive this newsletter and I will not meet, be assured you are part of our daily Mass and prayers from Wareham.

**Sacred Hearts Retreat Center Support Team**

**Team Update:**

Congratulations to Peter Griswold, Tim and Linda Majewski, and Fr. Arnold Medeiros who each won \$100.00 in the February raffle drawing.

The Sacred Hearts Retreat Center Support Team now has 205 members, 70% are raffle participants, and has raised \$22,000 in support of the Center's operation since October 2016. While these contributions have significantly helped, additional initiatives will be needed going forward. We continue to recruit additional Team members and add to the monthly raffle program. In addition, I have asked Mr. Robert Moll to organize an advisory group to identify major gift opportunities. An initial meeting was held on January 30 and some of the ideas are reported here.

**Major Gifts Program:** The Major Gifts Advisory Group of the Retreat Center's Support Team has recently begun to identify key Stakeholders who will be most impacted by the success or failure of the Center going forward. Thus far the key Stakeholders identified include:

- Neighbors
- Retreatants and their organizers/sponsors
- Congregation of the Sacred Hearts
- Employees
- Suppliers
- Area Parishes
- Mass Audubon

To begin the process of identifying major gift opportunities the group held a brainstorming session to identify possibilities. This brainstorming will continue and new ideas are encouraged and always welcome. Some initial suggestions include:

- Identify Foundations and donors that might be sympathetic to our cause
- Prepare and publish testimonials from prior retreatants
- Solicit donation of skills as an alternative to funds
- Increase the use of social media such as Facebook and News Releases
- Prepare and distribute a brochure
- Develop a method to acknowledge gifts of various sizes.

**Updates:**

**Yard Sale:** The indoor yard sale was a success. We made about \$2,600.00 that day and another \$2,650.00 selling a few of Stan's paintings. Thanks to all who participated in the organization and setup for this day. Thank you to all those who came to shop. The left-over items are set up in the conference room for those who were unable to make it to the yard sale.

**Housekeeper:** The position of housekeeper has been filled. Thank you to those who responded to the request in the January newsletter. We hired Ellen Klenert who will begin her service this week. Thank you Ellen and welcome to the staff.

**Retreat Schedule:** Most weekends are filled but we do have a few openings especially in summer. Attached to this newsletter is a schedule of retreats for 2017 for which you can register.

Though much of my time and effort is spent on raising money to keep the Center alive and running, my heart and soul are filled with gratitude for all who come here. Last week the message on the welcome board was written in Arabic. When I saw it, I was filled with joy and said to myself... All are welcome here. A vibrant group of young people from the Life Community Church spent an overnight and I said to myself... All are welcome here. Both groups had come for the first time and left grateful for the time they spent on this holy ground.

Thank you for all you do to make this Center a haven of hope for all who pass through these doors. Indeed, **it takes a team!**

Blessings and love to all,

Sr. Claire

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***Retreat Center Support Team***

**Sacred Hearts Retreat Center, 226 Great Neck Road, Wareham, MA 02571**

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