



**SACRED
HEARTS
RETREAT
CENTER**

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Dear Friends,

A procession with Palms and Hosannas ushers in Holy Week. Lent has ended. It is time to take off our sackcloth and replace it with glorious resurrection garments. My Lenten journey has given me a deeper appreciation for the Providence of God in my life. When I least expect it, God shows his presence through people and events. I know I am not alone. God always provides.

Having Fr. Bill Petrie for a couple of months was great. He was a good companion and made an impression on all those he met here: the staff, retreatants and visitors. He left his mark on so many. We wish him well on his new assignment at St. Patrick's in Hawaii. I am very grateful that Fr. Tom McElroy continues to come from Fairhaven to celebrate Eucharist when needed. We continue to pray for his health as he battles lung cancer.

All through Lent we have had groups every weekend and many weekday retreats as well. 50 women were here this past weekend; their previous retreat was led by Stan last October. The long conversations and solidarity was magnificent. This weekend we have two youth groups, one Friday and one Saturday, and Peggy Patenaude is leading her annual women's retreat for the weekend. While all this is going on, I am writing the newsletter and preparing for the Triduum Retreat. We are grateful to Rachael and Joel Kaplan who will lead us in the Jewish Seder on Holy Thursday. Fr. Tom will celebrate the Masses. If you are interested and want to sign up, there are still a couple of openings.

Sacred Hearts Retreat Center Support Team

Congratulations to the winners of this month's raffle: Maureen Fessenden, Maureen Healey and Lloyd Beckett.

The number of support team members continues to grow slowly but steadily.

As you know our goal is to operate within a balanced budget. The good news is that we ended the first quarter in the black. A special thanks to all who made this possible. We count on your continued support. Know that your dollars have helped over 750 people

find spiritual nourishment, a way through their troubles, peace, and renewed energy to go forth making a difference in the world. Thank you for being an integral part of this ministry.

Holy Week is upon us; this year it carries more weight for me personally. The Church concentrates the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in a few days. The passion will have more meaning as I recall the face of Stan on his deathbed, his cries of pain and finally... silence...peace... when he was raised up with Christ as we will all be one day. I do not focus on the sadness but on the resurrected presence of Jesus and all my loved ones. With the precariousness of peace in our world we can hold on to the HOPE that Christ offers this Easter and always.

A Blessed Easter 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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