



**SACRED  
HEARTS  
RETREAT  
CENTER**

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Dear Friends,

“Welcome to my new home”; “This is exactly the place I had to be this weekend”; “The retreat changed me- I know what I have to do when I go home”; “God really spoke to me” and many other comments echoed after this weekend’s Women’s Retreat on gratitude. Many had never been here before. I must thank the pastors for promoting it in their church bulletins. It was truly a graced experience for all. Thank you, Fr. Tom McElroy for the touching Eucharist. We all continue to pray for you on your journey. Thank you, God.

The last weekend of July we had a Haitian community retreat. My ability to speak a little French came in handy. Some retreatants were local but others came from New York and New Jersey as far away as Texas, Canada, and Haiti. If the sign of a successful, healing retreat is laughter, this one was off the charts. A pair of very gifted hands and an empty water jug provided the lively music for the Eucharist. I couldn’t stand still. Worship came easy. The experience was so special that some of the members want to bring their church groups here in the future. Thank you, God.

The DBSA Southcoast (Depression Bipolar Support Alliance) was in need of a place to meet, and a mutual friend suggested our retreat center. We are happy to provide a safe, quiet place for the group to meet bimonthly. Welcome! Thank you, God.

Great things are happening. I am looking forward to the New England Deaf Women’s Retreat whose numbers continue to increase. U Mass Dartmouth and Harvard provide retreats for college students, always great to have them.

Now that we have the water supply back to the cottage we are able to have small group retreats there again. Thank you, God.

In the past few weeks, several of my Sacred Hearts Brothers/Priests came for visits to chat about the place, learn more about what is going on and to support me with encouragement. Fr. Steven will bring a group of catechists for a retreat in August.

Fr. Johnathan, the provincial superior of the Sacred Hearts Priest/Brothers, called this week to congratulate me/our staff/our collaborators/our donors on the good work we

are doing here. The ministry is not only continuing but growing. Thank you, God.

Jodi and her friend Catherine have taken up the task of weeding the gardens. The front of the house is regaining its former splendor. There are lots of gardens and she welcomes any help. Anyone who has time and likes gardening is welcome. Just give me a call. Thank you, God.

Congratulations to the winners of the Support Team raffle:

July: Sr. Muriel Lemoine, SASV, Brian & Mary Lou O'Rourke, and Deborah Netto.

August: Pat Perry, Lloyd Beckett, and Brenda White.

I have a friend who got newsletters from a retreat house (not ours) and her husband would say... "and so what is broken now?" The good news is that the water pipe has been replaced. As I said earlier, the cottage and youth center are back in service. Financially, thanks to you, we were doing well. The bad news is that the "big dig" and 800 feet of pipe set us back about \$30,000. If there is any way you can help us with this, I will be eternally grateful.

Thank you, God is about all I can say now. I feel so supported by your calls, messages, emails, visits. I make my own the words of St. Paul to the Philippians 1:3... "Every time I think of you, I thank my God". How can I feel alone in this when I have all of you holding me up? We are all in this ministry together. We are all partakers in its success. By touching people who "pay it forward" to change the world for the better one encounter at a time, we carry on the work of God.

God bless you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Claire".

Sr. Claire Bouchard, ss.cc.

This newsletter was sent only by email. Please pass the info on to all your friends. Create a link to your e-mail list. Attached is the letter of invitation to join our Support Team.