



**SACRED  
HEARTS  
RETREAT  
CENTER**

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Dear Friends,

Autumn has arrived. I love the season. The colors, the crisp weather, the harvest. The last push of beauty and fruitfulness before the hibernation. A season of hope.

The song “God is watching over us” comes to mind. Reflecting more deeply, I know that is true; but what I really feel is that God is with us, acts in us and through us, God is not just watching.

In the last newsletter I recounted how **Fr. Tom McElroy** celebrated a touching Eucharist for the Women’s Retreat. Fr. Tom celebrated 50 years of ordination this year and though he had to come in a wheelchair, he wanted to celebrate at the Retreat Center with family and friends. He was the director here for many years and his heart was here. On Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> after a moving Eucharist, all the guests joined for lunch and the stories and reminiscing abounded. He said openly, “I’m dying and I’m ready.” Well, the Lord came for him Friday October 6<sup>th</sup>. Although we are sad that he is no longer physically with us, we know we have another advocate in heaven. He and Stan were good friends. I can only imagine the reunion they had.

**September and October are very busy months for retreats.** Among the many retreats our Sacred Hearts Priests and Brothers came for their annual week-long retreat. Some members of the Secular Branch baked desserts for them. They expressed gratitude to me and the staff and volunteers for keeping the retreat center ministry going.

Fr. Michael Shanahan who spent many years in India, is available to celebrate Mass whenever a retreat group requests his services. Many of our other priests offered their services as well.

**We now have Mass on weekdays.** Two Vocationist priests, Frs. Antonio and Cyril have been assigned to St. Patrick’s Parish in Wareham. These two wonderful and generous priests take turns celebrating daily Eucharist at 8AM in our chapel. They have “adopted us” and will do anything to help. I am very grateful for this new support.

**Another special event** was Peggy Patenaude's October mini retreat which was anything but "mini". Nearly 100 people gathered in the dining room (transformed into a concert hall) to listen to two amazing singers/song writers, Stowe Dailey and Karen Taylor-Good. The **StoweGood** duo led the group in "**Spirituality in Song**". It was so powerful, that I hope we will be able to get them for an outdoor summer concert next year. Thanks to John Iacobucci the sound system functioned perfectly.

Please join Peggy Patenaude on November 8<sup>th</sup> for "The Pilgrimage of Life" and December 13<sup>th</sup> for "An Incredible Love Story". To register call Peggy at 508-548-9149.

### **Other things for which to be grateful.**

The **tent** over the outside patio did not make it through the first autumn winds. We are grateful because, Mr. Richard Boucher donated a brand new pop-up tent to replace it. It is slightly larger than the previous one and does a better job of keeping people dry. Thank you very much, Richard.

The **roof** of the youth chapel was in serious need of repair. Stan's best friend, Ray was able to re-roof the building at a reduced cost. I thank Ray for supporting the retreat center in this way.

**An unexpected surprise.** Thanks to a good word from a friend at Wareham Land Trust, the editor of Wareham Week sent a reporter to do a feature story on our retreat center "Retreat center provides peace in nature". You can Google Wareham Week or WarehamVillageSoup.com and read the article for Sept 22. Full page with pictures. The publicity will help get us known even better.

### **Needed: Part-time housekeeper**

Ellen Klennert is leaving our housekeeping staff for health reasons. Thank you Ellen for your joyful presence and all you did keeping the house clean and in order. We will miss you working here, but know that you are always welcome.

We are in need of a part time housekeeper.

18 hrs/week. \$12/hr. To apply please call Sr. Claire at 508-295-0100.

Thank you for considering this ministry. Your work can make a difference.

### **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**

It is never too early to announce the date for Christmas open house.

Save the date: **December 17, 2017 1pm-5pm.**

Carrying on the tradition... it will be spectacular!

**Congratulations to the winners of the Support Team raffle:**

September: Thomas & Barbara Geagan, Lucille Defino, and Lloyd Beckett.

October: Edward Hayes, Deborah Netto, and Chuck Silva.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

The **Support Team Raffle** begins a new year. Most of you joined last October. It has been a successful year. Thank you to all who participated. The Support Team Raffle generated about \$14,000. Those who joined the Support Team without participating in the raffle brought in almost \$16,000. I am super grateful for your ongoing support. Please renew your membership soon. Richard Boucher sent out renewal envelopes for your convenience. We can make next year even better if each one of you asks just one friend to join the Support Team. With this newsletter I have attached a letter of explanation with a coupon to fill out and return. Make as many copies as you need.

All the money raised goes to the operation and maintenance of Sacred Hearts Retreat Center. Again, thank you so much for your continued support.

As many of you may know, Stan would have been 75 years old on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Our morning 8 AM Mass will be for him. All are welcome to join in this prayer or pray for him from wherever you are.

One of the ladies from the Lay Carmelite group here this weekend said to me, "You are so upbeat...how do you do it?" What can I say... God is watching over us.... God is in us.... And works through us all.

Thank you for sharing in this ministry!

God bless you,



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.