



Gratitude and anticipation... It's the Center's 25th Anniversary!

By Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU

**"If the only prayer you say
in your entire life is 'thank
you,' that would suffice."**

-- Meister Eckhart

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center begins this new year with "thank you." This simple prayer celebrates 25 years of service. Over the past years the Center has completed renovations, sponsored retreats, offered programs, and hosted numerous businesses and organizations for meetings. It has served thousands of people over the past 25 years. Each year for the past 10 years, almost 500 students have come for a tour of the farm to learn about good stewardship of God's Earth. The years have been good ones. We are filled with gratitude.

"Thank you" seems so simple when we come to a time like this in the history of an organization. In 1983, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph made a difficult decision to close the Academy. Times were changing, and girls were no longer coming to the boarding school. The sisters knew it was time to do something different. They followed the advice of Saint Angela Merici to look at the signs of the times and see what new



Retreatants pray in the Mount Saint Joseph Center Chapel during the October 2007 Marian Retreat.

adventure lay on the horizon for the historic buildings. From their prayers, hard work, and thoughtful decisions, the Center came into being. And for that we are grateful.

The Center has touched the lives of many who have come for a time away, a place to get closer to God, or to search for God. It has been a place of prayerful discovery of an inner peace and a place for discerning

God's will. It has been a place of music, literature, and learning; a place for creativity and art. For these many gifts, we are thankful.

The Center has had four directors during its 25 years: Sisters Mary Matthias Ward, Marie Goretti Browning, Darlene Denton, and Amelia Stenger. Each has brought her talents and willingness to serve the community and the guests of the Center. Each one gave much to the strengthening of the mission and served well. Along with the directors, a dedicated staff has made every effort to meet the needs of the retreatants and guests. They deserve much gratitude.

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MISSION

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center offers and hosts programs in a rural environment of tranquility for people of all ages and faiths to nurture spiritual and personal growth, advance the arts, and promote lifelong learning.

Sister Amelia Stenger, right, and other attendees of a Retreats International meeting enjoy a picnic dinner near the lake on the grounds of Mount Saint Joseph Center Oct. 8-10, 2007. Members of this group are retreat center directors.



Dear Friends of the Center,

We have begun a new year. This year of 2008 will be a great one for the Center. In August 1983, the Mount Saint Joseph Retreat Center opened its doors. During the past 25 years, the Conference and Retreat Center has served thousands of people who came to find quiet, peace, and a place to pray.

We continue to serve the people of the Diocese of Owensboro and several dioceses surrounding us with retreats, programs, and prayer days.

“Through these activities, the Center continues to fulfill the mission expressed when it began 25 years ago.”

Schools utilize our meeting spaces and the farm while companies and other organizations continue to schedule planning retreats and programs. Through these activities, the Center continues to fulfill the mission expressed when it began 25 years ago.

As we begin this new year, we want to thank all of you for your prayers, support, and financial donations. You have been so generous. We ask your continued prayers and support as we begin the yearlong anniversary celebration. We will try to do something special during each of the months of 2008. These will be announced in our newsletter and on the Web site www.msjcenter.org. A special mailing will be sent in February to begin the celebration. Our annual dinner will be held on April 26, and an anniversary reception will be held in August. Please make plans to join us for some of these special celebrations.

Along with the celebration for the Center, I will be celebrating a special anniversary as well. During this year, I will complete my 40th year in the community. I ask for your prayers as I try to serve you, our Ursuline community, and the many guests who come to the Center.


With God’s help and your prayers this will be the best year ever.

God Bless you and your family during this new year.

Sr. Amelia Stenger, OSU

Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU
Director

Mark your calendars for the second
**GREENING Western
Kentucky Expo
Saturday, July 19, 2008**

 Brescia University 

•Booths •Workshops •Giveaways
www.greeningwesternkentucky.org

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Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center is a sponsored ministry of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph in Maple Mount, Kentucky

Celebrating 25 years of...

Retreat Center Directors



Sister Mary Matthias Ward
1983-88

A native of Clementsville, Ky., Sister Mary Matthias was the first Center director. She went on to become major superior of the community. She is now director of Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Gallup, N.M.



Sister Marie Goretti Browning
1988-94

A native of Calvary, Ky., Sister Marie Goretti had several ministries prior to Center director, including assistant superior at the Mount and director of novices. She now resides at Maple Mount.



Sister Darlene Denton
1994-97

A native of Louisville, Ky., Sister Darlene was principal of Saints Simon and Jude School in Louisville before becoming Center director. Currently, she is a pastoral associate at Saint Helen Parish in Louisville.



Sister Amelia Stenger
1997-present

A native of Glennonville, Mo., Sister Amelia was superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Owensboro and Archdiocese of Louisville prior to her current position. She has also been a teacher and a principal.



Michael Moran, C.P., a Brother of the Eastern Province of the Passionist Community, poses beside two of his religious paintings. He is chaplain of the Supportive Care Program of St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City. Brother Michael will be leading a retreat at Maple Mount Feb. 22-24.

Heart of Creativity Retreat Feb. 22-24

A “Heart of Creativity” retreat is scheduled for Friday-Sunday, Feb. 22-24 at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center. Anyone with a creative heart will enjoy this weekend, where a method of meditation will be presented that leads to a more contemplative outlook and “seeing with the eyes of an artist.” Participants will explore prayer, the mystery that surrounds us, and the Christ we encounter in prayer. The retreat director is artist Brother Michael Moran. The retreat fee is \$165 (room for two nights, materials, meals) or \$115 for commuters. Some scholarships are available. For information, contact Kathy McCarty at 270-229-0200, ext. 413 or e-mail kmccarty@maplemount.org. A brochure can be found online at www.msjcenter.org.

25 Years *From front page*

We thank God for the past and pray with anticipation for the years to come. The year of 2008 will be filled with many activities centered on the 25th anniversary. Each month will bring a special activity or retreat. January brings this newsletter and pictures of some of the activities that have taken place over the past months. In February, each of you will receive a special mailing that will contain a prayer for the Center and a letter about future activities. August will bring the big celebration in the memory garden. We hope many of you will be a part of these wonderful celebrations. Updates will be posted on the Web site www.msjcenter.org.

So, if “thank you” is a prayer, there will be many prayers offered during the coming year because there is much for which we can be thankful. Author Melodie Beattie says, “Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity.... It turns problems into gifts, failures into success, the unexpected into perfect timing, and mistakes into important events. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.” With gratitude and thankfulness, everyone at the Center looks forward with anticipation to this anniversary and the next 25 years of service to God’s people. ■



Scott Dye, Sierra Club Water Sentinels director, speaks to the local Water Sentinels Nov. 15, 2007. ABOVE RIGHT: Dr. Wayne Rosso, left, director of SMR Laboratory in Central City, Ky., gives results of fall water testing in the region. Technology volunteer Dale Reynolds, right, shared statistics.



LEFT: Glenda Blandford hands massaged Dale Reynolds during the Nov. 2007 Weekend. ABOVE RIGHT: Dale Reynolds speaks to the Mount Saint Joseph community.



1983-2008 Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

Celebrating a quarter century of service



Dr. Richard Johnson shared his experiences in dealing with the sick of mind and heart at a Nov. 16-18, 2007 Healing Retreat. Johnson is nationally recognized for his pioneering work in Maturing Adult Faith Formation and spiritual gerontology. ABOVE RIGHT: Alice Palmer, daughter of Ken and Petra Palmer, holds a rosary Oct. 7, 2007 during a public praying of the rosary at the Center's Rosary Walk to honor the feast of the Holy Rosary.



Sister Robert Ann Wheatley, OSU, enjoyed a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus (a.k.a. Sheila Blandford, left, and Jennifer Byrd, right, both Center employees) on Dec. 6, the Feast of Saint Nicholas. ABOVE RIGHT: Sister Lennora Carrico gets a visit from Santa's elf, Jenna Byrd, 3. RIGHT: Sister Regina Boone smiles at Santa and his elf when they visit the Villa.



The Daramic Corporation decided to utilize the Center for a communications/long-range planning retreat. Several activities were held outside during the beautiful days of autumn. RIGHT: Members of Daramic work through a trust activity during their retreat.



LEFT: Sister Ann Cecile leads visitors in prayer of the rosary at the Rosary Walk on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Oct. 7. RIGHT: Msgr. Ben Powers, far right, and Dave Glockner celebrate Mass at the Oct. 5 Marian Retreat. The rosary was growing in ho



astin, right, has her
by Monica Calhoun
-4 Mount Hope
E: Ruth Connor
unt Hope group.



Ursuline Associates Anna Conn, left, and Brenda Semar, right, crochet and spin during a yarn spinning day Nov. 10. Roberta Shelton, center, also spins wool into yarn.

LEFT: Debbie Webb spins yarn during the gathering. The next spinning day will take place Feb. 2, 2008 at 10 a.m. Lunch is available for purchase. Everyone is welcome to attend.



LEFT: Chris and Joyce Kormelink card wool.

RIGHT: Ursuline Associate Fr. Tony Shonis leads a discussion on Thomas Merton's "New Seeds of Contemplation" book during a Thomas Merton retreat Nov. 5-7. He is associate pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Henderson, Ky.

BELOW: Terry Russelburg teaches the Runaway Quilters how to put a binding on with a sewing machine during their Nov. 27-29 retreat.



Members of the Access Assured music ensemble from First Baptist Church in Owensboro spent two days at the Center practicing for their upcoming Christmas concert.



Consultant Libby Alexander speaks to the Henderson (Kentucky) Chamber of Commerce during a 2007 retreat.



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Sister Evelyn joins staff



Sister Evelyn Craig, IHM (Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary), joined Mount Saint Joseph Center Jan. 2 as director of spiritual programs. Sister Evelyn will be giving retreats and private spiritual direction and will be involved in planning spiritual programs for the Center. "She will be a wonderful addition to the staff," said Center Director Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU.

Sister Evelyn of Monroe, Mich., earned her certification in spiritual direction at Saint Louis University-Ignatian Spirituality. She has conducted faculty faith sharing and weekly high school and young adult retreats. She was also spiritual director for Institute of Religious Formation International participants. Sister Evelyn has directed eight- and 10-day retreats for religious at Marainist Apostolic Center. She has a bachelor's degree in math and theology and a master's degree in education curriculum/instruction. She is a trained spiritual director and has worked with many retreat centers and spiritual direction teams.

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER IN MAPLE MOUNT, KENTUCKY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY-APRIL 2008

January 2008

- 4-5 First Christian Church of
Madisonville Retreat
- 8-10 Grant Writing Workshop**
- 11-12 Scrapbooking for Friends**
- 11-13 Grayson County Ursuline
Associates Retreat
- 18-20 Retrouvaille
- 21-25 Spiritual Direction Institute
Week 6**
- 25-26 First Christian Church Elders Retreat

February 2008

- 1-3 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 1-3 Saint Joseph Parish of Central
City Senior Retreat
- 2 Yarn Spinning Gathering**
- 9 Bible Study Group
- 15-17 Catholic Charismatic Conference:
Behold, I Do A New Thing**
- 17 Precious Blood RCIA
- 22-24 The Heart of Creativity:
Contemplation, Art and
Mystery Retreat**
- 29-2 A Women's Retreat with
Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU**

March 2008

- 2-5 Mount Saint Joseph Quilter Friends**
- 7-14 Saint Meinrad Retreat Week
- 9 Lourdes RCIA
- 14-16 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 14-16 Immaculate Conception Parish
of LaGrange
- 15 Lourdes Confirmation Retreat
- 27-29 Quilt Guild from Paducah
- 28-30 Regional Spring Cursillo
- 29 Private Wedding Reception



Center-sponsored programs are **bold**.

To register or schedule an event, contact Kathy McCarty 270-229-0200, ext. 413

E-mail kmccarty@maplemount.org

Looking for the perfect location for your retreat, reunion, or other social or business gathering? Please consider Mount Saint Joseph.

April 2008

- 4 Ministry Formation Program
- 4-5 Opportunity for Life Training
- 4-6 Christian Women's Retreat
- 11-12 Immaculate Conception
Hawesville/Saint
Columba Lewisport Youth
Confirmations
- 11-13 Catholic Engaged Encounter
- 18-20 Mount Hope Weekend
- 21-25 Spiritual Direction Institute
Week 7**
- 22 Earth Day
- 22 Saint Bernard
Environmental Day**
- 24-25 Kentucky Wesleyan College
Reunion Group
- 26 Mount Saint Joseph
Conference and Retreat Center
Annual Fundraiser Dinner**



A Women's Retreat with Sister Cheryl Clemons, OSU Feb. 29-March 2, 2008

Retreatants will reflect on how stories of biblical women intersect with their own contemporary lives. Through conferences, liturgy, quiet prayer and sharing, retreatants will seek to discover life lessons. The Women's Retreat begins Friday at 6 p.m. and ends Sunday at 1 p.m.
Retreat cost: \$165 residents, \$115 commuters.

To register, contact Kathy McCarty at 270-229-0200, ext. 413
or e-mail kmccarty@maplemount.org
A brochure can be found at www.mscenter.org

Partners in the Mission

Making your will is the most important way you can ensure that the people and causes you care about are the beneficiaries of your assets.



We hope you will consider designating Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center as one of your beneficiaries. Your gift will help the Center continue its mission of service in spiritual and educational growth. All such deferred gifts to us are fully deductible for estate tax purposes.

A memorial gift or bequest offers two opportunities. First, it allows you to create a new gift or continue an important ministry through the work of the Mount Saint Joseph Center. Secondly, your bequest can honor a loved one with a permanent memorial. A memorial gift is the simplest gift you can make. It allows you to involve many family members in the charitable act and to leave a legacy that continues to work. We pray for you every day. Please pray for the work of the Center.

Enrollment open for 2008-10 class of Spiritual Direction

Applications are now being accepted for the next Spiritual Direction Institute, which will begin the week of Oct. 13, 2008.

The two-year program consists of four weekly training sessions each year. Each session covers a different topic, and attendance is required in order to receive certification as a spiritual director.

Spiritual direction means directing and guiding persons to a deeper relationship with God through prayer, meditation and discernment. It is the art of listening to and supporting others while creating an atmosphere of openness, honesty and prayer.

Biographies of many saints, including Ursuline founder Saint Angela Merici, tell us that many people sought guidance from holy people in their quest for a holy life. People today continue to search for competent spiritual directors who will walk with



The first Spiritual Direction Institute graduating class of 2004-2006

them on their faith journey.

The Spiritual Direction training program at Mount Saint Joseph is an opportunity to develop and practice skills necessary for spiritual direction. The rural setting of the center offers a quiet and serene atmosphere for prayer and discernment.

For more information, contact Kathy McCarty at 270-229-0200, ext. 413 or kmccarty@maplemount.org.

Come and pray at the Rosary Walk Bricks and beads can still be sponsored

Yes, I/We want to support the mission of the center and the effect the retreat ministry has on the lives of those who attend by contributing to the Memorial Rosary Walk. I/We want to support this ministry by contributing:

- \$10,000 to sponsor the shrine Name _____
- \$ 5,000 to sponsor stone bench Address _____
- \$ 2,500 to sponsor wooden bench City _____
- \$ 1,000 to sponsor a mystery State _____ Zip _____
- \$ 500 to sponsor a bead Phone _____ Email _____
- \$ 125 to sponsor a brick
- \$ _____ Other

Please make checks payable to: Mount Saint Joseph Center
c/o Rosary Walk, 8001 Cummings Rd., Maple Mount, KY 42356-9999

If donating \$125 or more, please fill in the blocks with the name of the person or persons to be inscribed on the brick, stone or bench. One letter, comma, period or space must go in each box (15 maximum per line up to 3 lines):

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard
 Card # _____
 Expiration Date _____
 Signature _____

Please mail this ad with your contribution to help complete the Memorial Rosary Walk. For further information about the Rosary Walk or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Sister Amelia Stenger, OSU, at (270) 229-0200, ext. 401 or e-mail astenger@maplemount.org





Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center

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Behold, I Do a New Thing...

—Isaiah 43:19



Catholic Charismatic Conference and Retreat

February 15-17, 2008

*Have you experienced the new thing God wants to do in your
life? Instead of complacency, a Living God expects us to
experience progressive spiritual growth.*

Retreat directors Tom and Pam Edwards

The Catholic Charismatic Retreat begins at 6 p.m. Friday and
ends after a 1:30 p.m. closing liturgy Sunday.
Retreat fee is \$165 (room for two nights, materials, meals) or
\$115 for commuters.

To register, contact Kathy McCarty
270-229-0200, ext. 413 or kmccarty@maplemount.org
A brochure can be found at www.mscenter.org

