

Cardinal Stritch Retreat House

FALL, 2008

Venite seorsum



“Venite seorsum” is inscribed over our front door. If I remember correctly from the late 1960s, when my Latin instruction was under the guidance of the Springfield Dominican Sisters—Sister Gail and Sister Annette, Marian High School teachers extraordinary—the Latin means “come away by yourselves.” The phrase recalls Jesus’ command to the disciples in the Gospel to come away for prayer, for renewal, for rest, for change. This was at a time when they did not have

time even to eat. They went away by themselves to rest, to reorient, to change.

So too is it at Stritch. Friday nights often bring stressed deacons and wives, who survived the drive, the week and who might wonder about the weekend’s childcare arrangements for their offspring. Weekdays often bring priests seeking a breathing space from their parishes. The priests come in a bustle, are too often called away before the retreat is over but, when they leave at the end of the retreat, their gait is a step slower. They have been changed because they came away for a while.

Sometimes tears are shed here but laughter is always heard at table. Certainly, friendships are renewed or made.

Certainly, by the end of the retreat, prayers have been said, sins forgiven and the Eucharist celebrated.

For those who live and work at Stritch, it is our privilege to witness the healing power of Christ’s love changing people’s lives time and again.

To come away for a while by yourself is necessary to quell the incessant ringing of modern life in our ears. To come away is to be open to submitting oneself to being changed by God.

Join us in our mission, please. Come away for a while and be changed. You can’t see the “venite seorsum” from the photo above. You will have to come to see for yourself.

Hoping to be in Christ’s service,
Deacon Richard F. Hudzik,
Director

Region VII Bishops’ Retreat Concluded in August

Again this year, we were honored to host approximately thirty bishops from Region VII of the United States. Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana comprise the region. In addition to our out of town guests, the Chicago auxiliary bishops, both retired and active, were retreatants, as was Cardinal George. The retreats are organized for Region VII by Bishop Paprocki.

This year’s retreat leader was Archbishop Harry

J. Flynn, retired Archbishop of St. Paul-Minneapolis. Archbishop Flynn told stories of his years of ministry. In these stories, he related the many times he was led deeper into the mystery of Christ by the joys and sorrows of the people to whom he ministered. Archbishop Flynn has agreed to return to Stritch to preach a retreat for the priests of Vicariates V and VI (see the listing of upcoming retreats on page 3).

It is an honor for us to serve our shepherds. It is also gratifying and instructive for the staff to see how the bishops, even while on retreat, continue to go out of their way to greet the staff and minister to them. We look forward to the next Region VII retreat in August of 2009.

The Mission of the Retreat House: broader than you think?



A View Toward A Lamppost On Our Grounds

The mission of Stritch is to serve the ministers of the Church in Chicago, as well as serve as a place of respite, quiet and prayer for all those affiliated

with the Church in the Chicago area. Thus, in addition to preached and silent retreats for clergy and other ministers, we are a place to which groups such as parish councils, liturgy teams, religious education teachers, parish staffs, Eucharistic ministers and individuals looking for quiet come. The sign near the front door which said “Clergy Only Beyond This Point” was taken down and retired years ago!

Given that we much more than a retreat house only for priests and

deacons, we invite you to come if your use of our facilities will enhance the mission of the Church. Perhaps it is an overnight planning session for staff or only a daylong conference. Perhaps it is a private retreat for a few days. Perhaps it is a visit here for spiritual direction. In any event, if we can serve as a place of hospitality and prayer, we would be fulfilling why we are here. It is part of the mission of the Church that each of us be converted.

“Stritch must report the many blessings bestowed on the house...”

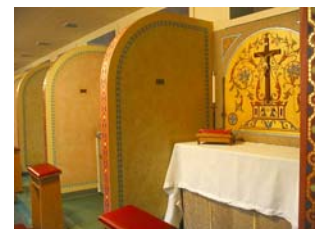
Benefactors, Volunteers and Blessings Too Numerous To Count

Any news update about Stritch must report the many blessings bestowed on the house from many generous people. Our most regular “customers,” the priests and the deacons and wives, have been very helpful in letting us know what they need and what they think would be good for the retreat house. We are blessed to receive this input. It tells us that the work we do here is important enough to the retreatants for them to take the time to comment. There is a wealth of experi-

ence and deep thinking coming from our retreatants.

In addition to the guidance we receive, many retreatants also leave us with an extra gift above and beyond the normal offering for the retreat stay. We are most grateful for that. We could not do without that

Both Chicago’s presbyterate and the Chicago diocese have been most supportive in attending retreats and wishing the staff well. These two key components of our constituency are vital to what we do.



In Our Lady’s Oratory: whose artwork was a long ago donation from the Cuneo Foundation

Upcoming Retreats for Priests and Women Religious

In addition to expressing our gratitude, we use this newsletter to encourage you to visit and attend the events planned in the coming months. Below is a partial listing for the next several months. Details about all the retreats and our extended calendar can be viewed on our website at www.stritchretreat.org.

Retreats for Priests

1.19 to 1.21.09 Retreat for Vicariates V and VI. Abp.

Harry Flynn, retreat leader.

2.02 to 2.04.09 Retreat for priests in Hispanic ministry, sponsored by Bishop Garcia-Siller, Rev. Fernando Torre, MSPS, retreat leader.

3.10 to 3.12.09 Retreat for Vicariate IV. Bp. David Thompson, retreat leader.

5.03 to 5.06.09 Retreat for priests with Rev. William Burton, OFM

6.08 to 6.12.09 and 6.15 to 6.19.09 Retreat for Gary

Diocese (Chicagoans welcome, too).

8.3 to 8.8.09 Directed retreat.

Various. Workshops by St. John Cantius on the Latin Mass. See our webpage.

Retreats for Women Religious

7.13 to 7.17.09 Albert Haase, OFM and Sister Bridget Haase, OSU, retreat leaders.

8.3 to 8.8.09 Directed retreat.

“In addition to expressing our gratitude, we use this newsletter to encourage you to visit us...”

Lower Level Classroom Upgrades

One of the frequently encountered requirements for retreats today is meeting space. As retreats have changed from the exclusively silent, preached retreat in the chapel, there is additionally often an opportunity for

dialogue and discussion. To meet the need for meeting space, plans have been drawn for a refurbishing of the lower classroom. These plans modernize the lighting and upgrade the flooring and woodwork. These are more than cosmetic changes

planned, as the effort is to create an inviting and comfortable space, as well as offer the increased flexibility to offer more advanced audiovisual equipment. The plans include wiring the room for internet and cable access.

Flexible Menu Now Offered For Retreats: Chateaubriand, anyone?

In order to enhance hospitality, our kitchen staff has created an array of different menu styles and choices which are available to groups using our facilities for their retreats. Thus, for example, if your parish council were here on retreat, we would be able to tailor meal offerings to suit their particular needs. If upgrades beyond our usual ex-

cellent choices are requested, the retreat group is able to increase the retreat fee for the upgrade. In this way, for those groups whose tastes are particularly discriminating, we will be able to both meet their expectations, as well as our budget. It seems to be “a win-win situation.” We can fax or email the suggestions and then let you discuss the mat-

ter with Mr. Bart Stopyra, our managing chef. He is ably assisted by Paul Ekern.



Bart Stopyra (right) and Paul Ekern.

News from
the Cardinal Stritch Retreat
House

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We're on the web:
www.stritchretreat.org

Come away to a
quiet place...

Stritch's Advisory Board, a "Listening Tour" and a "Wish List"

We note with sadness the death of Sr. Peter Mary Hetling, CSJ, one of our advisory board members. Sr. Peter Mary's optimistic enthusiasm will be missed. She was a joy and we remain thankful for her efforts on our behalf.

We also again thank our remaining Advisory Board members. During a meeting at Stritch during May, the occupancy statistics, retreat schedules, marketing and retreat designs were discussed. We continue to be blessed by the input offered by Rev. Robert Tuzik, Rev. Edmund Siedlecki, Deacon Pete Lag-

ges, Deacon Angel Favilla and Rev. William Zimmer. Also, Rev. Lou Cameli and Rev. Martin Zielinski continued in their off-site, on-call, input for which we remain grateful.

In addition to soliciting input from the Advisory Board, we are also gathering input from a process whereby Deacon Hudzik will seek to address and hear from every deanery. On these occasions, it is hoped that the opinions of the presbyterate will be heard and that any questions the priests might have will be answered. Presently, the deaneries of Vicariate I are

either scheduled for a visit or have already been visited.

If any reader of this newsletter has input to offer, please, let us hear from you. Also, if you think you might have goods or services to donate which would be useful for us in our mission here, please let us know. For example, right now, our "wish list" includes a new cope and humeral veil (ours are probably fifty years old and certainly showing it). Also, we have an interest in an upgraded portable speaker and amplifier to project our wireless microphone.