

# CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS

A place for solitude, prayer and reflection

Hermitage Retreat Center

Sponsored by the Congregation of St. Joseph

Summer July 2014

## *In Solitude....*

I have so enjoyed this 4 night stay! The weather has been absolutely perfect. It has been sunny, and in the high 70's or low 80's without a drop of rain. I have enjoyed many walks on the paths, picking fresh black raspberries for a treat. I brought my journals and books as I always do, yet found myself sitting, relaxing and contemplating. Time goes so quickly for me when I am here and it always surprises me when it is time to leave.



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"In solitude, we may find a new beginning, an opportunity to break old habits. In solitude, we may find increased sensitivity, compassion and empathy. In solitude, we may find the truth of ourselves, restore our dulled senses, and clarify and reorder our priorities. Above all, in solitude we may find God, and come to hear that voice."

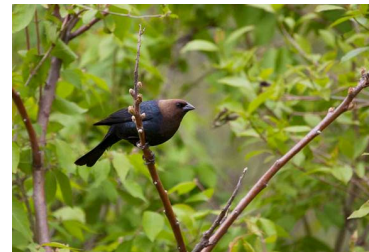
Within this time in solitude, I have learned to accept certain things in my life. It will help the stress of trying to change what cannot be changed and accept what is and always will be.

With prayers of peace for all. Jan, July 2014

## *Sabbath Time....*

My 4th time at CITW and 3rd time in Sabbath Place. I love it here. With the busy, hectic pace of life and all its demands--it's a blessing to unplug from it all and have quiet, alone time in solitude with God. I look forward to reading the journals and hearing about others' experience and journey. I am blessed. I sit here and pray for those who are going through trials, pray for those who need wisdom, direction, comfort, answers or peace. I also enjoy the humorous entries and laugh as I can relate to fears of the darkness, critters and things that

go bump in the night. God's creation is so beautiful. I never thought I would enjoy bird watching, but I find it so peaceful. Reminded me of Matt. 7:26: "Look at the birds of the air, they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" Reminds me of how God does provide abundantly for me; meet my needs. Thank you Father! Have a blessed stay here! In Christ's love.



Sue, May 2014

## *Guided Retreat*

We have one more Guided Retreat scheduled November 6, 7:00 PM to November 9, 1:00 PM. Frank Schwirtz will be leading the retreat: **We admitted that we are powerless over \_\_\_\_\_ and that our lives have become unmanageable.** This retreat will focus on Steps One, Two and Three of Alcoholic's Anonymous. If you would like to register for this retreat or want more information contact CITW at 815-947-2476. If you know someone who may be interested in this retreat forward this information to them.

## *Memorial Day Raffle*

Our Memorial Day Raffle Winners are excited about their opportunity to enjoy CITW later this year. We congratulate Bev O'Shaughnessy; Mary Southard, CSJ; Pat Bonavia; and Jackie Jevne. Thank you to all those who purchased tickets. Maybe you will be a future winner.

## *Save the Date*

This year our Christmas Concert and Fundraiser will be on Dec. 7, 2014. Doors will open at 1:15 pm with the concert at 2 pm. Mark your calendars, so you can join us and invite family and friends to come with you. If you would like to help us advertise our fundraiser, or solicit or donate auction items, or help prepare for the event itself, give me a call. December will be here before we know it.

## *In the Wilderness...*

The black raspberries have been ripening in abundance over the past several weeks. The blackberries are filling out and will be the next berry to ripen. The retreatants love to walk the paths and gather berries for snacking or for their dessert in the evening.

With the storms in late June and early July we had several trees broken down or uprooted. Fortunately, the damage was not as bad as some of the areas of northwest Illinois experienced. The gravel roads have become very uneven, like a washboard. In spite of these weather-related challenges, we have been keeping our hermitages filled, and the retreatants have been very happy to be here.

Young wildlife is in abundance these days. Does with



their fawns are running around, turkeys with their babies trailing behind them visit the bird feeders to the delight of the retreatants. One retreatant even saw a doe with triplets, which is not often seen here at CITW. One day I was looking at the grassy hillside at the parking lot and all I saw were a pair of little eyes and ears sticking above the grass, peering at me. The fawn was checking things out, and I am sure mama was not far away.

On July 3, we purchased our new Kawasaki Mule 4 x 4 Trans using funds that were donated last fall in our appeal as well as some of our own funds to complete the purchase. It has certainly been a pleasure to drive our retreatants to their hermitage with their possessions because it has a much quieter and smoother ride. Our Cub Cadet has served us well for 7 years and continues to be the work horse at CITW until it no longer runs.



We are grateful to those who contributed funds last fall, so that we could make this purchase.

We still have some hermitage openings in August. If you are looking for some reflection time, give me a call. Have a blessed rest of the summer. God be with you. can enjoy retreat time at CITW. God bless all.

Sr. Julia

### **Have you thought of remembering us?**

- When you are making your will and are thinking about charitable bequests, have you ever thought about including Christ in the Wilderness? This would help us immensely in the future as we might continue our retreat ministry.
- Our legal title and address are  
Christ in the Wilderness  
7500 S. Randecker Road  
Stockton, IL 61085-8922  
We are a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) .  
815-947-2476

Here is the Christ in the Wilderness Facebook page link: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Christ-in-the-Wilderness/257739718945>. You can also search for Christ in the Wilderness on your Facebook page.

We also have a Business Pinterest page: <http://www.pinterest.com/citwilderstock/>.

You can also search for Christ in the Wilderness on your Pinterest page.

