

CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS

A place for solitude, prayer and reflection

Hermitage Retreat Center Sponsored by the Congregation of St. Joseph Summer September, 2016

Retreatant Jottings...

"The trees swayed to and fro. The leaves rustled in the wind. The birds chirped in a chorus, their colors bright of black, brown, white, and red. The blades of grass so green, the flower petals so yellow, the honeysuckle so scented. All perfectly designed, a miraculous orchestration by an omnipotent, glorious, gracious God. We can never know how but we will always know why--because He loved us."

"Though you will have to stand or sit or lay on the hard surfaces of life, I provide for you a respite, a soft surface on which to rest and land. I provide a curtain over you, a canopy, a covering, a shelter from the world."



"You want a straight and easy path. Just as when you lie on this swing and go back and forth, you begin to sway from side to side and go around. This is my way for you, it is not straight. You must go around and take detours. But I am

always up ahead beckoning you on."

Julie Worley, May 2016

Save the Date: December 4, 2016

On Sunday December 4, 2016, we will have our annual Christmas Concert and Benefit to support Christ in the Wilderness. Invite family and friends to join you at the CSJ La Grange Center at 2 pm. Luke and Sarah Windham, who gave us a marvelous concert last year, will be performing again. We will have the silent auction, fifty-fifty, mystery gifts, and wonderful refreshments. Mark your calendars. For more information call 815-947-2476 or email:

citw@citwretreat.com.



If you would like to help in preparation for this fundraiser, here are ways that you can help us out. We are accepting auction items, mystery gifts, wine, etc., or maybe you would like to make a contribution to help offset expenses. If you are unsure of whether we can use an item, give me a call. We can arrange pick up if necessary. All assistance is appreciated.

Hotel Tax

We are now required by the Illinois Department of Revenue to pay the Hotel Owner's

Occupancy Tax on each of the stays at Christ in the Wilderness. We are letting you know that the tax will be added to all future stays here at CITW. If the tax is ever lifted, then we will no longer charge retreatants the tax fee. We appreciate your support regarding the tax.

In the Wilderness....

On Sunday, September 18, 2016, we had an Open House at Christ in the Wilderness. Around 50



people came to visit and enjoyed the beautiful weather. Some visitors took rides around the meadow in the ATV, others walked the paths, and all enjoyed lots of delectable goodies.

Soon the Christmas shopping season will be upon

us. Many of us shop online. One means of supporting CITW online is to shop through Amazon Smile. If you usually shop on Amazon.com, you can log in to Smile.Amazon.com and then use your current Amazon account information to support Christ in the Wilderness. Once you are logged in, choose Christ in the Wilderness, Stockton, IL from the list of charities. Then .5% of your purchase will be donated to CITW. There is no cost to you as a customer or to CITW to take advantage of this opportunity. We have received over \$150 in donations through the Amazon Smile program. Thanks for participating and happy shopping.



We have openings in November and December yet. This would be a great time to visit CITW and celebrate the past year.

You can check out our website:

www.citwretreat.com for updates when openings are available, especially on short notice.

If you are on Facebook, check out our Christ in the Wilderness page: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Christ-in-the-Wilderness/257739718945>. I will post openings there regularly. You can also share those pages with others who may be interested in coming. Contact Sr. Julia for reservations.

Looking ahead to 2017, we have three Guided Retreats scheduled. ***Winter's Pause--The moment of stillness when we become aware*** will be in January of 2017. We pause every time we take a breath. The pause happens between the breath in and the breath out. But how many times are we aware of that pause? Winter is nature's pause, after the fruitfulness of summer, the harvesting of fall and it awaits possibilities of new growth in spring. Winter is womb time, where the darkness becomes a nurturing place. In our own internal darkness, Holy Light is waiting for us to pause and take notice.

Join us for a blessed respite from the headlong rush of the frantic world. Step into this slow solstice time to savor beauty, reflect, and breathe. We will explore the mysteries of winter through a combination of guided reflections, awakening our artistic child, quiet reflection and sharing discoveries of the gift of pause.

If you have a favorite journal, art medium, or music, bring them along. But not to worry, there will be materials available for whatever you feel called to, including rest.

Sacred Weavings of Our Lives will be in February, but it has filled up. ***Hermitage Retreating 101*** will be in November 2017. Check out our website to see the flyers in our Updates page. Since each retreat is limited to three participants, make sure you register soon, if you would like to attend the retreat.

God bless you. Peace, Sr. Julie