

CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS

A place for solitude, prayer and reflection

Hermitage Retreat Center Sponsored by the Congregation of St. Joseph Spring, April 2019

Retreatant Snippets...

CITW is like an oasis in that it has everything you need for respite, contemplating, comfort and connecting with nature. It's a slice of heaven.

I love the peace of the place. One of my teachers refers to "thin" places on the planet--places in which it's easier to experience the Divine. This is one of them.

Gratitude for the place and the people, as well as uninterrupted time for meditation and introspection. The splendor of nature, especially as demonstrated at the bird feeder, gave me the wider perspective that I sometimes ignore.

It shows me that I am not required to be continuously connected to social media, television, phone, etc. My time at CITW has taught me that it is okay (and healthy) to disconnect. As a matter of fact, doing so allows one to have a deeper understanding of self and, for me, a deeper connection with God. I carry this over into my daily life as well.

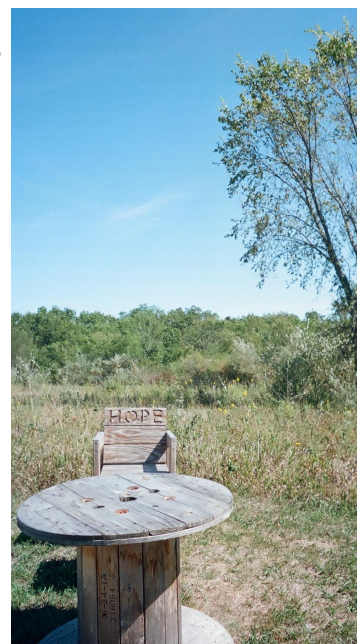
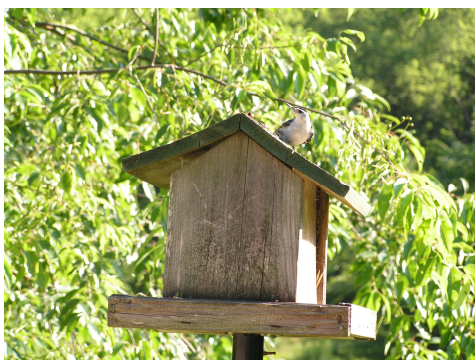
I loved my hermitage! It was perfectly

located, so clean and comfortable and cute. Very efficient, warm, restful. It was just lovely. I was so impressed with being able to read what others had written during their time there - it really added to the experience.

Whatever I experience goes with me into my life personally and professionally. I always return home in a better place than when I arrived, and that sense of growth does not leave me.

Quiet, beauty, nature, the bird feeder brought the most beautiful array of birds - I love to listen to the birds! - it was so sweet to watch the deer play in front of my hermitage. It was prayerful, peaceful, filled with and fostered the attitude of gratitude and worship. Very appreciative of the fact that I knew I wasn't completely alone out there but was never disturbed or even aware most of the time of the others enjoying their own experience there.

All of the above...and I love to experience face to face encounters with the deer there. The profound stillness awakens my soul. I wish everyone could experience this.... Everyone is so busy and connected



to their devices that they have lost the most basic form of connection.

Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner

Inspite of the wintery, wet weather on Saturday, February 23, we had a wonderful turnout for the spaghetti dinner. It was delightful to visit with everyone. Thanks for supporting Christ in the Wilderness.

It's Not too Late!

Did you make a New Year's resolution to simplify your life? Are you in the middle of organizing your tax documents only to realize you did not donate to all of your preferred charities last year? It's not too late to join the "Journey of Solitude" – the recurring giving program for CITW.

Whether you choose to donate monthly, quarterly, or annually you can simplify your life and ensure that CITW receives your donation through an easy online process. Go to our website www.citwretreat.com to begin your Journey now. Click on the Donate Now and choose your amount and how frequently you would like to donate. Your help is especially needed and greatly appreciated to offset low occupancy because of our harsh winter. If you prefer not to donate online, please contact Sr. Julia Bathon at (815)947-2476 or citw@citwretreat.com for other options. Thank you for your generous support!

In the Wilderness....

Spring has arrived. The birds are cheerfully singing every morning. The crocuses are blooming in the main house flower bed. The paths and hillsides are greening up and drying out from the snow melt. It is the perfect time to schedule a retreat to celebrate new life. Check out our openings listed here or give me a call to see what is available 815-947-2476.

Openings:

Mariglen:

March 31-April 6 at noon; April 20-22 at noon.

Other dates are available in May

Paul:

April 5-12 at noon;
May 11-19 at noon

Sabbath:

April 8-11 at noon;
April 18-22 at noon.

Other dates are available in May.



Photo by Jan Ritter

If you are on Facebook, check out our Christ in the Wilderness page: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Christ-in-the-Wilderness/257739718945>. You are welcome to share your experiences of CITW on our Facebook page also.

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) .