

New Website Launched in October

WHEN ONE TRAVELS THROUGH the various pages of the new website, launched on October 13, 2017, a new theme emerges on the home page; a theme representing the new vision for the retreat house, **Come as You Are**.

The new website, created, designed and implemented by Voveo Marketing in Malvern, PA represents a user-friendly format of finding retreats by categories on the calendar, a snapshot of the Malvern legacy and history, unique testimonies from retreatants, a Captains blog and an innovative page called **MALVERN LIVE**.

After an extensive search for a website design firm including high visibility companies in



Dubai, Cleveland, Houston and LA, Voveo was recommended by several organizations because of their work on the website for the World Meeting of Families and other corporate entities.

According to Michael Norton and Anne McGlone, "this company clearly understood the spiritual mission of the retreat house. With their corporate clients and non-profit organizational expertise, particularly in the Catholic realm, it was a perfect fit for us."

(Continued on page 9)

Partnership Announced for Opioid Retreats

MALVERN RETREAT HOUSE AND GETHSEMANI WAY MINISTRIES have partnered together to launch a new series of Addiction retreats starting in June 2018.

"Substance misuse remains a national public health crisis that continues to rob the United States of its most valuable asset: its people," stated in a Surgeon General report recently published. It is considered one of the most pressing, debilitating disorders of our time affecting people from all ethnicities and walks of life.

In an effort to minister to those families affected by opioid addictions, "we are working directly with Gethsemani Way Ministries based at St. Norbert's Parish in Paoli, PA to create a new healing retreat experience," said Mark Poletunow. Through the pioneer efforts of Mark Christmyer, President and CEO of Gethsemani Way Ministry, a Catholic faith-based approach to recovery, healing and support has been created through this retreat program.

(Continued on page 9)

Winter 2018

Malvern Retreat House
315 S. Warren Ave
Malvern, PA

Inside this issue:

Theme Song Written
for Retreatants
page 5



Malvern Assists with
Food Rescue
page 6



High Visibility
Retreat Directors
page 8



Pilot Program
for Men Growing
page 10



**Mark's Musings
from Malvern**

page 2



Mark J. Poletunow President

Mark's Musings from Malvern

Dear Friends,

Not too many days ago, we started a new year: 2018. Soon, we'll begin the journey through Lent. At both times, many of us pause and consider taking on a special practice or a new resolution to help us stay focused and make good use of God's grace. During 2017, Malvern Retreat House experienced increased retreat activity. In addition to our new retreats, our Men/Women of Malvern participation continues to grow with 20,000 retreatants, and retainage of first-year retreatants climbing to 40% in 2017. Both numbers indicate a very good trend especially after experiencing decreasing numbers for, at least, the past nine years. That drop-off wasn't unique to MRH. During that same period, overall Sunday Mass attendance across the country declined, as well. Our hope is that even small signs of growth show that more people hunger and thirst for an authentic relationship with Christ. With that in mind, what is MRH's resolution to help stay focused?

First of all: Commitment. We are working hard so that everyone who comes here to encounter Christ will have a high quality retreat experience. We want people to be at peace while they visit our grounds. That means that we are looking at everything from signage, to the registration process, to housekeeping, to the condition of our facilities, to food, to schedules, to retreat directors, to overall hospitality and service. Second, we've adopted a new theme: Come As You Are. We all need Christ, and we want everyone to know that MRH is a place where they can pray, be still, and listen to the voice of God without



barriers. MRH must be a place that people come to for healing, forgiveness, and renewal in Christ without regard for one's ethnic background, race, native language, state in life, bank account or social status. All are welcome here! Third, we are Casting the Nets Wide. Pope Francis challenges us to go to the peripheries, so we've created Retreats2Go to take mini-retreats on the road – to parishes, schools, college campuses, businesses, and even to nursing homes, prisons, and the streets – to help people get a small taste of a retreat experience and to invite them to a deeper and longer retreat on our grounds. At the same time, we've updated our web site and expanded our social media and digital outreach so that

people can be inspired, encouraged and invited through electronic media. The digital world is the primary source of news for young people, and older folks are increasingly likely to search for information via the internet. We have to keep up with the times.

During 2018, MRH will celebrate 106 years of continual service. Today, we are the largest and oldest of existing Catholic retreat houses in the USA. Many times over the years, we had to make decisions to ensure that our mission had relevance for contemporary men and women. It is no different today. We need generous financial resources to keep operating; we need the firm faith of retreatants who have called MRH "home" and experienced that exceptional peace and hope when they enter our grounds; we need the witness of missionary disciples who put their encounter with Christ into action through evangelization and service to others; we need you, as the Body of Christ, to live out the renewed faith that you experience through retreat in your families, parishes, communities, work places and schools.

Thank you for your service and commitment to MRH. Let us pray that our work together might bring many more souls closer to Christ now, as we walk this earth, and especially for the everlasting Kingdom in heaven. Amen.

Prosit,

Mark J. Poletunow
President



Rector's Reflection



By the Will of God and the decisions of both Archbishop Chaput and the Malvern Retreat House Board, I now serve as Rector. I am very grateful for the opportunity and I ask your prayers that I might do so faithfully and well.

Anytime there is a change in personnel, it can be a time of uncertainty: What will he be like? Will he respect our traditions? Will he bring changes? Will he stay for a long time or a short one? Will we like him? Will he like us? I only ask that you take these questions and concerns to prayer. Pray for my on-going conversion. Pray to be ready for all God has for you through me and the other instruments He places in your life. While I strive to "receive from the Lord what I hand on to you" (I Cor.11:23), I cannot claim to always do that well, but it will always be my intention. I hope it will be yours also.

Recently I presented "my vision" for the retreat experience to the Board and now I would like to share it with you. It is based on a simple phrase found several times in the Gospel of John, "I have come to believe" (John 20:31). This describes a three-step process: First, we come, we show up; then we come to, we wake up; and then we come to believe, we sign up.

Arriving for a retreat, whether it is for just a day, a weekend, or a longer time, we carry with us a lot of stuff: worries, emotions, sins, etc. It is like having your arms full of all kinds of heavy things and having even more on your back and perhaps a few are dragging on the

ground behind you. Before you can receive anything from God, it is essential to put these things down, to set them aside, to let them go. This is easier said than done. Much of our identity and self-worth is invested in the burdens and responsibilities we carry. If you have ever been unemployed, it is easy to slip into a depression because of such a strong identification with our work. Our culture pushes us to be doers, though God made us to be more than do. To put it another way, when someone asks us what we do for a living, we immediately respond with a declaration of our employment. Does your work give you life? Sure, it provides money to pay bills and hopefully some sense of accomplishment, but life? No wonder we can be so miserable! Trying to draw life from our work, for parents trying to draw life from their children is both frustrating and harmful. When somebody asks me what I do for a living, I tell him or her that I follow Jesus for a living. My work, even my priesthood is secondary to that. Of course, we forget. There is no time like the present to remember, to reconnect with this truth of who we are, who God is, and what our life is about. The call for silence, especially the silencing of all things electronic, is the purpose of the first stage of making a good retreat. For that matter,

it is a great way to begin and end each day!

The next phase of a retreat is the "coming to" phase, where we begin to see things in light of the conferences and other spiritual exercises. We not only recover a sense of well-being through repentance and making a good confession, but come to a better understanding of ourselves and others and God. I remember a confessor telling me once that we never commit sins that we do not like. The sins of others seem so unreasonable when compared to our preferred indulgences, addictions, or vices. To repent means to re-think. This is the heart of the second phase of a retreat experience.

While I have not gotten much negative feedback about Retreat Directors we have had in my short time with you, I often hear about the importance of having a "really good retreat director" though I have yet to hear an adequate description of just what that means. I certainly have my ideas about that and I am certainly open to hearing more on this topic, but I also want to invite your consideration about another aspect over which each retreatant has complete control over, regardless of the quality of the Retreat Director. To do that I want to tell you about my own experience in this regard.

I grew up in a very strict Catholic family, where Mass on Sundays and Holy Days was not negotiable. However, we did not really talk openly about religious topics let alone of any personal religious experience. I was compliant

(Continued on page 5)



Michael Norton

Vice President of Institutional Advancement

Development News

Shop online and support Malvern Retreat House.



TELL YOUR SPOUSE, YOUR KIDS, your grandchildren, TELL EVERYONE! Malvern has signed on with AmazonSmile. Now when you buy from Amazon your beloved retreat house benefits. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization, Malvern Retreat House, every time you shop, at no cost to you.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection

and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% on of the purchase price to the charity of your choice - Malvern Retreat House.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

Communion Breakfast



From L, Dave White, Kathleen McCarthy and Joseph Petrongolo; Samuel Chairs not present, received the 2017 St. Joseph the Worker Medal at the Annual Communion Breakfast.

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We update content regularly on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn



Theme Song Written for Retreatants

WHEN MARTY ROTELLA BELTS out a song, people start stomping their feet and raising their hands. Regardless of one's physical limitations, his music has the ability to get the adrenaline moving.

In keeping with the new retreat house marketing theme, Come as You Are, Rotella wrote a theme song to accompany the overall mission. Using famous musicians

such as Billy Joel's percussionist, Styxx guitarist and outstanding voices from New York, Rotella wrote the theme song en route to New Mexico for a mission.

"It has a jazzy, upbeat style which will be attractive to people of all ages," smiled Rotella. "Actually, there are two parts to the song all drawing listeners into the heart of Christ," he said.

The music will be integrated into all retreats in 2018, the Retreats2Go program and the retreats directed by Marty Rotella.

A three-time Grammy nominee, Rotella has written over 3,000 songs, performs all over the world and recently, accepted a partnership with Malvern Retreat House in creating a Spirit Power Evangelization Center.

Rector's Reflection | (Continued from the page 3)

about these things for the most part, as I recall but by the time I reached my teen years, I came across a particular challenge. I had become involved with a Charismatic prayer group and really got into it. But when I came to Sunday Mass with poor music and what was for me even poorer preaching, I began to question some things. There was one priest in particular that for me was the opposite of my Charismatic experience: negative, grumpy, growling his homilies, etc. I wondered what I should do because he really was annoying to me, so I looked around for a young, liberal and positive priest to seek counsel. He asked me, "Do you pray for him?" "I pray he doesn't show up", I replied. He then imposed on me as penance that the next time I was at Mass with this particular priest I was to pray and ask God to speak to me through him. I thought in my "adolescent certainty" that such a thing could never happen. Now, it was too long ago for me to remember the details. I do remember that when I did say my prayer with almost absolute certainty that nothing could come of it, tears began to fill my eyes because in the midst of whatever else Father said there were a few words that did strike me. I share this with you that God can use even the most inadequate instruments to accomplish great

things, provided we are willing to receive from whomever God sends us. Yes, there are more competent preachers and teachers, but none is so good that they can lead folks to God without depending on God; nor are there any so badly broken that God cannot work through them in some way. Be ready to hear from God through those He sends your way and you will never complain that God is silent or far away.

Having been awakened to renewed faith, hope, and love on a retreat experience there remains a very important final step. Perhaps you are familiar with the expression, "Failure to plan is planning to fail." How will we choose differently once we leave the retreat house? Putting a few things in writing about how you intend to live what you have discovered is the second step in planning. Perhaps the most difficult step is sharing what you have written with someone you can be in touch with on a weekly basis. Too often, when we are asked how we are we answer, "Fine" which means we are: frustrated, insecure, neurotic, & egotistical. It is essential that we have a couple of friends or family members with whom we can be honest about what is really going on in our minds and hearts. Our

pride and sense of personal privacy may feel threatened by this, but that is precisely why it is so important. It leads us to a courageous humility and a genuine security in knowing that we are loved as we really are by God and others. We will no longer need to hide behind a mask of any kind. It will not and need not happen immediately, but little by little, we will know from experience the deep joy and peace of living in the light. (John 3:20-21) Regular checking for both support and accountability is the best way to keep alive the new beginning that your retreat experience offers.

Therefore, we show up, we wake up, and we sign up for a more authentic life through the experience of a retreat. Many of us do this annually. I need to do this more often than that and perhaps you do too, even if it is just a mini retreat of a few hours spent in a quiet place. Returning from our retreat, we are ready not only to live better lives but also to help others to do the same. For over a century Malvern retreat House has been providing experiences of different kinds. As Rector I am ready and willing to expand and deepen the offerings we have here for you and those you invite to join us in the years ahead. Prosit!



Start Spreading the **NEWS**

Malvern Assists with Food Rescue

Retreatants recognize the quality and quantity of food served during a retreat from the busy kitchens of the both the Family Life Center and the Main Dining Hall.

Quite often, there is leftover food remaining despite careful management of food quantities. Over the past few months, a new initiative is underway to deliver the remaining food to St. Peter's Soup Kitchen in Phoenixville, PA to assist those in residence needing food when hardship strikes. On a weekly basis food is collected and delivered as a donation to St. Peter's Soup Kitchen. In 1999 the center served 20 families; today, they are serving over 100 families.

“ This is a wonderful outreach to our community in need. Our mission is to serve and welcome people where they are; this new food rescue embraces the Malvern mission of serving others.”

■ *MARK POLETUNOW, President*



Women of Malvern Logo Created

In keeping with the new strategic marketing vision of creating consistency, sustainability and feasibility, a new Women of Malvern logo was recently designed for integration in all marketing materials relating to women.

Designed by an award-winning graphic designer, former art professor, retreatant and corporate entrepreneur, the logo was created with the vision of keeping the influence of the

Holy Spirit in all the plans for the Women of Malvern. It also integrates the new Come as You Are campaign in its design, which is flexible for future campaigns.

This was created as a gift to Malvern; a priceless gift. In the past, the designer created signage and logo branding for several Olympics, national fast-food restaurants, hospital systems and businesses.

New Calendar Brochures Created

If you are looking for a compilation of all the 2018 retreats, please feel free to pick up a copy of the 2018 Calendar brochure. With the exception of private groups, the brochure highlights all of the men, women and family retreats for the year. It works in conjunction with the website at www.malvernretreat.com

Over 9,000 of these brochures were mailed at the end of November to 500+ parish representatives and CA Captains. In addition, the new Retreats2Go brochures were also included in this mailing. Please place these brochures in the vestibules of your parishes, re-ordered when needed and used to promote all Malvern retreats.



REGISTER NOW
and have something to look forward to on those cold snowy days.



★ PACKAGES

Individual Golf Packages - \$250.

Includes lunch, golf, cocktail reception, auctions dinner, and golfer gift.

Evening Only Package - \$65.

Includes cocktail reception, auctions and dinner.

Once again, we are offering our **Priest Sponsorship**. Show your appreciation for our dedicated priests by sponsoring a priest for \$250.

2018 Malvern Golf Classic

FORE! CALLING ALL GOLFERS, DUFFERS, those who look good in golfer's attire and anyone interested in a good time for a great cause. Join us for the 10th Annual Malvern Golf Classic, May 7, 2018 at Cedarbrook Country Club in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.

Whether you hit the ball long and strong, too often to count, or you miss it all together, you are sure to enjoy the day. Win prizes for longest drive, closest to the pin, lowest score or a fan favorite, most honest score. Break out your knickers and maybe you can take home the best dressed golfer award.

If you don't win on the course, you can win at our silent and live auctions. The real winners are the formally homeless men and women who are transitioning back into society.

A portion of the MRH Golf Classic proceeds fund the Malvern Cares program established to assist needy individuals and families. Through Malvern Cares, people from all walks of life who have special needs...emotional, physical, or formerly homeless...will have the opportunity to experience and benefit from the many Retreat House programs.

For those who are unable to play during the day, join us at the cocktail reception and dinner including the now famous raw bar.

For more information our website www.malvernretreat.com or call Edie Petillo at 484-321-2544

New Signage on the Grounds

The feedback has been positive from our retreatants and guests. Larger print and light coloration on larger signs allow those visiting the grounds easier access to our parking lots and buildings. A warm sense of welcoming is enhanced through the new signage as one enters the property with Welcome, Come As You Are. When one leaves the property, the sign bids farewell with Go in Peace. The new signage has been installed on the grounds by Lucky Sign Shop, Glen Mills, PA. A special thanks to Rick Shurkoff responsible for the new design and integration on the property.



High Visibility Retreat Directors on the 2018 Schedule

★ Fr. Larry Richards Retreat for Men



When one mentions the name **Fr. Larry Richards**, eyes are wide-open and people all state, "I am coming to this retreat."

A 24-hour retreat scheduled for **June 8-9** is planned with world-renowned Fr. Larry Richards. The retreat is entitled, "Be a Man" and one can only imagine the impact of this retreat on men.

As a gifted author, television and radio host, Fr. Richards also is known for changing lives with his conference and retreat messages. "I saw

him in Florida for one straight week. The parking lot was packed and people lined the church up and down the aisles. When I heard he was coming to Malvern, I wanted to sign up immediately," stated Joe, a New Jersey resident.

"We are so excited to have Fr. Richards with us this year for this life-changing retreat," smiled Mark Poletunow.

★ Charismatic Retreat Creates Anticipation

The buzz is on the street. **Sr. Ann Shields**, Renewal Ministries and **Fr. James Blount, SOLT** have been paired for this powerful Charismatic retreat planned for **June 29-July 1**.

The theme will focus on the need of faith in all of our prayer lives. Uplifting music, preaching, a healing service and private time are all planned.

Sr. Ann Shields travels the world in her ministerial outreach, is an author and hosts a radio program. She has directed retreats at Malvern in years past with Dr. Ralph Martin.

Fr. James Blount, SOLT also travels the world preaching, teaching and praying for people. He is also a friend of Malvern Retreat House having directed a previous charismatic retreat and Flame of Love retreat.

Together, we expect a weekend full of surprises from the Holy Spirit. **Be sure to register early.**



★ Casting Nets Institute

Mark your calendars for another summer retreat bonanza with Casting Nets Ministries, **July 27-29**. Known as a nationally recognized team, **Hector Molina, Chris Stewart and Tony Brandt** will be directing a weekend teaching Directors of Religious Education, catechists, parishioners and interested individuals in the gift of evangelization. What is evangelization? How does it impact you as a father, mother, grandparent, retreatant or parishioner? The Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Office for Evangelization is working in collaboration with the retreat house team in bringing this message and mission to a new level of effectiveness.

★ Damon Owens Restoring Joy

With the negative news impacting all of us, a dose of hope and joy is in order. Partnering with Stewardship a Mission of Faith and Leadership, Malvern Retreat House has initiated a new retreat for **August 3-5** entitled The Joy of Restoration. Featured retreat directors include **Damon Owens, Megan Murphy, Devin Schadt, Dr. Peter Kleponis, Msgr. William King** and many more.

★ Yoga, Mindfulness and New Age Topics on the Agenda

Susan Brinkmann, award-winning author, radio and television host and conference speaker will be teaching the Catholic truth on two polarizing topics this year: Is Yoga Just an Exercise and The Catholic Alternative to Mindfulness.

Is Yoga Just an Exercise will involve an Evening of Reflection with Brinkmann on **March 20**. The Catholic Alternative to Mindfulness involves a 24-hour retreat, **June 9-10**. Both are open to men and women.

★ Sr. Sheila Galligan Headlines an Evening

Forgiveness – the Best Revenge is the topic for an Evening of Reflection with popular **Sister Sheila Galligan, IHM** on **May 3**. Open to men, women and families, Sister Sheila will unpack the power of forgiveness for all life situations.

★ A 24-Hour Retreat with Sr. Sheila for Women

With her wit, background in theology and ability to transmit a life-changing message, **Sr. Sheila Galligan** will be directing a 24-hour retreat for women on the topic of the Wow and Woe of the Psalms.

September 21-22 starting with dinner on Friday evening and ending before dinner on Saturday evening, this retreat has been created for the women needing a spiritual uplift in a short period of time.

We encourage all women to register early.

All the latest details about our upcoming retreats are available on our website at malvernretreat.com

Tent Revival Planned – Is this True?

On the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Sunday, October 7th, the first annual Tent Revival will take place in the field outside of St. Joseph's Hall.

A tent revival? Picture the old Billy Graham Crusades with outstanding preaching and music. Now, fast-forward to this picturesque, spacious field on the grounds of the retreat house. A professional conference tent will be pitched in the field with staging, lighting and a sound system.

All are welcome to attend with outstanding speakers, music, food and fun. Fr. James Blount, Johnnette Benkovic, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Jennifer Hubbard and many more are confirmed. A few Hollywood celebrities have confirmed with us conditionally, depending on their television schedules.

It's an old-fashion revival uplifting men, women, teens, young adults, religious and clergy to a new commitment in the Lord.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**A tent revival is coming
TO MALVERN RETREAT HOUSE
SUNDAY OCTOBER 7, 2018**

Teaching ~ Preaching ~ Prayer ~ Music ~ Celebrities

New Website Launched in October | (Continued from the cover)

Six months of tedious research and work was undertaken by the retreat house staff and the Voveo team. The site is custom built in its design and functionality; not a template from a traditional website design. With the assistance of Michael Small and RPS, the registration system was also updated.

A social media component and strategy was also created by Voveo to work in tandem with the new concept of the website. Specific Malvern staff members received a two-hour on-site training in social media and its role with the new website. With the intense level of copy and information evolving on the retreat calendar year, competent professionals are volunteering their time in keeping the website updated. Voveo continues to offer support, coaching and their expertise in all aspects of our website operation and tactical marketing operations.

Future goals include specific training of all the CA Captains and Recruiters in utilizing the website and social media platform.

"This website is enhancing our capabilities of providing a "marketing overlay" to all of the recruiting efforts for our traditional retreats. For the first time, our marketing team is working side-by-side with the Men and Women of Malvern in raising the visibility of their retreats," shared Anne McGlone.

Michael Norton calls it the "team strategy," all working together now in an effort to reach more souls for Christ. According to Mark Poletunow, "the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive."

Partnership Announced for Opioid Retreats (Continued from the cover)

Why the name? The name Gethsemani comes from Our Lord's trial in the Garden of Gethsemani: "Father, if you are willing, remove this chalice from me; nevertheless not my will, but yours, be done."
—Luke 22: 42

Malvern Retreat House, in response to the charism of Gethsemani Way Ministries will be offering a new retreat program entitled, **From Defiance to Reliance** on June 22-23 for men and women in recovery and, for those families affected by the opioid addiction tragedy. This healing retreat will be open to men and women, Catholic and non-Catholic.

“Every drug addict has a unique personal story and must be listened to, understood, loved, and insofar as possible, healed and purified.”

■ POPE FRANCIS

"Every drug addict has a unique personal story and must be listened to, understood, loved, and insofar as possible, healed and purified. The dignity of the person is what we are called to seek out. They continue to possess, more than ever, a dignity as children of God," shared Pope Francis address at the Pontifical Academies of Sciences.

"Malvern Retreat House wants to embrace the need for healing from this horrible war being waged on our families. Our new addiction retreats represent a new hope for our future and, most importantly, for those who have lost their sense of courage and faith," Poletunow said.

My Commitment was Kind of Fuzzy | (Continued from page 12)

had been drafted to do, how much time would be involved, or whether I was capable of doing what Father needed. I started to think of all the other family activities that would conflict over the holiday weekend. I was getting nervous. As Thanksgiving approached, I reached out to Father to clarify his expectations. He said this was a first-time retreat group and I was to help with the Saturday afternoon program - to discuss how a retreat group is organized and how retreatants stay connected. OK, that helped. But exactly what should I present, when should I plan to be there, how long was I to speak? I still had doubt/fear whether I was the guy for this job.

Still not knowing exactly what I was doing or when, I arrived at Malvern on Saturday right after lunch. I planned to stay for the entire afternoon, and whenever it fit into the retreat schedule, I would present my brief outline. I headed to St. Joseph's chapel to ask the Holy Spirit to give me the words to reach my brothers. I was surprised to see that the Blessed Sacrament was exposed in the chapel (rather than the usual oratory) and a small group of men were there, in worship and praise. As I knelt with them, I was still asking Our Lord, "why me?" I was about to find out.

George, our Hospitality Coordinator, called me out of the chapel and told me that Father needed to leave the campus for some time. A certain retreatant, Cesar, had been designated to lead the outdoor Way of the Cross but he needed a little guidance. George asked if I could help. So, I gave a few suggestions and the entire group headed off - I along with them. Our Handbook of Spiritual Exercises has hymns and inter-station prayers, but the sheets the men were using did not. No matter - they broke into impromptu song as we proceeded to the Stations. And between Stations, other men took their turns leading more songs, a bunch of different hymns, as if they had rehearsed but it was all spontaneous. I was in a choir of angels! They cycled carrying the cross and the candles so that by the time we finished, all had taken a turn. For all the years and all the Ways of the Cross I had taken, this was truly a unique and indescribable spiritual blessing for me.

After a short break, we reconvened in St. Joseph's library. Father met us there and I took out my outline and presented some prepared thoughts. However, the Holy Spirit quickly took over. The session turned into a conversational give-and-take discussion. My role quickly morphed from teacher to older brother and welcoming mentor. The sparks of their leadership sprang forth a fire among the men that was truly visible. Father challenged them to do two things by the end of the day: nominate a Captain and select a patron saint for their group. As the hour ended, one of the retreatants stood and asked one last question: was I staying for the rest of the retreat - I wasn't leaving, was I?

God willing, I fully intend to spend plenty of time mentoring CA Captain Angel Julian of the San Francisco Group this year. You can bet that I look forward to returning with a burning heart next Thanksgiving to Emmaus— this place we call St. Joseph's in the Hills.

Prosit.

Armando E. Moral

CA Captain of SS Peter and Paul Group, Servant Member of the Board of Directors, and Brother to San Francisco Group

A 10 ANNIVERSARIES Legacy IN TIME

The Laymen's Retreat League congratulates the following Men of Malvern on having achieved these anniversary milestones. Our prayer is that they return year after year to Malvern Retreat House.

FULL NAME GROUP NAME

60 Years

Mr. Triomfo Corbo Chester County
Mr. Peter A. Ciliberto, Sr. Nativity BVM
Deacon Walter C. Lance Prosit
Mr. Mike Fierras St. Joseph
Mr. Frank J. Noonan St. Joseph

50 Years

Mr. Louis R. Miccio Immaculate Conception
Joseph R. Ferdinand, Esq. L.J. Ferdinand-Hazleton
Mr. Thomas M. DeFruscio, Sr. Our Lady of Lourdes
Mr. James J. Raynock Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Mr. Michael A. Sobchak Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Mr. James J. Miller Our Lady of Sacred Heart
Mr. Ralph M. Gotshall, Jr. St. Joseph

25 Years

Mr. John J. Gill Atlantic City K of C Auto Club
Mr. Joseph Beech Ave Maria
Mr. John F. Knight, Jr. Ave Maria
Mr. Thomas Amici Chester County
Mr. Alan Falzone Chester County
Mr. Charles R. Hostutler Chester County
Mr. James F. Hostutler Chester County
Mr. Michael T. Buckley Christus Rex
Mr. Shawn P. Deal Christus Rex
Mr. Patrick J. Lippincott Christus Rex
Mr. Stephen Ondik, Jr. Christus Rex
Mr. Henry J. Zuech Christus Rex
Mr. Ted Friel IV Edward J. Friel, Sr. Memorial
Mr. Joseph Heinig Edward J. Friel, Sr. Memorial
Mr. Kenneth Johnston Edward J. Friel, Sr. Memorial
Mr. Kevin J. McCarthy, Sr. Edward J. Friel, Sr. Memorial
Mr. Art Arcilla Immaculate Conception
Mr. Donald J. Risica, Jr. Immaculate Conception
Mr. Anthony F. Ferdinand L.J. Ferdinand-Hazleton
Mr. Blaise A. Greco II L.J. Ferdinand-Hazleton
Mrs. Donna (Diane) Gillen Legion of Mary
Mr. Dennis Deal Matt Talbot #34
Mr. Leonard X. McAvoy Matt Talbot #34
Mr. Stephen Garry MATT TALBOT #57 GROUP
Dr. Joseph A. Breslin, Jr. Nativity BVM
Mr. Gerald P. O'Hara Nativity BVM
Mr. Daniel L. Murnane Our Lady of Fatima
Mr. Pasquale J. Abruzzese Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Mr. Herbert G. Shellenberger Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Mr. Robert E. Casper Our Lady Queen of Peace
Mr. Jeffrey McGuire Our Lady Queen of Peace
Mr. Francis E. Ulishney Our Lady Queen of Peace
Mr. Albert J. Augustine Prosit
Mr. Jerald J. Petrongolo Sons of Italy
Mr. Joseph J. Orlando SS Peter & Paul
Mr. Robert M. Hauer St. Joseph
Mr. Jerry E. Doyle St. Pius X
Mr. Christopher Clancy Thanksgiving IHM

Inside Malvern

New Employees Named in Key Positions

Men of Malvern Update

Robert (Bob) Moore has assumed the new part-time role of Manager, Recruitment for the Men of Malvern effective January 1, 2018.

Moore is a seasoned Man of Malvern with over thirty years attending over three retreats per year including the Palm Sunday retreat, Divine Mercy and several others. As one of the first CA Captains of the Divine Mercy retreat group, Moore recently retired as the Chief Financial Officer of National Fulfillment Services in Aston, PA and wanting to utilize his unique skillset and love for the Lord in a new capacity.

As a father of 8 children, with twenty-four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, Moore and his wife Peggy are active members of the Missionaries of the Holy Eucharist.

New Position Created for Community Outreach

In an effort to continue our marketing strategy in going beyond the gates of the retreat house, **Nancy Hicks** has been named the new part-time Marketing Outreach Coordinator effective January 1, 2018.

Hicks is responsible for the new Retreats2Go program partnering with parishes, organizations, businesses, etc. in bringing the Malvern retreat experience for a spiritual uplift in a one-two hour timeframe.

In addition, Hicks will be representing the retreat house at all the diocesan conferences within the tri-state region offering information and materials to men and women seeking a retreat experience. Once a year, she will be coordinating the Art Show for Michael Norton, as well as other outreach responsibilities.

Hicks is married to Bill, mother of five children and a faith-filled member of St. Isaac Jogues in Wayne, PA.

New Social Media Coordinator Named

Abigail Gorman, a 2017 graduate of St. Joseph's University and Valedictorian of her class has been functioning as an hourly Social Media Coordinator since the fall.

As a full time employee of Drexel University Neumann Center, Abigail dedicates 3-6 hours per week in her function as coordinating Malvern's new social media outreach.

Her position works in tandem with our new website designed for digital excellence and a new social media presence on a global and national scale.

Manager of Maintenance Named

Robert (Bob) Eagan has been named the Manager of Maintenance for the retreat house. Eagan has an extensive background in HVAC, general maintenance and supervision. He is managing the maintenance crew in performing their duties. As a father of two daughters, Eagan resides in East Norriton, PA.

WELCOME!

† In Memoriam

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms.”

John 14:1-4



Mr. Thomas Reed	Ave Maria
Mr. Anthony E. Scaffidi	Ave Maria
Mr. S. Raymond Fitzpatrick	Celebration of Christ's Holy Passion
Mr. John McElwaine	Celebration of Christ's Holy Passion
Mr. William E. Hopkins, Jr.	Chester County
Mr. Ben A. Valocchi	Chester County
Mr. Joseph N. Squillacioti	Christus Rex
Mr. Theodore J. Webster	Christus Rex
Mrs. Stephanie W. Beilman	Divine Mercy
Mr. William J. Pronzato, Sr.	Holy Family
Mr. Ernest A. Mariani	Immaculate Conception
Mr. Michael Cigler	Matt Talbot #57
Mr. Robert L. Fedroff	Mid-May
Mr. Robert A. Spellman	Mid-May
Mr. Joseph S. Panikowski	Our Lady of Fatima
Mr. Robert Lagomarsino	Our Lady of Sacred Heart
Mr. Sandy A. Laghi	Our Lady Queen of Peace
Mr. Charles A. Frey	Palm Sunday
Mr. Joseph S. Dilucca	PECO/Good Shepherd
Mr. Joseph Hobaugh	Pius XII
Mr. Victor J. Limongelli	Pius XII
Mr. Richard E. Seagrave	Six-Three
Mr. Alfred S. Foley	St. Joseph
Mr. George H. Hee, Jr.	St. Joseph
Mr. Dennis M. McVeigh, Sr.	St. John N. Neumann
Mr. Joseph E. Dolack	St. Pius X

Pilot Program for Men Growing

By Dr. Joseph Capista

THE PILOT PROGRAM AT MALVERN BEGAN ABOUT EIGHT years ago when the attendance at the Men’s traditional retreats was beginning to decline. The goal of the program is to provide more value for the retreat weekend while creating a better retreat experience through changes to the traditional retreat weekend. This is achieved by looking at the four major objectives of the program. They are: to bring in high quality retreat directors; establish a better format of the weekend schedule; integrate a good guest speaker/presenter on Saturday’s; and, improve the challenge of silence.

How did this begin? The program began with four specific groups chosen by the Retreat Committee. Since then other Men’s traditional retreat groups have learned about the Program through the Retreat Committee and word of mouth; they now have asked to become part of the Program. To date there are ten (10) groups. Each group is represented by their CA Captain and or a representative of the group.

The Groups meet usually about five times a year for specific reasons. During the year we meet to evaluate feedback from two groups who were just on retreat and to prepare for the next two retreat groups whose retreat will be coming up. At the year end meeting we look at the results and feedback from all of the groups to see if we are accomplishing the objectives of the program and to decide if changes should be made. If something has worked and the groups are in agreement we keep it as a permanent change to the Pilot program weekend. In cases where something has not met the objectives of the program it is eliminated.



New CA Captains were initiated during the Annual Communion Breakfast including Anthony Gentile and David Santoleri for the St. Blaise Group, Dr. Rick J. Lenahan for the Holy Family Group, Jeffrey Leskosky for L.J. Ferdinand-Hazleton Group and Dorothy McCampbell for Our Lady of Peace Group.

As we plan for 2018 we have already reviewed the 2017 results and feedback. We are evaluating what worked and what should not be continued in 2018. Our goal is to meet in the beginning of the year to institute any changes to help us achieve our Pilot objectives. The Retreat Directors for 2018 have been chosen by the Rector, small adjustments to the Weekend Schedule have been done, a Guest Speaker/Presenter has been chosen and scheduled for all of the groups.

As was stated, the goal of the Pilot Program is to provide additional value for the retreat weekend while creating a better retreat experience through changes to the Traditional Retreat Weekend. To date, the feedback from the CA Captains and the retreatants has been positive. We will continue to work hard in 2018 to help bring positive change to the Traditional Men’s Retreats.

My Commitment was Kind of Fuzzy

By Armondo E. Moral



The first Hispanic retreat for men was hosted in November by Fr. John Meyers; appropriately named San Francisco.

INEVER CEASE TO BE AMAZED HOW GOD'S GUIDING HAND brings me such treasures - if only I drop my own resistance. And the greatest graces on the road come from the simplest encounters. (Think Emmaus.)

In September, I was in Our Lady's library waiting for Chris, my wife, to exit the chapel at the end of the closing Mass of the

“As I knelt with them, I was still asking Our Lord, “why me?” I was about to find out.”

Women's Retreat weekend. Father Meyers followed the women out of the chapel and saw me. With one simple question (“How's your Spanish?”), Father began to draw me to an unexpected blessing I could not imagine. I said that I am fluent, so he replied, “Good. I need you for the Spanish retreat over the Thanksgiving weekend.” Before I knew what happened, I was committed.

The commitment was kind of fuzzy, however. I didn't know what I

(Continued on page 9)