

Malvern Retreat House

*Be Not
Afraid!*

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Be Not Afraid!

The more ready you are to give yourself to God and to others, the more you discover the authentic meaning of life. Never give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged.

Be not afraid. – Pope St. John Paul the Great

Welcome to the 2024 Malvern Retreat House Annual Report

Pope St. John Paul the Great often reminded us to trust in God's plan and to "be not afraid"—a message that guided us throughout 2024.

By God's grace, it was a year of bold growth. We completed the Blessed Carlo Acutis Shrine and Center for Eucharistic Encounter, added the Papal Cross to our great lawn, and welcomed more visitors than in recent years.

From our board and staff to volunteers and retreatants, the Malvern community responded to God's call with courage and faith.

We are pleased to share this report as a reflection of His blessings and all we've accomplished together. Thank you for your generous support.

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Rooted in the Catholic Faith, we provide retreats, programs, and events that help people deepen their relationship with God and find peace.

The Annual Report recognizes those individuals, families, corporations, foundations and organizations who have made gifts to Malvern Retreat House in the 2020 calendar year. In compiling this Annual Report, Malvern Retreat House has made every effort to ensure its accuracy. Malvern Retreat House regrets any errors and invites the reader to contact the retreat house so our records may be corrected. Please write to the Office of Development, Malvern Retreat House, 315 S. Warren Avenue, Malvern, PA. 19355 or call 610-644-0400. Visit us online at malvernretreat.com



A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends of Malvern Retreat House,

In 2024, we witnessed a remarkable year, with slow, deliberate, planned growth. We took comfort in St. Paul's words (Philippians 4:6-7). "Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray and give thanks to Him. Then God's peace will watch over your hearts and your minds."

Please allow me to take this moment to reflect on the incredible strides we made together and express my deepest gratitude to all who have contributed to our mission and vision.

I begin with a personal thank you to the dedicated and hard-working staff, board members, the Men and Women of Malvern, all who provided the confidence to plan big and meet many of our goals.

As Chair of the Board of Directors, I am proud to report that our financial position has strengthened over the year. Retreatants are embracing the stewardship initiative that requests full payment for their retreat stay. I am equally proud that we can continue our promise that we will never turn some away who cannot afford to pay due to financial hardship. YOUR generous donations to the *Bearers of Hope Scholarship Fund* and *Malvern Cares* programs continue to bless those just needing a 'hand up' during a challenging time.

All these accomplishments would not have been possible without the passionate dedication of our supporters. Whether through volunteerism, advocacy, or financial contributions, your engagement has been vital to our success.

As I look to the future, I am filled with optimism and excitement for Malvern Retreat House. I see the ongoing refurbishing of our facilities, I see continued growth within the Men and Women of Malvern, and I see more youth coming through our gates. Most of all, I see lives being changed by the mercy, grace and love of God experienced while on retreat.

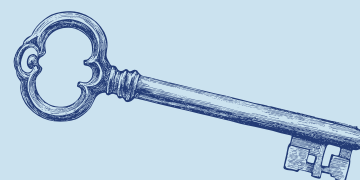
Thank you for your continued trust and support. It is a privilege to work alongside you in helping people deepen their relationship with God and find peace, hope and healing in the beautiful Hills of St. Joseph.

Prosit.



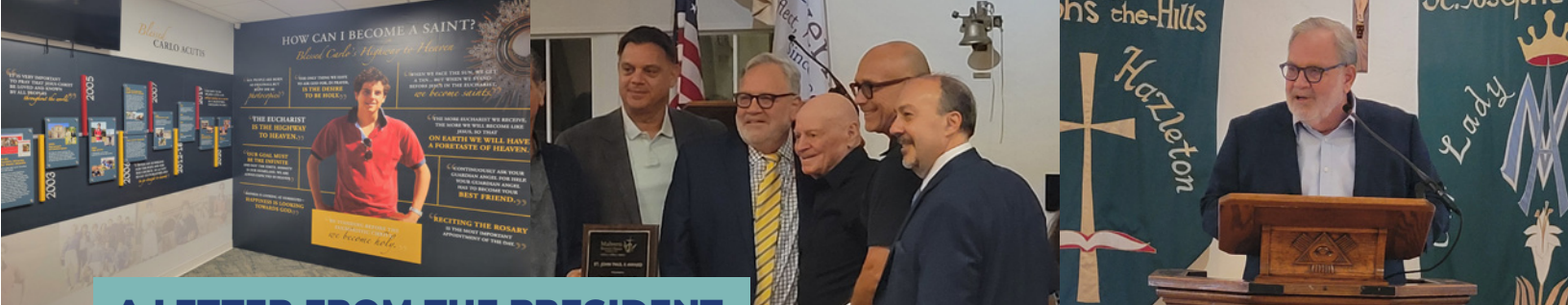
James R. Molinari

James R. Molinari
Chairman of the Board of Directors



This Year's Key Achievements

- **Transformative change.**
The towering St. John Paul II Papal Cross, installed in November, is the newest iconic image of the strength and size of our faith-filled community.
- **Received the Archdiocesan declaration of our Blessed Carlo Acutis Shrine** as one of its official shrines and one of the only in the world to the First Millennial Saint of the Catholic Church.
- **Exceeded the goal of 6,000 retreatants** to our "signature" Men & Women of Malvern retreats.
- **Grew to a record high revenue** from the "sponsored" and "private" retreats.
- **Completed many much needed and long overdue capital improvements** to the McShain Conference Center, Corrigan Hall, The Family Life Center, and Memorial Dining Hall.
- **Started renovations** of our residence rooms.
- **Rebuilt the St. Joseph the Worker Shrine.**



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Prosit!

A word that holds deep meaning for the Men and Women of Malvern. Years ago, a priest would end Mass with “Prosit,” and the people would respond, “Omnibus un Singulis.” May it be beneficial—to each and every one.

That simple exchange reflects the spirit of a retreat weekend—and the decisions we made in 2024. Every action by our Board, Associates, Captains, and Recruiters was guided by this principle: what will be most beneficial to all?

One example: merging smaller groups onto shared weekends. This opened space for large private retreats, increasing revenue and sustaining operations. I’m deeply grateful to the groups who embraced what would benefit the whole of Malvern.

Another highlight: our Blessed Carlo Acutis Shrine was declared an official Archdiocesan Shrine by Archbishop Nelson J. Perez. Nearly 20,000 people visited in 2024—many of them youth and young adults drawn to Carlo’s words: “We are all born originals, but too many die as photocopies.”

At the center of our grounds, the Pope St. John Paul II Cross now stands as a beacon—a call to “Be not afraid.” We echo that message to all who come to Malvern: live your faith boldly. Say no to chaos. Say yes to God.

It is no coincidence that Blessed Carlo and Pope St. John Paul II share the same canonization date: April 27. Nor is it coincidence they now guide pilgrims together at Malvern.

Since 1912, our mission has been the same: to help people deepen their relationship with Christ and find peace, hope, and healing. And like these two saints, we believe the answer is found in the Eucharist.

2025 Theme: **The Eucharist: Food for the Journey**

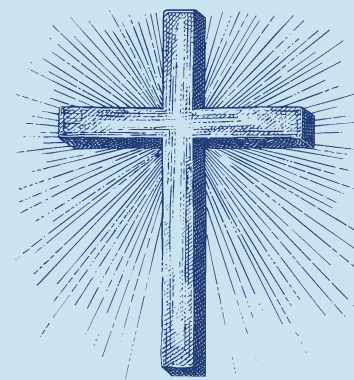
To that, I say again, with hope— **Prosit. Omnibus un Singulis.**



Live in Hope,

Michael T. Norton
President

Guided by the Saints



At Malvern, the presence of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Pope St. John Paul II is more than symbolic—it is deeply spiritual. Both saints drew strength from the Eucharist. Both invite us to live boldly, love fully, and walk without fear.

In 2024, over **20,000 pilgrims** came to encounter Christ at the Blessed Carlo Acutis Shrine, now named an official Archdiocesan Shrine. At the heart of our grounds, the towering cross of Pope St. John Paul II reminds us to “Be not afraid.”

As we look toward 2025, we remain rooted in our founding mission: to help each person deepen their relationship with Christ and find peace, hope, and healing. The path forward is clear—and it begins at the altar.



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Dear Vital Donors and Supporters,

As I look at the new 40-foot St. John Paul II cross on our main lawn, I think about the past year and Malvern Retreat House's upward growth. We're inspired by St. John Paul II's words, "Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ," and we approach our work with faith and courage. We are more encouraged to know so many of you are praying for our shared mission!

This year, your unwavering generosity has allowed us to upgrade crucial areas like McShain Hall - our main conference area - and improve security across the campus. We're now planning program expansions like a Veterans Retreat in May 2025, a new retreat for young Catholic families and possibly our first of its kind, college alum retreat.

Your support strengthens our outreach, helping us to serve more people, especially those facing significant challenges. The *Malvern Cares* program, through the cardboard banks you take home to fill after your retreat, supports the homeless and others in need, helping them find self-sufficiency powered by His Grace.

The Bearers of Hope Scholarship helps retreatants facing financial difficulties. We've seen lives changed and hope restored through retreats—whether it's something learned, a relationship rekindled, or a new one formed. **Every new open door is thanks to donors like you.**

Your prayers, gifts, and volunteer efforts have helped us build a community focused on a deeper relationship with God.

The following pages list our generous supporters. We like to refer to it as our list of saints. Every contribution, big or small, has been vital to Malvern Retreat's mission.

Looking ahead, we're committed to expanding our reach and serving even more people. With your continued support, we move forward confidently, unafraid, open to the possibilities ahead.



With gratitude and blessings,

James Catrambone

Jim Catrambone

Director of Development



"Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do to me."

This year, Malvern Retreat House launched a new way to extend our mission beyond the retreat: the *Malvern Cares* cardboard bank.

Guests are invited to take one home, fill it with spare change, and return it to support those facing homelessness and hardship.

Your donations benefit:

- Bethesda Project / Our Brother's Place
- St. John's Hospice
- Mercy Hospice
- Joseph's House

We are also collecting:

- New socks and underwear (men & women)
- Travel-sized toiletries
- Feminine hygiene products

These simple items provide dignity, warmth, and comfort to those in greatest need.

Donate online today!





A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

As I began my ministry as the Rector of Malvern Retreat House on February 3, 2025, I confidently write of my experiences as a retreatant for many years, and my brief experiences as Rector thus far. I had come to the Malvern Retreat House for the Annual Priest Retreats for many years, including this past summer.

The sign “Welcome Come As You Are” greets retreatants and communicates the message that all are welcome here. Each of us is made in God’s image and likeness, and is called to continual conversion, that is, turning more towards God, and away from the world and its influences. Who of us can honestly deny our common condition of being “a work in progress”? For more than 100 years this spiritual center has provided the means for its retreatants to “reflect, refresh, and rejoice”. Mother Teresa masterfully connects silence and prayer, in her words “God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer.” For more than 100 years countless retreatants have sought and seek the means to continual conversion in the silence at Malvern Retreat House.

Malvern Retreat House is the official location of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia St. Carlo Acutis Shrine, and continues to draw many people, especially the young to learn about his love for the Holy Eucharist, as powerfully presented in the “Center for Eucharistic Encounter”. As he is the first Millennial saint, who died at the age of 15 in 2006, and was canonized by Pope Francis this April 27, he is a model for all in his appreciation for, and propagation of Who the Holy Eucharist is! We watched the Canonization Mass here on the lawn in front of St. Joseph’s Hall at 4:30 am, preceded by Mass at 3:30 am.

Pope Francis proclaimed a Jubilee Year, which began December 24, 2024, and will conclude on January 6, 2026; a time for reconciliation and celebration of God’s abundant mercy. Malvern Retreat House is a Sacred Jubilee Site for those who visit the St. Carlo Acutis Shrine for indulgences. As this shrine is a Sacred Jubilee Site, visitors are asked to spend some time in Eucharistic Adoration and meditation, and pray an Our Father, Profession of Faith, and prayers to Mary, the Mother of God. An indulgence is the removal of temporal punishment (Purgatory) due to sins which have already been forgiven. There are four requirements for this Divine benefit: sacramental confession, reception of Holy Communion, detachment from sin, and prayers for Pope Francis. Indulgences remind us that God is truly Love and Mercy! The gospel account of the two disciples on the way to Emmaus who meet Jesus shortly after the Resurrection. The disciples ask Jesus to stay with them; in the breaking of the bread, they recognized Jesus (Luke 24:30, 31).

I invite you to come to Malvern Retreat House to find or reconnect with Jesus. I then encourage you to invite all whom you know to come here too. I believe this place is a taste of Heaven, especially because of the Blessed Carlo Acutis Shrine and because of its status as a Sacred Jubilee Site.



Prosit!

Rev. Michael J. Davis
Rector

A Sacred Jubilee Site

During the 2025 Jubilee Year of Mercy, Malvern Retreat House is a designated Sacred Jubilee Site.

Pilgrims visiting the St. Carlo Acutis Shrine may obtain a Jubilee indulgence by spending time in Eucharistic Adoration, offering prayers, and fulfilling the Church’s requirements for indulgences.

“God speaks in the silence of the heart.”

— Mother Teresa



Retreat Highlights

Malvern Retreat House saw continued growth in 2024*.

While many regional retreat houses have closed, Malvern is growing! Our signature retreats... also known as the Traditional Men and Women of Malvern Retreat... grew by an impressive 4.35%. Our non-traditional and sponsored retreats grew by 1.52%.

**Note: In 2023, 294 people attended virtual retreats which were not available in 2024. The above number reflects on-campus retreatants only.*

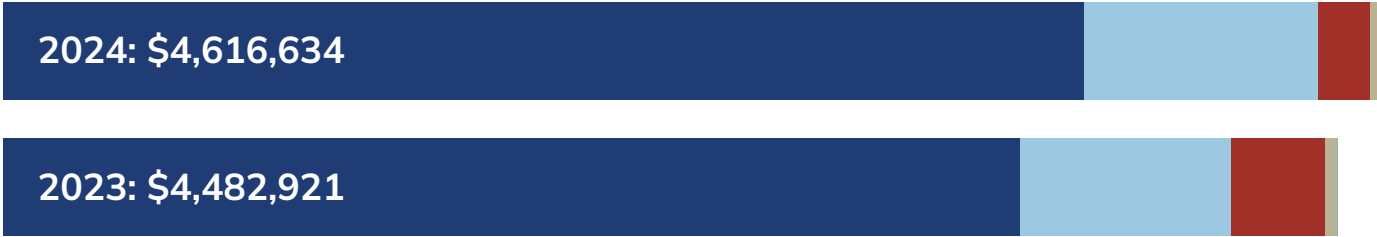
Malvern is growing!

1.52% growth
in Sponsored and Non-traditional Retreats

4.35% growth
in traditional Men and Women of Malvern Retreats

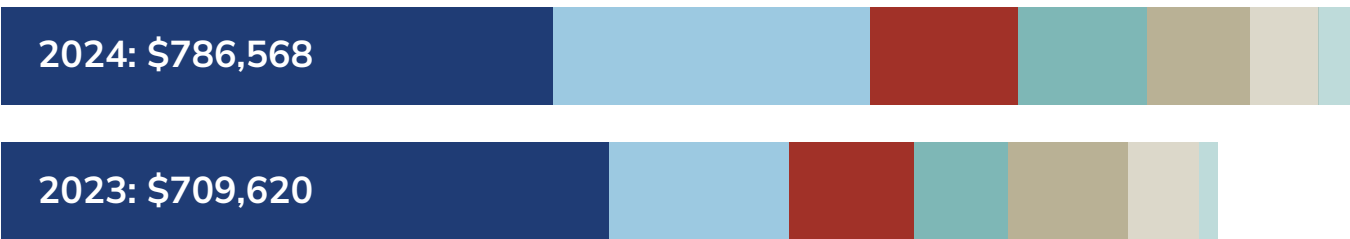
OUR 2024 FINANCIALS

Revenue: \$4,616,634



	2024	2023
Retirements	\$3,632,708	\$3,419,242
Development	786,568	709,620
Capital Campaign	1,000	1,404
Other Income	20,871	40,011
Investment Income	175,487	312,644
Total Revenue	\$4,616,634	\$4,482,921

Sources of Funds: \$786,568



	2024	2023
Annual Fund	\$322,200	\$354,685
Major Gifts	184,833	104,968
Membership	59,579	69,637
Remembrance	39,888	41,712
Deferred Gifts	75,797	54,300
Special Events	86,120	73,368
Memorial Fund	18,151	10,950
Total Development Revenue	\$786,568	\$709,620

Expenses: \$4,197,039



	2024	2023
Retirements	\$3,463,853	\$3,213,823
Development	276,421	266,956
Administration	863,969	848,347
Total Expense	4,604,243	4,329,126
Less: Asset Deprecation	407,204	384,281
Total Expense, less: depreciation	\$4,197,039	\$3,944,845

Uses of Funds: \$786,568



	2024	2023
Fundraising	\$171,433	\$145,752
Administration	40,141	57,559
Allocated Expenses	30,572	29,506
Printing & Postage	24,860	26,955
Memorials	1,395	678
Remembrance	8,020	6,506
Total Development Expense	\$276,421	\$266,956
Funds Allowed for Projects	\$510,147	\$442,664



The Men of Malvern: A Legacy of Faith, Renewal and Courage

Embracing the Call in 2024

For over a century, the **Men of Malvern** have remained the steadfast heart of Malvern Retreat House, the nation's oldest and largest Catholic retreat community. Founded as a laymen's retreat center more than 110 years ago, this dedicated brotherhood continues to deepen its faith, renew its spirit, and strengthen its commitment to Christ.

The phrase "Be Not Afraid" appears in the bible 365 times; one for each day of the year! Certainly, the Men of Malvern exemplify this challenge. Their steadfast commitment to Malvern Retreat, especially as our community has fully emerged from the challenges of COVID-19 stronger than ever, reflects the courage required to be a disciple of Christ.

A Year of Growth & Commitment

The spirit of renewal and commitment among our retreatants has been stronger than ever. In 2024, Malvern Retreat House saw a

4% increase in new retreatants, a testament to the growing desire for spiritual connections and the need to retreat from the distractions of daily life. Even more encouraging, nearly **50% of first-time retreatants returned for another retreat**. This remarkable growth speaks to the profound impact of a Malvern Retreat experience—one that lingers in the heart long after the weekend ends.

Fraternity, Tradition, and Transformation

For the Men of Malvern, a retreat is more than just a weekend away—it's a sacred tradition, a reunion of faith, and a time to **listen to God's voice in the stillness**. Whether gathering in quiet prayer, engaging in deep reflection, or participating in Eucharistic Adoration, our retreatants leave spiritually fortified and renewed in their mission as Catholic men, fathers, husbands, and leaders in their communities.

The brotherhood that binds the Men of Malvern is both historic and ever-growing. As we look ahead, we invite even more men to join this



sacred tradition—to answer Christ's call and to "Be Not Afraid" in their faith journey.

Looking Forward

With gratitude, we celebrate the continued strength and expansion of our retreats and look forward to welcoming even more men into this lifelong spiritual fraternity. If you have yet to experience a Men of Malvern retreat, consider this your invitation. Step away from the noise, find solace in faith, and trust in the promise that God is always with us.

**Be not afraid.
Come to Malvern.**



The Women of Malvern: A Flourishing Faith Community

For nearly 40 years, **Malvern Retreat House** has opened its doors to **women seeking spiritual renewal**, growing into a vibrant and thriving retreat community. What began as a handful of women's retreats has blossomed into a movement—one that we pray continues to gain momentum,



drawing more women each year to encounter God's peace, grace, and healing presence.

This past year, we witnessed **extraordinary growth**, with some of our Women's Retreats more than doubling in size from the previous year. This is a powerful testament to the deep hunger for faith, fellowship, and renewal among Catholic women. Even more inspiring, the 2025 retreat is already nearing capacity, underscoring the incredible momentum behind the Women of Malvern movement.

A Growing Community, A Renewed Commitment

The *Women of Malvern* are not just attendees—they are the lifeblood of a growing movement, one that fosters deep reflection, healing, and joy. Whether through personal

prayer, engaging talks, Eucharistic Adoration, or shared moments of faith and sisterhood, each retreat offers an opportunity to encounter Christ in a profound way.

Looking Ahead with Courage and Faith

The impressive growth of women's retreats is not only a testament to their commitment to their faith. But it reflects a kind of bravery and strength that inspired the Apostles to spread the Gospel. The call to **step away from daily distractions, trust in God's plan, and embrace** His grace is more relevant than ever.

With **faith and anticipation**, we look forward to **2025 and beyond**, ready to grow, heal, and thrive together as Women of Malvern. If you've never attended a retreat, consider this your invitation—because **God is waiting for you here**.



With Heartfelt Gratitude, We Thank Our Generous Donors

We thank the many generous donors whose prayers and gifts sustain the mission of Malvern Retreat House. Your support brings hope, healing, and Christ's love to all who come here.

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International Exhibition THE EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES OF THE WORLD



Celebrating the First Full Year of the Malvern Retreat House Shrine to St. Carlo Acutis Shrine and Center for Eucharistic Encounter

What began as a true vision and a leap of faith, buttressed with countless hours of prayers, the Shrine to St. Carlo Acutis and the Center for Eucharistic Encounter have become an important addition Malvern Retreat House.

In the fall of 2023, Malvern Retreat House officially dedicated the shrine while Mrs. Antonia Acutis was visiting our sacred grounds. In the year since its dedication, the **St. Carlo Acutis Shrine** has welcomed **thousands of pilgrims**, families, school groups, and faithful Catholics from across the region and beyond. The powerful witness of Carlo's life and his love for the Eucharist has drawn visitors to Malvern to pray, reflect, and be renewed in their faith. At the heart of the shrine is a **first-class relic** of St. Carlo, a tangible connection to the holy teenager who has inspired a new generation of Catholics through his devotion and digital evangelization.

In 2024, our spiritual landscape expanded further with the **completion of the Good Shepherd Adoration Chapel**, offering a peaceful and beautiful space for Eucharistic Adoration. This new chapel is a perfect complement to the St. Carlo Shrine and Center for Eucharistic Encounter, inviting all who visit to deepen their encounter with Christ.

In recognition of its growing spiritual impact, Archbishop Perez officially decreed that the shrine is **recognized as a Diocesan Shrine**. He then declared that the shrine is an **official destination for the Jubilee Year of 2025**. This designation recognizes

the shrine as a place of special grace, prayer, and pilgrimage. As a **Jubilee Year destination**, pilgrims who visit Malvern Retreat may be eligible to receive a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, as part of the Church's worldwide celebration of the Holy Year.

As we reflect on this first full year of grace, we give thanks to God for the intercession of St. Carlo Acutis and for all who have made this shrine possible. The mission of Malvern Retreat House continues to flourish through these sacred additions to our grounds, drawing hearts closer to Christ and the Eucharist, just as Carlo desired.

Faith without Fear

Young Adults Retreat to Malvern



In 2024, Malvern Retreat House continued to flourish as a beacon for young adults seeking spiritual growth, community, and deeper faith experiences. The year was marked by a series of dynamic retreats and events tailored to the unique needs and aspirations of individuals aged 19 to 39.

Koinonia Young Adult Event - Peak Encounter Retreat

On August 15, 2024, Malvern hosted a special Koinonia event with Heather Makowicz, who shared her challenging yet inspiring experience walking the Camino de Santiago with her husband and son Nathan, who has a disability and needed to be pushed. They joined the "Accessible Camino" group, a community supporting pilgrims unable to walk on their own. The evening included Holy Mass, confession, Heather's presentation, small group reflection, and sharing. The theme, "Expect the Unexpected: Peak Encounters," was featured on the homepage of Catholic Philly, who covered the event.

Fr. Ambrose Criste's Young Adult Retreat

In September 2024, Malvern hosted a young adult retreat led by Fr. Ambrose Criste, O.Praem., of the Norbertine Community at St. Michael's Abbey

in California. The weekend offered spiritual renewal and reflection on themes like Nature & Grace, the Sacramental Worldview, and the Four Last Things. Highlights included small group discussions, Liturgy of the Hours, overnight Adoration, a rosary procession to the Lourdes Grotto led by the Sisters of Life, and a bonfire. One participant shared, "I love going [to Malvern Retreat], it renews my faith."

New Year's Eve with Philly Frassati

The year ended with an intimate New Year's Eve retreat co-hosted with Philly Frassati. This overnight retreat offered space for reflection on the past year and spiritual renewal for the year ahead. Fr. Michael Herlihey, OFM Cap., served as Retreat Director and celebrated Mass. Jack Terzian led praise and worship and shared a personal testimony during Adoration. The group welcomed the New Year and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, with hymns at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Looking Ahead:

Young Adults at Malvern in 2025

With a solid foundation and growing interest, Malvern Retreat House is planning Young Adult events for 2025.

➡ YAMDI Retreat

On February 7-9, Malvern hosted the Young Adult Missionary Disciple Initiative (YAMDI), an initiative of the Office of Ministry of Young Adults (OMYA). This was the first part of a formation program that aims to accompany young adults into a deeper relationship with the Lord, guiding them towards personal transformation into missionary disciples. The weekend included presentations from the staff of OMYA on biblical themes concerning the fall and redemption of man. Fr. Steve DeLacy and Fr. Tim Tarnacki led the weekend and provided a unique balance of prayer and reflection, fraternity and laughter.

➡ Restore

In conjunction with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Malvern Retreat House hosted "Restore," a healing retreat for young men and women. Held in May of 2025, Restore focused on spiritual healing and growth. Retreatants enjoyed Mass, Confession, Adoration and time for prayer and reflection.

Throughout 2024, Malvern Retreat House remained dedicated to supporting young adults through diverse retreats that foster faith, connection, and spiritual growth.

**Scan the QR code to discover
more young adult retreats
coming in 2025.**



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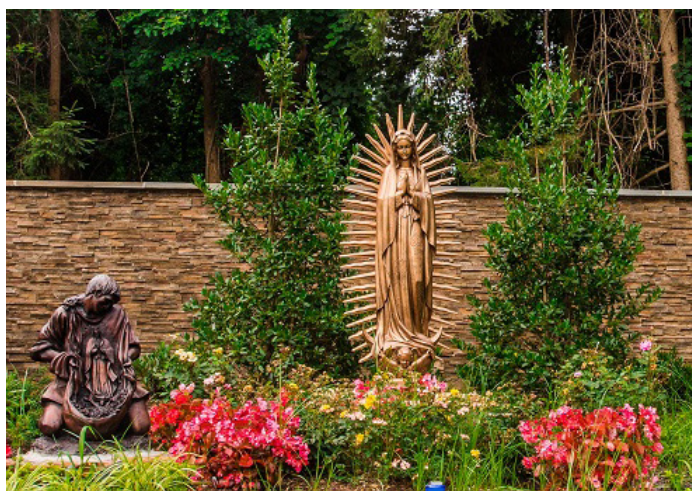
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Welcoming the World to Malvern: New Retreat Groups of 2024

Malvern Retreat House's traditional retreats have been central to its mission for over a century. In 2024, Malvern expanded its reach, welcoming retreatants from 26 states and countries including Hawaii and Canada. These diverse groups enriched our community, each bringing unique charisms that reflect our growing role as a spiritual destination and our ongoing call to foster deeper union with Christ.

St. Mary Men's Group (FSSP)

This new retreat group of Catholic men from St. Mary's Church in Conshohocken, served by the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, brought a spirit of reverence and traditional liturgy. Their presence richly added to our growing community of men committed to the sacred call of discipleship.

Fr. Chris Alar – Marian Retreat

Nationally recognized speaker and priest of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, Fr. Chris Alar led a powerful Marian-themed retreat. His message of hope, healing, and devotion to Divine Mercy touched the hearts of all who attended.

Retrouvaille Mid Atlantic Conference

Malvern Retreat hosted the leadership conference for the Retrouvaille ministry, which serves couples in troubled marriages. Their work aligns beautifully with Malvern Retreat's mission of healing and restoration, and we were honored to support their leadership through this vital conference.

Chinese Cursillo of NYC

This community of Chinese Catholics, deeply involved in the Cursillo movement, traveled from the Bronx, New York, to find a temporary home at Malvern while their regular facility underwent renovations. Their joyful spirituality and dedication added a dynamic spirit to our campus.

Priest Alumni of St. Charles Seminary

In a unique blessing, Malvern Retreat welcomed priest alumni of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary while the seminary transitioned to its new campus. Their fraternity and prayerful presence enriched our sacred spaces with gratitude and history.

Ruth's Sisterhood Fellowship International

This vibrant women's leadership group, with an evangelical Christian identity and a ministry presence at the United Nations, chose Malvern Retreat for its annual gathering. Their prayer and purpose exemplified global sisterhood and spiritual empowerment.

Syro-Malabar Pre-Cana Retreat

A group of young engaged couples from the Syro-Malabar rite attended a Pre-Caná weekend at Malvern, led by a former Kairos retreatant. Their return reflects the lasting impact of early spiritual formation at Malvern.

Apostles of Jesus Missionary Sisters

Missionary Sisters from Nairobi, Kenya, visited Malvern as part of their U.S. apostolic service. Their joyful presence brought a powerful sense of global mission and devotion to the retreat community.

Paradisus Dei Marriage Retreat

Known for programs like "That Man is You," Paradisus Dei brought a weekend marriage retreat ministering to couples seeking to grow in faith and unity. Their commitment to Catholic family life was warmly embraced.

Divine Will Retreat

Devotees of the private revelations of Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta gathered for prayer, reflection, and deeper understanding of the Divine Will. Their retreat was contemplative, faithful, and deeply moving.

Each of these new groups expanded the tapestry of Malvern Retreat House. Their prayers now join the thousands who have sought God's peace here, and their footsteps now echo among our hills. As we look to the future, we continue to welcome all who seek holiness, healing, and hope.

“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” — Mark 6:31

Around the House: 2024 Campus Highlights

St. Paul's advice to the Philippians remains timeless, especially here at Malvern, where each year brings new blessings and challenges—always answered with prayer and purpose.



“Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to Him. Then God's peace will watch over your hearts and your minds.

— Philippians 4:6-7

Blessed Carlo Acutis Shrine

2024 marked the first full year of the only Carlo Acutis Shrine in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The year brought the completion of the breathtaking **Good Shepherd Perpetual Adoration Chapel**, featuring striking stained glass and inspiring portraits of young saints.

Campus Infrastructure & Facilities

A near-emergency in the **Memorial Dining Hall** was averted when the dedicated hot water heater failed. Thanks to a smart investment in a Pro Press system, operations remained unaffected—saving approximately \$20,000.

Corrigan Hall received critical electrical upgrades, enhancing stairwell and emergency lighting—just in time for the sold-out Advent retreat. In the **Family Life Center**, stormwater basin restoration was completed, and priority projects like roof repairs and wall waterproofing are underway.

Gift Shop Revival

The facilities team revitalized the Gift Shop. Working with the Gillespie family on retail layout and design, the shop has improved flow and is now stocked with Malvern-exclusive items, rosaries, books, and more—extending the retreat experience beyond campus.

Preserving and Enhancing the Grounds

A campus-wide inventory of memorials and exterior assets is informing a new naming policy, including 10-year term limits for designated spaces. A pilot renovation of 330 resident rooms in Our Lady's Hall has begun, with Giving Tuesday donations as seed funding.

The historic **Papal Cross** was installed in 2024, after its transfer and renovation. Archbishop Nelson Pérez will dedicate the shrine on June 22. Nearby, a newly landscaped berm replaced damaged fencing around St. Joseph's lot, eliminating recurring maintenance costs.

Unexpected Projects & Forward Progress

A fallen tree destroyed the Saint Joseph the Worker Shrine, but the statue was unharmed and rebuilding is underway. Campus-wide infrastructure updates included a toilet recall, A/V upgrades in Upper McShain, and an HVAC system overhaul. Malvern also collaborated with the borough to plant 243 new trees, keeping our "breath of fresh air" vibrant.

Accessibility and Hospitality

The Vertical Platform Lift project—funded by 2023 Giving Tuesday—will be installed in early 2025, pending final state approvals. New water bottle stations were installed across campus, supporting our eco-conscious mission.

Stations of the Cross

And finally, five more Stations of the Cross were replaced along Path "B," continuing our tradition of crafting home-sized crosses from retired wood. A piece of Malvern can now bless homes across the region.

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In 2024,
Malvern Retreat
House hosted

33

Kairos Retreats,
welcoming

over
1,650

students from local
high schools.



Kairos at Malvern



You, young people, are especially called to become missionaries of this New Evangelization, by daily witnessing to the Word that saves lives.”

— Pope St. John Paul II

Malvern Retreat House has long served as a sacred space for Catholics seeking to retreat from the noise to hear God’s voice. In recent years, the Malvern Retreat House has significantly strengthened its efforts to engage youth and young adults, offering a space where they can deepen their faith and encounter Christ. One of the most powerful programs in this initiative is the *Kairos Retreat*, a transformative experience for high school students that encourages them to disconnect, reflect, and experience God’s grace in a profound way. “Kairos” translated from the Greek means, “the critical moment.” In Malvern Retreat language, the critical moment with God!

In 2024, Malvern Retreat House hosted 33 *Kairos Retreats*, welcoming over 1,650 students from local high schools. These retreats are inspired by the *Cursillo* movement, a lay formation initiative that began in Spain in the 1940s. *Cursillo* means “little course” in Spanish. *Kiros*, a youth-focused adaptation of *Cursillo*, offers a structured, immersive experience that invites students to step out of their busy lives and enter into a sacred space where they can encounter Christ and reflect on their spiritual journey.

The *Kairos* retreat is an intensive experience designed to help students disconnect from the distractions of everyday life. Students leave their cell phones and watches at home, and at Malvern Retreat House, clocks are even covered throughout the campus, allowing participants to immerse themselves in God’s time. The retreat spans several days and includes a series of talks from retreat directors and fellow students, providing ample opportunities for deep reflection and connection.

In addition to the *Kairos* experience, Malvern Retreat House’s newly established St. Carlo Acutis Shrine and Center for Eucharistic Encounter, as well as the Papal Cross from Pope St. John Paul II’s visit to Philadelphia in 1979, further highlight the retreat house’s commitment to youth evangelization and faith formation. The *Kairos* retreats serve as a key part of this mission, offering young people a transformative opportunity to grow in their relationship with God and take up the call to live as joyful witnesses of the Gospel.

As Malvern Retreat House expands efforts to connect with the youth and young adult community, the success of the *Kairos* retreats reflects the growing appetite for people to grow in their faith and connect with God. With the continued support of Malvern Retreat House’s generous benefactors, we can offer programs like *Kairos* which are bringing young people to Christ.



The Cross

A Symbol of Fearless Faith for Our Times



In 2024, **Malvern Retreat House** became the new custodian of a significant piece of Catholic history—the Papal Cross from Pope St. John Paul II's 1979 visit to Philadelphia. The cross was originally erected for the Papal Mass on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. It has found a permanent home on Malvern Retreat House's 125-acre campus. It represents our resounding commitment to future generations of Catholics who are committed to living their life at the foot of Christ's cross.

The Papal Cross, standing almost 40' feet tall, was initially constructed as the centerpiece for the Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II on October 3, 1979, an event that drew over a million faithful. Following the Mass, the cross was relocated to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, where it stood as a landmark for more than four decades. With the seminary's relocation, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia generously gifted the cross to Malvern Retreat House, ensuring its preservation and continued significance.

The transition of the cross to Malvern was a meticulous process. Under the guidance of craftsmen led by Bob Pericone and Malvern's facilities team headed by Bob Eagan, the cross underwent careful refurbishment to

restore its original grandeur. The Petrongolo family, representing four generations of retreatants, generously supported the project, facilitating the cross's move from City Avenue to Malvern and its installation at the foot of Malvern Retreat's great lawn.

On November 11, 2024, Malvern Retreat House held a dedication ceremony to celebrate the cross's new home. Journalist and papal expert Pat Ciarrocchi emceed the event, reflecting on the cross's enduring legacy. She noted how, for generations, this cross had been a beacon of hope and prayer for countless individuals passing by its previous locations along City Avenue and Lancaster Avenue. Now, at Malvern Retreat, it stands ready to inspire a new generation of Catholics seeking spiritual growth and solace.

The installation of the Papal Cross at Malvern Retreat House not only preserves a historical artifact but also reinforces the out mission to provide a sanctuary for all who seek a deeper connection with Christ. As retreatants and visitors gaze upon the cross, they are reminded of Pope St. John Paul II's message of courage and unwavering faith—a message that continues to resonate within the Malvern Retreat House community.



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Brave Men, Women and Families Fearlessly Retreat to Malvern

Malvern Retreat House Fosters Healing and Renewal



For more than a century, Malvern Retreat House has been a sanctuary of faith, renewal, and transformation. In 2024, we saw incredible growth across a wide range of retreat offerings, ensuring that all who seek spiritual refuge could find a place to belong. Whether through family and couples retreats, healing retreats for those in addiction recovery, or the expanding Matt Talbot programs, Malvern Retreat House continues to provide life-changing experiences rooted in faith.

Strengthening Families and Marriages in Faith

Malvern Retreat's **Family Retreats** continue to provide a space where parents and children deepen their relationships with God and each other. These retreats focus on prayer, shared experiences, and the joys of living a Christ-centered family life. Many families return year after year, creating a tradition of spiritual renewal.

Our Couples Retreats offer an opportunity for married couples to strengthen their bond through guided reflection, talks, and shared

prayer. Husbands and wives deepen their relationship with Christ and with each other on these couples' retreats. Distinct from these, the **Retrouvaille program** is a lifeline for couples whose marriage is in trouble. Couples come to Retrouvaille as a final effort to save their marriage and their families. Countless marriages have been saved through this important work. The distinction is clear—while our couples retreats focus on enrichment and growth, Retrouvaille offers a path to reconciliation and restoration for those facing deep marital challenges.

Providing Hope for the Most Vulnerable

The **Peter Maurin and Dorothy Day retreats** continue to serve men and women in addiction recovery and those transitioning out of homelessness. Malvern Retreat House works with area organizations including Catholic Social Services, St. John's Hospice and Joseph's House Camden to support these men and women at this moment in life. Rooted in the Catholic Worker tradition of

hospitality and social justice, these retreats provide spiritual support, a sense of community, and the reminder that no one is beyond the reach of God's mercy.

Similarly, the **Matt Talbot Retreats**—long a source of strength for men in addiction recovery—have seen inspiring growth, particularly among women. The increasing demand for **Matt Talbot Retreats for Women** demonstrates the need for faith-based recovery spaces where women can find solace, healing, and support from a like-minded community. Two years ago, Malvern Retreat launched a Matt Talbot retreat for women which has doubled in size and shows signs of continued growth through 2025.

Looking Ahead with Faith and Courage

Malvern's retreat programs continue to thrive, bringing hope to those seeking renewal, reconciliation, and a deeper relationship with God. As we reflect on the year's growth, we look forward to 2025 with great anticipation, ready to welcome all who seek faith, healing, and transformation.

WAYS TO GIVE

to Malvern Retreat House

Malvern Retreat House relies on the generosity of its community to fulfill its mission of spiritual renewal. There are several impactful ways to give, each supporting a vital area of our ministry.



Annual Appeal

The Annual Appeal is Malvern's most important fundraising campaign. It provides essential funds to maintain our historic buildings, sacred shrines, oratories, and beautifully kept grounds.

May Day of Giving

May Day of Giving is a special event within the Annual Appeal that focuses on specific upgrades to our physical plant. This one-day giving effort helps us tackle targeted projects that improve the retreat experience for all who come to Malvern.

The Good Shepherd Society

The Good Shepherd Society is our planned giving program, inviting donors to leave a lasting legacy through gifts made via wills, trusts, or estate plans. Membership in the society reflects a deep and enduring commitment to Malvern's long-term mission.

Bearer of Hope

Bearer of Hope provides scholarships for retreatants who are unable to afford the cost of their annual retreat. Through this program, donors help ensure that financial hardship is never a barrier to experiencing the peace and grace of a retreat.

Malvern Cares

Malvern Cares supports retreat programs designed for men and women transitioning out of homelessness, addiction recovery, or other life crises. Contributions to Malvern Cares allow us to offer specialized, healing retreats to those most in need of hope and transformation.

Malvern Retreat House Golf Classic

Our annual golf outing is the highlight of the summer! Dozens of foursomes hit the links and raise money to support Malvern Cares, Bearer of Hope, and fund ongoing maintenance and improvements to our beautiful campus.



Each of these giving opportunities allows you to partner with Malvern Retreat House in a unique and meaningful way. Your generosity ensures that this sacred place remains a source of light, healing, and faith for all who seek it.

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online today!**

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Without you and your generosity, there would be no Malvern Retreat House.

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Take a box. Fill it with hope.

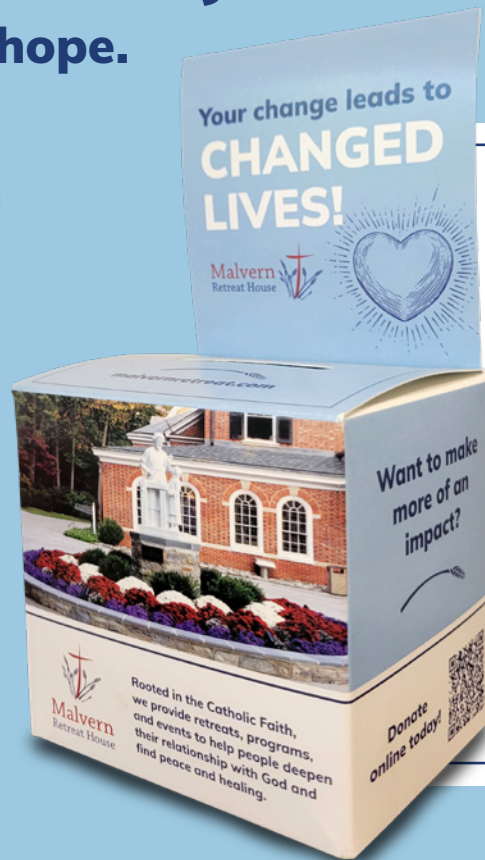
Ask for a *Malvern Cares* cardboard bank before you leave and take it home to fill with spare change. When returned, your gift helps those facing homelessness and hardship through:

- Bethesda Project / Our Brother's Place
- St. John's Hospice
- Mercy Hospice
- Joseph's House

This simple gesture helps bring dignity, warmth, and hope to those most in need.

One box may feel small, but together, the Malvern community creates real and lasting change.

Small Change = Big Mercy



Want to donate more than small change?

Donate online.



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