



## The Open Window - Fall 2020

Newsletter of the Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning in Dayton, Ohio.

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### Reopening Bergamo

The Bergamo Center reopened July 1 weekend after 3 months of closure due to pandemic precautions. Marianist PULSE was the first group to have a retreat, followed by the Glenmary Missionaries Novice group. Since then we have had 24 High School Youth retreats ranging from 1 day (12 hour) junior retreats to full 4 day Kairos retreats, all without incident or illness.

Bergamo has been in regular contact with the Greene County Health Department to be sure we are approved for continued operation during the pandemic. Bergamo's procedures during the pandemic are online at our website. Bergamo asks all guests to sign off on a health screening when they arrive, take temperatures and sign a pledge to follow safety protocol:

- Wear a mask or face covering.
- Frequently wash and/or sanitize hands.
- Practice physical distancing, by keeping 6' foot distance as much as possible.
- Keep personal space, shared common space and belongings clean.

The Center is still limited in capacity due to the pandemic. Large group space is currently capped at 48. Bedrooms are limited to a single guest, but all have their own newly remodeled bathroom. All guests are encouraged to bring their own refillable water bottles. Retreat ministry is still alive at Bergamo!





The Marianist PULSE group celebrates their year end retreat at Bergamo in July.

## Renew, Rebuild, Restore

A \$9,900 gift was received from Deacon Greg Cecere of Queen of Apostles Parish to be directed to the **Renew, Rebuild, Restore** fund. In addition, Bergamo has received a \$2,000 grant from the Charity Sisters of Cincinnati to support the **Come Share the Spirit Retreat** program for women impacted by abortion. We just received word that Bergamo will be awarded \$5,000 in the very first round of Marie Therese grants from the province to help support the **ISP (Ignatian Spirituality Project)**



The Bergamo Center welcomes gifts. The **National Day of Giving 2020** is approaching on December 1. Please consider Bergamo when looking for worthwhile charitable organizations to support!



Students of Chaminade Julienne High School navigate through a Kairos Retreat, keeping socially distanced and wearing masks.

## Repurposed Wood Art

Over 35 large Ohio Star quilt squares 27" x 27" have been created to adorn the walls of all single bedrooms in the Center. The designs are all different, made from repurposed scrap wood, featuring a dark center at the heart of each quilt square. The colors of the wood parallel the diversity of the nearly half million folks who have visited the center since 1967. The quilt squares pay special tribute to our visitors and presenters of color who have spoken out for racial justice. The pieces have been titled a "Ohio Star Quilts - Patchwork in Progress"





Another series of repurposed wood art pieces known as "Upward & Onward" have been installed in the hallways throughout the Center.

The Bergamo Center is still offering the smaller wooden Ohio Star Quilt Block patterns made of up-cycled, re-purposed pallet wood for a \$30 donation. 100% of proceeds will benefit the Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning Renew, Restore, Rebuild program. The Ohio Star pattern has a rich history dating back to the time of Martha Washington and Dolly Madison. These framed patterns are 14" x 14" and make for beautiful gifts with a unique story.

Contact Brent Devitt at: [brentd@bergamocenter.org](mailto:brentd@bergamocenter.org)

## Reorganization

The COVID pandemic has greatly impacted the Bergamo Center budget and has forced the Center to reorganize leadership level staffing. The position of Coordinator of Conference Planning, held by Gina Gregory, who had been with Bergamo for 13 years, has been eliminated. We thank Gina for her long dedicated service to the Bergamo Center and wish her all the best.

As a result the tasks coordinated by staff in Conference Planning and Event Services have been combined into a new position titled Coordinator of Guest Services. That position has been filled internally on staff by Jennifer Wourms, who has been with Bergamo since 2017. Jennifer is now the main contact for planning retreats and conferences at the Bergamo Center. Jennifer may be reached at [jenniferw@bergamocenter.org](mailto:jenniferw@bergamocenter.org) or 937-4262363 x2239.

## Recognition

Bergamo Center is one of two Dayton area Businesses to earn National Recognition as Bicycle Friendly Businesses by the League of American Bicyclists this summer. Bergamo Center was recognized for encouraging cycling as an easy option for transportation and provides amenities such as two folding bicycles for free guest use and incentives such as a cycling & commuting resource center available to guests and staff.



Bergamo Center staff have saved 133 gallons of gas at a value of \$466. That amounts to 2661 pounds of CO2 emissions saved from the atmosphere and a total of \$2,927 saved at \$1 per mile, when all costs of car commuting are considered such as car ownership, etc.

## Remodeling

The capital improvement project has progressed rapidly since March. Final touches on the project are finishing up now and all five units of bedrooms will be available within the next week. The project is finishing 9 months early! In addition to the original scope of work to improve heating/cooling and plumbing in the bedroom units the Bergamo Center has installed new carpet in the bedrooms, new water bottle filling stations upstairs and downstairs, bathtub surrounds for each bedroom bathroom, and native prairie plantings in the courtyard.

*Water saving bottle filling water fountains recently installed at Bergamo*



*New bathtub surrounds complement the new plumbing inside the walls.*

*New prairie plantings in the courtyard and soon a babbling brook to pass through it!*



*". . . I am like a brook that makes no effort to overcome obstacles in its way. All the obstacles can do is hold me up for a while, as a brook is held up; but during that time it grows broader and deeper and after a while it overflows the obstruction and flows along again. That is how I am going to work."*

*Father William Joseph Chaminade*

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