



*Summer can be a good time to open the windows and let a little fresh air in. The focus of this online newsletter is to give our guests and visitors an open window view of what is going on at the Bergamo Center. In the spirit of the Vatican Council, convened by our patron St. John XXIII and in the present context of synodality promoted by Pope Francis we strive to open our windows and doors for the people of God to gather to pray, to retreat, to plan, and to vision a future church.*

### **Days of Rest & Healing**

The Bergamo Center welcomes individuals seeking a personal day of retreat for Rest & Healing. The Center selects and offers a certain day each month for personal retreats. The recommended offering for this retreat is \$50 which includes a box lunch. The opportunity for Spiritual Direction is offered and may be arranged separately.

Day of Rest & Healing Retreat Sample Schedule:

- 9:00 Arrival, Visit Room, short self-guided tour
- AM Optional Spiritual Direction, Use of Mary Mother of Mercy Chapel
- 12:00 Box Lunch
- PM Optional Spiritual Direction, Walk the property, Grotto, Room rest
- 4:00 Close the day

**Registration for upcoming Rest & Healing Days**

## **World's Greatest**

*The reflection below is by Kevin Kozlowski,  
Coordinator of Youth at the Bergamo Center for  
Lifelong Learning.*

At Bergamo the retreat is finished, and I stand alone and reflect in the Roncalli Chapel and take a moment to breathe. Though the facilitation team and I do 40+ retreats a year, this one was unique. It involved seventy youth from all over the Southwestern Ohio area sharing smiles, tears, joy, and faith.

The retreat was called "World's Greatest." Its theme is a recognition of Genesis 1:27 - "So God created man in His image, and divine an image it was." The theme: God's plan for us was to take His love and grace to each other...we were the worlds' greatest gifts and are called to a responsibility for the preservation of care and love for the earth.

As our Blessed William Joseph Chaminade has said, "Let us always tend to the pure love of God and to the profound contempt of ourselves, and the Holy Spirit will enable us to work wonders."

The students who attended this retreat all shared the experiences in witnessing, small groups, liturgy, and creative prayer. The retreat was met with very positive feedback.

*"I have received many retreat experiences. This one holds a special place in my heart. I have met some of my closest friends on this retreat and it helped me grow as a person of faith"*

Alena Rapien (Seton 2022)

"When you start seeing everyone as the World's Greatest versions of themselves, you can start to know how good everyone is."

Julie Casavant (MND 2022)

This retreat challenges us to promote 2 truths. That we are made by God to be the Worlds' Greatest versions of ourselves. And that we are loved beyond any doubt."

Sara Pebody (Catholic Central 2022)

The Youth Program at Bergamo hosted 12 schools this past year. In the 2020/21 school year we hosted 49 retreats during the year. We work with close to 2000 students a year. We have 45 college student volunteers to lead. All of the schools returned the next year and praised our ability to work around the pandemic.





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### **Parish Beacons of Light**

*Beacons of Light* is a multi-year process of pastoral planning for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Groupings of parishes will come together as one faith community. These new “Families of Parishes” will be stronger, with the resources to focus more on mission than on maintenance.



Through Beacons of Light Families of Parishes will be implemented throughout the cities and towns, suburbs and rural communities of the 19 counties in western and southwestern Ohio. Pastors and parish leaders will then plan for the future of their Family of Parishes, growing closer to God, following Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and radiating Christ throughout our lives.

Bergamo Center offers to these parish Families of the Archdiocese a common sacred holy ground in the Dayton area for Parishes to meet and gather together for planning in the future.

Providing this common safe reflective space on the grounds of Mount Saint John is the Marianists offer to assist the Catholic church in the Archdiocese for representative members of any Parish Families to gather to build relationships.

Bergamo's Retreat and Conference meeting space, dining services and 60 newly remodeled hotel like bedrooms offer the kind of experience where a vision for the future can take place. Hybrid meetings involving on site, in-person participants and also virtual attendees can be arranged. Please contact our staff at the Bergamo Center for your parish conference, meeting and retreat options.

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## **Development Team**

The Bergamo Development Committee of the Board of Trustees have been visioning on how to best assure the future of the center amid the challenges of the pandemic so that the Bergamo Center can continue to serve well into the future. It takes a lot of support to operate the Bergamo Center. On the current team are trustees Bob Jackson and Bill Hunt along with member Terry Wozniak. We thank former members of the Development Team - Jennifer Wourms, Mike Lehner and Jim Walworth for their past contributions to the team.

The current vision is to continue with a team approach. Bergamo is gradually building a support base of contacts. A Bergamo Annual Giving Day and an Annual Donor event have been introduced in the past two years. We invite friends of the Bergamo Center to consider “Giving Back” for blessings received from Bergamo Center or “Paying it Forward” to future guests of the Bergamo, by offering your time and talent to the Bergamo Development Team. Either way we are looking for solid volunteer members of our development team to assist us with these tasks:

- Social Media Outreach
- Contact List Development
- Annual Event Organization
- Giving Day Coordination
- Grant Writing

Office resources are available for volunteer team members. If you feel called to assist the Bergamo Center in the Development Team approach we invite you to contact:

Bob Jackson - [bobjackson1286@gmail.com](mailto:bobjackson1286@gmail.com) 937-475-2068 or Bill Hunt - [llibtnuh@gmail.com](mailto:llibtnuh@gmail.com) 513-605-0524

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## **Board of Trustees Transitions**

The Bergamo Center welcomes 6 new board members this summer, to join the board officially this fall in September.

- Brett Chmiel
- Fr. Gene Contadino
- Neomi Deanda
- Bill Hunt
- Amy Lopez Mathews
- Michelle Sherman

We take this opportunity to publicly thank our three outgoing Bergamo trustees who have each served 9 years:

Susan Ferguson - Retired Director of the Center for Catholic Education in the School of Education and Health Sciences at the University of Dayton. Susan has served on the Bergamo Board since 2013. Susan

now serves on the Marianist Sponsorship Office Board. We thank you Susan for guiding our Mission Integration Committee & Team.



Karen Emmerich - Religion Teacher at Chaminade Julienne HS. Karen has served on the Bergamo Board since 2013. We thank Karen for so professionally recording our minutes as the Secretary of the Board.

Jim Murray - Theology teacher/campus minister at Carroll High School, Dayton. Jim has served on the Bergamo Board since 2013. We thank you Jim for your wisdom & leadership as Board of Trustees Chairperson.



### ***Support Bergamo***

Please consider supporting the sustainability of the Bergamo Center by making a donation. Your gift will change the lives of those on retreat, helping each one to grow closer to God. Thank you!

[\*\*Donate Here!\*\*](#)

If you don't currently follow us on social media, we encourage you to do so! [We are on Facebook](#). Please invite your friends to follow us, which will be a blessing for us and for them! Connect with Bergamo

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