

# "The Open Window"

Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning  
Newsletter  
Winter 2019  
<http://www.bergamocenter.org/>



*Renew, Rebuild,  
Restore*

## A Message from the Bergamo Center & Mount Saint John

The Marianist Province of the United States is announcing plans are in place for a Bergamo Center capital improvement project anticipated to begin in late summer 2019 that will involve upgrading the Bergamo Center lodging units. These capital improvements represent an opportunity to renew, rebuild and restore the Bergamo Center.

The project is to be funded collaboratively by the Marianist Province of the United States and the Bergamo Center. The project is designed to enhance the reflective atmosphere of the center as well as guests' health, safety and comfort during their experience at the Bergamo Center. The project is expected to include:

- Upgraded HVAC system
- Humidity control
- New Plumbing and bath fixtures
- Increased water pressure
- New roof gutters
- Bedroom wall insulation
- New windows
- Exterior maintenance
- Interior painting and wallboard work

The Bergamo Center will remain open and guests and groups will still be welcome while the capital improvement work is being completed. If individuals or leaders have concerns about lodging, they should contact either Brent Devitt, the Executive Director of the Bergamo Center, at 937-426-2363 [brentd@bergamocenter.org](mailto:brentd@bergamocenter.org) or Jeff Bohrer, Director of Mount St. John Facilities, 937-429-0795 [jbohrer@sm-usa.org](mailto:jbohrer@sm-usa.org).

*The preceding message has been authorized by the Marianist Province of the United States.*

## World's Greatest Retreat

"World's Greatest Retreat" is scheduled for March 9-10. Registration is open, (please see our Facebook page.) This popular youth retreat at Bergamo tends to fill up each year. The title *World's Greatest* refers not so much that this is the greatest retreat ever, but rather that we



are the only inhabitants of this planet that are made in the image of God, so that means we are the greatest gifts to this earth and we should respect the earth, respect all life, respect each other, and make the choices in our lives likewise.



## New Staff at Bergamo

Bergamo welcomes new staff. **Amber Jackson, Kelsey Pierce, Joseph Ober, Amy White** all in dining services and **Gina Amburgey** in Housekeeping. Orientation for the staff this year included a tour of the Mount Saint John Ministries.



## Native Plants

The Bergamo Center is pleased to announce a donation of \$1,000 from the Midwest Native Plant Society made in December to complete a native plant landscaping project at the entrance to Bergamo. The project should be complete by this summer and blooming in time for the 11th annual Midwest Native Conference scheduled for July 26-28, 2019. By summer guests will be greeted with Purple Cone Flower, Orange Cone Flower, Little Blue Stem, Butterfly Weed, Prairie Drop Seed, Shrubby Saint John's Wort, and a Black Tupelo tree. Last summer marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Midwest Native Plant Conference hosted at Bergamo.



*Midwest Plant Society leaders Kathy McDonald & Teri Gilligan celebrate 10 years of the conference in 2018*



## Notable Guests at Bergamo



**James Baldwin**, Author of *If Beale Street Could Talk*. was once a guest at the Bergamo Center. The novel was recently adapted to an Oscar nominated film by the same title. James Baldwin - writer, novelist, poet, playwright, and activist spoke on the topic of "Negro In America Life and History", Nov. 22 & 23, 1968

For an extended list of other notable guests at the Bergamo Center please go to the [Bergamo History](#) on our website.

## From the Bergamo Archives.... Building "The Wall"

There has been much talk about a "Wall" in the news lately. Few folks might remember or realize that Bergamo and Mount Saint John had its own wall. As the Center greeted guests in the 1970's it is hard to imagine that the peace and serenity of Mount Saint John could be disrupted by traffic, but apparently it was determined to be enough of a distraction that the property had to "build a wall" to solve the problem.

From the *Cincinnati Province Newsletter* - Jan. 14, 1978

**BERGAMO CENTER CLOSES SHAKERTOWN ENTRANCE:** *Because of the unauthorized traffic which made use of the Shakertown entrance and the Mount St. John property for a short cut to Patterson Road, Bergamo Center some time ago closed the Shakertown entrance as an experiment toward eliminating such authorized traffic. When the temporary barrier became subject to acts of vandalism, a permanent cement wall replaced it and the entrance permanently closed. The result has been an almost complete elimination of the undesirable traffic.*

There is no wall today and no one now seems to remember exactly where the wall was located. It is not clear how long the concrete barrier stood and if it came down in any kind dramatic fashion like the Berlin Wall. Today there seems to be little concern for the occasional times when folks short cut through the property.

This story was taken from *The History of the Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning*, published in 2017 for the Bergamo jubilee. [A link to this free document is on the Bergamo website.](#)

## How Well Are We Serving You?

If you have been to the Bergamo Center recently and would like to share feedback with us you may be interested in knowing we have recently developed an online version of our satisfaction survey through Constant Contact. If you have visited the Bergamo Center in the last 6 months and would like to give us your feedback on your stay please follow this link to the [Bergamo Evaluation Survey](#).

Thank you for your recent visit to the Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning. We are committed to making your visits with us fulfilling and enjoyable. We value your feedback. Thanks for taking the time to complete our survey!

## [New skyview footage of the Bergamo Center is online at the Bergamo website.](#)

### Marianist Feast Days - Winter 2019

Jan. 10 - Adele de Batz de Trenquellion  
Jan. 22 - Blessed William Joseph Chaminade  
Feb. 2 - Feast of the Presentation  
Feb. 11 - Our Lady of Lourdes  
March 19 - Feast of Saint Joseph  
March 25 - Annunciation

### Winter Staff Birthdays

Amy Lehmann - Jan. 29  
Sam El-hajj-moussa - February 5  
Ginny Snead - February 21  
Gina Gregory - February 27



"Let us always put our hopes in God,  
who never ceases giving us abundant grace . .

*He is faithful to His promises;  
whoever hopes in Him will never be  
disappointed."*



Adele de Batz de Trenquellion

## Winter Retreats/Events (Approx. # of Participants)

McNicholas HS (80) – Jan. 3-4  
Facilitator Training – Jan. 4  
Seton HS, Richmond, IN (25) - Jan. 6-7  
Spiritual Direction (10) – Jan. 8  
Purcell Marian HS – Jan. 9-10  
UD Mission & Rector (20) – Jan. 10-11  
St. Francis Men's Retreat (100) – Jan. 11-13  
Alter HS (50) – Jan. 13-14  
Spiritual Direction (10) – Jan. 15  
Bishop Hartley Kairos (55) – Jan 15-18  
Bergamo Board (15) – Jan. 17  
Marianist Social Justice Collaborative – Jan. 17-20  
Miami Valley Sewing Guild (20) – Jan. 18-20  
Marianist Lay Community of North America – Jan. 19-20  
Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) Women Retreat (20) – Jan. 19-20  
Immaculate Conception, Celina (30) – Jan. 20-21  
UD Campus Ministry (20) – Jan. 20-21  
Mt. Notre Dame HS (60) – Jan. 21-22  
CJ HS Kairos (70) – Jan. 22-25  
Spiritual Direction (10) – Jan. 22  
UD Madeleine – Jan. 25-27  
Creative Get Aways – Jan. 26  
Moeller HS (60) – Jan. 28-29  
Spiritual Direction (10) – Jan. 29  
Alter HS Kairos (50) – Jan. 29-Feb. 1

Emmanuel Lutheran Board of Elders (20) - Feb. 1-2  
2 x Scrapbook Retreats (48) – Feb. 1-3  
Bishop Hartley HS (60) – Feb. 3-4  
Moeller HS (45) – Feb. 4-5  
Spiritual Direction (10) – Feb. 5  
Bishop Hartley Kairos (55) – Feb. 5-8  
Christian Life Center Board (15) – Feb. 8-9  
UD Metanoia Group (60) – Feb. 8-10  
Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) Coed Retreat (20) – Feb. 9  
Alter HS (50) – Feb. 10-11  
Ohio Star Quilters (18) – Feb. 10-12  
Mt. Notre Dame HS (48) – Feb. 11-12  
Spiritual Direction (10) – Feb. 12  
Moeller HS Kairos (70) – Feb. 12-15  
Quilt Dreamers (80) - Feb. 15-17  
Yes For Youth (20) – Feb. 18  
Spiritual Direction (18) – Feb. 19  
St. Francis Women (120) – Feb. 22-24  
Spiritual Direction (10) – Feb. 26  
Seton HS (55) – Feb. 26-27  
McAuley/Mercy HS (45) – Feb. 28-March 1

S. Charleston Presbyterian Church (15) – March 1-2  
St. Paul Episcopal (12) – March 1-2  
Bishop Hartley HS (60) – March 3-4  
Spiritual Direction (10) – March 5  
Seton HS Kairos (45) – March 5-7  
World's Greatest Retreat (80) - March 8-10  
Spiritual Direction (10) – March 12  
McAuley/Mercy HS (45) – March 12-13  
Enneagram (50) – March 15-19  
Alter HS Kairos (65) – March 19-22  
LIFE Team (7) March 21-24  
St. Albert the Great Staff Retreat (40) – March 22  
Come Share the Spirit (15) – March 22-24  
Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) Women Follow-up (20) – March 23  
McAuley/Mercy HS (45) – March 25-26  
Moeller HS Kairos (70) – March 26-29