



The Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning
January 2025



The Bergamo Break

Pause, pray, and stay connected with the latest news at Bergamo

More than a Building

The following reflection was written by Camryn Tracy. After attending Bergamo's Spiritus Retreat (for juniors) and World's Greatest Retreat as a student at Alter High School, Camryn facilitated Bergamo retreats from 2017-2019.

I am a firm believer that when your foundation is strong as a person, you can weather any challenge, storm, or obstacle. For someone who may not be familiar with Bergamo, it could appear to be just another building.

Walls filled with paintings and slight wear, carpet that has been walked on thousands of times over the years, and the scent of a building that is standing the test of time. However, when you look past the initial visuals of the building, there is a special magic that can only be seen if you choose to look for it.

The walls are not just filled with paintings, but are also filled with the laughs, tears, and friendship that have enveloped each crevice of the rooms. They have heard the challenges of some of the strongest kids. The letdowns of these same kids when they first realized their greatest heroes are also just humans. And the climb to come out of those hardships. They've heard the joy of two people who may not have liked each other realizing they weren't so different after all. The joy of realizing that teenage years are vulnerable, but every person is. The joy of realizing you're not alone.



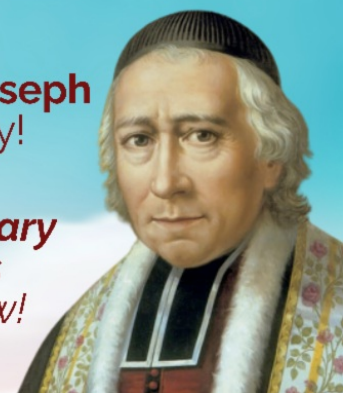
The carpets aren't just filled with the footsteps of thousands of kids, they're filled with those kids walking to each other. They're filled with the way four feet stand when you are embraced in a hug. They're filled with people walking to faith, to belief, to God.

The scent of the building isn't just the scent of a building that's been around for a while, it's the scent of the candles burning in a small group room. The scent of pizza, while the kids huddle and debrief their first day. The scent of nostalgia — similar to the way you may remember how your house smelled on Christmas morning, or the way your parents' cologne smelled growing up.

All of this being considered, I urge every person to pay attention to the small details when they walk into Bergamo. To see not just the exterior and interior of a building. Rather, look at the foundation. Not the simple concrete one that was poured in 1967. Instead, look at the one that has been carefully and intentionally created over the years. The foundation that is built on trust, hope, faith, and community. It is built on the Marianist charism that welcomes guests and makes them feel loved. Looking beyond the structure will lead you to see thousands of stories about Bergamo. Thousands of lives changed. Thousands of people who were led to light, even if they felt darkness. The foundation is filled with love, and I have no doubt will continue to hold for years to come.

January 22 is the Feast of **Blessed William Joseph Chaminade**, founder of the Society of Mary!

Celebrate Founder's Day on Saturday, January 25 with mass at 4pm at Queen of Apostles Chapel and a reception at Bergamo to follow!
All are welcome!



Faces of Bergamo: Meet Edy Wine!



How long have you been involved with Bergamo?

I have worked here for 7 years as a front desk receptionist! You will see me here most weekday evenings and sometimes on weekends.

Please tell us about yourself. *I grew up as the baby of 5 kids. My family was not Catholic, but my best friend was and I grew up going to mass with her and found religion fascinating. I particularly loved reading about saints, with my favorite being St. Bernadette. I am the mother of four and have many grandchildren and great grandchildren. I love*

my family, but we have had some hard times, including the death of my oldest son in 1999.

I have worked as a DJ and written two children's books (which I hope to get the nerve to send to the publisher someday!). Currently, my husband and I pursue our interests of garden model railroads and photography. We also enjoy keeping our home adorned with elaborate light displays that sync to different songs (which we rotate through). You can see our house on Patterson Road near Dot's Market - it is hard to miss!

What is a highlight of your involvement at Bergamo? *I love to help people get what they need here and make them feel comfortable. I also enjoy talking to and listening to guests.*

What do you hope guests will take away from their time at Bergamo? *I hope guests get a clearer view of what religion can do for them and guide them in their major life decisions - whether it is a decision about getting more education or the future of a relationship. It can be difficult to find one's way in life, but God is always speaking to us if we stop and listen - that is what Bergamo is for!*



Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning

LENTEN FAITH-SHARING GROUP

Deepen your faith with a community of adults of all generations

Participate in weekly faith-sharing, prayer experiences, and more. Thursday evenings during Lent at the Bergamo Center, starting March 5.

To find more information and to register, click this image, visit www.bergamocenter.org/programs-adult.php, or call (937) 426-2363, option 1.

Christmas Memories



December Highlights

At the beginning of the Advent, we at Bergamo were thrilled to open our doors to what (we hope) is the first annual Advent Gathering! Planned by Bergamo Board of Trustees member Neomi De Anda and her husband Martin Rosenau, this free event brought together families & individuals of all ages, all here to celebrate the start of the Season of Advent.

A couple of high school groups also filled our building during the early weeks of December — Villa Madonna High School of Northern Kentucky came for a junior retreat and Purcell Marian held their senior Kairos retreat. We were also excited to host the St. John Paul II Family of Parishes high school youth group retreat. The weather was even nice enough to allow the group to hold some outside activities on our beautiful grounds! The final weeks of December were quiet, as guests and staff took time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. After a very busy fall, our building and our staff had time to rest and recharge, ready to return in 2025 to welcome our guests back to Bergamo!



January Arrivals

Retrouvaille
Ohio Chapter of Illuman
Wright Field Scale Modelers
Alter High School Junior Retreats (x2)
Glenmary Missionaries
Chaminade Julianne Kairos Retreat
Fondation Fanmi Pitit Manman Mari
A non-profit founded by a Catholic priest
that unites Haitian citizens worldwide to
assist the less fortunate in Haiti.
Immaculate Conception (Celina)
Confirmation Retreat
Seton High School Junior Retreat
Alter High School Kairos
Marianist Family Founder's Day
Celebration
Badin High School Kairos Retreat

Please remember our guests in your
prayers during this new year.



CALLING ALL COUPLES!!

Did you and your significant other
meet at Bergamo? Or, did Bergamo
play a significant role in your early
years of dating? If so, we want to hear
your LOVE story! In honor of St.
Valentine's Day, we will highlight the
stories of couples who met at Bergamo
in our February newsletter. Please
reach out to Brendan Dillon, our Guest
Services Coordinator, at
brendand@bergamccenter.org so that
you can share your story.



3 Minute Retreat

Pause. Breathe deeply. Slowly read the following passage three times.

*...because of the tender mercy of our God
by which the daybreak from on high will visit us
to shine on those who sit in darkness and death's shadow,
to guide our feet into the path of peace."
(Luke 1:78-79)*

Reflect. Where is there darkness in your life? How might you bring this
to God in hopes of experiencing a "daybreak?"

Pray the following prayer or one of your own. *Lord, let me bring all that I
am into your light. Amen.*

Connect with Us

Spend the day at Bergamo! Attend an upcoming Day of Rest and Healing:
January 28, 29, 30, February 12, March 3, 4, 5

Find more information on our website: www.bergamocenter.org (under "Adult Programs")

Interested in booking a group? Contact us at (937) 426-2363 or info@bergamocenter.org

Check out photos from your group's visit to Bergamo and other updates on our Facebook and Instagram pages!



Join Our Cause

Please consider supporting Bergamo's mission of providing excellent programming and facilities.

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