

# ECHES



*Through the years, calling, inviting  
all to come to know the Lord  
and accept His Gift of Peace*

WHITE HOUSE RETREAT - Saint Louis, Missouri

Vol. 28 No. 1 Winter 2012

## *The Beauty of White House*

Thanks to the generosity of several benefactors, White House has begun the process of renewing and repairing our wonderful Stations of the Cross which line the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi. This project has been needed for some time and several stepped up to help us accomplish this. About one half of the stations have been completed and the rest will be completed this Spring. The “new” stations look wonderful.

We are also about to begin the necessary (and expensive) task of cleaning, reseating and repairing our chapel windows. **We are hoping once again that some generous retreatants can come forward to help with this project.** Our chapel windows are a major part of our White House history and heritage – we want to be sure they remain as an enduring legacy to those who follow us in this work of the Church.



## LENTEN PRAYER DAYS



White House Retreat is happy to offer once again two Lenten Days of Prayer. These days give us a chance to enter into the great saving mystery of our Lord's life, passion, death and resurrection.

Our Lenten journey calls us to reflect more and more on the depth and the breadth of God's love for us.

Besides the chance for personal spiritual preparation for Holy Week, these days provide an opportunity to introduce new people to White House. Please come and bring a friend with you!

Fr. Dick Hadel, S.J., will lead the Days of Prayer on Ash Wednesday, February 22, and on the Monday of Holy Week, April 2. Both days will have the same talks given.

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. The first presentation will begin at 9:15 a.m. The day will close with the celebration of the Eucharist and end by 2:30 p.m. There will be two morning reflections, lunch, and an afternoon reflection before the celebration of the Eucharist. There will be a number of priests available during the day for those who would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of their Lenten preparation.

The Day of Prayer is for women and men so it provides a great opportunity for a couple to come together. Please try to get a group of friends or parishioners to attend!

To register please send your name(s), phone number and e-mail address to White House Retreat, 7400 Christopher Drive, St Louis, MO 63129. Please include your non-refundable registration fee (\$25.00 per person).

## New Jesuit Superior

The Jesuit Community of White House and the entire White House Retreat family welcome Fr. Ralph Huse, S.J., as the new superior of the White House Jesuits.

Fr. Huse replaces Fr. Burshek who has served as both acting superior and the director of White House. (Fr. Burshek remains as the director.)



Fr. Huse comes with a wealth of experience in Jesuit spirituality and the work of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, having served as both novice director and rector of the young Jesuits in formation. More recently, he was the superior of the Jesuits at Jesuit Hall in St. Louis. He has also had experience as a pastor.

Fr. Huse has directed both Ignatian and recovery retreats throughout the United States and has been a spiritual director to countless women and men. We are delighted that he will be sharing his gifts with us.

Welcome, Fr. Huse!

## RETREAT SURVEYS

In an effort to gain insight and feedback from retreatants to further improve their experience at White House, we have begun sending a survey via email each Monday to those who made retreats during the prior week and for whom we have accurate email addresses.

The survey responses have been very helpful and inspirational. The final question invites a testimonial about White House and these have been wonderful. A number of them have been included in a new White House picture book now available in the Bookstore. Plans are being made for another book consisting of more testimonials that can be used in our recruiting and referral program along with our revised Gift Certificate packet design.



# New Trustees & Opportunities for Service

Since its inception, White House has relied on dedicated lay people who have served as directors of this apostolate and given great help and guidance in the development of its facilities and its programs. The White House Board of Trustees is the oldest continuously serving board of any Jesuit retreat house in the world. On December 8, 2011, two new members joined our board: Joseph Cavato and Charles Meyer. They replace Michael Castellano and Susan Gorman. The dedication and commitment of these trustees have benefited and strengthened White House tremendously. Thank you!

White House always seeks women and men who can bring their expertise and talent to serve and strengthen our work. We look forward to welcoming interested “family members” to our board committees.

Contact Fr. Burshek if you have interest in being a member of our Buildings & Grounds, Development, Finance or Planning committees.

## NEW IN THE BOOKSTORE

Two new items are now available in the Bookstore.

One is a beautiful 20-page photo book of White House including truly inspirational testimonials from some retreatants. The cost is \$15.

The other is a blue leather Spiritual Journal with the logo embossed on the cover for use in recording thoughts and reflections from retreats over the years. The cost is \$10.

Both items would also make wonderful gifts and would be useful in recruiting others to receive the special gift of a White House retreat.



Often people say to us: *Is there some time I could bring someone to see White House? I would like them to see the place. I think it would help them choose to come here. After all, it is hard to see the grounds and not fall in love with it!*

The response to this question and statement is quite simple: Yes, bring people to White House! Come and enjoy its beauty and bring someone with you. Many have never seen White House and do not know the treasure that sits here overlooking the Mississippi. This is a great way of introducing White House to a larger audience.

**The grounds and chapel are always open after 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoons during most of the year. Come and see us!**

## NEW WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

As part of a strategic planning process, White House will be undertaking a number of initiatives to further engage retreatants outside of the few days they spend here. This is part of a plan to provide year-round, lifetime spiritual formation for those who have made White House a part of their lives.

The first step in this program is a series of weekly Reflections - brief thoughts sent out via email each Friday to provide material for consideration and prayer.

If you have not been receiving these Reflections, it is because we do not have your email address or we have an incorrect email address. If you would like to begin receiving these weekly Reflections, please send an email to [whretreat@whretreat.org](mailto:whretreat@whretreat.org) and we will update your records and add you to the distribution list.

## Milestones

Gerald P. Mahoney attended his 50th retreat at White House from September 29 – October 2, 2011. Gerry was accompanied by his son, John. We thank Gerry for sharing the gift of White House with the next generation.



# BRIDGES I 19th Annotation Retreat

Are you interested in learning more about the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius? The Bridges Foundation of St. Louis offers guidance in the Spiritual Exercises to anyone over the age of 18. This is the *19th Annotation Retreat*, also known as the Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life, or the Bridges I program. You will be assigned a trained, experienced prayer companion to guide you one-on-one through the Spiritual Exercises in a program that requires daily prayer in your home over the course of eight months, weekly meetings with your prayer companion in one-on-one sessions, weekly or monthly group meetings at one of four locations in the St. Louis area that you choose, and two weekend retreats in the St. Louis area; one in the fall and the other in the spring. The next sessions begin in September 2012 and run through May 2013. Several no-obligation Information Sessions will be offered during the summer of 2012 at various locations around St. Louis; you need attend only one of them to learn more about the program. For a brochure and registration form please contact Cheryl Rauschenbach at [cheryl\\_rauschenbach@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryl_rauschenbach@yahoo.com) or 636-225-8433, or visit the Bridges Foundation web site at [www.bridgesfoundation.org](http://www.bridgesfoundation.org).

**Mark your calendars:  
Captains' Cookout will be  
Wednesday, May 30, 2012.**

## White House Retreat



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314-416-6400  
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[whretreat@whretreat.org](mailto:whretreat@whretreat.org)  
[reservations@whretreat.org](mailto:reservations@whretreat.org)

*Come Aside  
and Rest Awhile*

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*Please remember White House Retreat in your wills, trusts and estate planning.*

### IN MEMORIAM

*Remember in your prayers these retreatants who have died. All are remembered in the daily Masses and prayers of thanksgiving at White House.*

**Date Unknown**  
James E. Noeth  
Eugene A. Otten

**April 2006**  
Leroy Reinagel

**2007**  
Michael C. Rose

**March 2007**  
William F. Scheff

**December 2010**  
Lois Hasenfratz

**January 23, 2011**  
Doris M. Schaefer

**March 2011**  
Rev. John J. Dietzen

**July 2011**  
Kevin P. Crowley  
Eugene M. Stfacek

**August 2011**  
Arthur F. Craney

**September 2011**  
Joseph B. Auer  
Irene C. Behan  
Catherine L. Clausen  
Elmer R. Donald  
Michael H. Flaherty  
Emmanuella C. Hsueh  
Joseph F. Imbs, II  
Michael P. Keeley, Jr.  
Edward E. Lesch  
Arthur L. McAuliffe

Raymond A. Muessig  
Dcn. Thomas O. Murphy  
Tammy Ott  
William B. Roth-Roffy  
Howard G. Schrader  
Paul E. Scucchi  
James D. Vess

**October 2011**  
James T. Barry, Sr.  
Carl R. Crisler  
Albert Delpico  
Ivy M. Dreisewerd  
Cyril J. (Cy) Graczak  
Leona H. Hartman  
Bro. Paul A. Hoemeke, OMI  
Rosella E. Kochner  
Eugene E. Schiedeke  
Donald L. Simms  
Marjorie E. Stanger  
John J. Tierney  
Robert C. Truetken  
Ronald G. Tullock, Jr.  
Raymond A. Walsh  
Dolores A. Zeman  
Helen M. Zinser

**November 2011**  
Louis F. Desloge, Jr.  
Joseph J. Fingerhut, Sr.  
Joseph Forshaw, III  
William E. Hartrich  
Walter K. Lipic  
Gretchen G. Potts  
Catherine M. Powers

John F. Queenan, Jr.  
Stanley B. Ruchalski  
Paul D. Schult  
Joseph A. Sepich, Jr.  
Jeffrey J. Tillman  
Andrew J. Whitmore

**December 2011**  
Kathryn M. Brengle  
Wilbert H. Daab  
C. Richard Dirnberger  
Eileen M. Eschbacher  
Glenn A. Farmer, Sr.  
Harold J. Heffernan  
Patricia A. Herrmann  
Madonna W. Holmes  
Richard E. Kelly  
William F. Kiely  
Arthur M. Krispin  
Marshall E. McTague, Jr.  
Frances C. Naes  
Terrence M. Nicholson  
William B. Nolan  
William E. Pace  
Richard J. Rabbitt  
Mary E. Sly  
Robert J. Wilhelm

**January 2012**  
John R. Barry  
Robert J. Gantz  
Raymond L. Haarmann  
Francis C. Hennis  
Anton P. Mohr  
Richard F. Orf

Dermott A.P. Smith, MD  
Wayne M. Thome  
Carol S. Weis  
John P. Wetzel

### IN GRATITUDE:

*The following friends have asked for memorial gifts to White House Retreat in the wake/funeral notice of a loved one. For helping us in this special way, we extend our most grateful appreciation and thanks to:*

**The Family**  
On the death Oct. 8, 2011,  
of  
**James T. (Bud) Barry, Sr.**

**The Family**  
On the death Dec. 13, 2011,  
of  
**Richard Emil Kelly**

**The Family**  
On the death Dec. 5, 2011,  
of  
**Terrence M. Nicholson**

**The Family**  
On the death November 9,  
2011, of  
**Jeffrey J. Tillman**