

# Holy Spirit Center News

CATHOLIC RETREAT HOUSE MINISTRIES, INC.

## Retreat explores the origins of Celtic spirituality

By Effie Caldarola

**Y**ou didn't have to be Irish – and many retreatants weren't – to enjoy the words of history, wisdom and spirituality presented by Benedictine Father Timothy Joyce at his weekend retreat entitled "A Celtic Spirituality" at Holy Spirit Center February 26-28.

Father Joyce, an engaging speaker who spent years exploring his father's own Irish family heritage, took participants back to the origins of Celtic spirituality, when giants like St. Patrick, St. Columcille and St. Bridget brought Christianity bloodlessly – without martyrdom – into the Celtic world of Ireland.

Early Celtic spirituality was related to and respected the natural world. It was completely in love with the Trinity, and recognized that God existed in relationship. It was a joyful time of affirming the gifts of creation and the gifts of women, and it saw God as very near, accessible, and dwelling in the present moment.

With time for prayer, song and solitude, retreatants walked through freshly fallen snow and visited the outdoor Stations of the Cross or spent ample time in the quiet of Holy Spirit Center's small chapel with its view of the city lights below the hillside. In a crash course on

the history of Ireland and Celtic spirituality, we explored the great monastic centers of ancient Ireland, the Great Famine and the exile of millions of Irish, and the growth of an Irish Catholic Church that became almost a theocracy and extended its legacy into Catholic America.

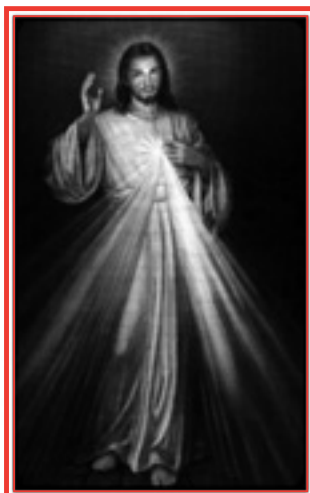
Much of the essence of Celtic Christianity was shadowed by a Catholicism that became associated with anger, shame, authoritarianism and guilt.

Only within the past fifty years, Father Joyce told us, have the Irish begun to confront the dark side – the history of oppression, the Great Famine, the legacy of exile – and to once again explore the invitation of the Celtic Christianity of the ancient saints. The newfound appreciation for the ancient history of Irish Christianity, for the importance of story, of soul friends – our "anam cara" – of oral tradition, humor, and connection to the natural world can help to bring healing no matter where your ancestors lived, Father Joyce told the retreatants.

Father Joyce's book, "Celtic Christianity: A Sacred Tradition, a Vision of Hope," is still in print after nearly thirty years and 12 reprintings. It's available on Amazon, as well as a companion book, "Celtic Quest: A Healing Journey for Irish Catholics."



Mark and Connie Meehleis share a moment during the Celtic Spirituality retreat.



**MARCH 19 - 21, 2010**

# MEN'S RETREAT

Jesus said, "I HAVE CHOSEN YOU"

*"Go and bear fruit that will last ." -John 15:16*



**LED BY: Fr. Vince Beuzer, SJ**

*Fr. Beuzer, SJ has directed weekend, as well as 8-day & 30-day Ignatian Retreats worldwide to clergy, religious, and laity. He is gifted in the understanding of scripture, theology, and spiritual discernment.*

## **Holy Spirit Center**

*YOU CAN  
SIGN UP ON LINE:  
[www.holyspiritcenterak.org](http://www.holyspiritcenterak.org)*

*OR CALL US:*

Phone: 907-346-2343  
Fax: 907-346-2140  
[hsc@holyspiritcenterak.org](mailto:hsc@holyspiritcenterak.org)



### **RETREAT PROVIDES:**

- \*Daily mass
- \*Daily preparation for praying with Scripture
- \*Sacred Silence
- \*Rest & Renewal
- \*Private Bedroom with 3 daily meals
- \*Sacraments of Healing & Forgiveness,
- \*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

**COST: \$195** (private) ; **\$175** (shared room); **\$155** (commuter) : **\$50** deposit with registration



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**MARCH 26 - 28, 2010**

# **WOMEN'S RETREAT**

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**CELEBRATING LENT:  
FEASTING & FASTING  
WITH CREATION**

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## **HOLY SPIRIT CENTER**

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**LED BY: ALEXANDRA KOVATS, CSJP**

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**This weekend retreat** led by Sr. Alexandra Kovats, CSJP, will invite participants to explore how the season of spring can enrich our Lenten journey of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In a special way we will focus on finding rest and renewal during this season of awakening to new life in preparation for Easter life. Presentations, rituals, movements, music, silence and sharing will be part of our time together.

**Sr. Alexandra Kovats** is a Sister of St. Joseph of Peace, and has been a spiritual director and retreat facilitator for over thirty years. She is also Adjunct professor in the field of spirituality for the school of Theology and Ministry (STM) at Seattle University.

**Author:** Sr. Alexandra is the author of, **Prayer—A Discovery of Life** (Minneapolis; Winston 1983) and **Spirituality and Creation** (New York: United Church, 1988). She has also contributed articles to various journals and publications.

**COST: \$225**(private); **\$205** (shared room); **\$175** (commuter); **\$50** deposit with registration

## Fascinating Reads

### **Pierre Toussaint: A Biography**

By Arthur Jones

(Doubleday Religion, 2003, 352 pages)

Born a slave in 1781 in Haiti, Pierre Toussaint has become a candidate for canonization. This biography documents the life of a man who overcame poverty, racism and political upheaval to help establish one of the first orphanages and the first cathedral in New York.

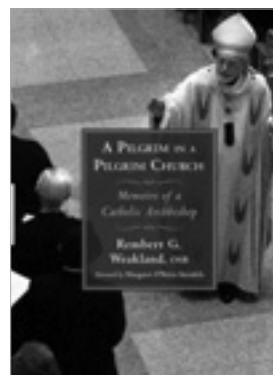


### **A Pilgrim in a Pilgrim Church: Memoirs of a Catholic Archbishop**

By Rembert G. Weakland, OSB

(Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009, 429 pages)

Weakland resigned as Archbishop of Milwaukee in 2002, following revelations of a homosexual relationship and confidential payout. More than another episode in the clergy abuse scandal, Publishers Weekly calls Weakland's story a "poignant journey of a soul."



## Center presenting eight-day Ignatian Retreat

**T**his July 7-15, Holy Spirit Center is offering an eight-day Ignatian Retreat with Fr. Armand Nigro, SJ and Fr. Vince Beauzer, SJ. The theme of the retreat will be "Live in Me, as I live in you" (John 15:4), and be a summary and adaptation of the exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

This retreat costs \$650 (\$300 due with registration) and includes:

- ☒ A private bedroom with three daily meals
- ☒ Sacred Silence
- ☒ Daily preparation for praying with Scripture
- ☒ Spiritual Direction (optional)
- ☒ Adoration of the Holy Eucharist
- ☒ Sacraments of Forgiveness & Healing

**For additional information  
and to register, call  
Holy Spirit Center at  
907/346-2343 or email  
[hsc@holyspiritcenterak.org](mailto:hsc@holyspiritcenterak.org).**

# Thank You!

## CHALLENGE DRIVE DONORS

Generous individuals donated nearly \$65,000 to Holy Spirit Center through the 2009 Challenge Drive, an annual appeal to support the Center's operation. Please keep in your prayers the following people and those who wished to remain anonymous who share their gift of treasure to help make possible a home for one-of-a-kind retreats, workshops and other adult faith formation programs.

Anonymous	Judy Everard	Bob & Cindy Murati
Cole & Jean Abel	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Fike	Rusty & Chris Myers
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\*HSC Board Member

## CONTACT US



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Visit the Center's website to view current and past newsletters, find out about upcoming events and begin registration through a link to a retreat registration form.

**[www.holyspiritcenterak.org](http://www.holyspiritcenterak.org)**





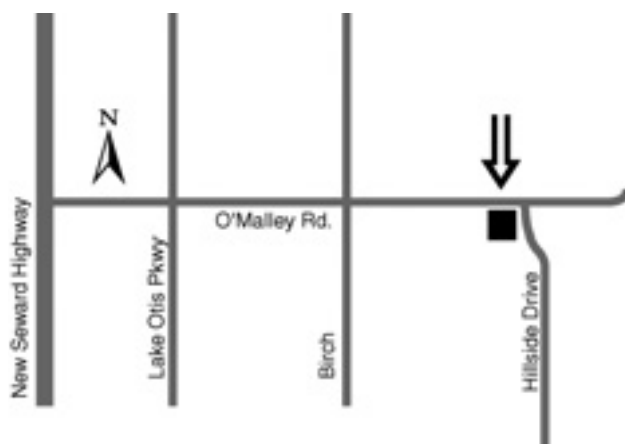
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## **Vision Statement**

*Alaskans transformed by their relationship with God.*

## **Mission Statement**

*To provide a sacred place and to accompany people as they seek to find God in all things.*