



The Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning Winter 2026



The Bergamo Break

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

Vocation at Bergamo

Reflection by Bro. David Marshall, an Augustinian brother.

One of the most common questions people ask about when they encounter me is "how did you find your vocation". As if a vocation is a slippery fish which I cast my net out for! In my life, "vocation" refers to the experience of hearing God's voice. God is the first to speak- to *vocate*, to vocalize to me. While on retreat 12 years ago at Bergamo, I got to experience what a *vocation* from God sounds like. It began with feelings of incredulousness and disgust.



I had just heard that there wouldn't be music at mass. Well, actually I forgot what the liturgical music was going to be, but I know it was something along the lines of being poorer without me helping. I was compelled to step up to help, so I offered to put together music for the masses. The retreat leaders were hesitant that the added responsibility might detract from my retreat experience, to which I responded, "music is what I do: I live and breath sacred music!"

[Click HERE to read Bro. David's full reflection.](#)

Upcoming Events at Bergamo!

Worlds Greatest 25 February 27th-March 1st

PRE REGISTRATION

Students from high schools across the Archdiocese are invited to attend World's Greatest! Each school has a limited number of spots — completing this form lets us know you want to attend.

If your school's spots are full when you register, you will be placed on a waitlist in the order received. If space opens on February 19, we will contact you.

If you receive a spot, you will be emailed a release form and payment link. Please only pre-register if you can attend the entire retreat.

Pre-Registration Deadline: February 18



Ministry at the Margins

A Lenten afternoon of reflection and prayer
with the Marianist Family



Saturday, March 7, 2026 | 2:00 PM

Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning, Dayton



Join the Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) and the Bergamo Center to explore the courageous leadership of Marie Thérèse de Lamourous. Together, we will connect her vision of radical hospitality to the present-day work of ISP—offering welcome, dignity, and renewal to neighbors rebuilding their lives from homelessness and addiction.

2:00 PM – Reflections led by Sr. Laura Leming, FMI (NACMS program team)
4:00 PM – Marianist Vigil Liturgy with Fr. Ted Cassidy
5:00 PM – Event concludes

Register Here: bit.ly/isp-marian26

or scan
the QR
code



Questions? Contact Shelly Roder at
sroder@ispretreats.org



Honoring the Fiat

A contemplative retreat pondering
personal Fiat.

By honoring the Mother Mary, the Mothers in our personal lives as well as the creative, nurturing force in all human souls, we will lean into the discernment, grace and surrender in the response:

“LET IT BE.”

May 8, 6:30 pm to May 9, 2026, 8:00 pm
Bergamo Center

Registration info coming soon!
(Check Bergamo Social Media
Pages and Website)



POPE ST. JOHN XXIII
CELEBRATION

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 27 2026

Bergamo



Faces of Bergamo: Jessica Shelton!

Please tell us about yourself.

My name is Jessica Shelton, and I'm the owner of Let's Clean Ohio. I've always believed that the spaces we spend time in can shape how we feel. For me, cleaning is about care—creating an environment that feels comfortable, calm, and welcoming so people can truly settle in and be present.



How have you been involved with Bergamo?

I began working with Bergamo Center in 2021 as the primary cleaner. Over time, it has become more than just a place I work—it's a place I feel connected to. Being part of the behind-the-scenes care that supports retreats, learning, and reflection has been both meaningful and grounding for me.

What have you enjoyed the most about your time at Bergamo?

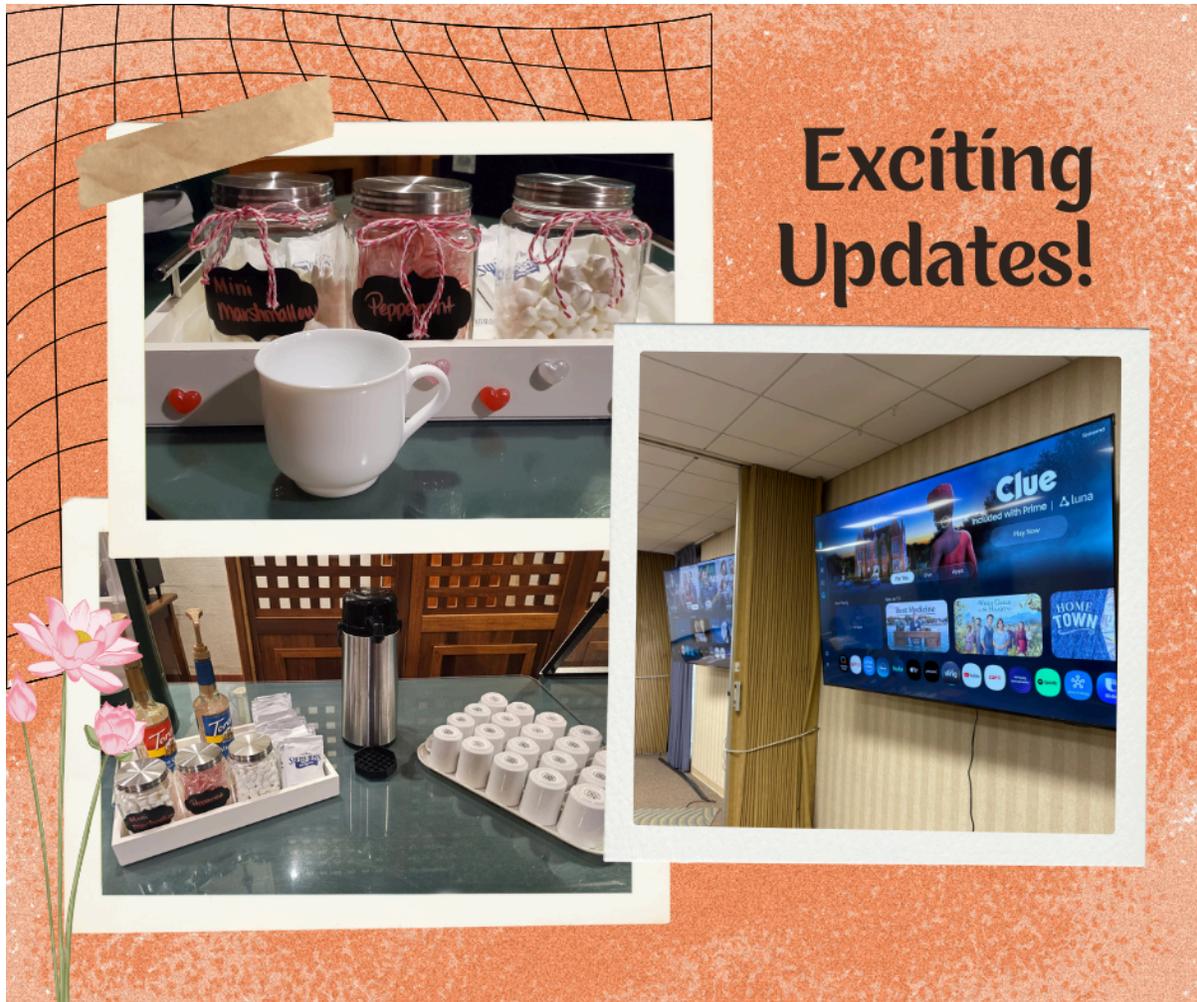
What I've enjoyed most is watching how people begin to relax as they spend time on the property. Even though Bergamo is only minutes from downtown Dayton, it feels peaceful and removed from the rush of everyday life. The wide open spaces, wooded trails, and quiet gathering areas naturally invite reflection. Knowing that my work helps maintain that atmosphere has been a true highlight for me.

What do you hope guests take away from their time at Bergamo?

I hope guests leave Bergamo feeling a little lighter and more at ease. Whether they come for learning, reflection, or community, my hope is that they experience the warmth and hospitality Bergamo is known for and carry that sense of peace with them when they return home.

It's truly special to care for a place where people come to rest, reflect, and reconnect, and I'm grateful to play a small part in helping Bergamo feel welcoming and restorative for everyone who visits.

Exciting Updates!



The next time you come to Bergamo, you will see some exciting new features! We have upgraded our AV offerings with four new smart TVs in our Darby, Saragossa, and Barrett conference rooms. This will allow guests to easily connect a computer for their presentation or otherwise play a video clip with crisp sound. We want to thank our generous donors who made this possible! Make sure to see our Facebook or Instagram pages for a full unveiling.

We have also added a hot chocolate bar! It comes with marshmallows, peppermint, and other sweet toppings. Grab a cup during your next retreat here - best enjoyed by the fireplace!



Winter Highlights

The season of Advent is a sacred time of waiting, reflection, and quiet expectation as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. At Bergamo, this spirit is felt the moment one enters our peaceful retreat center. With fewer guests during the month of December, Bergamo enters into a natural rhythm of rest. This quieter time is a gift, allowing our staff to slow down, renew themselves, and take well-deserved time off. It also offers the retreat center an opportunity to “rest” after a busy year of welcoming nearly 6,000 guests. We take advantage of these calm days by doing some extra cleaning and maintenance – caring for the space that serves as a place of welcome and renewal for so many. Though Advent is our least active season, we were grateful to host several groups who enjoyed the warmth of our beautifully decorated spaces, including Villa Madonna High School, local Confirmation groups, the Mount St. John community Mass on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and a Christmas gathering for the Spiritus Lay Marianist group.

Following the holidays, the energy returned quickly as we welcomed the DePaul Cristo Rey senior Kairos retreat—our first of many Kairos retreats in 2026—and launched into a full January with groups scheduled every day. Having added our hot chocolate bar at every dinner and our newly installed state-of-the-art audio/visual

equipment, our hope is to offer the best possible hospitality to all of our guests. For those who haven't been in a while, we welcome you back anytime!

Spring Arrivals at Bergamo

FEBRUARY

Ursuline Junior Retreat
Mt Notre Dame Junior
Retreat
Seton Senior Kairos
UD Office of
Advancement Writing
Retreat
Quilt Dreamers
Moeller HS
Marianist Educational
Partners
Friends General
Conference
Bishop Hartley HS Jr/Sr
Retreat
Moeller Senior 4th Day
Retreat
Bergamo-Sponsored
"World's Greatest
Retreat"

MARCH

Purcell Marian Jr Retreat x2
St. Gertrude School
Mother's Retreat
Christ Church Glendale
Seton Jr Retreat
LaSalle Senior Kairos
Creative Quilters
Marianist LIFE Planning
Meeting
Ignatian Spirituality
Project Men's Retreat
Alter Senior Kairos
Retreat
Mt. Notre Dame Jr
Retreat
International Marian
Research Institute
Marianist Vocations
Retreat
UD Chaminade Scholars

APRIL

Seton Senior Kairos
Retreat
Retrouvaille
Moeller Senior Kairos
Retreat
Dayton Knitting Guild
Trinity Reformed
Episcopal Church
Chaminade Julienne
Senior Kairos Retreat
Ignatian Spirituality
Project Women's
Retreat
Visitation State
Marianist Lay
Community
LaSalle Senior Kairos
Retreat



3 Minute Retreat

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

Yours the day and yours the night too; you set the moon and sun in place. You fixed all the limits of the earth; summer and winter you made. (Psalm 74:16-17)

Reflect. How can I better remind myself of God's beauty and majesty in nature? How might this affect my outlook on today?

Pray. Christ, let me be in awe of your Creation. Amen.

Connect with Us

Spend the day at Bergamo! Attend an upcoming **Day of Rest and Healing:**
December - many dates available, contact us below for more information
February 17-20
March 2-4

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

Interested in booking a group? Call us at (937) 426-2363 or email 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.

Donate

The Bergamo Center 4400 Shakertown Rd., Dayton, OH 45430



Try email marketing for free today!