



The Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning
Summer 2025



Join us **September 28!**

Open Wide the Windows of Bergamo!

*Come support and learn about Bergamo
by celebrating the feast of Bergamo's
patron saint:*

Pope St. John XXIII!

All are invited but registration is required.

prayer

Dinner

History

Fun!

The Bergamo Break

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

Celebrating Pope St. John XXIII and Bergamo!

If you get this **trivia question** correct, you are invited to the Pope St. John XXIII Celebration! Please, no cheating.

Where does the name "Bergamo" come from?

- A. From the English "burger" and Spanish "amor" - it means "love of burgers."*
- B. A type of small mammal found only in Bergamo's courtyard.*
- C. Derived from the ancient Greek word for "best retreat center in Ohio."*
- D. A city in Italy near the birthplace of Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, who became Pope St. John XXIII.*



If you chose A, you are probably hungry; please get a snack so you can properly appreciate the rest of our newsletter. The correct answer is D!

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born in a small village near the city of Bergamo, Italy. Many Bergamo Center visitors might recognize his last name as the name of Bergamo's chapel! Angelo took the name "John XXIII" when he was elected pope in 1958. He convened the Second Vatican Council in 1962, where he famously sought to "Throw open the windows of the church and let the fresh air of the spirit blow through." The Bergamo Center was founded in this spirit, and Pope St. John XXIII is the organization's patron saint.

In honor of his feast day, we similarly want to throw open the windows of Bergamo and invite people to celebrate and support our retreat center while having fun and building community!

We will begin the evening at 5pm with a prayer service, followed by some information about Bergamo and fun surprises. We will share a delicious dinner at 6:15pm, and we will conclude the evening with time for socializing!

The cost of the event is \$60, and you must register online to attend. Purchasing a table of 6 guests comes at a discounted rate. For more information and to register, please go to the link below or call us at (937) 426-2362. Space is limited, so don't wait! We hope to see you on September 28!

To register, click [HERE](#).

Photo source: www.teachingcatholickids.com

Give the Gift of Peace

Purchase a giftcard for a Day of Rest & Healing or an overnight retreat for a friend or loved one. Call us at (937) 426-2363 or email info@bergamocenter.org.

RETREAT
GIFT
CERTIFICATE

TO : _____
FROM : _____
DAYS : _____ NIGHTS : _____ MEALS : _____

BERGAMO STAFF SIGNATURE _____

TO CHECK AVAILABILITY AND BOOK YOUR RETREAT, PLEASE
EMAIL: info@bergamocenter.org OR CALL: (937) 426-2363.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO BERGAMO!



Faces of Bergamo: Meet Fr. Thomas-Mary Gilbert!

Fr. Thomas-Mary creates breathtaking icons, including the ones pictured in this article. Learn more about him and his artistic inspirations below.

Please tell us about yourself.

*My name is Fr Thomas-Mary Gilbert,
O.C.D., and I am a Discalced*

Carmelite Friar. I live at the Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians at Holy Hill in Wisconsin, where I minister to pilgrims who come to our large shrine. I also take courses at the University of Dayton for a certificate in Mariology and use the Marian Library for research.

How have you been involved with Bergamo/the Mount Saint John property?

For the last year, I have been coming to Bergamo for a week or two at a time when I take courses. At Bergamo, I research, study, and enjoy the retreat atmosphere.



Can you tell us more about your icons and your process for creating them?

I got into iconography some years ago when I lived in Washington D.C. and would learn about icons from a professor at an icon studio.

The icon with Mary surrounded by flowers (above) is called Mary, the Unfading Flower. I used the resources of the International Marian Research Institute (IMRI), part of the University of Dayton, to learn about Marian flowers. There is a listing from the Middle Ages with hundreds of flowers, and they are all related to Mary's life and virtues. Ancient icons inspire me, and this icon takes some of the elements seen in the ancient ones, but it is original in that it has a wide array of Marian flowers. Each flower is related to Mary's life in some way, and many of the flowers are native to Wisconsin, where I live. Mary is crowned by Jesus and this evokes the delight of a May crowning. IMRI sponsors a Marian Forum, and next March, I hope to be involved in sharing my research and work.

The other icon that has been featured by IMRI is Mary, Mother and Teacher in the Spirit (below). Mary teaches us receptivity and docility to the Holy Spirit. Her hands are perfectly conformed to the dove representing the Holy Spirit. A card was made by IMRI and it was distributed at Bergamo.

What is a highlight of your involvement at Bergamo?

I stayed at Bergamo this past Spring and I particularly enjoyed the beautiful flowers and the Lourdes Grotto. In Springtime, Bergamo is bright with color and vitality.

What are your hopes for Bergamo's guests and the organization?

I hope that others discover the Marian atmosphere of Bergamo and come to a deeper appreciation of prayer, solitude, and formation that resonate with Marianist spirituality.

If you want to see more of Fr. Thomas-Mary's work, along with the work of other friars, he encourages you to visit The National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians at Holy Hill in Hubertus, WI! More information is on their website:

<https://www.holyhill.com/>





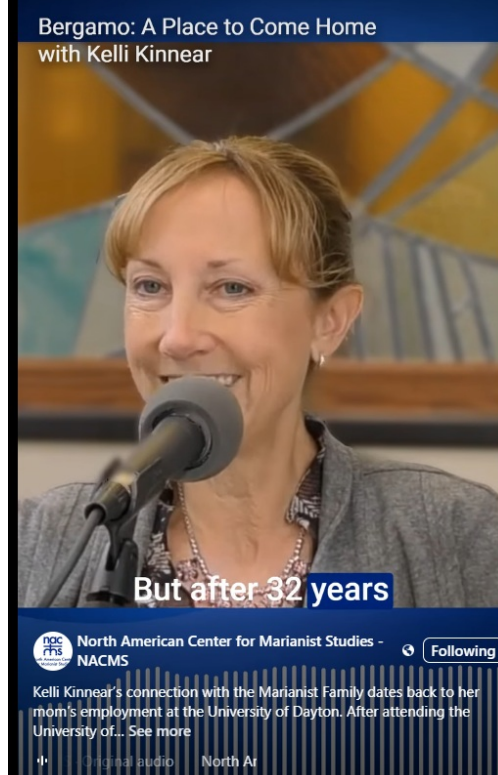
BERGAMO IS HIRING!



*The Bergamo Center is looking to hire one or more
weekend guest services coordinators!*

*Serve Bergamo's mission by supporting retreatants and
other guests on weekends. Flexible shifts are available.*

*Learn more: www.bergamocenter.org → click "About Us" →
click "Job Opportunities"*

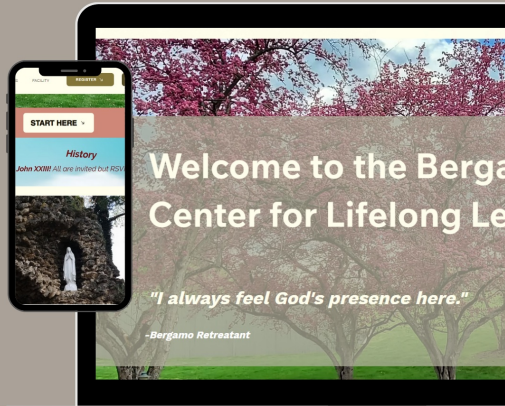


Listen to Kelli on the NACMS Podcast!

We are happy to share that Bergamo's own Kelli Kinnear (Executive Director) was interviewed on the "Sharing Our Marianist Stories" podcast from the North American Center for Marianist Studies (NACMS)! Learn about Kelli's connection to multiple Marianist institutions and how she came to serve at Bergamo. Find the full podcast in the link below - we hope you check it out!

Click [HERE](#) to listen to the podcast.

Visit Our New Website!



Our new Bergamo website is **LIVE!** Explore the fresh new look & stay up to date with all that's going on. We are grateful to **Dave Best**, a volunteer, & friend of Bergamo, who spent countless volunteer hours designing our new website. We cannot thank you enough, Dave!! Check out the latest - it's just a click away! bergamocenter.org

Join us for a

BERGAMO ADVENT SERIES

More details coming soon.





Summer Highlights

Even in the midst of these hot and hazy summer days, we've been keeping things cool and comfortable for all who pass through our doors. This season brought us the honor of hosting *The Noble Circle Project* for the very first time. Founded by eight courageous women from the Dayton area navigating a cancer diagnosis, their mission is to foster inspiration, hope, empowerment, and well-being through nutrition education, energy healing practices, and strong peer support. Another first-time group at Bergamo was Women Affirming Women, an inspiring group that supports unpaid caregivers like single moms and kinship caregivers. We hope their time here brought peace, joy, and well-deserved rest!

Summer hasn't slowed us down one bit when it comes to welcoming youth! We were delighted to host senior Kairos Retreats for both Purcell Marian and Seton High Schools. Their presence brought a contagious energy to our space.

In mid-July, our building was brimming with joy as students and adults gathered for *Marianist LIFE (Life in Faith Experience)*. Their theme, "Blessed," perfectly captured the spirit they brought—and how we feel every time they return.

It's truly inspiring to witness the many groups who continue to seek deeper faith, connection, and renewal throughout the summer months.

Fall Arrivals		
September	October	November
Moeller Kairos WSU Choral Retrouvaille MND HS Kairos Retreat CJ HS Kairos Retreat ISP Women's Retreat St. Leonard's Women's Faith Community Carroll HS Junior Retreat UD Campus Ministry New Beginnings ISP Men's Retreat St. Charles Parish Badin HS Kairos Emmaus Group Kirkmont Presbyterian Church Spinning Road Baptist Elder HS Junior Retreat	Moeller HS Kairos Trinity Lutheran Seminary Deacons Retreat Ursuline HS Junior Retreat Purcell Marian Kairos Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement MND HS Kairos Retreat Journal of Curriculum Theorizing Carroll HS junior retreat Moeller HS Senior 4th Day Retreat Visitation State Marianist Lay Community Seton Teaching Fellows Marianist Leadership Scholars Villa Madonna HS Senior Retreat Badin HS Kairos Retreat	S. OH District Bretheren Women New Community Church Women Marianist Social Justice Collaborative: Women in Justice Alter HS Junior Retreat Elder HS Junior Retreat CJ HS Kairos Retreat Bretheren in Christ UD Sacred Seasons Carroll HS Junior Retreat Alter HS Kairos Retreat Straight Up Recovery Group MND HS Junior Retreat Moeller HS Kairos Retreat Matt Talbot Group ISP Men's Retreat Hartley HS Jr/Sr Retreat
Please remember these groups in your prayers!		

3 Minute Retreat

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

*While he was still speaking,
a cloud came and cast a shadow over them,
and they became frightened when they entered the cloud.
Then from the cloud came a voice that said,
"This is my chosen Son; listen to him."
(Luke 9:34-35)*

Reflect. Do I feel like I am in a cloud? Have I ever felt afraid of God or of where God might be calling me? *Lord, when I am afraid, let me know your kindness. Amen.*

Connect with Us

Spend the day at Bergamo! Attend an upcoming Day of Rest and Healing:
August 11-14, 26-28, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, 22, 23

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

Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning | 4400 Shakertown Rd. | Beavercreek, OH 45430 US

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