

"The Open Window"

Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning
Newsletter

March/April 2016

<http://www.bergamocenter.org/>

Upcoming Divine Comedy Retreats

Divine Comedy Contemplative Retreat I

Saturday, April 2 + 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This one-day retreat will serve as a general introduction to the poetic masterpiece of Dante Alighieri as a journey of spiritual transformation in the context of the current Jubilee of Mercy during which Pope Francis has invited the faithful to prayerfully read the *Divine Comedy*. Included is a simple, wholesome lunch that will be enjoyed in sacred silence. [Online Registration](#)



Beatrice indicating to Dante the Virgin and Child in the Celestial Rose (*Paradiso* XXXII:28)

Divine Comedy Contemplative Retreat II

Sat. to Sun. May 21 to 22 + 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This two-day retreat will provide a fuller experience of the depths of the three canticles that comprise the *Divine Comedy*, namely, the *Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, and *Paradiso*. The undergirding purpose of the *Divine Comedy* retreat is opening up the literary and spiritual work for each participant to explore their own journeys of transformation. Dante's hope was to lead the readers to a greater understanding of their place in the universe and prepare them for the next life, which begins after death. This retreat experience is intended to be accessible to people from all backgrounds; no previous knowledge of the *Divine Comedy* is necessary. Quiet time for personal reflection and application will be paramount, interspersed with some group sessions. The retreat guide will be **Anthony Franchina** who has an M.A. in Italian language and literature. Meals provided. Overnight accommodation at Bergamo available. [Online Registration](#)

Divine Comedy Contemplative Retreat III

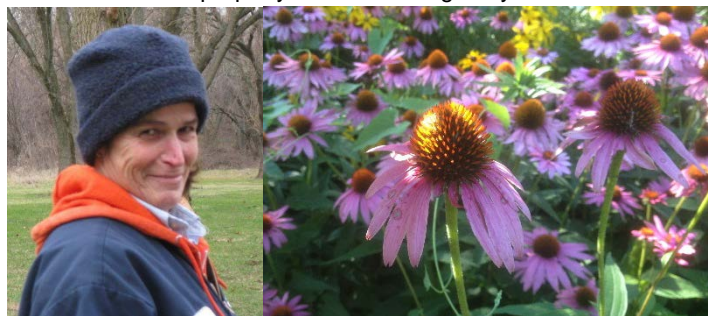
Friday to Sunday, June 24 to 26 + 6:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This three-day retreat is distinctively different from retreats in its unique interweaving of destinations linked to the Popes of Vatican II, the Author of the *Divine Comedy* in the Cradle of the Renaissance, and the Bishop of Rome inviting us to pass through the Holy Doors in the Eternal City. Meals provided. Overnight accommodation at Bergamo available. [Online Registration](#)

You may register for these events linking to the online registrations or by calling the Bergamo Center at 937-426-2363.

Jane Shaw

Mount Saint John mourns the recent death of Facilities Grounds Crew member **Jane Shaw**. For the past decade Jane planted and tended the many flowers that beautify the Mount Saint John property. Jane will be greatly missed.



Prayers

- Please pray for our adult guests and high school retreatants through the month of April that they find comfort and inspiration during their visits to Bergamo.
- We pray to be guided in spirit to be "Merciful like the Father".
- Eternal rest grant unto Jane Shaw, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
- In thanksgiving for our donors, benefactors and prayer supporters.

"Stand by You" – Theme of WG'15

Bergamo Director of Youth programming, **Kevin Kozlowski** reports that 66 youth from throughout the Archdiocese, guided by 7 retreat team members participated in the 15th annual World's Greatest Retreat at the Bergamo Center over the March 4-6 weekend. The retreat featured creative prayers and activities that focused on social justice, personal affirmation, family values, and relationships in faith from different communities.



March/April Retreats/Events (Approx. # of Participants)

St. Albert the Great Gr. 8 (46) - March 1
Lasalle Kairos (60) – March 2-4
Wright State Univ. Staff (26) – March 4
World's Greatest Retreat (80) - March 4-6
Lenten Day of Reflection (10) – March 5
Hartley Kairos (85) – March 8-11
Archdiocese of Cincinnati Deacon Formation (50) – March 13
Alter HS (50) – March 13-14
Mother of Mercy HS (45) – March 14-15
Marianist Urban Student Program (4) – March 15-17
Alter Kairos (60) – March 15-18
Creative Quilters (50) – March 18-20
Pre Cana (110) – March 19
Ignatian Spirituality Project Men (ISP) (15) – March 19-20
Watterson HS (45) – March 20-21
Mother of Mercy HS (45) – March 21-22
Warren Co. Quilters (20) – March 31-April 3

UD Chaminade Scholars (20) – April 1-3
Emmanuel Baptist Bd of Elders (30) – April 1-2
UD Music Dept. (35) – April 2
Ignatian Spirituality Project Women (20) – April 2
Divine Comedy Retreat – April 2
Mt. Notre Dame HS (45) – April 4-5
Seton Kairos (60) – April 5-8
Winter Guard International (100 in Sieben Hall) – April 6-9
Come Share the Spirit (25) – April 8-10
Winter Guard International (100 in Sieben Hall) – April 7-9
Religious Society of Friends (15) – April 9
Marianist Mission Reception (250+) – April 10
Watterson HS (60) – April 10-11
Goldsmith (6) – April 11
Moeller Kairos (70) – April 12-15
Bergamo Board of Trustees (15) – April 14
Enneagram (25) – April 15-19
Catholic Medical Association (25) – April 15-17
Ignatian Spirituality Project Men (25) – April 16
Watterson HS (50) – April 17-18
Chaminade Julianne Kairos (65) – April 19-22
Worldwide Marriage Encounter (51) – April 22-24
Women of the Well (100) – April 23
Ignatian Spirituality Project Men (20) – April 23
Wright Pat Chapel Youth (15) - April 24
National Retired Religious Retreat (40) - April 25-28
Dayton Knitters (55) - April 29-May 1
Ignatian Spirituality Project Women (20) – April 30-May 1

Marianist Feast Days in March & April

St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary – March 19
Annunciation of the Lord – March 25
Birthday of Bl. William Joseph Chaminade – April 8



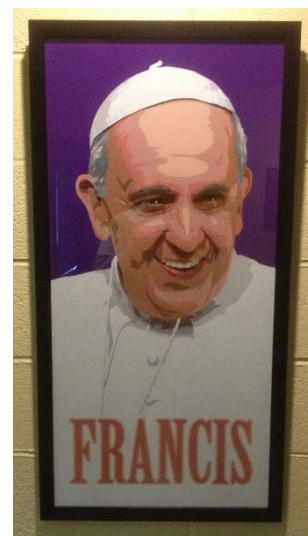
March & April Staff Birthdays

Brian Thomas - April 20
Barb Kozlowski - April 22

Let's Talk

A hallmark of Pope Francis' way of sharing his joy for life as well as dealing with tough issues in our world is to dialogue and continuously communicate.

It is helpful for the Bergamo Center to receive feedback. Getting our guests opinions and feedback is an element of dialogue. Bergamo has an online version of our satisfaction survey for those who have visited the Center to share feedback with us. The link is [Bergamo Satisfaction Survey](#).



We are committed to making your visits with us fulfilling and enjoyable. We value your feedback and want to continue the dialogue with you! Thanks for taking the time to complete our survey!

We wish to communicate with our groups that in the 2016-17 budget there will be no rate increases on prices/rates for conference rooms and breaks. Increases are in place for meals and lodging to become effective July 1, 2016. A copy of the new rates was included in the newly revised Bergamo Conference Packets which was sent to all of the current organizations who have retreats and conferences at the Center.

In an effort to communicate in ever more effective ways Bergamo utilizes the following tools to stay in touch...

The Bergamo Center also employs Constant Contact in a limited manner to deliver key selected communications. Link with [Bergamo at Constant Contact](#) if you wish to be informed on a regular limited basis.



Like us at Facebook "[Bergamo Center – Non-profit Organizations](#)" to keep up to date on Bergamo events. Please take time to visit and Like Us!

The [Bergamo Center website](#) is updated to include an [archive of "the Open Window" newsletters](#) and also includes links to websites of retreat groups and conferences hosted at Bergamo. If groups would like their websites or facebook pages featured on our website please contact Director [Brent Devitt](#)



Quote

"Friendship with God is always the most important thing."

Jakob Gapp