

2022

# ANNUAL REPORT



*Our* **LADY**  
*of* **GOOD**  
**COUNSEL**  
RETREAT HOUSE

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**"Come away to a quiet place and rest awhile"**  
**Mark 6:31**

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL  
RETREAT HOUSE  
7303 N 112TH ST  
WAVERLY NE 68462  
402-786-2705  
GOODCOUNSELRETREAT.ORG  
OFFICE@GOODCOUNSELRETREAT.ORG

# HOW TO SUPPORT

Go to [goodcounselretreat.org](http://goodcounselretreat.org) to:

**DONATE**      **REGISTER**      **VOLUNTEER**      **PURCHASE**  
ONE-TIME OR      SIGN UP FOR      YOUR TIME      A GIFT  
MONTHLY      A RETREAT      OR TALENT      CERTIFICATE

Your generosity of time, talent or treasure to  
**Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House**  
helps others enhance their spiritual lives.

Your one-time or monthly gift keeps our retreats affordable for all to attend.

## PROJECT NEEDS

\$10,000	KOI POND RENOVATIONS
\$60,000	LIBRARY REFURBISHING
\$75,000	COMMON AREAS (PAINT, CARPET, LIGHTING)
\$250,000	EXTERIOR WINDOWS REPLACEMENT
\$450,000	KITCHEN & DINING ROOM UPGRADE

# SPRING 2023 SCHEDULE: IN-PERSON & ONLINE

Visit [goodcounselretreat.org](http://goodcounselretreat.org) for registration and information

January 13-15, 2023

## Becoming Apostles of Mercy

with Fr. Eric Clark

Living the Corporal  
and Spiritual  
Works of Mercy



January 19-22, 2023

## Meet Me at the Well: Women's Spiritual Exercises with Regnum Christi

with Fr. Jason  
Smith L.C.  
(4-day Thurs-Sun)



February 3-5, 2023

## Unbound: Freedom in Christ

with Fr. William  
Holoubek  
Live your Baptism  
& the freedom of  
God's children



February 10-11, 2023

## Winter Symposium

Lincoln Diocesan Council of  
Catholic Women

Friday-Saturday  
for women



Ash Wed Feb 22, 2023

## Meeting God in the Desert

with Deacon  
Matthew Hecker

10am-3pm  
Advance registration  
not required



February 24-26, 2023

## I+U=We Marriage Workshop

with Fr. Jarosław "Jay"  
Szymczak

Love and life  
retreat workshops  
for couples



March 10-12, 2023

## In the Presence of Our Lord

with Fr. Loras Grell

Foundations for  
a revival of the  
Eucharist



March 18, 2023

## Holiness for Moms

with Fr. Ryan Kaup

Saturday reflection  
for moms of  
young people



March 31-April 2, 2023

## Following the Lord, Little by Little (Poco a Poco)

with Fr. Innocent  
Montgomery, C.F.R.

Celebrate Palm  
Sunday & Holy Week



April 6-8, 2023

## Holy Week Retreat with the Marian Sisters

for Young Women

Holy Thursday-  
Holy Saturday



April 21-23, 2023

## True Devotion to Mary

with Msgr. Daniel Seiker

The safest, easiest,  
shortest and  
more perfect way  
to Heaven

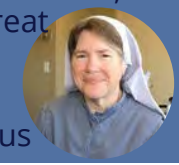


May 12-13, 2023

## God's Beautiful Beloved

with Sr. Anne Marie Walsh,  
SOLT; 24-hour retreat  
for Women

Understanding  
the Feminine Genius



## PRIVATE & SILENT DIRECTED IGNATIAN RETREATS

Our typical weekend retreats, like those given at other retreat houses, are preached retreats where the retreat master gives talks to the entire group of retreatants. In contrast, our **Ignatian Retreats**, listed to the right, also known as **Directed Retreats**, allow each retreatant to meet privately with the retreat director every day.

Based on *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola*, the heart of the Ignatian Retreat involves spending four or five prayer periods each day in meditation on scripture. Ignatian Retreatants journal about their prayer times and the movements that occurred, so when meeting with the director, they can be given guidance and appropriate meditations.

January 9-19, 2023 Fr. Barak & Fr. Coulter

March 9-16, 2023 Fr. Barak, Fr. Coulter,  
& Matt Simmons (including Spring Break)

April 3-6 Fr. Coulter & Matt Simmons (Holy Week)

April 20-27, 2023 Fr. Barak & Fr. Coulter

June 21-29, 2023 Fr. Barak & Fr. Coulter

July 12-20, 2023 Fr. Brown, OMV & Matt Simmons

Ignatian Retreats provide a range of dates allowing variable 4-day, 5-day and 8-day options.

At-home Ignatian Retreats with spiritual direction via Zoom are available at half the price.

Contact us to inquire about scheduling 4-day, 8-day, and 30-day Directed Ignatian Retreats.

Weekend retreats typically begin Friday at 8:00pm with a rosary and Mass, and end on Sunday with Mass and noon lunch. The retreat includes reflections on the topics and scriptures, times of silence and meditation, worship through the Sacraments and Liturgy, devotions and Eucharistic Adoration. Retreats are open to either men or women, except those noted. Retreats are also available via online streaming, except Feb. 10, Feb. 24 and Apr. 6.





# TESTIMONIALS

"The grounds at Good Counsel Retreat House offer **an incredible opportunity to connect with God**. There was plenty of time for quiet prayer and contemplation. I would recommend anyone attend a retreat here!"

- Andrea, Hastings, NE

"This retreat was **one of the most important things I have ever done**. It deepened and enhanced my relationship with Jesus and gave me much clarity and insight. It taught me how to really pray in such a way that prayer has become a joy - not just another obligation - and something that fills me, sustains me, and gives everything meaning and purpose. It expanded my heart. **I recommend Good Counsel Retreat House to one and all.**"

- LuAnn, Omaha, NE

"The retreat gave me **an opportunity to draw closer to Jesus than I ever have**, and it has been a catalyst for opening my eyes to lies about my identity that have bound me my entire life. For the first time in my life, I am experiencing real freedom in seeing myself as God's beloved child.

**The Lord can work even by Zoom!"**

-Mary, Australia

## RETREAT HOUSE BY THE NUMBERS

how we made an impact

**1,986**

IN-PERSON  
RETREATANTS

**835**

VIRTUAL  
RETREATANTS

**804**

WEEKEND  
RETREATANTS

**190**

IGNATIAN  
RETREATANTS

**203**

GROUP  
RETREATS &  
MEETINGS

**97**

PRIVATE  
RETREAT  
GUESTS

**119**

DIOCESAN  
PRIESTS

**39**

SEMINARIANS

**692**

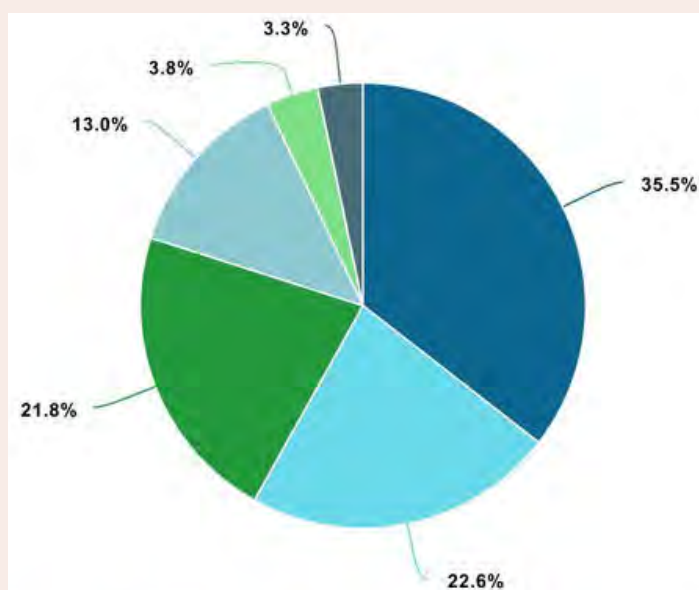
ENGAGED  
ENCOUNTER  
COUPLES

**22**

RELIGIOUS  
SISTERS

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022

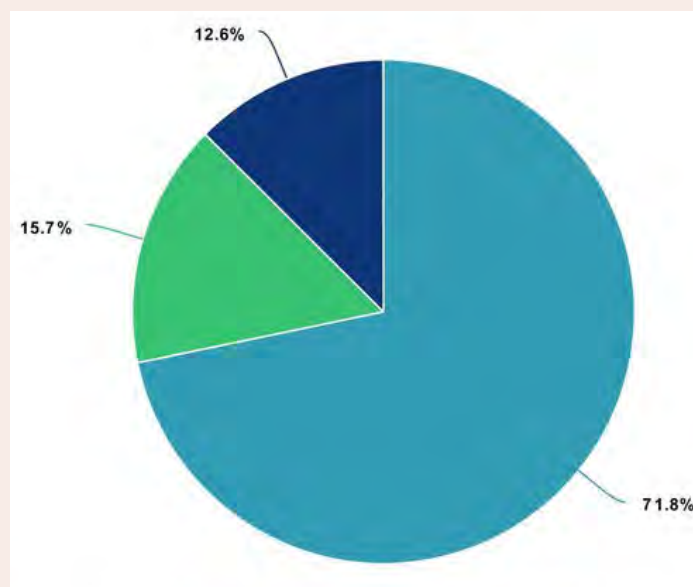


### INCOME

DONATIONS	\$244,102
RETREATS	\$155,098
PRIESTS & RELIGIOUS	\$149,940
ENGAGED ENCOUNTER	\$89,579
CONFERENCES & PROGRAMS	\$25,829
CHARITY & STEWARDSHIP APPEAL	\$22,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$687,048</b>

### EXPENSE

PROGRAMS & FACILITIES	\$441,611
DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING	\$96,418
ADMINISTRATIVE & OFFICE	\$77,329
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$615,358</b>



### MISSION STATEMENT

AS A CATHOLIC MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE OF LINCOLN, OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE A SANCTUARY AND EXPERIENCE WHICH LEADS PEOPLE TO ENCOUNTER JESUS CHRIST. THROUGH INSPIRING RETREATS AND WARM HOSPITALITY, WE SEEK TO TRANSFORM AND RENEW THE SPIRITUAL LIVES OF ALL DESIRING THE OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND KNOW THE FATHER'S LOVE, PEACE AND HEALING.

# A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR:

## FR. GARY COULTER



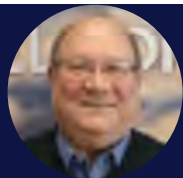
A blessing of being at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House is how it is only a few steps from my room to the chapel. There I find that place to rest in the Lord every day, especially on those days I feel stretched thin. That time of prayer is a lifeline, as Jesus says so succinctly: "I am the vine; you are the branches... apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

There in prayer I encounter Jesus, the same as people like Bartimaeus and Zacchaeus did. In both cases, Jesus stops, sees them in their need, recognizes the desires of their heart, and in the case of Zacchaeus, Our Lord even knows his name. The Lord has been reminding me in prayer of simple truths I need to learn and must not forget: the Lord sees me, He knows me and my needs, He cares about me, He wants what is best for me—even during my trials.

Yet meditating on both stories, I noticed the encounter with Jesus only takes place after they reach out. Bartimaeus calls as Jesus passes by: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And when people told him to be quiet, he cries out more loudly and persistently. Zacchaeus famously climbed a sycamore tree to get a better view of Jesus. He is not ashamed of what others think, nor is Jesus ashamed to associate with a sinner and tax collector.

**Because they took the initiative and came face-to-face with Jesus, the course of their life was changed.**

I invite you to consider going on a retreat, especially if it has been a while. Take time to rest in the Lord. Encounter Him in prayer. Ask, seek, and knock. Allow the Holy Spirit to touch your heart and change your life. God bless.



# A NOTE FROM BOARD MEMBER:

## AL ZACH

As early as 1959 Bishop James Casey had the foresight and vision to see the need for a "special Center with a quiet and peaceful environment where Catholics might go to reassess their values, judge all things in the light of faith, and deepen their knowledge of Sacred Scripture." The first retreatants arrived on October 10, 1963 and for nearly 60 years we have invited people to "Come away by yourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." (Mark 6:31)

This would not be possible without our regular retreatants, most valued staff, numerous volunteers, bedmakers, benefactors, and regular donors. Each of you aid us in our mission to evangelize and bring people to encounter Christ in a deep and profoundly personal way.

Thank You to one and all—our hearts are overflowing with gratitude! **Good Counsel Retreat House would not be what it is today without people like you** as part of our family, attending our retreats and coming along side us with prayerful, physical and financial support.

Is the Lord inviting you to be a part of our mission of bringing people to encounter HIM? Could it be a talent that you have? A financial donation or legacy gift? Your prayers? Please pray that we who staff and advise may both seek and "do what HE wills". Be assured that Fr. Coulter and the Retreat House staff pray daily for you and your loved ones.

I know Our Lord will not be outdone and will bless you many times over for your generosity.