



Office of the Vice President for Mission

TO: The Gonzaga Community
FROM: Frank E. Case, S.J.
SUBJ: Moment for Mission
DATE: October 15, 2014

Retreat opportunities

Faculty and Staff Retreats

Over the past three years we have offered silent weekend retreats for faculty and staff at Bozarth Center. The number of participants started small and has remained small – too small, really, to justify the use and associated cost of such a large facility. Since University Ministry offers the same silent weekend retreat twice a year for students, they would be happy to accommodate any faculty and staff persons who would like to join. Since the retreatants pray in silence over the weekend, faculty and staff participants can be confident that they too will be able to pray in an atmosphere of prayerful silence. This type of retreat is called the Montserrat Retreat. Besides this possibility Fr. George Morris will be continuing to offer the Busy Persons Retreats this year.

Montserrat Retreats for students, faculty and staff

The Montserrat Retreat is based on the mystical experiences of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus. The retreat offers retreatants some of the theory and practice for attuning oneself better to the voice of God, all within a lovely setting free from many of life's daily distractions. Each retreatant meets with a spiritual director twice during the weekend, a fellow traveler trained to listen to the retreatant and to accompany him or her on this short but powerful journey. And even though much of the retreat is spent in silence, a community of prayer and support forms over the weekend. The Sisters of Mary Mother of the Church prepare nourishing and satisfying meals and the grounds of Immaculate Heart Retreat Center on the south hill of Spokane offer plenty of room to find God in nature. Fr. Alan Yost, S.J., coordinator in University Ministry, leads this retreat.

The next Montserrat Retreat starts around 6pm on Friday, November 7th and finishes about 1:30pm on Sunday, the 9th. You can register at www.gonzaga.edu/umin by clicking on "Sign

up for retreats” and finding the Montserrat link. Please contact University Ministry at X4242 for more information.

Busy Persons Retreats

The Busy Persons Retreats take place here on campus. One meets with his or her director in Jesuit House for about a half hour 3 or 4 times during the week for a conversation and another half-hour of silent prayer. These times of silence afford the retreatant an opportunity to reflect on one’s life in an atmosphere of peace and quiet and to deepen one’s relationship with the Lord. As a recent retreatant commented:

What an eye opener from four short meetings. The knowledge that I am very much loved, without conditions. What I’ve learned is helping me to grow in inner peace, spiritual development, and patience with myself as I make mistakes along the way. I’ve learned to embrace the quiet and listening for the small still voice.

The next Busy Persons Retreat will be offered the first week of November. For further information and to register, please call Fr. George Morris, S.J. at x6019.