Retreat centers in diocese offer prayerful reflection

**Bishop Robert E. Tracy Center**
Baton Rouge

The Bishop Robert E. Tracy Center is available for spiritual renewal and growth, professional training, and adult and youth formation. As part of the Catholic Life Center, the Tracy Center can provide space for day and overnight retreats, and conferences.

The three-story overnight facility has 30 sleeping rooms. Each of 24 rooms can accommodate up to four people. Five of the six suites consist of a bedroom with two single beds (one king if beds are joined) and a sitting room with two sofa sleepers. The smaller suite has one bedroom with two single beds and a love seat and chair in the sitting area. All rooms have a private bath.

The Westerfield Conference Center, adjacent to the overnight facility, is a state-of-the-art meeting facility with audio/visual technology. The conference center provides space for 120 people or can be divided into three separate meeting areas for smaller groups.

The Tracy Center Education Building has eight rooms available for day retreats, workshops or breakout sessions. Also available are two chapels, a theatre with fixed-style seating for 196, a ballroom that can seat up to 500 people, and three dining rooms. A full-time kitchen staff provides all meals and snacks.

The Tracy Center welcomes private groups, prayer groups, small Christian communities and Bible-study groups. Though there is no spiritual director on staff, retreatants may bring their own director.

Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Phone 225-242-0222; website: tracycenter.org; email tracycenter@diobr.org; mailing address P. O. Box 2028, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028.

Directions: I-10 to Acadian Thruway exit; go north 3/4 of a mile. The Catholic Life Center and Bishop Robert E. Tracy Center are on the left.

**Magnificat Center of the Holy Spirit**
Ponchatoula

Magnificat Center of the Holy Spirit provides a relaxed setting for all types of retreats. Opened in 1982, the center provides housing for retreatants in dormitory-style facilities. Located in the pine forest of the Florida Parishes, the center has 30 acres of wooded grounds for inspirational walks and porches for quiet reflection. The center offers a conference room with seating for up to 100 people, a dining hall and a small chapel in the main building.

Along with booked retreats tailored especially for any and all Christian groups, Magnificat offers Days of Renewal on the last Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Phone 800-531-9710 or 985-386-3815; mailing address 23629 Faith Road, Ponchatoula, LA 70454.

Directions: I-12 to exit 47; south on Roberts Road (Hwy. 45); right on Hwy. 22; left on Hwy. 445 (Lee's Landing Road). Magnificat is 1.5 miles on the right.

**Mary’s House**
Tickfaw

Mary’s House retreat center in Tickfaw to opened in the Diocese of Baton Rouge in 2011.

Tucked away in scenic Tangipahoa Parish, the center, which has no religious order affiliation, offers a wooded pathway providing those on retreat a serene setting for reflection and prayer. There are also several statues with meditation seating.

The center can sleep 35, with two private rooms and the remainder of the rooms double occupancy. Additionally, there is a private apartment for a priest or retreat master.

Amenities include a library, chapel, meeting room, media room, outdoor patio, and a gathering area with a barbecue pit. The staff includes a full-time caretaker and staff members are available 24 hours a day during retreats. All are welcome but it is not open to children under the age of 18.

Phone 985-635-0333, Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Directions: I-12 East to Exit 159; north on I-55; Take Tickfaw exit, turn left onto Highway 442; turn right onto Hwy. 445; turn right onto Hwy. 44; turn right onto Antioch Road; retreat center is on the right.

**Manresa House of Retreats**
Convent

Manresa House of Retreats opened in 1929 as a retreat center for men. Since then, the Jesuit-run center has become a favorite retreat facility for men in the South. Manresa sits on 130 wooded acres along the Mississippi River.

Manresa offers sleeping accommodations for 111, all having private bath facilities; a main chapel and four reflection chapels; a library; gardens and shrines.

All retreats are in the manner of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. While most of the retreats are preached retreats for men, some spaces are available for individually directed retreats for men and women.

For more information, call between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Phone 800-782-9431; website manresa.org; mailing address P.O. Box 89, Convent, LA 70723-0089.

Directions: I-12 to Sorrento/Donaldsonville exit 182; south on Hwy. 22; left onto Hwy. 70 and left onto Hwy. 3125; right onto Hwy. 4214; and left at Hwy. 44 (River Road); continue five miles. Manresa is on the left.

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SPIRITUAL RETREATS

March 6, 2015

Catholic Commentator

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Rosalynne Spirit Life Center

Ponchatoula

Rosalynne Spirit Life Center is located approximately 45 miles east of Baton Rouge, LA 70754.2201 Ponchatoula, S

St. Joseph Spiritual Life Center

Ponchatoula

St. Joseph Spiritual Life Center is a facility named after the Patron Saint of Travelers, St. Joseph. It is open to all faiths and is located at 2836 Rosaryville Road, Ponchatoula, LA 70754.

Directions: Take I-12 to exit 66B toward Covington; continue north on Highway 25 for 1 mile; turn right onto Rosaryville Road.

rituals.

Visit our website to learn more about upcoming programs and Camp Kateri 2015, our summer day camp for girls.

Rosaryville Spirit Life Center

39001 Rosaryville Rd., Ponchatoula, LA 70754-2519

www.rosaryvillela.com

Reconciliation

The Rosaryville Spiritual Life Center

March 27-29

Post Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday

Join us for a weekend journey of

faith and prayer.

Palm Sunday - Easter Sunday

Rev. Joe Krafft

Visit us online at: RosaryvilleSpiritLifeCenter.org

or to request a brochure detailing upcoming events.

Write to: Retreats and Renewal, St. Joseph Abbey Retreat Center, Lacombe, LA 70445-0990.

or to request a brochure detailing upcoming events.

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their own speakers and developing their own theme and schedule.

The center provides a peaceful setting for guests to slow down and be sensitive to the presence of God. Surrounded by woods, the 50-acre retreat center features a pond with benches and two gazebos for those seeking the beauty and meditative solitude of the outdoors.

Indoor facilities include an adult center and a youth center, full kitchen and dining room, library, conference room, chapel and two penance rooms that can accommodate five people each. The corridors and private rooms display more than 100 oil paintings of local topics by local artists.

The adult center can accommodate 80 overnight guests in double rooms with private bath facilities. The youth center, which also accommodates confirmation retreats and youth leadership programs, is ideal for groups who desire dormitory living. It can accommodate 100 overnight guests in bunk beds with common bath facilities.

For more information or to request a brochure, call the Lumen Christi Retreat Center Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Phone 985-868-1523; email lumenchristi@htdiocese.org; mailing address 100 Lumen Christi Court, Schriever, LA 70395.

Directions: From Baton Rouge take LA Hwy. 1 to Thibodaux; in Thibodaux take LA Hwy. 24 to Houma; outside of Thibodaux make a right turn at St. Bridget’s Church (about one mile past the overpass); turn left onto Hwy. 311 and continue past the Diocesan Pastoral Center. Look for the Lumen Christi signs on the left.

**Prairie Ronde Cursillo Center**

Opelousas, La.

Prairie Ronde Cursillo Center is open on weekends for Catholic men and women only. Cursillo means a short course in Christanity. The Cursillos are scheduled for men and for women on separate weekends throughout the year.

Overnight facilities are available for up to 60 people in a dormitory-type setting, with shared bathrooms and showers. Separate housing is available for priests or deacons leading retreats. There is a chapel and a bookstore with an area for reading. Handicapped facilities are available.

Each person will need a sponsor for the weekend. The local contacts to assist with that are Gail Guidroz 225-603-2457, or Linda Daigle 225-627-6448.

Phone 337-543-7425; website whowillsit.com; mailing address 3551 LA Hwy. 104, Opelousas, LA 70570-1808.

**St. Charles Center**

Lake Charles, La.

Opened in 1996 and operated by the Diocese of Lake Charles, the St. Charles Center offers directed retreats in addition to a variety of other programs. Located near the Calcasieu River, the center provides a deep woods setting with walks along the swamp leading to the river.

Accommodations include separate facilities for 72 adults and 78 youth in double-occupancy rooms. Bath facilities are private on the adult side and shared on the youth side. Other amenities include three libraries, the Chapel of the Assumption, two small conference rooms for 50 people, two large conference rooms for more than 100 people and a dining room.

The center is staffed by spiritual directors and retreat directors and is open to people of all denominations. For more information, call 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed between noon and 1 p.m.), Monday through Friday.

Phone 337-855-1232; website live.htdiocese.org/retreats; mailing address 2511 Sam Houston Pkwy., Lake Charles, LA 70611.

Directions: I-10 to Lake Charles; take Exit 33 to LA Hwy. 171; travel 5 miles to LA Hwy. 378; turn left onto LA Hwy. 378; travel 2.5 miles; entrance is on the left.