**Spiritual Retreat Centers**

The Diocese of Baton Rouge and outlying areas

The Catholic Commentator  
March 7, 2012
Retreat centers located in the Diocese of Baton Rouge

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 Tracy Center overnight facility, which was once the dormitory for the diocesan preparatory seminary, 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 lounge area, an auditorium that has fixed theatre-style seating for 196, another auditorium 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; 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 lush pine forest of the Florida Parishes, the center has 90 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, and 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 504-362-5977; mailing address: 23629 Faith Rd., 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.

Manresa House of Retreats Convent
Formerly Jefferson College, Manresa House of Retreats opened in 1929 as a retreat center for men. Since then, the Jesuit-run center has become a favori-
Retreat centers outside the diocese of Baton Rouge

Cenacle Retreat House
Metairie, La.

Known as being “in the center of everything and away from it all,” the Cenacle Retreat House offers a peaceful, prayerful environment for women and men, lay and religious on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain. Under the direction of the Cenacle Sisters, the Cenacle is open to people who are seeking God. Since 1958, a variety of renewal programs have been offered, including retreats based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, days of prayer and spiritual direction among other programs.

Located about an hour east of Baton Rouge, 15 minutes west of New Orleans, the Cenacle has a chapel, dining room with buffet-style meals, a meeting hall, a library, a large parlor and several breakout rooms. Up to 50 guests in private rooms with private and semi-private bath facilities can be accommodated at the retreat house. The 12-landscaped acres offer grounds conducive to prayer and reflection that nurture spiritual lives.

For more information on the Cenacle Retreat House, call between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Phone: 800-690-4095 or 504-887-1420; email: cenacle2@aol.com; website: cenaclesisters.org/metairie; mailing address: 5500 St. Mary St., Metairie, LA 70006.

Directions: From Baton Rouge, take I-10 east to Williams Blvd. exit; go north to West Esplanade Avenue, turn right; travel on West Esplanade Avenue to the U-turn before Transcontinental Blvd.; make the U-turn; travel four blocks to St. Mary St.; turn right. The Cenacle’s driveway is at the end of St. Mary St.

Christian Life Center
St. Benedict, La.

Located four miles north of Covington on the grounds of St. Joseph Abbey, the Christian Life Center is open to individuals and groups seeking peace and reflection in a monastic setting suitable to their spirituality.

St. Joseph Abbey is home to the Benedictine monks, who conduct Retreat League Weekends approximately 26 times per year for men, women and married couples. On the remaining weekends and during the week, the Christian Life Center is open to groups for religious, educational and charitable purposes.

The center has accommodations for 41 persons in modest but comfortable private rooms with private baths. Guest rooms, a chapel, a library and a dining room are located in the center. The larger St. Joseph Abbey Church is located on the grounds.

The 1,200 acres of pine-treed woods and tranquil ponds offer retreatants the opportunity for quiet and reflective leisure.

The center strives to continue the tradition set down more than 14 centuries ago by St. Benedict, who believed that the stranger or guest who comes to the monastery gate is to be received as Christ, but, it reserves the right to decide which programs meet the stated goals of the facility.

Phone: 985-892-3473; website: staintosjosephabbey.com/clc; email: clc@sjac.edu; mailing address: Christian Life Center, St. Joseph Abbey, St. Benedict, LA 70047.

Directions: Take I-12 to exit 63-B Covington (U.S. Hwy. 190) north; continue past Hwy. 437 to Hwy. 25 (traffic light); continue north on Hwy. 25 about 300 yards; turn right on Airport Road and continue to the stop sign; turn left onto River Road; travel to the sign for St. Joseph Abbey and turn right onto the bridge.

Lumen Christi Retreat Center
Schriever, La.

Since 1985, the Lumen Christi Retreat Center has offered spiritual renewal and development options such as women’s and men’s retreats, Teens Encounter Christ and First Friday Day of Prayer. Churches and groups also host retreats and workshops, providing their own speakers and developing their own theme and schedule.

The center is committed to the universal mission of Jesus Christ. Through a ministry of hospitality, spiritual retreats, preaching and renewal programs, Lumen Christi Retreat Center aims to illumine Christ’s presence and to be a “source of spiritual life and strength.”

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, an outdoor Stations of the Cross that pictures in a moving way the passion and death of Jesus, 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 families, 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; mailing address: 100 Lumen Christi Court, Schriever, LA 70395.

Directions: From Baton Rouge take Hwy. 1 to Thibodaux; in Thibodaux take 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.

Jesuit Spirituality Center
Grand Coteau

Open to men and women of all faiths, the Jesuit Spirituality Center is located in the heart of Acadiana, 11 miles north of Lafayette on I-49.

Formerly the complex of St. Charles College, the site became the Jesuit Novitiate for New Orleans in 1922 and a retreat center in 1972. Sponsored by the New Orleans Province of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuit Spirituality Center provides a quiet and restful environment for those seeking to listen and to respond to God with generosity and openness through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Year-round offerings of three-, five-, eight- and 30-day directed retreats, plus a wide variety of weekend programs and retreats are scheduled through the center. An individually directed retreat differs from the more common preached retreat in that the retreatant meets privately every day with a spiritual director. In these sessions of up to an hour, the director...
Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat House
100 Lumen Christi Court, Hwy. 311
Schriever, LA 70395
• Seminars • Days of Renewal
• Parish Workshops • Specialized Retreats
• Youth Retreats • Retreats for Men and Women
For More Information Call (985) 868-1523 or Fax (985) 868-1525

Lumen Christi Retreat Center
100 Lumen Christi Court, Hwy. 311
Schriever, LA 70395
• Seminars • Days of Renewal
• Parish Workshops • Specialized Retreats
• Youth Retreats • Retreats for Men and Women

ITAL: Retreat facility for men in the South. Often called America’s most beautiful retreat house, Manresa sits on 130 wooded acres along the Mississippi River. Manresa offers 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: manresala.org; mailing address: P.O. Box 89, Convent, LA 70723-0089.

Directions: 1-10 to Sorrento/Donaldsonville exit 182; south on Hwy. 22; left onto Hwy. 70 and left onto Hwy. 4214; and left at Hwy. 44 (River Road); continue five miles.

Manresa is on the left.

Rosaryville Spirit Life Center
Ponchatoula
Rosaryville Spirit Life Center is located approximately 45 miles east of Baton Rouge off of Hwy. 22 in Ponchatoula. Situated on 500-manicured acres of a 1,700-acre tract, it is a place for renewal of spirit, mind and body. Visitors can stroll the beautiful grounds, tour the facilities and see the picnic area complete with tables, pool and bathhouse. Beneath a canopy of trees along the Meditation Path stand outdoor shrines, grottos and Stations of the Cross. There is also a covered dock on the two-acre pond, a perfect place for reflection.

Rosaryville is staffed by the Dominican Sisters of Peace, formerly the Congregation of St. Mary, and their lay colleagues. Rosaryville Spirit Life Center began in 1981, when the community of professed sisters in residence returned to a newly renovated motherhouse in New Orleans. It was at this time the congregation began its ministry of hosting and/or sponsoring retreats, days of prayer, workshops and other activities for religious, clergy and laity.

Rosary Hall, erected in 1955, is a three-story building. On the first floor are offices, an informal gathering area, three dining rooms and two kitchens. On the second floor are a library, an audio-visual center, a small conference room, a suite for visiting retreat directors, the Holy Rosary Chapel and a smaller area, the Upper Room, that may be used for workshops and/or conferences for groups between 35-50 people. On the third floor there are eight semi-private rooms and semi-private baths.

St. John Hall, erected in 1966, is adjacent to Rosary Hall and houses a large conference room, a small parlor, the gift shop, the massage therapy room and 34 private and semi-private bedrooms.

Kateri Hall has nine dormitory rooms with bunk beds. Seven rooms can sleep eight each, and the two remaining rooms can sleep four each. The hall has a spacious recreation/conference room and separate bathrooms with showers for boys and girls. It is ideal for youth groups and Rosaryville’s Camp Kateri for boys and girls each summer. There is also a sports court adjacent to Kateri Hall as well as ample space for outdoor games.

Shalom House is a one-story, self-contained hermitage. It has sleeping capacity for six, a fully equipped kitchen, two bathrooms, washer/dryer and a large worktable. It is ideal for those seeking an extended private retreat or for small groups needing a meeting facility.

Rosaryville hosts retreats, conferences and events planned by church and civic organizations. It also sponsors retreats, workshops, prayer days, as well as directed and/or individual retreats. Massage therapy and individual spiritual direction are two programs offered by Sister Mary Noel OP, the program coordinator, who is a nationally certified massage therapist and a spiritual director.

Phone: 225-294-5039 ext. 102; email: rosaryville02@charter.net; website: rosaryvillela.com; mailing address: 3900 Rosaryville Rd., Ponchatoula, LA 70454.

Directions: 1-12 to Pumpkin Center exit 35; turn south; at Hwy. 22 turn left; go two miles to Rosaryville Road; turn right, go one mile to the Rosaryville gate.

St. Joseph Spirituality Center
Baton Rouge
St. Joseph Spirituality Center, a ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph, has as its purpose the promotion of religious education and spiritual development of adults. This includes activities that foster the wholeness and holiness of each person, which leads to a deepening and effective consciousness of the role of the Christian in the world.

The center welcomes all people who are seeking to deepen their faith life, regardless of their particular faith tradition.

The services offered include:
- workshops that promote instruction in Scripture, theology and prayer;
- exercises of self-understanding and improving relationships;
- days of prayer and retreats of longer duration, both preached and directed;
- private spiritual direction and pastoral counseling.

Since 1984, the St. Joseph Spirituality Center has offered a variety of retreat options based on Ignatian spirituality, including a nine-month program on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius in Daily Life. Staff members offer ongoing private spiritual direction by appointment. There are no overnight accommodations.

St. Joseph Spirituality Center is located at 2980 Kleinert Ave. in Baton Rouge. Programs are offered as half-day events or retreats on Friday evenings and Saturdays in the St. Joseph’s Academy Dining Hall or in the local area. Staff members are also available as guest directors at retreat centers throughout the country and conduct on-site retreats and programs in area church parishes.

For information about the St. Joseph Spirituality Center, call the office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Phone: 225-383-3349; email: stjosecenter@aol.com; fax: 225-336-4874; mailing address: 2980 Kleinert Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

Directions: I-10 to exit 157B Acadian Thruway; go north to Broussard St., turn left; go one block to Parker St., turn right; go one block to Kleinert Ave., turn left.
Start each day in my peace and stillness, then you can go forth and face whatever the day may bring in perfect peace and joy.

—Eileen Caddy
OUTSIDE: Retreat centers located outside of the Diocese of Baton Rouge offer various types of facilities

preached and 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 76 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 12 noon and 1 p.m.), Monday through Friday. Phone: 337-855-1232; website: live.lcdiocese.org/retreats; mailing address: 2151 Sam Houston Jones Pkwy., Lake Charles, LA 70611.

Directions: I-10 to Lake Charles; take exit 29 to Hwy. 171; go 5 miles; entrance is on the left. Rosaryville Spirit Life Center 39003 Rosaryville Rd. Chatawa, Miss. Rosaryville is a sanctuary of peace and beauty ideal for: • Retreats • Workshops • Days of Prayer • Seminars • Corporate and Community Meetings • Family Reunions • Youth Retreats • Family and School Picnics • Programs for Clergy, Religious and Laity. We also offer Massage Therapy and Spiritual Direction.

Visit our website to learn more about upcoming programs and Camp Kateri 2012, our summer camp for boys and girls.

Rosaryville Spirit Life Center 39003 Rosaryville Rd. Ponchatoula, LA 70454-7001 • 225-294-5039 rosaryville102@charter.net • www.rosaryvillela.com

Print Advertisers:
Now is your opportunity to plan an advertisement on our website. In January, current contracts expire making placements available. You can place an ad on our website for as little as $20 month.

Call your sales rep now to reserve your space.
225-387-0983

Located on 420 acres of pine woods, the center has a small lake, an outdoor swimming pool, a labyrinth and ample walking space. Generally, there are 30 rooms (58 beds) available for groups; 10 rooms are reserved for individual retreatants. For individuals making a retreat of five days or longer, two hermitages are available. Meals are served in a dining room that adjoins the retirement center of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame have a long history at Chatawa, dating to 1874. After running a boarding school there for 100 years, the sisters converted part of the school into their retirement center in 1977. They established the retreat center in the original church and convent in 1989. The nearness of the retirement community provides a supportive and prayerful presence for all who come to the center. Visitors are welcome to join the sisters in the chapel for daily liturgy. Members of any religious affiliation are welcome at the center. Groups must be affiliated with some identifiable non-profit organization. After making reservations, the group organizes its own retreat or program in accordance with schedules and directives from the retreat center. Annually the center sponsors a summer conference retreat, a women’s retreat, a married couples retreat, an encenence retreat, a women’s retreat, a married couples retreat, an

Sponsoring a retreat is easy. The center is a one-story building with 30 rooms and a small reading library.