Weekend, Directed and Conference Retreats
Accommodations: 23 to 26 Retreatants
Cost: $100 for Weekend; $450 for Week (check payable to Sisters of Mercy)
Dates: March 23 to 25, June 2 to 9, June 9 to 16, June 16 to 23,
September 8 to 15, September 15 to 22

LENTEN RETREAT WEEKEND
March 23 to 25, 2018
Virtual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
This weekend will guide participants on a virtual pilgrimage to the land where Jesus lived and preached his Gospel in word and deed. Background on the history, culture and geography of the Holy Land will enhance ongoing readings from texts that appear in the Bible, daily liturgical readings and our life of prayer. The weekend will include prayer services, optional discussions, and slides that are relevant to the pilgrimage. This pilgrimage will be supportive to your prayer as Holy Week unfolds.

Judith Schubert, RSM
Judith, a professor of theology at Georgian Court University, teaches Bible to both graduate and undergraduate students. She has guided many retreat pilgrimages to the Holy Land and is a distinguished author in her field.

Kathleen McAlpin, RSM
Kathleen teaches spirituality and formation of spiritual directors at Neumann and Creighton universities as well as at Cranaleith Spiritual Center. She has guided several pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

Personal perspectives on this retreat:

“I have always wanted to visit the Holy Land but never had the opportunity. The weekend pilgrimage helped me to actually pray at the holy sites and reflect on the life and mission of Jesus, a powerful experience.” ~ Carmela Sandusky, RSM

“A new dimension of praying and studying the scriptures is added when you visually explore the Holy Land with experienced and knowledgeable guides. Learning about the daily life of Jesus in the context of His historical reality continues to make scripture passages more vivid for me.” ~ Maureen Jessnik, RSM
LENTEN RETREAT WEEKEND
Registration Form
Sisters of Mercy Retreat House
Sea Isle City, New Jersey

Name ___________________________________   Phone____________________
Address ___________________________________________________________
Email ____________________________________

Retreat Accommodation Choices:

1st choice: Trocaire  __________ First floor ______ Second floor _______

2nd choice: Duplex   First Floor  __________Second Floor: _____________

Any health considerations that affect your choice of room assignment:
________________________________________________________________

Any dietary needs? ________________________________________________

We request that retreat registrations be sent to the address below by January 31.

Please send the retreat registration to:

Ann Quigley, RSM
Sisters of Mercy Convent
515 Montgomery Avenue
Merion, PA 19066

Once your registration is confirmed, please send the retreat fee of $100 to:

Anne Woodeshick, RSM
Annunciation BVM Convent
423 Brookline Boulevard
Havertown, PA 19083
JUNE 2018 RETREATS
June 2 to 9 Directed Retreat

John Collins, CSSR
John Collins is a Redemptorist priest whose ministerial background includes parish and retreat work, spiritual direction and counseling/psychotherapy, and pastoral work in health care and higher education. John has a long association with the mission and values of the Sisters of Mercy through his many years of service as chaplain at Gwynedd Mercy University and as a guest celebrant at community liturgies. John is currently on the staff of San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, New Jersey.

Margaret Galiardi, OP
Margaret Galiardi is a Dominican Sister from Amityville, New York, whose passion is the contemplative integration of justice and peace for people and the planet. She is a spiritual director and workshop and retreat leader who has lectured nationally on the New Cosmology and the Christian Story. Margaret spent a year living with the Trappistines in their monastery on the Lost Coast of Northern California in the Redwood Forest.

In addition to her bio, since Margaret has never directed a retreat for this community before, we offer you this brief personal perspective about her by one of our sisters:

“Over these 50+ years as a Sister of Mercy I have had a variety of retreat experiences, including directed retreats. Last year, as I was looking for a retreat I decided to make a directed retreat. I found a place with several directors, none of whom I knew. I signed up and was assigned Margaret Galiardi, OP. It turned out to be a total gift. Margaret was an expert director for me, meeting me where I was and accompanying me through a graced experience. I wish such a blessing for you!”

Kathleen Gannon, OSF
Kathleen Gannon has ministered as a spiritual director for many years, initially companioning women in formation in her congregation. Trained as a spiritual director in Guelph, Canada, and immersed in continued education and training in the Spiritual Exercises through the lens of Franciscan spirituality in Cincinnati, Ohio, Kathleen has been invited to various places in the United States as a retreat director. For more than 15 years at the School of Applied Theology, in Berkeley, California, Kathleen had the privilege of being a spiritual director and retreat director for women and men from around the world. Presently Kathleen is in Philadelphia and continues to minister as a spiritual director. She also ministers as a massage therapist in her Congregation’s retirement home.

Liz Sweeney, SSJ
Liz Sweeney, a Sister of St. Joseph of Philadelphia, serves as a spiritual director, retreat leader, and facilitator of consciousness transformation groups. Presently Liz ministers as a spiritual director for individuals and groups at Jesus House in Wilmington, Delaware. In recent years she has also been sharing her experience and passion for contemplative dialogue and transformational processes among congregations of women religious (including the Sisters of Mercy) and LCWR.
June 9 to 16 Guided Retreat
Bearing Witness to the Holy
To bear witness is to point by one’s very existence to the presence of the Holy among us. In this guided retreat, we’ll be invited to remember the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us and to reflect on our own lives as manifesting the Holy in a world that is both beautiful and broken. We’ll cultivate contemplative consciousness as we hold in our hearts and in prayer all that our world loves, pursues, and suffers. The retreat will include prayer and ritual, the arts, conferences, reflection material, times of stillness and optional sharing.

Personal perspective on this retreat:

“Bearing Witness to the Holy was the retreat I had waited for over a lifetime. Whether I think of it as a retreat where I found the Holy in myself, or found myself within the Holy, the retreat was an experience of the incarnated Holy that I could trust as never before. Through imagery, poetry, and interior colloquy I was immersed in reflection the entire time. Joyful retreatants were everywhere.”

~Rosalie Carven, CSJ

Chris Koellhoffer, IHM
Chris Koellhoffer, a Sister, Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Scranton, Pennsylvania), is a writer, presenter, and spiritual guide. She has ministered in IHM leadership as councilor for spiritual development and director of peace and justice. A long-time contributor to Living Faith, Chris is a writer and poet whose reflections and poetry have appeared in numerous publications, including Review for Religious, Living with Christ, Journey, Alive Now, Living Mercy, and LCWR Occasional Papers. She has served for many years as a spiritual director and retreat director.

“A retreat experience with Chris is a pleasant mix of silence and conversation, art and music, scripture and theology. I left our retreat refreshed, recharged and re-souled for the days ahead.”

~Jane Snyder, IHM
June 16 to 23 Directed Retreat
Gerry Blaszczak, SJ
Gerry Blaszczak, a member of the Society of Jesus, is co-director of the Spiritual Direction Training Program at Fairfield University. Gerry previously served as chaplain and vice president for mission and identity at both Fairfield and Fordham University. A scripture scholar, Gerry has been on the faculty of Le Moyne College, Fordham University and Hekima College, Nairobi, Kenya. He has served his community as a novice director, superior of the community, and secretary for the service of faith at the Jesuit General Headquarters in Rome. Gerry has also served in parish settings in both Manhattan, New York, and Raleigh, North Carolina.

In addition to his bio, since Gerry has never directed a retreat for this community before, we offer you these brief personal perspectives about him:

“A citizen of the world himself, [Gerry] is known and admired by all for his personal and kenotic approach to ministry, as well as for his work in uniting Christians, Muslims, and Jewish persons.” ~William Van Ornum, America magazine

“Gerry is a wonderful person, a fine spiritual director and great director of the Directed Retreat.” ~Karen Doyle, SSJ

Margaret Ellen Burke, SC
Margaret Ellen Burke, SC, is a New York Sister of Charity. Margaret has been training and supervising spiritual directors for over 25 years as well as giving retreats (directed, guided, preached) in the United States and Canada. As co-founder and director of the Center of Renewal and Education she focuses on the formation and spiritual development of lay leaders in the upper counties of the New York Archdiocese. Her background also includes years of chaplaincy to the terminally ill. Hiking is one of her favorite pastimes and she is rarely seen without her camera. She presently resides at the organic farm of the Sisters of Charity in Dutchess County, New York.

Mary Carboy, SSJ
Mary Carboy, a Sister of St. Joseph of Philadelphia, is currently in full-time ministry as a spiritual/retreat director at St. Raphaella Center, Haverford, Pennsylvania. Her ministry includes week-long directed and guided retreats, weekend retreats and days of recollection. Mary has also served her religious community as novice director and area delegate.

June 16 to 23 Private Retreat
A private retreat is offered in June. There are six available spaces.
SEPTEMBER 2018 RETREATS
September 8 to 15 Solitude Retreat

In the morning, long before dawn, [Jesus] got up and left the house and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. (Mark 1:35)

We have one solid comfort amidst this little tripping about, our hearts can always be in the same place, centered in God, for who alone we go forward or stay back. On, may God look on us with love and pity and then we shall be able to do anything He wishes us to do, no matter how difficult to accomplish or painful to our feelings. (Letters, p. 273)

This retreat invites you to come apart to contemplate the presence of God in your life, the beauty of nature, the wisdom of scripture, the needs of the world and whatever God’s spirit inspires in your heart. We trust that in this spacious solitude all your spiritual needs will be tended to by the Providence of God.

An optional communal centering prayer experience will be offered in the evening.

This is the first time we have done this and will evaluate it for future use.
September 15 to 22
Mercy in Scripture: “We celebrate the color, shape and mystery of Mercy.”
(The quoted text in the title of the retreat comes from Mary Wickham, RSM’s Litany of Mercy)
The retreat will be a contemplative reflection on Mercy to which we are invited by the sacred writings of Jews (Hebrew Bible), Christians (New Testament), Muslims (Koran), Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs. This contemplative reflection is mirrored in the companions of mercy ((truth, justice and peace) and calls us to mercying in our lives, personally and communally.

Personal perspectives on this retreat:

“The knowledge and understanding that Sister Elizabeth Davis brings to Scripture is vast and profound. She artfully relates the God of Mercy revealed in Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament to the way of being and doing Mercy in our world – to use Pope Francis’ word - the way of ‘mercy-ing’. Sister Elizabeth’s presentation is vivid, insightful, and clear. Her exquisite visuals and clear verbal references, her gracious discussion of questions, her sense of contemporary needs, and her easy references to literature all make for a rich contemplative retreat.”

~Judy Carle, RSM

“Elizabeth Davis’s presentation of Mercy in the Scriptures provided a profound and wonderful insight into how Mercy has been present as a work of God from the very beginning of time. She eloquently wove this deep reflection of Mercy through the Old and New Testaments and other sacred writings of world religions. The mystery of the Mercy of God became very alive for me through this retreat experience—which I never wanted to end.”

~Marybeth Beretta, RSM

Elizabeth Davis, RSM
Elizabeth Davis is the leader of the Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland and Labrador. Currently pursuing doctoral studies in the Bible at the University of Toronto, Sister Elizabeth is a part-time lecturer at Queen’s College at Memorial University in St. John’s. She is a member of the Canadian Biblical Association. Elizabeth has given similar programs on mercy in scripture in Canada, USA, Latin America, England, and Ireland. She is a frequent presenter at Mercy International.
JUNE AND SEPTEMBER RETREATS
Registration Form
Sisters of Mercy Retreat House
Sea Isle City, New Jersey

Name ___________________________________   Phone____________________
Address __________________________________________________________________
Email ____________________________________

Retreat Choice:
1\textsuperscript{st} date: ________________ Director/Presenter/Solitude: ________________
2\textsuperscript{nd} date: ________________ Director/Presenter/Solitude: ________________

Please note that retreats that are oversubscribed will be handled by lottery. We ask that your registration be sent to the address below by January 31. All registrations will be opened at that time. Your retreat confirmation will be emailed to you.

Retreat Accommodation Choices:

1\textsuperscript{st} choice: Trocaire ________ First Floor_________ Second Floor____________

2\textsuperscript{nd} choice: Duplex  First Floor ______________ Second Floor: ________________
(First Floor Duplexes are not available during directed retreats.)

Any health considerations that affect your choice of room assignment:
________________________________________________________________

Any dietary needs? ________________________________________________

Massage therapists will be available during directed retreats only. Are you interested in a massage? (Check one) □ Yes □ No

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Merion, Pennsylvania 19066

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