

This is what HE taught them:

"How HAPPY ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven!

HAPPY THE GENTLE:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

HAPPY THOSE WHO MOURN:

they shall be comforted.

HAPPY THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR WHAT IS RIGHT:

they shall be satisfied.

"HAPPY THE MERCIFUL:

they shall have mercy shown them.

HAPPY THE PURE IN HEART:

they shall see God.

HAPPY THE PEACEMAKERS:

they shall be called sons and daughters of God.

HAPPY THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED IN THE CAUSE OF RIGHT:

theirs is the kingdom of God.

"HAPPY ARE YOU WHEN PEOPLE ABUSE YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU AND SPEAK ALL KINDS OF CALUMNY AGAINST YOU ON MY ACCOUNT. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.



prayer starter...

saints pick — up here



You're Invited



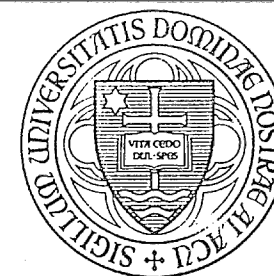
A RETREAT EXPERIENCE
DIRECTED BY
STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF

WHEN: October 9-11, 1987
November 20-22, 1987
January 22-24, 1988
March 25-27, 1988

CONTACT: Campus Ministry Office
(Badin Hall) 239-5242

SIGN UP
DEADLINE: November 6

COST: \$15.00



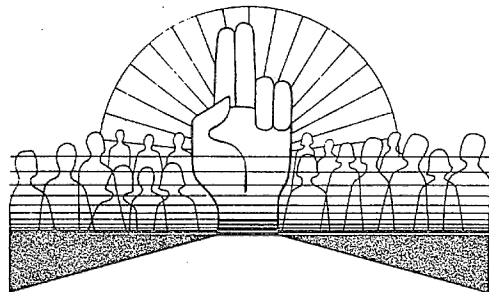
Notre Dame Religious Bulletin

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ALL SAINTS DAY



Come to me,
my happy saints.



THE SOLITUDE OF ST. JOSEPH

Brother John Kuhn, CSC

The existence of the Solitude of St. Joseph is probably one of the best kept secrets on the Notre Dame campus. Visitors looking for the Solitude will sometimes be told by the security guard at the main gate that he's never heard of it, and on weekends of home football games visitors come knocking at our door thinking they have found St. Joseph or Holy Cross Hall. Even though an article about the Solitude appeared in the RB of October 1984, the time has come to reacquaint the campus community with our existence and our purpose.

Located on the west end of the Notre Dame campus on the slight hill between St. Joseph and St. Mary's Lakes, The Solitude is located across the road from the grotto in the building at the east end of Columba Hall. As a ministry of the Brothers of HolyCross, it was established six years ago to provide a place of silence and solitude in which to pray and reflect, receive spiritual direction, or make a retreat. In a sense it was a very appropriate use of the building because the Notre Dame founders first designated this site as a place of retreat and spiritual formation for the Holy Cross Community and in 1844 had established the Brothers' novitiate there.

As a place of silence, the Solitude of St. Joseph strives to provide an environment where one can withdraw from the noise and distractions of daily work, listen to one's thoughts, make contact with one's inner being, examine one's life, and seek further communion in prayer with the Creator. Regardless of one's profession or status in life, each of us needs to take some time periodically to reflect and listen deeply to our interior questions, dreams, concerns, feelings, and urgings. Time away from our regular environment often creates an open space to see the events, people, and experiences of life in a new perspective. Whatever the nature of our personal journey through life, the Solitude provides that space to meet God and for God to meet us in a very personal and transforming manner. The time and frequency we allow ourselves for this experience can vary. For some it may be one day a month or a couple of weekends throughout the year. Others might wish to set aside a week or more each year to step aside and integrate what is happening in their lives and listen to the Lord's personal call to them. For many persons the time of retreat is spent alone. Others might prefer a daily meeting with an experienced director to assist in reflecting upon one's life and recognizing the hand of God in daily living experience. Whatever one's preference, the Solitude can accommodate individual needs. For those who wish to stay overnight or for an extended period of time, private guest rooms are available. Unlike similar places, there are no prepared meals at fixed times in the Solitude. Rather guests prepare their own meals from food provided.

Besides providing a place of silence for prayer and retreat, experienced directors make themselves available to persons seeking ongoing spiritual direction. Many find this ancient Christian practice of meeting with director on a regular basis very helpful to their spiritual growth.

Through this process a person chooses to share significant aspects of life's journey: the ups and downs, the questions and possible solutions, one's joys and sorrows, and the unending surprises of God's action in one's life.

Before leaving each one is asked to give an evaluation of the time spent at the solitude. One recent ND student noted: "The Solitude had a singular influence on my experience at Notre Dame. More than any other, it provided time and space to write, to listen and to learn to pray." In another reflection a graduate wrote: "The best part about the Solitude is leaving the RA duties and lifestyle and finding a hermitage as an over-committed, impatient senior."

In the Notre Dame Prayerbook for Students, Day by Day, there is a reflection by Thomas

Merton titled "The Road Ahead" It sums up a dilemma that is common to all, viz., that of facing an uncertain future, of being pulled at one time toward the spiritual and at another time toward the material, of willing one thing and doing another, and of trying to find God who is guide and comforter on life's journey. But to find one must first search. It is by providing the space and help needed to make this search that the Solitude of St. Joseph exists to minister to the Notre Dame Community.

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Further information about the Solitude can be obtained by calling 239-5655. Reservations to stay at the Solitude should be made several days in advance.

