



Augustine Center

“A Haven for Your Heart”

*A Retreat House
for Education,
Ongoing Formation, or
Spirituality*

April 2019

Volume 33, Number I

Dear Friends of the Augustine Center,

The Catholic Church teaches that divine revelation was completed in Christ, but that our understanding of this revelation is made clearer over time. One way in which this happens is when God gives insights to those who are close to Him, e.g., the saints. St. Catherine of Genoa (1447-1510) attained insight—from her mystical experience of God—into the role of Purgatory. Here is a compilation of some excerpts from St. Catherine’s writings:

“As for paradise, God has placed no doors there. Whoever wishes to enter, does so. All-merciful God stands there with His arms open, waiting to receive us into His glory. I also see, however, that the divine essence is so pure and light-filled—much more than we can imagine—that the soul that has but the slightest imperfection would rather throw itself into a thousand hells than appear thus before the Divine Presence. Tongue cannot express nor heart understand the full meaning of purgatory, which the soul willingly accepts as a mercy, the realization that that suffering is of no importance compared to the removal of the impediment of sin...The soul in its creation is pure and simple, free from all stain, and endowed with a certain instinct for God. Original sin weakens that instinct...actual sin weighs down the soul still more...Once separated from the body, the soul, no longer in that original state of purity, aware that the impediment it faces cannot be removed in any other way, hurls itself into purgatory...The greatest suffering of the souls of purgatory, it seems to me, is their awareness that...they have deliberately gone against His great goodness...And I see rays of lightning darting from that divine love to the creature, so intense and fiery as to annihilate not the body alone but, were it possible, the soul. These rays purify...The soul becomes like gold that becomes purer as it is fired, all dross being cast out...What is obliterated and cast out is not the soul, one with God, but the lesser self. Having come to the point of twenty-four carats, gold cannot be purified any further; and this is what happens to the soul in the fire of God’s love.”

God Bless You,
Adam C. Chittle—Director

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Augustine Center
P.O. Box 84

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PATRON MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2018-2019

To ensure being able to meet operational costs and enhance the endowment fund, we are continuing the Patrons donation program. If you feel God is prompting you to support the Center, please select the corresponding gift level below. Checks may be written for the Augustine Center and mailed to:

Augustine Center, P.O. Box 84, Conway, MI 49722-0084

(We) would like to become a(n): Patron with a gift of \$ _____ (from \$1-\$249)

Patron Angel with a gift of \$ _____ (from \$250-\$499)

Patron Saint with a gift of \$ _____ (from \$500-\$999)

Archangel with a gift of \$ _____ (from \$1,000.00 or more)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

(Unless you indicate otherwise, the Center will assume you are amenable to any potential, written, public recognition of your support.)

Calendar of Events

Check the website for available event registration forms; Click on the tab for “Retreat Opportunities”

Website: augustinecenter.weebly.com

Facebook Page: facebook.com/augustinecenterpetoskey

April

- 5-7 Meditative Retreat
- 10 DCCW Day of Recollection for Women
- Rev. Libby & Rev. Nursey
- To inquire: augustinecenter@gmail.com
- 12-14 Spring Spirituality Retreat with Br. Michael Whitman
- To inquire: 989.732.5147 x 3539
- 30 Celebration of Office Ministry with Lori Mercer & Katie Moe
- To inquire: augustinecenter@gmail.com

May

- 2/3-5 Total Silence Retreat for Women
- To inquire: augustinecenter@gmail.com
- 6-10 Diocese of Gaylord Priests' Retreat
- 17-19 Catholic Men's Silent Retreat
- Rev. Ray Cotter
- To inquire: augustinecenter@gmail.com

June

- 9-15 ICON Writing Retreat
- Chris Herald, OP
- To inquire: 231.436.5561
- 16-21 Journey Into Silence 6-Day Retreat
- Diane Zerfas, OP
- To inquire call Emily at: 616.514.3325

- 24-25 Diocese of Gaylord Jubilee Celebrations
- 27-30 Catholic Cross Bearers Motorcycle Min.

July

- 8-15 Spiritual Director Retreat
- 19-21 Women's Silent Ignatian Retreat
- Priests of the *Miles Christi* order
- To inquire call John at: 248.596.9677
- 23-25 D.O.G. Seminarian Retreat

August

- 1-2 D.O.G. Catechetical Leaders Retreat
- 7-9 Diocese of Lansing Seminarians
- 10-11 D.O.G. Pre-Marriage Retreat
- Seth & Amy Peters
- To inquire: 989.732.5147 x 3539
- 16-18 World Wide Marriage Encounter
- To inquire: 616.514.3325
- 23-25 Men's Silent Ignatian Retreat
- Priests of the *Miles Christi* order
- To inquire call John at: 248.596.9677

September

- 6-8 Rachel's Vineyard Retreat
- Kristyn Lent
- To inquire: klent@charter.net

- 13-15 Women for Freedom Retreat (based on AA principles)
- Charmaine Guerriero
- To inquire: cguerriero1@comcast.net
- 20-22 Saginaw Laymen's Retreat
- 28-30 St. Francis TC Boys Kairos

October

- 4-6 Diaconate Retreat
- 11-13 Charismatic Retreat
- Helen Clark
- To inquire: 231.846.1438
- 18-20 DCCW Silent Retreat for Women
- Rev. James Bearss
- To inquire: augustinecenter@gmail.com
- 22-24 LARC Retreat (Lutheran/Anglican/Cath.)
- Rev. Elizabeth Chace
- To inquire: 989.348.5850
- 25-27 Shalom Silent Guided Retreat

November

- 1-3 Meditative Retreat
- 9 Teams of Our Lady Retreat

December

- 6-7 Team Cursillo

Entertaining Angels Capital Campaign Final Summary

Thank you so very much to all those who were able to respond financially and/or in prayer to the capital campaign. Through you, the Lord saw fit to provide the Center with \$288,393.50 over those three years. Your gifts have accomplished the following:

- ~29,400 sq. ft. of new roofing
- Remodeling of Chaplain's apt., Augustine Lounge, Siena Hall, Donovan Lounge, walk-in cooler & bedrooms in first floor apt.
- Re-tubing of older boiler
- Purchase of gas controller for re-tubed boiler
- Electrical service relocation from roof-top entry to side of building to permanently avoid future potential problems associated with roof leaks
- Wide spread installation of LED retro-fit lighting
- Ceiling repairs due to water damage from previous roof leaks
- Four 100 gallon hot-water tanks to replace the over-sized ~2,000 gallon hot-water tank
- New double-pane windows in Chapel
- And more

Total expenditures: \$290,210.46

If any of you feel inspired to continue your giving, please know that your generosity would find expression in our ongoing projects. For instance, although we purchased a gas controller for the newly re-tubed boiler, it is not yet installed. Also, there are two small areas of the roof waiting to be replaced. With this 60 year old building, there seems to be no lack of repairs and updates that yearn for completion. If you can continue your generosity, please use the contribution form on the other side of this panel.