

Notre Dame Retreat House  
Canandaigua, NY  
2012 Theme

## "Fountains of Living Water for Thirsting Catholics."

My favorite subject in school was recess. We would go out to the playground in our school uniforms and run around all over the place. When the bell rang for the end of recess, we would be hot and sweaty. Our ties would be crooked and our shirt tails would be hanging out. Sister would tell us that before we could get a drink, we had to straighten ourselves out. That meant fix your tie and tuck in your shirt. We would do this quickly because, as we say in Baltimore, "we was dying of thirst." We would get in line for the water fountain and once we got to it we would drink and drink that water. It did not matter that the water was warm, we just wanted it. The guys in back would be pushing and yelling to hurry up. Then we would hear sister say that is enough. I have to say that the water tasted so good.

Many Catholics, my brothers and sisters, are thirsting. They are thirsting not for water from an ordinary fountain. They are thirsting for water that can refresh not only their bodies but their souls. They are thirsting for water that can strengthen them to become true followers of Jesus. In the gospel, we recall the story of Jesus and the woman at the well. She comes to get water to drink and Jesus tells her that he can give her water so that she will never be thirsty again. She right away asks Jesus for that water. Do you want that same life giving water? I know you do! So, come all of you who are thirsty and drink from the fountain of life.

I believe that one special place that you can drink from Jesus' life giving fountain is here at Notre Dame Retreat House. I am offering you a personal invitation to come and satisfy your thirst with a weekend retreat. Why not come and drink from the fountain of living water.

I have been speaking of fountains and water because our theme for this year centers around these things.

Our conferences will center around four very special fountains.

- Conference #1 - Fountain of Trust by Fr. Paul
- Conference #2 - Fountain of the Cross by Fr. Tom
- Conference #3 - Fountain of Forgiveness by Sr. Carole
- Conference #4 - Fountain of Hope by Fr. Mike

I hope you will join us to drink from these fountains of living water. I look forward to seeing all of you in the coming year. May Jesus, our most holy redeemer, and Mary, our mother of perpetual help, watch over and bless your families. *Fr. Mike*, C.Ss.R

**"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst".**

*John 4:13-14*

