

## Counting Her Blessings

Sofya Palagashvili, accountant at the Retreat Center for almost nine years, retired at the end of August.



Sofya Palagashvili

Born in Baku, the historic capital of Azerbaijan, after graduating from the Azerbaijan State University she worked in a trading company for a number of years. She and her family immigrated to the United States in 1992, settling in neighboring Mountain View.

Upon her arrival in California, Sofya attended Foothill College, taking courses in English and bookkeeping. She began her work on the staff of the JRC in October, 1998. In conversation with Evangelina Preciado during August, Sofya spoke of her enjoyment of her years with the Retreat Center: "This is a wonderful place to work. I've met lovely people and have a lot of friends here. I've learned much and have done my best for JRC."

Sofya was looking forward to having, in retirement, more freedom to care for her elderly mother and more time to spend with the rest of her family, especially her beloved grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers go with her.

## St. Joseph's Corner

Caring for the maintenance of ten buildings and nearly 38 acres of land keeps our superb maintenance staff more than busy year after year. This past summer has been no exception. The team (with a little help from a contractor or two) has continued, in the humble and practical tradition of St. Joseph, their exemplary care for the plant and for the safety and comfort of our retreatants and other guests.

The settling of the walk leading up to the dining room entrance to Pereira continued, leaving a dangerous lip just at the arched entry in early August. A broad section of the walk was removed and a new, appropriately sloped, concrete approach was poured. Safety issues such as this one do seem to have a way of surfacing just when the crew thinks it can relax.

The summer's work has included extending a new irrigation line from the valves at the main gate, not far from the statue of the Sacred Heart, down to the lower property. This line allows for watering the trees along the entrance road and will serve a new nursery, just completed inside the lower gate. Jose Amaral, who tends our gardens so lovingly, looks forward to giving many a plant and tree a good and healthy start in that facility.

We have invested quite a few hours in clearing our acreage on O'Keefe Lane, between Purisima and Adobe Creeks. This small parcel, not directly accessible from our main campus, had been, for decades, fenced without benefit of a gate. Damage to the fence caused by a falling tree gave us occasion to repair the fence, add a gate, and tame what had become primeval forest—and home to some unwelcome fauna. We were delighted to open up a lovely, sylvan setting, and we hope to put it to good use.

The exterior of Loyola Hall is newly painted. Leo Mitrovich, Chief Plant Engineer, insists that this is the first time that the exterior of Loyola has been painted in his 17 year tenure. The south porch of Loyola had been settling at an alarming rate and was listing more than uncomfortably. Structural engineers and a local contractor are working together to raise the porch to its original position and to provide safe and reliable support, a strong foundation of concrete piers eleven feet deep and secure structural steel framing.



PICO Group, 2007

Please see the article "Supporting National Outreach" on page 2.

## The Mustard Seed

### An update on JRC financial development

*"The mustard seed is the smallest of all, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants, becoming so big a shrub that the birds of the sky come and build their nests in the branches." Mt 13:32*

**Gifts:** Since June 1, friends of the Jesuit Retreat Center have donated \$14,233 to our general fund. We received \$1,220 in scholarship donations, \$500 for the Pierre Favre Program, and \$1,000 in restricted gifts.

**Annual Appeal:** Since June 1, 2007, we have received \$250 towards the Annual Appeal, which brings the season's Annual Appeal total to \$70,445.

**Trusts:** In July, **The Marini Family Trust** gave \$16,000 for the re-roofing of and installation of a new gutter and downspout system for Loyola Hall.

**On-line Bookstore:** Please access amazon.com through the JRC bookstore on-line, so that the JRC will receive a percentage of your purchases of books, CDs, electronics, and toys.

**Estate Planning:** **Steve Welch**, Certified Financial Planner and JRC benefactor, can consult with our friends who are interested in discussing their charitable goals. Tax laws offer opportunity for wealth protection and advantageous estate transfer. In concert with your tax adviser and estate planning attorney, Steve can help you identify what you might achieve by including the Jesuit Retreat Center in your family's estate plan. You may talk with Steve confidentially and without obligation at **650-948-4141**.

*Our generous benefactors are remembered daily and gratefully in our Masses and prayers.*

## A Renewing Summer



Fr. Tom Carroll, S.J.

As I write, in early August, we are hosting eighty Jesuits for our annual Province Retreat. Most are making the retreat. Eleven, along with two religious sisters, are directors, and we are privileged to have Archbishop John Quinn (who ordained a number of us) with us to give a talk setting each day's theme. The Archbishop

has chosen to weave together elements from the Gospel of John and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, and his insightful and eloquent talks have been inspiring, enriching our prayer together.

This retreat brings to a close our summer season, which has been notably rewarding. Our second Province Partners' Retreat in June brought together up to six colleagues from each of the ministries of the Province, along with a diverse team of lay and Jesuit presenters, directors, and liturgical musicians. The theme, *Find Us Ready, Lord*, invited our growth together in freedom for sharing ministry.

For five days, we followed the pattern of the Exercises and the Gospels, accompanying Jesus in discipleship. The final or "Fourth Week" talk, inviting our encounter with the Risen Jesus, was presented by two gang members from Fr. Greg Boyle's Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, both of whom had made retreats here. The engaging story of their journey from enmity in rival gangs into collaboration at Homeboy and, finally, into compassion for and friendship with each other provided us with a deeply moving witness to Resurrection hope.

I am most grateful to Radmar Jao, a talented and generous Jesuit scholastic, who, working with Leelamma Sebastian and me over the course of many months, organized the many complex details that facilitated this powerful retreat. I am grateful, as well, to the presenters and directors who shared five days of their summer breaks in order to accompany and guide their colleagues. Such experiences of prayer in companionship are essential sustenance for our effective and joyful sharing of ministry.

## Supporting National Outreach

Again this summer, the Retreat Center hosted the Pacific Institute for Community Organizations (PICO) for its annual training retreat. PICO, now a national network, was founded in 1972 under the leadership of Father John Baumann, S.J. It began as a training institute to help support neighborhood organizations in California, bringing together congregations of all denominations and faiths to serve as the institutional base for community organizing. Today PICO has 50 affiliated federations working in 150 cities and 17 states, including one thousand congregations from 50 denominations, and assists more than one million families.



## A Renewing Tradition

For nearly the first fifty years of its history, the Jesuit Retreat Center sustained an almost unchanging tradition. Men gathered here on Thursday evenings for a long weekend packed with inspiring words and familiar devotions. The Jesuit Fathers gave eleven talks in three days, preaching from a small desk in Rossi Chapel. The time between talks was filled with celebrations of Masses and Benediction, group recitations of the Rosary, walking the Stations of the Cross, and, of course, individual confessions. Retreats ended late on Sunday with the Captains "working the crowd" to secure from the men donations to cover the cost of their retreat weekend.

During the 1960's, renewed study of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and the completion of the Second Vatican Council set in motion currents that would affect the Retreat Center. By the 1970's, women were welcome and the Council's encouragement of ecumenical outreach led many non-Catholics to seek spiritual nourishment here. As Jesuits rediscovered Ignatius's concept of the Spiritual Exercises as an individually-directed encounter with the Lord in prayer, we integrated that insight into our own programs, notably through the addition of Personal Conferences to each retreat. The demanding pace of contemporary life led to our shortening the retreats, starting each a day later and finishing earlier on Sunday, and economic realities led to our opening our doors for the first weekday programs.

We continue to build on the rich and versatile Ignatian tradition, as each issue of the JRC News indicates, to meet the needs of our times. Emphasis on personal encounter with the Lord in prayer has led us to a new balance, offering our retreatants more time for their own contemplation, rather than filling the day with input and activities. Awareness that we are all companions on the spiritual journey has led us to incorporate in some retreats more opportunity for sharing one another's faith-histories. We may have lost the comfort of predictability, but we have grown, as a community of retreatants, in openness to the whole range of the Spirit's dynamic work among us.

I gather, by the way, that the meals here used to be rather predictable, as well, but the old-timers don't recall that as a comfort!

We can't meet all the expectations of some of our retreatants. We can and do invite you, in each time of retreat, to go in silence into that very privileged dwelling place of God, your own hearts. There the gentle voice of the Spirit calls each of us into that loved and loving union with God in Christ which is our deepest desire.

## All Souls Remembrance

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die"*  
~ Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

In November, the month of All Souls, the Jesuit Community at the Retreat Center shares with the Church throughout the world in remembering at Mass the faithful departed. For Catholics, one of the most meaningful ways of dealing with loss and grief is to recall our deceased loved ones in our prayer and particularly at the Eucharist, trusting that they now live in the embrace of the Risen Lord. In November, then, we will again call to mind and hold in prayer the departed we have known, members of our JRC family and our relatives and friends.

We invite you to join us in observing this tradition by sending us, in the envelope enclosed, the names of those you would like to include in this prayerful remembrance. We will gather these envelopes at the altar of Rossi Chapel and pray for all these people in each November celebration Eucharist.

*Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who believes in me will never die."*  
~ John 11: 25-26

## Upcoming Retreats & Events

9/28	Scripture & Saints & the Spiritual Exercises
10/5-7	On Pilgrimage with Ignatius
10/12-14	Do Right, Love Goodness, Walk Humbly with God
10/20	The Rise and Fall of the Kingdom of Israel
10/26-28	The Gift of Marriage
11/9-11	Where Are the Other Nine?
11/9-11	Home Safe! Home Free!
11/23-25	Gratitude Changes Lives in Practical Ways
11/30-12/2	Walking on the Water
12/5	To See the World through God's Eyes
12/7-9	The Gift of Awareness
12/12-16	Silent, Individually-Directed Retreat

For more information about these retreats and for a full listing of the 2007-2008 Jesuit Retreat Center schedule, please visit our website at [www.jrclosaltos.org](http://www.jrclosaltos.org)

## In Memoriam

Laverne "Lee" Beres	Sr. Mary Marius Mei, B.V.M.
Duane L. Billiet	Caterina Maria Molinari
James A. Carpeneti, Jr.	Marie J. Mullen
Carol Ellison	Mildred M. Murphy
Patricia Ruth Franza	Leonard and Mary Ann Musil
Cheryl Gibbs	Francis Harold O'Leary
Barbara Bressani Hansen	Angelina Petri
Kent M. Haws	Rev. David C. Schwartz
Rev. Thomas P. Higgins	David R. Steenhausen
Richard (Dick) Huston	Rev. Robert H. Taylor
Rev. Michael Keane	Br. Raymond W. Upton
Robert Paul Leonard	Rev. Edward V. Warren
Linda Lewis	Edith Marjorie Campbell Watters
John (Ozzie) F. Mahoney	Ralph H. Welter
Rev. Thomas J. Maloney	

*May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

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For more information about The Jesuit Retreat Center or to register, call 650-948-4491 or visit the website at [www.jrclosaltos.org](http://www.jrclosaltos.org)

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