

Jesuit Retreat Center

August 2024

Centennial Newsletter Series

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ANNOUNCES

A Walk-Through Time Series

We are pleased to announce that in honor of our 100th Anniversary the Jesuit Retreat Center Newsletter is making a comeback beginning with this Centennial Series.



By Pat Clough

With wing spans of six feet and featherless heads, turkey vultures often distract retreatants at The Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos. A dark name for graceful hunters, they are like drones, scanning the 44 acres of land and buildings reminding the humans that the out-of-doors is a place of retreat too. They beckon, swooping sometimes so close to the massive windows of the Gellert Rotunda, they catch your breath, and you can't look away. They've been there since 1925 along with the hawks and golden eagles as if they were curious and knew they were to be part of an unfolding story. The Jesuits had found a home for a retreat center almost one hundred years ago.

A century celebration began in April 2024 and culminates in March of 2025. We honor the visionaries, the lay leaders of a retreat movement born in 1899 who “grew a tiny seed into a mighty tree.” What are their stories? What did we learn of the land and its spiritual pathways waiting to be groomed, enticing us to prayer? One hundred years. We'll uncover the history of this holy place in a walk-through time series, decade by decade.



The Retreat Center is both a refuge and an anchor of tranquility today, rising from the hills above Los Altos, looking out over the vast landscape of bay and mountains to the north and the east and the south and the west. We discover it, if we're summoned in our hearts, to find deeper meaning in our lives, to meet St. Ignatius of Loyola and encounter his Spiritual Exercises. It is a spiritual homeland, spacious and welcoming. How did it evolve? Who were the people? What are their stories?

If you are reading this, you know of the Jesuit Retreat Center and perhaps have been there many times: clergy, spiritual directors, board members, donors, retreatants, all who know of the deeper treasures of the spiritual journey.

Pat Clough is a writer living in Palo Alto, CA. She is a second year student in the Pierre Favre program and a frequent retreatant at El Retiro. She is our guide through this journey in time at The Jesuit Retreat Center.

I We are already bonded so let us learn of the history together; how it survived a hundred years of global crises and retained its deep spiritual foothold on the mountain above Silicon Valley. Join us as we prepare for the grand centennial. Encounter the history of the people who had vision, and who were steeped in the legacy of St. Ignatius. They found a home and bequeathed it to us to carry it forward. It is our turn. But first, we need to know the story of this sacred gift.

Highlights from each decade will be center pieces of the series in a revival of the newsletter. Watch for them in your in box. Follow along as we move ever closer to the celebration of the century.

Upcoming Events

August 2024

Centennial Newsletter Series



The Spirituality of Caring for the Earth: Living Happily with Less

September 6-8, 2024

SERIES: Reading with an Ignatian Heart

September 16, 2024

SERIES: The Chosen - Season Three

September 17, 2024

12-Step Recovery Retreat for Women

October 11 - 13, 2024

Discerning God's Will for Your Retirement

October 11 - 13, 2024

Forgiveness and the Kingdom of God

October 11 - 13, 2024

FOR MORE EVENTS



Centennial Garden Blessing

Fundraising Event

October 27, 2024

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm