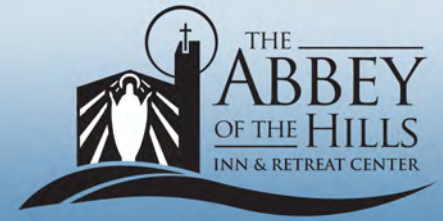


Newsletter

Fall 2024



News from the Director's Desk ...

Deacon Paul Treinen

Director

The Gift of Gratitude

I came across a quote from the book *WillPower Advantage* that caught my eye—and my heart. “Why is it so hard to be thankful sometimes? Being thankful is a choice; ultimately gratitude is a virtue that must be practiced. There are real challenges that make choosing to be thankful difficult. One challenge is...our pride.”

Yet, when I slow down and recognize that the greatest gifts of my life don't come from my prideful achievements, but rather from my Father in heaven, my heart swells with gratitude. Gratitude for my faith (wow!), for my family (again, wow!), and for my call to serve God and my neighbor...what richness is found in these gifts!

As we are heading into Fall and harvest time, I hope you take the time to slow down a wee bit to recognize your gifts—and from Whom they come from. I was on a recent retreat here at the Abbey and the leader stressed recognizing ‘who we are at our core: Beloved sons/daughters of our Father.’ Recognizing this takes prayer. Recognizing this leads to joy. Recognizing this leads to peace. If you find you are lacking these gifts, I invite you to come to the Abbey of the Hills. Come for a retreat—or simply for a short visit in our chapel or a walk amidst the pine-lined trails around our lakes.

Gratitude is virtue that must be practiced. All that do so find much peace.

Peace be with you!



5th Annual Fall Banquet Wednesday October 30, 2024

Author of the best-selling book, *"The Richest Man in Town"*, V.J. Smith of Brookings SD will be the Keynote Speaker at the banquet. The social begins at 6pm with dinner and speaker to follow. Please join us and invite your friends to join you!

To secure your reservation or help sponsor this event, visit our website www.abbeyofthehills.org or call the Abbey at 605-398-9200.

Special Events

October 30

Abbey Banquet

December 7 & 8

Christmas Cantata

Retreats

October 8 - Day of Reflection Dr.

Chris Burgwald

"Loving the Lord with
All of Your Life"

October 21-24

Wholeness in the Father's Love -
Women's Silent Retreat

October 25-27

Women's Healing Retreat

November 1-3

Women's Weekend of Silence

November 8-10

Men's 12-Step Retreat

November 12 - Day of Reflection

Deacon Mike McKeown

"Living our Charisms-
Building Up the Body of Christ"

November 14-17

Men's Ecclesia Domestica Retreat

November 22-24

Women's Fall Retreat

December 13 - Day of Reflection

Sister Teresa Wolf

"Human Trafficking in South
Dakota: Facts & Realities"

December 13-15

Mixed 12-Step Retreat

January 14 - Day of Reflection

Fr. Greg Tschakert

January 17-19

Marriage Retreat



Development News

Margaret Artz

Chief Development Officer

The Abbey is alive with activity, and I'm truly thankful to witness God's remarkable work here. Your prayers and financial support are vital in creating a space where people can rediscover peace. Thank you!

Here's a brief update on how your generosity is making a difference:

- The LP tank has been purchased and filled at the summer bulk rate, but the Abbey still needs \$35,000 to complete this Capital Campaign.
- New vestments for our Priests and Deacons arrived this week, and beautiful religious art is enhancing the Abbey's walls, much to the delight of the guests.
- Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, St. Zita's Laundry Room, equipped with commercial-sized machines and air conditioning, is a wonderful blessing for the Abbey's housekeeping staff.

The Abbey Board has recently learned that some urgent repairs are needed in the bell tower. Moisture has affected the interior bricks, and estimated repair costs are to be \$35,000. If you or someone you know might be interested in helping with this expense, please reach out to Deacon Paul or me. Additionally, the Abbey is still on the lookout for a reliable, used highway-safe pickup truck!

On a lighter note, the Abbey staff hopes to see many of you at the 5th Annual Fall Banquet! This celebratory event supports the Abbey's Gift of Peace campaign, enabling the Abbey to fulfill the mission of *fostering the rediscovery of peace* for all who visit. You can find more details in this newsletter and on the website.

On behalf of the Abbey staff and guests, thank you for your ongoing generosity and prayers. May God bless you and all your loved ones abundantly!



Event News

Renee Marzahn & Beth Motschenbacher

Event Coordinators



Hello! I'm Beth, and recently joined Renee as an Event Coordinator here at this beautiful Abbey. When was the last time you visited the Abbey of the Hills in Marvin, SD? If it's been a while, fall is a beautiful time to visit and explore our 100,000 square feet of history and experience the peace and tranquility of the Abbey's lakes and trails. Renee and I are also ready to plan your next meeting, retreat, gathering or Christmas party! Give us a call and let the planning begin.

Honorariums/Memorials

Honorariums: Bishop Donald DeGroot, Father Tony Hesse, Father Mike Kelly, Val Rausch, Deacon Paul Treinen, Lew & Joyce Vold, Father Mike Wensing

Memorials: Irvin & Veronica Adelman, Calvin Brown, Martha Hill, Father Paul Josten, Dean & Donna Mehlhaff, Norbert "Tip" Miles, Marty Moran, Donald Reiffenberger, Charley & Rita Tramonte

Each day Monday through Friday Abbey staff offer our heartfelt thanks and prayers for all the generous donations made in memory of loved ones, in honor of cherished individuals, and for the ongoing support of our faithful benefactors.

Guest Testimonials

"... I know the monks are all gone, but I feel their spirit of prayer when I am at the Abbey and I am grateful for that gift of peace."

"I recently attended the Women's Ignatian Silent retreat. As a convert to Catholicism I have always struggled with confession. It was the best part of my retreat experience! I felt such joy, peace, as well as God's GRACE and LOVE! THANK YOU for hosting these retreats. "



The Abbey is a **non-profit** organization that's sustained in part by the generosity of those who support the Abbey's mission and help *foster the rediscovery of peace*.

Please consider including the Abbey in your estate planning.



For more information about our events or to donate visit our website at www.abbeyofthehills.org or call Margaret Artz 605-398-9200.

