



Finding Jesus at San Damiano

September 2023 | 0002

A Diocesan Retreat Center

Many spirituality centers offer an experience that consists of libraries stocked with a wide barrage of self-help books, conferences on various eastern philosophies, and gift shops offering a varied assortment of "new-agey" paraphernalia — all together with a place to spend the night — like "slightly-spiritual Holiday Inns".

Sounder and safer options are offered by centers served and staffed by members of the Jesuit order or the Benedictine Brothers or Dominicans. Although there is a "Franciscan flair" at the Diocese of Arlington's San Damiano Retreat Center, our spirituality is "decidedly Diocesan."

Nearly half a million Northern Virginia Catholics are seeking Christ in parishes stretching from the 'burbs of Beltwayland, far to the south "on the road to Richmond" and westward into the Shenandoah Valley. Caught up in a culture and lifestyles that are usually preoccupied and hyperextended, they long for the elusive simplicity and silence that we all need to hear the quiet Voice that speaks in the gentle breeze (1 Kings 19:12).

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Forty Hours

by Father John Riley
Spiritual Director
San Damiano Retreat Center

On a small hill called "the Skull" on a dark Friday afternoon just under 2,000 years ago, the dead body of a crucified Man was hurriedly anointed, wrapped in linen, and laid in a tomb. A huge circular stone was rolled across the opening, effectively sealing the dead body off from the world of the living...for about Forty Hours.

His followers, His friends, and even those who loved Jesus most (with one exception) were stunned and afraid, without Faith and without Hope. They had given up. Forgotten were His prophecies that these things must come to pass — and that the Christ would rise on the Third Day. On Silent Saturday and Easter morning, no one stood by and no one kept watch, except a squad of Roman Soldiers — to keep grave robbers away.

We know and we believe, even though we "have not seen" (John 20:29) that Jesus rose from the dead and truly abides with us in the Holy Eucharist. Fifteen

UPCOMING RETREATS

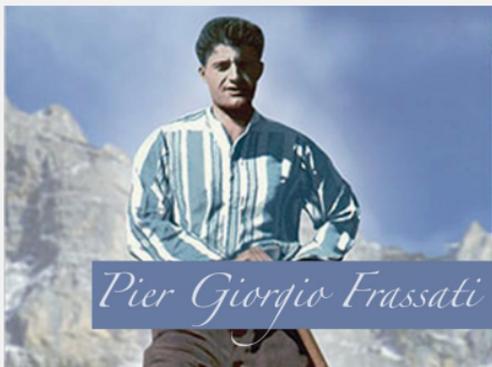


Ignatius Retreat Sept 29 - Oct 1

Join Rev. David Dufresne as we learn about St. Ignatius' battle plan on how to win the identity war. This retreat will focus on the importance of knowing Jesus Christ, and recognizing who we are in Him, and then helping others discover their true identity. This is a silent retreat for men.

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Young Adults Retreat: Nov 10-12



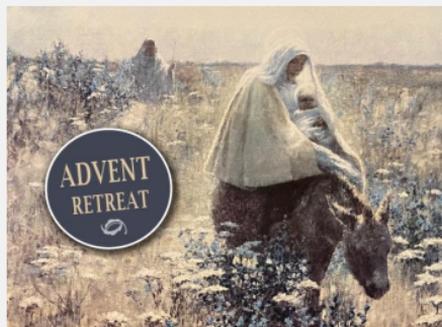
Come Climb With Us! Join us as we scale the peaks and navigate the troughs of the spiritual life with Pier Giorgio Frassati and Jesus Christ. Fr. John Riley will guide us to the summit! Retreat includes a Sunday excursion to the summit of a Blue Ridge Peak!

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centuries after His Resurrection, in an age remembered for its intense devotion to His Real Presence in the Tabernacle, great saints like St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Philip Neri, and St. Charles Borromeo conceived the idea of keeping watch for 40 Hours and simply to "be" and abide with Our Lord in presence and prayer.

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Coming in December



Women's Advent Retreat

Calm – Quiet – Contemplative – Peaceful – Waiting in Joyful Anticipation. These words describe what the Holy Season of Advent ought to be (and rarely is.) Instead, the weeks before "the Holidays" tend to be manic and stressful. Set some time aside to rest and ponder the true meaning of the Advent Season. Presented by Fr. Riley.

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