



Office of Ongoing Formation for Clergy Diocese of Cleveland

Priest Retreat Recommendations

The following is a list of retreats or retreat locations that various priests of the Diocese of Cleveland have recommend. Please check out the website and contact the location to determine if the facility is available.

Hocking Hills State Park, Logan, Ohio

Hocking Hills provides a variety of recreational opportunities in a splendid natural setting. Towering cliffs, waterfalls and deep hemlock-shaded gorges lure the hiker and naturalist and serve as a backdrop for a retreat. It is an incredibly beautiful area, with a great deal to offer in terms of outdoor activity. There are various parks and miles-and-miles of hiking trails that traverse picturesque scenery. A group of 6 priests rented a cabin, invited a Benedictine Monk from St. Andrew's Abbey to serve as retreat master. The cabins at Hocking Hills allowed each priest to have his own private room. The schedule was simple with meals in common. Mass, lauds & conference in the morning, and combined vespers, holy hour, & conference in the evening. <https://www.hockinghills.com/cabins>.

Recommended by Sean Ralph

The Serra Retreat Center, Malibu, California

Located between the mountains and the ocean in Malibu, California. The center is run by the Franciscan Friars (O.F.M) and offers beautiful surroundings for private retreats. Accommodations are simple and comfortable, but the highlight of the center are the many places for quiet contemplation (inside and outside) with panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean. For exercise each day I walked from the retreat center down to the Malibu Pier to watch the sunset (about a two-mile roundtrip walk). <https://serraretreat.com/retreats>

Recommended by Andy Turner

Cardinal Manning House of Prayer for Priests, Los Angeles, California

Set in the Los Feliz near Griffith Park, the House of Prayer offers priests a respite from daily ministerial activity. The Spanish architecture and beautiful walking paths provide a quiet setting for prayer, reflection and retreat. Three chapels on the property, individual rooms, each with a balcony looking out onto the hills of Hollywood. Priest available for Spiritual Direction. Kitchen staff present to prepare meals. The retreat house is tucked into a neighborhood setting so there is lots of opportunity for walking. 3441 Waverly Drive Los Angeles, CA 90027-2526 (323) 662-0092 <https://lacatholics.org/departments-ministries/house-of-prayer-cardinal-timothy-manning-house-of-prayer-for-priests/>

Recommended by Tom Dragga

ICON WRITING WORKSHOP/Retreat, St. Leo, Florida

Master Iconographer Phillip Zimmerman will guide students through creating one complete icon (to be determined). Any level of experience is accepted. Each step is demonstrated to students, followed by time to copy what has been taught. Students will learn filling in, rendering clothes and flesh, 23 karat gold leafing, and varnishing The Icon writing workshop/retreat is very reflective and might be a different kind of retreat experience. It is very affordable! \$550 for the week - room, board, and all the icon writing supplies. The workshop/retreat runs a few times a year <https://www.carmelniagara.com/icon-writing-workshop>

Recommended by Patrick Anderson

Gethsemani Retreat Center, Kentucky

Set in the rolling hills of central Kentucky, (approx. 400 miles, 6 and ½ hr. drive from Cleveland.) Gethsemani was the monastic home of Thomas Merton. A place of solitude and stillness. You will want to call a number of months in advance in order to reserve a space. You will also need to let them know if you would like a spiritual director for your retreat. The abbey Church, retreat house, gift shop and welcome center are available along with ample space for walking. <https://monks.org/visit-us/retreats/>

Recommended by Patrick Anderson

Joseph and Mary Retreat House, Mundelein, Illinois

The Joseph and Mary Retreat House is a place for Priests, Bishops, Deacons, men and women religious and all the Christian faithful to reflect, pray and rest. The retreat house is on the campus of Mundelein Seminary in Chicago. They will provide the hospitality to assure your comfort and provide the quiet and peace necessary to hear God's call. You can also find an opportunity to do a 30-day retreat on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius with Fr. John Horn, SJ.

Call (847) 566-6060 to help you personalize the best individual retreat experience for you <https://www.josephandmaryretreat.org/about>

Recommended by Patrick Anderson

Gonzaga Eastern Point Retreat House, Gloucester, MA

A 10-hour drive from Cleveland, an hour north of Boston. Many flight options available. Variety of retreat options. Great spiritual directors. Newly renovated rooms with private bathroom and shower. The retreat house is a renovated mansion with add-ons, and it overlooks the Atlantic on a rocky coast. There are plenty of places to pray inside and out. Beautiful place for prayer time on the coastal rocks. Venture out onto Brace Rock during low tide if you're adventurous. Decent food quality and options. Eastern Point Retreat House 37 Niles Pond Rd Gloucester, MA 01930-4449 978-283-0013 <https://www.easternpoint.org>

Recommended by Scott Goodfellow

The Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh, Wisconsin

A couple hours north of Chicago. I drove in 8 hours. They offer varied retreats but feature 5 & 8-day Ignatian silent directed retreats. The silence in the house is honored well, providing a great atmosphere for prayer. There are many comfortable places for prayer. I loved the Annunciation chapel for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. The new (2015) accommodations are very comfortable and the setting extremely beautiful, right on the lake. If you have a kayak, be sure to take it with you. Very importantly, the chef takes pride in the quality of the food! <https://www.jesuitretreathouse.org/>

Recommended by Bill Thaden

Ignatius Jesuit Center, Guelph, Ontario

A 5-hour drive from Cleveland. Don't forget your passport. A variety of retreat options. Great spiritual directors. Decent rooms for prayer. Room does not have a bathroom or shower. Beautiful walking trails through fields and farmland that go on for miles. Bring your bug spray if going mid-to-late summer. The menu is healthy and wholesome. The chef prepared some of the best farm-to-table salads I have ever had. 5420 Hwy 6 N, Guelph ON N1H 6J2 · +1 519-824-1250 <https://ignatiusguelph.ca>

Recommended by Scott Goodfellow

JPII Healing Center's Holy Desires Conference, Tallahassee, FL

Connecting flights available from Cleveland to Tallahassee. The JPII Healing Center hosts the Holy Desires Conference at the St. John Neumann Retreat Center, a 20-minute drive from Tallahassee airport. Led by Dr. Bob Schuchts and his team, Holy desires brings together 15-20 priests and seminarians for a 5-day spiritually intensive and transformation conference centering around the desires of the heart. Each day consists of two (2) conferences with plenty of time between for personal prayer and free time, daily Mass, and opportunities for fraternal recreation in the evening. More details available at <https://jpiihealingcenter.org/clergy-seminarians-religious/#holy-desire>.

Recommended by Kevin Fox, Scott Goodfellow, and David Stavarz