

# LEGACY FOR OUR MISSION:

*For Our Children and the Future*

## OUR LADY OF FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE MEETS CHANGING NEEDS

Lent is not only the busiest season at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis, but this year it also provides the occasion to introduce two new activities to make its programs even more attractive to participants. An internationally known author spoke during a retreat on the first weekend of Lent, and the first of two one-night retreats was held this past weekend.

"We are continually searching for ways to better meet the enrichment needs of our participants," said Rick Wagner, director of Our Lady of Fatima. For the first time in several years, the retreat house offered a program by a world-renowned speaker, Matthew Kelly. Guest rooms for Kelly's sessions on "What is God's Dream for You?" were sold out weeks beforehand, although registration was available for day-attendees. "We were delighted with the response, which we took as a strong indication of interest in such programs," Wagner said.

Our Lady of Fatima's one-night retreats were introduced in response to declining registrations for the traditional full-weekend sessions, a trend being seen across the country. "Parish Life Center programs have increased over the years, partially meeting a need for renewal and spiritual reflection. We want to supplement those programs, so we decided to offer a shorter retreat period for those who also participate in their parish enrichment programs. We try to do what we can to offer people choices," Wagner explained. He added that Our Lady of Fatima will continue to offer the traditional two-night retreats.

Offering the new single-night retreats will mean even more wear and tear on the residence building, now more than four decades old. "The realities of maintaining a building of this age are now upon us. We need to make

our facilities accessible to all, we need to upgrade the building's infrastructure, and we need to renovate our guest rooms," Wagner explained.

"Our goal is to provide a physical environment conducive to spiritual renewal and, quite frankly, surveys of past guests reveal that we need to get this work done. Funding from the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign will allow us to make these improvements more quickly so we can provide a comfortable and welcoming environment for our participants," Wagner added.

Since moving to its present location on the northeast side of Indianapolis in 1963, Our Lady of Fatima has served more than 250,000 retreatants. This number includes participants in the archdiocesan marriage preparation program offered eight times throughout the year on the 13-acre wooded campus.

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"This is both an exciting and a challenging time for us. We want our programs and our facilities to be flexible, inviting and hospitable so that everyone feels welcome. We want to provide a spiritual place where participants can build a relationship with God. We provide the time and place. God provides the hope," Wagner said.

*Legacy for Our Mission, the archdiocesan capital campaign, is guided by the principles of Christian stewardship and addresses the needs of archdiocesan ministries such as Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House. By contributing to the Legacy for Our Mission campaign through your local parish, a portion of your gift will be allocated to ministries such as Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House.*

Please visit the new online home of the *Legacy for Our Mission* campaign at [www.archindy.org/legacy](http://www.archindy.org/legacy). It can also be accessed at [www.LegacyforOurMission.org](http://www.LegacyforOurMission.org).

### Marriage Preparation Program An Investment in the Future

When Molly Palmatier and Scott Tittle became engaged, they knew it would be a big step and they wanted to make sure their marriage would be based on a solid Catholic foundation. So, they decided to pull themselves away from the many details of wedding planning and day-to-day responsibilities to make an investment in their relationship. They enrolled in the Tobit Marriage Preparation Program at Our Lady of Fatima.



"Our time together was wonderful," Palmatier recalled. "We had known other couples who had taken the program and our priest had recommended it." Was she glad they completed the program? "Absolutely! We got to spend some special time together and talk about our relationship and how God will be a part of it." The couple's life together will begin Sept. 1 when they are married at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral.