



Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary

Provincial Administration
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Fall, 2017

Greetings to you, our special friends,

Another year is nearing its end and I want to thank you for your continued support and generosity over the years. Although I am new to this special ministry of Province Leader of the Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, I want you to know that I'm fully aware that we could not accomplish our mission of serving those in need without you being on this important journey with all our sisters. It's heartwarming to witness the love and friendship you offer us.

I wish to share one of our most cherished ministries with you; our retreat facility, One Heart One Soul Spirituality Center in Kankakee. You've been introduced to it in the past but I want you to learn more about the secret 'jewels' of this facility...our two hermitages. The hermitages are small, efficiency-type dwellings made for one person, offering an atmosphere of peace and solitude for retreats, prayer and reflection. Imagine this if you will...sitting in front of a large picture window, looking out at a mama deer and her twin fawns munching on apples that have fallen from the tree. Or seeing a red fox running through the large expanse of yard, on her way to the river. It's a wildlife wonderland and our guests love the peace and quiet they find here. An equipped kitchen enables one to prepare meals without ever leaving the property. It's a casual walk to our labyrinth and a little beyond are Stations of the Cross. You may find yourself meandering down to the covered pavilion just to watch the river flow by or maybe taking a walk to the grotto to sit and pray to our Blessed Mother.

These two beloved hermitages have offered hospitality and calm to countless people over the years. Unfortunately, they have exceeded their ability to function properly and are in need of replacement. We have repaired and pampered them for the eight years we've been here, but the time has come to say goodbye. They have outlived their usefulness and no longer function efficiently, having been built in 1977 and 1985,

respectively. Due to their popularity, we have decided to build two new hermitages to take their place.

We recognize the importance of offering the hermitages as a haven where visitors have a chance to just 'be' and we want to make sure that they are available for many years to come. So when spring arrives, we will begin the process of letting go of the 'old' and welcoming the 'new' in the form of two modern, comfortable and efficient hermitages.

We would be grateful and humbled if you would like to partner with us in this exciting new endeavor. All of us have experienced a time in life where we needed a break...an escape. Our hermitages are *exactly* the answer and it gives us pleasure to offer them to so many who seek peace and solitude.

As we near the blessed birth of Christ, may we all remember that there are so many people who hunger for renewal, both spiritually and physically and our desire is to offer time for stillness and tranquility in our new hermitages. If we can just do a little something to offer a respite, then we will have accomplished volumes. Don't you agree?

In spirit with all of our sisters, I wish for God's bountiful blessings on you and your loved ones now, at Christmas and always! We pray your 2018 is happy, healthy and joyous!

In Mary's heart,

Sister Carol, SSCM

Sister Carol Karnitsky, sscm
Province Leader

PS: Once completed, we will share pictures of our new hermitages on our website (www.sscm-usa.org) and on our Facebook page!