

Under the Oaks



Stephen Moore, President Board of Directors

What a year! We just reached two very important milestones for Our Lady of the Oaks Jesuit Retreat House. First, we recently celebrated our 80th anniversary which Peter Baudoin writes about in detail in this newsletter. Second, we unveiled our beautiful new book, *A Place Set Apart – The Spiritual Journey of Our Lady of the Oaks Jesuit Retreat House*, which highlights and celebrates this beautiful sacred place we call Our Lady of the Oaks. We now begin our 81st year serving the men and women of the Acadiana area and beyond.

I am so blessed to be serving as your Board President for the upcoming year. As I prepare to take the position of Board President, I can report that Our Lady's House is in great shape; the physical structure and grounds, the finances and our wonderful staff. Much of the credit belongs to Mr. Jimmy Dauzat, our Director of eight years who continues to amaze me with his leadership, vision and expertise. Thank you, Jimmy, for your many years of service. I also offer special thanks to our Jesuits, our excellent staff and our lay retreat directors. Thank you also to our captains and many generous benefactors. And now, as we look forward to 2019, we welcome new lay retreat directors from Fr. Joseph Tetlow's *New Emmaus Program*. All of you play a vital role in our sacred mission and we are so fortunate to have you.

We have more to be thankful for. Recent retreat statistics reveal the following: For the 2018 year, we hosted 469 First Timers which represents 24% of all retreatants for the year. Additionally, 811 or 41% of all retreatants for 2018 were age 50 or under. These are very encouraging numbers, as they reflect that we are attracting new retreatants and younger retreatants. As far as total retreatants for 2018, we are showing a slight increase over 2017.

But, please, don't let up. We have "*A Place Set Apart*" that we must share with other holy men and women. Let us introduce the silence and restful spirituality that Our Lady's House offers to those who have never made a retreat and re-introduce it to those who have not made a retreat in years. Let's all work to bring someone we know a little closer to Jesus, through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

In closing, I humbly ask for your prayers for the upcoming year, as I promise to keep all of you in mine.

Peace and blessings.

The New Book on OLO is out!



Hot off the press... the beautiful, new book on Our Lady of the Oaks is out!

Published to coincide with the 80th anniversary of Our Lady of the Oaks, it was officially unveiled at the anniversary celebration on November 18, 2018. The brainchild of the Executive Director, Jimmy Dauzat, it's the only book ever issued exclusively on the Oaks. It is comprehensive, colorful and inspiring. It's also a great recruiting tool to show – or give – to others who would benefit from the retreats offered here.

The title is *A Place Set Apart: The Spiritual Journey of Our Lady of the Oaks Jesuit Retreat House*.

Features of the book include:

- History of the retreat house, including timeline with key dates.
- Spiritual Exercises – definition and history, plus an article on the hundreds of times the Exercises have been endorsed by Popes, cardinals and bishops.
- Interviews with nine retreatants of various ages – and what they think of the retreat experience.
- Handouts, distributed after talks in the Chapel (A sampling)
- Brief biographies of Jesuit retreat directors, going back to Day 1, 1938.
- Prayer section (so the book can also serve as a prayer book)

The book was edited by longtime retreatant and journalist Trent Angers of Acadian House Publishing and features excellent articles by OLO Jesuit staff members – Fr. Steve Kimmons, Fr. Lou McCabe, Fr. Joe Tetlow – and several other writers.

The 176-page hardcover book has lots of beautiful color pictures and sells for \$32.50 (plus tax). It's available in our library/bookstore, and at various south Louisiana bookstores, and through online sources, including the publisher's website, www.acadianhouse.com

-Trent Angers



Jimmy L. Dauzat, Esq. Executive Director



"For everything there is a season and an appointed time for every affair under the sun." And, so, after almost nine years, the "season" of my time here at the Oaks has come to a close. January 31, 2019, will be my last day as Executive Director of Our Lady of the Oaks Jesuit Retreat House. On February 1st, the new director, Peter Baudoin will assume his duties at the Oaks. I have every confidence that he will do an excellent job as he has served for years as a successful captain of one of our men's groups, as well as a member of the Board of Directors, the last two years as president. Furthermore, he is part of the Emmaus class trained by

Father Joe Tetlow these past three years. Best wishes to you, Peter, in this new chapter of your life.

The decision to "retire" from my work at the Oaks was not an easy one, but the "season" has come when I need to spend more time with family in whatever years remain to me. It seems like only yesterday, but it was April, 2010, when I began my tenure. It has been a labor of love. The Oaks has held, and always will hold, a very special place in my heart. I cannot thank enough the many retreatants, captains, board members, retreat directors and Jesuits I have had the privilege of knowing and working with over the years. I have drawn so much inspiration from all of you.

In the past several years, I was fortunate to have worked with the three outstanding Jesuits who are currently on staff, Fathers Steve Kimmons, Joe Tetlow and Lou McCabe. I wish to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to the them and to the wonderful lay staff of the retreat house with whom I have "labored in the vineyards" over the years, especially our secretary, Sissy Smith, who never seeks the limelight, but who is the "hidden jewel" that makes everything work for the good. I will miss all of you very much.

So much has happened at the retreat house since 2010. I have witnessed its renewal and growth. After eighty years, it continues to be a beacon of Christian faith and hope for so many men and women. I feel certain that it will remain on its right path and continue to be that holy beacon for many years to come. A friend of mine would often say at the conclusion of a particular task "well, it's better than it was." I would hope that perhaps the same might be said of me one day in describing my work at Our Lady of the Oaks – "he left it better than it was."

"Au revoir" – not "goodbye" to all of you. May God bless you all and Our Lady of the Oaks.

Our Lady of the Oaks Celebrates its 80th Anniversary

One hundred years ago, in the year 1918, the Lafayette Diocese was founded. Bishop Jules Jeanmard, its first Bishop worked diligently with the Louisiana Jesuits and twenty years into his tenure as bishop, in the year 1938, Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat House became a reality.

On November 18, 2018, we formally celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the founding of Our Lady of the Oaks. In conjunction with that anniversary celebration, the annual Captain's Convention was held.

Celebrant for the anniversary mass held on that day was current Lafayette Bishop, Most Rev. J. Douglas Deshotel, D.D. Jesuit concelebrants were Fr. Joseph Tetlow, Fr. Steve Kimmons and Fr. Lou McCabe.

Prior to the mass and during the captains' convention meeting, six new members and four new officers of the Board of Directors were elected. Twenty-one former presidents of the Retreat House board were recognized and nine deceased former presidents were acknowledged.

Retreat Captains Marc Berard/Wayne Delcambre, Ricky Ackley, Steve Dupuis, Steve Buller and Barry Boutte received the 2018 St. Francis Xavier Award for achieving a full house with their retreat groups; Captain Darrell Burleigh received the Greatest Improvement Award with 32 retreatants in 2017 and 45 in 2018; Captains Barry Boutte and Marc Berard/Wayne Delcambre received the 2018 St. Ignatius Loyola Award for the highest number attending with each bringing 52 retreatants; and The Society of Jesus Faithful Servant Award was presented to Rob Dille for his work improving and maintaining our website at www.ourladyoftheoaks.com.

-Peter Baudoin

New Executive Director Selected

With the announcement of the retirement of our current Executive Director, Jimmy L. Dauzat, the Executive Committee along with the Board of Directors, met in a special meeting on December 13, 2018. The Committee recommended Peter Baudoin to be the new director. This recommendation was voted upon and unanimously accepted by the Board of Directors. Mr. Baudoin will assume his duties on February 1, 2019.



OUR LADY OF THE OAKS RETREAT HOUSE
P.O. DRAWER D
GRAND COTEAU, LA 70541

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Invite a friend to the Oaks

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Our Lady of the Oaks Jesuit Retreat House is to draw men and women closer to Jesus Christ and His Church through the preaching of the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius Loyola and the celebration of the Sacraments of the Catholic Church. Through attentive silence and deepening prayer, men and women come to an awareness, although sinners, of being chosen for service in the Kingdom of God and realize they have and are a mission and are impelled back into the world to joyfully live the Gospel message for the greater Praise, Glory, Honor and Service of the Most Holy Trinity.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers		Members	
Peter Baudoin	Director	Fr. James Bradley	Al Gary
Stephen Moore	President	Fr. Derrick Weingartner	Jason Lavergne
Louis Perret	Vice-President	Al Cain	Yvonne Normand
Steve Buller	Treasurer	Larry Callais	Gene Sellers
Gene Chauffe	Secretary	Wayne Delcambre	

PLANNED GIVING

The founding of *The Oaks Society* was established as a planned gift recognition society for those who designate Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat House as the beneficiary of their will, trust, or other planned gift. For more information regarding *The Oaks Society*, please call the Retreat House at (337) 662-5410 or visit our website at www.ourladyoftheoaks.com.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

The gift that keeps giving....Give the gift of a lifetime. Gift Certificates are available at Our Lady of the Oaks. Contact our office at 337-662-5410. These make wonderful Special Occasion gifts.

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Attendance Statistics

Our goal each weekend is 51.

July-December, 2018

MEN						LADIES			
	Captain	2016	2017	2018		2016	2017	2018	
July	12-15 Darrell Burleigh	39	32	45	Aug.	16-19	41	32	30
	19-22 Tony Meaux	41	45	48	Sept.	13-16	45	39	50(c)
	26-29 John C. Francis	28	24	29	Oct.	11-14	49	49	46
Aug.	2-5 Larry Callais	29	32	35	Nov.	5-7	47	49	50(c)
	9-12 Dupuis/Diesi	48	50	49(c)	Nov.	29-2	46	46	47
	23-26 Jason Lavergne	--	--	40	Dec.	6-9	44	42	45
Sept.	20-23 Al Gary	55	46	41					
	27-30 Mouton/Aucoin	47	56	41					
Oct.	4-7 David Menard	17	19	13					
Nov.	1-4 Allen Celestine	28	31	24					
	8-11 Tom Grote	30	34	41					
	15-18 John Craton	39	28	29					
	23-25 Clint Bischoff	44	36	32					
Dec.	14-16 Allen Duplantis	33	25	22					

c= capacity

MARRIED COUPLES

	2016	2017	2018
Sept. 7-9	44	36	38
Oct. 26-28	48	36	56

c= capacity

Go to our website at www.ourladyoftheoaks.com. Select schedule for the weekend you want. Call the captain listed for availability. Make your reservation.