

SCHEDULE OF THEME RETREATS

2008

September 19-21 (Women)

October 17-19 (Women & Men)

*("Sponsored" by Stevens Point Area)**

2009

January 23-25 (Women & Men)

*("Sponsored" by WI Rapids Area)**

January 30-February 01 (Men)

April 03-05 (Women)

April 24-26

(Women & Men)

*("Sponsored" by Wausau Area)**

Offering: \$150.00

(includes private room and all meals)

These retreats are silent.

Retreats begin with 7:00 p.m. meal on Friday and conclude with the noon meal on Sunday.

* While "sponsored" by the named area, these retreats are open to ALL individuals from All areas

Quotes from previous retreatants

*"It was an excellent weekend. Every staff presenter added special dimensions to finding peace. The prayer services were an excellent way to reflect on my life and to resolve to improve my relationship with God and others."

*"When I first came here, the thought on my mind was to be still and let Him speak for His servant is listening. All I can say is WOW!"

*"The wonderful feeling of peace that fills me when I'm at St. Anthony's is the closest thing to heaven on earth. It is truly HOLY GROUND!"

*"When I come to St. Anthony's I become aware of the vibration in my heart—and invariably I hear what my spirit needs."

*"From the minute I entered, I was welcomed and treated like I belonged here. Like I had come home. What a wonderful experience!"

"The Freedom of Letting Go"

Silent Theme Retreat

2008 & 2009



St. Anthony Retreat Center

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Today it's the struggle to raise children. Tomorrow it's the worry about parents in poor health. Today it's rising prices. Yesterday it was the Great Depression. Today it's war across the globe. Yesterday it was our Civil War. Today it's global warming. Yesterday it was the upheaval caused by the Industrial Revolution.

The details change, but the theme repeats itself. How are we meeting the challenges of our day – with worry and fear or grounded in peace and trust? Do we hold on tighter or let go of our false securities?

Through conferences, quiet time and prayer this retreat will explore these questions, inviting us deeper into the experience and freedom Jesus holds out to us. Join us as we awaken to God's vision for us!



First talk: Living in a World of Illusions
 Our society is built on the illusion of the “good life,” that we have a *right* to more and more. This is true not only with material things but intangible things as well: our country, our values are superior to others, my way of looking at God, at truth *is* the correct way, perhaps the only way! Clinging to these illusions and attachments ends up hurting us and others.

Second talk: Awakening to What Is Real
 Jesus’ message of the “Kingdom” is His attempt to open our eyes to the presence of a deeper reality within ordinary life, a presence that offers more freedom and peace, but it demands that we let go of our desire to be in control, etc. Through the ages most all religious teachers have taught the same thing: “enlightenment,” “coming to awareness.” This talk will capture some of those teachings and offer participants ways of waking up to this deeper reality.

Third talk: Becoming our True Selves
 Thomas Merton would say that the self which is created by the world of illusions is our “false self,” while the self created by living in what is real is our “true self.” Jesus says the same thing when he talks about letting go of what is only surface. We can be “awakened” to this as the second talk showed, but to “stay awake” and *live* from this awareness demands a constant *conversion*, in the spirit of the Gospels. How do we do this? What are the helps we have, the obstacles?

Fourth talk: Living Life beyond Illusions
 What freedom, simplicity, trust, joy and peace we experience (and flow out of us) when we let ourselves be awakened and stay awake to this deeper presence, our true selves. How does this impact our relationships, both personally and institutionally? Is this not the vision Jesus had of a community of believers who would *together* manifest another way of living? How do we help each other maintain this vision in a world that considers it foolish?

Registration Form

Please reserve a space for me for “The Freedom of Letting Go” on the following date: _____

Name: _____ Parish/Congregation: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Street/PO Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Interested in carpooling? _____ Can give ride? _____ Need ride? _____

How did you hear about this Retreat? _____

Please return this form to St. Anthony Retreat Center, 300 E. 4th St., Marathon, WI 54448 with a \$55.00 non-refundable, transferable deposit to be applied to the total fee. Deposits are non-refundable; however, they are transferable to another in the same retreat year. We have an early bird discount... Those who register and send a \$35.00 deposit 30 days prior to a weekend retreat can save \$10.00 off the cost of registration for the weekend.