



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Diocese announces decision to close island retreat house

GREEN BAY, Wis. (January 16, 2014) – The Diocese of Green Bay announced today that the Holy Name Retreat House, located on Chambers Island, Door County, WI will close.

The island retreat house has been offering retreats for more than 60 years. Over the years, tens of thousands of retreatants have experienced the peaceful surrounding of this unique prayerful setting. In the past five years, much study has been done and the diocese has undertaken many initiatives to maintain this location. Unfortunately, the attempts to boost the number of retreatants and maintain the property have proven non-sustainable.

After much consultation and discernment, the difficult decision to close was made by Bishop David L. Ricken and confirmed by the Board of Directors at their semi-annual meeting on Wednesday, January 15. The diocesan commitment to retreat ministry remains strong. The emphasis going forward is to deliver the retreat experience and meet the ever changing needs of the faithful.

“As we look toward the New Evangelization, we need to reevaluate how we deliver the traditional retreat experience,” said Bishop Ricken. “Over the last few years, we have seen a movement toward more parish-based participation in retreats and we are fortunate that we have many regional, year-round retreat centers that can meet their needs.”

With mainland retreat centers, including Camp Tekakwitha Retreat Center-Shawano; Holy Resurrection Monastery-St. Nazianz; Jesuit Retreat House-Oshkosh; Mount Tabor Center-Menasha; Norbertine Center for Spirituality-De Pere; St. Joseph Formation Center-Baileys Harbor and The Bridge-Between Retreat House-Denmark, most operating year-round, parishioners throughout the diocese remain well served by this rich Catholic tradition.

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Who we are: The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay works to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by helping people in need and by providing academic, leadership and spiritual formation opportunities to parish and school leaders. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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