

## Malvern Retreat House Welcomes Its New President

Malvern Retreat House's new chief executive Mark Poletunow barely had time to breathe when he began his new role on April 4. By his third day, he already was hosting the retreat house's annual meeting, along with holding extensive meetings with staff members to get a behind-the-scenes look at the operations. Poletunow has embraced these daily challenges though, as he has done in his past, since he says his goal is to always follow God's plan.

"I feel very strongly that God blew open the door for me to be able to be here," Poletunow said. "I'm trusting that God is willing to use me as a catalyst to bring people to Malvern."

That trust in God led Poletunow down various difficult and rewarding roads before he arrived at Malvern. For years he served the church as a Capuchin Franciscan Friar and a Catholic priest. During part of his tenure, he was assigned to serve the community in the Mt. Pleasant area of Washington D.C. There in 1991 Poletunow found himself in the midst of violence when historic riots broke out after a Latino man was shot in the chest by a police officer. Poletunow tried to bring peace while enabling the concerns of the Latino community, who were suffering from civil rights abuses, to be heard. In the midst



Mark Poletunow addresses the crowd at Malvern Retreat House's 2016 Annual Meeting.

ripple effect of more coordinated protests in the streets to give the community a voice, but at the same time we were also telling people that this kind of action needs to be controlled."

The experience led Poletunow to be more involved in social services for the Latino community. He studied Spanish in Mexico and Puerto Rico, and in 1993 he became the Executive Director of the Spanish Catholic Center. With his leadership assistance, the center grew tremendously and provided medical, dental, immigration, education and job training services to more than 33,000 people annually.

After a long period of discernment, Poletunow decided to leave the priesthood and received a dispensation and laicization from the Vatican. The change did not stop his passion for the Catholic church and social services. He took jobs at Bread for the World and the Capital Area Food Bank and then became CFO & Deputy Executive Director of the Ministry of Caring, a social services nonprofit based in Wilmington, Delaware. That nonprofit's Founder and Executive Director Brother Ronald Giannone says Malvern has much to gain from its new leader.

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**"I feel very strongly that God blew open the door for me to be able to be here..."**

of the protests though, Poletunow says he got pretty beat up as he walked the streets.

"We were in the middle of everything, dodging bricks and all this other stuff. It was quite scary," Poletunow said. "We ended up joining with other community leaders in trying to help calm people. In the process the events triggered a

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# Mark Poletunow President

## Mark's Musings from Malvern

Greetings –

**Blessed!** That is how I feel. God has been working a marvelous blessing by leading me to Malvern Retreat House and opening the doors wide for me to stumble through its portals as the new President. More on this some other time, but I need to share that God manifested another great portion of grace and mercy as within days of being named to this position, my wife, Margalita, and I became parents of newborn adopted twin girls – talk about God's grace "pressed down, shaken together, running over" (Luke 6:38)! And we wondered if God ever heard our long and fervent prayers to be parents. But, he had it all worked out before time began!

As I begin my tenure with MRH, there is a one word theme that continues grabbing my attention: Urgency!

There is no time like the present. Throughout the scriptures, there is a message that calls us to "wake from sleep" (Romans 13:11) to recognize that "now is the acceptable time... now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2), and "this is the day the Lord has made" (Psalm 118:24).

Our world is challenged with terrorism, secularism and a general skepticism about any formal expression of faith. On an individual level, most of us struggle to find time to pray, to still our hearts and minds, to welcome God into our day and our many activities, and to find the way back when we feel like we're in a vortex of sin and darkness. There is a lot of noise

**“There is a lot of noise distracting us from what is most important – our relationship with Jesus, the Risen Lord and Savior.”**

distracting us from what is most important – our relationship with Jesus, the Risen Lord and Savior.

Today is a good day to begin to ask God to be a part of all that we are about. Today is the right time to remember that God loves us beyond any imagining. Right now is when God wants to show us his mercy and love and to welcome us into his light.

Undoubtedly, there will be times when it feels like we're knocking and no one is answering; that we are seeking, but we just can't find the way. But don't lose hope; God is in the midst of it all. Sometimes we just need to damper down the noise, to be still and let God be God. Malvern is a wonderful place for that to happen, but God also wants us to find ways to recognize

his presence in the everyday and ordinary. May it be so – don't give up!

**Prosit!**

Faternally,

### Malvern Retreat House Welcomes Its New President (Continued from the cover)



*This historic photo show Mark Poletunow when he was a Capuchin Franciscan with Fr. Donald Lippert, who is now a Bishop in Papua New Guinea, trying to calm the tensions on Mt. Pleasant Street on May 6, 1991.*

"Mark is a man of great compassion and love," Brother Ronald said. "While he has great administrative skills, it all came down to the kind and gentle person he is when it comes to the needs of the poor. Mark is a wonderful person, and I think he will do a good job."

Poletunow says he is happy to be starting this new chapter in his life's work since he has seen how people have been changed by retreats. He says he hopes that the retreat house will continue to be a premier center for retreats, while also following the calling to bring new people to Christ.

"Since I've seen how vital the retreat experience is, it gives me great hope that Malvern can be fertile ground for people to deepen their relationship with God, while also becoming a vital center of the New Evangelization," he said.

While affirming traditional retreatants, this effort will include measures to share Malvern's ministry with the growing number of Spanish-speaking Catholics in the region. In addition, Poletunow also will be able to relate to another key group at Malvern - men with young children. Poletunow and his wife Margalita recently adopted twin infant daughters shortly before he started his new job. Like all proud fathers, he loves to share their photos and the stories about the many blessings in his life.

"God has moved me from one point to another in my life," Poletunow said. "And I hope He keeps using us all to do something great for His honor and glory."





## Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy

As all retreatants who frequent Malvern Retreat House know, we have an extensive and beautiful collection of indoor and outdoor sacred art. In this **Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy**, I draw your attention to the beautiful ceramic art pieces in Our Lady's Library depicting the **Corporal Works of Mercy**, and I encourage you to seek out these treasures and meditate on them.

One cannot help but notice on entering Our Lady's Library the striking **Della Robbia Ceramics**, which depict the seven **Corporal Works of Mercy**. The original pieces can be found on the portico of the **Ospedale Del Ceppo** in Pistoia, Italy. Malvern commissioned Jorio Vivarelli (sculptor) and Attilio Bernini (architect) to make reproductions of the originals for our retreat house.

The **Works of Mercy**, both **Spiritual and Corporal**, originate in the Gospels. In Saint Matthew's Gospel Jesus provides a very vivid parable of the last judgment:

*Then the King will say to those at his right hand, "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." (Mt 25:34-36).*

The **Catechism of the Catholic Church** rooting itself in the Gospel teaches that the works of mercy are: **Charitable actions by**

**which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently.** #2447

The **Spiritual Works of Mercy** manifest the heart of Christianity that recognizes that it is not by bread alone that man lives. The **Spiritual Works** address the deeper need of humanity and the responsibility of every Christian from their heart to reach out to those who are **spiritually poor**. These counsels were the source of motivation over the centuries for Christian schools, orphanages, hospitals and other places of refuge.

The **Catechism** continues: **The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.** #2447

Human misery is the tangible sign of the vulnerability and need for salvation that is the nature of the fallen human condition because of Original Sin. This condition of brokenness and misery evokes from Christ the compassion and love of God. He took upon himself the human condition in order to save it and restore it to its former glory. Jesus was friend to the poor and

suffering, and so the Church in all its members imitates the Savior by going to the aid of our brothers and sisters in need.

In this **Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy** Pope Francis calls the whole Church of Christ back to the basics of daily living out the Gospel. The **Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy** exercised by us is the practical and tangible way we live out the Gospel day in and day out. From the beginning, the faithful were instructed to imitate Christ by having a faith that was accompanied by good works. Saint James in this letter wrote:

*What good is it, my brothers if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead (James 2: 14-17).*

**“What good is it, my brothers and sisters if someone says he has faith but does not have works?”**

May the beautiful ceramics continue to challenge all Malvern retreatants: **What good is it, my brothers and sisters if someone says he has faith but does not have works?**

# Works of Mercy



# Michael Norton

## Vice President of Institutional Advancement

### Development News

#### A Golden Legacy

During lunch on my retreat weekend I mentioned to the men at my table that the time had come to replace the gold leaf doors in Our Lady's Adoration chapel,"

"Wow, how much?" one of them asked.

"\$6,000 I responded, but I am not looking for money, I want to gold leaf the doors the same way the men did it when they had the doors made." Did you know that the gold used on the original doors was donated by retreatants? Gold rings, earrings, bracelets, coins, and necklaces were collected and melted down for use on the doors."

"Well, let's do it again," the man responded. "I would much rather have my mother's gold earrings or father's ring be part of a legacy at Malvern, than simply sell them to a Cash for Gold store."

As the picture to the right suggests, our gold doors are a fittingly rich adornment for the King of Kings in his Holy repose.

We are launching the Golden Legacy Campaign. We're hopeful a new generation of Malvern Retreatants will extend the Gold Door legacy in their own names. I ask that you prayerfully consider donating any gold you have that you are no longer wearing, or perhaps the jewelry of departed loved ones can be gifted for this purpose. We will keep the memory alive of all patrons with a plaque near the tabernacle in the chapel.

It seems to be a wonderful, and practical, way to embrace the Living Presence.

**For more information call Michael Norton at 484-321-2539, or email [mnorton@malvernretreat.com](mailto:mnorton@malvernretreat.com)**



#### Leaving a Legacy

Malvern Retreat House holds a special place in the hearts of our retreatants, and in the hearts of their spouses and children. This legacy can be seen, or better said, actually experienced when quietly walking our beautiful grounds and seeing the names of loved ones memorialized on the various plaques placed throughout our buildings and grounds.

At Malvern Retreat House we provide many opportunities to honor and memorialize a beloved family member. From a Tree of Life leaf to a Founders Walk Brick to a room dedication or the naming of a Station of the Cross, you can find the perfect opportunity to honor your loved one and continue his/her legacy here at Malvern.

**For more information and a complete list and brochure of our available naming opportunities, call Edie Petillo at (484) 321-2544 or by email at [epetillo@malvernretreat.com](mailto:epetillo@malvernretreat.com)**

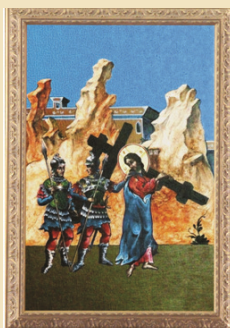
##### Founders Walk Brick • \$1,000



##### Tree of Life Leaf • \$250



##### Station of the Cross • \$10,000



#### Buddy-Up for a Great Cause

Our Lady of Confidence Retreat is taking place this October 18-20, 2016. This special retreat is for individuals with disabilities and their families. Volunteers are needed to buddy-up with the retreatants and help them through the day. Interested parties should call Bernadette DiRita at 610-644-0400.

#### With Your Help, We Can

Please keep an eye out for our 2016 Annual Appeal letter. Your generosity to the Annual Appeal allows us to continue the vital mission of Malvern Retreat House. Our goal is to raise \$350,000. I ask that you take the time to read the Annual Appeal letter and prayerfully consider your gift. Every gift makes a difference; a difference to those who come to Malvern for moments of divine encounter. **With your help we can and need to raise \$350,000.**



# Great Progress is Made on Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine



*Gorgeous stonework has been added to the walls of the new shrine.*



*A new pathway connects Our Lady's Hall to the Our Lady of Guadalupe shrine behind the McShain-Horstmann Family Life Center.*



*The new shrine for Our Lady of Guadalupe will be one of the largest shrines on the Malvern Retreat House grounds.*

Each day the landscape is being transformed a little more near the McShain-Horstmann Family Life Center. In a grassy area behind the building, workers are busy building a new shrine that honors Our Lady of Guadalupe, who is the patron saint of the Americas and the pro-life movement. On either side of the building, pathways have been added to connect both the meditation garden and Our Lady's Hall to the new shrine area.

On the shrine itself, stonework on the walls has been completed, and pavers are being added. The shrine is on schedule to be finished this year, at which point a dedication ceremony will be held to honor Our Lady and to thank all the donors who have made this project possible. Please stay tuned for a dedication announcement.

## The Best Present

Paul Bakey of the Men of Malvern Epiphany group and the Family Labor Day retreat received a special present from his wife Mary. She gave him a wheel covering with the Malvern Retreat House saying Prosit, which means "may it be for your benefit." Paul says he is glad that this present gives him the opportunity to evangelize about Jesus and Malvern. However, he says it has one drawback.

"I cannot be aggressive on the road!" he said.



## Family Discount Reminder for Traditional Group Retreats

In December 2015, the Board of Directors approved a new family pricing policy for the traditional green envelope retreats, which includes our Men of Malvern retreats & the Women of Malvern, Our Lady of Peace retreat. For these retreats, parents and grandparents may bring their high-school aged children and grandchildren to retreat at Malvern at no cost. The change was made after some retreatants voiced concerns about their inability to pay for their high-school aged children. Further, the policy change asks parents and grandparents of college aged children to consider a free will offering of \$100.

## Malvern Wish List

- Golf Cart
- Funding for new vestments
- Laptop computer
- DVD recorder/player



# Matt Talbot Retreats Help Alcoholics Spiritually Heal



The recovery did not begin until he had hit the lowest of lows. After years of alcohol abuse that started at a high school graduation party, he was in the hospital again after experiencing an alcohol-induced grand mal seizure. Doctors said they had no medical reason for him to be alive.

"I was laying in a hospital gurney, staring at the ceiling, and bargaining with God," he said. "I asked him to either take me out of the world or make me get sober."

The moment led to a decision to stop drinking alcohol, but he says it didn't lead to recovery - at least not yet. He said after he stopped drinking he "talked the talk" about being sober but that in reality he did not feel spiritually whole. That is when he sought help.

**"Matt Talbot turned my life completely around, and now I want to give back."**

His assistance came at a Matt Talbot retreat, which is a retreat movement that began in the 1940's. The program was named after an Irish man who was an impoverished alcoholic in the 1800's who turned his life around to become an inspiration for others experiencing the same trials. After becoming sober, Talbot spent his life living Christian virtues through prayer, spiritual reading, work and acts of charity. The nondenominational Matt Talbot retreats follow his example and bring together a group of recovering alcoholics for fellowship and sharing.

When the man who nearly died came to the retreat, he asked a veteran retreatant why he could not seem to spiritually recover from his alcoholism. He was told the answer was to work on what Matt Talbot retreatants call the "Spiritual Disciplines." The concept is based on the 12 steps of recovery from addiction and includes focusing on virtues, such as humility, kindness, love and forgiveness. Malvern Retreat House, which offers Matt Talbot retreats throughout the year, becomes a "teaching ground" where retreatants work on these traits so they can heal.

"Alcohol strips away our identity - everything we know is good," a retreatant said. "Once we realize that, we identify the areas we need to improve and work on them every day. Spirituality should be the direct result of practicing God's will for us, which includes the highest ethical ideals."

During the retreats, men who attend say the result is that they see retreatants "floating off the ground" on Sunday morning as the spiritual awakening sparks changes in their lives. When that happens, one of the goals of the Matt Talbot movement is reached, which is to "gain the blessed peace and spiritual serenity every alcoholic strives for."

To make this possible, most Matt Talbot retreat groups recommend that retreatants come to retreat twice a year. Malvern Retreat House offers these retreats throughout the year to make this possible. The groups are assigned numbers based on the geography of where they are based, but men can come to any retreat they choose. The retreats are run by retreat directors, who are often recovering alcoholics themselves and members of the clergy.

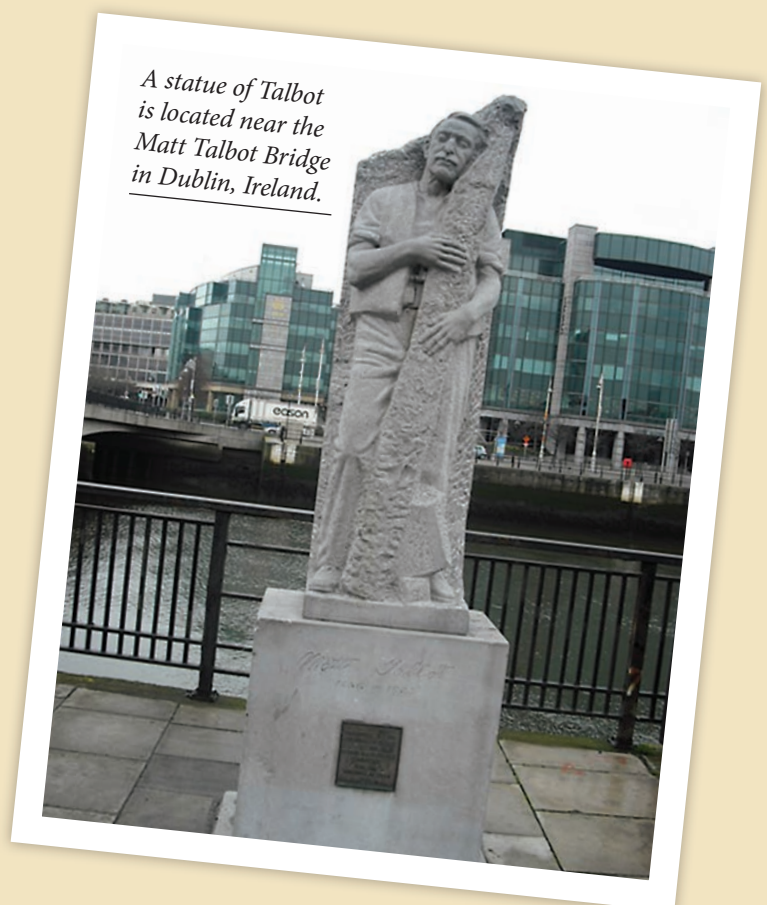
Having such guidance has proven to be life changing for many retreatants. Years after he made a decision on his hospital bed to make a change, this retreatant now is helping others come to Matt Talbot retreats.

"Matt Talbot turned my life completely around, and now I want to give back."

*Matt Talbot retreatants are anonymous, and therefore no names are used in this article.*

*Matt Talbot Retreats enhance spiritual recovery as suggested by AA's Twelve-Step Program. However, there is no affiliation between AA and Matt Talbot Retreats.*

**For more information on the Matt Talbot retreats, please contact Michael at 609-932-3653 or [secy@matttalbotretreats.org](mailto:secy@matttalbotretreats.org), or visit [matttalbotretreats.org](http://matttalbotretreats.org).**



# Upcoming Retreats & Events



## A New Family Festival Comes to Malvern

Malvern Retreat House is reviving its Family Festival, which was last held 7 years ago, and adding some new twists. The new Malvern Family Festival will be held on June 26 from 1pm-5:30pm on the 125-acre grounds of the retreat house. The day will offer families the opportunity for spiritual renewal, while having some family fun.

The day will kick off with the Rosary and Mass at the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto. If it rains, the Mass will be moved to the Upper McShain Conference room. After Mass, Adoration and Confession will be offered. There also will be food available, such as hot dogs, hamburgers, water ice, pretzels and popcorn.

For family fun, there will be a variety of children's games and crafts and DJ-directed music and activities. In addition, recording artist Rev. Kevin McGoldrick will perform praise and worship music.

Fr. McGoldrick is the Campus Chaplain at Aquinas College in Nashville. The talented guitar player performed in bands as a

student at Archbishop Carroll High School and at Temple University and was a regular on the Philadelphia music scene. He thought he left that world behind though when he experienced a conversion during a retreat and decided to enter St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Flash forward several years and Father was assigned to work in the country music capital of Nashville at Aquinas. There he picked up his guitar and began singing again since he says music "can go where sermons cannot."

Last year with the help of a crowdfunding campaign, Father was able to record an album called "Square Peg Round Hole." He will share his music at Malvern on an outdoor stage, weather permitting. The retreat house is working on getting other performers to also share the stage.

The cost for the entire afternoon, including food, will be \$25/car. As more details are added, information will be available on [malvernretreat.com](http://malvernretreat.com) or by calling 610-644-0400.

## Upcoming Retreats Offer Diverse Options for Retreatants

### CHARISMATIC RETREAT

June 10-12

Our warmer weather months are packed with some high demand retreats for those who want to enjoy the grounds and some spiritual time to reflect.

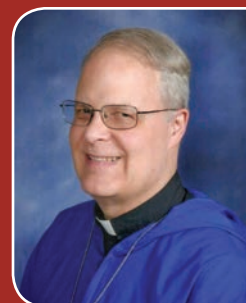
In June, Malvern will host a **Charismatic retreat**

for men and women with the

theme "A Lifestyle in Union with the Holy Spirit." This retreat is not only for those involved with Catholic Charismatic Renewal but also anyone who wants to learn more about the Holy Spirit. The retreat will help everyone prepare for the 50th anniversary of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 2017.

Fr. Bob Hogan, the co-founder of the Charismatic and Marian Religious Community, The Brothers of the Beloved Disciple, will direct the retreat. He will hold a healing, transformation and empowerment service during the weekend and discuss many topics, including "Spiritual Gifts for Daily Life."

Fr. Hogan was a member and chairman of the National Service Committee (NSC) for Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and he is presently a member of the NSC Council. He has spoken in many places in the United States and Canada and has written a book titled *Celebrating a Charismatic Jubilee: A Fresh look at Charismatic Renewal and the Charismatic Dimension of the Church*.



### BENEDICTA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

July 7-8



In July, popular retreat director Johnnette Benkovic will return to Malvern for the **Benedicta Leadership Conference for Women** and the **Women of Grace** retreat. The Benedicta Leadership Institute for Women® trains Catholic women to be active leaders and mentors in accord with their state in life. The conference

will be held at Malvern July 7-8. This will be followed by the Women of Grace retreat that will center on the theme 'Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy: Our Refuge on the Battlefield of Life.' The retreat will include presentations by four speakers, including Benkovic. She is the Founder and President of Women of Grace®, a Catholic apostolate for women, which aims to affirm women in their dignity and vocation as daughters of God.

### WOMEN OF GRACE

July 8-10



## | Art Show 2016



*A display of Mirjam Seeger's art pieces was included in the Glass Art Special Feature Room at Malvern Retreat House's Art Show 2016.*

Hundreds of art lovers had a special treat again this year when they perused the beautiful pieces that were showcased at this year's Malvern Retreat House Art Show in February. The show included a special exhibit on glass art, along with art forms ranging from jewelry and painting to sculpture.

About 600 art pieces were sold at the show, and the Art Committee said those pieces had a combined value of nearly \$100,000. Patrons from five different states bought items from the 100 juried artists who participated in the show. Artists who participated included:

- Glass artist Mirjam Seeger who worked for 20-years for the renowned Willet Stained Glass Co.
- Local painter Richard Bollinger who, among other things, is well-known for the commemorative painting he created for Valley Forge National Park's 100th anniversary.
- Artist Tom Longacre who has recovered from alcoholism and bulimia to now become a top selling ceramics artist.
- Chinese artist Dexiang Qian who has exhibited his works around the world.
- And many others...



*Hundreds of people enjoyed the complimentary wine and cheese reception when patrons can meet the artists.*

We would like to thank our Art Show Committee, the artists, volunteers, patrons and guests for making this show such a wonderful event every year!

Art Show 2017 will be held February 1-5, and the special focus will be figurative art. The show will also include all the art forms we traditionally have as well, ranging from glass and paintings to jewelry. We hope you can join us next year at this wonderful annual event.

## A Family Celebration



One of Malvern's recipients of last year's 50 year pin had the joyous opportunity to celebrate his 80th birthday with nearly all of his large family. Paul Waltrich, now a 51-year retreatant with the St. Joseph group, celebrated his special day with all 15 of his children and most of his grandchildren.



# 25th Annual Awards Dinner

Malvern Retreat House held its 25th Annual Awards Dinner on April 27. We were privileged to have former President Jim Fitzsimmons return to be a key presenter for the event. We congratulate all the men and women honored during the evening. They all have helped make Malvern the special place it is. This year's award winners are:

## FIFTY-YEAR MEMBERS

Michael J. Abbot	St. John N. Neumann
Adrian M. Aikman, III	Our Lady of Lourdes
William J. Angelo	Six-Three
Nicholas E. Basilio	Chester County
Alfeo A. Conte, Jr.	Prosit
Deacon Daniel DeLucca	L. J. Ferdinand-Hazleton
Robert P. DiRocco	St. Pius X
John F. Leahy, Jr.	Epiphany
Charles M. Litzelman	Nativity B.V.M
Joseph F. LoCasale	St. John N. Neumann
William J. Miller	Furey Memorial-St. Gabriel
Stanley J. Nattle, Jr.	Chester County
Armond A. Novelli	St. Blaise-Curran Memorial
Anthony B. Petrongolo	Sons of Italy
Joseph F. Petrongolo, Sr.	Sons of Italy
Salvatore Tancredi	Holy Spirit
Charles F. Unger	Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Joseph A. Walheim	Holy Family

## RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

Dominick X. Centurioni	Pope Pius XII
Frank W. Houser	Our Lady of Fatima
Thomas R. Keiser	Immaculate Conception
Duane C. McCarthy	Most Blessed Sacrament
Michael T. McGinn	Christus Rex
Donald W. Nicholson	Six-Three

## CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

Jacqueline J. Delaney	Valentine Retreat
Lynn DelPorte	Art Show Committee
Michael T. McGinn	Christus Rex
Michael Norton	Immaculate Conception
Msgr. Philip Ricci	Pastor Emeritus- Mary, Mother of Redeemer Parish
Dr. Joseph A. Riggs, Sr.	Epiphany
Michael Schiavo	Matt Talbot 19

## KATHLEEN M. PERRI AWARD

James Hall	Malvern Retreat House Director of Hospitality
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## JOHN J. SULLIVAN AWARD

Patrick Barrea	Holy Family
Thomas J. Bowdren	League of Sacred Heart
William Howell	Ave Maria
Franklin Miller, Jr.	St. Pius X
Dennis J. Saake	Six-Three

## OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Donald V. Barbuto	Catholic Business Leaders
James P. Brown	Padre Pio
Gregory J. Webster	Sons of Italy
Harry Young	HR Consultant
Christopher Bashore	Malvern Borough
Chief Louis Marcelli	Malvern Borough
Deputy Chief Neil D. Vaughn	Malvern Borough



Raymond Walheim (center) from the Holy Family group is this year's recipient of the William M. Lennox Award. He is joined by former President Jim Fitzsimmons, new President Mark Poletunow, Board Chairman Joe Nardi and Rector Msgr. Joseph Marino.

## JOSEPH F. O'DONNELL C.A. CAPTAINS HALL OF FAME AWARD

Joseph V. DiGiandomenico	Our Lady of Fatima
Peter M. Schumacher	Our Lady of Confidence

## JOHN J. FERRECK AWARD

John A. Taddei, Jr.	Caenaculum
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## WILLIAM M. LENNOX AWARD

Raymond K. Walheim	Holy Family
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## + In Memoriam

We pray for C.A. Captains Tuck Mulrooney and Jack McCandless, who recently have passed away. May God bless them and their families.

*May eternal light shine upon them, O Lord.*



### Francis T. "Tuck" Mulrooney Captain of Archbishop Fitzmaurice

Former League Vice President, Board member and Captain of the Archbishop Fitzmaurice Group of Wilmington, Francis "Tuck" Mulrooney died on December 31, 2015. Tuck served as League Vice President during his term on the board from 1984 to 1993. He was Captain of the Archbishop Fitzmaurice Group from 1969 to 1992. Tuck was inducted into the Joseph F. O'Donnell Captains Hall of Fame in 1979 and in 1994 was honored with the League's prestigious William M. Lennox Award.

Tuck served in the military for 41 years. He saw combat duty in the infantry in WWII in France, Austria and Germany. He retired for the US Army Reserve as a Colonel and the Delaware National Guard as a Brigadier General. He was active in civic affairs in Delaware. He chaired the committee to establish the Delaware WWII Memorial.

A graduate of St. Joseph University, Tuck was an avid sports fan. He was State Chairman of the Delaware CYO and established the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame. Tuck was 91 years old.

### Jack McCandless: C.A. Captain of Most Blessed Sacrament Group

Jack McCandless, former Captain of the Most Blessed Sacrament Group died on March 28. Jack was captain of the group from 1984 through 1986. He was a 55 year retreatant, having made his first retreat in 1960 and his last retreat with Most Blessed Sacrament Group in 2014. Jack was 84.

The Laymen's Retreat League congratulates the following  
Men of Malvern on having achieved these anniversary milestones.  
Our prayer is that they return year after year to Malvern Retreat House.

YEARS	FULL NAME	GROUP NAME
65	Mr. George F. Schoener	SS Peter & Paul
60	C. Dale McClain, Esq.	Holy Family
60	Mr. George E. Blackmore	St. John N. Neumann
60	Mr. Patrick S. Healey	St. John N. Neumann
50	Mr. Emil W. Gonzales	Celebration of Christ's Holy Passion
50	Mr. John F. Leahy, Jr.	Epiphany
50	Mr. Joseph A. Walheim	Holy Family
50	Mr. Salvatore Tancredi	Holy Family
50	Mr. Anthony B. Petrongolo	Sons of Italy
50	Mr. Joseph F. Petrongolo, Sr.	Sons of Italy
50	Mr. Armond (Mondie) A. Novelli	St. Blaise-Curran Memorial
50	Mr. Michael J. Abbott	St. John N. Neumann
50	Mr. Joseph F. LoCasale	St. John N. Neumann
25	Mr. Maurice A. Boyle, Jr.	Celebration of Christ's Holy Passion
25	Mr. Michael J. Holland	Celebration of Christ's Holy Passion
25	Mr. Richard E. Pia	Chester County
25	Mr. Charles F. Mannello	Christus Rex
25	Mrs. Ann Cedrone	Divine Mercy
25	Mr. Giuseppe Palmarini	Epiphany
25	Mr. Dante J. Romanini	Epiphany
25	Mr. John McDonnell	Holy Family
25	Mr. Daniel I. Misko	Holy Family
25	Mr. Mark J. Boston	Holy Spirit
25	Mr. Mark S. Supple	Holy Spirit
25	Mr. Anthony J. Calise	Immaculate Conception
25	Mr. Joseph E. Grabowski	Immaculate Conception
25	Mr. William R. McCann	Immaculate Conception
25	Mr. Dennis J. Merlino	Immaculate Conception
25	Mr. Anthony T. Cerino	Our Lady of Fatima
25	Mr. Joseph P. Gallagher	Our Lady of Fatima
25	Mr. Lawrence Reader	Our Lady of Fatima
25	Mr. Leonard J. Wood	Our Lady of Fatima
25	Mr. Stephen J. Martin	Palm Sunday
25	Mr. Mark G. McGrath	Palm Sunday
25	Col. Joseph D. Weiss	Palm Sunday
25	Mr. Pat Koob	PECO/Good Shepherd
25	Mr. Edwin T. Winter, Sr.	PECO/Good Shepherd
25	Mr. Giuseppe Generosi	Pius XII
25	Mr. Nicholas Gambescia	Sons of Italy
25	Mr. Augustine W. Pescatore	Sons of Italy
25	Mr. Silvio M. Silvi	Sons of Italy
25	Mr. Vincent A. Turco	Sons of Italy
25	Mr. Gene Delaney	SS Peter & Paul
25	Mr. Thomas J. D'Lauro	SS Peter & Paul
25	Mr. Burt L. Strasser	SS Peter & Paul
25	Mr. Joseph Vitelli	St. Blaise-Curran Memorial
25	Mr. William J. Adelsberger	St. John N. Neumann
25	Mr. James Bressi	St. John N. Neumann
25	Mr. Walter Carr	St. John N. Neumann
25	Mr. John F. McHenry III	St. John N. Neumann
25	Mr. Patrick Ryan	St. John N. Neumann
25	Mr. Charles P. Shea	St. John N. Neumann
25	Mr. Ronald F. Virostek	St. John N. Neumann

## Inside Malvern

### Welcome

We have welcomed the following new employees in the past year:

**Joanne Bouvier** - Assistant to the Rector

**Monica McDowell** - Remembrance Association Administrator (part time)

**Tara McCormick** - Development Assistant (part time)

**Mark Poletunow** - President

**Diane Torrens** - Housekeeping Manager (part time)

### Congratulations

We congratulate the following employee on his promotion.

**Darren Jerome** - Chef, Family Life Center

## Annual Meeting



This year's annual meeting was an unusual one in Malvern Retreat House's history since it came three days after the changing of the guard in the President's office. The timing gave former President Jim Fitzsimmons a chance to reminisce on his last year at Malvern and new President Mark Poletunow the opportunity to greet many retreatants. Fitzsimmons thanked numerous individuals who ensure Malvern's success, and Poletunow gave a heartfelt speech on how he hopes to "bring people to the light" during his time here at Malvern.

The meeting also was an opportunity to thank the outgoing board members and to approve the two directors nominated for another term and the six new directors. (See Board of Directors story-Page 11). Overall, the meeting focused on how well Malvern is doing in its mission to bring people closer to Christ. In 2015 the retreat house again hosted more than 20,000 retreatants, served more than 106,000 meals, and maintained a strong financial position.



# The Board of Directors Undergoes Some Large Changes

More than one-fourth of the Board's members had their terms expire this Spring, leaving Malvern Retreat House with some large shoes to fill. The six dedicated board members who have stepped down are Dominick Centurioni, Frank Houder, Thomas Keiser, Duane McCarthy, Michael McGinn, and Donald Nicholson. We thank these directors for their years of service!

The vacancies kept the Nominating Committee busy. One of their tasks was to recommend another term for incumbent board members Stephen L. MacNamee, Jr, the Board's Assistant Treasurer, and Msgr. Ralph J. Chieffo. They also searched for qualified candidates for the six openings. The chairman of the committee for the last two years Duane McCarthy says he is confident that the Board will remain strong with the help of these new leaders, who were nominated and then approved at the annual meeting.

"I am so impressed with the quality of candidates who are recommended for consideration each year," McCarthy said. "We are fortunate that the legacy of our forefathers here at Malvern is in good hands as our Board rallies around Mark Poletunow, our new president, and the existing staff to grow our mission. Malvern's future looks very bright."

The six new board members are:



**Michael T. Gillespie, Jr.**

Gillespie is the Vice President of Client Services for the Gillespie Group Marketing and Advertising. He has extensive volunteer experience. He is the Board Chair of Our Lady of Hope Regional Catholic School, a Board Member for the Police Athletic League and The Neumann Forum, a Committee Member for Mercy Vocation High School, and the Former Chair and current Board Member of the Philadelphia Children's Alliance. Gillespie also is a March of Dimes Ambassador Father and a Council Member and Volunteer Lector at Philip Neri Roman Catholic Church.



**John F. Givnish**

Givnish is a 31-year retreatant who is a member of the Immaculate Conception Group. He also is a member of the Retreat Committee and the Good Shepherd Club. Outside of Malvern, Givnish is a member of the Holy Name Society, the Catholic Philopatrian Literary Society and past president of the Northeast Philadelphia Lions Club. Givnish is a graduate of the American Academy-McAllister Institute of Funeral Service and currently is the President and CEO of Life Celebration by Givnish.



**Thomas J. Lopez, Ph.D.**

Lopez is a member of the Knights of the Immaculata Group and a 3 year retreatant. He received his Bachelor's degree from St. Vincent College and his Ph.D. in biology from Penn State University. Lopez is a Sales Executive in the Mid-Atlantic Region for BIOPAC Systems. His also is a Knight of the Order of Malta, and a Knight Grand Cross of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Lopez is the author or co-author of multiple, international reference journal articles, and he is a member of the Pre-Jordan team & adult choir at St. Eleanor Church.



**Michael Mallick**

Mallick is a nine year retreatant with St. Joseph's Group and a member of the Finance Committee. He is a magna cum laude graduate of Boston University's School of Management and currently works as Principal of the Valley Forge Financial Group in King of Prussia, PA. Previously, Mallick worked as a Finance Manager at WP Realty and a Senior Finance Analyst at GE Energy Services.



**James R. Molinari**

Molinari is a member of the Caenaculum Group and a 35 year retreatant. He has served as an Associate Captain/Recruiter for the Caenaculum Group for 25 years. Molinari also is the recipient of the Sullivan Award. He received his JD from Widener University School of Law and BA from Villanova University. Molinari owns, manages, and operates a private law practice based in Philadelphia, and he is the General Counsel of PRA Development and Management Corporation. He also is a full-time Clerk to the Honorable Daniel D. McCaffrey. Molinari is an active member of the St. Joseph's Prep Alumni, the Lupus Foundation and the Huntington's Disease Foundation.



**Armando Moral**

Moral is a 23 year retreatant and co-captain of the SS. Peter and Paul Group. He received the Chairman's Award in 2009. Moral has a Bachelor's degree from Drexel University and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Rider University. He is the General Manager of Marlane Graphics, Inc. Outside of work, Moral is a Eucharistic Minister at Mary Mother of the Redeemer Parish and serves on multiple boards at the church. He is an Eagle Scout and 25 year member of the Boy Scouts of America. He coaches the Lansdale Catholic High School varsity girls soccer team and also is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

# MALVERN'S UPCOMING RETREATS



**May 20-22**  
Matt Talbot #48 & #66



**June 5**  
Father/Daughter  
Evening of Reflection  
*Patricia M. Kelly, Ph.D.*



**June 24-26**  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
Deacon Al Clay



**July 10-15**  
Sisters' Preached Retreat  
*Fr. Simeon Gallagher*



**May 27-29**  
St. Pius X  
*Fr. Simeon Gallagher &  
Fr. Michael Shea*



**June 9**  
Women's Evening of  
Reflection  
*Sister Sheila Galligan, IHM*



**June 26**  
Malvern Family Festival



**July 22-24**  
L.J. Ferdinand/Hazleton  
*Fr. Simeon Gallagher*



**May 31- June 1**  
DRE Retreat  
*Msgr. Joseph T. Marino*



**June 10-12**  
Charismatic Retreat  
*Fr. Bob Hogan*



**July 1**  
First Friday Breakfast for  
Men & Women



**July 22-24**  
Our Lady Queen of Peace  
*Fr. Michael Shea*



**June 3**  
First Friday Breakfast for  
Men & Women



**June 13-17**  
Priests' Preached Retreat  
*Fr. William Gaffney*



**July 7-8**  
Benedicta Leadership  
Conference  
*Johnnette Benkovic*



**August 5**  
First Friday Breakfast for  
Men & Women



**June 3-5**  
Our Lady of Sacred Heart  
*Fr. William Gaffney*



**June 17-19**  
Six Three  
*Fr. Len Peterson &  
Fr. Joseph Corley*



**July 8-10**  
Women of Grace  
*Johnnette Benkovic*



**August 5-7**  
Pray, Hope &  
Don't Worry Retreat  
*Gary Zimak*