

November 7, 2021

Dear parishioners,

A few weeks ago I was able to participate in the Annual Priests Retreat that takes place at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford. I was grateful for the opportunity for prayer and fellowship. Monsignor Joseph Donnelly was our retreat director and offered very fine conferences and meditations. The weather was beautiful too, so we had the chance to walk the grounds and be outside.

About thirty priests were on the retreat, which began on a Monday afternoon and ended on a Friday morning. Some of the retreatants were from neighboring dioceses, and many retreatants were senior status. Archbishop Blair came to join us for one of the afternoon conferences and then spent some time in conversation afterwards. In my role as Director of Continuing Formation for the Priests, I was pleased to promote the event and offered support throughout. All around it was a great experience.

Part of my retreat tradition is to make some journal entries. This is always a fascinating exercise, because I can scan past entries and get a sense of how God is working through my own life and ministry. This is movement of grace is often done in unexpected ways. I also catch up on some spiritual reading. This time around it was some titles on prayer and discipleship. That is always time well spent.

I encourage everyone to seek out your own quiet experiences of meditation, and bring along a journal or some spiritual reading. Be open to blessings of the moment. It makes a huge difference on our journey of faith.

All the way – to God's embrace.

Sincerely,

Father Lavorgna