

Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center
Response to COVID-19 Virus Pandemic

March 16, 2020

(This notice supplants the previous notice dated March 13, 2020.)

As of March 16, 2020, the Retreat Center is temporarily closed to guests. This closure is due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. At this time, we anticipate the closure to last three to four weeks. We hope to make a decision in early April as to when we may re-open.

This decision was made prayerfully and with close coordination between the Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center administration and the Prioress and Monastic Administrators of Sacred Heart Monastery. We will continue to actively and prayerfully monitor the COVID-19 outbreak and the recommendations of civil and medical authorities. Our highest priority is the health of our guests, our Sisters, our staff, and the surrounding community. In addition to following the instructions or recommendations of civil authorities we will keep our response rooted in prayer, in loving concern for all God's children, and in faith in God's goodness.

Information for groups and individuals scheduled between March 16 and

- We will be in touch by email with all group leaders or individuals who are scheduled for retreats between March 16 and April 17.
- **For externally-sponsored groups:** We will be in touch with the group leader either by email or phone. We will either refund your deposit or hold it for your next event, whichever is preferred by the group. It will be the responsibility of group leaders to communicate with members of the group and to make any internal refunds to registered individuals who made deposits or payments to the sponsoring organization.
- **For Retreat Center-sponsored events:** We will communicate with each registered participant by email. We will provide you the option of receiving a reimbursement of your deposit or payment, applying it to a future event within the next year, or turning it into a donation to the Retreat Center.
- **For private retreat guests:** We will communicate with each scheduled private retreat guest by email. We will provide you the option of receiving a reimbursement of your deposit or payment, applying it to a future retreat within the next year, or turning it into a donation to the Retreat Center.

Our Retreat Center seeks to welcome the guest as Christ. This includes the protection of God's children during a time of pandemic. The response above is rooted in the desire to welcome our guests as Christ, and to do so safely.