

Who Can Attend?

Anyone with a serious illness may be a retreatant for the Gennesaret retreat. It is open to persons of all faiths, though it is a Roman Catholic retreat in format, prayer, and style.

What Does Seriously Ill Mean?

This retreat is designed for persons whose medical condition would normally be considered a hindrance to participating in an overnight retreat program. The retreatant's medical condition must be considered chronic and potentially life threatening. Examples would be paralysis due to advanced multiple sclerosis (MS), lupus, diabetes, cancer patients, advanced heart disease, stroke, AIDS, and ALS.

How Many Retreatants Can Be Accommodated For This Retreat?

The maximum number of retreatants that can be accommodated at Gethsemani is 15.



How Will the Retreatant's Medical Needs be Cared For?

The retreat staff includes a full nursing staff assisted by a doctor who is available for the entire retreat. The nursing staff prior to the retreat will interview each prospective retreatant. A full medical history will be gathered, as well as current information on the retreatant's medical condition and medical needs. Arrangements will be made with family members and/or the retreatant's physician for ongoing care during the retreat and a planned course of action in case of any unforeseen emergency.

How Will Retreatants Be Selected?

One of the nursing staff and the retreat directors will interview each prospective retreatant prior to the retreat. Selection for participation will be made on the basis of a two-fold criterion.

First, a retreatant must manifest a level of mental awareness, alertness, and stamina that would allow the retreatant to participate and profit from the retreat activities (e.g., prayer with others and alone; ability to read, listen and speak about the scriptures; willingness to interact with others; and ability to endure a three-day overnight schedule).

Second, the nursing staff must be able to meet the retreatants' medical needs. This may limit the number of retreatants who would require maximum attention and care.

Each situation will be made on a case-by-case basis. A waiting list will be maintained for last-minute openings and for future retreats.



What Is the Cost of the Retreat?

The retreat is offered free of charge. The retreat staff members volunteer their time and service and The Archdiocese of Louisville covers operating expenses, including rental of facilities and room and board.

Free will offerings are gratefully accepted. If a parish sponsors a parishioner for the Gennesaret retreat, we ask the parish to make it's contribution directly to the Office of Pastoral Care .

Where and When Will the Retreat Be Held?

All Gennesaret Retreats for the Seriously Ill are conducted at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist, Kentucky.

The retreats are held each spring and fall. The up coming spring retreat will be May 29-31, 2009 along with the fall retreat held on October 23-25, 2009.



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GENNESARET RETREAT FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL



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Care

