

Happy Memories of the DMJ Sisters



My husband Norm and I started attending day and also evening times of prayer at Mary and Joseph Retreat Center about 1977 and about 1984 or 1985 we started making a one week Retreat in the summer with Fr. Joseph Glynn, O.C.D. and Sr. Johanna Leahy, D.M.J.. We did this for about 5 years until Fr. Joe returned to Ireland. This was such a rewarding time for us. It opened our eyes and hearts to what being a Catholic was really about. The teachings on contemplative prayer by Fr. Joe were amazing and Sr. Johanna was an inspiration. She walked the talk with us from participating with us at recreation time to a genuine loving and caring Hospitality for the entire week.

After Fr. Joe left Sr. Johanna continued to teach classes that I attended and later she provided counseling for me that was so helpful.

We have a family of 6 children which have grown to 34 today. Sr. Johanna invited me to join the DMJ Associates but we had become very involved with a 12 step program due to the involvement of our daughter and Norm and I have continued in 12 step programs for 27 years. We felt we were open to this program because of the experiences we had with Fr. Joe and Sr. Johanna.

Through the years our experiences of coming back to The Retreat Center was always like coming home. All of the DMJ Sisters have always been so kind, thoughtful and loving to Norm and I. In 2001 I became a DMJ Associates. The DMJ Sisters are such beautiful role models sharing their love and kindness and listening skills to all. Because of my commitments to my husband and family I have not been able to be very active or able to get to know the Sisters as I would have liked.

Each Sister has their own special gifts and I have received counseling from Sr. Julia Costello which was very helpful. Associate leadership from Sr. Renee Bauerly, and also enjoyed the beautiful grounds at the Retreat Center that she helped design. And leadership from Sr. Mary Enda Creegan and now Sr. Nuala Briody. Besides we are greeted with big smiles and hugs and warm friendship from each one anytime we are able to participate in a DMJ function. Sharing with all of the beautiful Sisters is always a gift and fun. Thank you for being there for us. We love you.

Norm and Barbara
California