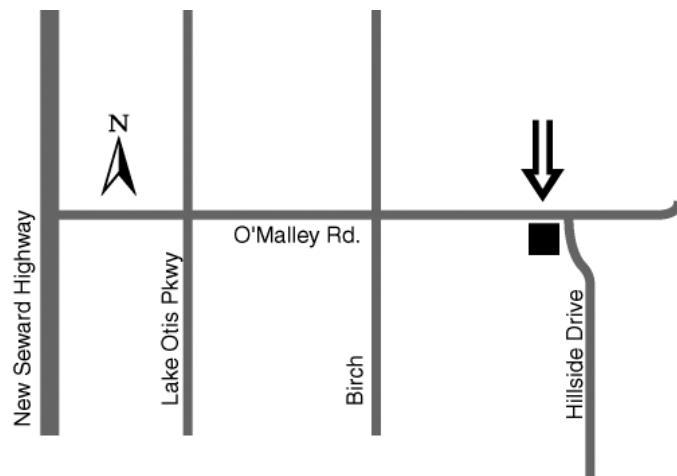


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**Vision Statement**  
*Alaskans transformed by their relationship with God.*

**Mission Statement**  
*To provide a sacred place and to accompany people as they seek to find God in all things.*

SPRING 2013

# Holy Spirit Center

## News

CATHOLIC RETREAT HOUSE MINISTRIES, INC.

### Welcome Father Luz Flores

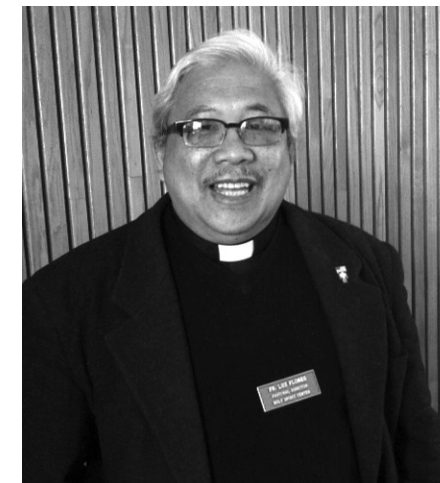
**H**oly Spirit Center (HSC) warmly welcomes Father Luzvimindo Flores, otherwise known as Fr. Luz! Holy Spirit Center has been without a resident priest for nearly two years – so his arrival is a blessing! Fr. Luz transferred from Our Lady of the Lake in Big Lake in March, in time for Holy week and the Easter Season.

Fr. Luz was born and raised in the Philippines. He has a strong Jesuit influence as his hometown of Jabonga was established by Jesuits in the 1800's. He attended the San Jose Seminary and Loyola School of Theology, both operated by Jesuits. Although he is not a Jesuit, Ignation spirituality is evident in his life and work as a priest.

In 1989 he moved to Tacoma, WA, where he worked as a Chaplain and completed his Clinical Pastoral Education training between Phoenix, Tacoma and Spokane. He began his work in Alaska in 1995, serving as Chaplain at Providence hospital for 11 years. It was during this period that he met several Jesuits who served HSC; Fr. Vince Buezer, Fr. Paul Macke, Fr. Armand Nigro, as well as fellow Chaplain, Fr. Bill Burke. He and Fr. Buezer co-facilitated retreats for the Filipino community.

Fr. Luz brings a breadth of experience to Holy Spirit Center. He has been Vicar at St. Benedict's and

Campus Minister for UAA and APU. While serving the community of Big Lake, he became immersed in the local community by serving as a spiritual advisor to the ACTS (Adoration, Community, Theology and Service) group. He also took up the hobby of dog-mushing which was a childhood dream. He noted that he can "feel the presence of God" while on the trails.



Fr. Luz is excited to be at HSC, and is awed by the 22 acres of natural surroundings. He sees the grounds as a center for prayer and spiritual direction; a place to help people connect with God. He is looking forward to exploring what we, as staff and Board, can offer to the Archdiocese. Fr. Luz's goal is to see HSC become more involved in the community at large and to be

of greater service to the parishes. He plans on reconnecting with communities of people with whom he worked in the past; Filipino, Native Alaskan, and Samoan communities.

Fr. Luz's mother, Basilia, also joins the HSC community. Family connection is very important to Fr. Luz and his mother, and they maintain close connections with their family in the Philippines. We welcome Fr. Luz and his mother to our family here at Holy Spirit Center. We look forward to the work we can accomplish together.

## Book Reviews

### Practicing the Presence of the Living God: A Retreat with Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection

Jean Maalouf

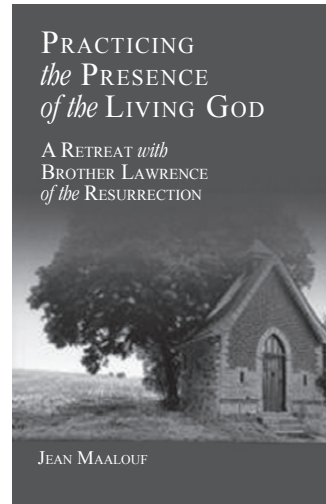
Interactive. This is what comes to mind when I read “Practicing the Presence of the Living God: A Retreat with Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection” by Jean Maalouf. While the author has two doctorates, this book is not for head knowledge, but for heart knowledge which he prizes more as a direct route to God.

The book is about Jesus, Brother Lawrence and Jean Maalouf’s reflections on seven themes, one for each chapter. I Will Give You Rest, There is Need of Only One Thing, The “Aha!” Moment, God’s Policy and Our Response, Practicing the Presence of God, Growing in Gratitude and Living the Meaningful Life.

Each chapter evokes the reader’s unique response. There is plenty of room to write responses to the open ended questions. The reader will want to write in pencil and keep this book for years: as time goes on the answers will change as you grow in God’s life.

This book is as good a companion in the chapel as in the coffee shop. You can have a retreat anywhere anytime. Jean Maalouf asks the big questions and invites a response at a personal level. Is the Internet just as alluring as the golden calf? And what am I doing about it? This book has staying power because it is like a hiking trail which you hike at different times of day and different seasons each time discovering something new.

Maalouf’s obvious love for Brother Lawrence’s “methodless method” stirs the reader’s creative juices and opens up the pathway to eternity. You do not want to miss this one. —Phyllis Shepherd, Board Member



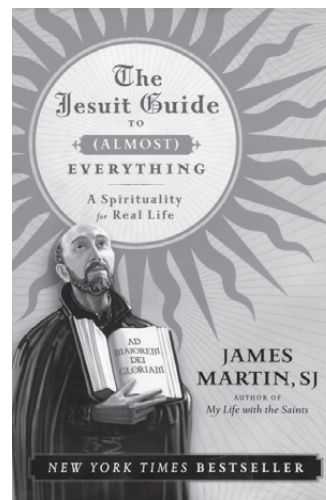
### The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything – A Spirituality for Real Life

James Martin, SJ.

Spirituality is a way of living in relationship with God, and Fr. Martin has written an excellent book using the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola as a practical guide for charting a path through life with God. He shows how this is possible by translating the insights of St. Ignatius for the modern lives of everyday people.

Relying on his own personal experiences, those of many Jesuits friends, and the lives of Jesuit saints, Fr. Martin blends humorous anecdotes, user-friendly examples and inspiring stories in an easily readable guide that can be used by anyone. You don’t have to know anything about the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius to enjoy this book because Fr. Martin shows us how the traditions and teachings fit into the real world of work, love, suffering, decisions, prayer and friendship.

His light approach keeps you interested and provides useful insights into finding God in every part of your life. The Men’s Group at Holy Spirit Center just finished reading the book and unanimously that it is an excellent choice.—Alan Muise



## Holy Spirit Center Retreats

### July 19–23

#### Silent Centering Prayer Retreat

The retreat will be led by Fr. William Sheehan, OMI, who has been providing Centering Prayer retreats nationally for more than 25 years. This track of the retreat will be in English and prior contemplative meditative experience is recommended. Included will be communal Centering Prayer sits, a Taize prayer Service, Lectio Divinia, and quiet time. The second track will be led by Maru Ladron de Guevara, who has served many years with Fr. Thomas Keating and has extensive experience internationally leading Centering Prayer retreats in Spanish. This part will be an introduction to Centering Prayer (in Spanish) and does not require prior experience. Fee: 3 day retreat (Friday 6pm - Sunday pm) \$195.00 or full 5 day retreat (Friday-Tuesday 1:00pm), \$325.00. To register, please call Holy Spirit Center at 907-346-2343.

### September 6–8

#### 12-Step Retreat

Based on the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, this retreat is open to anyone interested in recovery from alcoholism and other addictions through the spirituality of the 12 Steps. The retreat will consist of conferences, prayer & reflection, group sharing, and time for individual conferences, confession, 5th Step, etc., with Fr. John Gubbins. Daily Mass will be available for those who wish to participate. Fr. John has been in recovery for over 25 years. Retired after 20 years as a US Navy Chaplain, Fr. John currently assists with ministry at two parishes in San Diego and volunteers at hospice. He has led 12-Step retreats throughout the US and Canada since 1999. The retreat begins at 7pm, Friday, Sept 6, and ends after noon lunch on Sunday, Sept 8. Three meals on Saturday and two meals on Sunday will be provided. Fee: Private room \$195; double occupancy \$175; commuter \$155. Call HSC at 346-2343 to register or for info.

### October 25–27

#### Holy Spirit Center Fall Retreat

The retreat will begin at 7:00pm on Friday, Oct 25 and end after noon lunch on Sunday, Oct 27.

## CONTACT US



### Holy Spirit Center

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Fr. Steven Moore, Archdiocesan Liaison

### Visit the Center web site!

The site has been re-designed to include online registration for retreats and other programs, as well as the ability to make a donation online. If you haven’t lately, take a moment to visit the Center’s web site at [holyspiritcenterak.org](http://holyspiritcenterak.org)

