

**DIOCESE OF FARGO**  
**IGNATIAN RETREAT - OCTOBER 23-31, 2017**  
**FRANCISCAN RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER**  
**102 6TH ST SE**  
**HANKINSON, NORTH DAKOTA**

The eight-day directed Ignatian retreat is a personalized retreat for those who are seriously interested in deepening their life of prayer, and in becoming aware of the voice of the Lord as He calls us to enter our priestly vocation more deeply at this point in our lives. As five hundred years of spiritual tradition witness, this kind of retreat, made well, is a uniquely powerful instrument for giving new life to both our prayer and our calling.

The directed retreat calls for men willing to meet the Lord in prayer and silence for eight days, and desirous in responding generously to His call for spiritual growth.

The retreat is held in an atmosphere of **SILENCE** as the best space for hearing the Lord speak to our hearts in prayer. Each retreatant meditates about four times a day on different texts of Scripture, and meets once a day with the retreat director to share the Word of the Lord in his prayer, to clarify any issues that may arise, and plan the prayer for the next day. In this way, the retreat is personalized to the individual situation of each retreatant. Daily Eucharist and meals (in silence) are part of the group schedule. Prayerfully consider if you would like to make this retreat.

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**Monsignor John Esseff**

The retreat will be directed by Msgr. John Esseff, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania. He was ordained in 1953, and has served Jesus Christ and His Church in various diocesan and pontifical appointments, including being a chaplain to migrant workers and inmates in prison, and the Diocesan Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the USA (his office was responsible for funding mission dioceses and organizations around the world). He also has worked as a missionary in Peru and Lebanon.



For more than a decade, Monsignor served as a faculty member of Pius X Seminary in Dalton, Pennsylvania. In the 2004-05, he served as the Director of Formation at the Cardinal Muench Seminary, in 2005-06 he was a spiritual director there; additionally, he has provided spiritual direction to priests of the Diocese of Fargo. He also continues to work as a retreat master and spiritual director for bishops, priests, seminarians, religious, and laity around the world.

Each priest is to bring a bible, a journal (or a notebook), an alb and stoles.

We hope you have a prayerful and fruitful retreat.