



Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua.

Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Notre Dame Retreat House

Blissful Solitude, Silent Reflection

Located five miles south of the city of Canandaigua, on a hill some 300 feet above the lake, sits the Notre Dame Retreat House, a place of meditation and thought open to all Christians.

The retreat house is operated by the Redemptorist Fathers of the Eastern Province. Father Thomas Schmidt is rector-director and is assisted by Fathers Richard Moran, associate director, and Timothy Keating, retreat master.

Notre Dame's facilities include a beautiful chapel overlooking the lake, a spacious lounge, dining area, library, and sleeping accommodations for 107 people (61 single rooms, 23 doubles).

Notre Dame averages more than 7,000 retreatants per year, Father Schmidt said, and pointed out that, in 1979, 43 out of 52 weekends were booked for use. Already this year, 46 weekends have been reserved for men's and women's retreats, charismatic retreats, married couples retreats, serenity weekends and marriage encounter weekends.



Father Thomas Schmidt, rector-director of the retreat house.

The facility is also available weekdays and has been used for mid-week spiritual activities such as Teen Seminar, high school retreats, days of recollection for senior citizens, and diocesan workshops, to name a few.

Due to the number of groups applying for reservations, Father Schmidt suggests that interested groups call or write at least three months in advance. The

address is 5151 Foster Road, Box 342, Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424. The phone number is (716) 394-5700.

Notre Dame is subsidized totally by retreatant donations and by the Redemptorist Fathers. The retreat house in Canandaigua is one of five operated by the Redemptorists. The others are located in West End, N.J.; Hampton, Va.; Toby Hannah, Pa.; and Puerto Rico.



Above, the Notre Dame chapel can accommodate more than 200 persons. Left, a small library on the second floor provides a place for quiet reflection. Below, diocesan priests gathered in the lounge with Bishop Matthew H. Clark during the Clergy Conference last February.



Stations of the Cross, like this one overlooking Canandaigua Lake, surround the grounds of the retreat house.

