

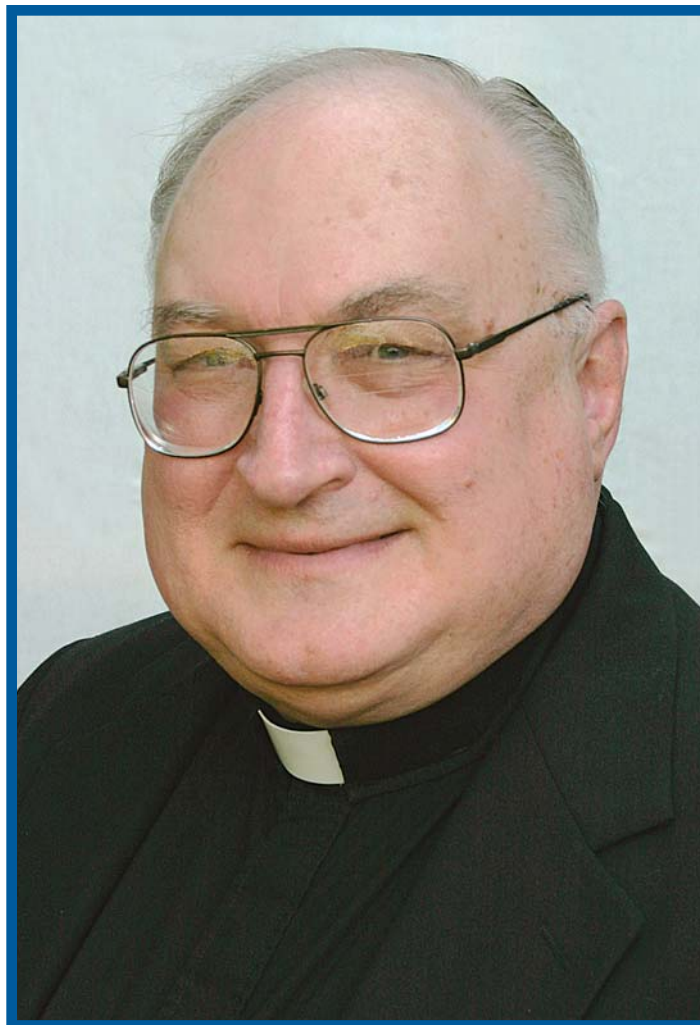
*Through the years, calling,  
inviting all to come to know  
the Lord and accept  
His Gift of Peace.*

## Father Burshek to Become White House Retreat's Seventh Director

At a special meeting of the White House Retreat Board of Trustees on May 23, 2008, it was announced that Very Reverend Timothy McMahon, S.J., Provincial of the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus, was appointing Father James Burshek, S.J., to become Director of White House Retreat. He becomes the seventh director in White House's eighty six year history.

Father Burshek is a native Saint Louisan growing up in south city and attending

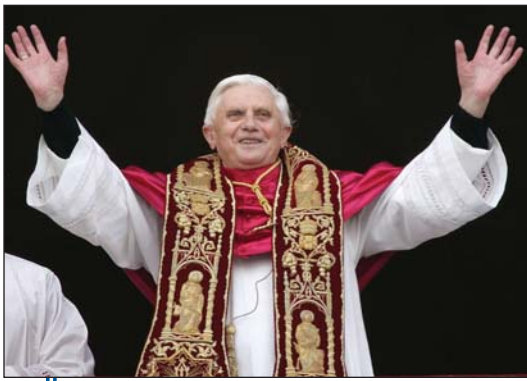
Saint Louis University High School before entering the Jesuit Order at St. Stanislaus Seminary in Florissant, MO, in 1963. He has taught at Jesuit High Schools in both Denver and Saint Louis and has recently



been on the Provincial Staff of the Missouri Province. He serves on the Boards of Saint Louis University and a number of other Jesuit institutions and activities around the country. For the last five years he has been a regular and very popular visiting retreat director at White House and has been very supportive of all of the retreat house's various efforts and activities.

Father Burshek will take over from Father Richard Buhler, S.J., as Director of White House Retreat

and Superior of the White House Jesuit Community at a date to be set during the summer. Fr. Provincial McMahon, S.J., has assigned Fr. Buhler to become the pastor of St. Francis Xavier College Church in Saint Louis.



## Pope Benedict XVI Speaks to Jesuits

Jesuits from around the world recently finished a two and a half month meeting in Rome. One of the highlights of this gathering was an address that the Holy Father gave them. The Pope invited all of the Jesuit leaders to the Vatican and spoke to them words of thanks and asked them to continue to serve the Church in a number of special ways. One of the Holy Father's priorities for service to the Church speaks beautifully about the mission of White House Retreat:

*"Finally, I invite you to reserve a specific attention to the ministry of **The Spiritual Exercises** that has been characteristic of your Society from its origins. **The Exercises** are the fountain of your spirituality and the matrix of your Constitutions, but they are also a gift that the Spirit of the Lord has made to the entire Church: it is for you to continue to make it a precious and efficacious instrument for the spiritual growth of souls, for their initiation to prayer, to meditation, in this secularized world in which God seems to be absent. Just in the last week, I have myself profited of **The Spiritual Exercises** together with my closest collaborators of the Roman Curia under the guidance of your outstanding confrere Cardinal Albert Vanhoye, S.J. In a time such as today's, in which the confusion and multiplicity of messages, the speed of changes and situations, make particularly difficult for our contemporaries to put their lives in order and respond with joy to the call that the Lord makes to every one of us, **The Spiritual Exercises** represent a particularly precious method to seek and find God in us, around us, and in everything, to know His will and to put it into practice."*

This is why White House Retreat has existed for these 86 years!

## Labor Day Weekend MEN AND WOMEN

On the 2007 Labor Day weekend White House hosted a retreat that varied from its usual format. It began on Friday evening and ended on Sunday afternoon. But the bigger break with tradition was that it was open to all men and women. Of the sixty-eight attendees there were thirty couples while the other eight were individuals or father-daughter and mother-son combinations. One of the target audiences was folks who are unable to attend other retreats because of Friday work requirements. All attending were very happy with this retreat and urged White House to offer it again.

Father Don Cunningham, S.J., will preach the second annual Labor

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## Gen Eiler Retires



For the past twenty-two years Gen Eiler has been the voice of White House Retreat to hundreds of Captains and thousands of retreatants. Her precise and friendly manner has helped individual retreatants find the retreat dates they were looking for and helped Captains figure out how many spaces they needed to fill for their retreat groups.

There are many behind the scenes jobs that need to be done to make sure the retreat house's yearly events go smoothly. It takes a lot of work to prepare for each retreat, day of prayer, communion breakfast, captains' meetings and the various large mailings and newsletters that go out to retreatants through the year. Many of these have required long overtime hours in addition to the detailed work and planning involved. Gen has done them carefully, generously and lovingly for these many years.

While Gen's last day in the office was April 30th, Saint Louis area Captains will have the opportunity to give her a proper thank you at the annual Captains' picnic.

# White House Retreat Promotion Efforts

Every three months a large group of Captains gathers to prepare for their ministry of inviting men to make White House Retreats. These meetings begin with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and include a tasty dinner and fellowship. They close with a carefully prepared presentation and the distribution of materials that will help the Captains in their efforts. Each meeting requires a lot of behind the scenes work by the White House Office staff and the men who prepare and conduct the meetings.

The four quarterly Facilitators and the Chief Expediter meet very often all through the year. They spend a lot of time preparing for the meetings and discussing and implementing ways to bring



more retreatants to the Lord. At the end of April, Father Buhler took a photo of this group after one of their meetings. **From left to right are: Tom Rocco, Kevin Shaner, Rick Schmidt, Frank**

**Connor (the Chief Expediter and a member of the White House Board) and Bill Bader.** These men are very generous in their efforts to help Captains bring others closer to the Lord and are always ready to be of service.

## Layman Preaches White House Retreat

Mr. Timothy Murphy, the Director of Manresa Jesuit Retreat House in Convent, LA, became the first layman to preach a retreat at White House. A group of eighty-two men gathered for the April 17, 2008, retreat. With 112 rooms Manresa is the largest of the USA's Jesuit retreat houses and Mr. Murphy has been its director for the last two and a half years. For several years he has been preaching retreats there and at several other Jesuit retreat houses in the South. For about seven or eight years he has been preparing himself for this ministry working with a number of Jesuit "mentors." He was very familiar with White House because he had visited before to "sit in" on retreats and again in preparation for assuming the job of Director at Manresa. The men on his retreat responded with great enthusiasm and the Captains of those groups were very happy with his leadership and urged Father Buhler to invite him back. Mr. Murphy has a son who is a junior at Saint Louis University so he was able to combine his work at White House with a visit with his son, Brendan. Several retreatants commented how happy they were to be able to speak "dad to dad" or "husband to husband" about their lives and get practical advice for their prayer.

While he was the first laymen to preach a retreat at White House other laymen have directed retreatants during White House Retreat's eight day individually directed summer retreat. Several deacons have also preached the retreats for people in recovery from addictive behavior.

## ***MEN!***

There is ample space available in these upcoming retreats:

### **WEEKENDS**

**May 29 – June 1**

**June 12 – 15 (For men and women in recovery)**

**June 19 – 22**

**July 10 – 13**

**July 17 – 20**

**July 31 – August 3**

**August 7 – 10**

**August 14 – 17**

### **WEEKDAY**

**June 16 – 19**

**August 4 – 7**

**Registration may be done online at [www.whretreat.org](http://www.whretreat.org).**

## WOMEN!

Registration is now open for all women's retreats through November 2008. (You may disregard previous June 1st information and register now.) Several of these retreats are traditionally filled, so try to register as soon as possible.

### WEEKDAY

July 21 – 24

September 8 – 11

October 6 – 9

October 20 – 23

November 10 – 13

### WEEKEND

June 12 – 15 Fathers' Day for men and women in recovery

July 24 – 27

November 13 – 16

You can use the on-line registration form or one that you have received from the office. **IMPORTANT.** If you choose to register on-line at [www.whretreat.org](http://www.whretreat.org), complete the registration form. **You must indicate in "Comments"** whether you will be mailing a check or phoning with Visa or MasterCard information to make your deposit. When your registration form and \$50.00 non-refundable deposit are received you will be confirmed for that retreat.

**Invite family members and friends to join you!**

## LABOR DAY

*Continued from page 2*

Day weekend retreat for men and women which will be held from the evening of Friday August 29, 2008, to about 2pm on Sunday August 31, 2008. As such, this retreat does not have Captains to promote it. It provides a great opportunity for a couple who wish to make a retreat together. White House asks your help with promoting this effort. You may register on the website or call the office (314-533-8903).

## White House Retreat

7400 Christopher Dr.

St. Louis, MO 63129-5799

314-533-8903 1-800-643-1003

[www.whretreat.org](http://www.whretreat.org)

[whretreat@whretreat.org](mailto:whretreat@whretreat.org)

[reservations@whretreat.org](mailto:reservations@whretreat.org)

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## WHITE HOUSE ON YOUTUBE

Check out White House Retreat's award winning video on YouTube. Go to [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com) and type **White House Retreat** in the search box.

## In Memoriam

*Remember in your prayers these retreatants who have died. All are remembered in the daily Masses and prayers of thanksgiving at White House.*

### October 2006

Leo B. Waninger

### April 2007

Robert E. Reich

### May 2007

Robert A. Eufinger

### October 2007

Philip J. Gerdes

Myles M. McCahill

### January 2008

Michael K. Brennan

Janet F. Brockland

Tom F. Condiff

Robert J. Dirkers, Sr.

Gerald P. Huber

John C. Kelly

Nicholas M. Mazzola

Harold J. Meyer

James J. Miller, Sr.

Doris A. Neralich

Edward J. Reardon

Paul R. Tobin

Herbert V. Wappelhorst

Isabel Willerding

Genevieve R. Winterer

### February 2008

Thomas E. Brown

Bryan L. Carlin, Sr.

William C. Casey

Thomas L. Cattoor

Joseph J. Coffey

James R. DeFriese

Donald P. Dolan

Bernard L. Easter

Robert K. Edwards

Dorothy Hoef

Edna M. Kallial

James E. Lind

Beatrice A. Phelan

Edward J. Piel, Jr.

Cornelius J. Seyer

Robert H. Sicking

Leslie L. Suchman

John F. Ueberle

John J. Waidmann, Sr.

Thomas J. Zinser

### March 2008

Allan S. Barton

Alphonse E. Bell

Mary Carolyn Burkemper

Georgia L. Fischer

Christopher W. Frederiksen

Earl T. Kelley

Leo R. Krobath

James J. McGovern

J. Robert Mudd

Charles C. Oelrich

Daniel I. Offner

Joseph Rocco

Norman A. Schicker

Paul R. Schnelten

Shirley J. Schnitzer

Rev. Edward J. Schramm

John T. Sheridan

Thomas R. Walsh

Robert F. Westerheide

Earl L. Yates

### April 2008

Walter J. Cassin

Mary T. Donnelly

Vernita M. Eichholz

Wayne B. Fau

Merlin J. Garrett

Margo M. Gutterres

James C. Laflin

Margaret A. Moffatt

Thomas J. O'Keefe

John E. Pervan

Carl F. Saale

Glennon F. Sahrman

Jerome J. Sandweg

Glen P. Schaeffer

Nurray Smith

G. Edward Stoneking

R. Dale Streight

Alex Vehige

Edward J. Walsh

## In Gratitude

*The following friends have asked for memorial gifts to White House Retreat in the wake/funeral notice of a loved one. For helping us in this special way, we extend our most grateful appreciation and thanks to:*

### The Family

On the death Jan. 17, 2008, of

**John C. Kelly**

### The Family

On the death Jan. 29, 2008, of

**Michael K. Brennan, Sr.**

### The Family

On the death March 2, 2008, of

**J. Robert (Bob) Mudd**