As we move forward into our 82nd year, Camp Maria Retreat Center is open to considering all possibilities for better meeting the needs of the people we serve.

Camp Maria Retreat Center reaches out in support to the most vulnerable groups including the homeless, veterans, at risk groups and special needs groups. Our family groups, parish/church groups, community organizations and individuals are also a major part of this ministry. Our mission is “to serve God’s people.”

To do this “right” takes reflection, listening, planning and implementation. This year we put into place a new three year Strategic Plan. The plan addresses three key issues: Advancement, Human Resources and Facilities. We will be sharing these with you.

In support of our mission, Camp Maria has forged partnerships with several different benefactors and organizations, and the results have been profound. We are looking forward to moving towards the future in a shared understanding of our ministry with our Board of Directors, our wonderful staff and with you for the betterment of Camp Maria Retreat Center.

Much Peace and Love in Christ,

Ann Kovalcik, SCNA

Thank you members of St. Mary’s Academy Class of 1958 for your very generous donations to the Oratory in memory of Sister Julia Clare, as a Catholic convert and one of the first CM counselors. Camp Maria was a very special place to Sister Julia Clare as were all of her many students. She was called to eternal life on February 22, 2018.

Thanks to George and Stefanie Hall for the generous donation of a new HVAC system for this holy space.

We are deeply grateful to Rev. Jerry Gamrot for the gift of his painting, “Annunciation”, calling forth joy, presence and peace.

Camp Maria Retreat Center, a ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky, strives to provide an atmosphere of prayer, hospitality and simplicity in a peaceful, natural environment for retreats and various types of renewal programs. Our facilities are available to those who seek to strengthen and deepen their commitment to God, the Church, and to God's people.
A wave of nostalgia may sweep over you as you drive onto the gravel road to Camp Maria Retreat Center. There is a familiar yearning that we all have to return to simplicity and peace, which is bridged at Camp Maria. This beautiful place offers opportunities to talk and listen to God, enjoy nature, experience peace and build relationships. Camp Maria brings hope and healing to many who come here. More than ever, people need a place like Camp Maria Retreat Center to reflect and rejuvenate. Your presence and support is important and needed at Camp Maria. Not only do you bring good energy, prayers and care, your support of Camp Maria helps us to reach out to those who are in need and are marginalized.

Some projects that Camp Maria helps to carry out include the WARM Program, a temporary sheltering program for the homeless, Camp Ohana for foster children, and Vacations for Vets, for hospitalized vets and their families.

Once again during the Christmas holidays Camp Maria Retreat Center hosted W.A.R.M. - Wrapping Arms Round Many. The WARM participants really enjoy coming to Camp Maria. They immediately notice that calm and serene spirit that is Camp Maria. The Spiritual Center is transformed into a warmly decorated dormitory and gathering area. WARM guests enjoy a wonderful sense of freedom here, walking in the cool, crisp evenings from the Spiritual Center to the Dining Lodge for tasty meals and warm fellowship.

For a few years now, Camp Maria Retreat Center has supported Veterans and their families through the Vacations for Vets program at Camp Maria. Southern Maryland Vacations for Vets is a program created to give our wounded or sick service members, from local military hospitals and treatment centers, a chance to relax with their family. It is a chance for them to escape the hospital routine and/or forget about their traumatic experiences. This program makes a huge difference in the lives of the families. I remember a couple sitting at the fire circle, both soldiers under treatment who shared that they felt such a sense of deep peace here at Camp Maria and were grateful for the opportunity to be away from it all and to be at Camp Maria.

Camp Ohana is an overnight program for our local foster children. Camp Ohana will be celebrating its sixth year in 2018. The children look forward to Camp Ohana all year long. Camp offers experiences that would not be available to them otherwise. They are able to enjoy swimming, canoeing, fishing and arts and crafts just to name a few activities. The children who attend camp also bond together as a type of Camp Family. The children are able to be free and unburdened while they are at Camp Maria Retreat Center.

In recent years, several community partnerships have been forged with Camp Maria to support our mission. A St. Mary’s Christmas in April team assisted with spring cleaning and painting of the cabins. The Mechanicsville
Lions Club provides regular financial support for local youth programs. Rotary Clubs of Charlotte Hall and Lexington Park and Stephen’s Fund donated time and money to rebuild ramps on buildings to support participants with physical challenges. Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake and Alliance for the Bay provided environmental education and trees planted on the Camp Maria property. St. Mary’s Ryken Interact Club helped to plant the trees on property. Many local parishes, churches and community groups helped to support WARM at Camp Maria. St. Mary’s Ryken National Honor Society has supported Camp Maria with several projects including decorating Camp Maria for the Christmas season.

Camp Maria continues its long history, collaboration, and support from groups that use our facilities for a variety of programs. Camp Maria’s Family groups are an essential part of the legacy and future of the retreat center. Over the past few years, Camp Maria has received substantial support from the Labor Day Group and Blessed Sacrament Family Group for capital improvements. Bay Believers, Sacred Heart Bowie, and the Stefko families generously support the work and mission of Camp Maria Retreat Center.

“As the love of Christ impels us” and with your continued care and support, Camp Maria Retreat Center will continue to improve facilities and provide services for all who come here.

KUDOS

Labor Day Group - During the summer/fall months, many family groups return to Camp Maria Retreat Center as have their older generations over the years. Making the turn onto the “black top” still provided the same feeling of peace and serenity. All still looks the same, and still the same cabins and buildings as in the early days... maybe not so many lights. The Labor Day Group will be celebrating a milestone this year. This will be the 50th Anniversary of their first visit to Camp Maria. That was the name in 1968!

CMRC Food Service Staff - How important is food to a retreat center? At mealtime it is everything. For the past year Camp Maria Retreat Center has been thinking a lot about food. Terri Williams, our Chef/Food Service Manager was hired the spring of 2017. She brought with her much experience in food service and cooking! She has worked very hard to put together a wonderful staff to provide the proper skills, work ethic, and teamwork. Our kitchen is a place of joy. Our Food Service is truly a ministry - here to serve our guests and retreatants.
July 2018 begins Camp Maria Retreat Center’s 82nd year... a long time since our beginning on Breton Bay as a girls’ day camp. Over the years, we have “kept Camp Maria, Camp Maria” with its original buildings, but maintained it so that it meets the needs of our present and future guests. Behind the scenes a small “army” of Board members, committee members, volunteers, friends and stakeholders, and our CMRC staff work diligently to have Camp Maria ready when our guests arrive.

Last year the CMRC Board of Directors, with the support of Carol Zenthoefer, Strategic Plan Coach, and with information gathered from our patrons and community members, spent much time and reflection to develop a new Strategic Plan for 2018-2020. Our challenge was to narrow the issues down to three major topics with specific goals that would bring continued improvements to Camp Maria Retreat Center and to the needs and comfort of our guests. Already you are seeing the results of our study and our desires to make Camp Maria all that it can be.

**Critical Issue #1: Advancement**

Now that Camp Maria Retreat Center has moved into almost full year operation, we need to increase our marketing with local Catholic and ecumenical organizations. Sharing CMRC with more families and groups is our mission. Working with parish groups has increased, but this is an area where we would like to partner more to better serve age/issue related groups. In order to reach more people, we need to increase our community involvement on our Board, and Advancement, Facilities and Finance Committees. And as with all projects and improvement, we need to grow and deepen our donor relations. We cannot rely on retreat fees to cover all of our expenses, to increase programs, and to improve facilities. Too many retreatants would be left out, if that were the case. Many groups and individuals are already working with us on this type of contribution and fundraising.

**Critical issue #2: Human Resources**

The area of Human Resources has shown the greatest increase in need with more groups, more days open to groups, more turn around preparation for the next groups and more specialty services to meet the needs of the groups. Our staff size needs to be adjusted as each group requires. The staff needs to have time off during our busy “week in week out” times during the summer. We are blessed with a wonderful staffing team who also need to be taken care of. Plans have been developed for substitutes from the director to the life guards. More needs to be done to assure proper coverage - this is a major item in our Strategic Plan. CMRC would also like to develop a formalized volunteer program...service is a vital part of our mission.
Critical Issue #3: Facilities

Old mansions can be beautiful and wonderful to own. Camp Maria Retreat Center is a “mansion.” We love the setting, the old comfortable buildings, the “view” with a sunset almost every night and the peace. However, we must always be aware that CMRC must be maintained to keep it livable and workable for all to enjoy. We now have a new revised 3 year plan to provide maintenance and to keep the campus in good repair. In addition, we are looking ahead to improve the present facilities and add new features to make one’s stay more enjoyable and peaceful. Visible improvements from our last strategic plan are now in place and operational, including: air conditioning of the Dining Hall, swimming pool renovations, and new ramps. Other areas of the plan are related to climate control in existing buildings, waterfront improvements, better use of space throughout the center, and renewable energy. Even technology will be looked at to determine our retreatants needs for presentation equipment and expanded Wi-Fi. All this is in addition to regular repairs and upkeep of our buildings and their furnishings. Someone even mentioned a labyrinth. Again these plans - both upkeep and new, will require funding and services of professionals. This is where CMRC Advancement comes into the picture as well as professional friends to help us plan and put projects into motion.

Camp Maria Retreat Center is excited to have a new Strategic Plan in place for the next three years. With it we will be guided to maintain our beautiful property toward the next 82 years. It will be work with both headaches and joys. It will take the work of many to study, plan and carry out. But in the end it will be what our Vision Statement is calling us to do: “preserving a peaceful place where groups and individuals can live simply in the serenity of God’s creation: a place for people to enjoy the beauty, experience the peace, build relationships, and pray together in a natural setting.”

Behind the Scenes - Jim Bradburn

Driving into Camp Maria Retreat Center in the morning don’t be surprised to be greeted by a wave and a smile from the man on the green mower. Since the summer of 2004 Jim Bradburn has been a part of the maintenance staff. He was hired by Sister Carol McKean, SCN to work in the kitchen… food preparation and serving meals to retreatants – always done with a smile and kind words. Then that fall he moved on to help with renovations and lawn care. Both areas have kept him busy ever since. From this beginning Jim has been an ambassador for CMRC. He understands its mission and recognizes its importance to the retreatants we serve - especially the children served.

Now Jim is working part time... his day begins at 6:30 AM. Usually it is keeping the grass manicured, but other projects are also included as needed. His favorite part of working at CMRC is working with Lenny Zelonis, Sr. Together they have put in many hours with the early renovations of the Spiritual Center, the Roost, the Osprey and Martin House. When the ramps project for the cabins was begun a few years ago, Jim mentioned that he was retiring, “I am 82 years old. I need to retire.” The ramps for the cabins were replaced last year.

Today if you arrive early in the morning to Camp Maria, do not be surprised to see a man on a green mower with a big wave and a smile, enjoying life... still working to keep the campus looking neatly trimmed to welcome our guests.
**Events AT Camp Maria Retreat Center**

**Camp Maria Raffle 2018**

1st Prize $5,000  2nd Prize $1,500  3rd Prize $500  
$20 per Raffle Ticket  Only 750 Tickets Will Be Sold

Drawing to be held October 14, 2018 during 7th Annual CMRC Oyster Scald  
*Winners need not be present to win.*

**“Faith, Food & Fellowship”**

CMRC’s Series of Spiritual Related Presentations & Discussions

Inaugural Evening

*Join us at Camp Maria Retreat Center with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth!*

*“SCNs - So Now We Don’t Just Teach ”*

Monday, July 9, 2018

6:00 to 8:00 pm

Dinner provided by our Chef, Terri Williams

Air Conditioned Dining Hall  $20 per person

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**CMRC ANNUAL EVENTS**

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<tr>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Giving</td>
<td>November 27, 2018</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CMRC “Giving Tuesday 2018”</strong></td>
<td>Sunday, October 14, 2018</td>
<td>at Camp Maria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traditional Oyster Scald</td>
<td>Annual Southern Maryland On June 21th</td>
<td>Ticket Sale Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drawing: Sunday, Oct. 14, 2018</td>
<td>Drawing On</td>
<td>Camp Maria Raffle 2018</td>
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**Sisters of Charity of Nazareth**

Camp Maria Retreat Center

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Nonprofit ORG