**1. St. Anthony Retreat & Conference Center - Msgr. John Griesbach, Executive Director (559) 561-4595, 3 Rivers California**

**Background:** St. Anthony Retreat & Conference Center serves the Diocese of Fresno. This Diocese has a very large Hispanic population which creates both a rich multi-ethic profile for attendees and need for multi-lingual staff. The RC serves individual and group retreats, as well as both religious and secular conferences and gatherings. St. Anthony Retreat Center provides meetings space, dining, and overnight accommodations for up to 100 guests. St. Anthony Retreat is adjacently located to the newly built Santa Teresita Youth Conference Center. The RC has both strong adult and youth spiritual development opportunities. The RC is located in 3 Rivers California, a town with only 2,000 population. In contrast to the Diocese, the town of 3 Rivers is mostly non-Hispanic.

**COVID Impacts**. These included about a 14 month closure and major staff reduction. A number of staff did not return. The RC reopened in April with reduced retreat size, mask required and social distancing. The RC follows the policies of Tulare County where it is located. 2 vaccinated staff have come down with COVID. The RC is asking the Bishop to make it mandatory for overnight retreatants to be vaccinated or have a negative test, wear and socially distance. Retreats are currently limited to day only, with no overnights. The following describes normal operations.

**Retreat Programs:** The following types of retreats are offered:

Conference style retreats are retreats that have a structured schedule with talks given by presenters, built in reflection time and usually some group sharing. Some of these retreats are sponsored by St. Anthony Retreat. During sponsored retreats, staff offers the retreat, while hosted retreats offer opportunities for groups to come in and organize and facilitate their own retreats.

Private retreats offer hospitality, a bedroom and three meals, without any structure except for meal times. The person is free to walk, read, pray, and enjoy the quiet and peaceful setting of St. Anthony Retreat at their leisure.

Individually Directed Retreats offer the same unstructured format of the private retreat but with the addition of time to meet each day with a spiritual director. The spiritual director listens to what the person would like to think about or pray about during their time here and might suggest some scripture or other materials to use for a personal retreat experience. Private and individually directed retreats can be scheduled at any time as long as we have space available. Reservations need to be made in advance.

The **Santa Teresita Youth Center** provide space for youth retreats, or religious and secular retreats and gatherings. There is space for meeting, dining and overnight accommodations for up to 160 guests. There is a Chapel as part of the facility. [These include Confirmation Retreats](http://www.stteresitaycc.org/?page_id=2113), [6th Grade Science & Nature Camps](http://www.stteresitaycc.org/?page_id=2117), [8th Grade One-Day Retreat](http://www.stteresitaycc.org/?page_id=2123), [Jr High Camp](http://www.stteresitaycc.org/?page_id=2137), [Music Camp](http://www.stteresitaycc.org/?page_id=2143), [High School Camp](http://www.stteresitaycc.org/?page_id=2146), [REVIVE](http://www.stteresitaycc.org/?page_id=2149), [Jr High Spiritual Retreat](http://www.stteresitaycc.org/?page_id=2152), [High School Spiritual Retreat](http://www.stteresitaycc.org/?page_id=2155) and [Young Adult Retreat](http://www.stteresitaycc.org/?page_id=2158)

There are annually in a normal year, some 30 weekend youth retreats from Parishes in the Diocese. They vary from 1 to 3 days. December through May. Increasing the RC staff at Santa Teresa is being called to present these retreats including the Confirmation retreats. Kairos retreats use the facilities and come from the 2 Catholic High Schools in the Diocese, and do not require RC staff to administer them.

**Advisory Board.** There is no Board of Directors, but an AB of up to 12 members excluding RC staff who attend and may presents reports, etc. The Diocese of Fresno has overall authority over the RC.

**Priests and Other Religious participation**. St. Anthony is looking for additional Diocesan priest and other religious support in spiritual direction and retreat development. They are urging religious and lay persons with an interest in this mission to seek training to have a cadre of potential personnel. Fr. Griesbach mentioned his experience at Creighton University and the program at this institution as a means of developing future talent. The University has an MA in Christian Spirituality best suited for those already in ministry who would like to grow spiritually. Students learn to provide spiritual direction and lead individually directed retreats in the Ignatian tradition.

**Finances.** The annual operating budget for the RC is about $2.0 million. The RC is able to raise from $1 - 1.6 million normally to fund its mission. The deficit is made up by the diocese. The Diocese has just made the decision that 1 of its 3 annual fundraising appeals will be for St. Anthony’s RC. The Diocese (raised about $5.5 million for Diocese) also used PPP funds to help support the RC last year.

**Staffing:** RC is still operating with a skeleton crew. Bishop is planning on giving a concert to raise money for the center.

**Electricity Supply and Equipment.** The RC has installed solar panels and is able to supply all its electricity needs.

**Plans for 2022**

Upcoming Retreats/Events

[**Six Day Silent Directed Retreat with Fr. Stephen Coffey, OSB Cam.**](https://www.stanthonyretreat.org/event/silent_1-22/)**– January 2-8, 2022** The silent directed retreat is for people of all walks of life, including the laity, clergy, and those in consecrated life who long for a deep, personal experience of God’s love and presence, and who feel drawn to an extended conversation with the Lord.

[**Come Away Retreat**](https://www.stanthonyretreat.org/event/comeawayfeb2022/)**– February 1-3, 2022** The Come Away Retreat is designed to provide unstructured time in a peaceful place and to simply rest in the presence of God with like-minded people.  This is a time to spend however you would like.

[**Lenten Day of Reflection**](https://www.stanthonyretreat.org/event/lent2022/)**– March 2, 2022, 8:00 a.m.-4:00p.m.** Please come join us for this special day of reflection to begin the season of Lent.

[**Marriage Retreat**](https://www.stanthonyretreat.org/event/marriage-retreat/)**– March 18-20, 2022**

[**Catholic Senior Retreat**](https://www.stanthonyretreat.org/event/catholic-senior-retreat/)**– March 22-24, 2022** Sometimes it is easier to see how God is at work in the lives of other  people.  During this retreat, we will be viewing several films and discussing the movements of grace in the characters which can help us begin to see how God is working in our own lives.

[**Holy Week Retreat**](https://www.stanthonyretreat.org/event/triduum/)**– April 14-17, 2022** Please join us for a quiet, reflective retreat experience during the celebration of the Holy Triduum.  St. Anthony Retreat Center offers private retreats with communal meals and worship times as a wonderful was to journey with Christ to the Cross and through to the Resurrection!

[**Come Away Retreat**](https://www.stanthonyretreat.org/event/comeawaymay2022/)**– May 17-19, 2022**

[**Retreat for Crime Survivors**](https://www.stanthonyretreat.org/event/healing/)**– June 25, 2022, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.** On Saturday, June 25, a healing day retreat will be available for crime survivors. Please click here to download the [RETREAT FLYER](https://www.stanthonyretreat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2022June25-SAVEtheDATE-FlyerRetreat-for-Crime-Survivors-8-12.pdf). *\*Please note that this retreat is hosted by a third party at St. Anthony Retreat Center.*

[**Six Day Silent Directed Retreat with Fr. Stephen Coffey, OSB Cam**](https://www.stanthonyretreat.org/event/silent_6-22/)**. – June 5-11, 2022** The silent directed retreat is for people of all walks of life, including the laity, clergy, and those in consecrated life who long for a deep, personal experience of God’s love and presence, and who feel drawn to an extended conversation with the Lord.

[**Come Away Retreat**](https://www.stanthonyretreat.org/event/come-away-retreat-september-2022/)**– September 27-29,**

[**Women’s Retreat**](https://www.stanthonyretreat.org/event/womans-retreat/)**– October 14-16, 2022**

[**Come Away Retreat**](https://www.stanthonyretreat.org/event/comeawaynov2022/)**– November 1-3, 2022**

[**Men’s Retreat**](https://www.stanthonyretreat.org/event/mens-retreat/)**– December 2-4, 2022**

\*\*This report uses additional material directly from the St. Anthony Website

**2. El Carmelo Retreat House Nellie Lara, Retreat Coordinator: 909 792-1047**

**Background:** El Carmelo Retreat House (RC) is located on 29 acres, and for 63 years has been a place where people can discern, strengthen and renew their personal relationship with Jesus Christ according to the Carmelite tradition. The RC hosts 50 private rooms, one chapel and conference room. Year-round spiritual retreats, workshops, Bible studies, and days/evenings of recollection for men, women, youth, families and married couples comprise this year-round place of prayer

The RC has accommodations for 80 retreatants, weekend retreats draws nearly 3,000 participants annually. In addition, some 2,000 people attend weekday activities per year. This includes day, evening and week retreats for parishes from various dioceses including San Bernardino and San Diego, Tucson, Orange County, Las Vegas, New Mexico, Fresno, and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, as well as retreats for our Carmelite Secular Order members of the Western Province of Discalced Carmelites. The RC also offers retreats for priests and religious, and lay persons and specialty groups such as Married Couples AA groups, Al-Anon and Serenity.

El Carmelo Retreat House is owned and operated by Discalced Carmelite Friars of the California-Arizona Province since 1952, serves the spiritual needs of lay men and women of all ages, as well as clergy and religious of many denominations, through the retreat experience. Rooted in the Gospel Truths of Jesus Christ, we provide a place of hospitality in a unique and peaceful environment in the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino, California.

**Main Effects of COVID crises on Operations and Income**: The RC was closed for about 16 months for COVID. There were a small number of on-line seasons done by the Friares for only a few months shortly before restarting in August. Income was through solicitation for donations, loan from the Province and a PPP loan from the Federal Government. Staff was cut to the minimum. Staff consists of 2 Friars, a part-time accountant, a bookkeeper, Building Maintenance man, grounds staff person, and 2 housekeepers. Sisters provide cooking and other housekeeping services for chapel and religious rooms.

Retreats were restarted in August with a maximum of 25 persons. It is expected that they will have 5 women’s, 2 men’s, 6 secular Carmelite and 2 Lay Carmelite retreats in the next year. A minimum is about 15-20 persons, with 40 requested normally. The 25 person limit is likely to prevail for some time.

The chapel is open for private prayer during the day on weekdays.  The weekday Mass is open to the public.  Finally, since the beginning of August, there has been a weekend retreat most weekends, either led by the RC or others have led with the RC hosting. Recently,  Sunday evenings the chapel was openned for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (at 5:00 p.m.), followed by Evening Prayer and Adoration, then Benediction (at 6:15 p.m.).

**COVID Policy:** The Bishop has just extended mask policy (County policy), although it is not enforced.

**Retreats:** The RC no longer does youth retreats due to the difficulty of dealing with management of overnight stays. Day retreats are sometimes held if requested. Regionally retreats for youth such as Kairos are held at Big Bear (by other organizations). Retreats are presented by a team of 3 Carmelite Friars. HOPE is the theme for the next years retreat season, with the Church-wide themes such as Diversity, Poverty and Environment, falling under this title.

**Board of Directors:** There is no Board of Director’s. A Carmelite Friar, Fr. Gerald Werner is charge.

**Vowed Staff:** There are 3 Friars and 5 Sisters. The director has indicated that vocations are down, but that they are okay (for at least maintenance at current levels?)

**Main sources of Funds:** The main source of funds is from written fund appeals, Province contributions, and retreat fees. The RC did receive a PPP load from the Government.

**Gift and Book Shop:** The gift shop is now open three days a week for several hours each day. There is also a bookshop.

**Kitchen:** Full kitchen and dining room with the Sister’s doing the cooking.

**El Carmelo Retreat Team:**

• Fr. Gerald Werner, OCD, Superior  
• Fr. Ramiro Casale, OCD, Retreat Director  
• Fr. Robert Barcelos, OCD  
• Bro. John Mark Charlesworth, OCD  
• Nellie Lara, Retreat Coordinator  
• Dining Room and Kitchen is staffed by the Oblatas de Santa Marta

**3. St. Francis Retreat Center San Juan Bautista, Calif. 831 623-4234 closed at 3 PM**

Retreat Director: Fr. Ken Laverone, Director of Operations Edward DeGroot (December 3rd, 2021)

**Retreat Activities:** Hosted retreats are the main activity at the Retreat Center (RC), approximately 2000 attendee’s in normal year, from Quilting groups, Kairos High School Retreats among the most common. Sponsored retreats are only about 6 per year. In 2021 the expectation is to broaden retreats to include men, women, LGBT and Hispanic groups. RC does not advertise or promote.

**COVID Impacts:** From last operating period retreats were down 33% before shut down. Financially the RC was in deficit on a cash basis during COVID, survived using 2 PPP grants funding for staff and Franciscan Province support. Main expenses are kitchen staff and maintenance of 70 acre property, about $30,000/month. Franciscan Province gave about $350,000 of support during COVID. RC followed Monterey County COVID guidelines.

**Board of Directors?:** RC has only an advisory group, no Board of Directors.

**Vowed Staff Issues:** There is an expected lack of vowed Franciscan Friar availability. There is some hope of receiving a Friar from the Eastern US, since there are no Franciscan RC’s in the Eastern US. The RC does expect there will be a need to seek alternatives for management, preaching and presentations.

**Retreat Charges:** Retreatants are charged about $150/night. There is no really active fund raising going on now. There is a Brick sponsoring program. Bricks cost $200.00 each. The bricks maybe personalized with names, dates and special messages. Some bricks are already installed in the patio at the new building. There is a December hosted Luncheon and at Mass donations. A building renovation project for about $1.0 million, was put on hold.

**Kitchen and Cooking:** A Chef and kitchen staff provides restaurant quality cuisine and can meet a wide variety of dietary needs.

**Background (Website):** St. Francis Retreat is a full-scale retreat and conference center, offering varied conference spaces, highly rated food service and dining room, overnight guest accommodations and various outdoor amenities. All faiths and religions, non-profits and individuals to this “Franciscan” setting to reflect, refresh and grow.

In 1947, the Franciscans purchased 73 acres and the main buildings of what had been Rancho San Justo. They had wanted to expand their men’s retreat ministry beyond their existing operation in Malibu, CA By the end of the 1960’s the Catholic Church was experiencing tremendous change and it had a profound effect on the retreat. With men’s groups in parishes dwindling, attendance at the yearly cycle of men’s retreat dropped off drastically. A decision was made to open the doors to couples, women’s groups, and members of other faith traditions.

By the 1990’s a diverse mixture of people and groups brought more than 7,000 guests a year to this serene location. While the majority of groups were associated with the Catholic Church, almost a quarter of our guests came from other religious denominations and traditions. A smaller portion represented non-profits serving other needs from recovery to self-help groups, and from schools and institutes to quilters and artists.

By 2009, following the 2006 fire, a new center was opened, replacing food service, a conference room, gift shop and offices. The retreat continues to serve a diverse community of groups and individuals with attendance once again well over 7,000 guests per year.

**Spaces (Website):**

**Conference Space** We have a wide variety of conference and meeting areas available for your use. The larger spaces also include complimentary beverage service with coffee, a variety of teas and hot chocolate. Room setup will be tailored to your needs.

​**Chapel** Comfortable seating for 140. Fully equipped for Catholic Mass and other religious services. Multiple worship and conference configurations possible. Wireless microphones, ceiling mounted AV screen. Portable digital projection Wi-fi capable

​**Upper Conference Room** Comfortable seating for 80.Integrated digital sound and video support. Air conditioned. Wi-fi capable

​**Fireside Lounge** Comfortable seating for 60. Microphone support. Portable digital video and screen available. Working Malibu Art Tile fireplace. Limited WiFi capability

​**San Juan Bautista Room** Conference table and seating for 10. Whiteboard and projection screen built-in Wi-fi capable

​**Outdoor Amphitheater** Bench Seating for 80. Portable PA system available. Small stage deck with backing.

**Gift Shop:** The Saint Francis Retreat Gift Shop is open daily. We stock a large supply of religious oriented gifts and books with competitive pricing. We specialize in Franciscan Spirituality books and historical writings.

**Guest Rooms:**

Standard Guest Rooms: Almost all of our guest rooms are furnished with two beds, usually two twin beds.  There are a limited number of guest rooms with a queen and a twin bed.   Each guest room has its own private bath with shower.  The oldest of our guest rooms are scheduled to be remodeled . We have three cottages with kitchens which we use for Private Retreats

Fund Raising

**\*\*** Some material is directly from Website.

**4. Loyola Institute for Spirituality**

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| **434 S Batavia St, Orange, CA 92868 phone: 714-997-9587 email:**[**office@loyolainstitute.org**](mailto:office@loyolainstitute.org) **Lori Stanley Executive Director** |

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**Loyola Institute for Spirituality (LIS) Program**: Program is to bring spirituality to through fostering Ignatian formation and education, and nurturing discipleship. The LIS started in 1997 as a conventional retreat center but the Jesuits stopped retreats later, since they felt retreat were not as powerful or meaningful as bringing the Spiritual Exercises and Spiritual Formation.

There are no overnight facilities, kitchen or bookstore for this reason. Facilities are primarily rented from the Sisters of St. Joseph in Orange County California. Retreat facilities are outsourced as mentioned below.

In the last 12 months the LIS says that it has served 120 individuals across 9 US states and 5 countries (United States, Canada, Mexico, Ireland, Peru) who attended its formation courses; 36 Retreatants experienced the Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life - offered in both English and Spanish. In addition, LIS held special events - Hearts on Fire, Ignatian Morning, Finding God in the Dark and Ignatian Immersions - welcomed 985 attendees. Altogether it provided over 1700 hours of instruction, connection and spiritual development.

**COVID Impacts**: LIS was significantly effected by COVID with in-person activities curtailed. Zoom or Facetime was used to compensate for this problem. LIS followed Orange County guidelines for COVID and was assisted in design of its response by the Sisters of St. Joseph who operated several hospitals in the area.

Staff were laid off to reduce expenses. The annual operating budget is slightly under $400,000; with half of funds coming from investment account income, a quarter from donations and a quarter from program income. There are annual appeals, a Banquet and a variety of other funding approaches (see below).

**Board of Directors**: LIS has a board, which is advisory. 1 Jesuit from the Province sits on the Board. The board is active in assisting in fundraising, but has essentially no role in management of LIS.

**Spiritual Direction**: There are 3 Jesuit Priests involved in the LIS, and 1 Sister (of St. Joseph). The center is more reliant on lay as opposed to vowed input for its programs, and the director did not feel any sense that the vowed assistance would be scarce or inadequate in the future. In fact, the preference seemed to be for lay spiritual input/teaching and popularization of the program. It was felt that the lay members were more effective in recruiting for the programs of LIS.

**Spiritual Opportunities.** ​LIS provides opportunities for individual study, leadership development, retreats, special events, and groups.

**Ignatian Program:**  St. Ignatius of Loyola composed a retreat handbook titled Spiritual Exercises. The exercises were adapted into a 9-month format, called the 19th Annotation Retreat. LIS conducts Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola from September to early June. In addition to daily prayer and monthly faith sharing sessions with other retreatants are matched with an individual Spiritual Director. This “retreat” involves: Daily prayer with the Bible and special Ignatian exercises for nine months; Weekly meetings for individual spiritual direction with one’s personal director; and · Monthly sessions on Wednesday evenings for small-group faith sharing. ​**Cost:**$1,000

**Short Retreats** Shorter retreats are based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and are meant to be experienced amidst one's daily life. Twice a year the Loyola Institute for Spirituality offers a weekend retreat at Pro Sanctity Spirituality Center in Fullerton. .  Each runs from 7:00 pm Friday until 4:00 pm Sunday.  Several talks are given during the retreat with individual direction available after each.  A reconciliation service is held Saturday evening (with sacramental confession available following it).  The Eucharist is celebrated Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

Single and shared double accommodations are available; there is also a commuter rate for those wishing to attend all the retreat activities and meals, while spending the nights in their own homes.

​**Cost:** $225 Single Occupancy $195 Double Occupancy $150 Commuter

**Ignatian  morning** A three hour morning of reflection

[**`**](https://www.loyolainstitute.org/ignatian-spiritual-formation-program)This four-year program consists of three phases and is intended for both personal enrichment and to develop ministry leaders to support their local communities and LIS. The formation program consists of three phases as outlined below. Individuals are also welcome to enroll in one or several of the courses without completing the entire program sequence**.**

​Phase 1: Ignatian spiritual formation (2 years) Phase 2: Ignatian Ministry Training (1 year) Phase 3: LIS Associate Ministry (ongoing)

The final phase of the ISFP is for participants who feel called to actively support LIS in the activities the Institute is engaged in. This phase is designed for individuals who, upon completion of Phase 1 and Phase 2, have discerned a call to minister and collaborate with LIS. Support includes ongoing spiritual direction and supervision, quarterly LIS meetings for networking, ministry development and faith sharing. Participants will develop an Annual Ministry Plan outlining forty hours of ministry commitments

**Special topics** Often instructors will offer a course on a topic of their expertise or passion

**Programs for groups** Any of the above programs can be adapted and personalized. LIS will also host groups at the Spirituality Building or come to you.   LIS is currently an integral part of the Diaconate Programs in Orange County and Los Angeles.

\*\*This report uses additional material directly from the LIS Website

**5. Marello Youth Retreat Center,** Father Stephen Spencer

6530 Wells Avenue | P.O. Box 547 | Loomis, CA 95650 | 916.652.6155 | info@marelloyrc.org

**Types of Retreats:** Self-directed retreats for confirmation or other Catholic or Christian groups make up probably 2/3 of the retreats at the RC. The bulk of these are normally confirmation retreats which individual Parishes request or Catholic schools. These organizations can arrange for their own retreat programming, e.g. confirmation retreats, while taking advantage of our peaceful, accessible location and our wonderful facilities. The Diocese of Sacramento in recent years eliminated the requirement for a retreat before confirmation. Nonetheless, the demand has remained on the part of Parishes and schools. The other type of retreat is called “Special Retreats”. These are sponsored retreats which would have retreat director preaching and directing the retreat. 2 or 3 of these are planned in 2022.

**Retreat Costs:** Charges for retreats is approximately $14/person for day, $30/person for 2 day overnight. And $40 for 3 days overnight. There are no individual rooms, only partitioned dormitory space. The Center can be rented for Catholic or other Christian groups when available.

**COVID Impacts:** The Marello Youth Center was largely shut-down during the Pandemic. Support for the RC historically has come from the Oblates of Saint Joseph and various on-site activities such as luncheons and pancake breakfast. The youth center consists of a large building with partitionable space, including a modern well-equipped kitchen. Dormitory facilities for the youth include shower rooms and rest rooms, and sleeping space only which can be partitioned for young men and women with sleeping cots. There is an outside set of Stations of the Cross and Crucifix Building for prayer, reflection and meditation.

**COVID Guidelines:** During COVID the retreat center has followed county guidelines, however these were a bit confusing since the center is in Placer County, but the Diocese center is in Sacramento County.

**Retreat Staffing:** There is an informal team that assists with retreat planning and logistics. Formerly an administrative staff person as well, who has left. Only one Priest is available fully dedicated to the RC, Fr. Stephen Spencer. He has 2 other Oblates who serve the local parish, who may assist with Liturgical Service. The primary responsibility for planning, administration and preaching falls to Fr. Spencer. The Center does not have a Board of Directors

**Marketing:** The Center is not currently marketing, but has improved its website and finds that this still has been sufficient to generate a significant interest by potential hosted groups familiar with the site and what it offers.

Periodically, the RC creates and host special retreats that are offered to selected audiences and age groups.

* Advent Retreats for 5th Graders
* Lent Retreats for 7th Graders
* Theology of the Body Retreats for high schoolers and young adults

Directed Retreats

Retreat Themes:

* Sacramental Preparation
* Vocation Awareness
* Understanding Relationships (parents, siblings, peers, society)
* Exploring Self (image/outlook)

Activities:

* Presentation/Talks
* Small Group Discussion
* Sharing
* Media/Video Clips
* Personal Experience/Testimony
* Prayer & Meditation
* Music & Worship
* Recreation/Icebreakers

\*\* This report has incorporated some Website information directly.