

# The Cape & Yale Beacon

Summer 2025 Edition

The Marianist Family Retreat Center  
417 Yale Ave. PO Box 488, Cape May Point, NJ 08212  
609-884-3829  
[www.capemaymarianists.org](http://www.capemaymarianists.org)

Autumn &  
Advent Retreat  
Info & Calendar  
inside!

## "God's Amazing Race: Where Family Faith is Cool!"

By Jessica Sherwen

**E**ver seen the show, "The Amazing Race"? In this reality TV competition that is currently in its 37th season, teams are given extreme challenges to complete as they race around the world, experiencing the wonder of different cultures and the natural world. Sounds pretty amazing" doesn't it? It also sounds a lot like what it means to be a Christian, and in particular to be families of faith.

As Christians, Jesus has given us some pretty extreme challenges: to be humble of heart, forgive others, pray for our enemies and serve the least of God's people - just to name a few.

In fact, the late Pope Francis made it his mission to challenge Catholics to move beyond mediocrity and embrace the de-

manding but joyful path of following Christ in our ordinary lives. This can seem particularly daunting though when we're trying to deal with the challenges of ordinary family life.



Fortunately, like contestants in the Amazing Race who earn advantages to help them on their way, we receive gifts from God that give us the "advantages" as well - like faith, joy, courage, trust and

the support of others.

Blessed Adèle (founder of the Marianist sisters) wrote, "May we go far in our love of God and run with giant steps. How far I am from that! However, we must never be discouraged."

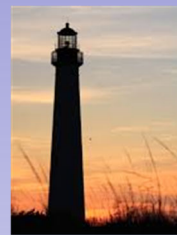
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## Featured Retreat

### Silent Guided Retreat

Sept. 2- 5

(3 nights)



Are you seeking to grow your relationship with God without the noise of daily life? Take time for yourself on

this *Silent Guided Retreat*.

In addition to daily mass, this silent guided retreat will have a daily input session given by a Spiritual Director. The rest of the time will be devoted to silent prayer and personal reflection.

Call 609-884-3829 or visit [www.capemaymarianists.org](http://www.capemaymarianists.org) to sign up.

**Call or email us about Summer Family Retreat Weeks that still have some limited openings!**



## 2025-2026 "Mary's House" Marianist Volunteer Internship

**Interested in serving as a full-time member of our staff here at "Mary's House"?**

Beginning September 2025 through July 2026, you would live here at the Center, receive a small weekly stipend and work primarily on our Program Staff planning and staffing retreats. This is a great way to spend a year serving others!

To learn more about this opportunity and to receive a detailed job description please email Anthony Fucci at [afucci@capemaymarianists.org](mailto:afucci@capemaymarianists.org)

## MESSAGE FROM OUR CENTER DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

*The Wanamaker Cottage turns 150!*

As you may have heard, this year we are celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Main House - The Wanamaker Cottage. There is such a rich history in Cape May and Cape May Point and John Wanamaker is right in the middle of that history, especially here in Cape May Point.



*Anthony Fucci*

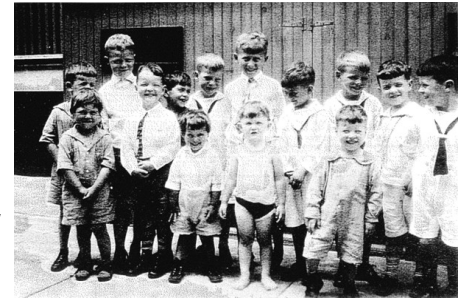
The Wanamaker "cottage", which originally stood on Beach Avenue (lost to the sea) and was later moved to its present location on the corner of Cape & Yale Aves., was donated by John Wanamaker to the Presbyterian Orphanage of Philadelphia, a.k.a. Sunny Corner, in 1916.

**Little side story** - when I arrived here in 1999 the Main House was battleship gray - after a few years we decided it was time to change the color - so we formed a committee and chose yellow. Unbeknownst to us that was the original color of the house, hence the name Sunny Corner!

It remained an orphanage until 1959. In 1962, the Marianists acquired the property for a summer retreat for the Brothers & Priests. By the late 1960s the houses were not really being used as originally intended by the Marianists, so a petition was made to the Provincial Council to convert the buildings to a retreat center. 1970 was the first official Summer Family Retreat and it all just grew from that point onward!

### *William Joseph Chaminade & John Wanamaker - Two Visionaries*

John Wanamaker, a prominent Philadelphia merchant and founder of Wanamaker Department Stores, and William Joseph Chaminade, founder of the Marianists, were both visionaries, though in very different realms. However, their contributions to society intersected in the development of religious and cultural life, particularly in Cape May Point and its broader historical impact.



Wanamaker sought to create a place where religious and recreational life could flourish. He played a crucial role in the establishment of the Sea Grove community at Cape May Point in the late 19th century. His efforts helped transform the area into a center for religious gatherings and retreats. He was deeply involved in creating spaces where people could connect with nature, religion, and leisure in a way that was unique for its time. That is why "the circle" in Cape May Point was created - an open space for people of all faiths to gather.

Chaminade's visionary work revolved around the establishment of schools and religious communities dedicated to educating young people, especially in times of political and social upheaval in France. He founded the Marianists to carry out this mission, believing that education and religious formation were essential to building strong, faithful communities.

Wanamaker's work in Cape May Point, especially in creating a space for spiritual and social engagement, could be seen as complementary to Chaminade's vision of building strong, faith-based communities. Their shared values of improving society through community engagement highlights their roles as visionaries in different fields but with similar goals of creating a better, more thoughtful world.

So, as you can see, we at the Center are carrying out Wanamaker's and Chaminade's visions!

Hope to see you here soon!

*Foock*



## Women of Wisdom



Empty nest, retirement, and health issues are just some of the changes we face as we age. As part of that process questions often arise-Where am I now? Where might God be leading me? Are there obstacles

in my life?

Join us as we explore these questions through prayer, group sharing, quiet time, Eucharist and wonderful meals & socials.

**October 21 -23 MID-WEEK**

## Widows Butterfly Retreat

*Come enjoy the warm late September breezes in the company of other widows.*



We will share our own individual stories for courage and wisdom; and we hope to discover how in the sharing of our stories we continue to find strength

and hope. There will be prayer, time for sharing in small groups, Eucharist and wonderful meals. *There is also plenty of free time to enjoy Cape May Point in the Fall.*

**September 16 - 18 Mid-week**

\* It is encouraged to wait at least 6 months after the death of your spouse before attending this retreat.

## Contemplative Prayer Retreat



This retreat is for those seeking a contemplative prayer experience. Seasoned contemplatives as well as "first-timers" are welcomed. There will be daily Eucharist, input, sharing and quiet personal

time for prayer and to reflect on one's experience.

**Sept. 29 - Oct. 2 - this retreat is 3 nights (mid-week)**

*"Silence exists so we might speak to God and it is in that silence that God communicates His grace to us..."*

## Celebration of Marriage



This weekend is for couples to take time out of the every day to honor and celebrate their sacrament of marriage. Presentations and small group discussions address the important marital topics of communication, forgiveness, affirmation and commitment. We strike a deliberate balance among participation/reflection, liturgy, free time, fun and plenty of "couple time." Come, be blessed with us at Mary's House! **Sept. 26 - 28**

## Women's Retreats

*Earliest sign-up July 1*



A team of Marianist women have planned a wonderful weekend focused on female spirituality. Daily Mass, prayer rituals, small group sharing and fun socials are all part of

these weekends. **Sept 19 - 21; Nov 14 - 16**



## Mary's House "Paint & Sip" Retreat

Participants will be guided through the process of painting an icon using the "Paint n' Sip" model. We will provide all materials, including instructions. Retreatants will "sip" coffee & tea (and lemonade!) as they paint in community.

**NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY-** just be open to the Spirit's touch. Mass, prayer, and free time are all part of the experience. **October 14 - 16 Mid-week**

## Male Spirituality Retreat



This weekend, open to men of all ages, focuses on unique male issues on the spiritual journey.

Daily Mass, large group presentations, small group sharing, special prayer liturgies and fun within a supportive environment, are all part of this experience.

**November 7 - 9**

## The secret to raising kids that stay Catholic? Family prayer, helping others and hugs...

*adapted OSV news by Greg Popcak*

**“I** did all the things,” said Carli, mom of four grown children who have stopped practicing the Catholic faith. “We went to Mass together. We sent them to Catholic school. They went to youth group. We did everything we thought we were supposed to do. What happened?”

The Catholic Church is facing a spiritual epidemic. A recent study found that only 15% of children raised in Catholic homes will grow up to be faithful Catholic adults. The conventional wisdom about raising Catholic kids doesn’t always seem to work, but until recently, no one knew what to do instead. As a result, we’ve clung to giving the same old advice to parents (go to Mass, send them to Catholic school and youth ministry, and hope for the best).

Then, when it fails 85% of the time, we chalk it up to our kids’ “free will.” Of course, that’s true - we can’t force our children to be faithful adults. But it’s cold comfort, and parents need better answers.

While families who successfully raised all of their children to a faithful adulthood did have regular family prayer times (usually some kind of morning, mealtime, and/or bedtime prayers), that doesn’t appear to be the main factor responsible for their success. What mattered most was a family dynamic in which the family (especially the children) experienced their faith as the source of the warmth in their homes. Children raised in these households experienced their family’s faith as something that *drew them together in good times and bad*.

*What mattered most was a family dynamic in which the family (especially the children) experienced their faith as the source of the warmth in their homes.*

Of course, these families faced the same stressors and conflicts that all families encounter. Still, they felt their family prayed about these problems in a way that led to better conversations and stronger relationships.

So, obviously, these families just won the spiritual lottery, right? Well, no. The good news is that the things these families do can be taught to any family.

Likewise, other research suggests that the more a family struggles to be happy, healthy or holy, the more they can benefit by cultivating the habits these families practice, which fall into three categories: relationship, rituals and reaching out.

In general, families who successfully raised all of their children to a faithful adulthood were intentional about scheduling regular family time and *not letting extracurricular activities squeeze out time for things like family meals, a family day or other important family rituals* throughout the week.

These families allowed their children to participate in activities in ways that supported their family life rather than competing with it.

Additionally, these families made time to talk about meaningful things like how God was showing up for them or how they could take better care of each other. They scheduled regular mealtimes, family meetings, parent-child dates and other times to make space for real conversation. ***Try it!***



### Come join us!

## Advent Family **Retreat** Weekends

Five to six families (Grandparents welcome, too!) come together to form a **Christ-centered community to celebrate the season of Advent**. Eucharist and other family liturgies are complemented by skits, presentations, family-sharing, peer group discussions and other fun activities like caroling and cookie-making!

**December 5 - 7, December 12 - 14, December 19 - 21**

## 2025 CALENDAR & RATE INFORMATION

		RETREAT FEES		DEPOSITS
		NO CHARGE		
<b>AUGUST</b>				
25- 29	Cleaning & Mtce Days			
29 - Sept 1	Labor Day Weekend (Closed)			
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
2 - 5 (mid-week)	Silent Guided Retreat (3 nights)	\$215		\$100/person
16 - 18 (mid-week)	Widows Butterfly Retreat	\$150		\$70/person
19 - 21	Women's Spirituality Retreat #1	\$155		\$70/person
23 - 25 (mid-week)	Spiritual Getaway Days	\$145		\$70/person
26 - 28	Celebration of Marriage	\$155/person		\$155/couple
29 - Oct 2 (mid-week)	Contemplative Prayer Retreat (3 nights)	\$170		\$70/person
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
14 - 16 (mid-week)	Mary's House Paint & Sip	\$150		\$70/person
21 - 23 (mid-week)	Women of Wisdom	\$150		\$70/person
24 - 26	High School Teen Retreat	\$150		\$150/person
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
7 - 9	Male Spirituality Retreat	\$155		\$70/person
14 - 16	Women's Spirituality Retreat #2	\$155		\$70/person
27 - 30	<b>***HAPPY THANKSGIVING!***</b>			
<b>DECEMBER</b>				
5 - 7	Advent Family Retreat #1	\$150 ages 8+	\$105 ages 2-7*	\$175/family**
12 - 14	Advent Family Retreat #2	\$150 ages 8+	\$105 ages 2-7*	\$175/family**
19 - 21	Advent Family Retreat #3	\$150 ages 8+	\$105 ages 2-7*	\$175/family**
	<i>*under 2 are free</i>			
	<i>** max fee per family \$575; applies to immediate family members living at home.</i>			

To sign up for any of our retreats please visit: [www.capemaymarianists.org](http://www.capemaymarianists.org)

*(Continued from page 1)*

May we place no hope in ourselves, but all in God who strengthens us."

So how are we going to challenge families to follow Jesus in their daily life while staying aware of the joy of being Christian? By being a part of GOD'S Amazing Race, of course. In fact, "since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Heb.12:1)

But where will we go for this great race? The TV show "The Amazing Race" takes place all over the world. Well, since Mary's House has a reputation for making family faith "cool," let's head for Antarctica! What

could be "cooler" than a polar adventure complete with dog sledding, penguins, igloos and a friendly guide named Yukon Chaminade? Forget the bathing suits and beach chairs – this summer, we're donning parkas and fur hats (& don't forget the sunscreen – there's almost 24 hours of daylight for the Antarctic summer.)

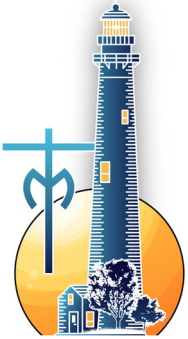
Using our themes of communication, forgiveness, affirmation and commitment, we will embark on this great race. Succeeding in the Arctic leg of "God's Amazing Race" will take courage, trust in the Lord and an adventurous spirit. So don't get left out in the cold this summer! Join us as we run the race to find that living our family faith, while challenging, can be as cool (and amazing) as the South Pole!





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*Inside this Issue:* \*\*Summer 2025 - God's Amazing Race! \*\* Silent Guided Retreat \*\* Autumn & Advent Retreats \*\*  
\*\*2025 Calendar reminder \*\* Catholic Family Life \*\* and more!

## Do you have a Will?



A will is a crucial document that ensures your wishes are respected and your loved ones are taken care of after you're gone.

Creating a will can prevent legal complications, distribute your assets according to your preferences, and provide peace of mind.

**Look for more information** from us on how you can easily create a will. We have partnered with MyCatholicWill and will be promoting this service beginning this summer!

## HIGH SCHOOL TEEN RETREAT



Join with fellow HS teens for our Autumn Teen Retreat. **Oct. 24 - 26**

This weekend is especially for you and where you are on your faith journey. Come and explore how God is working in your life and where He might be calling you! **Oh, and it's really fun!**

**Sign up at: [www.capemaymarianists.org](http://www.capemaymarianists.org)**