

July 22, 2020



*Historically, pandemics have forced humans to
break with the past and imagine their
world anew. This one is no different.
It is a portal, a gateway
between one world and the next.
Arundhati Roy*

Arundhati Roy describes the pandemic as a “portal” through which we imagine the world anew. As we have been communicating with retreatants these months, we are starkly reminded that many people depend on the kind of space we provide at the Motherhouse to gain the wisdom and insight needed to “pass through the portal”. Grounded, peaceful spaces are essential to the work of our times.

Cedars of Peace

We are carefully reopening the cabins on August 1. Because we are leaving three days between retreatants, we are not able to serve as many people as in the past but are relieved to receive at least some retreatants again.

We have developed clear protocols to ensure the safety of retreatants, Motherhouse residents and retreat center staff. As we worked on the protocols, I was aware that the core purpose of providing space for solitude is being strengthened because many of the optional ways of interacting will not be available during this time. i.e. meals in the dining room, swimming pool, internet, etc.

Knobs Haven

Because Knobs Haven is located on the main Motherhouse campus and retreatants eat meals in the dining room, we have work to do before we can ensure the safety of both retreatants and Motherhouse residents. A primary focus before opening in January will be to update the kitchen so that groups can do their own meal preparation.

Loretto Retreat Center Future Planning

Loretto Community members and staff are aware of the need to plan for the future of the Motherhouse as a whole and planning for the retreat centers is part of that integrated effort. We will be putting together an Advisory Group, working on value statements and policies and doing our work to increase the diversity of those who come here, including what we unintentionally do that creates a less-than-open/accessible atmosphere of full inclusion.