

Crosscurrents at Cranaleith



2020-2021 Annual Report

13475 Proctor Road | Philadelphia, PA 19116
215.934.6206 | cranaleith.org | [@cranaleith](https://www.instagram.com/cranaleith)

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 2021

Dear Cranaleith Community,

I pray you are healthy, safe, and well. As I write this letter, we continue to live with the convergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating global impact, a public reckoning on racial justice, the climate crisis, and economic changes. As a result, Cranaleith is casting its net wider, both globally and locally, through our onsite and virtual programs.

Cranaleith remains committed to living our mission every day, delivering highly responsive programs, spiritual direction, and retreats. Cranaleith continues to be a beacon of hope to all we serve, responding to the needs of our community. We grow as an anti-racist and anti-oppression ministry, creating space for justice and healing in our deeply divided and fractured world. As you will read throughout the Annual Report, Cranaleith remains *rooted in mercy*, focused on the critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy: earth, immigration, nonviolence, racism and women.

On behalf of the Cranaleith community, I thank the generous donors and sponsors who financially supported Cranaleith Spiritual Center during our last fiscal year, July 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021. We are grateful that, even in uncertain times, your support of Cranaleith remains a priority. We hope you find the fruits of your generosity within this report. Your philanthropic commitment combined with our Board of Directors' vision and stewardship and our staff's dedication have created new opportunities for Cranaleith to offer a place of rest, renewal, and reflection. Thank you.

Best wishes to you and your family for a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

With gratitude and appreciation,



Deborah Kost
Executive Director



OUR MISSION

Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, Cranaleith offers a contemplative space for all those seeking wholeness and transformation for themselves and society. We are committed to making Cranaleith accessible to all, especially to persons who are poor and those who work in solidarity with them. We seek to invite those at the center of need and those at the center of influence to reflection, reverent dialogue, and meaningful partnerships.

OUR IMPACT

In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, Cranaleith Spiritual Center served a total of 1,318 retreatants (virtual and in-person) through:

- **72 Public Retreats & Spiritual Programs**
- **203 Private Retreats**
- **4 Veterans Retreats**
- **36 Evenings of Contemplative Prayer**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

Steve Hart, Chair, Senior Consultant and Executive Coach, The Professional Development Group

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A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

November 2021

Dear Friends,

All board members at Cranaleith receive the gift of a wonderful short booklet written by Sister M. Joanna Regan, RSM, titled, "Tender Courage." In this booklet, we learn a great deal about Catherine's difficult early life in Ireland, her journey of faith, and how, through her example, resilience, care for the poor, hard work, and the generosity of William Callahan, she was able to build the foundation of her ministry that would ultimately become what we know as the Sisters of Mercy. Catherine's service, ministry, and legacy continues today through the work of the Sisters around the world as well as the work we do at Cranaleith. As Sister Joanna writes:

In every country where Mercy convents exist, Catherine's own spirit lives. Gratitude for the gifts of God's mercy, her hallmark, opened these gifts to others in endless, bottomless hospitality. Simple, joyous, and direct in her approach, she bequeathed those gifts to her followers.

As I reflect on the experiences and events we have faced at Cranaleith over the last year due to the pandemic, I can't help thinking about what Catherine would make of things had she had been working side-by-side with us during this time. I like to think that she would see that, despite all of the challenges and set backs, we have continued to work with hope, optimism, and faith. I think that she would see that we have stayed true to her calling us to "patient, humble, compassionate service" as we have worked hard to give "life and fortune to the poor and needy." For this is truly the "root of mercy"—where compassion meets the courageous, generous heart in the service of those most in need.

As Chair of the Board, I am humbled and in awe of all the people I meet who work or support Cranaleith with their presence, talents, time, and gifts. I thank God every day for your generosity and commitment as you help us to live out our mission, especially in these challenging times.

I ask you please to pray and support us as we continue to carry out Catherine's work and legacy at Cranaleith that is truly rooted in mercy. I look forward to you joining us, supporting us, or working with us in any way you can this year. I especially look forward to the pleasure of seeing you on the grounds of Cranaleith in the very near future.

With eternal gratitude,



Stephen G. Hart, Board Chair



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: ANTI-RACISM & SPIRITUALITY

By: Bernadette Rudolph, Program Director

When America was compelled to attend to the evils of racism by the murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and Stephon Clarke and the protests that ensued, Cranaleith asked, "What is ours to do?" In the area of programming, we offered multiple opportunities for spiritual reflection and discussion of racism.

In October 2020, Rev. Ada Renee Williams and Sarah Brabec facilitated, "The Fierce Urgency of Now: A Retreat on Anti-Racism." Forty people of varying ages and races talked about the Black experience of life in America and the pain it holds. Maureen O'Connell, Ph.D., led a virtual Advent series on the murals of Philadelphia, to learn from the hope, patience, and joy of local communities of color. In January 2021, "Deep River: African American Spirituality" examined African Americans' profound understanding of the cross of Christ and their choices to live his message of love. Next, "Change the Narrative: Young Adults on Anti-Racism" connected the efforts of young people active in anti-racism work to the efforts of older generations in order to help each other understand their unique roles. Rev. Scott Hutchinson provided a practical perspective for the weary and angry in the April program, "From Resentment to Hope: Forgiving Our Society."

As an incorporated ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, Cranaleith Spiritual Center is committed to the critical concern of anti-racism. Our doors remain open to all who seek to heal from the wounds inflicted by racial injustice and to those who seek the spiritual fortitude to dismantle the evil of institutional racism.



A Reflection by Tylia Barnes "Change the Narrative" Program Facilitator

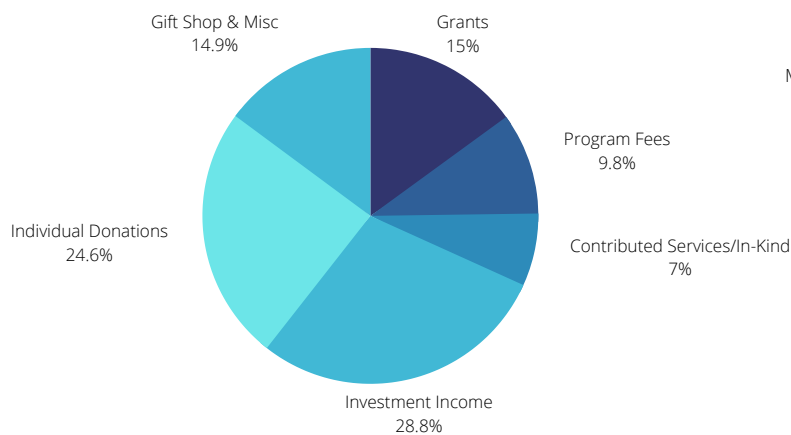
Participating in the "Change the Narrative" retreat was a compelling experience, allowing multiple generations to pray together, find commonalities, greater insight, and solidarity during a time when the country was divided by issues of police brutality, racism, whose life mattered, and approaches to advocacy. The program was a symphony of personal experience, generational wisdom, and great collaboration. Wisdom figures left with greater understanding of youthful responses to the sign of the times, while young leaders and advocates were affirmed and listened to without judgement. It was a powerful experience that was both life-giving and inspiring. I look forward to participating in programs like this in the future.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income

Individual Donations: \$202,185
Grants: \$123,300
Program Fees: \$80,674
Contributed Services/In-Kind: \$57,486
Investment Income: \$237,257
Gift Shop & Misc: \$122,339

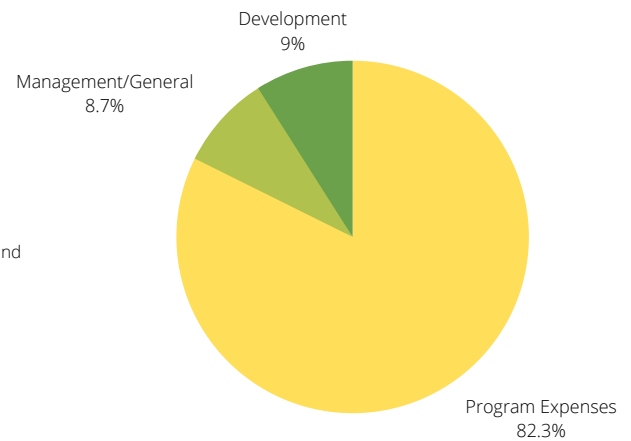
Total Income: \$823,241



Expenses

Program Expenses: \$670,839
Management/General: \$70,530
Development: \$73,414

Total Expenses: \$814,783



WAYS TO GIVE

Donations from individuals like you made up almost one quarter of Cranaleith Spiritual Center's income in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Thank you for continuing to support equitable and accessible spiritual retreats and spiritual programs in 2021-2022!

- To make your online contribution, please visit **cranaleith.org/donate**. Choose an area of need that speaks to your heart, such as "scholarships" or "trees and gardens."
- You can also mail a check made payable to "Cranaleith Spiritual Center" to: **13475 Proctor Road; Philadelphia, PA 19116**
- Are you doing your holiday shopping on Amazon this year? Remember to select "Cranaleith Spiritual Center" on **Amazon Smile!**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

INDIVIDUAL RETREATS AND SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

By: Maria DiBello, RSM, Program Associate

The vision at the heart of Cranaleith's mission is "healing the wounds and divisions within individuals and of society itself." The COVID-19 pandemic has "unmasked" many of these wounds, exposing the scars of racism, economic disparity, and political polarity among us. We have discovered a frantic, angry, and driven culture, where our need for silence, rest, and balance is more and more apparent. Yet, we have also discovered our belonging to one another, our thirst for the sacred, and our desire to live from our inherent goodness.



Through the generosity of our donors, Cranaleith provides scholarships to qualifying applicants to the Spiritual Direction Formation Program. Will you help secure this unique formation program for the future? Visit cranaleith.org/donate to make your gift!

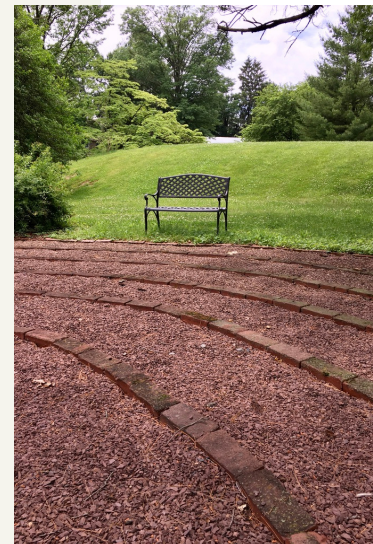
Here at Cranaleith, we have experienced an increased number of individuals seeking personal quiet and renewal amidst the ongoing stress of the pandemic. They carry the exhaustion and grief of this moment. They come to shelter a time and space nurtured by beauty, solitude, and quiet.

We also see an increased need for compassionate, capable spiritual directors in our places of worship, schools, and hospitals. The 2019-2021 cohort of the Cranaleith Spiritual Direction Formation Program completed much of their training online, proving their resilience and desire to serve others across their various fields.

A Reflection by Christine Konopelski, SSJ 2021 Spiritual Direction Formation Program Graduate

These last two years have broadened, deepened, broke open, freed, and propelled me even more deeply into the heart of God and into the heart of the world. I am, by God's grace, more my truest self than I was two years ago. I had no idea what God had planned when I said "yes." I can only say as I look back, that this "spiritual adventure"—steeped in God's mercy—changed my life forever, and I will be forever grateful for all who helped form me and transform me along the way.

Along with these "living witnesses," I hold most sacred and precious those on the margins whom I have come to know and call friends. God sent these men and women to me so that I could open my eyes and heart to see the face of God and learn who God really is.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

ECO-SPIRITUALITY AT CRANALEITH

By: Danielle Lehr Schagrin, Development Associate

Drawing on Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, *Laudato sí*, and the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Cranaleith's eco-spirituality initiatives combine the principles of environmental conservation, justice, and mercy spirituality. Integrating these principles into every aspect of our spiritual programs and retreats, we strive to live out the value of care for the earth, sharing both the responsibility for its stewardship as well as its bounty with all who gather here. Thanks to our community of donors, Cranaleith's eco-spirituality initiatives made great strides in 2020-2021.



Thanks to support from donors like you, the bioswale went from overgrown (top photo) to thriving (bottom photo). You can help us maintain our "sanctuary of trees" by making a gift to the trees & gardens fund at cranaleith.org/donate!

Eco-Spirituality Highlights

- Beekeeper Gene (pictured above) introduced new colonies to the Cranaleith apiaries, supporting the local honeybee population and pollinating Cranaleith's ten-acre grounds.
- The Saint Kateri Conservation Center designated the Cranaleith campus a "Saint Kateri Habitat" in recognition of our ecological stewardship and spiritual offerings. Visit kateri.org to learn more.
- Cranaleith joined Eco Philly, a new network of "creation care" teams across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Visit ecophilly.org to learn more.
- The Cranaleith grounds underwent donor-supported improvements, including the removal of invasive species from the bioswale and the restoration of the Stations of the Cross.

*Join us this Advent for
"The Waiting Earth:
An Eco-Spiritual Advent Retreat Series"
Learn more & register at cranaleith.org!*

ANNUAL REPORT OF DONORS

JULY 1, 2020—JUNE 30, 2021

\$10,000 +

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Juliana Kozman, RSM
Stack Family Fund
Ron Selzer
Jeanne & Frank Trainer, Jr.

The Connelly Foundation
The Otto Haas Foundation
The Raskob Foundation
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Mid-Atlantic

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Cathy Maguire, RSM
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\$2,500 - \$4,999

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(Matching Gift)
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\$250 - \$999

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Cranaleith honors all those in search of healing, rest, and renewal, regardless of ability to pay for our services. Our goal is to be as generous as we can in granting financial assistance for programs, retreats, and spiritual direction, but we cannot do it alone.

With sincere gratitude, we recognize those who have sustained our mission through their financial contributions this year. We make every effort to include the names of all donors with correct spellings. We apologize for any oversights or omissions.



Retreatants from Mercy Neighborhood Ministries joined us for our first onsite retreat since March 2020.

Martha Henault
Jean & Leon Hurd
The Kenney Agency Inc.
Maureen Kelly
Paul & Lisa Lacon
Joseph and Janet Landis
Terri Ledva
Helene Lodge
Jane Lowe

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Kathleen McAnaney
Robert & Mary Metz
Patricia Mogan
Rita Morley

ANNUAL REPORT OF DONORS

JULY 1, 2020—JUNE 30, 2021



Cranaleith thanks all individuals and groups who donated their time and talents as volunteers this year!

\$250 - \$999 (continued)

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 Project HOME - Outreach
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 Tree Philly

\$1 - \$249

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ANNUAL REPORT OF DONORS

JULY 1, 2020—JUNE 30, 2021

\$1 - \$249 (continued)

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"A private directed retreat is a precious gift of solitude and communion in nature. I prefer to be outdoors, and Cranaleith offers something year-round: spring blooms, summer gardens, fall colors, a flowing spring, dried seed pods—these speak to my soul in all its seasons and invite creative reflection."

*Rev. Julie Bergdahl
Cranaleith Retreatant*

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ANNUAL REPORT OF DONORS

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 WMA Sunshine Club
 North Phila. Spiritual Ministry
 Sisters of the Holy Redeemer



On your next retreat, we invite you to visit the Stations of the Cross, lovingly restored by Tom Flanagan and Fred Stopper. This project was made possible through the generosity of our donors.

ALL IS CALM, ALL IS BRIGHT...

Prepare your heart for the Christmas season with Cranaleith Spiritual Center! Register for an upcoming retreat or spiritual program today at cranaleith.org.

November 29, December 6, 13, 20

The Waiting Earth: An Eco-spiritual Advent Retreat Series with Nicholas Collura of Eco Philly (online)

December 4

The Beloved Madonnas: Mary Brings Jesus to Us with James Padilioni, Jr., Ph.D. (onsite)

December 10

Advent of Forgiveness with Scott Hutchinson (onsite or online)

December 16

Claiming our Joy: Isaiah Prepares Us for Christmas with Bernadette Rudolph (onsite & on demand)

December 17-18

Overnight Silent Retreat with Mary Elizabeth Looby, GNSH (onsite)



Hold your next group retreat or professional development meeting at Cranaleith

We are ready to welcome you with mercy hospitality!

215-934-6206 | hostedgroups@cranaleith.org





13475 Proctor Road
Philadelphia, PA 19116

215.934.6206
cranaleith.org

Connect with us!
@cranaleith



*This holiday season, give the gift
of peace to a retreatant in need.*

Give today at cranaleith.org/donate

