

Student Retreat Reflections

This weekend was a well-needed relief from the stress of our daily lives. It was an opportunity to make new friendships and strengthen old ones. It provided an atmosphere conducive to learning about God and how he works in other people's lives.

During this retreat I realized how necessary surrounding oneself with good company is to spiritual health. I saw many people who were obviously opening up and sharing their feelings in a way they haven't done in a long time. It is always refreshing to witness such sincerity from people who were mere strangers only a couple of days ago. I hope future downtown students will get the opportunity to experience the benefits of this retreat.

This retreat came at a great time. The first year has been hard on my family. My father has a terminal condition and we have watched him suffer and get weaker by the day. My daughter also has been diagnosed with an autoimmune disease. I have ached with her through her pain and suffering. I know in my heart God has a master plan for us all and we have but to stand back and pray. This weekend allowed me to come to certain peace about the outcome of many things that are and will be. I have a chance to "be still and know that I am God."

I am so thankful for the transformative power of God—and this is what I experienced on this retreat. Dr. O invited us all to "just be," and I am amazed at how "just being" silences the voices of this world and frees us to celebrate the person God loved when he formed us in our mother's womb. I have loved being me this weekend.

I came here with several classmates from school, and I thought I knew what "being members of the same body of Christ," meant before. But in this short period of time, God really knit us together. Through eating together, spontaneously studying the Bible together, and taking hiking and sledding adventures together, God let us be the family we really are.

Dr. O and Bob are such encouragers, and they must have prayerfully invited the Holy Spirit to move this weekend. Because He did! I know that this retreat will endure as a beautiful part of the tapestry of my spiritual life. Blessed by our LORD!

This retreat was so wonderful in so many different ways. In one sense words can't describe the way I felt while I was here. I got to get away from the stress of school and kind of life itself. The people that were here were beyond great. I felt so accepted, like it didn't matter what I looked like and really could be myself. I got to enjoy myself and meet people I will never forget. The retreat was definitely one of the best times of my life and it taught me a lot about myself. I couldn't thank you enough for this extraordinary opportunity; it was so wonderful. Thank you for all the hard work you put in to this and making it possible for me to be a part of it. I hope many other people get the chance to experience what I have experienced. Thanks so much!

The best part of my weekend at Templed Hills was the fellowship I experienced. It was great to just sit and discuss experiences with my faith with others. It was also wonderful to meet and bond with my friends' spouses, and to spend time with my friends outside of school and to make new ones.

This retreat has been one of the best experiences that I have had in a very long time. I was so blessed to meet the people I met, learn the things I did, and realize the wonderful opportunities, relationships and blessings that God has made available to me. Dr. O and Bob were a blessing to my heart. Their kind and giving spirits witnessed to my soul and they encouraged me. At times, I feel like I'm somewhat tumbling through this world, trying to grab onto something that I know is stable and true. This retreat helped me regroup and remember the basics of my relationship with God.

This retreat was a great time to get away from life's stresses and problems. It's a time to reflect and look upon God's creations and count the many blessings that we have had. I had the opportunity to meet new people and learn about the way other people look at God and about their religion. This retreat was full of fun adventures. I enjoyed our hike through Templed Hills. I have never walked through the snow in the woods before. I had fun sledding down the big hill with friends and the food was great. I am so glad that I was chosen to go on this retreat. It was something that I will never forget. Thank you and I hope that others get this same opportunity as I did.

Going on this retreat has brought me not only closer to God, but also closer with my friends at school. I got to meet many new people and engage myself in wonderful conversations. It was a retreat to get away, relax, socialize, and get closer to God (a refreshment!)

This has been an amazing weekend! I have truly enjoyed my time at Temples Hills, and this has been a blessed experience. I think it's great the way people can come together not knowing much about each other and through the love of God sharing our faith in Jesus Christ we can establish an amazing bond. I hope this retreat continues for others in the future because as a law student (who can become so caught up in school that sometimes I don't give the Lord enough time) this retreat was a welcomed break and a reminder that God is in control. He is amazing, and he does love me.

After this retreat I feel refreshed and ready to take on the rest of the semester. Thank you Dr. O and Dr. Bob for making this experience possible.

This retreat gave me an opportunity to be refreshed and unburdened from the pressures of school and everyday life. I had the opportunity to become renewed and gain new hope in the promise of God. I hope that now I will have the focus and drive to follow God more passionately and hope to take the positiveness back with me.

The weekend has provided some much needed rest and relaxation. I feel my Christian faith has been strengthened by this experience. I am very thankful for this opportunity and I look forward to putting what I have learned to practice at school.

I feel very blessed and thankful that Dr. O and her husband organized and led this trip for us. It has been a wonderful time of rest, friendships, and growing closer to God. It was amazing to listen to everyone's stories and life experiences. It was so encouraging and refreshing to get away from my every day life and just take time to build and strengthen relationships.

The retreat was very interesting for me. I don't usually open up to large groups but in this instance I found it much easier to do so. I found the weekend to be extremely peaceful and relaxing, a time for me to get away from what I call life. The trip was much needed for me. It allowed me to talk about some things that have troubled my mind for some time.

I am really glad that I got to attend the Downtowners retreat. It was so cool to meet other people who have gone through the same things I have.

I am surprised that I actually did relax and felt God. I also was so glad that I felt a calling answer to my question that has been on my heart. And I don't know if I would have had my answer/calling without this retreat and re-connection with God.

What a blessing to be able to come to this Christian retreat. It was very refreshing my leaving the everyday rat-race in society and spending quality time with Jesus. Being among many wonderful Christians is revitalizing. I enjoyed relaxing, having fun, and conversing with others on the challenges of maintaining my faith. It was very interesting to hear the different paths we all continue to take in trying to find spiritual understanding. At times, I felt confident in mentoring others and leading discussion. Reflecting on my Christian development was difficult to discuss, but a great way to share my trials in life. I was touched by the wonderful life stories of many others during our Saturday night Beatitudes bible session. It seems so easy to contribute and share teachings of the Bible. The difficult part of this weekend is just finding the time to get away. Thanks to Dr. O and Bob for organizing and leading our weekend. I have been fortified by many great people and hope I helped others. In our busy society, it's great to have these gatherings to circle the wagons and re-affirm our mission to follow Christ's teachings in life. Thanks.

The Downtowners' retreat really gave me a chance to refresh, connect with other students and explore my faith. I am thankful to the Downtowners for providing this retreat because it did more than just give me a break from studying law but it allowed me to reflect why I am in the legal profession and how it can relate to my faith.

Every law student needs a time to refresh. The retreat allowed me to do just that because of the beautiful surroundings of Temple Hills. God blessed us with a beautiful sunny day where we could take a hike by a guide who showed us animal tracks, different birds and the foliage in the area. The hike showed me God's wondrous beauty and reconnected me to him. I felt refreshed and ready to go back to law school after the retreat.

Connecting with other students at the retreat was so fulfilling. It was such an open group with no sign of cliques or exclusion. It was neat to meet other students from the College of Nursing and talk to them about their profession. The Saturday night activity of opening up about our faith enabled all to discuss freely about their individual faith. It was freeing to feel that there were no limitations to speaking about our faith but understanding that students could come from different backgrounds. It was peaceful coexistence of different religions and denominations.

Talking about my faith enabled me to reconnect with God and realize that he is the true master and planner and I am his humble servant. In the competitive nature of law school it is easy to forget this and I need to be reminded. The retreat showed me that the sharing of my faith and connecting with others is something that I cannot lose as I finish law school and start practicing law in the future. I am forever grateful to the Downtowners for providing this retreat