

Encounter With Jesus



An *Encounter With Jesus* retreat is exactly that—a silent retreat leading to a profound encounter with Him; an introduction to silent prayer and adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist. It is...

What to expect of an *EWJ*?

An *Encounter With Jesus* offers people the opportunity of a living encounter with Our Lord Jesus present in the Eucharist. It introduces the retreatants to silent prayer and Eucharistic Adoration in a way that is adapted to today's situation. Many people today, youth and adults, experience very serious confusion, difficulties, and sufferings. They, we, need Jesus.

Only Jesus can respond to our deepest needs and bring divine healing to our profound wounds. Above all, we need not just ideas or feelings, but personal contact with Jesus Himself. He is the true "Bread of Life" for the spiritual hunger of today. The *Encounter With Jesus (EWJ)* offers the opportunity to discover Him through prayer of the heart, and through His Real Presence in the Eucharist. But this encounter requires an act of supernatural faith.

- Silent! Retreatants are silent from Thursday night until Sunday at noon. Each day has simple teaching sessions on the path of silent prayer and encountering Jesus in the Sacred Mysteries.
- A Roman Catholic retreat but also open to non-Catholics.
- Developed and offered by the Mission of Divine Mercy at the Mission.
- Restricted to either men or women, on a given weekend, due to our dormitory-style accommodations.
- Offered in English or Spanish, according to the weekend.
- For individuals 18 years or older.

THUS, THE *EWJ* IS NOT AIMED AT BRINGING ABOUT A HIGH, BUT RATHER A DEEP. IT AIMS AT BRINGING ABOUT AN ENCOUNTER, AND THEN A DEEPENING UNION WITH THE PERSON OF JESUS.

In case you missed this part, this is a silent retreat—that is the retreatants are silent from Thursday night until Sunday after Mass. But there are several conferences that provide spiritual insight and guidance during this retreat. Conference attendance is optional.

For Whom is the *EWJ*?

This Encounter is for persons 18 years or older. It does not require any special formation or previous prayer experience. It does require, however, that anyone coming have a "thirst" for their soul; that they are truly seeking Him. And It is essential that they are freely choosing to come, rather than coming due to pressure from someone (spouse, parent, friend...).

A Special Sacrifice

The *EWJ* is an encounter with Our Lord truly present in the Holy Eucharist. Unfortunately, this is a reality that many Catholics today are either unaware of, or take for granted. Since the purpose of the *EWJ* is to bring each retreatant to a deeper encounter with Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament, we ask a special sacrifice of all the retreatants. **This sacrifice is that you will NOT be attending Mass on Friday and Saturday so that the whole Encounter can lead to the special moment of receiving Holy Communion at Mass on Sunday. We know that this will be a sacrifice, especially for those of you who already deeply appreciate His Real Presence. But we ask you to offer it up as a special sacrifice to Jesus so that many more may come to recognize and encounter Him in the Holy Mass—perhaps for the first time.**

Challenging

The *Encounter* is a serious retreat because it takes seriously the Presence of Jesus in our lives and in our own struggle to respond to the Love. The *Encounter* can, at times, be intense and demanding because it is for the demanding challenges that we face today. One of the challenges is that the retreatants are silent for most of the retreat. This is a sacrifice, but one that allows us to go through a time of more intense spiritual training. It is a challenge that prepares us for a deeper work of the Holy Spirit. Often people are understandably anxious about the challenge of silence. But by the end of the retreat, many say they don't want the silence to end.

“Oh, if souls would only want to listen to My Voice when I am speaking in the depths of their hearts, they would reach the peak of holiness in a short time.” Jesus to St. Faustina (#584)

Liability Waiver

A signed liability waiver is required for attendance at this retreat. You will be required to fill this out when you arrive. Please bring your driver's license number because the waiver requires it.

Cost

This is not a business transaction for us. It is an act of Christian service, offered in faith that He will provide. No one will be excluded for lack of money. Thus, our policy is the following:

1. **A non-refundable registration fee of \$40 is required** with registration in order to know who is really committed.
2. Beyond that, we charge no fee for the Encounter which includes food and lodging. Once you have experienced the Encounter, we invite you to give a donation as you freely choose to support MDM.

Our Mission relies entirely on donations. There are a lot of expenses in offering this retreat and sustaining this Mission with its many functions. God Bless you for your help!

Lodging and Meals

Currently our accommodations are very limited. What we are able to offer at this time is the following: **Twenty-one single beds divided by partitions in one large dormitory room in St. Michael's Hall. We ask retreatants to bring their own linens, pillow blanket and towels.** For retreatants who have to travel by plane, special linen arrangements can be made. Please contact us about this in advance. All meals are provided.

Terrain & Weather Disclaimers

When weather permits, many of the talks and activities during the retreat are held outdoors to take advantage of the natural setting of the Mission. Please check the weather forecast and be prepared to dress accordingly. The main campus of the Mission where all of the talks and prayer activity occur is within walking distance of the dormitory and dining areas. However, we want to make note of the fact that the hiking terrain at the Mission is rugged with some steep embankments, rocky slopes and dusty paths. These paths are accessible for people with average mobility for those that choose to hike, but we urge people to watch their footing and be prepared to wear clothing and shoes that will provide some protection from scrapes, scratches and slipping as you hike the trails.

Retreat Schedule

Our *Encounter With Jesus* and *Cor Jesu* retreats are normally offered during the Spring and Fall semesters. As a semester's retreat schedule becomes available, we will post it on our website and in our weekly Meditations. The registration link for a particular retreat will be added to the website as it becomes available.

Physical Address:

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Have Questions?

For additional information about our retreats, please review our website, email retreats@missionofdivinemercy.org or call 830-302-9707.

Website & Email:

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