



# All Things Ignatian



## Physics Departmental Retreat

presented by the Creighton Society of Physics Students

*"...committed to a quality liberal education in the Jesuit tradition... the students towards a mastery of the skills and tools physicists use to address fundamental questions, foster the development of a logical approach to problem solving, and aid the development of an ethical framework, both professionally and personally."*

-Creighton University Dept. of Physics Mission Statement

The departmental retreat is a two day event during which students and faculty participate in active discussion and reflection on a relevant topic agreed upon in advance by the Creighton University Physics Department.

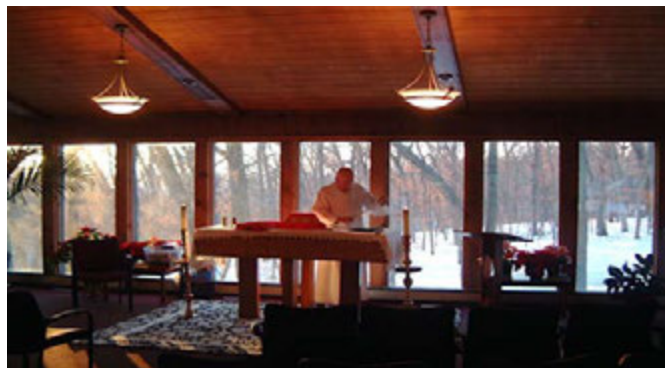
The Department retreat opens with a joint faculty and student body dinner followed by a department led reflection activity concerning interdepartmental topics. Activities then break for the undergraduate student skit which is written, directed, and casted by the undergraduate body with a faculty member occasionally participating.

### Retreat Design

The Departmental Physics retreat is a once yearly event held at the Creighton University Retreat Center in Griswold Iowa. Each event is given a theme which pertains to a scholastic or social issue deemed relevant to the department by both faculty and students. Past themes include:

- Drafting and ratification of the Department Mission Statement
- Encountering prejudice
- "My problem with God is..."
- Science and religion
- "Why am I at Creighton?"
- Professional ethics
- History of the Jesuits
- Achieving a balanced lifestyle

and the theme for the 2011 Department retreat is set to be "Creativity and Science".



Fr. Thomas McShane prepares for morning mass on the first morning of the retreat.  
Photo Credit: Dr. T. Zepf, Professor Emeritus



Students and Faculty participate in a reflection activity during the Departmental retreat.  
Photo Credit: Dr. T. Zepf, Professor Emeritus

The second day of the retreat consists of discussions and reflections led by Fr. Gillick of the Creighton University Dagleman Center for Ignition Spirituality. Activities are usually conducted in a sequence of personal reflections followed by group discussions amongst retreat participants.

### Student and Faculty Comments

- "I think that the Physics retreat is an excellent way for faculty and students to combine together in a social and intellectual setting" – Dr. David Sidebottom
- "The physics retreat is a unique experience that promotes a higher level of collaboration between the faculty and students. It is great to be able to engage faculty on relevant issues in such an environment." – Jorge Vergen
- "The retreat is the reason the Physics Department feels like a close knit family." – Lonza Ramsey