



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center
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Ignatius House Announces \$8.8M Campaign, "Facilitating an Encounter with God: A Campaign to Renew, Expand, & Inspire"

The Sandy Springs retreat center is revitalizing its campus to support a growing community seeking wellbeing of mind, body, and spirit.

Sandy Springs, GA - On March 18, Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center broke ground on its first campus revitalization project in more than a decade. With the construction of **The Upper Room**, a new prayer area for retreatants with added office space, the center looks forward to serving 30% more retreatants in its tranquil setting on the banks of the Chattahoochee River. The ceremony was attended by **Sandy Springs Mayor Rusty Paul, Atlanta Bishop Ned Shlesinger, clergy from across the Archdiocese, and other honored guests** who came together to celebrate this milestone in Ignatius House's mission to provide a sanctuary for prayer, reflection, and renewal.

The Upper Room is the first phase of Ignatius House's three-phase capital campaign, which also includes converting its Resource Center into a Center for Spiritual Wellness and a \$1.25 million refresh of its 1960's retreat house. The Upper Room will be completed early next year with retreatants expected to enjoy the new gathering space by Spring 2026; the Center for Spiritual Wellness and the retreat house refresh will take place in the months to follow. With more than \$6M in lead gifts from generous donors, **Ignatius House aims to secure \$2M in additional funding to make this vision a reality.**

As Ignatius House seeks to broaden its reach and deepen its impact within the community, there is a pressing need for substantial enhancements to its facilities and programming. In the 1960s, when Ignatius House was founded, just over 1,500 people would visit each year. By the 2000s, this had increased to 3,000 people annually, leading to the need for capital improvements, including an expansion to the retreat center and a new resource building. Today, there is a new awareness that retreats, and spiritual direction are healthy practices for one's spiritual wellbeing, and Ignatius House serves close to 5,000 people per year. *"In our world, retreats are not just beneficial; they are essential for wellness of being - mental, emotional, and most definitely spiritual. People often arrive here carrying burdens, overbooked schedules, weary, yet they leave visibly changed - brighter, taller, rested, and eager to re-engage in the world in a different way,"* says **Maria Cressler, Ignatius House executive director.**

About Ignatius House

Founded in 1961 and grounded in the rich tradition of Ignatian spirituality, Ignatius House offers a range of retreats and spiritual programs designed to foster deep personal contemplation, discernment, and an encounter with God. Through the practice of silence, guided spiritual direction, and engagement with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, individuals from all walks of life and faith backgrounds are invited to explore their spiritual journey in a serene and welcoming environment. Programs help individuals regain balance, find peace, and reconnect with their sense of purpose. Financial assistance is available for any retreatant so that cost is not a barrier.