

DONOR PROFILE: Kathy McCormick



More than 20 years ago, during Kathy McCormick's first visit to Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center, a bright pink binding caught her eye in the library. Today, that book, "The Hunger of the Heart" by Ron DelBene, sums up what Cedarbrake is to her.

"Cedarbrake feeds my spiritual hunger," said Kathy, a member of St. John Vianney Parish in Round Rock. "Sometimes, we just need to get away from the ordinariness of our lives, from the routine of our lives, and be in a different place, in a different space."

Kathy finds herself at Cedarbrake several times a year for weekend retreats and days of reflection, including ones for spiritual directors and wives of permanent deacons. But she has also been on personal retreats, for either a day or a night or two, which are a "huge treasure."

"When the wheels of my car hit the entryway into Cedarbrake, I feel like I'm coming home," she said. "It is such sacred ground. Once your feet hit the ground, it's like 'Oh my gosh, God is here.'"

Kathy attributes this feeling of home to Cedarbrake being part of the diocese, and is thankful to the O'Connor family, who donated the land for the retreat center in 1973 and supported its growth, as well as the bishops who have recognized the value of this ministry.

"Cedarbrake has been such a meaningful influence on my growing closer to Christ, and a significant witness of Him through the lives of others whom I have encountered there," Kathy said. "I am excited about the possibility of it being able to offer more services to more people through *Encountering Christ*."