



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE *of* PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 15, 2024

Contact: Kanobia Russell-Blackmon
Director of Communications
850.435.3528
blackmonk@ptdiocese.org

Blessing of the New Diocesan Retreat Center

Pensacola, FL — Join Bishop William A. Wack, CSC on Saturday, March 16 at 10:30 a.m. for the blessing of the new St. Brendan Center for Evangelization and Spirituality. The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee recently acquired Miracle Camp from Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital. Located on 38-acres along Beulah Road, the retreat center will benefit anyone who wants to deepen their faith and relationship with God.

The center is named after St. Brendan the Navigator, the patron saint of sailors, navigators and the United States Navy. He is also one of the “apostles” of Ireland. Bishop Wack choose St. Brendan as the patron of the center to honor all of the priests and religious sisters and brothers who came from Ireland to the United States to spread the Gospel and minister to God’s people. In Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana – indeed all parts of the United States – Irish priests and religious established countless parishes, schools, and other ministries. In most situations, they came to this country without knowing what they would face, and most of them stayed here until their death and are buried in our midst.

“We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the priests and religious men and women who established and cared for the church in this part of the world,” explained Bishop Wack.

As the patron saint of the U.S. Navy, which is active in our diocese, it is eminently fitting that the place should be called St. Brendan Center. The Center’s mission is to provide a peaceful space where people can go for spiritual enrichment, prayer and reflection. It features walking trails, an activities center, dining hall, outdoor chapel, a climate-controlled dormitory, a ball field and campfire pit. Youth groups, parishes, schools or any organization will soon be welcomed to host retreats, spiritual gatherings or meetings on the beautiful grounds surrounded by nature.

The St. Brendan Center is located at 9840 Beulah Road, Pensacola, Florida 32526. Light refreshments will be served after the blessing and guests will be able to tour the property. Please RSVP by March 13 to Maria Pollman at pollmanm@ptdiocese.org or call 850-435-3510.

###