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Find out more at [petawa.org](http://petawa.org)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Camp Tuck Overnight 2023

Dates: July 9–14

Camper Ages:

Girls entering grades 6, 7, and 8

### Tiny Tuck Milwaukee 2023

Dates: June 19–22

Time: 10 am–4 pm

(\*Bring packed lunch\*)

Camper Ages:

Girls entering grades 3, 4, 5, and 6

Visit [petawa.org](http://petawa.org) for more details  
on times, locations, and more  
current activities.



SAVE THE DATE!

*Annual Gala*

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FRIENDSHIP, FUN  
AND SHARED INSIGHTS BECAUSE...

**PETAWA IS EXACTLY WHAT  
THE WORLD NEEDS!**

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023  
5:30 PM

BROOKFIELD  
CONFERENCE CENTER  
325 S. MOORLAND RD.  
BROOKFIELD, WI 53005

PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 30TH!  
GO TO [WWW.PETAWA.ORG](http://WWW.PETAWA.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



# NEWS Update

SPRING 2023

## Message from the Director...

I am excited to start this new chapter in the fruitful history of Petawa Cultural Center as its new director. Coming back to Milwaukee has made me realize the roots are deep – with so many generous and wonderful women and families. Hundreds of young women have passed through Petawa benefiting from family life, meal times together, friendship and spiritual formation. Learning from the wonderful established teams here and by sharing my experiences, together we can continue to build strong Christian women who can change the world.

I am passionate about the development of women in understanding the value of the dignity of the human person and the value they contribute to society with all their talents in a genuine feminine way. My background in home economics is serving well in order to be able to teach about the basic needs of the human person with artistry and confidence through the Art of Living Program for all women of all ages. We see Christ through beauty, truth and goodness and my hope is to pass onto women the passion for these transcendentals.

In this new position I am working with others to implement the spirit of Petawa at the new Brookfield location. This state-of-the-art building will provide the ample space to expand our reach to more women of all ages in the greater Milwaukee area and beyond.

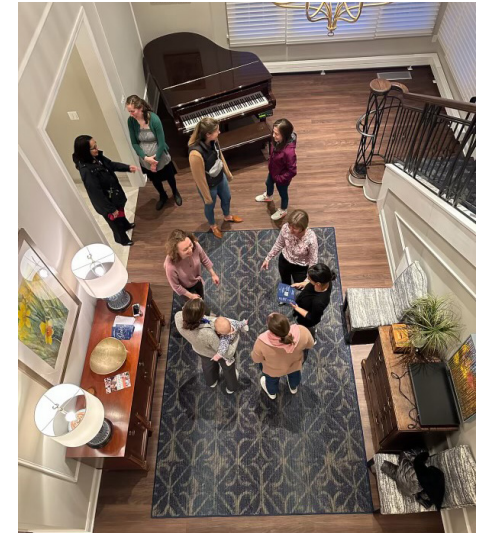
I look forward to meeting you all and reconnecting with old friends as we close one door and open another.

Mary Jane Markel  
Director

## Petawa Moves!

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 started a new era in the history of Petawa Cultural Center. On that day at 9 a.m. eight moving trucks showed up at the Astor Street address to transport furniture, accessories and necessities that made the building a home to many for several decades.

Under the expert guidance of Michelle Law, our interior designer extraordinaire, the move was seamless. Furniture was tagged and boxes were color coded and numbered. As the old building cleared out, volunteers got into action cleaning the space and getting it ready for its next occupants.



Promptly at 2 p.m. the trucks rolled into the Brookfield driveway and unloading began. Within a few short hours, the job was done. "I've never seen a more organized move," said one devoted helper, adding, "Michelle's forethought made a complicated move seem easy!"

Those who helped with the move wandered around the new center, exploring the different areas. "I can't wait until all our friends can come here and gather!" was a frequent refrain. Cicada's Cove, the lower level devoted to middle school and high school girls, garnered the most attention. Large, bright rooms for gatherings, a kitchenette and a place to study will be well used year round.

The following week saw dozens of volunteers assembling furniture, hanging pictures and cleaning up construction dust. All the same details that make a house a home were slowly added with a careful eye to those who will be participating at events.

The heart of the center, the beautiful oratory, took considerably longer to complete. Delays with marble and other materials slowed the finish work but the end is in sight! A dedication is set for Thursday, May 11, 2023. At that unique Mass and ceremony, the



new altar will be consecrated by the Archbishop Jerome Listecki. With that final and most important piece in place, Petawa Cultural Center is ready to welcome all. We anticipate that the oratory will be a place of prayer, grace, peace and the seedbed of incredible apostolic initiatives.

We cannot wait to welcome you to your new home too! Our new address is 16830 North Avenue, Brookfield, WI 53005. Please stop by!



# Petawa Spotlight

## From the Board

Have you driven by yet? 16830 North Avenue, Brookfield! We are in! God is so good! And we are so very grateful! How do we show this gratitude? Well, the best way is to roll up our sleeves and get to work – bringing women of all ages to our beautiful new center. It is time to get back to all the activities and programming that we love to provide in order to “inspire women, strengthen families, and enrich culture.” Speakers, book discussions, practical classes and opportunities for spiritual growth and study – we are ready to get going with all of these events.

So, please, never hesitate to reach out to us and let us know what we can do to support you. Encourage others to join you when you come to the center. Use the Petawa website as we will be adding a calendar soon so you can easily see what is happening. We are just about ready to bloom so stay in touch. You are important to us and we are eager to see you at our new center. We want to see all our old friends and get to know many more new friends. The building is a wonderful blessing, of course, but YOU are our real treasures. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Linda Pryor

## Have You Read the Headlines?

“Loneliness and Social Isolation Linked to Serious Health Conditions” and “Loneliness Can Affect Your Mental Health: How to cope”. Some might believe loneliness is a new phenomenon, but what’s old is new again.

Ancient tradition has long endorsed strong friendships for a full and healthy life. The Book of Wisdom which was generally thought to have been written in the mid first century B.C. advises, “A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter. He who finds one finds a treasure,” and again, “Let those who are friendly to you be many, but one in a thousand be your confidant.” Our Lord lived a life full of relationships and showed us how to be a good friend. Many centuries later still, St Josemaria Escriva, the founder of Opus Dei, following the example of Christ, spoke extensively about the need for a big heart, capable of understanding others. As a person with many and abiding friendships, the founder of Opus Dei advised his followers to take seriously the responsibility of friendship. “In a Christian, in a child of God, friendship and charity are one and the same thing,” he taught.

Under the inspiration of St. Josemaria, Petawa Cultural Center strives to create an atmosphere of trust and understanding where friendships thrive. Our programming encourages lifelong learning and a service to others. These values are the antidote to our hyper connected world in which the human person is a mere commodity. Women, journeying together to bring truth, beauty and goodness to the world, often become the best of friends.

Check out our website, [www.petawa.org](http://www.petawa.org) for programming and if you have ideas, we want to hear from you!



## Monsignor Don Mariano Fazio

Earlier this spring, Don Mariano Fazio, the second in command of Opus Dei in the world, visited Milwaukee from Rome. He saw our beautiful new center, and even tried out sitting in the confessional, pronouncing the chair to be very comfortable, which is good, he explained, because our priests should be hearing confessions for many hours! He also gave a class to about 40 women. The main theme of his class was to let us know what is in the heart and mind of Don Fernando Ocariz, the Prelate of Opus Dei. He began by pulling out his phone and reading us a very affectionate text from Don Fernando greeting everyone in Milwaukee.

Don Mariano told us that the first intention of the father, as Don Fernando is known, is that we all pray very much for the Pope and the Church. Other themes included the centrality of Christ, understanding true freedom, and the need to form deep friendships.

In late April there will be an extraordinary Congress held in Rome because some changes need to be made in the statutes of Opus Dei. Fr Mariano explained that, although these changes are necessary in order for Opus Dei to fit into the current ecclesial structure, they will in no way change the essence of Opus Dei, but rather they will help us carry out our mission to be saints in the middle of the world, and he urged us to pray for the Congress.

Don Mariano is himself from Argentina and has known Pope Francis well for many years, and after explaining to us that Argentinians show affection through irony, he entertained us with several humorous anecdotes about his meetings with the Holy Father.

The class ended with a Q&A session in which he fielded many thought-provoking and varied questions, with answers that were profound and that left us with a lot about which to think, pray, and act.

## New Faces

Spring brings forth growth and two new faces to Petawa Cultural Center.

Mary Jane Markel, a Colorado native, comes to Milwaukee by way of Chicago. Her educational and professional background in home economics will be put to good use as she takes her new position as director of Petawa. She may look familiar to many. Mary Jane lived in Petawa from 2000-2007 and has a deep history with Camp Tuck and Petawa Service Project (PSP). Campers may know her by her camp name, Prairie.

Mary Jane said, “I love Milwaukee and walking along the lake. I look forward to discovering some of the beautiful parks and exploring quaint towns.” One of Mary Jane’s passions is creating beauty in and through the home. “Whether you are married or single, women all create a home for themselves or others. I love helping them discover that feminine gift within and providing the professional skills also required to raise the tone in our families,” she said. Another favorite passion? Kopps Custard!



Christina Kilmer will be coordinating youth programs at Petawa, a job for which she is well qualified! The oldest of 11 siblings, Christina grew up outside of Maryland and helped her mom run Camp Kitty, a girls camp located on Chesapeake Bay. More recently she served as a middle school mentor for Metro Achievement Center in Chicago. Christina has traveled to Rome and loved the experience. She is hoping to lead a group to a future UNIV conference held yearly in the eternal city during Holy Week.

A working professional in the marketing arena, Christina is ready to bring fresh ideas and energy to our youth programming. The girls who have met her, seem equally excited to initiate her into all

things Camp Tuck. If you see her at camp, be sure to call her by her camp name, Micmac.

Mary Jane and Christina are great additions to the Petawa staff.



## What's Happening?

### From the Prelate

We had first-hand news in February about the Prelate when Monsignor Mariano Fazio, Auxiliary Vicar of Opus Dei, visited from Rome on a service assignment to all the centers in the Central United States.

Father Mariano had get-togethers with members of Opus Dei in Milwaukee, Chicago, South Bend and Valparaiso, Indiana, St. Louis, Dallas and Houston during his two weeks here and told us the Prelate, Monsignor Fernando Ocariz, is in very good health, very serene and united to the Pope and the Church. His main intention for us is to be sowers of unity, to keep Christ in the center of our lives and to help many others do the same, to live fraternity and friendship and to be understanding with all people, seeing their virtues rather than their defects.

The Prelate wrote an extensive letter to members of the Work on February 16th in which he encouraged us to respond fully to the divine love that God has for each and every one of us ‘which our Lord sets before us as the model and goal of our love for others.

“We can’t view anyone with indifference,” he said, because “each one of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary.”

Kathryn Placek, an American who works in the Central Advisory of Opus Dei, also visited from Rome and was able to speak with many members and bring back their messages to the Prelate.