## **Bridges Retreat**

## **Application Packet**

NAME: HOME PHONE:

# ADDRESS: CELL PHONE:

CITY/STATE: ZIP:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

**Please rank your site preference** (1-3), if possible, or just mark only possible site.

\_\_\_DeSmet High (weekly Tuesday eve)

\_\_\_Glendale Presbyterian (weekly Wednesday morn)

\_\_\_Online Group (weekly Wednesday eve)

\_\_\_ All Saints in St. Peters (weekly Thursday eve)

 \_\_\_SLU High (monthly 1st Saturday morn)

 \_\_\_St. Peter Claver Church (monthly 2nd Saturday morn)

Current Church Affiliation:

I learned about Bridges from:

**Application Process**

**Step One:** Get to know us and what we’re about.

* Familiarize yourself with the information on the Bridges Foundation website at <http://bridgesfoundation.org/programs/bridges-foundation-retreat/>.
* Attend an Information Session: <http://bridgesfoundation.org/information-sessions/> or email executive.director@bridgesfoundation.org

**Step Two:** Complete initial [online registration form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkLYv8-MtPyvKAwD1QDYtdRYUsh30DDj3icZE7C0GsDYf2mA/viewform?usp=preview). After submission, you will receive an invoice for the $25 registration fee.

**Step Three:** Answer the **Faith Autobiography** questions. These may be written as individual answers to the questions or combined as an essay, as you choose, but please answer all the questions.

**Step Four:** Answer theadditional **Retreat Considerations** questions.

**Step Five:** Email or mail your complete application packet (Faith Autobiography AND Retreat Considerations) to one of the addresses below:

executive.director@bridgesfoundation.org

**Executive Director**

**Bridges Foundation**

**331 North New Ballas #410275**

**St. Louis, MO 63141-9998**

All the information in this packet is kept **confidential**. It will be seen only by the executive director, the site team that will prayerfully pair you with a prayer companion and, ultimately, your prayer companion. It will be deleted or destroyed after that process is complete.

After the full application is received, a consult with a prayer companion from the site you have chosen will be scheduled.

**Application deadline**: The completed application, including Faith Autobiography and Retreat Considerations, must be completed and received by **Friday, August 23, 2024**. In special cases, the application date can be extended. Questions? Contact executive.director@bridgesfoundation.org

**Faith Autobiography**

We hope that by writing your personal faith autobiography you will see where God’s presence has been throughout your life and how you have been led to this point of wanting to receive the Bridges Retreat in Daily Life. This is not meant to be a laborious process, rather more of a prayerful reflection. Record the most important parts of your faith history that shaped you spiritually. Use as much space as necessary or include answers in an essay.

* Describe what and who are the significant people, experiences, and events that have led you into a deeper relationship with God.

* How have your spirituality and prayer life progressed? Describe the journey.

* Describe how the following have influenced your relationship with God: your birth, parents, family of origin, place in your family, gender, culture/ethnicity?

* When do you most feel God’s presence? God’s absence?

* What qualities do you like about yourself? What qualities do you find challenging?

**Retreat Considerations**

*Please take time for prayer and reflection with the following questions and answer as completely as you can.*

1. What is your hope/desire that has led you to apply for participation in the Bridges Retreat in Daily Life? Has there been a special event or personal invitation to bring you to this desire?
2. Describe your current prayer life. Include your prayer experiences, such as praying with Scripture, prayers of petition or gratitude, conversation with God-speaking and listening, contemplative prayer.
3. Are you currently or have you been a member of an Ignatian community such as Christian Life Community (CLC), Manresa, Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) or other?
4. What, if any, experiences have you had with a spiritual director? This can include a prayer partner, a directed retreat, or formal direction. If none, indicate “Not Applicable.”
5. What qualities would you find helpful in a spiritual Prayer Companion? Please be as specific as you can. This information will help in the prayerful matching process to pair you with your Prayer Companion.
6. Participation in the Bridges Retreat cannot be just another involvement. It may be necessary to set aside other commitments and activities during the eight months of the retreat. Please give thought to what current activities you may need to set aside. Can you list them here?
7. What support do you have from family and/or friends? Have you explained the commitment required of a retreatant? Will they be able to support your efforts?

After completing this application packet, I have discerned:

\_\_ I am ready to make the Bridges Retreat at this time, and am willing to adjust other priorities to make this commitment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Considerations**

Pay what you can. Everyone who desires to participate in the retreat and commit to the prayer exercises will be admitted into the Preparation Days of the Bridges Retreat in Daily Life. In order to make the program affordable to all, you are welcome to enroll at any level of payment that you choose, even if it is at no cost to you.

As you consider what you can pay, know that we desire your participation more than your money! Some pay more than our cost and their generosity ensures that we can continue to offer the retreat to those who can only afford to pay less. By the grace of God, things always balance out!

The cost per retreatant to the Bridges Foundation is approximately $880.00. We are blessed with grants and generous donations from our benefactors making it possible for all who wish to participate to do so, regardless of ability to pay.

Please be assured the Foundation is satisfied with whatever amount you can afford. A payment schedule can be arranged. If you pay the Bridges Foundation more than the cost of sponsoring one retreatant, the excess amount will be acknowledged as a donation. One person helps another and, thus, no one is turned away due to their financial circumstances.

At the completion of the Preparation Days (mid-October), all participants will be asked to complete a Letter of Commitment to indicate the total they pledge to pay for their retreat. This amount is used for budgeting purposes and is viewed only by our financial officers, is not binding, and is kept confidential.

**Important Note:**

Missouri and Illinois state regulations require individuals who provide “spiritual counsel” to report suspected child abuse and neglect of persons under age 18.  Therefore, if a retreatant shares information related to possible current child abuse or neglect, prayer companions are obligated to disclose this information to the proper authorities.