

**Rev. Mr. Thomas J. Soper**



I am a Deacon in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. During my Formation Period I sought out a Spiritual Director to guide me in my Spiritual life as well as my discernment to an ordained life in the Church. To that end I met Fr. Bill Petro, one of the Spiritual Directors at WVIS, who has been my Spiritual Director ever since and who introduced me to WVIS and to retreat and other spiritual programs, which have enhanced my spiritual life.

I have some talents that could be brought to bear when it comes to the physical plant, maintenance, so I was enlisted into various maintenance activities for the WVIS house and grounds. Maintaining a house of mature age requires some TLC to keep it vibrant and lively for its guests.

The WVIS facility is located on historic Virginia Street in Charleston close to the Capitol and being of a historic nature requires special needs to maintain its historic beauty. To that end we are always looking for that donation of time and, of course, money to keep the house on Virginia Street as beautiful and comfortable as ever, volunteers are always welcome.

I am currently serving as the WVIS Board Treasurer. As a Board member it is my happy task to promote the activities that bring those who partake of the many opportunities at WVIS during the year closer to God. WVIS offers many opportunities for Spiritual growth through programs such as Soup and Silence on first Fridays, The Almost Heaven Retreats in June and July, individual Spiritual Direction with one of the WVIS certified Spiritual Directors, the Merton Institute gatherings with Fr. Bill Petro and many more as viewed on the WVIS website.