



Franciscan Federation

March 2017

Bonaventure's Journey into God



Franciscan Inspiration for the 21st Century

Franciscan Federation Annual Conference

AFC 2017

Bonaventure's Journey into God
Franciscan Inspiration for the 21st Century

June 16 - 19

Adam's Mark Hotel
Buffalo NY

Presenters

Andre Cirino OFM
Josef Raischl OFS
Joanne Schatzlein OSF

Registration form available at <http://franfed.org>

There are a number of ground transportation options to and from the Buffalo Niagara International Airport. Upon arrival at the airport please follow the signs to ground transportation where you will find taxis and shuttles readily available. At the Adam's Mark, taxi service is the recommended transportation option to the airport.



NATIONAL BOARD

Lent is here: another opportunity to work on changing an aspect of our lives, rather like working on New Year's resolutions. No matter how we choose to live life, or live out Lent, it will be different than before, no matter what, since we are in a different place than ever before, right now, in every aspect of life.

This is much like what is happening in the federation now. We are at a different time than ever before with many opportunities or foci presented to us. We, as a board, have chosen to emphasize, in the new direction statement, those outside the vowed membership of our congregations, those who partner with us in ministry. We have discussed the new direction statement with the respective commissions and will present more at the AFC this summer. Just like Lent is an opportunity in changing our hearts or lives, or creating something new, this time in our world is our opportunity for us to change the foci and emphasize our charism, what we have to offer the world. How we share our charism is our choice; however, we have no choice but to share the charism: by doing so, we give it every opportunity to thrive, as I have heard Carol Zinn, CSJ state in different workshops.

On Ash Wednesday, we hear in the 2 Corinthians reading: "Behold, now is a very acceptable time." Yes, now is the acceptable time to share our charism, maybe in new or different ways. We have been sharing our charism since before our congregations were founded, yet now will be different from before, or different from what will ever be again. We may wonder how we are to reach everyone with the goodness of our charism, getting them to be all in. I do not believe there is one way to do this; we need to talk with each other, explore potential collaboration, and continue on with what we have been doing, with maybe a different twist.

We have an opportunity at the AFC this summer to be inspired while listening to Josef Raischl, OFS, Andre Cirino, OFM and Joanne Schatzlein, OSF, present on Bonaventure's Journey into God, as one source of Franciscan Inspiration for the 21st Century. We will have the opportunity to discuss what we have heard, and brainstorm opportunities. What a gift! Check the Franciscan Federation website for more information and registration.

Sue Ernster FSPA



NEW FEDERATION DIRECTION STATEMENT

After listening to the discussions and comments of the General Membership at the 2016 AFC, the National Board set about developing a new statement to envision the future of the Federation. After formulating the initial draft, which was composed at the National Board meeting in September, it was sent for editing to the Region chairs, Commissions, Franciscan Mentors and JPIC. We are now presenting it to you for your thoughts and comments. It can be viewed in full on the FranFed website.

Please send all correspondence to Carol (franfedofficec@franfed.org) or Damian (franfedofficed@franfed.org).



FEDERATION NATIONAL OFFICE

Chapter VII: Fraternal Love

Because God loves us, the brothers and sisters should love each other . . . Let all be carefully attentive not to become angry or disturbed because of another's sin. For anger and disturbance impede charity in themselves and in others (LR 7:3; FLC1 9:3-4)

The National Office shares space in the Generalate of the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn. Each day, we rub elbows with those whose weighty responsibilities are keeping the Brothers warm and well fed, as well as tending to the various ministries of the congregation. Alongside of them is a support staff, without whom we would not be able to turn the lights on, regulate the heat, or operate the buzzer to admit people at the front door. During the course of everyone's busy day, people might check their email or switch over to a national news outlet to see what's going on. If you were to gaze at all the computer screens, you would see that those websites vary from CNN to FOX, and everything in between. There are some very strong opinions at 135 Remsen.

For Lent, I have promised to shut down my access to the news cycle. It colors my view of the world in a way that I don't like and generally makes me crazy. So far, almost two weeks into Lent, I have failed miserably. Media intrudes on our lives in such an all-encompassing manner that I fear I have set before myself an impossible task.

In the midst of the political hysteria, though, I have found the one place where I can escape

from all the cultural wars. The chapel? Not really – the god of my political party resides there. The community room? Are you kidding??!! It seems that the one place where I can 'love my brothers and sisters and not 'let anger impede charity' is the lunchroom.

Between 11:30 and 1:00 each day, everyone wanders into the dining area with what they have bought down the street or brought from home. Conversation is about food and family, the highs and lows of the weekend, the latest work being done in the building. It is where I encounter the OTHER (read those who don't agree with me) and observe that the horns and tail that I have perceived in the past on the person sitting across from me are only imaginary. I enjoy a meal with people who have the same hopes and share the same human condition that I do. And I leave feeling that we're all in this together. And that's a Lenten grace.

If only I could turn the damned TV off . . .

Damian Novello OSF

Please have your Congregation's FACEBOOK PAGE

"FRIEND" and "FOLLOW" us on 

If anyone would like to help 'administer' the Facebook Page for the Franciscan Federation, please message or email Carol at franfedofficec@franfed.org

COMMISSION OF ELECTED LEADERS

COMMISSION OF CHARISM SERVICES



Having a Franciscan Heart

Over the past years as the Franciscan Federation has considered its future the call was to invite everyone with a Franciscan Heart to membership in the Federation. Margaret Carney, OSF has often mentioned that there are four orders, the fourth being those with a Franciscan Heart.

This term has become a part of our vocabulary and we recognize individuals who identify themselves as Franciscan. What is it that gives life to the tradition that has been influential for over eight hundred years? Francis of Assisi reminds us very pointedly in his writings that Christ is the whole meaning of our lives and the Scriptures provide for us the manner of life we are to live.

Consider Chapter One of the Form of Life for the Third Order that begins “to observe the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ”. This is the call of any baptized Christian. Furthermore in the Exhortation to the Faithful we read that “all who love God with their whole heart, with their soul and mind and with strength and love their neighbor as themselves...” is the underpinning of the Abrahamic religions. The closer one is to God the closer one is to one’s neighbor. God and God’s people are interconnected, a unity. To turn to God is to witness God’s gift of love that is to be manifested in loving everyone without exception. Therefore, the call is for faith to be expressed in action. This then leads us to change the injustice that others encounter. This calls us to live mercy. Francis shared with all of creation, his sisters and brothers, his most precious gift, the love of God. Bonaventure in the *Legenda Major* summarized the compassion and mercy of Francis:

Emptying himself through a wonderful tenderness of compassion for anyone with a bodily affliction, in the sweetness of his pious heart,

he turned back to Christ any need, any lack he might notice in anyone.
He certainly had an inborn kindness doubled by the piety of Christ
poured out on him. Therefore, his soul melted for the poor and the infirm;
to those to whom he could not extend a hand he extended his affection. (*FA:ED II*, 589)

Francis did not assist the poor from a distance. He and his brothers lived among them and ministered to them. The Franciscan spirit is based upon the humanity of Christ and on the human condition. The Incarnate Christ became poor and he became one with all of humanity. In walking in the footprints of Christ we come to recognize our own fragility and that of our sisters and brothers. This realization is rooted in contemplation and living in God. It is in responding to the circumstances of daily life that calls us to reach out to the other in mercy without exception. It is then that the meaning of love in obedience is lived. Finally, in the closing prayer found in the *Letter to the Entire Order*, Francis wrote, “inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit may you follow in the footprints of your beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ and by your grace alone may we make our way to you most high” (*FA:AD 1*, 121). Interiorly, we do know what God desires of us. Francis knew what was his to do and wished, too, that we may know what is ours to do.

Today, more than ever, those of us with a Franciscan Heart are being call to reach out to our Sisters and Brothers in our neighborhoods, nation and the world. We see in news reports, and witness first-hand, the stories of families broken apart because of deportations, persons whose lives are in danger because of one’s skin tone or religious beliefs, lives that are not held sacred due to human trafficking, and the list goes on and on. For those with Franciscan hearts we cannot remain passive while our sisters and brothers continue to suffer. Francis of Assisi was a voice for the marginalized of his time; now we, his followers, need to assist the marginalized of our time. During this Lenten Season, as we reflect on the Third Order Regular Rule and the Scriptures, let us ask ourselves the question: “How we are living our love of God by loving our Sisters and Brothers?” Faithful to our baptismal promise, we will leave our own footprints on the hearts of those whom we have been blessed to live with and minister to as Sisters, Brothers and Servants of God. Each day is, therefore, filled with numerous opportunities to choose freely to love God, neighbor, ourselves and our fragile world in fulfillment of Jesus’ call to be his disciples and to “make all things new” (2 Cor. 5:17) in Christ.

Suzanne Kush CSSF

COMMISSION OF REGIONS



The COR group meets monthly via ZOOM. Each Region and Cluster group shared what is/will be happening in their areas. Members of the Regions and Clusters may post their programs, speakers, retreat days on the Franciscan Federation Website and the Facebook page. Any and all materials may be sent to Sr. Carol at the Office. Using the media in this way allows for a more fluid participation of Franciscans in the many wonderful events happening across the country. Everyone is strongly encouraged to check out the Franciscan Federation Website and various links, as well as the Facebook page.

The COR is looking for candidates to serve on the Commission of Regions. If you, or someone you know, would be willing to serve, please contact Sr. Kathryn Klackner at KKlackner@gbdioc.org.

Althea Spencer OSF

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee



See – Judge – Act

During the season of Lent, we hear the Gospel call to renewal of mind and heart through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. “Repent and believe the Good News!” What is that news? Jesus proclaims it in His mission statement: “The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.” (Matt. 11:5 NIV)

As baptized Christians who follow Saints Francis and Clare, Jesus’ mission is ours as well. Living that mission requires us to reflectively read the Gospel and respond to the “signs of the times.” In his encyclical letter *Mater et Magistra*, Pope John XXIII outlined how we are to live the Gospel in our present circumstances: see, judge, act (#236). What might these steps look like in relation to the current situation facing us as sisters and brothers of immigrants and refugees?

See clearly.

- What do we see, hear, and experience as the lived reality of immigrants and refugees in our country? Do we listen to them to find out what they want and need?
- What is happening that causes us concern?
- What reliable sources of information do we draw on to provide accurate and true information as opposed to “alternative news”? Examples: Justice for Immigrants, Latin American Working Group, CLINIC, etc.

Judge rightly.

- We analyze the situation in order to make an informed and right judgment. We examine together the complex interactions of economic, political, historical, social and cultural factors related to migration.
- We engage in theological reflection, pondering the matter of current migration in relation to Scripture and Sacred Tradition. What does the Gospel and Church teaching have to say about immigration?

Act boldly.

- What actions will enable us to change the situation for immigrants and refugees in our communities and our country?
- How do we address the root causes of injustices that they experience?

Bishop Robert McElroy from San Diego urged his audience at the Vatican-sponsored U.S. Regional Meeting of Popular Movements to disrupt the status quo and rebuild the social fabric of our society. As religious called to be prophetic witnesses to the Gospel in the Church and the world we too must be exemplars who see clearly, judge rightly and act boldly as sisters and brothers to immigrants and refugees.

Sally Ann Brickner, OSF

References

Catholic Social Teaching Series - Reading the Signs of the Times

Transcript of speech by San Diego Catholic Bishop Robert McElroy to community organizers

Franciscan Action Network

**Please consult the attached link for vital information
from FAN**

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/15a1352f6964be6e>

REGIONS

Region 1

Event - The Sultan and the Saint

Thursday, March 30 7pm

Saint Francis Prep

6100 Francis Lewis Blvd.

Fresh Meadows NY 11365

Free admission - All are welcome

Center of Renewal Retreat & Conference Center

4421 Lower River Road

Stella Niagara, New York 14144
(Only 10 miles north of Niagara Falls)

(716) 754-7376, Ext. 2

NEW WEBSITE: www.stellaniagararetreats.org

NEW E-MAIL: centerofrenewal@stellaosf.org

Contact us for detailed fliers & information.

- **(2017) Easter Triduum Retreat by Fr. Michael Crosby, OFM:** April 12-15, 2017. Fee: \$325 per person (3 nights) with possible added stay-over through Easter Sunday. Advance reservations required w/\$95 non-refundable deposit by 3/29/17 @ 3:00 pm.
- **(2017) Directed Retreat Week:** August 21-27, 2016. Fee: \$575 per person (6 nights). Advance reservations required w/\$175 non-refundable deposit by 8/7/17 @ 3:00 pm.

Region 2

Franciscan Center

3010 North Perry Avenue

Tampa FL 33603

813.229.2695

franciscancentertampa.org

HOLY WEEK RETREAT: The Women of The Passion Wed., April 12 (5 pm) – Sun., April 16 (9 am) Reverend Anthony Carozzo, OFM Sister Anne Dougherty, OSF Sister Carol Beevers, SSJ Revised topic: Feb 7, 2017 The Women of The Passion We will learn of the women who accompanied Jesus during his last days and were there as he endured his agony and death on the cross and his resurrection. Some are well known, like Mary, the Mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene to name a few. Their stories will call us to draw near and discover for ourselves the life-changing effect of meeting Jesus ourselves. Please register early with a non-refundable deposit \$50. Balance due April 5th. Fee: \$244/Single, \$238/Double/Religious, \$139/Commuter

Silent Directed Retreat Fri, June 16, 2017, 5pm – Fri, June 23, 2017, 1pm During the silent directed retreat, participants meet daily with a spiritual director. The rest of the day is spent participating in daily Mass, time for prayer and contemplation, walking the grounds or

Labyrinth, creating art, listening to music, and resting. Please register by May 31. Fee: \$448
Other Retreat Programs in March – a full description and information to register is online –
franciscancentertampa.org

Women's Retreat Day Saturday, March 11, 2017 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sister Anne
Dougherty, OSF

**Lunch and Learn "What Went On In The Desert? Thoughts On The Lenten
Experience** Tuesday, March 14, 12:00 p.m. Arlene McGannon, D.Min

8th Annual Women's Interfaith Prayer For Peace Friday, March 17, 2017 12:00 p.m. –
1:00 p.m. Special reflection given by Gayle Sierens, former broadcast journalist and television
news anchor on WFLA-TV. The service will include prayers, and sacred readings and music
from around the world.

McGlinn Spirituality and Conference Center

The Canticle Gift Shop

460 St. Bernardine Street

Reading, PA 19607-1737

[484-334-6807](tel:484-334-6807) Fax: [484-334-6808](tel:484-334-6808)

Visit our Website or Facebook for more details.

www.bfranciscan.org

Soul Searching with St. Teresa of Calcutta

A Lenten Afternoon of Reflection

Presenter: Jean Jacobchik, OSF

Sunday, March 12, 2017 1 – 4 pm

\$20/person includes light refreshments

Tabor House of Prayer

Pittsburgh PA. 15209

Located in the beautiful Mount Alvernia , Millvale campus of the Sisters of St. Francis,
A peaceful and prayerful environment is offered for those seeking a place of solitude for prayer,
individule or directed retreats or other spiritual Programs..

CALL FOR INFORMATION 412 821-2200 press 0

Sr. Wilma Kramer, Director .

The Franciscan Spiritual Center

609 S. Convent Rd.

Aston, PA 19014

fsc@osfphila.org
www.fscaston.org

Centering Prayer – Group Session of Quiet Prayer

3rd Saturday of each month from 10:30 to 11:30 AM

Cost: Free will offering

A group gathering for those who have been practicing centering prayer. In the space of one hour there is a short reading or instruction, a 30 minute period of quiet centering prayer, 10 minute walking meditation, and a 20 minute concluding quiet centering prayer. We close with the Our Father. Prior to or after this hour there can be time for supportive discussion and encouragement around centering prayer for those who wish. For those interested who have never experienced centering prayer, the Franciscan Spiritual Center offers a Fall and a Spring one day introduction to Centering Prayer.

Facilitator: Julia Keegan OSF

HIV/AIDS Caregivers: Spirit Alive

Begins Friday 7 PM on March 10 and ends 11 AM on March 12, 2017

Cost: \$70 (Sponsored Program)

We know the Spirit to be active with professionals and family or friends who are caregivers, so this weekend is for you to be in touch with that Spirit. We will explore the deep personal issues which touch your experience. Through input, quiet reflection, sharing, ritual, and massage, we will discover ways to remain open to the Spirit, reclaim inner strength and receive care.

Presenters: Bernadette Kinniry RSM and Brother Bob Thornton OSA

Annual Charism Day: Turn My Heart: A Sacred Journey from Brokenness to Healing

Begins 1 PM on March 19, 2017 and ends at 4 PM

Cost: \$25

We have all known difficult times, as individuals, as members of various communities and as a nation. How do we sing our faith in times of crisis, doubt and grief? During our time together, we will explore music and prayer forms that can help both individuals and communities in their movement from lament, through metanoia into healing and renewal.

Artist and presenter: Marty Haugen

The Name of God is Relationship: Exploring Prayer and Mercy in the Franciscan Tradition

Begins 7 PM on March 24 and ends at 11 AM on March 26, 2017

Cost: \$180 residents, \$130 Commuters, \$50 deposit

While some philosophers claim that the name of God is “pure being” and some theologians claim that the primary name of God is “the good”, Fr. Dan Horan, OFM suggests that the name of God is best understood as “relationship”. Beginning with the way that God reveals who God is to humanity throughout scripture and moving to take a deeper look at what the wisdom of St. Francis of Assisi and the spiritual tradition that bears his name tells us about

God, this retreat encourages contemporary women and men to reconsider how they imagine their Creator, how they experience prayer and mercy, and how they renew their understanding of faith in the modern world.

Presenter: Dan Horan OFM

Basketry: An Experience of Touching the Holy

Begins at 9:30 AM on April 1, 2017 and 3nds at 3:00 PM (includes Lunch)

Cost: \$45 (includes supplies)

Ply your hand in a contemplative experience of basketmaking using natural and dyed reeds. Time woven into the day for personal reflection. No experience needed.

Presenter: Jeanne Nisley, OSF

Lenten Day of Prayer: Nurturing Your Sacred Space

Begins at 10 AM on April 5, 2017 and ends at 3 PM (includes lunch)

Cost: \$35 (\$10 deposit)

This Lenten Day of Reflection will invite participants to “notice”, celebrate and give thanks for God’s nurturing and loving presence in their everyday moments. Through music, prayer, reflection and conversation participants will nurture the “sacred space” within – God’s Dwelling Place.

Presenter: Linda DeCero OSF

The Spirituality of Christian Hope

Begins at 7 PM on Friday April 7, 2017 and ends at 11 AM on Sunday, April 9, 2017

Cost: \$180 residents, \$130 commuters (\$40 deposit)

This retreat gently explores several foundations of our Christian hope: the miracle of creation, the beautiful person of Jesus, the redemptive power of pain and suffering, and the inexplicable love we give and receive in our everyday lives. Using scripture, music, stories, poetry, and humor, Sr. Melannie will encourage us to enter more deeply into the Mystery of God, the ultimate source of all hope.

Presenter: Melanie Svoboda SND

Spirituality for the Wisdom Years: Creating a Beautiful Life in the Wisdom of God’s Beauty

Begins at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 and ends at 11 AM on Thursday, April 27, 2017

Cost: \$60 (\$20 deposit) – Sponsored Program

In the light of Easter joy, this retreat will reflect on the God of Beauty manifested in the resurrection of Jesus who even in his glory cooked breakfast for his friends. We will reflect on God’s call to us to lay down the burdens of life and embrace the radiance of grace in our wisdom years as God continues to take care of our daily needs. We will also explore practical ways of living a beautiful life even as we face the challenges and the blessings of our aging process.

Presenter: Rose Mary Eve Holter OSF

Day Program for Seniors: Play Life! Don’t Kill It

Begins at 10 AM on May 17, 2017 and ends at 3 PM on May 17, 2017

Cost: \$25 (Includes Lunch)

God wanting us to play? What a strange idea for those of us in the habit of working ourselves to death even if we carry the title, "retired". Even our spiritual life can find us "dead serious" about our salvation, as if our salvation depended completely on our own hard work and not the Spirit of God's work in us. Through the story, "God's Call to Play" we will explore God's invitation to "lighten" up and make space for God's merciful and playful presence in our wisdom years.

Presenter: Rose Mary Eve Holter OSF

Preached Retreat: Have I not told you, you are my Delight"? "I will never forget" says the Holy One

Begins at 7 PM on May 19 and ends at 11 AM on May 25, 2017

Cost \$425 (\$75 deposit)

We are invited to a time of silence to contemplate our relationship with the Holy One through prayer, music and reflections.

Presenter: Fr. Tom Hartle OFM is a member of the Friars Minor of the Holy Name Province and currently resides at St. Anthony Friary in Butler, NJ. In the truest sense, Tom is an itinerant preacher. In addition to offering retreats, he also conducts pilgrimages to Assisi/Rome. Tom has the privilege of being the religious assistant to the Holy Name Federation of Poor Clares.

Preached Retreat: Deepest Desires Retreat

Begins at 7 PM on June 16 and ends 15 11 AM on June 22, 2017

Cost \$425 (\$75 deposit)

Jesus comes to us from the inside. If Jesus wants us to do something, he will give us the desire for it and the love for it. Jesus calls us to look into our center, to look into our deepest desires.

Long ago when Jesus looked at the young man who asked: "What must I do to gain eternal life?", Jesus saw in him his deepest desire, that desire for the fullness and the maturity of love.

Jesus responds: 'If you want to attain maturity, leave everything you have and come with me. . .'" This poor fellow was frightened of the means and the way, and what would need to be surrendered and was untrue to his center, his deepest desires. Raphael, the angel guide of Tobias, teaches him to be guided by God's light and be transfigured with joy and be true to his desires. Our retreat time will be reflecting on the many women and men throughout salvation history that have experienced Jesus wanting to help them by looking into the deepest part of their beings. That is where God speaks to us, not only through ideas and inspirations, but in our deepest, deepest desires.

Presenter: Fr. Jude Michael Krill OFM Conv, presently ministers as pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Atlanta, Georgia. Fr. Jude has served in various ministries throughout his 30+ years as a friar. He is well known for his ministry at Neumann University, Aston, PA where he served as chaplain and as instructor of English and Theology.

Region 3

Chiara Center

**A Franciscan place of spirituality
4875 La Verna Road
Springfield, IL, 62707
217-253-0901**

Email: Info@chiaracenter.org

Web: www.chiaracenter.org

Chiara Self-Guided Retreats

Chiara center can help create sacred time away by providing resources from trusted spiritual leaders. Choose your retreat journey at Chiara Center using the audio or DVD series to create your own retreat. Retreat must be a minimum of three days and two nights. Arrival times flexible.

Cost: 3 days, 2 nights: \$240 inclusive of guest room, meals, retreat resources including CD/DVD player. Each additional day is \$65 inclusive of meals.

Visit web site for brochure.

CTU Academic and Conference Center

5416 South Cornell Ave.

Chicago IL

Duns Scotus Franciscan Study Day - March 18 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

William Short OFM

Commemorating the 500 Anniversary of the first formal division of the Franciscan Order and its effects and consequences for the whole Franciscan family.

Free for all Franciscans in initial formation and Formation Directors

\$20 for all others includes lunch and coffee.

For more info or to register, contact Edward Foley OFM Cap. at foley@ctu.edu

Oldenburg Franciscan Center

812-933-6437

Email: center@oldenburgosf.com

Website:

oldenburgfranciscancenter.org

Blog: [www.peaceandgood.](http://www.peaceandgood.wordpress.com)

[wordpress.com](http://www.peaceandgood.wordpress.com)

Lenten Series on Matthew's Gospel

Presenter: S. Barbara Leonhard, OSF (Retreat & Spiritual Director)

Thursday's March 16th – April 6th 2017

6:30pm -8:00pm

\$15 per session/ \$55 for all

“Our Lenten series will be a look at the gospel of Matthew and its unique telling of the story of Jesus. Since we will be listening through the lens of our own history and needs, we will pay close attention to how this gospel comforts and challenges us.”

The Universe & You!

Presenter: S. Claire Whalen, OSF

Saturday, March 18th 2017

9:30am – 3:30pm

\$45 includes lunch

“Experience your ancestral roots of stars and single-celled life as you tell the story of the universe unfolding through your own body movements. Sister Claire Whalen connects Earth and Life emergence with T'ai Chi Chih movements from Earth's potential at the time of the “big bang” through humanity's presence on planet Earth. No pre-requisites.”

Evening Prayer for Families

Presenters S. Margie Niemer, OSF & S. Patti Zureick, OSF

Sunday, March 19th 2017

5:00pm – 6:00pm

Freewill Offering

“Come to family evening prayer followed by pizza and salad! Bring your families of all ages! This evening can be a welcome addition to your family's Lenten activities. Please RSVP with the number attending by March 17th.”

Women of Faith

Presenter: Shakila Ahmad, (Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati)

Saturday, March 25th 2017

9:30am – 2:30pm

\$45 includes lunch

\$65 CEU's & lunch

Join us for a day of learning and discussion with women of other faiths. Topics of discussion will include religious beliefs, stereotypes and common misconceptions as well as the role of women in their communities. Learn how we as “Women of Faith” can work together.

Women's Day: Women of Courage

Presenters: S. Barbara Leonhard, OSF, S. Ann Vonder Muelen, OSF, Jane Schaefer, Associate Director

Saturday, April 1st
9:30am – 3:00pm
\$45 includes lunch

“On this April Fool’s day, it seems appropriate to celebrate the ‘foolishness of the gospel’. As women of courage, we are called to a ‘gospel foolishness’ to discover the inner paradox of joy and courage. Come and remember people who have blessed you with their ‘sacred foolishness’ and the times when you found yourself pulled to live with a new kind of courage.

Teaching Your Child/Grandchild to Pray

Presenter: S. Patricia Zureick, OSF Pastoral Counselor

Saturday, April 29th 2017
9:30am – 2:30pm
\$45 includes lunch

“Does your child pray? Come explore developmentally appropriate and creative prayer experiences to enhance your child’s prayer. You’ll leave this workshop with hands on activities to share and encourage your child’s experiences in prayer.”

Jung & Complexes

Presenters: S. Olga Wittekind, PhD and Claire Sherman, PhD

Saturday, May 24th 2017

9:30am – 2:30pm

\$45 includes lunch/\$65 CEU’s & lunch

Complexes are psychic entities with strong emotion that can escape our conscious control – money complex, inferiority complex, mother/father complex, etc. Complexes indicate something incompatible and conflicting exists in the psyche. Come and learn how complexes can be the stimulus to greater growth and possibilities!

Portiuncula Center for Prayer

www.portforprayer.org

9263 West St. Francis Road

Frankfort, IL 60423
info@portforprayer.org***815.464.3880**

Sisters of St. Francis
St. Francis Spirituality Center
200 St. Francis Ave
Tiffin OH 44883
Ph. 419-443-1485
franciscanretreats.org

Note: Private retreats or individually directed retreats can be scheduled for 1-8 days in length. For more information regarding available directors, accommodations or cost, contact St. Francis Spirituality Center.

Meditation classes and day-long retreats are also periodically available. See the website for current offerings.

April, 2017

“Assisi Within” **April 23rd – April 29th, 2017** (Sun. 5 PM – Sat. mid morning) Guided Retreat

Facilitators: Sr. Roberta Doneth, OSF & Sr. Patricia Froning, OSF. Pilgrims experience sacred spaces and open their hearts to the grace of God stirring within them. This retreat is meant for both those who have been to Assisi, Italy and those who have not. We will visit the special places in the lives of Francis and Clare, participate in rituals that reinforce the movement of God the early Franciscans experienced, and share our insights and reflections. There will be input but also time for individual prayer and reflection. Pack your bags, bring your picture albums and join us for this Franciscan journey. Cost: \$480; Commuters \$340. Deadline for registration: April 8, 2017.

May, 2017

“Community in Acts; Acts in Community” - 3 ½ day Conference Retreat. **May 1-4:** 9:30 AM on Mon. – after brunch on Thurs.) SFH chapel. Fr. Michael Sergi, CSsR, director. Two conferences per day. The community of believers was of one heart and one mind. (*Acts 4:32*) How does our life mirror that of the early Christian community? This retreat will explore the gifts and challenges of living community today. (Non-SFH residents

may stay in SFSC) Cost: \$250.

"Who Do You Say That I Am? Exploring the Gospel Portraits of Jesus" Oasis

Day: **Saturday, May 20, 2017** 9:00 AM - 12 PM (registration at 8:30) Sr. Shannon Schrein, OSF, Ph.D.

The Gospels record that Jesus asked his disciples the question "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29) As committed Christians we must answer this question for ourselves. This mini-retreat will examine the images of Jesus that emerge from the Gospels and together, we will consider our own image of Jesus and the way it has been shaped by our lives. Greccio Room. \$12 retreat; \$22 retreat and noon meal.

"A River Runs Through It" Saturday, June 10. 9 AM - 6:30 PM. Sr. Edna Michel, pilgrimage leader. A renewal day for active mothers, empty-nest mothers, and grandmothers. Participants will be invited into various reflections on their lives during a 40-mile round trip pilgrimage as we stop at scenic spots along the Sandusky River. Participants limited to 10. Includes a packed lunch and evening meal at Tackle Box II in Fremont. \$35 (does not include cost of evening meal).

"Contemplative Exploration into Evolutionary Christianity" June 11-16

(Sun. 4 PM - Fri. 1 PM) Sr. Nancy Sylvester, IHM, director. A conference retreat exploring our experience of being evolutionary Christians and the theology that is taking shape within us. This retreat is experiential involving personal reflections, communal contemplation, presentations and process.

Cost: \$480. Commuter \$340. Deadline for registration: May 20, 2017

Tau Center

26W171 Roosevent Road

Wheaton, IL 60187

630-909-6805

www.taucenter.org

Region 4

Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls

116 Eighth Avenue Southeast

Little Falls, MN 56345

(320)632-2981

www.fslf.org

The Spirituality of Presence: The Franciscan Way of being Present to Life and Death

July 21 - 27, 2017

Retreat Director: Darleen Pryds

This retreat uses teachings from the Franciscan tradition—especially from lay Franciscans—and experiential mediations to explore the rich teachings about finding joy in life by looking closely at dying and death. By directly facing the sacred transition from this life to the next, we will discover the tender joy that is inherent in the Franciscan way of life.

For more information, including registration costs, or to register by July 12, 2017, contact the Franciscan Life Center at [\(320\)632-0668](tel:3206320668) or email: franciscanlife@fslf.org; www.fslf.org.

Holy Spirit Retreat Center

3864 420th Ave

Janesville, MN 56048

Phone: 507-234-5712

E-mail: retreat@frontiernet.net

Web: www.holyspiritrc.org

***“Wisdom from Francis of Assisi for the 21st Century,”* JUNE 24 –30.** presenter: Sr. Kathy Warren, OSF. This retreat will consider some of the writings of Francis of Assisi to discover an ageless wisdom for our contemporary challenges. We will also consider teachings (by word and deed) from one of the most ardent followers of Francis, Pope Francis. Join us as we seek the timeless insights of St. Francis of Assisi and apply that wisdom to our daily lives, now in this time and place in history.

Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center

3560 Hwy 51 North

Arbor Vitae, WI 54568

715-385-3750

marywood.center@gmail.com

www.marywoodsc.org

For more information on these retreats see marywoodsc.org/retreats.php

Rochester MN Franciscans

Assisi Heights

1001 14th Street NW

Rochester MN 55901

Phone: 507-280-2195

Email: ahsc@rochesterfranciscan.org

Website: <http://www.rochesterfranciscan.org/what-wedo/spirituality-center-ahsc.html>

MARCH 26- APRIL 1: “21st Century Prophets: Bearing Witness to the Gospel,” presenter: Sr. Sandra Schneiders, IHM Sandra will address the Scriptural basis for the call of all baptized persons to embrace the prophetic life in the 21st Century. She will also speak about the prophetic character of Religious Life.

Retreat fee: \$450. Commuter rate available

APRIL 30 – MAY 6: “Remain in My Love,” presented by Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, D.D. Archbishop Flynn will explore the invitation offered to each of us by our gracious, loving God to daily enter into deeper communion and intimacy with God.

Retreat fee: \$450. Commuter rate available

Shalom Spirituality Center

(formerly Shalom Retreat Center)

1001 Davis Street

Dubuque, Iowa 52001

www.shalomretreats.org

Call 563-582-3592 to register for Retreats

Days of Quiet & Prayer: A 4-Session Series

February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, 9:30am-2:45pm

Description: Each session will begin with coffee and rolls at 9:30am. We will continue with prayer, and each participant will be given a booklet to aid personal reflection throughout the day. Faith-sharing and prayer will conclude each day. The book selection for this program is “The Rebirthing of God: Christianity’s Struggle for New Beginnings” by John Philip Newell

Offering: \$85 for series, includes the book, program, materials, coffee & rolls, lunch, and a private room

Registration Deadline: Monday, January 30

An Irish Celebration Of Body & Spirit!

Tuesday, March 14, 6:00-8:00 pm

Presenter: Dr. Susan Forshey,

Assistant Professor Of Discipleship And Christian Formation,

University Of Dubuque Theological Seminary

Soon it will be St. Patrick’s Day, so join us for this early celebration of Irish food and spirituality. The evening will begin with a dinner of wonderful Irish-style cuisine, followed by a brief look at the history and practices of Celtic spirituality presented by Susan Forshey. Susan has traveled to Ireland to learn about this form of spirituality, and is excited to do a “spirited” presentation for us. It promises to be a good time for all those of Irish descent as well as the Irish “wannabes” among us!

Offering: \$24.

Register & Prepay By Thursday, March 9

Centering Prayer At Shalom

Monday, March 20, 7:00pm-8:00pm

Facilitator: Marilyn Dansart

Centering Prayer gatherings at Shalom begin with 20 minutes of quiet, wordless prayer together. We then read together a short piece related to contemplative prayer, contemplative living, etc. which is followed with time to share our thoughts or reflections regarding the reading.

Centering prayer is much more about what God can do in us than what we can do for God. Hence our times of prayer call us to a spirit of openness and receptivity to God.

Newcomers to the Shalom Centering Prayer Group are always welcomed!

Offering: Freewill Offering.

Registration Not Required

Simple Practices For Befriending Stress

Tuesday, March 21, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Facilitator: Suzanne Rubenbauer FSPA

Sr. Suzanne will provide practical ways that can be used to deal with stress. By practicing these techniques, we can grow in kindness towards ourselves and others. An integrative approach of body-mind-spirit will be offered during this two-hour hands-on process. Enjoy some healthy snacks.

Sr. Suzanne completed the 3-year Spiritual Director Preparation Program at the Franciscan Spirituality Center in LaCrosse, WI in 1988. She has personal experience and education in mindfulness based stress reduction techniques, mind-body-spirit awareness and integrative daily scripture spirituality. As a cancer survivor and presently a caretaker for her aging parent, Suzanne realizes the gifts of compassionate listening to self and others, moment-to-moment awareness, and seeing God in the ordinary.

Offering: \$10.

Register & Prepay By Friday, March 17

Shalom Spring Breakfast: Clothed In The Goodness Of God

Wednesday, March 22, 7:30-8:30 am

Presenter: Theresa Jungers OSF

It may still feel like winter, but it is officially spring! Join us to welcome the season by enjoying a delicious breakfast, socializing with friends, and reflecting with Theresa on how spring beauty clothes us in hope, expectation, joy, and more.

Offering: \$10.

Register & Prepay By Monday, March 20

R.A.I.S.E. Awareness & Hope Concerning Mental Illness

Thursday, March 23, 6:30-8:30 pm

Presenter: Virginia Pillars,

Author, Speaker, and Mental Health Volunteer

The goal of the evening is to bring awareness into the lives of those who rarely think about mental illness, and to help them understand what it is like for the families of the affected one. As the mother of a daughter who has suffered from schizophrenia, Virginia will share her own experience, including how her daughter's illness broadsided her, and how she relied on her faith to see her through. She will explain the acronym R.A.I.S.E., which she finds hopeful and helpful. A time for questions and discussion will follow the presentation.

Offering: \$10.

Register & Prepay By Tuesday, March 21

Wholiness Retreat

Facilitators: Margie Hosch OSF and Mary Catherine Harris

Thursday, Apr 20, 9:00 am - Sunday, Apr 23, 4:00 pm

This retreat will help the individual work through the life transitions of aging, health, losses, relationships, faith and successes and help each person develop a renewed sense of inner strength. Individual and group counseling, spiritual direction, and creative art are offered.

Includes Sunday Eucharist. Limit of 6-8 participants. Visit the website: www.wholinessretreats.org.

Sr. Margie, M.A. is a Marriage and Family Therapist, retreat presenter and spiritual director. Currently living in South Carolina, Sr. Margie has offered this retreat numerous times and has presented the retreat on six annual visits in Zambia, Africa.

Mary Catherine Harris, M.Ed. is a former teacher and school counselor and currently is a spiritual director. She has teamed with Sr. Margie in presenting the retreat in South Carolina and Zambia.

Offering:

Overnight Guest: \$180, includes 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

Daily Commuters: \$125, includes 4 lunches & 3 dinners

\$10 early bird discount if registered by March 20

\$50 Nonrefundable deposit

Registration deadline: April 12

Neal Patten
Director of Marketing and Public Relations
npatten@shalomretreats.org

St. Anthony Spirituality Center
300 E Fourth Street
Marathon, WI 54448
715-443-2236
info@sarcenter.com
www.sarcenter.org

The Franciscan Spirituality Center
920 Market Street,
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-791-5295
www.FSCenter.org
fscenter@fspa.org

Loving the Crucified Christ in the Spirit of Francis and Clare, Lenten retreat with
Sister Jolynn Brehm, FSPA, March 19-24

Triduum Retreat with Father Dan Crosby, O.F.M. Cap, April 13-16

Silent Directed Weekend, April 21-23

Finding Your Sanctuary with Terry Hershey, April 28-29

Icon Writing: The Holy Face with Phil Zimmerman, May 21-27

Silent Directed Retreat, June 2-7

Yoga Retreat with Heather Henry, June 8-11

Golf Retreat with Steve Spilde, June 9-10

Icon Writing: Jonah and the Whale with Phil Zimmerman, July 9-15

Silent Directed Weekend, September 22-24

Serenity Retreat with Tom DeZell, Steve Spilde and Deb Hansen, October 6-7

Women and Resilience with Tom Roberts, November 10-11

Region 5

Il Ritiro

Franciscan Retreat Center

P.O. Box 38 ~ 7935 St. Francis Ln.

Dittmer, MO 63023

636-274-0554 ~ www.il-ritiro.org ~ il.ritiro@gmail.com

**For more information or to register
check out our website www.il-ritiro.org;
call us at 636-274-0554 or email us:**

il.ritiro@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/il.ritiro.5

Region 6

Franciscan Renewal Center

5802 E. Lincoln Dr.

Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

www.thecasa.org

To register, call 480.948.7460 ext. 132 or click on the links below.

Brothers in Peace and Prayer Retreat
Thich Nhat Hanh and Thomas Merton: Contemplative Peace Makers

Friday, March 10—Sunday, March 12

Tom Stella and Jerry Braza

This retreat, consisting of presentations, meditation, reflection, dialogue and prayer, will focus on social justice and prayer in light of the lives and teachings of these two great masters of the spiritual life who continue to influence the contemplatives and activists of our time. Fee, including all meals: Commuter \$140; with lodging \$225 single; \$175 double per person. Pre-registration required.

The Holy Spirit in the Spirituality of Saint Francis

Friday, March 17—Sunday, March 19

Fr. Steven McMichael, OFM, Conv., Ret.

Explore the dynamic and transformative role of the Holy Spirit in the writings and spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi. You'll pay particular attention to the prayer which is part of the "Epistle to the Entire Order" as well as the Admonitions and other writings of St. Francis. Personal Spiritual Direction will be available. Fee, including all meals: Commuter \$140; with lodging \$225 single; \$175 double per person. Pre-registration required.

Holy Week Retreat

Sunday, April 9—Wednesday, April 12

Sr. Joanne Schatzlein, OSF and Fr. William Cieslak, OFM Cap

For schedule of presentations, pricing and online registration, [click here](#). Pre-registration required.

Sabbaticals

Make the Franciscan Renewal Center a part of your sabbatical. Spend time in an atmosphere of quiet beauty and a space to develop a stronger sense of spiritual self-awareness and consciousness. Rest and take time for reflection; create your own program from our many workshops, courses and retreats. We are happy to offer you a wide variety of options to nourish your mind, body and spirit. Call 480.948.7460 to plan your stay.

EDUCATION / FORMATION



Next Generation Franciscan Mentors

We sponsor an annual conference for those who are helping form our next generation of Franciscans.

This conference is for you if you help in the formation of

- Franciscan vowed religious
- Secular Franciscans
- Associates/Affiliates/Co-journers
- High school or university students
- Volunteers in Franciscan-based service programs
- Those with a Franciscan heart

Our next conference is June 13-15, 2017

The conference theme is: Mentoring Peacemaking as Franciscans in our World Today.

The conference presenter is Sr. Nancy Schreck, OSF

Visit <http://www.nextgenerationoffranciscans.org> for additional information and a registration form

Franciscan Institute at St.Bonaventure's

Information on Courses for Summer 2017

For further info, please use the following link

<http://www.sbu.edu/academics/schools/franciscan-studies/summer-2017-conferences>

Inter-Franciscan Formation Programs

This program gathers Franciscan men and woman in formation (all levels) twice a year at Graymoor in Garrison, NY. Workshops are presented on Franciscan themes led by Franciscan men and women. The next program:

March 7-10, 2017 Sr. Kathy Warren, OSF

The programs all take place at Graymoor, Garrison, NY

The contact information is;

Ron Pecci, OFM

frjpp@gmail.com

201/456-2055

Franciscan School of Theology

Franciscan School of Theology

www.FST.edu