

## National Board

Dear Federation Members,

Our Board and Co-Directors wish you a BLESSED SAINT FRANCIS MONTH.

Although by the time you receive the MUSINGS you will have celebrated St. FRANCIS DAY – please know we send our prayers to each of you for the rest of this YEAR of MERCY and ask Francis to bless you, one and all.

Our September Franciscan Federation Board Meeting was hosted by the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Frankfort, Illinois. We thank them for their hospitality - what a gift to share these days with this vibrant Community.

Evaluating AFC 2016 was an important part of our time together, and we carefully examined all that you wrote. We then used these comments to look to the future. We noted the elements that you appreciated and carefully examined the suggestions for things that you thought needed to be adjusted or changed. We reviewed your evaluations as we began planning our AFC Conference in Buffalo, New York in 2017. Thank you for your comments, challenges, suggestions and your hopes. These will be valuable as we move forward together.

We shared ways of revitalizing the Federation in conversation with our Commissions. How we do this is stated clearly in our BYLAWS:

*“The mission of the Franciscan Federation is to promote exploration and study of the Franciscan Evangelical Life and its implications for these times and for our world. The Federation provides national and regional opportunities to collaborate, gather and celebrate so that the sisters and brothers can better live the Third Order Regular call to conversions, contemplation,*

*poverty and humility."*

We invite you to "walk with us" into our future!

May God give you peace,

Sister Eleanor Granger OSF  
National Board Vice President

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### **Franciscan Federation Annual Conference**

**Stay tuned for information on**

**AFC 2017**

**June 16 - 19**

**Adam's Mark Hotel, Buffalo**

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### **Federation National Office**

*'If you wish to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give to the poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me. And if anyone wishes to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.'*

*Let them only be concerned to serve, love, adore, and honor the Lord God, as best they can, with single heartedness and purity of intention. (II, 7) Within themselves let them always make a dwelling place and home for the Lord God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so that, with undivided hearts, they may increase in universal love by continually turning to God and to neighbor. (II,8)*

This Second Chapter of our Rule spells out the steps one encounters along the way into this life:

Those who desire to accept the way of life of our Franciscan congregations approach us. They find ministers who must

ascertain, for the sake of the whole community, these newcomers' adherence to the faith, to the Sacramental life, and to the Gospel. These ministers observe, value, and engage the others' desire to belong. Ministers, servants within the community, hold responsibility for admitting others. They stand with and among the family, as one stands at the door, holding it open.

The aspirants, in turn, begin a life of penance and, as a sign of that inner turning to God, their conversion and consecration, simplify their outward possessions and appearance. Those who desire to live this life are received into obedience, called to promise to follow singleheartedly and with purity of intention. Their obedience is to observing the life and rule. They are welcomed among those who recognize others who desire to serve, love, adore and honor the Lord God.

I believe that one of our tasks of enriching the Franciscan Federation is to make a dwelling place and home, within each of us, and among us as a whole, with those who express their inner desire, and their obvious intention, to accept our way of life. Ideally, as we learn from Jesus' calls to disciples, such followers will dedicate their whole lives, radically, to Jesus, our Brother, and the Church and world community, like Francis and his followers in fraternity. In this day and age, the Lord God calls for such commitments still.

And yet, we know that the Lord, through the Spirit, plants desires in the hearts of many more persons to approach our door. Co-workers, co-journeymen, associates, Third Order Secular members seek to align themselves with us in prayer, service and community. May we find among us, and within our individual and communal homes and dwellings, both our deep capacity to receive all kindly, to honor what we have, to value what others bring, and to initiate them into our life as the Third Order Regular Franciscan family. We may even find ourselves retracing the insights of our Founders, the steps of our first Sisters and

Brothers, and the wonders that God works through those who follow Jesus in the way of Francis of Assisi.

Carol Woods sfma

Please have your Congregation's page  
friend us on

**Facebook**

**New Office Info**

*Address:*

135 Remsen Street

Brooklyn NY 11201

*Phone:*

718-858-8819

*Emails:*

franfedoffice@franfed.org

franfedofficec@franfed.org (*Carol*)

franfedofficed@franfed.org (*Damian*)

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**ECCEL**

The following officers were elected:

Chair: Theresa Darga, OSF

Secretary: Frank Scornaienchi, T.O.R.

Carol Woods, SFMA, Co-Executive Director joined us on our ZOOM call.

### **Thoughts on Franciscan-Clarian Leadership**

In an article in the Fall issue Franciscan Connections: The Cord - A Spiritual Review, Jean-Francois Godet-Calogeras, Ph.D., writes in an article entitled “Clare as Administrator—Changing the Paradigm”, the following regarding Clare’s basic definition of leadership after living in community after forty years: “The one who is elected shall consider the burden she has taken on herself and to whom she will render an account of the flock committed to her. She shall study to lead them by her virtues and her holy behavior rather than by reason of her office, so that the sisters, incited by her example, may obey her through love rather than fear” (4:89). A reminder to all of us!

### **Committee membership**

Noting and congratulating Marie Puleo, on her election as Congregational Minister, for the Newton Franciscans, whose Motherhouse is in Rome, we find that we have only two members out of a desired four members of the ECCEL, it was suggested that Theresa contact a few congregation members suggested by this Committee to see if they would be interested in being a member of the ECCEL.

If that does not increase our membership, then Theresa will send out a letter to leadership to see if they would be interested in joining the ECCEL.

We strongly encourage leadership to consider joining our committee. If you are interested, please contact Sister Theresa at [tdarga@sistersosf.org](mailto:tdarga@sistersosf.org)

- Margaret Mary Kimmins OSF

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## **COMMISSION OF REGIONS**

The members of Executive COR had their first meeting on September 13 via ZOOM. The new co-directors of the Franciscan Federation: Sr. Carol Woods and Brother Damian Novello were welcomed along with Sr. Jacqueline Motzel, the newest member to the Executive Board. There was discussion concerning the need to make contact with Franciscans who do not belong to the Federation and to extend an invitation to them to participate. A concern was raised as to how to get the

younger members of our congregations involved with the Franciscan Federation as they are our future leaders.

Region 4 has formed into 3 cluster areas. Sr. Joanne Klinnert will be the contact leader for the Region 4 Clusters.

The goals for the 2016-2017 are:

Supporting regional members in transition to clusters and  
Investigating growth of clusters with Congregational leadership  
Utilizing the website – place to provide information and materials to share

Increase our presence on Facebook - with activity/program announcements and pictures

-Althea Spencer OSF

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## **JPIC**

History of the National Rifle Association (NRA)

As I give talks about the political candidates for this 2016 election, the topic of the NRA has been coming up repeatedly. So I thought I should learn about the NRA which is one of the three top lobbying groups in Washington, DC and a great financial supporter of many candidates.

The NRA (National Rifle Association) began in 1871 because two union Veterans Col. William Church and General George Wingate recognized a need for better training for the soldiers. Gen. Wingate traveled to Europe and observed European Armies' marksmanship training programs. And thus the NRA was born and organized rifle clubs in other states. The

NRA formed its legislative Affairs Division in 1934 to update members with facts and analysis of upcoming bills. Because of the Gun Control Act of 1968, the NRA in the 1970's galvanized a growing number of NRA gun rights activists. In 1975 it began to focus more on politics and established its lobbying arm, the Institute for Legislative Action. And thus it became one of the biggest lobbying groups. It states in its present day by-laws that its first purpose and objective is: **“To protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, especially with reference to the inalienable right of the individual American citizen guaranteed by such Constitution to acquire, possess, collect, exhibit, transport, carry, transfer ownership of, and enjoy the right to use arms...”**

The NRA is now located in Fairfax, Virginia and has 5 million members across the United States.

Submitted by  
Sister Marge Wissman, OSF  
Oldenburg Franciscan

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## **Regions**

### *Region 1*

The region will host ***Francis and the Sultan***, presented by Sister Kathy Warren on **Saturday, October 15, 2016** at Felician University in Lodi NJ. The presentation will be from **9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**. Registration is \$25.00 before September 24. For brochure contact [plarkin@sosf.org](mailto:plarkin@sosf.org).

Region 1 is also looking for a new Chairperson. Anyone interested should contact Sr. Pat Larkin at <http://plarkin@sosf.org>

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## **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

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### **The Christine Center**

W8303 Mann Road  
Willard WI 54493  
Telephone: 715 267 7507  
[christinecenter@tds.net](mailto:christinecenter@tds.net)  
[www.christinecenter.org](http://www.christinecenter.org)

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### **St. Anthony Spirituality Center**

300 E Fourth Street  
Marathon, WI 54448  
715-443-2236  
[info@sarcenter.com](mailto:info@sarcenter.com)

### **TOR Pilgrimage**

**“We are Penitents of Assisi - Coming Home”**

**URGENT ATTENTION**

**REGISTRATION**

**The Franciscan Pilgrimage Program**

- Assisi, November 8-17, 2016
- **Cost: from NY \$3600.00; from ORD \$3700;**  
**Land only \$2600**
  - **Single room: \$350.00**
- Leaders: **Mary Elizabeth Imler OSF, Suzanne Kush cssf;**

**with Peter Lyons TOR**



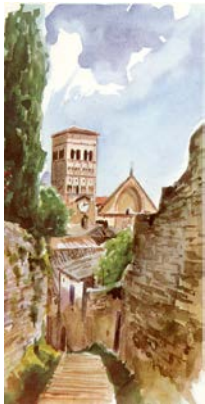
[www.sarcenter.org](http://www.sarcenter.org)

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## Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center

3560 Hwy 51 North  
Arbor Vitae, WI 54568  
715-385-3750  
[marywood.center@gmail.com](mailto:marywood.center@gmail.com)  
[www.marywoodsc.org](http://www.marywoodsc.org)

For more information on these retreats see [marywoodsc.org/retreats.php](http://marywoodsc.org/retreats.php)



## Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs

**TOR Pilgrimage**

**“We are Penitents of Assisi -  
Coming Home”**

**The Franciscan Pilgrimage**

**Program**, experiencing incredible gratitude and yes, the ongoing conversion that unfolds in Assisi’s journey, is pleased to ANNOUNCE a new pilgrimage

- **Assisi, November 8-17, 2016** (new dates)
- **Cost: from NY \$3600.00**
- Leaders: **Mary Elizabeth Imler OSF, Suzanne Kush CSSF**

Please e-mail Sister Mary Elizabeth Imler [mimler@stfrancis.edu](mailto:mimler@stfrancis.edu) or John Cella [jhcella@att.net](mailto:jhcella@att.net) or [jcella@franciscanpilgrimage.com](mailto:jcella@franciscanpilgrimage.com) ASAP. MANY THANKS

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## IL RITIRO Franciscan Retreat Center

P.O. Box 38 ~ 7935 St. Francis Ln.  
Dittmer, MO 63023  
636-274-0554 ~ [www.il-ritiro.org](http://www.il-ritiro.org) ~ [il.ritiro@gmail.com](mailto:il.ritiro@gmail.com)

For more information or to register check out our website [www.il-ritiro.org](http://www.il-ritiro.org); call us at 636-274-0554 or email us:

[il.ritiro@gmail.com](mailto:il.ritiro@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/il.ritiro.5](http://www.facebook.com/il.ritiro.5)

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## Oldenburg Franciscan Center

812-933-6437  
Email: [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com)  
Website: [oldenburgfranciscancenter.org](http://oldenburgfranciscancenter.org)  
Blog: [www.peaceandgood.wordpress.com](http://www.peaceandgood.wordpress.com)

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## Sisters of St. Francis

St. Francis Spirituality Center  
200 St. Francis Ave  
Tiffin OH 44883  
[www.tiffinfranciscans.org](http://www.tiffinfranciscans.org)

### **“Eucharist: Diamond in our Midst”**

3 ½ day Conference Retreat, **October 16-20** SFH chapel  
Sr. Edna Michel, director.

4 PM Sunday – after brunch Thurs. 2 conferences per day  
(Non SFH residents may stay at SFSC) Cost: \$250.

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## Chiara Center

A Franciscan place of spirituality  
4875 La Verna Road

- **with Peter Lyons TOR**

**This** Pilgrimage will celebrate the richness of **TOR heritage and Rule and Life**. It particularly WELCOMES all TOR Franciscans together with their Companions, Associates, Cojourners AND co-workers in sponsored ministries.

For more information click to go to [www.franfed.org](http://www.franfed.org)

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## **Franciscan International Study Centre**

Giles Lane  
Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NA,  
United Kingdom  
=44 (0) 1227 769 349  
[www.franciscans.ac.uk](http://www.franciscans.ac.uk)  
info@franciscans.ac.uk

Programs for 2016-17 Academic Year:

**Sabbatical Programme** - Integral to our mission at the Franciscan International Study Centre is the welcoming of guests seeking spiritual renewal in the form of a sabbatical. Each term's sabbatical offerings centre on a specific theme, and a sabbatical can last from one to three terms.

**Certificate in Franciscan Studies** - Through the Certificate in Franciscan Studies the Franciscan family passes on its spiritual heritage to its members - lay and religious - from around the world. It is a comprehensive programme that studies the foundation, history, spirituality and intellectual legacy of the Franciscan movement. It provides the opportunity to deepen one's own understanding of what it means to be a Franciscan, either at the outset of the journey or at an integrating moment later

Springfield, IL, 62707  
217-253-0901

Email: [Info@chiaracenter.org](mailto:Info@chiaracenter.org)

Web: [www.chiaracenter.org](http://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.

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## **Franciscan Center**

3010 North Perry Avenue  
Tampa FL 33603  
franciscancentertampa.org  
813-229-2695

For more information and to register please visit [franciscancentertampa.org](http://franciscancentertampa.org), or call 813-229-2695

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## **Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls**

116 Eighth Avenue Southeast  
Little Falls,  
MN 56345 (320)632-2981  
www.fslf.org

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## **PORTIUNCULA CENTER FOR PRAYER**

[www.portforprayer.org](http://www.portforprayer.org)  
9263 West St. Francis Road  
Frankfort, IL 60423  
info@portforprayer.org\*815.464.3880

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## **The Franciscan Spirituality Center**

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

along the way.

**Certificate in Training for Franciscan Formation** - The

Certificate is a unique programme designed to help prepare religious men and women for the ministry of initial formation entrusted to them by their Franciscan religious institute. Candidates for this Certificate have the opportunity to deepen and expand both theoretical and practical areas of expertise needed to be involved in initial formation.

For more information on these three programs, visit [www.franfed.org](http://www.franfed.org) under the *Notifications tab, Upcoming Events* or follow the link to the Study Centre above.

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**Holy Spirit Retreat Center**

3864 420th Ave

Janesville, MN 56048

Phone: 507-234-5712

E-mail: [retreat@frontiernet.net](mailto:retreat@frontiernet.net)

Web: [www.holyspiritrc.org](http://www.holyspiritrc.org)

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**The Franciscan Spiritual Center**

609 S. Convent Rd.

Aston, PA 19014

[fsc@osfphila.org](mailto:fsc@osfphila.org)

[www.fscaston.org](http://www.fscaston.org)

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**Shalom Spirituality Center** (formerly Shalom Retreat

Center)

1001 Davis Street

**2016 Retreats:**

**Midlife: What Do I Do? Where Do I Go?**

October 14-16

Presenter: Tom Roberts

**Courage to Live: Healing from Grief**

October 28-29

Presenter: Steve Spilde

**When Life Throws You a Curveball**

November 11-13

Presenter: Tom Roberts

**Biblical Spirituality for Spiritual Directors**

November 18-19

Presenter: John McHugh

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**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, individual or directed retreats or other spiritual Programs..

CALL FOR INFORMATION 412 821-2200 press 0

Sr. Wilma Kramer, Director .

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**ACADEMY OF**

**AMERICAN FRANCISCAN HISTORY**

**Junipero Serra and Beyond**

Michael Perry, OFM

Jeffrey M. Burns

October 21-22

Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land  
Washington DC

For more information contact:

Jeffrey M. Burns

[acadafh@fst.edu](mailto:acadafh@fst.edu)

760-547-1800

or see flyer at website:

**Dubuque, Iowa 52001**  
**www.shalomretreats.org**

[aafh.org](http://aafh.org)

Wednesday, September 21st , October 19,  
November 16, December 14— *Days Of*  
*Quiet & Prayer*  
9:30AM

Reflective, silent days, based around the  
book 'Inclusivity: A Gospel Mandate', the  
first of four weeks.

\$85 [includes a breakfast and lunch each  
week, the book, and a private reading  
room]

Neal Patten  
Director of Marketing and Public  
Relations  
[npatten@shalomretreats.org](mailto:npatten@shalomretreats.org)

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## **Franciscan School of Theology**

Franciscan School of Theology  
[www.FST.edu](http://www.FST.edu)

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## **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

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## **FRANCISCAN RENEWAL CENTER** Paradise Valley AZ

Sept. 16-18 Nurturing the Whole Self: How To's of  
Aging

Shirley Cunningham, MA, MSW

Sept. 30 A Special Evening with Fr. Peter Vasco, OFM,  
Custody of the Holy Land

Fundraiser for the Franciscan  
Foundation of the Holy Land  
and the Franciscan Renewal Center

Oct. 7-9 St. Francis Retreat: Looking from a 21st  
Century Perspective

John Quigley, OFM

Nov. 4-6 Practicing Mercy Retreat - Kissed by Mercy,  
Embraced by Love

Philip Chircop, SJ

Nov. 11-13 The Struggle and Way Toward Forgiveness of  
Self, Others and God

Rev. Norm Douglas, Larry Vullemin

Dec. 1-4 A Brush with God: Learn to Paint an Icon  
Peter Pearson, M Div, Iconographer

Dec. 2-4 Communion, Community, Commission: Mere  
Spirituality According to Henri Nouwen

Will Hernandez, PhD

Dec. 2-4 Grief and Loss Retreat  
Sheila Marchetta, MA; Mauro Pando, MC;  
and Timothy Ringgold, MT-BC

Dec. 9-11 Advent Retreat: Waiting and Hoping in a  
Christmas Culture We Long for You, O God

Carol Zinn, SSJ

Pre-registration required for all retreats. Please call Amy:  
480-948-7460 x132 or  
visit <http://thecasa.org>

NEW

WEBSITE: [www.stellaniagarar  
etreats.org](http://www.stellaniagarar<br/>etreats.org)

NEW E-

MAIL: [centerofrenewal@stel  
laosf.org](mailto:centerofrenewal@stel<br/>laosf.org)

*Contact us for detailed fliers &  
information.*

- **(2016) Advent Retreat  
Weekend by Fr. Tom  
Hartle, OFM:** December 1-4,  
2016. Fee: \$295 per person (3  
nights). Advance reservations  
required w/\$90 non-refundable  
deposit due by 11/17/16 @ 3:00  
pm.
- **(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.

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## **Tau Center**

26W171 Roosevent Road  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
630-909-6805  
[www.taucenter.org](http://www.taucenter.org)

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## **MINISTRY OPENING**

The Board of Directors of The Upper Room Crisis Hotline is seeking an Executive Director for a new and unique ministry serving the spiritually poor of various faiths and some with no faith. In this Year of Mercy this ministry is based on the Catholic values and Franciscan spirituality of services, offering skilled listening, Information and Referral, Crisis Intervention and Reassurance for elderly priests. Trained volunteers minister in mercy and compassion to those searching for God in their desire for a deeper spirituality and suffering from various spiritual maladies. Many callers are brought back to the Church often after many years absence; some need prayers and others request support in their spiritual difficulties and needs. The Executive Director, with support from the Board, will plan, execute, strengthen, and advance the ministry to serve both the callers and the Church in the promotion of faith in Christian values.

This position requires an academic background and work experience in Theology, Social Work, Psychology, Mental Health or an equivalent field.

If interested in a new and unique ministry in the Catholic Church, please contact the following:

Sr. Mary Frances Seeley, OSF, Ph.D.

P.O. Box 3572

Joliet, IL 60434

815-341-9124

[turch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:turch@sbcglobal.net)

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## **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:

**November 8-11,  
2016 Dan Horan, OFM**

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

The programs all take place at Graymoor,  
Garrison, NY

**The contact information is;**

Ron Pecci, OFM

**[frrjpp@gmail.com](mailto:frrjpp@gmail.com)**

201/456-2055

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