

Franciscan

RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER



I LEFT MY HEART...

by Bro. Bob Roddy, OFM Conv., Director

Years ago a friend of mine, a Franciscan Sister, was visiting our Friary in Washington, DC. During dinner, one of the Friars mentioned that he was from a certain city in the Midwest. My Sister-friend had been assigned to this city as a teacher early in her life as a religious and she said, "Next time you visit, be on the lookout for the piece of my heart that I left there."

As many of you know, the Friars come and go in their ministries. This is a hallmark of the Mendicant Orders of which the Franciscans are a part; we are not tied to a particular place for life, but rather move from place to place to serve the needs of the Church. When I speak to many of our long-time retreatants, some of whom remember the Friars from the days of the Seminary in Chaska, they will ask, "Whatever happened to Fr. So-and-So?" or "Where is Bro. So-and-So now?"

2014 is one of those years when some of the Friars in our province will be asked to move to new ministries. In the case of our community of Friars here at St. Joseph Cupertino Friary (the residence for the Friars who live here) **Friars Steven, Jim and Bob** will remain. Sadly, **Fr. Tom Merrill**, who has lived with us for the past three years, has been asked to assume the mantle of pastor for **St. Mary's Catholic Church** in New Albany, Indiana. Fr. Tom will be living with our Friars at St. Anthony Friary, in Clarksville, Indiana.

Despite his busy schedule at Saints Joachim and Ann parish in Shakopee, and his ministry to the Spanish-speaking communities at Risen Savior and St. John Neuman parishes, Fr. Tom has been very generous in helping us with sacramental ministry on retreats and days of prayer. Many a retreatant has told me how helpful he was to them during the Sacrament of Reconciliation or how welcome he made them feel when he would engage them in conversation. Often, Fr. Tom would be working in the gardens or hanging decorations when retreatants would stop to chat.



People often ask me what is the most difficult vow to observe of the three vows that we profess:

Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. They are often surprised when I tell them, "Obedience." Part of the vow of Obedience is the reality that we are only in our ministries for a limited time; like all human beings, we form friendships and attachments to the communities in which we serve. The call to serve in a new place can be both exciting and anxiety-producing, yet it is part of what all of us said "Yes" to on the day of our profession of vows.

Fr. Tom has shared his heart and his many gifts with countless numbers of people in this area, and while he leaves a piece of his big heart here, we know that he will continue to share his gifts with the people of God in New Albany, Indiana. We will miss him greatly.

"May the Lord give you peace."

St. Francis of Assisi



A LEAGUE OF OUR OWN: A New Look AT THE Apostle's League

by Bro. Bob Roddy, OFM Conv., Director

Whenever I do the Stewardship portion of the retreats – this is the time when I ask retreatants for their retreat donation – I inform the group that the suggested donation of \$160.00 falls short of the actual amount that it costs us for each retreatant. When I arrived in Prior Lake in 2007, we quoted the figure of \$250.00 per person as our actual cost; in 2013, Kelley Chromy our bookkeeper ran the numbers and determined that our costs had risen by over 50%! Inevitably, I am asked, “How are you able to keep your doors open?” “Many of our retreatants give more than the \$160.00 that we request,” I respond, “an important way that we have been able to bridge this gap between the suggested retreat donation and the actual cost of a retreat is through individual donations, memorials, bequests, and **most importantly, participation in the Apostle's League.**”

Membership in the Apostle's League is purely voluntary. Members agree to three things: 1) to pray for the retreat ministry here and for the men and women who come on retreat; 2) to promote retreats that are offered by Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center and 3) to commit to a quarterly monetary pledge. In his welcome remarks to retreatants, Fr. Ken Bartsch would always ask who was wearing their Apostle's League pins (for those who forgot, he always had an extra one to hand out.)

The late Fr. Simeon “Sam” Yates came up with the name of this program where retreatants could select an amount that they felt comfortable giving on a quarterly basis. The reasoning was (and still is) that retreatants can decide for themselves what their level of giving will be and they commit to that level until we hear otherwise. When I arrived at Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center in 2007, contributions from the Apostle's League amounted to 17% of our operating budget. Last fiscal year, Apostle's League contributions had dropped to 10.3% of our operating budget. In 2007, we had 526 active participants in the Apostle's League; now we are at 314.

In 2008, the country went through one of its worst recessions in its history. Many people lost their jobs, their savings, their homes and their financial security. All non-profit organizations were hit hard by this financial crisis and we were no exception. Many of our retreatants had to discontinue their membership in the Apostle's League.

Add to this crisis the fact that our retreatants are getting older, and many of them are moving into Senior or Assisted Living communities. These communities are marvelous places, but are often quite expensive, which means that our retreatants have less discretionary income. Their Apostle's League pledge has to be suspended. Another sad truth is that many of our retreatants are being called home by Sister Death.

In 2014, we are within two years of the 50th Anniversary of the first overnight retreat offered here in Prior Lake (the date was January 6, 1966), and we hope that the Retreat Center will continue for another 50 years but we need the increased support of our friends during these times of transition.

We have set a lofty goal of increasing our membership in the Apostle's League by 50% by 2016. With that goal in mind I am asking you the reader to consider one of two things: 1) if you are not now a member of the Apostle's League, please sign up today. 2) if you are a member of the Apostle's League, **Thank You**, and if you can increase your pledge please do so. By becoming a member of the Apostle's League or by increasing your current pledge, you are saying that you want Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center to be here for another 50 years.

A couple of the new benefits of being members of the Apostle's League is that members are remembered once a month at a Mass that is celebrated in the Friary or during a Retreat. We have also planned a “Thank You” cookout for Apostle's League members on Sunday, September 14 (see below for details).

Thank you for all of your support.

This illustration shows the number of Apostle's League donators at various levels of support. Please note where you are on the giving steps and prayerfully consider challenging yourself to make a step up in your giving. We encourage you to sign-up for quarterly electronic giving by contacting Jean at the retreat center office.

APOSTLE'S LEAGUE Cookout

As a show of thanks to our Apostle's League supporters, we are hosting an afternoon Mass and cookout on Sunday, September 14. Fr Steve McMichael will preside at Mass at 3:30 with dinner immediately following. Feel free to attend one or both events. Weather permitting, we will be grilling out and enjoying the grassy open spaces outside of the retreat center. Please RSVP by phone: (952) 447-2182, or e-mail: secretary@franciscanretreats.net.



50 Years a Friar: Fr. Jim Van Dorn, OFM Conv.

by Bro. Bob Roddy, OFM Conv., Director



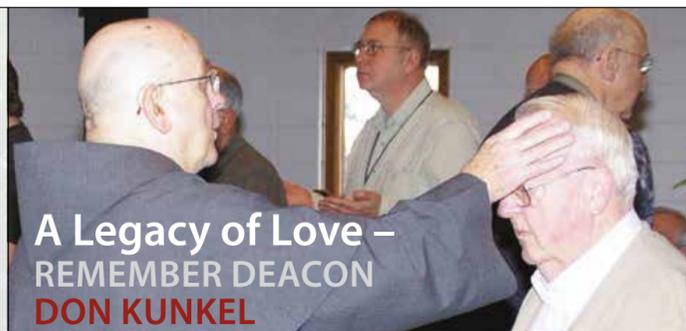
On July 13th, **Fr. Jim Van Dorn**, celebrated the 50th anniversary of his Solemn Profession of Religious Vows. (In 2017, God willing, he will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.)

Fr. Jim has served in a vast array of ministries in our province: Associate Pastor; Vocation Director, Initial Formation Director, Guardian, Campus Minister, Retreat team member (in three of the four retreat houses run by our province), Spiritual Director and Preacher of Parish Missions.

An avid reader, Fr. Jim takes seriously his duties as a homilist and retreat presenter. His homilies and retreat presentations often reveal some of his own personal journey of faith as well as insights he has gained from his earnest study of Scripture or Christian Spirituality.

I have had the privilege of living with and ministering with Fr. Jim in all three of our retreat centers. When he offered to come to Prior Lake for three weeks in 2007 to help out, one of the retreat team members asked me to describe him. “Let's put it this way; Fr. Jim is a 220 volt person in a 110 volt world.” Later, that same staff member said to me, “You weren't kidding. He really is a bundle of positive energy.”

Despite the many painful passages he has had to make in his personal life and his life as a Friar, Fr. Jim remains grateful for the rich life that he has lived. He has made a difference for the better in the lives of countless retreatants and friends of the Retreat Center.



A Legacy of Love – REMEMBER DEACON DON KUNKEL

On June 13, 2013, Deacon Donald Kunkel, a faithful retreatant from LeMars, Iowa, was called home by Sister Death. Donald would often come on both the Men's Holy Week Retreat and the December Men's Retreat.

Don's favorite spot at the Retreat House was the Chapel. He loved to gaze at the large crucifix and pray quietly. His second-favorite spot was one of the benches between the buildings. I would often engage him in conversation there as he puffed on a cigarette and spoke fondly of his ministry as a permanent deacon and his long-association with the Retreat Center and the Friars.

A few months after his death, we were informed by his attorney that Don had named the Retreat Center as one of many beneficiaries in his estate. It was typical of Don's foresight and generosity to leave a legacy to those organizations that had touched him so deeply.

Don's generosity could not have come at a better time. In early December of 2013, with the worst winter on record enveloping the Upper Midwest, the heating and air conditioning unit for the Marian Lounge went kaput. Because of Don's generosity, we were able to cover the cost of replacing this unit without dipping into our savings.

Don loved Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center, and he wanted to make sure that the ministry of the Retreat Center would be available for future generations.

Please consider the possibility of leaving your own legacy of love to Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center when you plan your estate. Your legacy, like Deacon Don Kunkel's, will live on and will provide the Retreat Center with the financial security that it needs to meet the challenges in the Twenty-First Century. Please feel free to call **Bro. Bob Roddy, OFM Conv., Director, 952-447-2182 ext. 11**, if you have any questions. — Thank you!

Best Ever Banana Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting

- 1 ½ cups ripe bananas, mashed
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 3 cups flour
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cups butter, softened
- 2 ⅛ cups sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 ½ cup buttermilk

Frosting

- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 ½ cups icing sugar

Directions

Preheat oven to 275°.

Grease and flour a 9x13" pan.

In a small bowl, mix mashed banana with the lemon juice; set aside.

In a medium bowl, mix flour, baking soda and salt; set aside.

In a large bowl, cream ¾ cup butter and 2 ⅛ cups sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time then stir in 2 teaspoons vanilla.

Beat in the flour mixture alternately with the buttermilk. Stir in banana mixture.

Pour batter into prepared pan and bake in preheated oven for one hour or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven and place directly into the freezer for 45 minutes. This will make the cake very moist.

For the frosting, cream the butter and cream cheese until smooth. Beat in 1 teaspoon vanilla.

Add icing sugar and beat on low speed until combined, then on high speed until frosting is smooth. Spread on cooled cake.



Judy Miller, Chef
Franciscan Retreats
and Spirituality Center

FIA dinner wrap up – On May 8th at the Wilds Golf Club in Prior Lake, Fran Heitzman, founder of the non-profit ‘Bridging’ was honored with the 56th Franciscan International Award. Fran's energy and enthusiasm for Bridging's mission – furnishing homes with hope by distributing gently used furniture to those in need was quickly apparent and contagious. His lively speaking style and homespun humor kept us all engaged and, when his speech was over – wanting for more.

Retreat Director Brother Bob Roddy once again kept the evening lively, entertaining and on track as MC. Fr Jim Kent, Minister Provincial, visiting from our province headquarters at Mount St Francis Indiana presented the award to Fran.

Next year's dinner is May 7, 2015. It's an enjoyable evening out and an excellent opportunity to dress up a little, enjoy a great meal and relax together with friends while supporting Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center. Start thinking about putting together a table of 10 for next year's dinner now.



E-mail communication – Although our print newsletter works great for updating friends of the retreat center on a quarterly basis, the gaps between newsletter issues is best covered with e mail. E-mail is a very sharable tool as well. If you see retreat information you would like to share with friends and family, a few quick clicks will pass the message along.

To join our e-mail list, go to www.franciscanretreats.net and fill out the form that pops up when you click the ‘stay in touch’ button. Your e-mail addresses are never shared or given away, and you always have the option to easily discontinue if you desire.

Reasons people Retreat – Also on the website homepage; a new link leading to a list of reasons people attend retreats. Now our homepage covers not only what we are, but also why people attend Franciscan Retreats. This list is just a beginning. If you would like to share your own personal reasons for attending Franciscan Retreats for possible inclusion into this list, please e-mail: businessmanager@franciscanretreats.net or call Bob Beck at the Retreat Center office - (952) 447-2182.

Lakefront Days Parade! – Each year the Prior Lake Chamber of Commerce holds a parade through downtown Prior Lake in conjunction with the Lakefront Days community celebration. Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center will be participating in this year's parade on **Saturday, August 9th**. Come to the parade to see our procession or better yet – join us as a walker passing out candy and leaflets alongside the parade route! You will receive a free “**Find the Missing Peace**” t-shirt to wear during the parade (yours to keep), and create a fun summer memory. We meet in the St Michael's Church parking lot before the parade, but please call the office first (952-447-2182) to register before August 9th.

Quarterly Apostle's League Giving 2013

Might you consider stepping up this year?

- \$100-1000 **6**
- \$75-100 **17**
- \$50-75 **35**
- \$39-50 **51**
- \$26-39 **51**
- \$15-26 **94**
- \$0-15 **60** Supporters

314 total current Apostle's League Supporters

the **APOSTLE'S LEAGUE** of the Franciscan Retreats & Spirituality Center

Start 250 regular supporters

1965 — 2015!

500 members BY year

STAFF PROFILE: Kelley Chromy

by Bro. Bob Roddy, OFM Conv., Director



“I'll have to ask Kelley,” was my mantra for the first six months of my term as Acting Director of Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center. In June of this year, Kelley celebrated 20 years of working for the Retreat Center. Kelley began working in the front office one day a week during the summer of 1994. It was during that time that Kelley got to know Jo Parenti, the volunteer-manager of the Retreat Bookstore. Kelley began to assist Jo when she needed help organizing and stocking items.

In the late 1990's, Phyllis Hanson expressed her desire to retire and Kelley agreed to step into her position on a part-time basis. In the on-going years she assumed the roles of Bookkeeper for the Retreat Center and Manager of the Bookstore/Religious Articles Store. In late 2006, Kelley went back to a part-time position here; she continues as Manager of the Bookstore and as Bookkeeper. She also serves on the Board of Advisors for the Retreat Center.

With her superb organizational skills and phenomenal memory, Kelley continues to be a vital part of the ministry here. Retreatants are always happy to see her and are always greeted with a smile and a warm welcome. Kelley and her husband, Dave, make their home just a short distance from the retreat center.

Retreat Schedule August 2014 to June 2015

A Retreat for Everyone... Please pray for these retreats and consider joining us!

2014 Theme: Peace Be With YOU... all Will be Well

WEEKEND RETREATS

August 7-10	Silent Weekend (starts Thursday)
September 12-14	Prayer Shawl Ministry
October 3-5	Women's Weekend
October 10-12	Women's Weekend
October 17-19	Men's Weekend (Silent)
Oct. 31-Nov. 1	Friends of Francis
November 7-9	Women's Weekend
December 5-7	Serenity AA-Al-Anon
December 12-14	Men's Weekend

MIDWEEK RETREATS

September 9-11	Women's Midweek
September 16-18	Women's Midweek
October 7-9	Women's Midweek

ADVENT DAYS OF PRAYER

December 4, 11, 18

2015 Theme: Come Away and Rest Awhile

WEEKEND RETREATS

January 9-11	Women's Weekend
February 6-8	Men's Weekend
February 13-15	Married Couples
February 20-22	Women's Weekend
March 27-29	Women's Weekend (Palm Sunday)
April 10-12	Married Couples
April 24-26	Women's Weekend

MIDWEEK RETREATS

January 13-15	Women's Midweek
April 14-16	Women's Midweek
May 12-14	Women's Midweek

OTHER RETREATS

April 2-4	Men's Holy Week
June 20-26	Directed 7 Day Retreat
August 6-9	Silent Weekend

SPECIAL RETREATS

January 2-3	Young Adult (18-35 years of age)
May 2	Mother/Daughter/Granddaughter Day
May 19	Nurses Day

DAYS OF PRAYER

LENT

MARCH 13, 20, 27, APRIL 3

ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 10, 17

FRANCISCAN RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER
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www.FranciscanRetreats.net



www.youtube.com/user/franciscanretreats

www.facebook.com/franciscanretreatspriorlake



REGISTRATION FORM

RETREAT DATES: _____

SEND TO: Franciscan Retreat & Spirituality Center, 16385 St. Francis Lane, Prior Lake, MN 55372-2220

Name: _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ - _____ E-Mail _____

REGISTRATION FEE \$30.00* Payment Check # _____

Credit Card: Visa Discover MasterCard # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Signature Approval _____

***A non-refundable registration fee of \$30.00 per person is required and must be received in order to reserve a room.**



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Summer Happenings

Kris Joseph and **Bro. Bob** will be presenting a Day of Prayer at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Hibbing, MN on August 19th. The Theme of the day will be: **St. Peter: Fisherman, Disciple, Denier and Rock of Faith.**

Terri Mifek continues writing for *Living Faith* and *A Living With Christ*.

Fr. Jim has done two appeals for our foreign Missions at St. Leonard of Port Maurice parish in Minneapolis and St. Patrick's Church in Inver Grove Heights. He has also assisted at The Church of St. Michael in Prior Lake and Pax Christi in Eden Prairie.

Kathy Berken continues her treatment regime for breast cancer. Kathy underwent major surgery in late March and has been following a course of chemotherapy treatment since May. She hopes to be finished with the second round of chemo in early Fall. Please keep her in your prayers.

Be sure to look for us at the **Lakefront Days Parade** in Prior Lake on August 9th.

We are thankful for our volunteer teenagers that are part of the **SUMMER STRETCH** program through St Johns Church in Savage. They are doing an excellent job at brightening up our parking lot markings with a fresh coat of yellow!



Visit us on the web at www.FranciscanRetreats.net