



...find the missing peace.

FRANCISCAN

RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER



RISEN SAVIOR MISSIONS – 60TH RECIPIENT OF THE *Franciscan International Award*



We are pleased to announce that the 60th recipient of the Franciscan International Award will be Risen Savior Missions, whose mission is to glorify God by feeding starving children in the Philippines. Founded by Gerald and Barbara Krosnowski in 2006, Risen Savior Missions works for the poor in the Philippines in these main areas: food for starving and malnourished children, clean potable water

to drink, facilitating the building and supplying of Christian schools, assistance for mission teams that medically serve the poor, and fostering Christian spiritual development through existing churches. With food supplied by another FIA Recipient, Feed My Starving Children, Risen Savior Missions has shipped enough food into the Philippines to reverse malnutrition in over a quarter of a million children. Risen Savior Missions has shipped over 25 million donated children's meals in the last 84 months for emergency humanitarian disaster relief in addition to over 500 sustained holistic feeding sites in the Philippines on an annual basis.

Inspired by Vatican II, Jerry and Barbara Krosnowski were asked by their pastor in Detroit, MI to host missionary meetings at their home for small numbers from their parish to explore how they could help and learn more about mission work and missionaries. Many years later, Risen Savior Missions became the fruit of that seed planted in Detroit.

2018 marks the 60th presentation of **The Franciscan International Award**, which has honored men, women and organizations that symbolize the spirit and the apostolic zeal of St. Francis of Assisi. Previous recipients of the award include: the late Dr. Billy Graham for true Ecumenism (1972); the late Dr. Mildred Jefferson, M.D. – as a leader in the Pro-Life Movement (1978); Sister Helen Prejean – for being an advocate for those on death row, their victims, their families, and the families of their victims (2003); Fran Heitzman, the founder of Bridging, for helping families to furnish homes with hope (2014) and last year, Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP), "Neighbors Serving Neighbors in Need."

For 60 years, the Franciscan International Award Dinner has been an opportunity for retreatants and friends of the retreat house to gather together and support the ministry of the Retreat House as well as honoring a person or an organization who embodies the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.

The 60th Franciscan International Award Dinner Honoring Risen Savior Missions

date	Thursday, May 10, 2018
time	6:00 p.m. Gathering with Social Hour 7:00 p.m. Dinner – <i>Presentation of the award following dinner</i>
location	The Wilds Golf Club, 3151 Wilds Parkway NW, Prior Lake, MN 55372
dinner tickets	\$65 Individual (1), \$150 Sponsor (2), \$250 Patron (2), \$500 Benefactor (2)

Sponsors, Patrons and Benefactors are listed in the program. To purchase tickets, call 952-447-2182. Tickets must be purchased in advance by Thursday, May 3rd.



"May the Lord give you peace."

St. Francis of Assisi

Extended Silent Retreat Offerings Expanded

Silence, like the sunlight, will illuminate you in God, and will unite you to God. Love silence: it brings you a fruit that the tongue cannot describe. — from *True Prayer* by Kenneth Leech

Be silent.
Be still.
Alone.
Empty
Before your God.
Say nothing.
Ask nothing.
Be silent.
Be still.
Let your God look upon you.
That is all.
God knows.
God understands.
God loves you
With an enormous love,
And only wants
To look upon you
With that love.
Quiet.
Still.
Be.
Let your God—
Love you.

— Edwina Gateley

I was having a conversation with a group of enthusiastic ladies who were part of the retreat team for one of our hosted retreats and somehow our conversation turned to silent retreats. “I could NEVER make a silent retreat,” one of the ladies emphatically said.

For many, silence seems like a burden; a task comparable to Sisyphus, the mythological king who is condemned to roll a boulder up a steep hill until he reaches the summit, only to have the boulder come rolling back down the hill the moment that he nearly reaches the crest. We attempt to spend a few moments in silence only to have our minds wander into the strangest territories. For some, the absence of sound or of conversation seems too intimidating to face, much less bear.

Yet, when we enter into silence, especially when we enter into silence with a group of retreatants, we don't feel isolation or loneliness; rather, we share a deep communion with our fellow retreatants. I remember that at the end of a Silent Retreat we gave at Mt. St. Francis in the 1990s, a retreatant spoke at the end of the retreat and said something akin to this: “You know, even though none of us spoke to one another this weekend, I feel a profound connection to each and every one of you; a connection that I don't think could be forged through talk.”

I think that the profound connection that we experience with God, with our inner self, and with our fellow retreatants on silent retreats comes through that shared communion of love and grace during this special time. A silent retreat becomes a liberating experience, a time when we allow ourselves to slow down, to listen, to really listen, to be still, to let the Lord love us, and for us to love ourselves or those we hold in prayer.

While I firmly believe in Silent Retreats and actively promote them, I know that they are not for everyone. Individuals who are battling clinical depression or other serious mental or spiritual health issues, may not be ready to enter into an extended period of silence. For many people, silence has to be experienced in gradual steps.

Kris Joseph used to share with retreatants a wonderful story about the late bishop of New Ulm, Raymond Lucker, when Bishop Lucker was living in a Hospice community as he prepared to meet Sister Death. A friend of bishop Lucker's stopped by to visit him and noticed that the

bishop was sitting in a comfortable chair in his room, but he wasn't doing anything. “What are you doing?” the friend inquired. “I'm just sitting here and letting God love me,” was his gentle response.

This year, we have expanded our offerings for Extended Silent Retreats at Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center. These retreats begin on a Thursday and conclude on Sunday. Ideally, on these extended retreats, retreatants have the entire suite to themselves, so they do not share a bathroom with another. Because there is an extra day, and extra meals on these retreats, the suggested offering is higher than our regular overnight retreats. We will be offering these Extended Silent Retreats on three dates in 2018: **June 21-24, 2018; August 9-12, 2018** and **September 20-23, 2018**. These retreats are open to men and women.

If you find that your life is filled with too much noise, too many distractions, our Extended Silent Retreats may be ideal for you. They are a great opportunity to just let God love you. Edwina Gateley expresses this in a poem (see inset) that we once used at Night Prayer.



Website Technology Upgrade for SMARTPHONES, TABLETS AND DESKTOP COMPUTERS

You will soon notice a different look to our website. We are updating it to incorporate Responsive Design Technology, which senses the device a web visitor is using (laptop, desktop, tablet or smartphone) and resizes the webpage to look good on that. About half of our website visitors at www.franciscanretreats.net are visiting with a smartphone or tablet now. We hope the new style will be easy to grasp, but like anything new, it can take some time to become familiar with. If you get puzzled by any aspect of our updated website, please call us at 952-447-2182, we'll be happy to help clear it up.

ALL ARE WELCOME – Our Community Called Church

by Bro. Bob Roddy, OFM Conv., Director



“I often feel as if the church has been reduced to a club with exceptionally high acceptance standards, where everyone who is a member has been forced to lie on their application just to get in. Too often, I've seen a refusal to be real with one another and to invite others into our pain because we are afraid we won't meet the criteria — criteria created by man, not by God.”

Patrick Gray, *I'll Push You*

The film that we have been showing during our 2018 retreats, *I'll Push You*, tells the story of two best friends, Patrick and Justin, who decide to make the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela on the popular “French Way,” a distance of over 500 miles. But there's a catch; Justin has a neuro-motor disorder, Multifocal Acquired Motor Axonopathy (MAMA), that requires him to be in a wheelchair. When he asks Patrick if Patrick thinks that they can do the Camino with Justin in a wheelchair, Patrick answers, “I'll push you.” The film, and the accompanying book relate beautifully to our 2018 Retreat Theme: *Towards a Spirituality of Joy: Love More, Laugh More, Be Not Afraid*.

Their book of the same name fleshes out the rest of the inspiring story that is told in the film. Like most pilgrims, Justin and Patrick experience profound moments of grace and transformation as they follow the way of St. James. They also meet and travel with fellow pilgrims whose stories humble, inspire and encourage them not only on the route to Santiago de Compostela, but in their lives in general.

We have just begun the Easter season, and one of the highlights of Easter is the reception of new members into the Church. Many have gone through wonderful RCIA programs in their respective parishes and through those programs they have drawn closer to their communities of faith. One of my professors at Creighton University, Dr. Eileen Burke-Sullivan, related the story of her time as Director of Worship for a large parish in the Dallas metro area. She was also helping with the RCIA program and in their group of candidates and catechumens that year was a young woman who had had little or no faith formation. This proved to be an interesting challenge for all of the RCIA leaders as they had to find a way to share the rich deposit of faith with this person so that she would understand and embrace it fully. Midway through the RCIA, someone asked this young woman, “With all these other churches around here, and with Dallas being in the heart of the Bible Belt, why did you feel called to the Catholic Church?” “Oh, that's easy,” she said. “One Sunday morning I was up early. Things weren't going well in my life at that time; I was a little blue and I had gone out to get some coffee at a Convenience Store. As I was driving away from the store, I drove by this Catholic Church and I noticed people entering the church for the Sunday services. I remembered the few times that my mother would take us to church that I would leave feeling better than when I entered, so I drove into the parking lot and came in. I was greeted by a very friendly person, who welcomed me and asked me if this was my first time at All Saints and I told her that I had never been in a Catholic Church before. She smiled and said, ‘I'm so glad that you're here today. Let me find you a place next to someone who can show you the ropes.’ She took me to a pew and introduced me to another very warm and friendly woman who said that she would be happy to guide me through the liturgy. When Mass was over, my pewmate invited me to join her in the parish hall for coffee, doughnuts and fellowship. She introduced me to some other very warm people and they invited me to return that evening for a program that the parish was having that night. I just kept coming back and I knew that I wanted to be part of this community”

The power of a smile, of a welcoming spirit, of an attentive, listening heart, the power of all these things cannot be underestimated as we make our own way, following our respective caminos in our daily lives. Justin and Patrick give us a moving and powerful example of how much all of us need the blessings – and sometimes the messiness – of community in our life journeys. God's liberating grace breaks forth in the midst of our triumphs and our shortcomings. As we make our way through this Easter Season, let us all take time to listen to one another, to cherish one another and to savor the marvels that our good and gracious God surrounds us with.



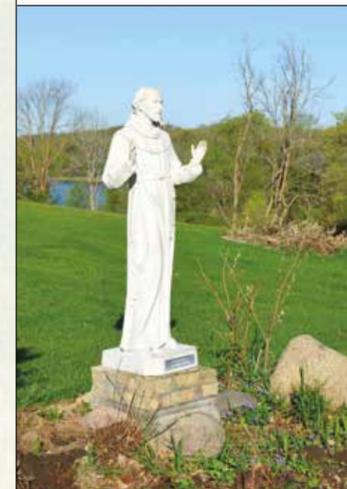
2017 ANNUAL APPEAL DONATIONS AT WORK

We have purchased and installed two items from our annual Christmas Appeal of 2017.

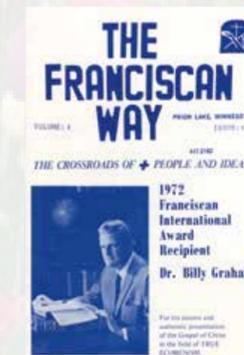
A new ice machine is in place in our hospitality room and we have added acoustical panels to the Dining Room walls. Our previous ice machine was just worn out. No matter how much we tried to repair it its increasingly loud howling sounds would not go away.

The Dining Room, when filled near capacity, could be difficult to converse in because of stray sounds bouncing off all the hard surfaces. Installation of these sound absorbing panels has much improved this. You can still hear the ‘joyful noise’ in the background but it's much easier to converse with the person across the table from you now.

Still to come: Solar shades for the Library and four sturdy chairs for around the Library table.



Billy Graham at the Franciscan International Award Dinner – 1972



Newsletter from 1972

In 1972 Billy Graham received the annual Franciscan International Award. Reverend Graham was at the height of his popularity then, a true international figure. With the recent passing of Reverend Graham at the age of 99, we are revisiting the events surrounding his acceptance of the award.

Father Jim Van Dorn, one of our current retreat presenters (and Friary resident) was there in 1972. He remembers the visit and award ceremony well. Father Jim's observations provided content for the portrayal below.

In the early 1970's the idea of a Southern Baptist minister receiving an award from a Catholic Religious order raised quite a few eyebrows. For some, it might still raise eyebrows today. But since Reverend Graham was receiving the award for ‘true ecumenism in recognition of his sincerity and authenticity in spreading the Gospel of Christ,’ it seemed to make sense.

No stranger to threats as a high level public figure, Reverend Graham required a security detail when he travelled. His close access to United States Presidents (spanning the decades) also created security threats.

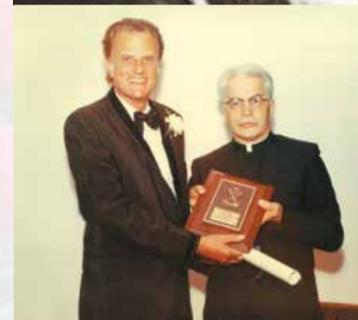
Reverend Graham's modest contingent arrived at the Minneapolis International Airport in a benefactor's private jet. They were greeted by Friars Martin Massler and Jim Van Dorn and then whisked off the tarmac into a small secure room at the airport where Reverend Graham was interviewed and photographed by local media.

The Franciscan International Award dinner in 1972 was held at the prestigious Radisson South Hotel in Bloomington. Franciscan Retreat Center director Fintan Cantwell gave the introduction for Reverend Graham then yielded the podium to Father Robert Bayer, Minister Provincial of our province (headquartered in Indiana) to present the award. During his acceptance speech Billy Graham listed three people who heavily influenced him: Saint Augustine, Saint Francis of Assisi, and Martin Luther.

In addition to the customary yearly (mostly Catholic) supporters of the Franciscan International Award Dinner, about 200 Baptists were present at the event.

Father Jim Van Dorn recalls that there were protesters carrying signs outside of the hotel during the event but it wasn't very clear just exactly what they were protesting. What was clear that night and – according to Father Jim, is very memorable now was how very polite, gracious and hospitable Reverend Billy Graham was and how his spiritual energy lit up the room.

This year's Franciscan International Award carries on the tradition for the 60th time. We hope you will join us on May 10th, as we honor **Risen Savior Missions**, a faith-based organization which seeks to “*Glorify God by Helping Starving Children.*”



Adopt a Garden...

We are still seeking another volunteer or two to ‘adopt’ one or more of our seven garden areas for the 2018 growing season by weeding and caring for specific areas. This entails visiting and caring for your adopted area every two weeks or so, and after the work is finished you are more than welcome to hike our trails, enjoy the labyrinth and say hello to the Friars.

Got a friend that just has to have their hands in the soil? Feel free to put them in touch with us too. After working a garden for a Summer and early Fall they might want to discover what a retreat is like!

Retreat Schedule through December 2018

2018 Theme: *Towards a Spirituality of Joy:
Love More - Laugh More - Be Not Afraid*

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

WEEKEND RETREATS 2018

January 12-14	Women's Weekend
February 2-4	Men's Weekend
February 9-11	Married Couples
February 16-18	Women's Weekend
March 23-25	Women's Weekend Palm Sunday (Silent)
March 29-31	Men's Holy Week
April 6-8	Married Couples
April 20-22	Women's Weekend
May 10	FIA Dinner
June 21-24	Silent Retreat for Men & Women (Th-Su)
August 9-12	Silent Retreat for Men & Women (Th-Su)
September 7-9	Prayer Shawl
September 14-16	Grieving Retreat
September 20-23	Silent Retreat for Men & Women (Th-Su)
October 5-7	Women's Weekend
October 12-14	Women's Weekend
October 19-21	Men's Silent Weekend

WEEKEND RETREATS 2018 (continued)

October 26-28	Friends of Francis
November 2-4	Women's Weekend
December 7-9	Serenity
December 14-16	Men's Weekend

MIDWEEK RETREATS 2018

January 16-18	Women's Midweek
April 10-12	Women's Midweek
May 15-17	Women's Midweek
June 12-14	Women's Midweek
September 11-13	Women's Midweek
October 2-4	Women's Midweek

DAYS OF PRAYER 2018 (Thursdays)

LENTE	ADVENT
February 22	December 6
March 1	December 13
March 8	
March 15	

FRANCISCAN RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER

16385 Saint Francis Lane • Prior Lake, MN 55372-2220 • (952) 447-2182

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.**

Register by calling 952-447-2182 or online at www.FranciscanRetreats.net/register



...find the missing peace.

FRANCISCAN

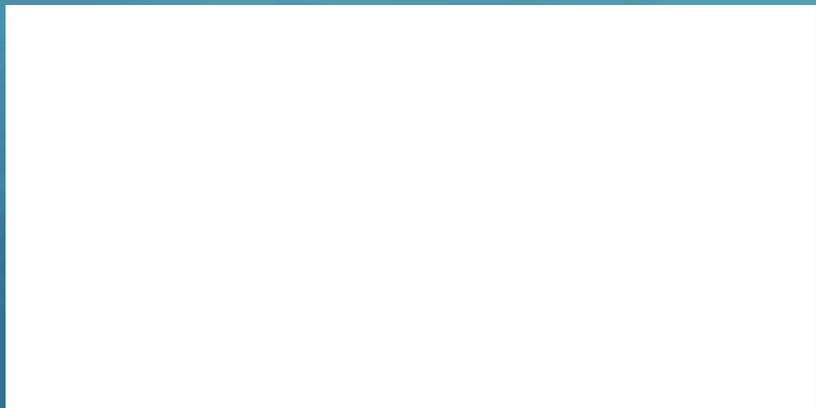
RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER



16385 Saint Francis Lane
Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372-2220
952.447.2182

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PRIOR LAKE, MN
PERMIT NO. 31

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Facebook &
YouTube



Broadcast Yourself™

www.facebook.com/franciscanretreatspriorlake
www.youtube.com/user/franciscanretreats



Fresh Rhubarb Coffee Cake

Ingredients:

- ½ cup shortening
- 1-½ cups sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- Dash of salt
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups fresh rhubarb (or apples, coarsely chopped)

Also:

Sugar, cinnamon, and broken nuts

- Sift together flour, soda and salt.
- Mix shortening, sugar and egg and beat well. Mix in vanilla.
- Add flour mixture alternately with the buttermilk, beginning and ending with flour.
- Fold the rhubarb into the batter.
- Pour into a well-greased 9x13 inch pan or two 8x8 inch pans.
- Sprinkle generously with sugar, cinnamon and nuts.
- Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean from middle of the cake.



Judy Miller, Chef
Franciscan Retreats
and Spirituality Center