

Franciscan

RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER



Our first blossom of 2016

Franciscan International Award TO HONOR Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative



Beacon
INTERFAITH HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

The Board of Advisors for Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center are pleased to announce that **Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative** will be the 2016 recipient of the **Franciscan International Award**. The Award will be presented at the Franciscan International Award Dinner on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at the Wilds Golf Club in Prior Lake.

Founded in 1999 (originally as the Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation) Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative believes that high quality, affordable housing is the foundation for families and individuals to create the stability and security that all people seek. Beacon develops new housing, preserves existing housing and manages ongoing housing operations. Beacon has developed sixteen properties with four more in development. Beacon merged with Families Moving Forward (formerly a separate 501 c3 nonprofit organization) and expanded to serve Scott and Carver counties. (Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center, in partnership with the Church of St. Michael, Prior Lake, participates in the Families Moving Forward Program.) Beacon collaborates with 87 congregations to provide shelter, develop housing and advocate for public funding and policies to end homelessness. Beacon Interfaith lives out the Corporal Work of Mercy to "Shelter the Homeless." In this Jubilee year of Mercy, their selection to receive the Franciscan International Award is most appropriate. In 1999 the Franciscan International Award was given to Habitat for Humanity.

Since 1959, **The Franciscan International Award** 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: Dr. Billy Graham for true Ecumenism (1972); 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, Feed My Starving Children, for feeding God's starving children in body and spirit.

For 58 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 58th Franciscan International Award Dinner Honoring Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

date Thursday, May 5, 2016

time 6:00 p.m. Gathering with Social Hour

7:00 p.m. Dinner

Presentation of the award following dinner

location The Wilds Golf Club, 3151 Wilds Parkway NW, Prior Lake, MN 55372

dinner tickets

\$60 Individual (1 person)

\$150 Sponsor (2 persons)

\$250 Patron (2 persons)

\$500 Benefactor (2 persons)

Sponsors, Patrons and Benefactors are listed in the program.

To purchase tickets, call 952-447-2182. Tickets must be purchased in advance by April 28th.

"May the Lord give you peace."

St. Francis of Assisi



50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR CELEBRATION EVENTS – Save the Dates!

Seasons of the Spirit – 50 Years of Finding Peace, depicts events taking place in both the world and at the retreat center during the past 50 years. These vertical banners will be on display at the retreat center throughout our anniversary year. Enjoy the historical banners during a retreat this year or if attending one of the following 50th anniversary year events:

Labyrinth! – We are excited to be marking our 50th anniversary with the addition of a centuries old tool for meditative prayer. On **April 20th at 7:00 PM**, nationally

known Labyrinth designer, Lisa Moriarty from Stillwater, MN will lead a photographic presentation on the history of labyrinths, how they differ from mazes, and how they are used as a spiritual prayer practice with examples of the variety of locations and settings where labyrinths are being used in Minnesota. Includes a canvas labyrinth for participants to experience and a variety of finger labyrinths (1.5-2 hr total program).



On **Saturday, May 14 at 9:00 AM**, we need 15 volunteers to assist Lisa with the installation of a nine circuit Labyrinth in a grassy area east of our parking lot. Assisting on the Labyrinth is a way to make a bit of retreat center history while enjoying a precious May morning on the retreat center grounds.



Homecoming Tent Event – Mass on the Grass – Sunday, July 17th. Open outdoor Mass at **11:00 AM**, with events and activities immediately following. This is a summer open house featuring returning friars, directors, employees, retreatants and friends of the retreat center, chicken dinners, family activities, tours of the retreat center, live music, face painting, ‘bounce house’ and

more. Friar John Bamman will be teaching participants of all ages how to make Catholic Paracord ‘survival bracelets’. The retreat center will be open for tours and viewing of historical displays or just for relaxing and strolling the grounds.

Fr. Richard Kaley, OFM Conv., pastor of St. Bonaventure parish in Bloomington, MN will be the principal celebrant and homilist for the **July 17**, Homecoming ‘Mass on the Grass’ at FRSC.



Fr. Kaley

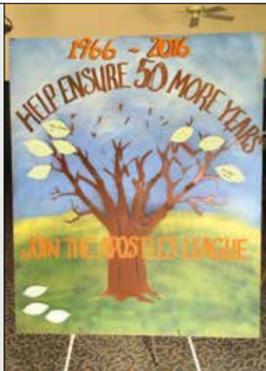
A native of Bloomington, MN Fr. Richard has served as a pastor, the province’s Vocation Director, Novice Director and Vicar Provincial in his forty plus years as a Franciscan priest. Fr. Richard also serves on the Board of Advisors for the Retreat Center. An engaging and thoughtful homilist, Fr. Richard’s homilies are regularly posted on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/FrRichardKaley>.

Evening Series on the Pope Francis’ Holy Year of Mercy on Wednesdays, **October 12, 19 and 26, 6:30-7:30 PM.**

Christmas Open House and Chili meal – Thursday December 15 – Even though it’s sometimes ‘chilly’ during our Christmas Open House, we are hoping that our delectable hot ‘chili,’ (prepared and served by the same Secular Franciscans responsible for the recent sumptuous spaghetti meal here) will keep you warm inside and out! Also enjoy the return of our fabled luminary lit walk through the winter woods, roaring bonfire, out of this world apple cider, and treats from renowned Edelweiss bakery for Prior Lake. Thousands of lights adorn our buildings and surrounding spruce trees. This Open House is the Final opportunity to study our five historical displays *Seasons of the Spirit – 50 years of finding Peace.*



Year of Mercy



Apostle's League TREE BOARD

For our 50th year, we are hoping to grow our Apostle’s League membership from the 300 sporters we have today back in the direction of the over 500 supporters we had at its peak.

This Tree Graphic will keep track of Apostle’s League growth during this 50th anniversary year. Each leaf on the tree represents a new Apostle’s League member joining at any level of support.

As you can see, spring has ‘sprung’ but there’s a bit of room for more leaves. If you sign up while here on retreat, you can fill out your own ‘leaf’ and post it in a spot that suits you. If you sign up over the phone, we will be happy to post your leaf for you and send you a photo of your new leaf in place. Look for this graphic on our website and in upcoming communications throughout 2016.

What is the Apostle’s League? The Apostle’s League is a group devoted to supporting the ministry of Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center in an on-going and regular manner through prayer, promotion and financial support. Our suggested retreat offering does not totally cover our operating expenses and Apostle’s League support allows us to continue our ministry. We know this commitment entails sacrifice on your part, but please know that your sacrifice enables us to offer an oasis of peace and hope to many people in dire need of both. These three means of support are vital to keeping Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center viable as a place to find peace, hope, education and inspiration for another 50 years.

Bookstore DISCOUNTS

We need to pare down the inventory in the Bookstore so for the months of April and May we will be offering a 20% discount on all items in the store except those items with a Blue Dot. The Blue Dot items are mostly new books that relate to our current retreat theme.

In the weeks ahead, you may receive an e-mail with a survey about the Bookstore. We would like to know what types of items you would like to see in the Bookstore. Your response to this survey will be greatly appreciated.

Help us, and yourself, as we reduce our inventory during the spring.



Secular Franciscans volunteering at the Spaghetti Dinner event.

50th Anniversary Events THUS FAR



Joan Mitchell about our Pope’s views on the global environment.

Watch for upcoming special 50th anniversary edition newsletter in early July featuring historical timeline, rare photos of construction, Chaska seminary, early retreat groups and much more.



Sr Joan Mitchell – Laudato Si

Chinese Cabbage SALAD



Judy Miller, Chef Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center

- 1 (3 oz) package chicken flavored ramen noodles
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/2 cup sesame seeds, toasted
- 1/2 cup blanched slivered almonds
- 1 large head of napa cabbage (or regular cabbage). shredded (you may also use bagged shredded cabbage coleslaw mix)
- 6 green onions, chopped
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup rice wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1/8 cup white sugar

Crush noodles, place them in a medium skillet and brown them in butter over medium heat. Add almonds and sesame seeds. Stir often to prevent burning. Add seasoning mix from the noodles and cool. Toss in a large bowl with cabbage and onions.

Prepare dressing by whisking together the vegetable oil, rice vinegar, soy sauce, sesame oil and sugar. Pour over the salad, toss and serve.

Variation: Add cooked chicken breast strips to the salad to make it an entree.

Spring Thoughts...

by Bro. Bob Roddy, OFM Conv., Director



I write these words a day after the horrific terrorist attacks in Brussels. The images, the eyewitness accounts of this cowardly and insane action perpetrated by men who claim that they were acting in God’s name took place at the onset of the holiest week of our liturgical year. The actions and consequences that took place in Brussels on March 21st were truly diabolical.

Responses to these cruel acts run the gamut of human responses; many of these responses are based on fear. These fear-based responses do little to comfort or console us, nor do they really address the madness that has overtaken many young men and women who commit these terrible acts in the name of God. Agitation, fear, and suspicion, none of these qualities come from the Almighty. Jesus’ life and ministry, as well as the lives of countless followers of Jesus point to a way of peace, of reflection, of courage and of trust.

I realize that we must respond prudently and thoughtfully to the dangers that surround us, but we cannot, we must not, live our lives in a state of fear. Now, more than ever, is a time for prayer and reflection, a time to re-dedicate ourselves to be disciples of Jesus.

The word “diabolic,” comes from two words in Greek that mean, “to split apart.” (In contrast to our word, “symbolic,” which means to bind together.) As we renew our Baptismal promises this Easter season, when we promise to renounce Satan, and all his empty promises; when we affirm that we refuse to be mastered by evil and to live in the freedom of the children of God, let us all keep those promises uppermost in our minds and hearts as we face the days ahead.

Bro. Bob

Outside 'day trip' Retreat

Bro. Bob Roddy, OFM Conv., and Kathy Berken, gave a morning retreat to nearly 100 ladies at **Divine Mercy parish in Faribault, MN** on Saturday, February 27. The retreat was sponsored by the parish chapter of the Council of Catholic Women (CCW). The theme for the retreat, “Come Away to a Quiet Place and Rest,” really resonated with the group. Bro. Bob’s presentation, “Making Space for Our God and Ourselves,” opened the day in the context of a short prayer service. The presentation concluded with a ritual action of participants selecting a small stone with a word on the stone’s underside. The words related to the theme of rest and renewal and Bro. Bob invited participants to reflect on the word on their stone. Where is that quality present in your life? Is it absent in your life? How does this word speak to you? (Participants could take their stone home with them, to use as a springboard for prayer.) Kathy Berken’s topic, “Drawn by Love,” invited the ladies to reflect upon and celebrate the desires and dreams that God uses to draw them closer to Him.

The feedback from the retreatants was overwhelmingly positive. “The speakers were excellent...the reflections by Bro. Bob and Kathy were meaningful...their testimonials were great...the retreat was just what I needed.

If you or your parish group would be interested in having one of the retreat preaching staff members speak to your group, please speak with Bro. Bob Roddy, at 952-447-2182, ext. 11.



Bro. Ambrose

Seeking invitations to your parish – TRUE THEN AND TODAY

Did you know that many people in your neighborhood are not even aware of Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center? We work to attract new retreatants by accepting requests from parishes for presentations, workshops, etc. You can assist by remembering us the next time your parish or organization is looking for a speaker.

Even better, ask your parish staff if they would be interested in asking a member of the Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center staff to assist in a project at your parish.

Most new retreatants come as a result of a personal invitation. Let’s work together to spread the good news!

Br. Ambrose Eischens (then Director) wrote the above in 1994.



Minister Provincial Fr Jim Kent

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Labyrinth installation (light lifting) Saturday, May 14th, at 9:00 a.m.

Retreat Schedule January to December 2016

2016 Theme: *God's Tender Mercy: Opening Our Hearts*

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



WEEKEND RETREATS

January 8-10	Women's Weekend*
February 5-7	Men's Weekend
February 12-14	Married Couples
February 19-21	Women's Weekend
March 18-20	Women's Weekend (Palm Sunday)
April 8-10	Married Couples
April 22-24	Women's Weekend
September 9-11	Prayer Shawl Ministry
September 30-October 2	Women's Weekend
October 7-9	Women's Weekend
October 14-16	Men's Silent Weekend
October 28-30	Friends of Francis
November 4-6	Women's Weekend
December 2-4	Serenity AA-Al-Anon
December 9-11	Men's Weekend

OTHER RETREATS

March 24-26	Men's Holy Week
August 11-14	Silent Weekend

MIDWEEK RETREATS

April 12-14	Women's Midweek
May 10-12	Women's Midweek
June 14-16	Women's Midweek
September 6-8	Women's Midweek
September 13-15	Women's Midweek
October 4-6	Women's Midweek

DAYS OF PRAYER 2016 (Thursdays)

LENT	ADVENT
February 18	December 1
February 25	December 8
March 3	December 15
March 10	

*Reservations for this retreat are handled by the retreat captain, Ann Newlander, amen51@comcast.net

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.**

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Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372-2220
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952.447.2170 Fax

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A Retreatant Looks Back – A 50TH ANNIVERSARY REFLECTION – Don and Doug Kuplic

FATHER AND SON TAKE TIME TO REFLECT

Don Kuplic was a 14-year-old ninth-grader when he first went on retreat, and he's been going ever since. For more than 20 years, the parishioner of St. John the Baptist in Savage has been making retreats at the Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake.

His preference is for silent retreats.

"You're there to concentrate on your Christian life, to improve what you do in your life," said Kuplic, 80. "You examine your life and how it compares with what you should be doing.

"A retreat gives you the advantage of reviewing your life, to see how you measure up," he added. "There's no finer way of doing it."

For the last three years Kuplic has invited his son, Doug, to the retreat center.

"I like what they put on for us," said Doug, 59, a bank examiner. "You really get a lot to think about."

A member of Holy Trinity in South St. Paul who lives in Inver Grove Heights, the younger Kuplic said he appreciates much of the retreat experience — the conferences and the opportunity to spend time talking with retreat staff member Franciscan Father James Van Dorn and other men on the retreat.



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"There's a fair amount of quiet time built in, too," Doug said, "and I think that's important."

He said he's a better Catholic for having attended the annual retreats.

"I understand my faith better. I have more knowledge of it and its practicality," he added.

He finds himself questioning how to act in better ways, especially finding positive qualities in and greater respect for other people.

Don, retired from his job in corporate insurance sales, speaks with the forthrightness of age and experience.

"Some retreats are better than others," he said.

"The last retreat we had, the retreat master spoke on the life we live and our daily routine, the very basics.

"He talked about living a Catholic life and Catholic relationships that go on constantly," he added. "That's the type of retreat that brings you back."

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Written by Bob Zykowski of the Catholic Spirit