



...find the missing peace.

FRANCISCAN RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER



Fall Reflections...

by Bro. Bob Roddy, OFM Conv., Director

As Autumn draws near a sense of fulfillment and completion comes over us. For those who garden, the abundance of fresh vegetables and fruits take center stage on our tables, and for our farmers, thoughts turn to the harvest.

On July 17, we celebrated the premiere event for our 50th Anniversary, our “Mass on the Grass,” and Open House. Nothing could have prepared me, or the rest of our staff and volunteers, for the numbers who came for this event. The line from the Scriptures, “...they shall come streaming to the Lord’s mountain,” came to mind—though in this case, they came streaming to a parking spot on the lower lawn, near the lake. 500-600 people came to celebrate the Retreat Center’s 50 years of life and service. The day was near-perfect as far as the weather goes. Because those who availed themselves of the buffet ate less, something the caterers noticed, more people had a chance to eat, as a matter of fact, we even had a small amount of food left over. Not exactly the “Feeding of the 5,000,” but the similarity between the two events did not go unnoticed by those present.



We have heard this phrase many times over, “In order for others to have more, some of us need to have less.” This underlies the Gospel message of Jesus and the example and spirituality of St. Francis. (I would dare say that it underlies much of what Pope Francis invites all of us to do.) On July 17th our friends, retreatants and guests put this into practice; everyone shared, everyone was satisfied, and the joy of that day rivaled the glorious weather that blessed us.

A special thanks to all who worked so hard to make July 17, 2016, a day that will “make our hearts burn with joy,” in much the same way that our Lord made the hearts of his disciples burn with joy on the road to Emmaus.



SCENES FROM THE 50th Anniversary MASS IN THE GRASS

(July 17, 2016)



“May the Lord give you peace.”

St. Francis of Assisi

2016 Franciscan International Award Recipient SHINES A LIGHT ON HOMELESSNESS



Bro. Randy Kin, Gretchen Pierskalla, and Mary Higgins

Nearly 300 people gathered at the Wilds Golf Club on May 5, 2016 to honor **Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative** as the 2016 Recipient of the Franciscan International Award. We had a particularly lovely evening weather-wise, which allowed participants to enjoy the outdoors and catch up with old friends.

Bro. Randy Kin, representing the Minister Provincial, Fr. Jim Kent, presented the Franciscan

International Award to Mary Higgins and Gretchen Pierskalla, Families Moving Forward–Southwest Operations Committee Co-Chairs. In accepting the award, Gretchen remarked that it was such an honor to be in the same company as previous recipients Billy Graham and Habitat for Humanity. Mary Higgins, a Secular Franciscan spoke of how this ministry was so Franciscan in character, and lauded the generosity of the congregations involved in the Families Moving Forward Program.



Lee Blons, Executive Director Beacon Intl. Housing Collaborative

Lee Blons, Executive Director of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, cited a number of impressive statistics concerning the success of the Families Moving Forward Southwest program: “We have helped 39 families- with 11,000 nights of shelter and 33,000 meals. Four out of five families were successful in moving into a stable home. This is wonderful news, but sadly there were 78 families we

had to turn away because we were full.” Lee then gave a moving presentation in which she asked everyone to close their eyes and listen as she played a series of voice mails from women and men desperately looking for safe housing for themselves and their families. Lee asked those gathered the simple question, “How will we respond to these calls?” “Homelessness is no longer an urban issue,” Lee explained, “We are now finding that the number of homeless families in the suburbs exceeds those numbers in the city.”

The friars and staff of the Retreat Center are excited that we are the part of a program that makes a significant witness to one of the Corporal Works of Mercy in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. The Retreat Center provides the housing, bed linens and towels for the families; volunteers from the Church of St. Michael in Prior Lake provide meals, activities for the children, and support while the families stay with us.

Please save May 11, 2017 on your calendar; this will be the date for the 2017 FIA Dinner. Thanks again for your support. Special thanks to Mary Hart for her undaunted efforts in promoting this event.



Model SUITE

Rooms two and four introduce our model suite with remodeled sinks, countertops and towel holders. The new countertop space provides guests space to conveniently arrange personal items during their stay. These countertops are higher, requiring less bending to get down to sink level. The sinks areas along with updated drapes and the new bedspreads already in use throughout the retreat center comprise our ‘model suite,’ example of how we hope to modernize all the rooms of the retreat center someday. Watch for information on the opportunity to sponsor all or part of a suite upgrade in the coming months.



Come Away and Rest Awhile - Mk 6:31

...Just around the corner

Fall is a popular time to retreat to Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center and it’s easy to see why. The trails are at their best, bathed in autumn’s glow of reds, oranges and yellows. The crisp air invigorates, and God’s ‘lovely array’ of summer insects are mostly gone for the year. See the full retreat listing and register for a fall retreat matching your preference and schedule.



Our 2017 Retreat Theme: *Find the Missing Peace – Pathways to Prayer*

The Retreat Preaching and Ministerial Staff have formulated the theme for the 2017 Retreat Season: ***Find the Missing Peace – Pathways to Prayer.***

During this retreat, we will explore some of the different types of prayer, as well as some of the joys and challenges all of us face in prayer. We will discover that the pathways of prayer, though many, all flow from the same source: that deep desire in all of us to draw closer to the Lord. We will also address some of the tougher questions regarding prayer: Why aren't my prayers answered? I take time to pray, but nothing happens! I am too busy to pray. (To quote, Fr. Xavier, "People who say that they are too busy to pray are too busy.") Please join us in 2017!

Retreat Conference Titles:

1. **Prayer: Steering Wheel or Spare Tire?**
2. **Prayer: Magic or Mystery?**
3. **Prayer: The Path to Transformation and Freedom**
4. **Prayer: Guiding our Feet into the Way of Peace**

50th Anniversary WEDNESDAY EVENING SERIES on Mercy

October 12, 19 and 26

As part of our **50th Anniversary celebration** and the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we will be offering an evening series of presentations on different aspects of Mercy. Programs will begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude by 8:00 p.m. A free will offering will be accepted for each presentation.

October 12, 2016, "Francis: A Saint of Mercy for all Ages and a Pope of Mercy for our Time," presented by Gabriele Uhlein, OSF St. Francis belongs to the whole world, and now so does Pope Francis. Sister Gabriele, a long-time Franciscan scholar, brings alive the profound mercy wisdom of St. Francis, and introduces the life and thought of Pope Francis, initiator of a revolutionary year of mercy. *Sister Gabriele Uhlein, OSF, PhD is a Franciscan sister deeply influenced by Hildegard of Bingen, Francis of Assisi and Teilhard de Chardin.*

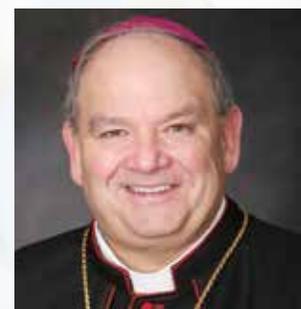
October 19, 2016, "Who is My Neighbor? The Good Samaritan as a Guide Through the Doors of Mercy," presented by Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Using this classical parable from the Gospel of Luke, Archbishop Hebda will ponder the question, "Who is my neighbor," with insights gained from the parable itself. *Archbishop Bernard Hebda, is the archbishop of the Saint Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese.*

October 26, 2016, "The Music of Mercy: Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs," During this presentation we will have an opportunity to hear and sing together compositions in a variety of styles praising the God of mercy and challenging us to show God's mercy to those in need. Come to discover the "back story" of some of the psalms, hymns and spiritual songs that mark our worship. **Fr. Jan Michael Joncas,** serves as Associate Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Register by calling 952-447-2182 or by emailing secretary@franciscanretreats.net.



Gabriele Uhlein, OSF



Archbishop Bernard Hebda



Fr. Jan Michael Joncas

Retreat Schedule September 2016 to June 2017



WEEKEND RETREATS

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
January 13-15	Women's Weekend
February 3-5	Men's Weekend
February 10-12	Married Couples
February 17-19	Women's Weekend
March 31- April 2	Married Couples
April 7-9	Women's Palm Sunday Retreat
April 13-15	Men's Holy Week Retreat
April 21-13	Women's Weekend

MIDWEEK RETREATS

September 6-8	Women's Midweek
September 13-15	Women's Midweek
October 4-6	Women's Midweek
January 17-19	Women's Midweek
April 25 - 27	Women's Midweek
May 16-18	Women's Midweek
June 13-15	Women's Midweek

DAYS OF PRAYER(Thursdays)

ADVENT 2016	LENT 2017
December 1	March 9
December 8	March 16
December 15	March 23
	March 30

• SEE BACK SIDE FOR REGISTRATION FORM •



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FRANCISCAN

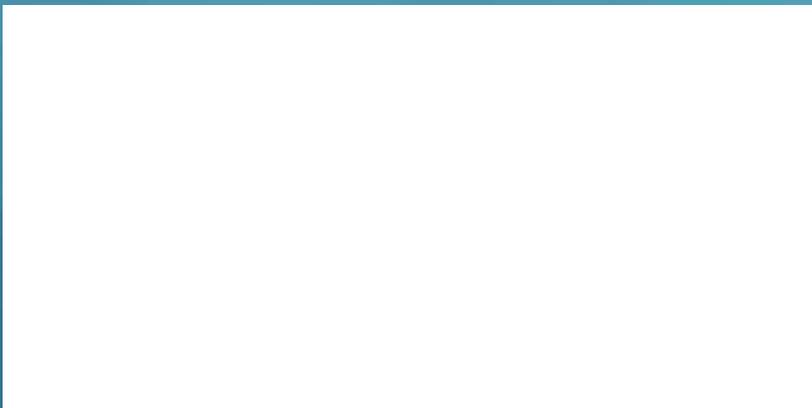
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REGISTRATION FORM

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