

...find the missing peace.

FRANCISCAN

RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER



50th Anniversary
KEEPSAKE EDITION 1966-2016

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE...

"Celebrating 50 Years" 1966-2016

For 50 years in Prior Lake, Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center has been a spiritual oasis where retreatants recharge mentally and physically, explore their faith, learn from the saints and hear the Spirit's voice.

We hope you enjoy this issue that shows where we've been, where we are now and where, God willing, we hope to be going.



Please join us for our

50th Anniversary **CELEBRATION**

July 17, 2016

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM



Homecoming Tent Event – Mass on the Grass – July 17th. Open outdoor Mass at 11:00 AM, events and activities immediately following. This is a summer open house featuring returning friars, directors, employees, retreatants, friends of the retreat center and those totally new to the retreat center. Chicken dinners, family activities, tours of the retreat center, live music, face painting, 'bounce house' door prizes, and more. Friar John Bamman will be teaching participants

of all ages how to make Catholic Paracord 'survival bracelets.' Artists will be creating landscape oil paintings live on retreat center grounds. The retreat center itself will be open for tours and viewing of historical displays, or just for relaxing while strolling the retreat center grounds. Franciscan Priest Fr. Richard Kaley, a Friar of the same province as the Friars of Prior Lake and pastor of St. Bonaventure parish in Bloomington, Minnesota, will be the principal celebrant. An engaging and thoughtful homilist, Fr. Richard, a native of Bloomington, Minnesota, has served as a pastor, provincial Vocation Director, Novice Director, and Vicar Provincial in his 40+ years as a Franciscan priest. Fr. Richard also serves on the Board of Advisors for the Retreat Center.

"May the lord give you peace."

St. Francis of Assisi

Labyrinth Installation *(continued)*



Labyrinth designs were etched into the floors of some of the great cathedrals in Europe in the Middle Ages. The most famous of these is the Chartres Labyrinth, which was completed in 1201, but there are others in Spain, Italy and Algeria. In 1994, Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, installed a tapestry labyrinth indoors with an outdoor terrazzo labyrinth the following year. The number of labyrinths has exploded in the last ten years, causing labyrinth expert, Jeffrey Saward to note that more labyrinths have been constructed in the last several years than in any time in the past.

In the last twenty five years, there has been renewed interest in the labyrinth as a means to facilitate prayer and reflection. On her website, www.pathsofpeace.com, Lisa Moriarty posts the following: *"A sign of God is that we are led to a place we did not intend to go."* Anonymous. "This is a perfect description of my labyrinthine journey, and one that is shared by many others. The labyrinth seems to find us, we are led to it and it leads us to places and people we would not otherwise discover."

While there is no right or wrong way to walk the labyrinth, the best way to approach the labyrinth walk is with an open heart and an open spirit. One may enter the labyrinth with a particular intention in mind and pray for that intention as s/he walks it or one may pray a simple prayer repeatedly, e.g., The Jesus Prayer: **Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.** Or perhaps a line from the Psalms, e.g., Psalm 27: **The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear.** Perhaps no words are appropriate for your walk; give yourself the gift of walking in silence and of listening, seeing, and feeling wherever the Almighty calls to you in that moment.

The Labyrinth is located to the left of the Friars' garage near the edge of the woods. There are two benches nearby to help you pinpoint its location.

New Bedspreads – MODEL SUITE

We are very blessed to have had a benefactor donate new bedspreads for the retreat center rooms (pictured). The classic pattern creates an inviting yet soothing ambiance in the rooms that spills over to the retreat center in general.



Even though the new bedspreads stand well on their own, as often happens when one part of a room is updated, the new bedspreads gave rise to thoughts of other improvements to our rooms.

In light of that we have created one model suite, (rooms 2&4 in our St. Clare wing) with new bedspreads, updated drapes (without those challenging cords) and an updated sink with counter space for spreading out personal items. This suite will be open for viewing during our July 17th open house. The bedspreads are in use fully throughout the retreat center right now.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Are you a friend of the retreat center that would like to volunteer on July 17? Please call the office at 952-447-2182.



Register for the July 17th Anniversary Event
by calling 952-447-2182 or just show up!

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Life Transitions and our Journey of Faith – A 50TH ANNIVERSARY REFLECTION – by Fr Jim Van Dorn

A retreat center is a place where one can set time apart to reflect and pray about where his or her life is going. And what are the means one needs to continue the faith journey? In more practical terms we need forgiveness, healing and purpose for our future.

Over the past fifty years, Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center has been a haven of hope for many people seeking the wisdom necessary to make the right decisions as they experience life transitions in their journey of faith.

In my four assignments dating back to the seventies, a common thread uniting all those persons past and present is that of a love for the Franciscans and their unique approach to the Gospel.

It is said that the secret of a life well lived is not in counting the years but



Fr Jim Van Dorn

making the years count. Experiencing a retreat once a year can lead to joyful conscious living, helping a person make the most of each day, week, month and year. May the years ahead be filled with Faith, Hope and Love for all who are a part of Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center.

Gluten Free Banana Bread

Ingredients:

- ½ cup canola oil
- 1 cup of sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 ½ cups gluten free flour*
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup mashed banana
- ½ cup chopped nuts
- ½ cup sour cream

Directions:

- Grease one large loaf pan
- Cream oil, sugar, eggs and vanilla
- Add dry ingredients, bananas, nuts and sour cream
- Mix well
- Bake 350° F one hour

**My favorite gluten free flour is 'Cup 4 Cup'*



Judy Miller, Chef
Franciscan Retreats
and Spirituality Center