

Summer 2019

...find the missing peace.

# FRANCISCAN RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER



A spiritual oasis for people of all faiths seeking a deeper relationship with the Almighty.



## My Soul Thirsts for You

by Br. Bob Roddy, OFM Conv., Director

(Conversation with my great-nephew, Owen Olson, at Thanksgiving, 2018.)

Owen: “Mama, I’m full. I can’t eat anymore food.”

Mandy (Owen’s Mom): “Ok, honey, just give the grown ups a chance to finish their food.”

Someone brings out ice cream for the group.

Owen: “Mama, I want some ice cream.”

Mandy: “Honey, I thought that you said that you were full.”

Owen: “My food stomach is full, but my ice cream stomach has room.”

Needless to say, this conversation brought down the house among my family during Thanksgiving. When I shared this dialogue with another Friar whom I know, he responded, “That kid has a future in politics.”

I have been struck by how many times the Scriptures use verbs such as “hunger” or “thirst” to describe our desire, our need for a closer relationship with the Almighty. I especially notice this in the Psalms in the Liturgy of the Hours: Psalm 42: “My soul thirsts for God, the living God.” Psalm 63: “O God, you are my God— for you I long! / For you my body yearns; / for you my soul thirsts, / Like a land parched, lifeless, and without water.” In the Gospel of Luke many key moments in Jesus’ teaching and ministry revolve around meals—Levi’s house (Luke 5:27-39); Simon the Pharisee’s house (Luke 7:36-50), the supper with the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:36-53).

To hunger and to thirst connotes a very visceral

experience. All of us have had moments when we were hungry or thirsty for food or water, but we also hunger and thirst for something else: communion and connection with others, and with our God. How do we satisfy that hunger? How do we satiate that thirst? Do we sublimate our hunger and thirst for communion with our God and others by doing everything we possibly can to avoid communion and connection?

The film, *Chocolat* (2000) raises some of these questions. The director, Lasse Hallstrom, contrasts the rigidity and severity of the Count, played by Alfred Molina, and the mysterious stranger, Vianne, played by Juliette Binoche, who opens a chocolate shop in the Count’s little village during the season of Lent. Vianne is a free spirit, an unmarried mother, and a person of great kindness. The Count, a good man, is trapped in a rigid understanding of the practice of his faith to the point where he wishes to control every aspect of the villagers’ lives. While many of the characters hunger for the wonderful confections of Vianne’s shop, they hunger far more deeply for communion with one another. It’s a great film to watch prior to or during the Easter season.

As Lent concludes and the Easter season begins with its many celebrations and opportunities to satisfy our physical hunger, what are we doing for ourselves that assuage the hunger that we have for the living God and for one another?



Our annual Award Dinner is in a year of transition—if you’ve ever considered supporting us by attending, perhaps this will be the year to start. Each table seats eight. See inside for details on this lovely event.



## Upcoming Retreats

**Theme: Rejoice and Be Glad: Our Call to Holiness Today**

### Men's Holy Week Retreat

Men, there's still time to choose stillness and reverence to bring Lent to a close on the Men's Holy Week Retreat. Observing silence all day on Good Friday sharpens our devotion as we explore the depths of Christ's suffering ahead of the victorious celebration of Easter. The retreat schedule is backed up one day from our typical Weekend Retreat; starting at 7:30 p.m. on **Thursday**, April 18th and ending on **Saturday**, April 20th so you can partake in the joyous Easter morning at your home parish.

### Women's Mid-Week Retreats May 14-16; June 11-13

These follow the same theme as Weekend Retreats at a time that works better for some.

### Silent Retreats

June 20-23; August 8-11

Silent Retreats are an extra day/night allowing additional time to still the busyness in our heads to ease into blessed silence.

*"This is one of the best Retreat Centers I have ever enjoyed. Well organized, clean, good healthy food and plenty of space for reflection. The Chapel is lovely."*

*"It's a relaxing night out, a chance to dress up a bit, invite/catch up with friends, enjoy an excellent meal and hear a compelling speaker in support of a familiar local cause."*



## The 61st FRANCISCAN INTERNATIONAL AWARD DINNER—Honoring: Loaves & Fishes Minnesota

**Thursday, May 9, 2019**

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**  
\$65.00 Individual (1 person)  
\$150.00 Sponsor (2 persons)  
\$250.00 Patron (2 persons)  
\$500.00 Benefactor (2 persons)



*Sponsors, Patrons and Benefactors are listed in the program.* This is our largest annual fundraiser. To purchase tickets, call 952-447-2182. Tickets must be purchased in advance by Thursday, May 2nd.



## Garden Party – July 14th, 2019

After witnessing firsthand how well our gardens responded to the skilled assistance of our garden volunteers in 2018 we decided to have a garden party to show the vibrant gardens to the world.



On Sunday, July 14 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. the Friars of the Retreat Center will share refreshments, music, door prizes and fellowship as visitors stroll the assorted garden and prairie areas and visit with the gardeners themselves. This is also an opportunity for those of you who have visited the retreat center only during the winter to experience the Retreat Center during summertime.

Come on your own, with a friend, or with family. Feel free to enjoy all of our 60 acres of woods and prairie that day for hiking or just lounging around after you have toured the gardens. Leashed pets are welcome too.

There is no charge for this event. Registrations are not required but are appreciated; call 952-447-2182 or email [secretary@franciscanretreats.net](mailto:secretary@franciscanretreats.net).

## Adopt a Garden at Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center

Aaahhhh, springtime! Longer daylight, pleasant temperatures, hints of green, birds migrating and the urge to get our hands in the dirt to do some gardening! Much of the appeal of Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center's grounds emanates from our numerous lush gardens. Abundant flowers, some perennial, others annual put on a show of the Creator's beauty from early spring through late fall. If you are interested in

joining our team of generous volunteer gardeners we would love to talk with you. Please call our office.



## Silent Retreat Opportunities Grow

We announced in the last issue of the newsletter the new opportunity for people to make individual or private retreats. As the weather becomes more hospitable for outdoor time, I wanted to remind people of the many opportunities for Silent Retreats here at the Retreat Center.

For our regular Overnight Retreats, i.e., Friday-Sunday, we have three Silent Retreat opportunities: the **Palm Sunday Weekend Women's Retreat (April 12-14, 2019)**, the **Men's Holy Week Retreat (April 18-20)** and the **October Men's Retreat (October 18-20)**. On the Men's Holy Week Retreat, we observe silence from Adoration time on Thursday evening, through all day Friday; on the other retreats, silence begins after Night Prayer and concludes at the closing liturgy.

For those who would like an extended period of silence, we offer **three Extended Silent Retreats: June 20-23, August 8-11, and September 19-22**. On our Extended Silent Retreats we only offer one retreat conference per day; this opens up more times for individual spiritual direction and personal reflection time. Retreatants are given both rooms of the suite so that they do not have to share a bathroom with another retreatant. (This does increase the suggested offering for the retreat and limit the number of retreatants we can host to 27.) For many years we only had one of these Extended Silent Retreat opportunities and it was consistently full, so last year we offered two more of these retreats and the response was very positive.

I admit that Silent Retreats are not for everyone, but I have witnessed a growing desire and need for silence in the lives of so many of our retreatants and retreatants from other programs that we host.



What accounts for this growth? I think that we are so bombarded by noise, by information overload and by distractions that our souls are craving some time to reflect, to process, to ponder and, to listen. Silence opens us up to the possibility of listening to our own deep desires as well as God's desire for us to live our lives to the fullest. By entering into prayerful silence we give ourselves the chance to reclaim old dreams or to dream new dreams. If we don't open up a space to listen and to reflect on the many signs that God is offering to us we run the risk of living our lives like hamsters on a wheel.

Perhaps you, or someone you know, could benefit from some time in quiet here at the retreat house? Please pass the word along, and, please listen to where God may be calling you in the months ahead.

## Private Retreats Now Available!



In response to many requests Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center will be offering space for Individual Overnight Retreats on

Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. through Friday at 10:00 a.m. Retreatants bring and prepare their own food in the kitchenette. Cost: \$75.00 per night.

## A New Fresh Look

Perhaps you have noticed a new fresh look to this issue of the newsletter. Readers should be able to understand 'at a glance' what we do here now with the Chapel featured prominently in the masthead, and subtitle 'A spiritual oasis for people of all faiths seeking a deeper relationship with the Almighty' displayed prominently.

If you feel the new look seems familiar it may be because it closely mimics our webpage design enabling viewers to make a quick connection between the two communication tools. It has been over eight years since we've updated our look. Feel free to call the office with questions or comments.



## We Need to Get Mugged!

We are in need of coffee/tea mugs for the Marian Lounge and while we plan to create mugs with our new logo, we wondered if retreatants would be willing to spare a coffee mug or two that they have received as a gift or that they have purchased during their travels. I know that I have collected some interesting and beautiful mugs from my travels and I thought, "Why not share some of them with the retreatants?" Better yet, "Why not ask retreatants to donate a mug or two to the Retreat House?" So, from April through July we are encouraging retreatants to bring an appropriate mug that they would like to donate to the Retreat House for other retreatants to use. Mugs that have logos or that bear some distinctive design would be great. That way, people may more easily remember the mug that they have. Who knows, maybe we can collect mugs from all 50 states?

## BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, April 16th,  
at 10:00 a.m.  
Title: *Left Neglected*  
by Lisa Genova.



# Retreat Schedule

through December 2019



**FRANCISCAN**  
RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER

*...find the missing peace.*

## 2019 Theme

*Rejoice and Be Glad: Our Call to Holiness Today*

A retreat for everyone...please pray for these retreats and consider joining us!

### Weekend Retreats 2019

Jan. 11-13	Women's Weekend
Jan. 18-20	Women's Weekend
Feb. 1-3	Men's Weekend Retreat
Feb. 8-10	Married Couples
Feb. 22-24	Women's Weekend
April 5-7	Married Couples
April 12-14	Women's Palm Sunday Retreat
April 18-20	Men's Holy Week Retreat
April 26-28	Women's Weekend
May 9	FIA Dinner
June 20-23	Silent Retreat (Men & Women)
August 8-11	Silent Retreat (Men & Women)
Sept. 6-8	Prayer Shawl Retreat
Sept. 19-22	Silent Retreat (Men & Women)
Oct. 4-6	Women's Weekend Retreat
Oct. 11-13	Women's Weekend Retreat
Oct. 18-20	Men's Silent Retreat
Oct. 25-27	Friends of Francis Retreat
Nov. 1-3	Women's Weekend
Dec. 6-8	Serenity Retreat
Dec.13-15	Men's Retreat

### Midweek Retreats 2019

April 9-11	Women's Midweek
May 14-16	Women's Midweek
June 11-13	Women's Midweek
Sept.10-12	Women's Midweek

### Day of Prayer (Thursdays)

LENTEN	ADVENT
March 21	Dec. 5
March 28	Dec. 12
April 4	Dec. 19

## Register for Retreats

Call 952-447-2182

Online [www.FranciscanRetreats.net/register](http://www.FranciscanRetreats.net/register)

or

Complete **Registration Form** below

## Registration Form

Retreat Dates \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

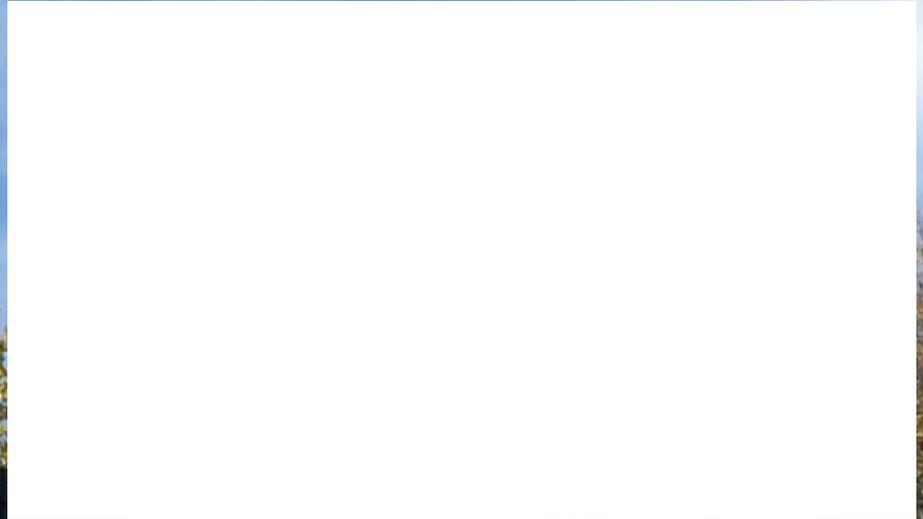
**Send to:** Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center, 16385 Saint Francis Lane, Prior Lake, MN 55372-2220

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

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

 [FranciscanRetreats.net](http://FranciscanRetreats.net)  
 [youtube.com/User/FranciscanRetreats](https://youtube.com/User/FranciscanRetreats)  
 [facebook.com/FranciscanRetreatsPriorLake](https://facebook.com/FranciscanRetreatsPriorLake)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## Judy's Gem—back by popular demand!

Ok, our phone hasn't been ringing off the wall for this recipe, but with Easter, graduations and other spring celebrations on the horizon, this recipe will be a hit at any brunch or breakfast gathering.

### Caramelized French Toast

#### Ingredients

1 cup brown sugar	6 eggs
3 tbsp. light Karo syrup	2 cups of milk
6 tbsp. butter	1 tsp. vanilla
18 slices of day old white bread, French bread or croissants	1 tsp. cinnamon
	1 cup chopped pecans

#### Directions

Combine sugar, syrup and butter. Boil in pan for one minute. Pour into a greased 9" x 13" pan. Stand the bread slices side by side in a pan on top of the caramel mixture. Mix eggs, milk, vanilla and cinnamon together. Pour over the bread. Add chopped pecans to top. Refrigerate overnight. Bake uncovered at 350 for 45 minutes until brown and slightly puffy. Drizzle maple syrup over the top after it is done baking.

