



Community Connections



Spring?

By CJ Pettinger

Shoveling with the sunrise and watching the last of the stars disappear is draining for the first few minutes. Winter seems to drag on as we enter into March and continue to be pummeled with snowstorm after snowstorm. It's hard to imagine spring as being on her way, but rather that she found a nice spot in the Caribbean and hired winter as a house-sitter for Minnesota. As the shovel slices

another piece of snow and I squat to lift it over the pile built up at the edge of the driveway, I remind myself that it is getting closer to spring. A couple months ago I was out doing the same task, but I was dressed to explore the Arctic and wore a headlamp to better see the snowy sidewalks. Now in March, the drive is illuminated by the slightly risen sun and I'm only wearing a light jacket over a t-shirt.

Spring is coming, and she'll unpack from her suitcase budding flowers, fresh grass and hopefully more sunshine. Looking towards spring, I already see myself exchanging cross-country skis for a bicycle and not scraping the ice off car windows, but rather rolling them down to enjoy fresh air. The prospect of spring has given me new energy. Energy to apply for future internships and work options. Energy to dust off my old resume and refresh it with new experiences.

We have been working on multiple personality/ characteristics tests here at the Welcoming House. According to Myers-Briggs, I'm an INFP; for Clifton Strengths Finder, my strengths range from Ideation to Responsibility to Developer; for the Enneagram I'm all over the place number-wise, but I'm leaning toward a 5. What do these numbers, words and letters mean to me? It means that I have a unique personality with a variety of skills. It means that through finding and understanding myself, I can present my individuality to potential employers in a way that highlights my abilities.



In all this emphasis on the future, one mustn't lose sight of the present. This thawing energy I have applied at work, "spring cleaning" the filing cabinets with organizing forms and working closely with youth to assist with health insurance and questions about filing taxes. It may still be March and snow may be piled high on the ground, but spring is boarding her airplane and will be here soon enough! I intend to be ready when she lands.



*FCV 9 Volunteers
visiting with their
Sister Companions*



*and Praying
Sisters at the
Motherhouse!*



The ministry of presence

By Anthony Scheip



The Gospel message of serving the marginalized and needy has been the focus point of how I attempt to live out the Christian life. When spreading the “Joy of the Gospel,” as Pope Francis describes, my bond with Jesus is enhanced and evident with those around me. This centering and authentic theme is my constant motivation when striving to be an instrument of His peace. I am blessed to convey this message of grace and love with victims of domestic violence at Anna Marie’s Alliance.

Within this nonprofit organization, I am positioned as a child mentor and daycare provider at the shelter’s daycare. Last year, I had the opportunity to serve at a Franciscan homeless shelter for men in the south Bronx. I thought my heart could not be any more enlarged and opened for the poor. And boy was I wrong! My core has been completely transformed when engaging with the youth that have gone through such tragic and somber experiences. When I see how these broken relationships affect not only the parents and community, but the children too; I cannot help to just do whatever’s possible to provide any kind of love and care into their lives.

Obviously the typical responsibilities (supervising and monitoring the safety of the children, ensuring their needs are met, thank God no changing diapers, etc.) come with my position, yet I find the most fulfilling part to be that of a minister of presence. I serve not only infants and children, but teenagers, too. This offers the opportunity to provide them a space to be authentically themselves. We are all expected to put on certain hats and personas for specific times and people and we know, of course, that can be quite draining. Yet it’s even more tiring for kids (especially adolescents), so permitting them to come as they are has been such a gift. Throughout my time, I learned to get to know the youth on a personal basis, so I am able to accompany them on their journey.

I am always surprised how the Lord works within my life. As a native Floridian, little did I know that a domestic violence shelter in the middle of frigid Minnesota would present me with lively and moving opportunities to serve Him. Within the poor, especially impoverished children, I am able to see the gift of life. Thank God I am here.

Carrying her gift with grace

By Stephanie Luna

Each sister has her own unique gift. The way Sister Jan Kilian makes her homemade chicken soup reminds me of my grandma’s recipe. Each vegetable and chicken cut with great strength; the spices mixed in the broth with a touch of care.

Sister Michelle L’Allier has the wisdom to say all the right things to comfort a healing heart. She quotes her mentor, Angeles Arrien, in finding closure and forgiveness while providing amazing spiritual guidance.

Sister Rose Mae has a silent presence that awakens whenever she speaks of the Somali community. The passion she has for justice and community inspires me to be more attentive to the Somali children at the Boys and Girls Club.

Each carrying her own gift with grace, I look up to these women for guidance as an adult Catholic feminist. I am very grateful for the delicious dishes, spiritual guidance and countless conversations about the progressing church. The Welcoming House

would not be what it is without these wonderful women.



FCV 8 & 9 volunteer Anna Taylor “chalking the doors” at the Welcoming House for the Epiphany.

The formula for the ritual (adapted for 2018) is simple. Take chalk and write the following: 20+C+M+B+18

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi (Caspar, Malchior and Balthazar) who

came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: “May Christ bless the house.” The “+” signs represent the cross, and the “20” at the beginning and the “18” at the end mark the year.



A message from Pat...

I cannot believe it is almost spring and that the Taste of St. Cloud is right around the corner. It is TRUE! On May 7 we will hold the 9th annual Taste of St. Cloud!

We have lots of fun changes happening with our annual fundraiser:

LOCATION HAS CHANGED

Special thanks again to the Coyote Moon and Grille for the many years they donated their wonderful space for the Taste. We have out-grown that space!

This year's Taste of St. Cloud will be held at the Kelly Inn in downtown St. Cloud.

We will have everything on ONE floor and there will be lots more space for sitting and visiting!

Parking will be much closer and there will be many more handicap spots available!

We will have 18 different restaurants participating this year! That's more than ever before!

We will again have live music and lots of fun!

We could not keep this program going without amazing people like you supporting us!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, Pat Flicker, at (320)229-0307.

To purchase advanced tickets:

Talk to a Franciscan Sister or stop by the receptionist desk at the Motherhouse.

Send a check payable to Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls:

Franciscan Community Volunteers
1600 11th Ave S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Please specify "FCV Taste Tickets" on the memo line.

Or go online to www.fcvonline.org

Select **Taste of St. Cloud** from the menu.

Purchase tickets online by May 4.

If possible, we will mail your tickets to you in advance. If not, they will be at the door the day of the event, "will call" under the name of the purchaser.

9 T H A N N U A L TASTE OF ST. CLOUD

Monday, May 7, 2018

4:30-7:30 p.m.

Kelly Inn

100 4th Avenue South, (Downtown) St. Cloud, MN 56304

Tickets: \$25 (\$30 at the door)

Featuring 18 local restaurants, a silent auction & music



NEW LOCATION
Kelly Inn, Downtown St. Cloud

Supporting the Franciscan Community Volunteers

A ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota





1600 11th Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Contact FCV:

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www.FCVonline.org

We make a living
by what we get,
But we make a life
by what we give.

- Winston Churchill

THANK YOU!

Thank you all for your generous support and prayers! We couldn't continue this amazing program without them!



Spring is almost here!

**Don't forget to buy
your Taste of St. Cloud
tickets!**

**Green
tip**

Did you know you can
**receive this newsletter
electronically?**

If you would like to save some
trees, go to
www.fcvonline.org.

Enter your name and e-mail at the
bottom of the page.

Franciscan Community Volunteers is based on three pillars: service, community living and Franciscan spirituality. Volunteers make a year-long commitment to work full time in local nonprofit agencies that serve the needs of those who are poor and marginalized while accepting the challenge of living simply and in accordance with Gospel values.