



## ***FRANCISCAN FEDERATION WEBSITE IS ONLINE!!***

**Please visit and explore the new website at**

**[www.franfed.org](http://www.franfed.org)**



### ***NATIONAL BOARD***

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

**As I pondered what I should write about for this issue of Musings I looked back at three significant events – two of them I participated in and one that I heard about from others. These events were the Franciscan Federation Annual Conference, LCWR Assembly and the one I did not attend was the Pando Populus event held in Maryknoll Monrovia, CA. For me these three events had similar themes that the world needs to embrace. What connected these events?**

**Just that – interconnectedness with God, our brothers and sisters, and all creation. The theme of the AFC was “Franciscans and Muslims: Lessons from the Past and Prospects for the Future. The keynote presentations of Kathy Warren, OSF and Michael**

Calabria, OFM gave us history, culture, writings and pictures that brought the encounter of Francis and Malekal Kamil to life. For Francis everything was about relationships. We were challenged to also be in relationship with our brother and sister Muslims, immigrants, refugees, people who are in the margins, and others who may need to be connected with or in relation to someone.

“Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion” was the theme of the LCWR assembly. Throughout the assembly words like encounter, relationships, connectedness permeated the presentations and conversations. We need to bring love and communion to our fragmented world.

For me all the LCWR speakers sounded like Franciscans! They spoke about God, the Trinity as “pure reciprocal relationship” and “The Trinity needs Creation-Incarnation in order to reveal itself.” One of my favorite lines is “As the Father self-empties in the Son and likewise in the world, our divine vocation is also to empty ourselves, in a reciprocity that is universal, interpersonal, intercultural, inter-gender, and inter-cosmic.” (Quotes from Br. Simon Pedro Arnold, OSB presentation.)

The third event is one that I did not attend but heard about it from my sister, Joyce Shanabarger. She was invited to attend the “Pando Populus and Women Religious Event.” From what I heard and from what I have read this is truly something we Franciscans need to be following. It is all about connecting people and inspiring them to look at possibilities and come together to make a better world.

I was intrigued about the name Pando Populous so here’s a few things I learned from the internet about this movement. Pando in Latin means “I spread”. It is the name of an aspen tree that produced a whole forest from one tree. All are connected by their root system. Essentially it is a “one-tree forest.” This 106-acre forest in Utah is the largest known living organism in the world. Scientists are now concerned about the slowing of the regeneration of this forest.

Populus comes from the Latin meaning “people.” That’s where we come in. Looking at our world we see so many divisions and relationships falling apart. We see gaps between the rich and poor and belief and unbelief in global warming and climate change. I believe that if St. Francis were living today he would be right in the middle of the conversations of the pando movement. Pope Francis already is with his encyclical letter *Laudate Si* when he writes about “integral ecology.” This movement is about connecting people and inspiring them to help create a better world.

We as Franciscans need to be part of conversations that involve building relationships and being connected especially when it comes to all of God’s creation.

Peace and every good.

Karen Marie Lanigan, OSF

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## FEDERATION NATIONAL OFFICE

How do we describe the moral climate in our Church and our country at this time?

The sex abuse scandal, each time its details flare before us, reminds us of our human potential to sin: perpetrators exist and act; some just look the other way as if they do not see either the perpetrators or the victims. Such a time also reminds us of our capacity to care: some demand responsibility, retribution, justice; some wish to love all, perpetrators, victims, and even the silent, with both tough and tender love. How can we respond to this 'real news,' with the Good News?

I look to the Saint Francis' Letter to a Minister to find ways to temper my morale in this climate.

<sup>1</sup>To Brother N., minister: *May the Lord bless you.* Nm 6:24 b

<sup>2</sup>I speak to you, as best I can, about the state of your soul. You must consider as grace all that impedes you from loving the Lord God and whoever has become an impediment to you, whether brothers or others, even if they lay hands on you. <sup>3</sup>And may you want it to be this way and not otherwise. <sup>4</sup>And let this be for you the true obedience of the Lord God and my true obedience, for I know with certitude that it is true obedience. <sup>5</sup>And love those who do those things to you <sup>6</sup>and do not wish anything different from them, unless it is something the Lord God shall have given you. <sup>7</sup>And love them in this and do not wish that they be better Christians. <sup>8</sup>And let this be more than a hermitage for you.

<sup>9</sup>And if you have done this, I wish to know in this way if you love the Lord and me, His servant and yours: that there is not any brother in the world who has sinned—however much he could have sinned—who, after he has looked into your eyes, would ever depart without your mercy, if he is looking for mercy. <sup>10</sup>And if he were not looking for mercy, you would ask him if he wants mercy. <sup>11</sup>And if he would sin a thousand times before your eyes, love him more than me so that you may draw him to the Lord; and always be merciful with brothers such as these. <sup>12</sup>And you may announce this to the guardians, when you can, that, for your part, you are resolved to act in this way.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>13</sup>During the Chapter of Pentecost, with the help of God and the advice of our brothers, we shall make one chapter such as this from all the chapters of the Rule that treat of mortal sin:<sup>b</sup>

<sup>14</sup>If any one of the brothers, at the instigation of the enemy, shall have sinned mortally, let him be bound by obedience to have recourse to his guardian. <sup>15</sup>Let all the brothers who know that he has sinned not bring shame upon him or slander him; let them, instead, show great mercy to him and keep the sin of their brother very secret because *those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.* Mt 9:12 Mk 2:17 Lk 5:31

<sup>16</sup>In a similar way let them be bound by obedience to send him to his custodian with a companion. <sup>17</sup>And let that custodian provide for him with mercy as he would wish to be provided for were he in a similar position. Mt 7:12 Lk 6:31 <sup>18</sup>If he falls into some venial sin, let him confess to his brother who is a

priest. <sup>19</sup>If there is no priest there, let him confess to his brother until he has a priest who may canonically absolve him, <sup>Jas 5:16</sup> as it has been said. <sup>20</sup>And let them not have the power to impose any other penance on them except this: *Go and sin no more.* <sup>Jn 8:11 c</sup>

<sup>21</sup>May you keep this writing with you until Pentecost so that it may be better observed, when you will be with your brothers. <sup>22</sup>With the help of the Lord God, you will take care of these and everything else that is not clear in the Rule.

Surely, Francis acknowledges that the heart of a community member or a guardian may want to turn away from a sinner. Another's sin can be an impediment to one's own loving. Reacting with honest anger and condemnation to another's weakness can prevent one's own choice to be charitable.

Surely, Francis admonishes one who has harmed another to admit his or her behavior. He maintains, though, that the listener's mustering a loving attitude for a sinner is an obedient response to God. Offering mercy, whether it has been asked for or not, is the mark of a brother or sister of all, in Christ.

Surely, 'There, but for the grace of God, go I' is the attitude that allows that awareness of both the human reality and the divine invitation, for each person to accept and prosper. 'Brothers and sisters, while we have time, let us do good.'

Carol Woods sfma

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Are you on FACEBOOK?

We enjoy promoting our member  
Congregations' events, offerings, reflections.

"LIKE" and "FOLLOW" our FRANCISCAN  
FEDERATION page on Facebook.

- If you follow Franciscan Federation on Facebook and want to make sure our posts don't get buried in your newsfeed, please do the following:
  1. Go to our Franciscan Federation page.

Make sure you have "liked" it already.

2. Next to the "Like" button, you'll see the "Following" button.

Click on its downward arrow.

3. From the drop-down menu select the "See First" option. That's it!

- Join our Facebook team to promote posts from your Congregational

or Ministerial pages on our Franciscan Federation Facebook page. This means, 'Become an Editor' on our page. This would be a great help!

We love to share news that points to our TOR life and our values.

E-mail Carol at [franfedofficec@franfed.org](mailto:franfedofficec@franfed.org) to say how you can help.



## COMMISSION OF ELECTED LEADERS

The Commission of Elected Leaders held its first meeting about a week ago. Among other things that we did, we asked Teresa Varga, SOSF to continue as chair of the commission. Teresa Varga graciously accepted and Edith Wyss, OSF, equally gracious, agreed to act as secretary.

As a new member of the Commission, curious to learn more about its workings, I was heartened to hear the enthusiasm for the movement toward "widening our tent." We spoke about the common gatherings of Franciscans of all orders that are happening in different parts of our country. Also, we heard about a Franciscan festival that occurs in Italy, gathering Franciscan hearted people to celebrate the gift of the Franciscan spirit.

While I was musing about Franciscan festivals, one of my sisters spoke to me about the topic "What is ours (as Franciscans) to do at this time in this country?" It occurred to me the most important thing for us to share is the gift of belief in Goodness, even more, the experience of Goodness. I've never counted the number of times that Francis used "goodness" in his writings/sayings, but I imagine that it is in the hundreds or thousands of times. His words to describe God stay with me--"You are Good, all Good, the Highest Good." I believe Francis' experience of this Good God let him to experience the Good

God embodied in all creation. (Or maybe it started with creation for Francis, who knows?) As the psalmist says "The earth is full of the goodness of God." Could this be what is so attractive about Francis today? In a world thirsting for hope, for goodness, perhaps there is nothing more important for us Franciscans to do than to embody this belief in goodness, to open ourselves to experience the goodness of which this earth is full, to share and to celebrate this goodness widely, wildly!

Mary Litell OSF

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## COMMISSION OF REGIONS

As the summer days begin to blend into the hints of autumn, we pause to give God thanks for the beauty that each of us has experienced during these days. Many children have returned to the classrooms to resume their academics. Most of us have had an opportunity for retreat, vacation, home visits, and a "slower pace" with the longer days. We also pause to praise God for the fruits and vegetables of the garden's harvest. How wonderful!

Yet, amidst all the fun times of summer and the beginning of the harvest season, each Region has had experiences that have not been so pleasant. Each region of the Franciscan Federation has been affected by fires, floods, tornados, hurricanes, straight-line winds, shootings, fights, and/or violent deaths. There are so many of our neighbors who are hungry with no food; no shelter; no jobs; suffering anxiety of keeping their families intact. The Church is now facing the horrendous acts of sexual violence of young people from its clergy. In the midst of it all, we need to always hold everyone in prayer and to make a difference in someone's life in whatever way we can.

As we begin these end-of-summer days, the Regions are beginning to plan and prepare for the coming year. Some events are planned; others are being finalized; others are still coming forth. If you have an idea for a program or event in your region or cluster, please contact your region/cluster chairperson. Please participate in what is happening in your locale...invite others to join. Together we can make a difference.

Happy Autumn.



## COMMISSION OF CHARISM SERVICES

### With Jesus in the Neighborhood

September always seems to me to be an “in-between month.” We’re in between summer and autumn; the days hold tenuously to the heat of months past, but the nights give chilly warning to what lies ahead. Schools and parishes are starting up their yearly schedules while our nation’s advertising industry is reminding us end-of-the-year sales are already posted online and in the stores. The feast of St. Clare is already past, as are those of Dominic and Louis. (Where was I when that happened?) But Francis’s feast yet lies ahead, along with the Stigmata and Elizabeth of Hungary — celebrations I’ll be there for, if only I remember to appreciate them.

But, as we emotionally teeter between this way and that, I am at least comforted by the month’s cycle of the daily gospels. September holds a full month’s worth of the early chapters of St. Luke. In these chapters (roughly 4 through 9) Jesus is in his Galilean ministry, choosing his disciples, introducing himself to the neighborhood, and ministering to the great multitude.

In this part of the gospel Jesus lays out his significant Sermon on the Plain, with beatitudes for the poor and humble but also woes for those who refuse to take heed. His ethic of love and non-judgement are presented with simplicity and clarity.

- Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. (6:27)
- Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (6:36)
- Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you, a good measure, packed together, shaken down and overflowing will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you. (6:37-38)

- A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. (6:43-44)

In these chapters we meet the men who will leave behind careers and businesses to follow this rabbi into the unknown. We are likewise introduced to the many women who accompany Jesus through the Galilean countryside who draw from his strength and provide for his needs, who seek his forgiveness and receive his healing. And we meet some of the family of Jesus, dealt with more neutrally in the text of this gospel than the treatment they receive from Mark. We would expect as much, at least, from the evangelist of the Annunciation.

We also hear from Jesus the Storyteller. Here are the stories Luke shares with the other Synoptic writers. He speaks of earthy things and homey things in simple language, not yet the more finely-crafted stories of the later chapters (the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, etc.) And, as with the other Synoptic writers, Jesus marvelously provides food for the many.

October will introduce us to Jesus the Journeyer, and Jerusalem awaits, but for now we have the comfort of still being close to home. Let's take some time this September to enter fully into the Word in prayer and meditation. Let's take time in these days to drink in the enriching words of our brother Luke, and prepare for the journey ahead.

Fr. Bernie Tickerhoof, TOR  
Charism Services Committee



## JUSTICE, PEACE & INTEGRITY OF CREATION

### Migration and Human Trafficking

In 2014, several young teens travelled from their nation of birth to escape the extreme violence they witnessed in their country. After 3 months they arrived at their destination where they were picked up by border control and placed in a shelter. Although this was not ideal, they felt safe for the first time in over a



year. Nine months later, on an early December morning, some of these young boys were found in a trailer by police during an early morning raid at the Trillium chicken/egg farm in Marion County Ohio. When the police found them, the boys were actually not in the trailer itself but under the floor boards, sleeping on the ground.

Over a period of four months in 2014, during the time when there was a large influx of unaccompanied children from Central America coming into the United States, 13 unaccompanied refugee minors from Central America were mistakenly released by DHS to human traffickers posing as sponsors of the children. The children were forced to work on the egg farm where traffickers threatened to kill them if they left. This story illustrates that human trafficking may occur among refugees, migrants and internally displaced people (IDP) in any country.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) interviewed refugees in Italy who had traveled along the Central Mediterranean Route connecting North Africa to Europe. They found that 76 percent of respondents answered positively to at least one of the indicators for trafficking.

In 2015, almost 96,000 unaccompanied children claimed asylum in Europe. At least 10,000 unaccompanied children have dropped off the radar of official agencies since arriving in Europe and many of them are believed to have fallen victim to trafficking. In early 2017, German authorities reported 4,700 children had been lost to officials while in Sweden up to 10 children a week are reported missing.

The IOM reported that in both 2015 and 2016, eighty percent of the four thousand plus women and children fleeing from Nigeria each of these years were trafficked.

Human trafficking is always an exploitation of vulnerability and immigrants, migrants and refugees are among the most vulnerable populations. Most lack money, food or shelter at some time during their journey. They experience a lack of community, family, social structures and networks. The trauma of leaving their home and their experiences along the way may dispose them to be less self-protective and enable them to be easily coerced as victims of trafficking. The more heavily secure a border crossing, the greater need migrants feel to acquire the assistance of smugglers which often leads to trafficking.

Camps for refugees and internally displaced persons are prime targets for traffickers. The concentration of vulnerable, displaced people combined with a

lack of security, services, and oversight make them ideal locations for traffickers to operate. In long-standing camps, traffickers are able to build relationships with corrupt camp officials and establish trafficking rings. An estimated 580,000 Rohingya Muslims have crossed into Bangladesh (August-October 2017) and organized trafficking rings are embedded in refugee camps, looking for vulnerable people to traffic for both sex and labor.

What can we do? During the AFC this year participants had an opportunity to advocate for an increase in refugee resettlement in the United States. Please email, write or call your legislators and continue to advocate. Also, if you think someone may be trafficked report a tip to the Human Trafficking hotline at 1-888-373-7888.

Sister Maryann Mueller, CSSF

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## NEW WAYS MINISTRIES



A dialogue among lesbian sisters, congregational leaders, and formation & vocation ministers  
November 16-18, 2018

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/upcoming-programs/our-sexuality-and-our-lesbian-sisters-gifts-in-community/>



A retreat for gay priests, brothers and deacons  
October 2-4, 2018

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/living/>

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## **EDUCATION / FORMATION**

**St. Francis University, Joliet IL**

**Praise God and serve with great humility! (Francis of Assisi)**

**Sr. Mary Elizabeth Imler, OSF**

**Vice President for Mission**

500 Wilcox Street Joliet, IL 60435

[\(815\) 740-2622](tel:(815)740-2622)

[mimler@stfrancis.edu](mailto:mimler@stfrancis.edu)

### **Online Certificate in Franciscan Studies**

This four course certificate program is designed to:

- Provide a unified understanding of the Franciscan Tradition.
- Prepare students to form Franciscan experiences in their personal and professional lives.
- Strengthen students' relationship with Franciscan history.
- Discover applications to everyday life situations in today's world.

### **Recommended participants:**

**This course is highly recommended for faculty and staff at any of the AFCU partners who wish to feel more at home in the Franciscan lived expression of Gospel spirituality, and the Franciscan intellectual tradition. Because of the experience of the instructors, it is also applicable for those who are leading Formation Programs for Franciscan Religious Institutes, especially for candidates new to the Franciscan tradition. This course would also be useful for formation of those in the Franciscan Secular Order or in preparation for a life commitment of associates to religious institutes.**

**Register:** [mimler@stfrancis.edu](mailto:mimler@stfrancis.edu) or [815 740-2622](tel:8157402622)

<http://www.stfrancis.edu/franciscan-studies-certificate>



### **Next Generation Franciscan Mentors**

We sponsor an annual conference for those who are helping form our next generation of Franciscans.

This conference is for you if you help in the formation of

- Franciscan vowed religious
- Secular Franciscans
- Associates/Affiliates/Co-journers
- High school or university students
- Volunteers in Franciscan-based service programs
- Those with a Franciscan heart

### **Inter-Franciscan Formation Programs**

This program gathers Franciscan men and woman in formation (all levels) twice a year at Graymoor in Garrison, NY. Workshops are presented on Franciscan themes led by Franciscan men and women.

Our upcoming meeting dates and the presenters are the following:

November 6-9, 2018	Fr. John Petrikovic, OFM Cap.
March 12-15, 2019	Fr. Robert Williams O.F.M. Cap.

**Franciscan School of Theology**  
Franciscan School of Theology  
[www.FST.edu](http://www.FST.edu)

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### **REGIONS**

***Please note: All retreats and events are also located on the calendar in the "Planning" section of the new Website***

#### **Region 1**

#### **Save the Date !!**

**Immigrants/ Refugees**  
**Embracing Our Brothers and Sisters**  
**A Franciscan Perspective**

Saturday, October 20, 2018

9:30am - 5:00pm

Martin de Porres Village

1 Green Street

Paterson NJ 07501

**Presenters**

Lorraine Campanelli - Director, Cabrini Immigration Services

Jim Andreano - President, North Jersey Interfaith Cares, Inc.

Cost: \$15 includes lunch & snacks

Make checks payable to Franciscan Federation Region 1.

Include name, address and phone number.

Send to:

Sister Sheila Madden SMIC

Our Lady of Sorrows - 1 Floor

9 Pocono Road

Denville NJ 07834

**Center of Renewal Retreat & Conference Center**

**4421 Lower River Road**

**Stella Niagara, New York 14144**

*(Only 10 miles north of Niagara Falls)*

**(716) 754-7376, Ext. 2**

**NEW WEBSITE:** [www.stellaniagararetreats.org](http://www.stellaniagararetreats.org)

**NEW E-MAIL:** [centerofrenewal@stellaosf.org](mailto:centerofrenewal@stellaosf.org)

**2018**

**CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP** typically meets first Tuesday of each month at  
6:30pm. Call for detail

**ROAD SCHOLAR PROGRAMS** on Niagara Falls & Underground Railroad through Sept.  
2018 and "Deck the Falls ..." holiday theme early December 2018 (Elderhostel, Inc.) Call  
Road Scholar at 800-454-5768 for the specific program # listed below):

- September 9-14, 2018 (Sunday dinner through Friday lunch – Program #16303)
- October 21-26, 2018 (Sunday dinner through Friday lunch – Program #16303)

- November 29 to December 3, 2018 ("Deck the Falls: Holiday Happenings in Niagara Falls" Thursday dinner through Monday lunch – Program #22124)

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**Region 2**

**Franciscan Center**

**3010 North Perry Avenue**

**Tampa FL 33603**

813.229.2695

**[franciscancentertampa.org](http://franciscancentertampa.org)**

**Centering Prayer Group**

Eileen Strawser and Jill Biebel

Tuesdays, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer in which we experience God's presence within us. This contemplative practice follows Thomas Keating methods. The group will meet weekly with Eileen and Jill. If you have any questions "and/or" are new to centering prayer email Eileen Strawser [eileenstrawser@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:eileenstrawser@tampabay.rr.com) and Jill Biebel [jillbiebel@aol.com](mailto:jillbiebel@aol.com). Please email [info@franciscancentertampa.org](mailto:info@franciscancentertampa.org) to attend. Donation will be accepted.

**September**

**Just Say YES: Hearing and Heeding God's Call**

Wed., September 12, 10:00am - 1pm

Bob Griffiths, Chaplain and Spiritual Director

It is challenging to hear God's call in today's hyper-busy world – not just the big stuff, such as career and family, but the little stuff: discerning sacredness in the ordinary, peace in the commonplace, seeing Christ in those we like and dislike, and in general, acting in accordance with God's will. How do we do it? How do we hear and heed - and then say yes? The program leads us through instruction, quiet reflection, and journaling to find new ways to discern God's call to each of us. Please register with advance payment by September 10th. Fee: \$25 (includes lunch).

**Courageously Living the Gospel**

September 18, 12 -1:30pm

with Most Reverend Gregory L. Parkes

Lunch and Learn Tues.,

Bishop Parkes will present on the new vision of The Diocese of St Petersburg. Bishop Parkes developed a Mutually-Shared Vision – Courageously Living the Gospel – that represents the many voices of the faithful who contributed with their input and prayers. With clarity, purpose and renewed hope, Courageously Living the Gospel is a source of inspiration and direction as we each strive daily to be Disciples of Jesus

Christ. Registration is required. Limited seating. Please register by Sept 13th. Fee: \$25 (includes lunch).

**Matt Talbot Men's Retreat SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

Fri., September 21, 3pm – Sun., September 23, 11am

Father John Gubbins will present Steps and Traditions: Consciously improving our contact with the God of our understanding through the 12 Steps and Traditions.

Fee: 220/Private, 185/Double Mail To: Scott Spires - 9533 Magnolia Blossom Dr. Tampa, 33626

**St Michael's Feast Day for First Responders Luncheon and Presentation** Fri., September 28, 12pm September 29th is the feast day of Saint Michael the Archangel, Patron Saint of First Responders. We honor first responders throughout the country, a day to pause and honor our active law enforcement and firefighters whose lives have been lost while performing their duty as a First Responder. Please RSVP by September 24th to Sr. Anne Dougherty at [FirstResponders911@gmail.com](mailto:FirstResponders911@gmail.com) or call the Center for more information at 813.229.2695. Fee: Donation

**Save the DATE!**

**Please join us and make this year's event amazing!**

**A Christmas Fundraiser Dinner with the Honorable E.J. Salcines**

Thursday, December 6, 2018

5:30pm - 9:30pm

Tampa Garden Club

**Please contact us if you are interested in sponsoring this event!**

To register for retreats visit us online <http://www.franciscancentertampa.org/registration/> or call during office hours 813.229.2695.

**McGlinn Spirituality and Conference Center**

**The Canticle Gift Shop**

**460 St. Bernardine Street**

**Reading, PA 19607-1737**

484-334-6807 Fax: 484-334-6808

**Visit our Website or Facebook for more details.**

[mcglinncc@bfranciscan.org](mailto:mcglinncc@bfranciscan.org)

[www.bfranciscan.org](http://www.bfranciscan.org)

**The Franciscan Spiritual Center**

**609 S. Convent Rd.**

**Aston, PA 19014**

[fsc@osfphila.org](mailto:fsc@osfphila.org)

[www.fscaston.org](http://www.fscaston.org)

## **Centering Prayer – Group Session of Quiet Prayer**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 10:30 to 11:30 AM

Cost: Free will offering

*A group gathering for those who have been practicing centering prayer. In the space of one hour there is a short reading or instruction, a 30 minute period of quiet centering prayer, 10 minute walking meditation, and a 20 minute concluding quiet centering prayer. We close with the Our Father. Prior to or after this hour there can be time for supportive discussion and encouragement around centering prayer for those who wish. For those interested who have never experienced centering prayer, the Franciscan Spiritual Center offers a Fall and a Spring one day introduction to Centering Prayer.*

**Facilitator: Julia Keegan OSF**

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### **Region 3**

#### **Chiara Center**

**A Franciscan place of spirituality**

**4875 La Verna Road**

**Springfield, IL, 62707**

**217-253-0901**

**Email:** [Info@chiaracenter.org](mailto:Info@chiaracenter.org)

**Web:** [www.chiaracenter.org](http://www.chiaracenter.org)

#### **Chiara Self-Guided Retreats**

**Chiara center can help create sacred time away by providing resources from trusted spiritual leaders. Choose your retreat journey at Chiara Center using the audio or DVD series to create your own retreat. Retreat must be a minimum of three days and two nights.**

**Arrival times flexible.**

**Cost: 3 days, 2 nights: \$240 inclusive of guest room, meals, retreat resources including CD/DVD player. Each additional day is \$65 inclusive of meals.**

**Visit web site for brochure.**

#### **Oldenburg Franciscan Center**

812-933-6437

Email: [center@oldenburgosf.com](mailto:center@oldenburgosf.com)

Website: [oldenburgfranciscancenter.org](http://oldenburgfranciscancenter.org)

[oldenburgfranciscancenter.org](http://oldenburgfranciscancenter.org)

Blog: [www.peaceandgood.](http://www.peaceandgood.wordpress.com)

[wordpress.com](http://www.peaceandgood.wordpress.com)

**Going Deeper with God: An Intro to SoulCollage®**



Presented by: Dr. Jane Steinhauser (Certified SoulCollage® Facilitator)  
Saturday, September 29th 9:30am-3:00pm \$50 includes supplies and lunch

Through the use of images, intuition and imagination we will create our own 'holy cards' and then utilize these as doors and windows to deeper contemplative prayer. Come and explore what God is doing in your life, enliven your spiritual self, engage deeper with God and have a fun time! Absolutely no art talent or experience is necessary. All supplies are provided! Experienced SoulCollagers welcome!

**Portiuncula Center for Prayer**

[www.portforprayer.org](http://www.portforprayer.org)

**9263 West St. Francis Road**

**Frankfort, IL 60423**

[info@portforprayer.org](mailto:info@portforprayer.org) **815.464.3880**

**Sisters of St. Francis**

**St. Francis Spirituality Center**

**200 St. Francis Ave**

**Tiffin OH 44883**

**Ph. 419-443-1485**

[franciscanretreats.org](http://franciscanretreats.org)

Note: Private retreats or individually directed retreats can be scheduled for 1-8 days in length. For more information regarding available directors, accommodations or cost, contact St. Francis Spirituality Center.

Meditation classes and day-long retreats are also periodically available. See the website for current offerings.

**Tau Center**

**26W171 Roosevent Road**

**Wheaton, IL 60187**

**630-909-6805**

[www.taucenter.org](http://www.taucenter.org)

**Region 4**

**Rochester MN Franciscans**

**Assisi Heights**

1001 14th Street NW

Rochester, MN 55901

507-280-2195 or email: [ahsc@rochesterfranciscan.org](mailto:ahsc@rochesterfranciscan.org)

<https://www.rochesterfranciscan.org/what-wedo/spirituality-center-ahsc.html>

**Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls**

116 Eighth Avenue Southeast

Little Falls, MN 56345

(320)632-2981

[www.fslf.org](http://www.fslf.org)

**Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center**

3560 Hwy 51 North

Arbor Vitae, WI 54568

715-385-3750

[marywood.center@gmail.com](mailto:marywood.center@gmail.com)

[www.marywoodsc.org](http://www.marywoodsc.org)

For more information on these retreats see [marywoodsc.org/retreats.php](http://marywoodsc.org/retreats.php)

**Shalom Spirituality Center**

(formerly Shalom Retreat Center)

1001 Davis Street

Dubuque, Iowa 52001

[www.shalomretreats.org](http://www.shalomretreats.org)

Call: [563-582-3592](tel:563-582-3592)

Email: [info@shalomretreats.org](mailto:info@shalomretreats.org)

**Spiritual Vision Board**

**Mind-Mapping And Envisioning God's Plan For Your Life**

**Saturday, September 8, 9:30AM-12:30PM**

Presenter: Mary Potter Kenyon

A vision board is a tool that can empower you to visualize your direction in life, guiding in your walk with God. We'll begin the session with prayer as we meditate on Philippians 4:8, followed by a brief mind-mapping exercise as we brainstorm hopes, dreams, and goals for our future. We'll then focus on aligning our will with God's plan, creating a vision board with pictures from magazines. Feel free to bring a copy of a Bible verse, inspirational quote, or

photo to use as the central focus of your board. Bible verses on cardstock will also be available. Cork bulletin boards and pushback pins provided. Each attendee leaves with a decorative vision board to display. Lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the workshop.

**Offering: \$30, Includes Lunch & Materials**

***Register & Prepay By Tuesday, September 4***

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**Artisan Souls Creativity Group**  
**Monthly Lifelong Learners**

**Mondays, 6:30PM-8:30PM**

**September 10, October 8, November 12**

**Check-In Begins At 6:00PM**

Facilitator: Mary Potter Kenyon

Were you the daydreamer in grade school? The child who stared out the window, entranced by a world that existed only in your imagination? Maybe you were the troublemaker who read books hidden in your lap beneath the desk, or consistently colored outside the lines. Whether you're ready to reignite your childhood passions for all things creative, want your box of crayons back, or are looking for a way to connect with your inner artist and others who think outside the box, this new monthly group welcomes you. No artistic talent necessary, just an interest in discovering your particular gifts and having fun.

September 10 — **Legacy of Creativity**. Introduction to the group's concept that we are God's masterpiece, created to be creative, with a look back at our childhood interests. Notebook and "magic pencil" provided.

October 8 — **Expressive Writing and Journaling**. Notebook provided.

November 12 — **Exploring Painting**. Additional \$20 materials fee.

**Offering: \$10 Per Session**

***Register & Prepay By The Tuesday Before Each Session***

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**T'ai Chi Chih**  
**A Six-Session Series**

**Wednesdays, 8:30AM-9:30AM**  
**September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 10, 17**

Instructor: Sr. Marian Klostermann OSF

T'ai Chi Chih is a combination of 20 movements that are slow, gentle, and easily done by anyone regardless of age or physical condition. By circulating and balancing the "chi" or vital energy within us, the T'ai Chi movements promote physical, mental, emotional and spiritual harmony and well-being. T'ai Chi Chih is a modified form of T'ai Chi. This class is for beginners and practicing learners of T'ai Chi Chih. Guided repetition of T'ai Chi Chih provides practiced learning of this wellness technique. As movement is non-strenuous, participants will be comfortable in "regular" clothing. Sr. Marian has practiced and taught T'ai Chi for more than 30 years.

**Offering: \$45**

***Register & Prepay By Monday, September 10***

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**In Our Own Words: Religious Life In A Changing World**  
**Panel Conversation With The Authors**

**Friday, September 14, 7:00PM-8:30PM**

Women continue to be called to religious life and respond to that call with courage. Yet, the face of women religious today is changing. This panel conversation and open dialogue will explore the thoughts and ideas of younger women religious in the US, exploring the values, realities, and hopes of women who are called to apostolic religious orders today. The materials presented here have emerged from two years of conversation with a group of young women religious (under age fifty) from different congregations with different charisms. The panelists will explore how younger women religious understand their role in the world today, and how they work together to promote the Kingdom of God. Following a short presentation of their ideas, the conversation will be expanded to include all who

attend, with a collaborative vision that we all have important insights to share and that no one of us bears the richness of the story without the voices of others.

*In Our Own Words: Religious Life in a Changing World*, edited by Juliet Mousseau RSCJ, and Sarah Kohles OSF, is available for purchase from Liturgical Press at [litpress.org](http://litpress.org).

**No Offering Required**

***No Registration Needed***

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## **The Spirituality Of St. Francis Of Assisi**

### **A Six-Session Seminar**

**Mondays, 1:30PM-3:00PM**

**September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

Facilitator: Sr. Teresine Glaser OSF

Brother William (Bill) Short OFM, is an eminently respected scholar of Franciscan tradition and spirituality. He is one of the three general editors of *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*. He recently presented a 12-lecture DVD series entitled *The Spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi* through Now You Know Media. Each lecture is 30 minutes and includes representative art works and excerpts from Francis' and Clare's writing. An ideal way of benefiting from the insights and depth offered in this series is group viewing followed by discussion. To accomplish this, the opportunity to view the lectures and discuss their content is being offered in the following format:

Six 2-hour sessions, during which two of Br. Bill Short's lectures will be viewed, each followed by a group discussion of the content. The study guide that accompanies the series will be provided to participants. These sessions will be moderated by Sister Teresine Glaser OSF.

Sr. Teresine's professional background is in education and psychotherapy. After she officially retired from these commitments, she devoted her time to study of the Franciscan/Clarian tradition. She received a Graduate Certificate in Franciscan Theology and Spirituality from Washington Theological Union and has published articles in *Franciscan Connections—The Cord and Custodians of the Tradition*.

**Offering: \$30**

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***Register & Prepay By Thursday, September 20***

**Shalom Fall Breakfast — “Celebrating Autumn”**

**Tuesday, September 25, 7:30AM-8:30AM**

Presenter: Lisa Schmidt, Franciscan Associate

Plan to celebrate the beginning of autumn by meeting friends for a great breakfast. Then sit back and listen as Lisa Schmidt shares words and images of the changing season. Lisa is with the Franciscan Charism Team as Associate Coordinator and Co-director of the Canticle of Creation Center at Mt. St. Francis. She is also a Massage Therapist at Wellness on Davis in the Shalom Spirituality Center.

**Offering: \$10**

***Register & Prepay By Friday, September 21***

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**Native American Spirituality**

**Symbols, Songs, And Ceremonies**

**Tuesday, September 25, 9:00AM-12:00PM**

Presenter: Nancy Thompson

Hear the story of White Buffalo Woman in this interactive workshop and learn about traditional Native American ceremonies such as the Sweat Lodge and Vision Quest. Explore the meaning of symbols such as the hoop and medicine pouch. Reconnect with nature through music and meditation, and make a simple take-home reminder of our connection to all our relations. Nancy Thompson is a 24-Year Student of Native American Spirituality and a member of the Miniss Kittigan Drum, a group founded upon the traditions of the Ojibwe.

**Offering: \$20**

***Register & Prepay By Friday, September 21***

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## **Boundless Compassion**

**Saturdays, 9:00AM-11:00AM**

**September 29, October 6, 13, 20, 27, November 3**

Facilitators: Sr. Suzanne Rubenbauer FSPA & Sr. Marci Blum OSF

Using Sr. Joyce Rupp's newly published book, *Boundless Compassion*, participants will explore ways of being compassionate with oneself, others and all of creation. Through this six-week personal transformation process for deepening compassion, you will discover compassion from science, medicine, theology, spirituality, sociology and psychology.

Sr. Suzanne is a Franciscan from the LaCrosse, WI congregation and a spiritual director. Sr. Marci is the Director of Shalom and also a spiritual director.

**Offering: \$30 For Program**

***Boundless Compassion* Book: \$18.95**

***Prayers Of Boundless Compassion* Book: \$12.95**

***Register & Prepay By Wednesday, September 26***

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## **Images of God in the Psalms**

### **Weekend Retreat**

**Friday, October 5, 7:00PM — Sunday, October 7, 11:30AM**

Director: Sr. Dianne Bergant CSA

When we pray the psalms, how are we characterizing God? What does a variety of images from the psalms tell us about God and our relationship with God?

Dianne Bergant CSA, is a Carroll Stuhlmueller, CP Distinguished Professor Emerita of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. She was President of the Catholic Biblical Association of America (2000-1) and has been an active member of the

Chicago Catholic/Jewish Scholars Dialogue for the past thirty years. For more than twenty-five years she has been the Old Testament book reviewer for *The Bible Today*, having been a member of the editorial board for twenty-five years. Five of these years she served as the magazine's general editor. She wrote the weekly column, The Word, for *America Magazine* from 2002-05. These reflections have since been published by Paulist Press and she has also written many other books. Dianne is currently working in the areas of biblical interpretation and biblical theology, particularly on issues of peace, ecology, and feminism.

**Offering:**

**Overnight: \$200, Includes 2 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 1 Dinner**

**Commuter: \$140, Includes 1 Lunch, 1 Dinner**

**\$10 Early Bird Discount If Registered By Wednesday, September 5**

**\$50 NONREFUNDABLE DEPOSIT**

***Register & Prepay Deposit By Friday, September 29***

**St. Anthony Spirituality Center**

**300 E Fourth Street**

**Marathon, WI 54448**

**715-443-2236**

**info@sarcenter.com**

**www.sarcenter.org**

**The Franciscan Spirituality Center**

**920 Market Street,**

**La Crosse, WI 54601**

**608-791-5295**

**www.FSCenter.org**

**fscenter@fspa.or**

**Mining the Meaning of Our Sacred Stories**

**October 26-27**

**Friday, 7 p.m.-Saturday, 4 p.m.**

**Presenter: Diane Millis**

**Investment:**



Full: \$170, includes overnight stay and all meals

Commuter: \$120, includes lunch on Saturday

## Continuing Education for Spiritual Directors at the Franciscan Spirituality Center in La Crosse!

What's your story? It's a question we are often asked in everyday conversations, and one that is of primary concern to those of us in the ministry of spiritual direction. One of the primary reasons people often seek out a spiritual director is they need help making meaning of their story, that is, nurturing awareness of how God is at work in their lives.

For this year's continuing-education event, spiritual director, author and teacher Diane Millis will introduce us to three different stages for mining the meaning of our life's story and to the role that a spiritual director can play in facilitating movement from one stage to the next.

We are the story we tell ourselves. If we aspire to be more fully alive, we must learn to tell a more life-giving story. During our time together, we as spiritual directors will begin by examining the story each of us is currently authoring about our lives and then prayerfully consider a more life-giving story waiting to be told. We will conclude by considering how we can help those we accompany to do the same.

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### **Region 5**

#### **Il Ritiro**

#### **Franciscan Retreat Center**

**P.O. Box 38 ~ 7935 St. Francis Ln.**

**Dittmer, MO 63023**

**636-274-0554 ~ [www.il-ritiro.org](http://www.il-ritiro.org) ~ [il.ritiro@gmail.com](mailto:il.ritiro@gmail.com)**

**For more information or to register  
check out our website [www.il-ritiro.org](http://www.il-ritiro.org);  
call us at 636-274-0554 or email us:**

**[il.ritiro@gmail.com](mailto:il.ritiro@gmail.com)**

**[www.facebook.com/il.ritiro.5](https://www.facebook.com/il.ritiro.5)**

#### **Tau Center**

#### **Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

**335 S. Kirkwood Road**

**St. Louis MO 63122**

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### **Region 6**

**Franciscan Renewal Center**

**5802 E. Lincoln Dr.**

**Paradise Valley, AZ 85253**

**[www.thecasa.org](http://www.thecasa.org)**

**Sabbaticals**

Make the Franciscan Renewal Center a part of your sabbatical. Spend time in an atmosphere of quiet beauty and a space to develop a stronger sense of spiritual self-awareness and consciousness. Rest and take time for reflection; create your own program from our many workshops, courses and retreats. We are happy to offer you a wide variety of options to nourish your mind, body and spirit. Call 480.948.7460 to plan your stay.

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Keep up-to-date with Franciscan news, events, retreats, and other opportunities. Send news items for Musing or the Franciscan Federation website to [franfed@aol.com](mailto:franfed@aol.com) by the 15th of the month.

**Our mailing address is:**

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Brooklyn, NY 11201