

...find the missing peace.

FRANCISCAN

RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER



2017 Franciscan International Award HONORED Bloomington Based VEAP



With 246 friends, retreatants and supporters of Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center present, the 2017 Franciscan International Award was presented to VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People) on May 11. Lisa Horn, CEO of VEAP, accepted the award on behalf of the board, staff and 3100 volunteers of VEAP, some of whom were present.

VEAP, headquartered in Bloomington, not far from St. Bonaventure parish, serves people in Bloomington, Richfield, Edina, and part of south Minneapolis. VEAP began in the early 1970s when several Richfield and Bloomington churches pooled their resources to assist people in need with food or money to pay utility bills or rent. VEAP has expanded its services to provide rides to medical appointments for those in need, as well as social services to the working poor, senior citizens and the disabled. VEAP also operates the largest food pantry in the state of Minnesota distributing 3.5 million pounds of food annually, and over 50% of that food is fresh produce. VEAP also provides rides from the food pantry to the homes of clients. VEAP leases a portion of its building to Hennepin County Human Services; this allows VEAP clients the opportunity to take advantage of government programs without having to waste time driving to a distant location.

In her acceptance speech, Lisa gave an overview of VEAP's programs which serve some of the most vulnerable groups in our society. She closed her remarks with a quote from St. Francis: "Each one should confidently make known his need to the other, so that he might find what he needs and minister to him. And each one should love and care for his brother in all those things in which God will give him grace, as a mother loves and cares for her son."

Among the guests for the 2017 FIA dinner were members of the province definitory, as well as past recipients of the FIA award. Mark your calendars for May 10, 2018, which will be the 60th Franciscan International Award Dinner.



Award Presentation (Fr Jim Kent, Lisa Horn, Br Bob Roddy)



Lisa Horn

"May the Lord give you peace."

St. Francis of Assisi



REMEMBERING Fr. Juniper Cummings, OFM Conv. 1924-2017

On May 26, 2017 the Friars received the sad news that our beloved **Fr. Juniper Cummings, OFM Conv.**, was called home by Sister Death. On Tuesday, May 30th a visitation and Mass of the Resurrection were celebrated at the Retreat Center with over one hundred guests in attendance. On Friday, June 2, another Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at the Friars' provincial house, Mt. St. Francis, in southern Indiana.

Fr. Juniper touched thousands of lives during his 69 years as a Franciscan Friar. In my case, Fr. Juniper was the first Franciscan Friar I met who was not a member of an Initial Formation Community. We met in January of 1978 when the friars at St. Bonaventure Friary went on their community retreat and I stayed at the Friary to watch the property—which was not in the best of neighborhoods—and to distribute food to the poor in the afternoons.

We formed an instant bond after I mentioned that I had graduated from Benedictine College in Atchison, KS. "I went to school in Fribourg [Switzerland] with one of the monks from there, Linus McManaman." I knew Fr. Linus, not all that well, but Juniper took delight in finding someone we both knew. Through the course of our weekend together, Juniper and I talked about our common interests, about current events and about the province of Our Lady of Consolation, the province of Conventual Franciscans that I would apply to join in the next few months.

There was no pretense in Fr. Juniper; no task was too difficult for him nor was any job beneath him. When I lived with the Friars in Carey, Ohio during the summer of 1978, Juniper would always help with the dishes. He could pack more stuff in a dishwasher than anyone I have ever known. These moments were more than times to do a necessary chore around the Friary, they were opportunities to share stories and to increase the bonds of our Franciscan fraternity.

Another thing I loved about Fr. Juniper was his sense of humor—he always laughed at my crazy, hyperbolic remarks. He would even build on the joke that I would be setting up with someone else. I could say outrageous things to him and he always knew that I was exaggerating or teasing and his face would turn beet red with laughter.

He had a brilliant mind for Theology or Philosophy and he could take the most complex of subjects and make them easily understandable. His curiosity knew few limits. In the late 1980s, UFOs and extraterrestrials had become a hot topic. Late one evening while he and David Kocka were watching the 11:00 p.m. news, there was report of a UFO being spotted in Harrison County, the county due west of Mt. St. Francis. Juniper and David hopped into David's pickup truck and drove around Harrison County until the wee hours of the morning in hopes of catching a glimpse of the UFO. "I would just love to see one of those things," Juniper told me, in a somewhat disappointed tone of voice, the following day.

Fr. Juniper loved the Church and the Franciscan Order. His kindness and compassion to others knew no bounds. I remember when he was hospitalized at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis in 2012 he endeared himself to the staff, to fellow patients and

to their visitors. Juniper chatted regularly with a lady who visited a family member in the room next door to his room. One day, while I was visiting him, she stopped by to say hello and said, "You know, Fr. Juniper, my sister said that she would become Catholic if she knew more priests like you." Juniper had the gift of always bringing people to the Lord, always finding room for one more at the table or one more overnight guest. May all of us be graced to be so generous and so kind.



Fr Jim Van Dorn Celebrates 50th Anniversary

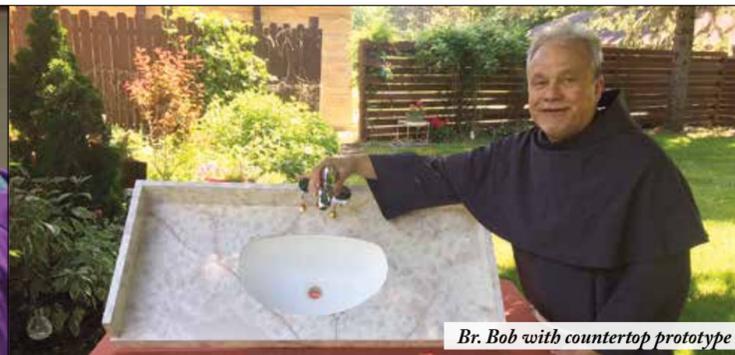
This year, Fr Jim Van Dorn celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a Franciscan Priest. On Feb 18th 1967 ordaining Prelate Archbishop Bins ordained Father Jim and 19 others at St Paul Cathedral in St Paul MN.

Dating back to the early 1970's Father Jim is nine years into his fourth assignment at Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake. His time in Prior Lake was interspersed with periods in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Cary, Ohio; Terre Haute, Indiana and Mount St Francis, Indiana. Always a key contributor to our three day retreats through conferences, homilies, spiritual direction and sacraments, Fr Jim has endeared retreatants with his colorful stories, straightforward wisdom and spirited sharing of the Gospel.

WISH LIST...

The Retreat House could use the following:

- 1) An **electric golf cart or ATV-type vehicle** to quietly facilitate maintenance in the woods
- 2) **Three "lift" recliners**, one for each wing of the retreat center, for retreatants who may not be able to sleep in a bed.
- 3) An **electric plumber's snake**.



Br. Bob with countertop prototype

ROOM REMODEL UPDATE – We can see the barn!!

At the end of long days spent pulling heavy plows, weary horses heading homeward were known to perk up with a fresh burst of energy as their barn came in sight. They experienced extra enthusiasm/vigor when they knew their goal would soon be met.

We are at a point in our ambitious 2016 Annual Christmas Appeal where we can 'see the barn' on our goal of remodeling/updating our 58 guest rooms. Thus far we have been blessed with donations supporting the updating of 48 rooms, at a cost of roughly \$1,100 per room. Any amount of donation to this cause is helpful and appreciated. You may recall, if a particular donation covers the cost of updating an entire room (\$1,100) we are including a memorial plaque outside a room as a tribute to that donor or a loved one.

Please consider being a part of our final push to get the 'horses in the barn' and close the door on this campaign by contributing any amount today. We have the remodeling/updating scheduled for just six weeks off - the last week of July and the first week of August. Your contributions help ensure a welcoming, comforting, and prayerful environment for all retreatants at Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center.

Renovations in each room include: new drapes, mounted more to the sides to expose the entire scenic view outside, acrylic sink surrounded 'wall to wall' by laminate countertop, towel rack and space brightening light fixture.



TESTIMONIALS FROM 2017 Retreats

– *"The Labyrinth and map of the grounds is new. I will take with me - God is here, God is near."*

– *"Music was great, especially liked 'O Lord Hear my Prayer' and readings for night prayer."*

– *"The anointing helped to wash away bad memories which I kept stuffed down for 25 years. The memories wiped clear out of my mind once Fr. Jim anointed me."*

– *"Franciscans, you are gifted in creating ritual. I still treasure the image from a prior retreat of water being poured so beautifully from a crystal pitcher into a crystal bowl."*

– *"When I pull in the parking lot it is as if I can feel weight being lifted off me."*



Tiny World of Wonder

Our Chef Judy has created a delightful little world all taking place in a two by five foot space outside our dining room window. It's an example of miniature gardening – a combination of ceramic man-made items and tiny live growing things. Judy gathered the moss near her daughter's cabin. It's retreat center adventure you can experience without moving your feet!

Blessed Are Those with Eyes to See

by Bro. Bob Roddy, OFM Conv., Director



I had an unusual experience the other day in one of our local businesses. I was purchasing a couple of items and I made it through the checkout line quickly, but at no time did the sales person acknowledge me, except when he handed me my receipt. Instead of greeting me or asking, "How are you today, sir?" he conversed with a co-worker about their respective break times. Needless to say, I felt miffed about the encounter – or lack thereof. For all practical purposes, I was invisible to this young man.

Being recognized or acknowledged by another conveys the minimum amount of respect that we owe each other as creatures made in the image and likeness of God. As I took this situation into my time of prayer, I thought of the times that I had done something similar. How many times had I avoided contact with another person because I was finishing a task that was time-sensitive or I just didn't want to step outside of my comfort zone?

As I thought long and hard about this encounter, I remembered the many times that I would ride the bus with my maternal grandmother in Omaha. She could sit next to anyone and engage them in conversation, and by the time that she or the other person got up from their seat, she had made a new friend. I now wonder if those simple exchanges with her fellow travelers may have been the only conversation that these people experienced during their day.

Recently, Pope Francis surprised participants in a Vancouver TED conference (TED is an acronym for Technology Education and Design) with a pre-recorded address that called for a "revolution of tenderness." He went on to say: "Solidarity, however, is not an automatic mechanism. It cannot be programmed or controlled. It is a free response born from the heart of each and everyone. ... Let us help each other, all together, to remember that the other is not a statistic or a number. The other has a face. The 'you' is always a real presence, a person to take care of."

In the Gospel of Luke we read the story of two disciples meeting Jesus on the road to Emmaus, but they do not recognize him. As they walk together his words offer consolation to them in their sadness and disappointment. It is only when he breaks bread with them that "their eyes were opened, and they recognized him."

Perhaps all of us can reclaim the sacred art of recognizing and engaging one another, be it through a smile, or with a few words of interest or encouragement? These simple acts may make all the difference in the world. Blessed are those with eyes to see, and to recognize one another no matter how busy or preoccupied they might be.

We are blessed to often wrap up our calendar year on a high note. Some retreats do fill up. If you are considering setting time aside for a retreat this fall, now is an excellent time to sign up by calling the office or online at www.franciscanretreats.net. See the full retreat schedule in this newsletter.

Retreat Schedule January to December 2017

2017 Theme: *Finding the Missing Peace – Pathways to Prayer*

A Retreat for Everyone... Please pray for these retreats and consider joining us!

WEEKEND RETREATS 2017

January 13-15	Women's Weekend
February 3-5	Men's Retreat
February 10-12	Married Couple's Retreat
February 17-19	Women's Weekend
March 31- April 2	Married Couple's Retreat
April 7-9	Women's Weekend – Palm Sunday Retreat
April 13-15	Men's Holy Week Retreat
April 21-23	Women's Weekend
August 10-13	Silent Retreat
September 8-10	Prayer Shawl Retreat
September 15-17	Retreat for those in Grief
October 6-8	Women's Weekend
October 13-15	Women's Weekend
October 20-22	Men's Silent Weekend
October 27-29	Friends of Francis Retreat
November 3-5	Women's Weekend
December 1-3	Serenity/Recovery Retreat
December 8-10	Men's Weekend

MIDWEEK RETREATS 2017

January 17-19	Women's Midweek
April 25-27	Women's Midweek
May 16-18	Women's Midweek
June 13-15	Women's Midweek
September 12-14	Women's Midweek
October 3-5	Women's Midweek

DAYS OF PRAYER 2017 *(Thursdays)*

LENTEN	ADVENT
March 9	December 7
March 16	December 14
March 23	
March 30	

FRANCISCAN RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER

16385 Saint Francis Lane • Prior Lake, MN 55372-2220 • (952) 447-2182

www.FranciscanRetreats.net



www.youtube.com/user/franciscanretreats



www.facebook.com/franciscanretreatspriorlake

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



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Italian Sausage and Tomato Soup

Sauté in large pot:

- 1 Pound of Italian Sausage
 - 1 cup diced onions
 - 2 tablespoons minced garlic
 - 2 teaspoons Italian Seasoning
 - ½ tablespoon red pepper flakes (optional)
 - ½ tablespoon kosher salt
- Cook sausage until browned. Add rest of ingredients and cook 5 minutes.

Deglaze:

- ½ cup dry white wine - reduce until almost evaporated
 - 5 cups chicken broth
 - 2 cans diced tomatoes
 - 2 Tablespoons tomato paste
 - Orzo pasta or other small pasta
 - 2 cups fresh spinach
- Reduce wine until almost evaporated. Add broth and tomatoes and tomato paste and bring to boil and simmer 10 minutes. Add pasta and simmer another 10 minutes.
Stir in spinach.
Garnish with parmesan croutons (toast cubed baguette in olive oil in a saute pan or in oven until crisp and toss with parmesan cheese).



Judy Miller, Chef
Franciscan Retreats
and Spirituality Center