



Franciscan RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER

2010

Christmas Appeal

Last year's Christmas Appeal was an overwhelming success, and before the end of the year, we should have fulfilled all of the items on last year's wish list.

This year we would like to **1)** complete the custom-built desks for all the wings of the retreat center (\$4,180.00) and **2)** air-condition the four spiritual direction rooms (\$10,000.00).

We have already installed 20 of the desks for the retreat bedrooms, and they have been enthusiastically welcomed by the retreatants. The housekeeping staff like them as well. Currently, a standard desk will not fit the bedrooms with a full or queen-sized bed. We receive many suggestions about "how nice it would be to have a desk in the bedroom." The new desks will answer this request.

Often, the four spiritual direction rooms become quite warm in the Spring, Summer and Fall. These rooms are used by staff members even when we do not have an overnight retreat, and it would be a great help to cool them down. The units that we would purchase would have a heat pump in them, which would mean that they could also be used to heat the room without having to heat the entire wing.

Our goal is \$14,000.00. Extra monies raised would be put toward other improvements in the retreat facility.

Your generosity in the past has helped us to accomplish so much around the Retreat Center. It's especially heart-warming to hear comments from retreatants along the line of, "WOW, you've really spruced the place up." Anyone who has made a retreat here since June of 2007 has noticed the numerous improvements made both indoors and outdoors. If you have not made an overnight retreat in a few years, this might be a great time to come and check us out.

"May the Lord give you peace." St. Francis of Assisi



Our 2011 Retreat Theme:

Blessed Are Those Who **Do NOT** Have It **All Together**

While expectations are part of life, many of us are burdened with unrealistic expectations about ourselves, our families, our careers, and even our faith. The media surrounds us with images of picture-perfect families, workplaces that resemble Busby Berkley musicals, and self-help programs that promise us success, prosperity and certainty.

The Gospels reveal that Jesus reached out to those in need, to those who were struggling with life, those who had been given short shrift by society.

Jesus loses his patience with those who set themselves over and above others; those who are harsh and judgmental. (Think of the story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector praying in Luke 18:10 ff.)

Our retreat will examine some of the obstacles to a healthy spirituality, such as perfectionism and intolerance, and invite us to embrace some of the virtues of nurturing spirituality: humility, gratitude and forgiveness.

Changes to the Retreat Registration Process

One of the biggest challenges in maintaining a viable retreat program is enrollment. We need a minimum of 20 retreatants for our overnight retreats and we have noticed a disturbing trend of people signing up for a retreat and either canceling their reservation at the last minute, or not showing up at all. This practice becomes a problem when we have large numbers wishing to make a particular overnight retreat. When retreat registrations go over 56, we have to put people on a waiting list for a room, but by the time that a room opens up through a last minute cancellation, the person has made other plans, and cannot attend the retreat.

Other retreat centers in our area charge a non-refundable registration fee in order to cover the time it takes to process a retreat registration and prepare the retreatant's materials for the retreat. After much discussion with retreat captains and retreatants, we have decided that effective February 2011, we will be asking for a non-refundable registration fee to confirm one's space for a retreat.

We know that this is a major departure from our tradition of open registration, but other retreat centers ask for a registration fee when a person makes a retreat reservation, and we think that we need to do the same.

2011 Married Couples Retreat

Theme *Our Journey With Jesus*

We are pleased to announce that Pat and Terri O'Hara will be serving as the principal presenters for our 2011 Married Couples Retreats (February 11-13, April 1-3, and September 16-18). The theme for the Married Couples Retreats will be, *Our Journey With Jesus*, and will focus on the spirituality of marriage.

Pat & Terri O'Hara propose that married couples are blessed with a unique opportunity to experience the presence of Jesus in their marriage in a most intimate and joyous way. They believe that learning to recognize and draw from that Presence will strengthen a marriage.



Pat & Terri O'Hara

Nationally known in their ministry to the sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders for over 25 years, Pat and Terri are excited to bring their playful and passionate view of marriage and spirituality to married couples at Franciscan Retreat and Spirituality Center.

Pat and Terri have been married for 37 years and have four grown children and almost four grandchildren. They live in Shorewood, Illinois and are members of Holy Family Parish, in the Diocese of Joliet.

For more information about the retreat or to register for it, please visit our website: www.FranciscanRetreats.net or call 952-447-2182 for a brochure.

2011 Serenity Retreats Forgiveness and Reconciliation



Our Serenity Retreats for 2011 (May 13-15 and December 2-4) will be based on the themes of Forgiveness and Reconciliation. It is a subject that touches all of our lives every day. Allan Smith, will be serving as presenter. In Allan's presentations, there will many penetrating questions and he will challenge you as he questions and challenges himself. Participants will be doing Inner Work and will cover special topics like an actual method of forgiveness...powerful hints to make relationships more compatible plus others.

A Minnesota native, Allan spent the major part of his life as an advertising executive having owned and operated his own advertising agency. He then started a garment business that he operated until his retirement in 2004. He has delivered many presentations at Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center in the past years including one of the Serenity Retreats 9 years ago.

Volunteers Still Needed

We are still in need of a volunteer to care for the many plants in the Retreat Center. This job entails watering once a week, and some occasional fertilizing, trimming, and re-potting. (Even though Bro. Bob grew up on a farm, he has a reputation for being able to kill even silk flowers.) Some knowledge of plant care is needed in this role.

We are also in need of volunteers to assist us with retreat check in. This task includes giving the retreatants their folders, checking their names off the room and master lists, and welcoming the retreatants. We usually need someone from 2:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. the first day of a retreat. We provide a light supper from 5:30-6:00 p.m. If you are interested, please contact Bro. Bob at 952-447-2182 or Director@FranciscanRetreats.net.

In loving memory...

Bro. Louis Fouquette, OFM Conv., a longtime member of the Friary community was called home by Sister Death on October 9. Fr. Steve McMichael, OFM Conv., was with him. On October 14, we celebrated a funeral Mass in the Retreat Chapel and Bro. Louis' body was sent to Mt. St. Francis, Indiana for his burial at the Friars' Cemetery.



Bro. Louis was a native of Cleveland; after serving in WW II, he entered the Conventual Franciscan Friars in 1951 and professed first vows on September 9, 1952. Shortly after Solemn Profession in 1955, Bro. Louis requested to assist in the new mission of the friars in Zambia. Bro. Louis served in Zambia for thirty six years, where he supervised the construction of a number of major projects.

A shy and humble man, Bro. Louis could usually be found in one of two places: outdoors or in the Friars' Chapel. We can rest assured that he continues to lift us up in prayer in his heavenly home.

On Sunday, June 13, my dear Mom, **Catherine Sullivan Roddy**, was escorted by Sister Death into eternity. Mom was 91 years old and had been under Hospice Care since February. She was unofficially known as "The Hat Lady," of Nebraska City. Her late husband – my Dad – Mike Roddy Jr., was the love of her life, and together they had seven children, with a son preceding both of them in death. Next to Dad, her family was her greatest joy and she took great delight in gathering all of us together and cooking up a storm.



At her funeral Mass I mentioned that she suffered from heart trouble; the trouble being that she was always giving her heart away. She gave it to her family, to her church and her community, and she continues to give it through the lives of her children and grandchildren.

On September 26, **Leonard Reck**, 97, the father of our Administrative Assistant, **Jean Myers**, was called home to eternal life. In June, her mother-in-law **Rose Marie Myers**, was also called home to heaven.

On October 12, **James Goettl**, 80, the father of **Lauri Ryan**, who works in our kitchen, went home to God at his home in Prior Lake. On October 21, **Karen Ryan Liemandt**, the sister-in-law of Lauri Ryan, died suddenly from pulmonary fibrosis. Karen worked in the Retreat Center Kitchen in 2005.

*2010 has been a hard year for many of our retreat staff;
please keep them and their families in your prayers.*

Retreat Schedule January to December 2011

Blessed Are Those Who Do NOT Have It All Together

A Retreat for Everyone

Weekend Retreats

- January 7-9 Prayer Shawl Ministers
- January 14-16 Women's Weekend
- January 21-23 Women's Weekend
- February 4-6 Men's Weekend
- February 11-13 Married Couples
- February 25-27 Women's Weekend
- April 1-3 Married Couples
- April 15-16 Young Adult
- April 21-23 Men's Holy Week
- April 29-May 1 Women's Weekend
- May 13-15 Serenity AA & Al-Anon
- May 27-29 People With Disabilities
- June 18-24 Silent Directed Retreat
- August 11-14 Silent Weekend [note extended time]
- August 19-21 Women's Weekend
- September 9-11 Vocation Retreat
(for men interested in the Franciscan Community)
- September 16-18 Married Couples
- September 30-October 2 Women's Weekend
- October 7-9 Women's Weekend
- October 14-16 Women's Weekend
- October 28-30 Friends of Francis
- November 4-6 Women's Weekend
- November 10-13 Silent Weekend [note the extended time]
- December 2-4 Serenity AA & Al-Anon
- December 9-11 Men's Weekend with Archbishop Emeritus Harry J. Flynn

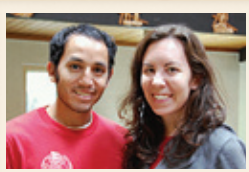
Midweek Retreats

- January 18-20 Women's Midweek
- April 26-28 Women's Midweek
- May 17-19 Women's Midweek
- June 14-16 Women's Midweek
- September 13-15 Women's Midweek
- September 20-22 Women's Midweek
- October 4-6 Women's Midweek
- October 18-20 Prayer Shawl Ministers

Days of Prayer for 2011

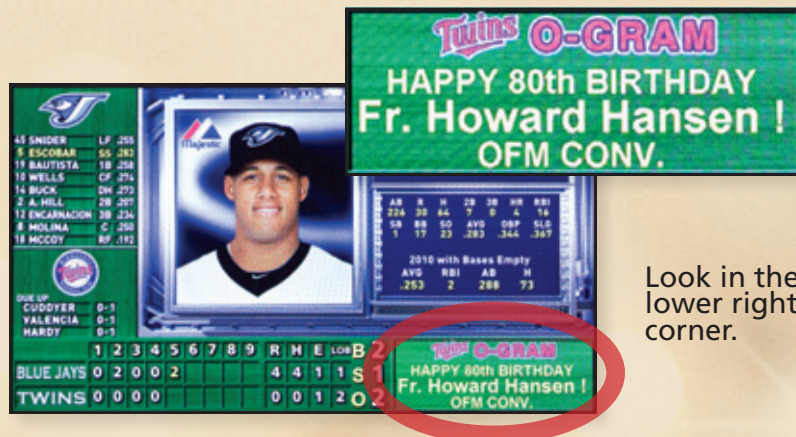
- Lenten Days of Prayer March 16, 23, 30, and April 6
- Advent Days Prayer November 30, December 7, 14

*As always, our schedule is subject to change



Happy 80th Birthday Fr. Howard

Fr. Howard's 80th birthday was on November 22, but to celebrate it in style, Fr. Howard, Bro. Bob, and Nancy Murzyn, attended a Twins game at the new Target Field on September 30th. (The good news – Fr. Howard loved the new stadium; the bad news was that the Twins lost.) During the fifth inning, birthday greetings were displayed on the main scoreboard.



Look in the lower right corner.