



Franciscan Retreats

Winter 2008

Franciscan International Award



On Thursday, May 8, 2008, Archbishop Harry J. Flynn will receive the Franciscan International Award at the Royal Cliff Banquet Center in Eagan, Minnesota.

A native of New York, Archbishop Flynn was born in Schenectady, New York in 1933. After receiving B.A. and M.A. degrees in English from Siena College in Loudonville, NY, he entered Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland and was ordained to the priesthood on May 28, 1960 in Albany, New York.

In the diocese of Albany, then Fr. Flynn served as an associate pastor, pastor, high school teacher, retreat leader, and spiritual leader in several assignments within the Albany diocese. He also served as the Dean, Vice-Rector, and Rector of Mount Saint Mary's Seminary from 1965 to 1979.

It was in the Albany diocese that then-Fr. Flynn taught a course in Spirituality at the major seminary, St. Anthony on Hudson, sponsored by the Conventual Franciscans of the Immaculate Conception Province. He also served as a pastoral supervisor for the friar students at St. Anthony on Hudson.

On June 24, 1986, he was ordained a bishop and became the Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana, until being named Coadjutor Archbishop for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis in Minnesota in February, 1994. On October 1, 1995, Archbishop Flynn succeeded Archbishop John Roach as head of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

His warm and affable nature, coupled with his fine mind have made him a great leader for the archdiocese. His weekly

50TH FRANCISCAN INTERNATIONAL AWARD DINNER

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2008

6:00 p.m. – Gathering with Social Hour

7:00 p.m. – Dinner

8:00 p.m. – Presentation of the Award

Royal Cliff Banquet Center
2280 Cliff Road, Eagan, MN 55122

DINNER TICKETS

Individual	\$ 50.00
Sponsor (2 tickets)	\$ 125.00
Patron (2 tickets)	\$ 250.00

To purchase tickets call 952-447-2182

Patrons and Sponsors are listed in the program

column in *The Catholic Spirit*, shows his interest in issues of Catholic Education and the faith formation of children, youth and adults.

Archbishop Flynn will be the 50th recipient of the Franciscan International Award; past recipients have included: Rev. Billy Graham (1972); Habitat for Humanity (1999); and Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, (2003). The award seeks to honor individuals or organizations that represent the ideals and spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.

We hope that you will be able to join us at this very special occasion to honor a genuine leader in the American Church. The Franciscan International Award Dinner is a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships with fellow retreatants and friars.

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

Director's Message

What's his picture doing on this page?
I thought that Fr. Jim Kent was director?

If you are confused by this turn of events, let me explain. What has happened here at Franciscan Retreats and St. Joseph Cupertino Friary in the past few months is an example of the old saying, "We propose, but God disposes." Actually, what has transpired here has been a good witness of our Franciscan Vow of Obedience.

In September, 2007, shortly after Fr. Jim arrived here at Franciscan Retreats, he received a call from our then-Minister Provincial, Fr. Peter Damian Massengill. Fr. Peter Damian had been asked by our new Minister General, Fr. Marco Tasca, to assume a position in our General Administration in Rome. In order to do this, Fr. Peter Damian would have to resign as Minister Provincial. According to our Constitutions, if the Minister Provincial resigns or dies while in office, the Vicar Provincial fills out the remainder of his term. Fr. Jim Kent, besides being Retreat Director of Franciscan Retreats and Guardian of St. Joseph Cupertino Friary, is also the Vicar Provincial of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation.

In mid-October, Fr. Peter Damian was elected to his new post in Rome and on November 4 he resigned as Minister Provincial, with Fr. Jim Kent taking over leadership of the province as Vicar Provincial. On November 5, in consultation with his Definitory, Fr. Jim asked Bro. Bob Roddy to assume the position of Director of Retreats at Franciscan Retreats. At that same meeting, Fr. Steve McMichael, was appointed as Guardian of St. Joseph Cupertino Friary.

As I said earlier, the events of the last few months serve as a concrete witness of our vow of obedience, a vow that often entails a great deal of sacrifice. The Latin word from which our word for "obedience" derives, means "to listen." When our friars from all over the world gathered in Assisi in May of 2007, they listened to their hearts, to the voice of the Holy Spirit, and they elected a new Minister General, Fr. Marco Tasca, OFM Conv, of Padua. Fr. Marco was serving as provincial of his province. Fr. Marco listened to the friars, to his own heart and to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and asked Fr. Peter Damian to assume the position of Guardian of SS. Apostoli Friary in Rome. In turn,



“As I said in a previous newsletter, change is something that can be very challenging or painful to embrace, but it provides us with many opportunities for growth and for new direction.”

Bro. Bob Roddy, OFM Conv.

Fr. Peter Damian had to listen to the movement of the Holy Spirit and his own heart as he responded to this call from beyond his own province. Fr. Jim, in turn, was called to fulfill a little-used, but very real obligation of his office as Vicar Provincial, to assume the leadership role of the province if the minister provincial cannot fulfill his duties through death, illness or resignation. Finally, I had to listen to the many voices of retreatants, staff and friars as well as the call of the Holy Spirit, as I realized that I was now needed as Director. The responses of all of these friars: Friar Marco, Friar Peter Damian, Friar Jim and myself, have all called upon us – and those around us – to make sacrifices to serve a higher calling. Sacrifice is an essential element of our lives as friars; it is essential to life of any disciple of Jesus.

As I said in a previous newsletter, change is something that can be very challenging or painful to embrace, but it provides us with many opportunities for growth and for new direction. **Fr. Steve McMichael, OFM Conv.**, who began his journey to the Franciscans here at Franciscan Retreats, will now come full-circle, and assist in sacramental ministry here. **Bro. John Bamman, OFM Conv.**, a friar in his third year of temporary vows, is completing studies for the priesthood at Saint Paul School of Divinity in Saint Paul, and he has been helping us with retreat programs. **Fr. Howard** continues his dedicated ministry to all retreatants through the sacraments and through his love of music. We are also blessed in the return of **Terri Mifek** to our preaching staff and to **Val Zweber**, who joins our staff as our Facilities Manager.

We are saddened to see Fr. Jim depart, but we know that Franciscan Retreats will continue to offer opportunities for spiritual growth, rest and renewal to all who wish a deeper relationship with God and neighbor. If you have not made a retreat in awhile, then maybe this is the time for you to "come and see." I think that you will be glad that you did!

New Faces at Franciscan Retreats

Fr. Steve McMichael, OFM Conv., is the new Guardian of St. Joseph Cupertino Friary. Fr. Steve is no stranger to Franciscan Retreats; he began his journey with the Franciscans here in the mid-1970s.

A native of Minnetonka, and a son of St. Therese Parish, Fr. Steve is an Assistant Professor at the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Fr. Steve also leads pilgrimage groups with the Franciscan Pilgrimage program.

Fr. Steve has a strong interest in interfaith dialogue, especially among Christians, Jews and Muslims.

He is an avid Hockey Fan, and makes a mean corndog.



On January 15th, we welcomed Terri Mifek back to Franciscan Retreats as one of our preaching staff. Terri is a Certified Spiritual Director who was a member of the retreat team in 1999 and 2000.

She enjoys sharing her experiences through writing and is a regular contributor to *Living Faith Daily Catholic Devotions*, as well as *The Catholic Spirit*, the archdiocesan newspaper for the Saint Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese.

In her spare time Terri likes long walks in nature, gardening, ice skating, good books and traveling. Her three young grandchildren help her remember what is important in life and her three grown daughters as well as her husband of thirty seven years keep her laughing and growing.

Val Zweber, a long-time volunteer at Franciscan Retreats, has agreed to become Facilities Manager for the building and grounds. Val serves on our Board of Directors and has assisted in the care of many areas, especially the grounds, at Franciscan Retreats. Val and his wife, Loretta, make their home in Prior Lake.



ANNUAL APPEAL

Our annual appeal for new bedroom chairs has garnered \$8,090.00. Bro. Bob will begin looking into various styles of chairs to find a comfortable and convenient model for the bedrooms. Thanks to all who gave so generously to this appeal.

WISH LIST

Besides new chairs for the bedrooms, here are some items for which we are also seeking assistance.

- New Carpeting for the Retreat Bedrooms
- New Mattresses and box springs for the Twin beds
- New Chairs for the Marian Lounge
- New Lamps for the Retreat Bedrooms
- New Drapes for the Retreat Bedrooms
- New Tables and Chairs for the Retreat Dining Room
- A New Ice Machine
- A commercial-grade refrigerator for the kitchen

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in contributing to one or more of these projects, please contact Bro. Bob, 952-447-2182.

Serenity Retreat, May 16-18, 2008

Retreat Theme:

“Serenity: To Be or Not To Be”

presented by Sister Linda Fischer, ASC

As people in recovery we will interactively look at our lives from the perspective of serenity.

The Spirituality of the 12 Steps as well as the Serenity Prayer will be the basis for this program. Some key topics covered will be:

- What is true serenity?
- Is true serenity attainable?
- Is true serenity attainable to us in recovery?
- What must I do, change, or keep in my life to attain or retain true serenity?

Sr. Linda Fischer, ASC, is a professed member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ located in Columbia, PA. She graduated from Alvernia College in Reading, PA with a degree in Theology. All of her electives were in the field of Addictions. Sr. Linda feels she has a lot to share because of her own journey towards wholeness in dealing with her own addiction. “It is such a privilege and a blessing to be able to do this work – I definitely receive every bit as much as I give.”



REDESIGNED WEBSITE

Hopefully, by the time that you read this, our re-designed website will be up and running. With the help of Webaloo, a web-design company in Stillwater, MN, we will have a new, more user-friendly look to the site.

The new site will utilize software that will make it easy to make necessary changes, add new content and keep our friends informed about the happenings at Franciscan Retreats. We will be able to post and edit our retreat calendar, Fr. Howard's daily homilies, recommended reading, and new content as the site grows.

One feature that will be most helpful will be an online newsletter which can be assembled and distributed via e-mail. While we will continue to print a paper newsletter for those who do not use or own a computer, we should be able to make the printed newsletter available in *.pdf format for those who do use the internet and e-mail. The printed newsletter will be in addition to the web newsletter, which will allow us to keep you abreast of what is happening at Franciscan Retreats on a more frequent basis. As of this writing, I am not sure how often the web newsletter will come out, but once I am trained in the use of the software—and I get the hang of my new digital camera—I hope that I can make something available on a more frequent basis than the quarterly newsletter.

The web address will remain the same:
www.FranciscanRetreats.net



RETREAT SCHEDULE

February to December 2008

2008

Theme:
Francis of Assisi: *Finding Peace in An Uncertain World*

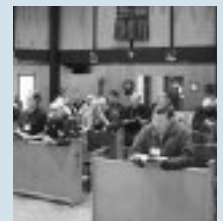
Please pray for these retreats, and think about joining us.

WEEKEND RETREATS

March 7-9	Women's Weekend
March 20-22	Men's Holy Week
April 11-13	Married Couples
April 18-20	Women's Weekend
May 16-18	Serenity Weekend for members of AA and Al-Anon
May 23-25	People with disabilities
Aug 15-17	Quiet Weekend (for Men and Women)
Aug 22-24	Women's Weekend
Sept 12-14	Women's Weekend
Sept 19-21	Married Couples
Oct 3-5	Women's Weekend
Oct 10-12	Women's Weekend
Oct 17-19	Women's Weekend
Oct 31-Nov 2	Friends of Francis Weekend (Men and Women) for SFO's and those with a devotion to St. Francis of Assisi.
Nov 7-9	Women's Weekend
Nov 14-16	Quiet Weekend (for Men and Women)
Dec 5-7	Serenity Weekend for members of AA and Al-Anon
Dec 12-14	Men's Weekend
Dec 19-21	Family Weekend

MIDWEEK RETREATS

April 1-3	Women's Midweek
April 22-24	Women's Midweek
May 13-15	Women's Midweek
June 17-19	Women's Midweek
Sept 9-11	Women's Midweek
Sept 23-25	Women's Midweek
Sept 30-Oct 2	Women's Midweek
Oct 7-9	Women's Midweek





Franciscan Retreats

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Second Annual Prayer Shawl Ministers Retreat Doubles in Size

During the weekend of January 4-6 at Franciscan Retreat the familiar sound of needles clicking against each other, of yarn being pulled through a loop by a crochet hook and of scissors snipping fleece were heard as thirty one women gathered for our second annual retreat for Prayer Shawl Ministers.

Our numbers doubled this year, with many retreatants inviting other prayer shawl ministers to come and join them for the weekend. (We had one retreatant come from as far as Illinois to be with us!) The sight and the sound of 31 ladies knitting, crocheting or working in fleece was truly uplifting for both the retreatants and the presenters alike. Each retreatant was doing her particular form of making the prayer shawl, but it was very apparent that they were **praying** as they created these prayer shawls. Corrine Kindschy and Bro. Bob Roddy served as retreat presenters with Frs. Howard and Jim [it was his last retreat to work with us] serving in sacramental ministry. Chris Martin, served as Music Minister for the weekend.



Visit us on the web at www.FranciscanRetreats.net