

NEUMANN INSTITUTE NEWS
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University-wide Theme for 2011-2012

Live the Truth in Love: Service

This year's theme highlights the Neumann University motto found on the university seal (Veritas - Caritas) ***Live the Truth in Love*** and the core value of **Service**. We will highlight this theme in the Prayer Service on Welcome Back Day, August 24. Our keynote speaker for the day, Brother Ed Coughlin, OFM from St. Bonaventure University will reflect with us on *Service in the Franciscan Tradition*.

As an extension of our theme, we encourage everyone to participate in a service experience with one of Neumann's community partners or with a church or community group of your choosing. During our half-days of reflection we will reflect on service in light of our Catholic Franciscan heritage.

Mass of the Holy Spirit

It is customary for Catholic colleges and universities to begin the academic year with a special Mass asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our Mass of the Holy Spirit will be held in Our Lady of Angels Chapel on Thursday, September 1 at 11 AM. After Mass we invite you to join in a Picnic. As has become our tradition we invite faculty, staff, and administrators to serve our students during the picnic.

Neumann University all campus Days of Reflection

For the past three years we have provided an opportunity for all employees to participate in a full or half-day of reflection. We continue this practice this year with 12 half-days of reflection. During these days, we will reflect on our University value of Service in light of the Catholic Franciscan tradition.

Please consider participating in one of the following reflection opportunities:

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011 from 12:00-3:00	outdoors on Motherhouse grounds**
Thursday, October 27, 2011 from 9:00-12:00	President's Suite in Mirenda Center
Friday, December 2, 2011 from 9:00-12:00	President's Suite in Mirenda Center
Monday, January 30, 2012 from 12:00-3:00	Franciscan Spiritual Center in OLA
Thursday, February 14, 2012 from 12:00-3:00	Franciscan Spiritual Center in OLA
Monday, March 12, 2012 from 9:00-12:00	President's Suite in Mirenda Center
Wednesday, March 28, 2012 from 12:00-3:00	Franciscan Spiritual Center in OLA
Thursday, April 17, 2012 from 9 to 12:00	Franciscan Spiritual Center in OLA
Friday, April 20, 2012 from 12:00-3:00	President's Suite in Mirenda Center
Monday, May 7, 2012 from 12:00-3:00	Franciscan Spiritual Center in OLA
Tuesday, May 22, 2012 from 12:00-3:00	President's Suite in Mirenda Center

Friday, June 1, 2012 from 12:00-3:00 outdoors on Motherhouse grounds**
**If there is inclement weather these will be held in St. Joseph Room in OLA Convent.

Breakfast will be provided at the Morning sessions.
Lunch will be provided at the Afternoon sessions.

To register for a Day of Reflection, please call or e-mail Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy
mccarthm@neumann.edu or 610-358-4270.

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and Francis Week Celebrations

On every Franciscan campus, October includes special celebrations connected with the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. On the afternoon of October 2 at 4 PM, we invite you to gather with your pets in St. John Neumann Circle for the Blessing of the Animals. On the evening of October 3 at 7PM, we are invited to join the Sisters of Saint Francis in celebrating the Transitus of St. Francis. This ritual commemorates Francis's passage into eternal life. We will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis on Tuesday, October 4, with a Morning Prayer Service at 8:30 AM in the RAB Lobby and with Mass at noon.

On Friday, October 7, the Care for Creation Committee and the SEA Club (Students for Environmental Awareness) will sponsor a special presentation entitled *Around the World in 90 Minutes*. One part lecture, one part theater, one part slide show, one part comedy—*Around the World in 90 Minutes* is loosely based on the multi-award-winning book, *Cool Creatures, Hot Planet: Exploring the Seven Continents*. It features exhilarating adventures and stunning photographs from each of the seven continents, plus Central America. Topics covered include endangered species, new scientific discoveries, and the need to protect our environment. Seating will be limited so watch for details in the next weeks.

The Bock Book Award will take place on Wednesday, October 5, in the Neumann University Library. We will develop the theme of this year's award-winning book by promoting the importance of planting trees. Look for more details in the coming weeks.

In conjunction with our celebration of St. Francis, we will introduce a new initiative entitled *Sustainability and Catholic Higher Education: A Toolkit for Mission Integration*. This publication offers practical ways for all members of the campus community to respond to the Gospel call to be good stewards of the environment. The document has been endorsed by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities, the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Look for specific details about each event in the coming weeks.

Spirit of Assisi 25th Anniversary Celebration

On October 27, 1986, Pope John Paul II invited religious leaders from all faith traditions to join him in Assisi to pray and fast on behalf of world peace. On the 25th anniversary of this historic event, Pope Benedict XVI is inviting religious leaders and women and men of good will to gather with him in Assisi to pray for peace. The theme of the celebration is *Pilgrims of truth, pilgrims of peace*. Franciscans around the world are joining in solidarity with this pilgrimage for peace. As a Catholic university in the Franciscan tradition, we will commemorate this event with a special Mass at noon and a candlelight prayer service at 8 PM. For additional information about the Spirit of Assisi celebration please visit <http://spiritodiassisi.wordpress.com/english/>

200th Anniversary of the Birth of St. John Neumann

The celebration for the 200th anniversary of the birth of St. John Neumann continues with many events planned for the coming months. To learn more about the patron of our University and the activities which will take place during the coming months please visit <http://redemptorists.net/neumann/>

800th Anniversary of the Founding of the Second Franciscan Order by St. Clare of Assisi

From April 16, 2011 through August 11, 2012, Poor Clare Sisters throughout the world are celebrating the foundation of their way of life by St. Clare of Assisi. This anniversary is a fitting time for us to highlight the life, mission, and spirituality of this First Franciscan Woman. We will do so with a number of activities during the Spring semester. On February 15 at 8:30 AM in the Assisi Room, Dr. Eileen Flanagan will share a basic introduction to the life of St. Clare. On February 27, we will host a dinner and evening of reflection at the Franciscan Spiritual Center. Dr. Eileen Flanagan will share *Celebrating Clare of Assisi: Her differing roles in the tradition that bears her name*. On March 20, in the Franciscan Spiritual Center we will again enjoy a dinner and evening of reflection featuring Dr. John Kruse presenting *The Embrace of Radical Poverty: Clare of Assisi's Unconventional Response to a World of Violence*.

To close the Clare Fest celebration we will welcome Father Murray Bodo, OFM who will present at 11 AM in the Mirenda Center. Father Murray will also offer *A Day with Francis and Clare of Assisi* at the Franciscan Spiritual Center on Saturday, May 5 (10 AM to 3 PM). The NIFS will fund participation for Neumann faculty and students in the May 5 program. We recognize that Father Murray's presentations occur at the end of the year. However, he spends several months per year in Assisi and these are the only dates that he was able to visit us. Father Murray spent several days at Neumann in 2007 and was well received. Therefore, we decided to offer this opportunity to hear his insights into Clare of Assisi!

Additional Events sponsored by the Office of Mission and Ministry and the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies

A Highlight of Advent is our celebration of Greccio, commemorating the first Live Nativity initiated by St. Francis of Assisi. Our Greccio celebration will be Sunday evening, December 4 at 6:30 PM.

Our Advent Dinner and Evening of Reflection will take place on Thursday, December 8, 2011 with dinner and a presentation by Father Anthony Ciorra, Assistant Vice President for Mission and Catholic Identity at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT.

During Lent 2012 we will continue the tradition of a weekly *Soup and Sharing*. Our focus will be Care of Creation.

Online Certificate in Franciscan Studies

In 2007 the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities launched an online certificate program in Franciscan Studies. Now in its fourth year, the 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, and
- ❖ Strengthen students' relationship with Franciscan History, Tradition, Art and Literature

Sr. Margaret Klotz of Cardinal Stritch teaches the program which is “housed” at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, IL. The program consists of four courses, each four weeks in length. The 2011-2012 schedule includes:

One: Understanding Franciscan Origins & Values I	Sept. 26 - Oct. 21, 2011
Two: Understanding Franciscan Origins & Values II	Oct. 24 - Nov. 18, 2011
Three: Franciscan Spirituality and Evangelical Life	Jan. 9 - Feb. 3, 2012
Four: Franciscan Tradition in Art and Literature	Feb. 6 - March 5, 2012

In the past Dr. Bryce Johnson, Vincent Riley, Stephanie Taylor, and Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy have participated in the program. If you wish to enroll in the program, please contact Sr. Pat Hutchison as soon as possible.

AFCU 2012 Symposium, June 12-15, 2012

The 2012 AFCU symposium will take place at Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI. The theme is Franciscan Leadership. Information about the symposium and the Call for Papers is available at <http://www.viterbo.edu/AFCU2012/>

The NIFS is developing an application form to support the attendance of Neumann personnel at this symposium. If you plan to submit a proposal for a presentation at the symposium, please notify Sr. Pat Hutchison.

Resources on our Identity as Catholic in the Franciscan Tradition

The Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies is continually expanding our library of print and media resources related to our mission as a Catholic university in the Franciscan Tradition. Visit the Mission and Ministry and Neumann Institute websites for more information or call or visit the NIFS office to borrow a CD or DVD. Be sure to review the recently created index of AFCU Journal articles at <http://libguides.neumann.edu/content.php?pid=218203>
Consider discussing an article or DVD at a division or department meeting!

Spirituality and the College Student

In 2003, the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA initiated a large scale multi-year study of spiritual development and college students. According to the researchers the findings of the study “provide a powerful argument for the proposition that higher education should attend more to students’ spiritual development, *because spirituality is essential to students’ lives.*” A summary of the Key Findings of the study may be found in this brochure

[http://spirituality.ucla.edu/docs/Brochures/Key%20Findings%20Brochure%20\(March%202010\).pdf](http://spirituality.ucla.edu/docs/Brochures/Key%20Findings%20Brochure%20(March%202010).pdf)

A second document describing *Promising Practices* is available as a free download at <http://spirituality.ucla.edu/publications/promising-practices/default.php>

This publication suggests ways to support the spiritual development of students through both curricular and co-curricular activities. Neumann University is highlighted in the publication!

Additional articles with a variety of concrete suggestions are available at <http://spirituality.ucla.edu/publications/newsletters/>

2010-2011 Days of reflection

Summary of the Day

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the Mission and Ministry Office and Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies offered nine days of reflection for members of administration, faculty and staff (September 30; November 8, 10, 2010; January 5, 25; February 10, 14, 22, 28, 2011). A total of 179 employees (92 staff members; 54 out of **100** full and part-time faculty; 33 out of **53** members of the University Management Team) attended these reflection days which began at 9:00 AM and ended at approximately 3:30 PM. The reflection days took place at the Franciscan Spiritual Center located in the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. The goals for the day were to:

- ❖ Celebrate the gifts of all who minister at Neumann
- ❖ Express gratitude for the many ways each person promotes our mission
- ❖ Deepen our understanding of what it means to be a Catholic institution in the Franciscan tradition

- ❖ Explore the meaning of the Neumann University motto (Live the Truth in Love) and two of the values (Reverence and Integrity)
- ❖ Reflect on the impact of Neumann's mission and values on our graduates.

Each day included an opening and closing prayer service based on the University motto and the values of Reverence and Integrity. The morning session used components of the program *God's Extravagant Love* to examine the meaning of the dignity of the human person in the Catholic Franciscan tradition. This session highlighted the meaning of the University value of Reverence and three of the University brand promises: *uniquely personal, inspiring, Catholic and Franciscan*. The afternoon session included a presentation of research on college students and spirituality and students' desire to reflect upon meaning and purpose in life. This session also included a panel of two graduates (and in one case a current student) who reflected on their experience of Neumann's mission and values and the experiences inside and outside the classroom which promote the values. The afternoon closed with a re-commitment to the mission and values of Neumann University and then afternoon tea.

Evaluations

Most helpful part of the day

When asked to identify the most significant parts of the day, participants mentioned:

- ❖ Graduate sharing (40 responses)
- ❖ Presentations and discussions on the dignity of the human person and the implications for Neumann (29)
- ❖ Insights into the life and spirituality of Francis and Clare of Assisi (20)
- ❖ Time for reflection (16)
- ❖ Presentation by Brother Bill Short OFM – DVD (15)
- ❖ Reading of book *On the Night You Were Born* (15)
- ❖ Slide and musical reflections (13)
- ❖ Discussions with colleagues (8)
- ❖ Tour of the building and insights into the history of the Sisters of St. Francis (5)

Least helpful part of the day of reflection

When asked to comment on what they found least helpful, 61 respondents stated that everything was helpful. Seven respondents found the table discussions least helpful. Six individuals mentioned the DVD of Brother Bill Short. Five participants did not find the graduate panel helpful.

What would have made the day more valuable

In reply to a question about what would have made the day more valuable, 25 individuals said that they would not change anything. Twelve participants offered suggestions to improve the table sharing opportunities; most would have appreciated more time for

discussion. Several comments included recommendations for changes to the schedule: a later start, two half days with one each semester, or only a half day of reflection. There were also several suggestions about including current students and guests from other Franciscan institutions on the panel.

Several participants offered specific recommendations, including:

- ❖ Scheduling opportunities for administrators, faculty and staff to engage together in service
- ❖ Providing a guided tour with reflection on the meaning of various places in the convent building
- ❖ Sharing the meaning of additional stories of Francis and Clare
- ❖ Providing ideas for incorporating mission and values into specific courses
- ❖ Providing a bibliography and on-line resources

Suggested actions

When asked what actions they would take as a result of attending the day of reflection, participants offered several examples, including:

- ❖ Learn more about the research related to spirituality and the college student
- ❖ Create times for reflection in the classroom
- ❖ Create a classroom atmosphere which encourages students to share their thoughts and questions
- ❖ Recognize and reverence the uniqueness and dignity of colleagues and students
- ❖ Be more present and engaging with students by participating in student activities
- ❖ Commit to personal time and space for reflection

Additional Comments

Participants offered several additional comments such as:

- ❖ Gratitude for the day (35 responses)
- ❖ Appreciation for the panel with suggestions that future panels include current students
- ❖ Suggestions of discussions on current topics and the application of Franciscan values (e.g. how to live non-violently in a violent world)
- ❖ Recommendation to provide additional opportunities for students to experience days of reflection (specific recommendations for incorporating days of reflection into the First Year Experience and into Senior Capstone experiences)

Actions taken as a result of the evaluations

In response to suggestions received the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies:

- ❖ Is offering all personnel the opportunity to participate in service experiences with Neumann's community partners during the 2011-2012 academic year
- ❖ Will rotate the yearly day of reflection as a full or half-day

- ❖ Will offer a half-day of reflection during 2011-2012
- ❖ Will invite current students to reflect on their experience of service during the half days of reflection
- ❖ Is preparing a *Heritage Walk*, highlighting all the sacred spaces inside and outside the University and Motherhouse buildings
- ❖ Conducted evenings of reflection for Senior Seminars in Humanities and Education during April 2011, August 2011, and scheduled for October 2011
- ❖ Developed an index (according to topic and discipline) of articles in all past issues of the AFCU Journal <http://libguides.neumann.edu/content.php?pid=218203>

Peace and All Good as we begin another academic year!

Patricia Hutchison, OSF, Ed.D.