

NEUMANN INSTITUTE NEWS

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University-wide Theme for 2013-2014

Live the Truth in Love: Stewardship

At Neumann University we live the value of *Stewardship* by receiving gratefully, using carefully, and sharing generously the resources available to us; caring for creation as a sacred Gift from God; and promoting Catholic Social Teaching by working for peace with justice. We will begin the year on Welcome Back Day, August 21, with a prayer process which invites us to reflection and conversation on this value.

Throughout the year, we will offer multiple opportunities to explore the three components of this value. These experiences are described in detail in this newsletter and flyers are posted in the Program section of the NIFS website. We invite you to attend at least one of the half days of reflection and another program of your choice. We have designed a variety of programs in response to the evaluations we received this past year.

We also encourage you to integrate the value of *Stewardship* into your work, your personal life, and your teaching as appropriate. Please visit the NIFS website or contact the NIFS office for practical resources.



CORE Focus for 2013-2014

This year the assessment for the newly revised undergraduate Core program will focus on learning outcomes related to Contemplation (Engage in meaningful reflection) and Conscience (Act ethically and responsibly). Promoting these learning outcomes is essential in graduate, as well as undergraduate programs.

“Engaging in meaningful reflection” and “Acting ethically and responsibly” also applies to our personal lives, our work, and all aspects of student life. Research suggests that students want to take time for reflection, discuss with others questions of life’s purpose and meaning, and share the ethical challenges and dilemmas they face. How might you support and promote Contemplation and the formation of Conscience among our students through your work and teaching?

Mass of the Holy Spirit

August 29, 2013

Catholic colleges and universities traditionally begin the academic year with a special Mass asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our Mass of the Holy Spirit will be celebrated in Our Lady of Angels Chapel on Thursday, August 29 at 11:00 AM. After Mass we invite you to join in a Picnic. We invite faculty, staff, and administrators to assist in serving lunch to our students as a concrete expression of our value of *Service*.

International Day of Peace

September 21, 2013

In 1981, the United Nations passed a resolution to establish an International Day of Peace. In 2002 the UN General Assembly officially declared September 21 as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace. In the past Neumann has celebrated this day with a prayer service. In solidarity with colleges around the world, Neumann students have committed themselves to commemorate this day. The NIFS is happy to support the student efforts to mark this special day. Watch for additional information!

Table of Contents

Feast of St. Francis	p.2
Programs at Franciscan Spiritual Center	p.3
Breakfast Presentations	p.4
Half Days of Reflection	pp.5-6
2014 AFCU Symposium	p.7
Pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome	p.7
Greccio	p.7
Advent & Lent Evenings of Reflection	p.8
Mini Sessions for Faculty	p.9
Stewardship Resources	p.9
2012-2013 “Tea & Conversation” Summary	pp.9-10

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi & Francis Week Celebrations

On every Franciscan campus, October includes special celebrations connected with the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. On the evening of October 3 at 7 PM, we invite you to join the Sisters of Saint Francis at OLA Chapel to celebrate the Transitus of St. Francis. This ritual commemorates Francis's passage into eternal life.

We will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis on Friday, October 4, with a Morning Prayer Service at 8:30 AM in the RAB Lobby and with Mass at noon in Sacred Heart Chapel.

On Sunday afternoon, October 6 at 4 PM, we invite you to gather with your pets in St. John Neumann Circle for the Blessing of the Animals.



The recipient of this year's **Bock Book Award** is *The Sandal Artist* by Kathleen Pelley. The date and time of the presentation will be announced when arrangements have been made with the winning author and illustrator.



Melting Ice, Mending Creation: A Catholic Approach to Climate Change

coordinated by Dr. Elaine Grose
October 3, 2013
9:45-11:00 AM
Room 315 BMB

Neumann University will join hundreds of other organizations participating in this year's

Feast of St. Francis program

sponsored by the

Catholic Coalition on Climate Change.

The program will highlight the Pontifical Academy of Science's Working Group (PAS) statement,

[Fate of Mountain Glaciers in the Anthropocene](#),

combined with viewing a

["TED" talk by James Balog](#),

the science photographer behind the documentary film *Chasing Ice*, who documented some of the most vivid evidence yet of climate change.

For more information go to:

<http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/feast-of-st-francis-2013/>



Programs at Franciscan Spiritual Center

Spirituality in Stone: Encountering Islam through the Taj Mahal September 27-28, 2013

Presented by Michael Calabria OFM,
from St. Bonaventure University

Built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan
(r.1628-58) as a mausoleum for his beloved wife
MumtazMahal, the Taj Mahal is
one of the most beautiful structures
ever constructed by human hands.

Although easily recognized by most people,
few know the Taj as a masterpiece of Islamic
architecture that is part of a large complex
and decorated throughout with numerous passages from
the Qur'an.

These texts provide the key to a deeper
understanding of the Taj's significance as a
monument of faith and spirituality.

This program provides a unique approach
to Islam and Islamic concepts of God, beauty, righteous-
ness, cosmology and eschatology
through this magnificent and timeless edifice.

The workshop begins Friday evening,
September 27, at 7 PM;
Saturday session is 10 to 3 with lunch included.
Liturgy at Our Lady of Angels begins at 4:30 PM for
those interested.



Registration Deadline: September 14, 2013

Consumerism and the Many Faces of Human Trafficking Saturday, October 12, 2013

Presented by
David Couturier OFM Cap.
from St. Bonaventure University

The annual symposium will probe the reality of human trafficking not only in the sex industry but behind the goods and services we purchase each day.

Presenters will examine our buying power and how our choices may put the most vulnerable at risk.

Keynote speaker Rev. David Couturier, OFM Cap will examine corporate human trafficking and explore consumer power and the supply chains of human trafficking.

The workshop runs from
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
Registration fee includes lunch.



Registration deadline is September 27, 2013.

NIFS will fund members of the Neumann University community who wish to attend
either of these programs. Advanced registration is required by the Center.
Please register with Sister Mary Ann at mccarthy@neumann.edu before the posted deadline.

Breakfast Presentations

Spirituality of Recycling

Presented by Richard Kern
& Dr. Elaine Grose

Friday, September 6, 2013
Thursday, January 23, 2014

8:30-9:30 AM
Assisi Room
BMB 314



Have you noticed the bright new trash and recycling containers throughout campus?

These containers are the result of lengthy discussions on the importance of consistency and visibility in our recycling efforts - a concrete way to care for God's gift of creation.

In this presentation, Dr. Elaine Grose will share the "spirituality" of recycling and Richard Kern will describe the practical aspects of this important practice.



Exploring Red Hill Farm

Presented by Joanne Rosenbaum
Red Hill Farm Educator
with Angela Kidder, Farm Manager

Monday, September 30, 2013
Tuesday, April 29, 2014

8:30-9:30 AM

Meet at Morgan Circle to travel to Red Hill Farm at 8:15 AM or go directly to Red Hill Farm and meet us there.



Red Hill Farm, owned by the Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia, is located on 183 acres of woodlands and meadows, some of the last undeveloped land of Delaware County. The farm is one of the sisters' many environmental initiatives. Red Hill Farm is a six-acre farm in its 14th year of production. It provides food for 120 members as well as for the Sisters of St. Francis.

<http://www.fromthefurrows.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.osfphila.org/red/what>



RSVP to mccarthm@neumann.edu at least one full week before the program you wish to attend.

Half Days of Reflection

Overview & Schedule

Creation and Incarnation: The Essential Connection

Thursday, October 24, 2013	AM	DHS
Monday, November 25, 2013	PM	FSC
Wednesday, January 29, 2014	AM	FSC
Tuesday, April 01, 2014	PM	FSC

Choose Life:

Self-Care as a Practice of Stewardship

Monday, October 21, 2013	PM	DHS
Wednesday, November 20, 2013	PM	DHS
Thursday, January 09, 2014	PM	FSC
Monday, March 24, 2014	PM	FSC

Catholic Social Teaching:

The Best Kept Secret

Wednesday, October 30, 2013	PM	DHS
Thursday, December 05, 2013	AM	FSC
Friday, February 28, 2014	AM	DHS
Wednesday, April 23, 2014	PM	DHS

PM = Lunch at noon; Program 12:30-3:30 pm

AM = Program 9:00-12:00; Lunch at noon

FSC = Franciscan Spiritual Center

DHS = Devine Hospitality Suite

To register, please call or e-mail Sr. Mary Ann
mccarthur@neumann.edu or 610-358-4270.

Please register at least one week before the scheduled date!

Creation and Incarnation: The Essential Connection

Sister Patricia Hutchison OSF

In the Franciscan tradition,
Incarnation (God becoming human)
and Creation are intimately connected.
This program will explore that relationship
through scripture;
the writings of Franciscan scholars,
Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis;
and the poetry of Mary Oliver, Gerard Manley
Hopkins and St. Francis of Assisi.

There will be time
for private reflection and sharing.

See schedule in left hand column.



Half Days of Reflection

Choose Life: Self-Care as a Practice of Stewardship

Presented by Sister Suzanne Mayer

The Native Americans have a saying passed down from ancient times:

The strength of a tree comes not from growing thicker in the good years when there is water, but from staying alive in the bad dry times.

In this time in which we focus on the virtue of Stewardship, one gift that we need to foster and treasure is the gift of our self, our inner life, our spirit of resiliency.

Using iconic models of resiliency, this presentation will look at how building on the strengths within ourselves and our community can help each of us to take better care of the person God calls us to be.

See schedule on page 5.



Catholic Social Teaching: The Best Kept Secret

Presented by Melissa Hickey

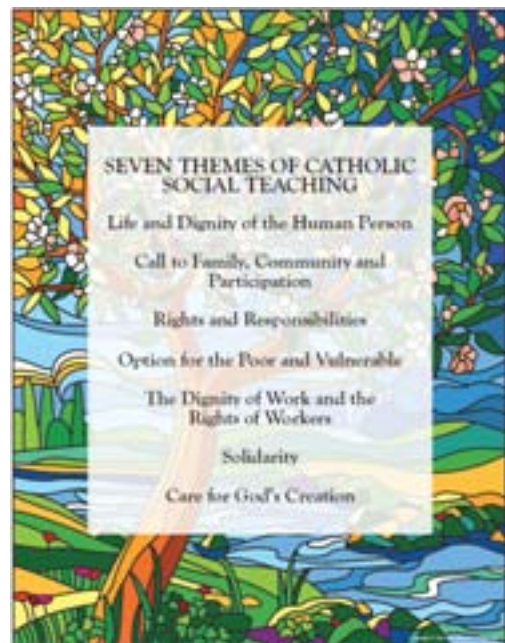
This presentation will assist you in understanding how interconnected and interdependent

we are with those around the world.

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure that is often forgotten amidst the challenges of modern society.

You will have an opportunity to reflect upon your own depth of participation as a "treasure" in God's Kingdom and also have a chance to explore the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church which recognize Social Justice as a "constitutive part of the Gospel".

See schedule on page 5.



A Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi for Faculty and Staff

Have you considered participating in the Rome-Assisi Pilgrimage with members of other Franciscan colleges and universities? Did you miss the deadline for last year's pilgrimage? For the past three years, Neumann University has supported faculty and staff participation in this life-changing event. If funds are available the University hopes to support additional faculty and staff members for the May 2014 pilgrimage. Watch for an invitation to apply for this experience in December.

Neumann University celebrates GRECCIO

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 8, 2013.

Mass will take place in Sacred Heart Chapel
at 4:30 PM, followed by the Greccio celebration on
the lawn in front of the Mirenda Center at 6:15 PM.

The Gospel Choir Concert will follow at 7:30 PM
in the Meagher Theater.



The Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities: Preparing for June 2014

**Neumann University will host the
2014 AFCU Symposium from June 3-5, 2014!**

The theme of the Symposium,
***Catholic in the Franciscan Tradition:
Formation, Integration, and Assessment,***
will offer something for everyone –
faculty, administrators, staff, coaches, and students.

Planning and Program committees have been
actively engaged in preparation for the Symposium
for over a year. As we begin the countdown to wel-
come to campus more than 200 faculty, staff, stu-
dents, and administrators from Franciscan Institu-
tions across the country, we will need a variety of
volunteers.



**If you would like to assist with the Symposium,
please contact Professor Jim Kain.**

We also encourage you to develop and submit a
proposal for a presentation at the Symposium.
For details, please visit the AFCU website:
[http://www.franciscancollegesuniversities.org/
symposium/call-for-papers](http://www.franciscancollegesuniversities.org/symposium/call-for-papers)

Advent Dinner & Evening of Reflection

“Prepare the Way”: The Landscape of Incarnation

Presented by
Sr. Clare Andrew D’Auria OSF

During this evening of reflection,
we will be invited to explore the terrain of Advent
and Isaiah’s annual invitation (40: 3-5)
to “prepare the way of the Lord” through the
deserts and valleys of our own life’s journey.

In the midst of our often hectic
and more familiar ways of planning for Christmas,
we will take time to stop
and listen to the prophet’s challenge
to search for and to find the
“glory of the Lord . . . revealed”
in whatever mall or mountain place
where we may find ourselves.

Franciscan Spiritual Center at
Our Lady of Angels Convent

Tuesday, December 10, 2013
Dinner at 5:30 PM
Program 6:30 - 8:00 PM



RSVP by Friday, November 30, 2013
to Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy, OSF
mccarthm@neumann.edu or 610-358-4270

Lenten Dinner & Evening of Reflection

Celtic Spirituality

Presented by
Carmel Boyle

You are invited to take a symbolic
pilgrimage of the heart to the sacred places
on your own soul’s journey.

This pilgrimage will be inspired by Celtic themes,
Celtic saints and sacred sites in Ireland.

It will be presented in a reflective atmosphere with
song, meditation, ritual and gentle movement.

Carmel Boyle will facilitate the evening.
Her evocative songs and healing voice have a
capacity to draw the listener into a sacred space within.

Franciscan Spiritual Center at
Our Lady of Angels Convent

Monday, March 10, 2014
Dinner 5:30 PM
Program 6:30 - 8:00 PM

*Homemade scones and
Irish Tea will be served
after the program.*



RSVP by February 28, 2014
to Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy, OSF
mccarthm@neumann.edu or 610-358-4270

Mini-Sessions for Faculty

In response to faculty focus groups and surveys, we will offer abbreviated sessions of the half days of reflection in September, October, and November. In February and April, new faculty members will participate in Mentoring for Mission programs.

Join with your colleagues as we gather in the Assisi Room BMB Room 314 for Luncheon Conversations related to various aspects of Stewardship.

Choose the day of the week that works best for you.

Mon 11:30-12:30	Tues 11:30-12:30
Wed 12:40-1:40	Thurs 1:00-2:00

	Dates	Topics
Sept.	16,17,19	Care of Self
Oct.	16,17	Care of Creation
Nov.	11,12,13,14	Catholic Social Teaching
Feb.	10,11,12,13	Mentoring for Mission III
April	7, 8, 9, 10	Mentoring for Mission IV

RSVP to Sister Mary Ann at least 10 days before each event at mccarthy@neumann.edu

Resources on Stewardship in the Catholic 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 Neumann Institute website
<http://www.neumann.edu/mission/nifs.asp>
for more information.

Visit the Francis & Clare Library (third floor of the library, Room 313) to borrow a CD or DVD, or call Sister Mary Ann (ext. 4270).

Be sure to review the recently created index of AFCU Journal articles at <http://libguides.neumann.edu/content.php?pid=218203>.

RISES Resources are available at <http://libguides.neumann.edu/RISES>



Consider discussing an article or DVD at a division or department meeting!

2012-2013

“Tea and Conversation Reflection” Afternoons

Summary of the Day

During the 2012-2013 academic year, the Mission and Ministry Office and Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies offered 12 opportunities for afternoon *Tea and Conversation*. A total of 132 employees (80 staff members; 34 faculty; 18 members of the University Management Team) participated in the experience at the Devine Hospitality Suite of the Miranda Center for Sport, Spirituality, and Character Development.

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 theme *Excellence in the Year of Faith*

A total of 79 participants returned evaluation forms.

Summary of Evaluations

Most helpful part of the day

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

- Personal reflection time (28)
- Large group sharing (18)
- DVD by David Whyte (25)
- Small group discussions (10)
- Interacting with Neumann personnel they do not usually meet (8)
- The silence and calm - the luxury of paying attention, the pleasure of listening to poetry, to pause and breathe.
- Remembering faith in an academic setting where often we lose ourselves in pedagogy and assessments.
- Reconnecting to philosophic ideas, sharing and the privilege of hearing.

Least helpful part of the day of reflection

- 15 people stated that all was helpful
- 3 people would prefer morning rather than afternoon
- 3 people did not like the DVD with David Whyte
- A few suggested that it would have been helpful to have quotes with discussion questions based on the DVD
- 3 participants felt the reflection time was too long

What would have made the day more valuable ?

- Two hours would have been more appropriate.
- A little more on David Whyte's background.
- Development of strategies for carrying out our real mission.
- Allow time to show video and then leave.
- Being in the Spiritual Center since there are two chapels for reflection. – 3 responses
- Have a live speaker so we could ask questions. Interact as a group instead of a film.
- Nothing. It was great. – 12 responses
- Better set up for small group discussion, for example: chairs facing each other and specific prompts to discuss.
- Page with outline of DVD.
- More time.
- Longer facilitated discussion.
- Some movement in order to participate more in the ideas and the spirit of the concepts presented.
- Room was cold; raise the temperature.
- Holding this earlier in the day.

- Greater participation among faculty.
- Having it more than once a year.
- Getting into small groups.
- More people at the event; other than that it was great.
- Make it an entire day.
- Seeing more of the video.
- I would like Sr. Pat to write down her wonderful closing remarks when we were lighting and holding candles.

Actions to promote Excellence in light of the Catholic Franciscan tradition

Most of the responses to this question mentioned:

- Bringing silence into life
- Taking time for personal reflection
- Slowing down
- Becoming a more reflective listener at home, at work, in the classroom
- Helping students to spend time in quiet and reflection
- Appreciating all the good things in life
- Learning to say "no"



Peace and All Good as we begin another academic year!

Sr. Patricia Hutchison, OSF

Patricia Hutchison, OSF, Ed.D.