

NEUMANN INSTITUTE NEWS

A Publication of the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies

Volume 17, Issue 1

August 2014



University-wide Theme for 2014-2015: *Live the Truth in Love: Reverence*

All creation comes from God as gift. With God as father and Jesus as brother, all women and men are sisters and brothers to one another and to the whole created universe. Loved unconditionally by God, we respect diversity in all forms and seek to reconcile divisions. We promote communications which are meaningful, honest, and inclusive and strive to build genuine community. At Neumann University we embrace three aspects of REVERENCE.

WE HONOR THE WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EACH PERSON.

***WE CELEBRATE OUR RELATIONSHIP AS SISTERS AND BROTHERS
WITH ONE ANOTHER AND ALL CREATION.***

WE CREATE A COMPASSIONATE, WELCOMING, AND RECONCILING COMMUNITY.

We will begin the year on Welcome Back Day, August 20, with a prayer process which invites us to begin reflection and conversation on this value.

Throughout the year, we will offer multiple opportunities to explore the three aspects of Reverence. These experiences are described below 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 at least one other program of your choice. We have designed a variety of programs to fit every schedule. In addition to the programs exploring different aspects of reverence, we are happy to support attendance at a number of programs offered at the Franciscan Spiritual Center.

We encourage you to integrate the value of Reverence into your work, your personal life, and your teaching as appropriate. Please visit the NIFS website or contact the NIFS office for practical resources. Sr. Marguerite and I welcome the opportunity to visit classes and meetings of clubs, teams, and departments to discuss the meaning of Reverence and practical strategies for bringing this value to life.

Peace and All Good as we begin another academic year!

Sr. Pat Hutchison, OSF

Mass of the Holy Spirit

August 28, 2014

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 28 at 11:30 a.m. 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*.

Table of Contents

Half Days of Reflection on Reverence	p.2
Mini Sessions on Reverence	p.2
Advent & Lent Evenings of Reflection	p.3
Francis & the Sultan—Discussion	p.4
Book Study	p.4
Programs at Franciscan Spiritual Center	pp.5-6
CORE Focus sessions	p.7
2014 AFCU Symposium and Journal	p.7
Feast of St. Francis	p.8
Bock Book Award	p.8
Greccio	p.8

Mission Programs for 2014—2015

Half Days of Reflection

4 half-days of reflection encompassing three aspects of Reverence with a focus on the Catholic Franciscan tradition and concrete ways of living out this value will be held in the Franciscan Spiritual Center on the following dates:

Thursday, October 9, 2014 from 9 to noon followed by lunch
Tuesday, November 4, 2014 beginning with lunch at noon and concluding at 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 28, 2015 from 9 to noon followed by lunch
Thursday, March 5, 2015 beginning with lunch at noon and concluding at 3:30 p.m.

Please register **at least two weeks before the program** by contacting Sr. Mary Ann at mccarthur@neumann.edu

Mini Sessions

3 mini-sessions offered Monday through Thursday in Assisi Room(BMB314) as follows:

Sept. 29 through October 2:

WE HONOR THE WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EACH PERSON.

Nov. 24-26:

WE CELEBRATE OUR RELATIONSHIP AS SISTERS AND BROTHERS WITH ONE ANOTHER AND ALL CREATION.

February 16-19:

WE CREATE A COMPASSIONATE, WELCOMING, AND RECONCILING COMMUNITY.

The same presentation will be repeated each day.

Monday from 11:30 to 12:30

Tuesday from 11:30 to 12:30

Wednesday from 12:40 to 1:40

Thursday from 1:00 to 2:00

Lunch will be provided.

Please register **at least two weeks before the program**

by contacting Sr. Mary Ann at mccarthur@neumann.edu



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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014
Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Program 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



RSVP by Friday, November 17, 2014
to Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy, OSF
mccarshm@neumann.edu or 610-358-4270

Lenten Dinner & Evening of Reflection

Forgiveness: Its Depths and Heights

Presented by
Sr. Suzanne Mayer ihm

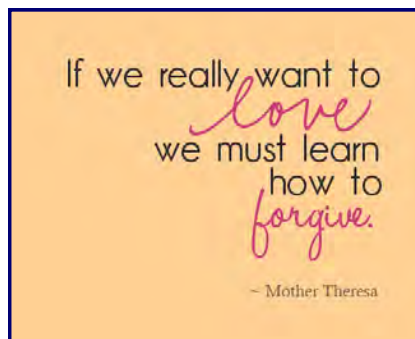
“Forgiveness is the name of love practiced among people who love poorly. The hard truth is that all people love poorly. We need to forgive and be forgiven every day, every hour increasingly. That is the great work of love among the fellowship of the weak that is the human family.”

— Henri J.M. Nouwen

Forgiveness is a practice emphasized by every religious tradition in the world, yet people find it so hard to forgive. Why? Why so important? How can we do it? What better time to look at the practice than in this season of Lent. S. Suzanne will reflect on the depths and heights of forgiveness and integrating the process into our lives. Sharing from stories and film, she will offer insights from great spiritual minds, everyday practitioners and some of the most recent research in the field.

Franciscan Spiritual Center at
Our Lady of Angels Convent

Monday, March 30, 2015
Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Program 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



RSVP by March 13, 2015
to Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy, OSF
mccarshm@neumann.edu or 610-358-4270

Film and Discussion on *In the Footprints of Francis and the Sultan: A Model for Peacemaking*

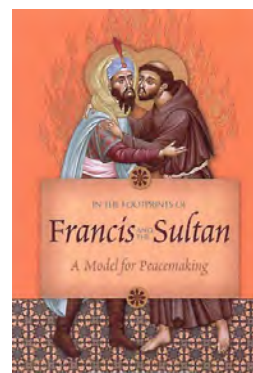
We will be using the DVD by Kathy Warren, OSF for our discussion of *In the Footprints of Francis and the Sultan: A Model for Peacemaking*.

October 21, 2014 from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in the Assisi Room (BMB314)

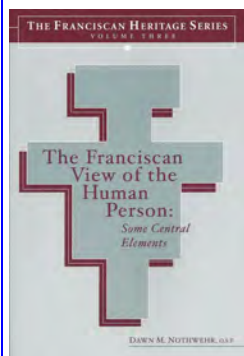
March 19, 2015 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Assisi Room (BMB314)

Please register at least two weeks before the program by contacting Sr. Mary Ann at mccarthur@neumann.edu

N.B. If you are interested in using this program in class or for another purpose, please contact Sr. Pat Hutchison at hutchisp@neumann.edu



Book Study on *The Franciscan View of the Human Person* by Dawn Nothwehr, OSF



This brief book (70 pages) presents the theological foundation for *Reverence*.

We will offer sessions at the convenience of those who register.

Participation may include face-to-face or on-line sessions.

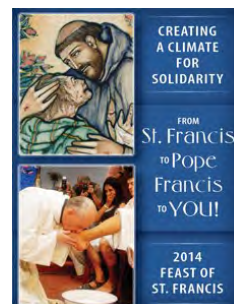
Please contact Sr. Mary Ann at mccarthur@neumann.edu by September 20, 2014 if you are interested in this book study.

Catholic Climate Covenant

During the month of October and Earth Week, there will be a campus-wide focus on the Catholic Climate Covenant theme. Details will follow.

Materials will be available on the website after September 1, 2014.

www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/feast-of-st-francis-2014



Programs at Franciscan Spiritual Center

We are pleased to support participation in the following programs at the Franciscan Spiritual Center. Please register through Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy at least one month prior to the program because spaces are limited.

An Interwoven World: The Christian-Islamic Fabric of Culture **presented by Michael Calabria, OFM**

In recent decades it has become a common myth that Christians and Muslims are locked in some sort of “clash of civilizations.” This workshop takes a different view – that the worlds of Christianity and Islam have been interdependent for more than a millennia, freely borrowing from and inspired by one another to produce magnificent works of art and architecture, as well as advances in virtually every field of science. From the words we use to the clothes we wear, and from the places we study to the places we worship, neither Christian nor Muslim communities would be what they are today without the other. This workshop explores the common cultural heritage of Christianity and Islam while considering the sources of current global tensions.

This program is offered from September 26 to 27, 2014. It begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and continues through Saturday afternoon. There is a Sunday Vigil Liturgy celebrated at 4:30 p.m..

Annual Trafficking Symposium: How One Person Can Fight Child Slavery

Join the sisters of St. Francis as we continue to address the horrific issues related to Human Trafficking. Carol Hart Metzker is the keynote speaker. Carol is the author of “Facing the Monster: How One Person Can Fight Child Slavery.” She will address the plight of the world’s children who live a life of modern slavery. Carol will respond to our questions about human trafficking, share her experiences and provide us with actions to make a difference.

This program is offered on October 18, 2014. It begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m..



Retreat Day for Veterans: Honoring our Veterans: Heart to Heart **presented by Bayada Nursing Staff**

This retreat is an invitation to come together in a supportive, safe, comfortable environment with other veterans who share similar experiences. Take time for **YOU!** Come, be refreshed, strengthened, supported and renewed. Strategies for moving forward as well as simple approaches to maintain balance in life will be offered. Break-out sessions will be provided and resource material will be available.

This program is offered on November 22, 2014. It begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. It includes Lunch. There is no cost for this program.

Programs at Franciscan Spiritual Center

Advent Retreat: Away in a Manger: Christmas at Greccio **presented by Sister Clare D'Auria OSF**

St. Francis is often credited with giving us “the first Christmas crib.” While his devotion to the Christmas mystery has no doubt influenced our modern custom of arranging Nativity scenes in our churches and homes at Christmas, what Francis did at Greccio was something more, something deeper. You are invited to “come to the stable” during this weekend of quiet prayer to reflect on how this familiar scene portrays the kind of human heart which can hold in welcome this Incarnate God-Child who comes to dwell with us. This program is offered December 5 to 7, 2014. It begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday night and ends at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Celtic Spirituality **presenting team: Sister Marguerite O'Beirne OSF, Sister Julie Keegan OSF, Barbara Jaffe, violinist**

Come, experience the spiritual expression of God's nearness in the Celtic tradition. It is said of St. John, who leaned against Jesus at the last supper, that he heard the “Heartbeat of God”. This listening for the heartbeat of God is what Celtic spirituality invites us to do, listen for the best of God's presence within every created thing and within every moment. Weaving together prayer, history, poetry, and music, we will begin a spiritual pilgrimage that leads to PEACE, BEAUTY, and to the HEARTBEAT of God. This program is offered on March 16, 2015. There is an optional dinner at 5:30 p.m. and then the program begins at 6:30 p.m.

Circles of Prayer with Mary **presented by Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS**

If you can color and at least make an attempt to stay in the lines, then you can create mandalas, an ancient form of prayer which draws on your own creative imagination with the help of the Holy Spirit. You needn't be an artist, just a spiritual seeker in search of new ways to find prayerful peace. With Mary as our guide and inspiration we will discover ways in which color and shape can help us on our journey to God through personal and traditional symbols. Included: lessons in basic techniques. Crayons and a small set of markers required. Watercolors are welcome for the experienced. This program is offered May 1 to 3, 2015. It begins at 7:00 p.m. Friday and ends at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday.

For more information about the Franciscan Spiritual Center and what they offer go to <http://fscaston.org/>. Take time to enjoy the inspirational videos.

CORE Focus during 2013-2014

This past year the assessment for the newly revised undergraduate Core program focused 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. The results of the assessment process will be shared at Lunch and Learn sessions in the Assisi Room, third floor of Bachmann. Following these sessions faculty and staff will be invited to develop strategies to promote meaningful reflection and ethical responsibility. On January 13, 2015, the ideas submitted will be shared with the hope that the entire campus community will unite to promote among our students growth in these important areas.

Lunch and Learn sessions and topics include:

September 8 through 11: **Contemplation assessment feedback**

October 6 through 9: **Ethical Reasoning assessment feedback**

November 10 through 13: **Life-Long Learning assessment feedback**

The same presentation will be repeated each day.

Monday from 11:30 to 12:30

Tuesday from 11:30 to 12:30

Wednesday from 12:40 to 1:40

Thursday from 1:00 to 2:00

Beverages and dessert will be provided.

The Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities 2014 Symposium

The AFCU 2014 Symposium is now a memory! Thanks to everyone who helped to make the event such a wonderful experience for all! To view summaries of the various presentations, full scripts of two of the keynotes, and a visual recap, please visit <http://www.neumann.edu/AFCU/default.asp>

The Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities Journal

Copies of the 2104 AFCU Journal have been distributed to various offices. This issue includes an article co-authored by Ramona Palmerio-Roberts, PsyD and Colleen McDonough, PhD and a poem by James Kain. Congratulations to these faculty members! Please see your dean or division Vice President or contact the NIFS Office to obtain a copy of the journal.

N.B. The Lib Guide for the AFCU Journal, available on the NIFS website, is temporarily disabled due to a major renovation of the AFCU website. Please contact the NIFS office for links to past issues of the journal.

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. This year the feast of St. Francis falls on a Saturday, October 4.



We will anticipate the feast on Friday, October 3 with a Morning Prayer Service at 8:30 a.m. in the RAB Lobby and with Mass at noon in Sacred Heart Chapel.

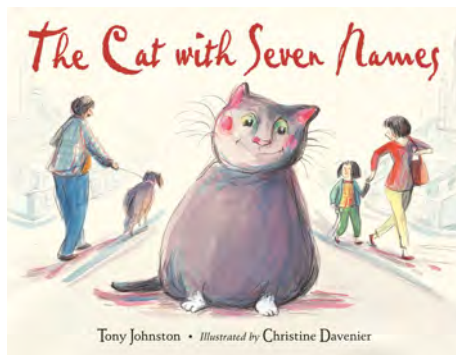
On Sunday afternoon, October 5 at 4 p.m., we invite you to gather with your pets in St. John Neumann Circle for the Blessing of the Animals.

During the month of October, we will collaborate with the Catholic Climate Covenant to celebrate the theme *From St. Francis to Pope Francis to You! Creating a Climate for Solidarity*.

Learn more by visiting <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/feast-of-st-francis-2014/> Watch for further details.

Bock Book Award

The Bock Book Award will be conferred on the book, *The Cat with Seven Names*, by Tony Johnston, on October 10, 2014. We are honored that the illustrator, Christine Davenier, will be coming from France to join with us for the celebration at 10:30 a.m. in the newly renovated library.



Greccio

St. Francis of Assisi was the first to commemorate the birth of Jesus with a live Nativity. Please join us as we commemorate this beautiful tradition on Sunday evening, December 7, 2014 at 6:15 p.m. in front of the Miranda Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development.

Sunday evening Mass will be at 4:30 p.m. in Sacred Heart Chapel.

The Gospel Choir Concert will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Meagher Theatre.



NIFS Committee 2014-2015

Sister Patricia Hutchison OSF, Chair
Maura Berenato
Gail Corso
Elizabeth Loeper
Geoffrey Karabin
Rev. Philip Lowe
Janet Massey
Sr. Suzanne Mayer ihm
Anne Ramirez
Margaret Stewart
Sr. Marguerite O'Beirne OSF, ex officio

A special thanks to former members, Lisa Silverstein, James Kain, Philip Pegan and Eileen Flanagan, for their dedicated service on the NIFS Committee.