

# NEUMANN INSTITUTE NEWS

*A Publication of the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies*

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## University-wide Theme for 2017-2018: *Live the Truth in Love: Excellence*

At Neumann University, we emphasize three aspects of *Excellence*:

- ◆ We perform to the best of our ability the responsibilities entrusted to us.
- ◆ We practice cooperation, rather than competition, in the quest for excellence.
- ◆ We foster academic achievement through a strong teaching-learning community.

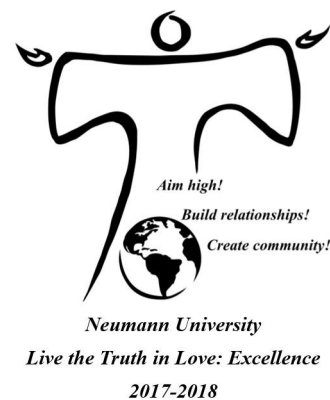
As we reflected on *Excellence* in preparation for this year's theme, members of the NIFS committee developed the **ABC's of Excellence: Aim high! Build relationships! Create community!**

During the 2017-2018 academic year, we invite everyone to take time to reflect personally and communally on the value of *Excellence*. We encourage every department to devote 15 minutes each month, as part of a regularly scheduled meeting, to reflect together on *Excellence*. To facilitate this reflection, we have provided a booklet entitled *What Pope Francis says about Community and Unity*. The reflections in this booklet invite us to recognize the value each of us adds to the Neumann community, the importance of nurturing a culture of encounter, and the need to promote unity and peace on our campus and beyond. Members of the NIFS committee have also contributed ideas for reflection and sharing. Samples of these ideas were distributed at Welcome Back Day; additional examples are available on the [NIFS website](#). In addition, we will offer two half-days of reflection each semester on the theme of *Excellence*. These days will provide time for personal reflection and sharing with colleagues.

The half-days of reflection, including lunch, will be offered at the Franciscan Spiritual Center on:

October 9	9 AM to 1 PM
November 13	Noon to 3 PM
January 3	9 AM to 1 PM
April 12	Noon to 3 PM

If you wish to participate in the reflection opportunities, please register with Sr. Mary Ann at least two weeks in advance at [mccarthm@neumann.edu](mailto:mccarthm@neumann.edu)



## Characteristics of Franciscan Education

During the 2016-2017 year, 238 members of our faculty, staff, and administration participated in at least one of the 33 conversations held to consider the *Characteristics of Franciscan Education*. Sixteen employees chose to participate in more than one conversation! We have collated the ideas and questions shared last year and will deepen our exploration of the *Characteristics* this year. Three terms, in particular, generated extensive conversation: *sacramental*, *conversion*, and *diversity*. To clarify the meaning of sacramental in the Catholic Franciscan tradition, we have invited **Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF to speak on November 30**. Sr. Ilia is an internationally respected Franciscan scholar who currently holds the Josephine C. Connelly Endowed Chair in Theology at Villanova University. Sr. Ilia will speak on the afternoon and evening of November 30. The afternoon presentation will begin at 2:40 and conclude at 4:00 in the Meagher Theater. The evening session will begin at 6:30 and conclude at 8:00 in the Franciscan Spiritual Center. The evening session will include dinner at 5:30 PM at Our Lady of Angels Convent for those interested. Both sessions are open to students. To learn more about Sr. Ilia, please visit <http://idelio.clasit.org/> To learn more about the meaning of sacramentality, you may wish to read [\*A Franciscan View of Creation: Learning to Live in a Sacramental World\*](#) by Sr. Ilia.

Because of the importance of the document *Characteristics of Franciscan Education*, we are offering three opportunities for conversation in September for all new employees and those unable to participate last year. The dates for the conversations are September 19 from 11:30 to 12:30 in the Assisi Room (314 Bachmann Main) and September 20 and 26 from 3:00 to 4:00 PM in the Ministry House. Please register for the sessions at least one week in advance by contacting Sr. Mary Ann at [mccarshm@neumann.edu](mailto:mccarshm@neumann.edu) Please review the [\*Introduction to the Characteristics of Franciscan Education\*](#) before the event.

## AFCU Symposium 2018

Every other year, The Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU) sponsors a Symposium that brings together faculty, staff, administrators, and students from the 24 Franciscan colleges and universities. In 2014, Neumann University hosted the symposium for more than 300 colleagues. This event is always an energizing opportunity to grow in understanding the Franciscan intellectual and spiritual tradition and to share and learn from others. The University of St. Francis in Joliet, IL is the host of this year's symposium scheduled for June 5-7, 2018. The theme, *With Living Stones: Building a Franciscan Future ... Together*, will explore the *Characteristics of Franciscan Education*. Information about the 2018 Symposium is available on the [AFCU Symposium website](#).

## Online self-paced course on the Franciscan tradition

The Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU) has developed a resource for faculty and staff who wish to incorporate elements of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition (FIT) into their teaching or ministry. This course allows faculty and staff members to identify key elements of the FIT, to locate and utilize FIT resources, to understand ways to incorporate the FIT in specific courses and programs, and to develop learning activities. The course is self-paced and is in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. You can access and download the course here: <http://franciscancollegesuniversities.org/portfolio-view/the-franciscan-intellectual-tradition-in-your-course/>. The course is free and designed to be used flexibly. Because we wish to identify the extent to which the course is used, please email Sr. Pat Hutchison if you decide to participate.

## Season of Creation September 1 through October 4

In 2015, Pope Francis declared September 1 as a World Day of Prayer for Creation. In recent years, more than two billion people of good will have begun to celebrate September 1 to October 4 as a *Season of Creation*, a time to pray and act on behalf of creation. Thanks to Jackie Martin and Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy, members of the NIFS Committee, we will offer suggestions to celebrate the five weeks of this special season, with a special focus on *Water, Recycling, Consumer Consciousness, Caring for the Earth, and Celebrating Creation*. Watch for the special messages that will be posted on the Neumann website beginning September 1!

## International Day of Peace (September 21) and Spirit of Assisi (October 27)



In 1981, the United Nations established the International Day of Peace in the hope of encouraging all people to commit to peace and nonviolence. In 1986, Pope John Paul II invited leaders of various faith traditions to gather in Assisi to pray for peace. For the past 30 years, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have continued the tradition of gathering religious leaders in Assisi to pray for peace. We invite you to consider how you can actively pray and work for peace.

## Migrants and Refugees

On September 27, Pope Francis will officially launch a program in support of refugees and migrants. In the United States, there will be a week of prayer and action from October 7 through 13. Please visit the website of [Catholic Relief Services](#) for additional information about how you can support this initiative. Specific resources related to Pope Francis' call for support of refugees and migrants will be available on September 5.

## The Sultan and the Saint



During our conversations on the *Characteristics of Franciscan Education* last year, there were many questions about the meaning of supporting “every person on his/her lifelong journey of *conversion*.” Some suggested that “personal transformation” might be a more appropriate term than “conversion.” In the Franciscan tradition, there is definitely not a desire to “convert” others in the sense of imposing a faith tradition or even a way of thinking on another person. The story of St. Francis’ encounter with the Muslim Sultan Malik-al- Kamil during the Crusades in 1219 powerfully demonstrates the importance of reverence for persons of differing religious and cultural traditions, as well as the tragedy when such differences are not respected and embraced. In April 2018, we hope to host the film, *The Sultan and the Saint*, and a discussion on interfaith and inter-cultural dialogue. Learn more about the film by visiting the [Sultan and the Saint website](#). You may also find the short film by [Father Dominic Monti, OFM](#) helpful.



## IMPORTANT CELEBRATIONS

### Mass of the Holy Spirit

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 31, at 11:30 AM. After Mass we invite you to join in a Picnic and assist in serving lunch to our students as an expression of our value of *Service*.

### Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and Inauguration Week Celebrations

On every Franciscan campus, October includes special celebrations connected with the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. This year our Francis Week Celebration will include the Inauguration of our sixth president, Dr. Chris E. Domes. Please see the Neumann website for details of the week's festivities: [Inauguration Week](#).

### Bock Book Award 2017

The announcement of the winner of the 2017 Bock Book Award is coming soon. The date of the award presentation is to be determined.

### 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 3, 2017 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.



### Lenten Soup and Sharing

For the past several years, the Lenten Soup and Sharing opportunities have focused on Care for Creation. This year there will be three Soup and Sharing sessions:

February 19 from 12:40 to 1:40

March 6 from 1:00 to 2:00

March 23 from 12:40 to 1:40

Topics and presenters are still under consideration.

## Interfaith Programs

Acknowledging the importance of our efforts to foster interfaith understanding and dialogue, we are pleased to offer the following opportunities:

### [Doing what is Beautiful:](#)

### [The Spirituality of Islamic Art](#)

Presenter: Michael Calabria, OFM

September 22-23, 2017

Begins Friday at 7 PM and ends on Saturday afternoon  
Franciscan Spiritual Center



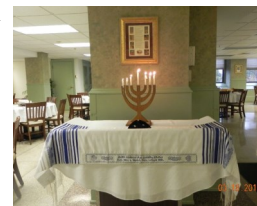
### [Celebration of the Passover Seder](#)

Presenter: Rabbi Linda Potemken

March 16, 2018

6:30-7:30PM

Franciscan Spiritual Center



Please register at least two weeks before each program by contacting Sr. Mary Ann at [mccarthm@neumann.edu](mailto:mccarthm@neumann.edu)

**Special Note: if you have a suggestion for an interfaith program, please contact Sr. Pat Hutchison at [hutchisp@neumann.edu](mailto:hutchisp@neumann.edu)**



## Franciscan Spiritual Center Programs

(contact NIFS office for information on funding availability)

### Doing what is Beautiful: the Spirituality of Islamic Art

Presenter: Michael Calabria, OFM  
September 22-23, 2017

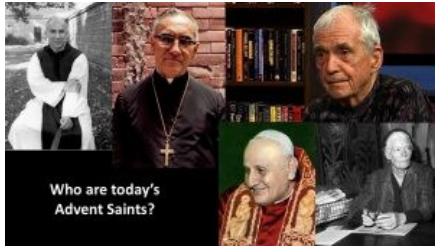
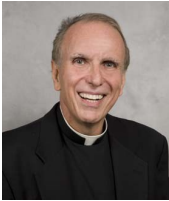


### Annual Trafficking Day

October 21, 2017  
9:00 AM to 12:30 PM  
Presenter: TBD

### Who are today's Advent Saints?

December 1-3, 2017  
Presenter: Fr. Anthony Ciorra



### A Woman's Call to Holiness: St. Clare of Assisi and the Womb of Compassion

February 9-11, 2018  
Presenter: Sister Clare D'Auria OSF



### Celtic Spirituality

March 12, 2018  
5:30 to 9:00 (dinner)  
6:30 to 9:00 (without dinner)  
Carmel Boyle

### Celebration of the Passover Seder

March 16, 2018  
Presenter: Rabbi Linda Potemken



### Wise and Holy Women

May 4-6, 2018  
Presenter: Brother Mickey McGrath OSFS



## 2017-2018 NIFS Committee

Sr. Patricia Hutchison, OSF, Chair  
Jenelle Abnett  
Gail Corso  
Tammy Feil  
Lee DelleMonache  
Jackie Martin  
Janet Massey  
Sr. Suzanne Mayer, IHM  
Sophia Park  
Ann Ramirez  
Rev. Stephen Thorne  
Beth Toler  
Sr. Diane Tomkinson, OSF  
Jo Lynette Watley

Sr. Marguerite O'Beirne, OSF, ex officio

**Special thanks to former members  
Lauren Salvitti and Pat Zawislak**