

NEUMANN INSTITUTE NEWS
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Gratitude: College-wide Theme for 2007-2008

Gratitude has been identified as the theme for the 2007-2008 academic year. In the Franciscan tradition, gratitude flows from the belief that our God is a God of Goodness and Love who freely and generously shares with us every good gift. The theme would make an excellent focus for discussion at a unit meeting. The theme can be easily integrated into courses. Resources related to Gratitude are available through the Neumann Institute.

Welcome Back 2007 Keynote Presentation

In response to a number of requests, Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ has graciously agreed to share her presentation and Power Point entitled: *At the dawn of the new millennium: What Franciscan universities have to offer*. Copies of the talk and Power Point are posted in the Study Guide section of the NIFS website.

Celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Traditionally, the week surrounding the feast of St. Francis has included several special activities and celebrations. Activities scheduled for this year include:

- The Blessing of Animals on Sunday, September 30 at 2 PM in the Rose Garden of the College
- Morning Prayer on Monday, October 1, at 8:30 AM, followed by Breakfast at 8:45 AM, in the Lobby of the Rocco A. Abessinio Building
- Hour of Prayer for Peace on Tuesday, October 2, from 3 to 4 PM in the Sacred Heart Chapel of Bachmann Main
- Celebration of the Transitus Service commemorating St. Francis's passage into Eternal Life on October 3 at 7 PM in Our Lady of Angels Chapel
- *Frances and Wesley Bock Book Award for Children's Literature* on October 4 at 10:30 AM in the College Library
- St. Francis of Assisi Liturgy on October 4 at noon in Sacred Heart Chapel
- St. Francis of Assisi Liturgy and reception on October 4 at 7 PM in Our Lady of Angels Chapel

The Heart of Islam: A Franciscan Perspective

On Saturday, October 13, 2007 from 10 AM to 3 PM, the Franciscan Spiritual Center will offer *The Heart of Islam: A Franciscan Perspective*. The presenter, Michael Calabria, OFM teaches Arabic and Islamic Studies at St. Bonaventure University. Michael has lived and ministered in Egypt and traveled extensively in Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey. He will share his own journey to the heart of Islam, inspired by Francis's own peaceful

encounter with the Muslim world. Participants in the program will explore the origins of Islam, its Scriptures, beliefs, practices and contemporary concerns.

Cost of the program is \$5 for students and \$10 for College Personnel, but Neumann personnel and students may attend as guests of the college. To register please call or e-mail Sr. Pat Hutchison in the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies (610-361-5407 or hutchisp@neumann.edu) no later than September 28, 2007.

Praying with Saints Francis and Clare through Poetry

Murray Bodo, OFM, internationally known poet, writer, and guide for Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs will lead participants in a day of prayer and poetry on Saturday, October 20, from 10 AM to 3 PM in the Franciscan Spiritual Center. During this special retreat experience, participants will look at poems, pray with them, and share how the images lead into the Franciscan way of praying with and by means of images.

Cost of the program is \$5 for students and \$10 for College Personnel, but Neumann personnel and students may attend as guests of the college. To register please call or e-mail Sr. Pat Hutchison in the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies (610-361-5407 or hutchisp@neumann.edu) no later than October 12, 2007.

Franciscan Scholar Presentations

On Monday, October 22, 2007 Murray Bodo, OFM will be a special guest on our campus. A Franciscan priest, Father Murray is the author of numerous books, including the international best-seller, *Francis, the Journey and the Dream*. He is visiting professor of poetry and visiting scholar at the Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University. In addition, Father Murray serves as poetry editor of the *Journal of the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities*. He spends part of each year in Assisi, Italy as a staff member for Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs. His latest work is *A Sort of Bliss: Reading the Mystics*, St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2007.

The schedule for this very special event includes:

- Presentation on St. Francis of Assisi at 10 AM in the Meagher Theater
- Poetry Readings and Discussion at 3 PM in the Meagher Theater

Both events are free and open to the entire Neumann College Community. However, to ensure adequate seating, please reserve a ticket by registering through the Neumann Institute. To register please call or e-mail Sr. Pat Hutchison in the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies (610-361-5407 or hutchisp@neumann.edu) no later than October 5, 2007. We ask that Neumann faculty members encourage students to attend. Faculty members are welcome to reserve student tickets by contacting the Neumann Institute.

Father Murray has also agreed to have dinner and share Poetry readings with Neumann personnel on Monday evening. Dinner will be at 5:30 PM in Our Lady of Angels

Convent, followed by Poetry Readings in the Franciscan Spiritual Center. Seating is limited so please call to reserve a space by October 5.

God's October Surprise

During October 2007, the celebrations of St. Francis of Assisi, Ramadan, and Rosh Hashanah again occur within a few days of each other. Persons of faith from all over the world have joined together to utilize this convergence of celebrations to promote greater understanding and dialogue between and among Muslims, Christians, and Jews. To learn more about what has been named "God's October Surprise," please visit the Tent of Abraham website <http://www.tentofabraham.org/> This site has links to information which may be incorporated into classes on a wide range of issues related to inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue.

Models of Gratitude: How to Become a Grateful Person

On Wednesday, November 14, 2007 the Franciscan Spiritual Center is hosting a dinner and evening of reflection on how to develop an "attitude of gratitude." Sr. Julia Keegan, OSF (former member of Neumann College Nursing faculty) is the presenter. The evening will include reflection on examples of gratitude from Scripture and from the Franciscan tradition. In support of our College theme of Gratitude, the Neumann Institute is happy to sponsor attendance for Neumann personnel. The evening begins at 5 PM and closes at 9 PM. To register please call or e-mail Sr. Pat Hutchison in the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies (610-361-5407 or hutchisp@neumann.edu) by October 26, 2007.

Advent Dinner and Evening of Reflection

Our Neumann College chaplain and professor of Theology and Literature, Jude Michael Krill, OFM Conv., will be our speaker for this year's Advent Dinner and Evening of Reflection. The theme for the evening will be *Faith and Poetry*. Look for the date and further details in a few weeks!

Mentoring for Mission Program

In response to the College's strategic plan and in collaboration with the Offices of Mission and Ministry and Academic Affairs, the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies has initiated a formal Mentoring for Mission Program for all new faculty members. The program consists of three sessions in the Fall semester and three in the Spring semester. The program and dates for the 2007-2008 academic year include:

Fall 2008

Module I: The History, identity and mission of American Catholic higher education

- History of American Catholic higher education
- Vision and values of Catholic colleges and universities
- Catholic Intellectual Tradition & Catholic Social Teaching

- Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

Date: Tuesday, September 25, 2007 (3:30 to 5:00 PM) Canticle Room RAB

Module II: The Franciscan Tradition and the history of collaboration among American Franciscan colleges and universities

- Historical overview of the Franciscan intellectual (theological and philosophical) tradition
- Collaboration among Franciscan colleges and universities
- Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities

Date: Tuesday, November 13 (3:30 to 5:00 PM) Assisi Room BMB

Module III: The meaning of sponsorship and the relationship with the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

- Sponsorship: challenges and opportunities
- The mission and vision of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
- Tour of the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

Date: To be determined; includes lunch or dinner at Our Lady of Angels Convent

Spring 2008 (all dates to be determined)

Module IV: Basic components of the Catholic Franciscan tradition

- Love and the Primacy of Christ
- Creation and the humility of God

Module V: Basic components continued

- Dignity of the human person
- The Franciscan tradition, inculturation, and inter-religious dialogue

Module VI: Integrating the Catholic and Franciscan tradition

- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Models

N.B. Adjunct and part-time faculty and other faculty members who wish to attend any of the sessions listed are welcome to contact the NIFS Office.

Save the Date for the June 2008 AFCU Conference

The 2008 Conference of the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities will be held at Alvernia College in Reading, PA, from June 5 to 7. The theme of the conference is ***Franciscan Education: Developing Leadership; Building Character; Impacting Student Learning beyond the Lecture Halls***. Preliminary information is available. Look for a Call for Proposals for breakout presentations in a few weeks. Neumann College is a co-sponsor of the conference.

Resources available through the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies

The Neumann Institute Office and the Francis and Clare Library contain excellent resources for those who wish to deepen their understanding of the Catholic and Franciscan tradition and develop ways to integrate it appropriately and effectively into the curriculum. In addition, there is a *Resource* link on the webpage of the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies. This link includes resources related to the Catholic tradition; the Franciscan tradition; social justice, care of creation, and peacemaking; prayer; spirituality and the college student; and service learning.

Peace and All Good!

Sr. Patricia Hutchison, OSF, Ed.D.
Editor