

Living Stones

May 24, 2025

The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, And refined, aged wine.

And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, Even the veil which is stretched over all nations.

He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.

And it will be said in that day, "Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."

~Isiah 25:6-9



Name: _____

Dear Friends and “New Living Stones”!

We are so happy to have you with us, as we celebrate not only you and your many contributions, but also to bring to a close the 40 year anniversary year of Mt. Irenaeus (cir. 1984) For some time, we have been wanting to invite and give thanks to even more of our friends who have been integral to the life of the Mountain. From that desire, this invitation was born!



The theme of this weekend is centered around “Remembrance, Gratitude, and Grace.” We see this as a time of storytelling from all who gather with us, sharing tales ranging back to our earliest days. Our gratitude is for you and for so many others who have been able to impact the life of the Mountain. We thank God for giving us the Grace to envision such a way of life, the perseverance to build the Mountain and establish the wonderful relationships that have developed only through God’s active movement in our lives.

The presence of Fr. Dan Riley, our late Founder, is continually felt as we know he walks along side us; while we may not have always been aware of it, Dan was preparing all of us to continue to bring the Mission of the Mountain to the world. He, along with all of you, will also be honored and remembered today as a Living Stone.

As you, and all who might be with you today, join us for our celebration, we welcome you to really immerse yourselves in our life. We are conscious that many of you have been involved in the planning and the details over the past several weeks. We invite you to take in all the gifts that the Mountain provides us, including the gift of leisure!

We also thank those who have made this weekend possible – our resident community, our volunteers and our staff who have also put in so much time to bring this day to a reality. These celebrations take a collective effort to pull off and we are very grateful.

Once again, thanks for all you’ve done for the Mountain. We hope this will be a time of rekindling older friendships and developing new ones. In all we do we pray we continue to live out the Mission of the Mountain – “To Join with Jesus Christ to make all things new!”

Thank you and God bless!

Your Mountain Family

“All of us are made ‘living stones,’ called by our Baptism
to build God’s house in fraternal communion,
in the harmony of the Spirit, in the coexistence of differences.”

- Pope Leo

Mt Irenaeus
Living Stones
Overview of Scheduled Events

Saturday:

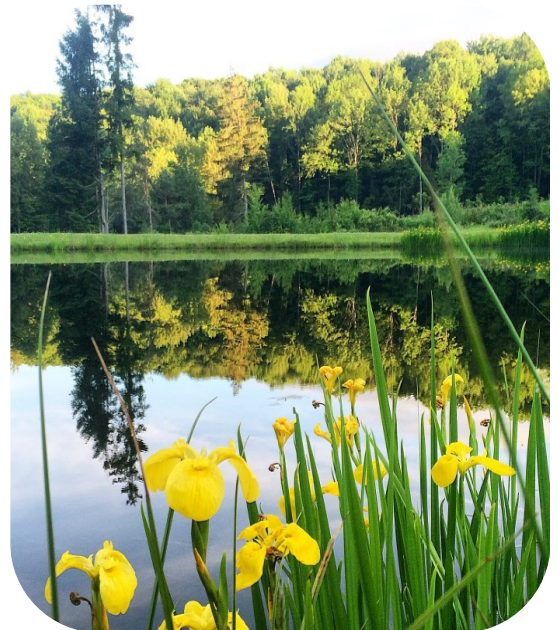
- 9:00 am Opening Prayer
- 9:45 Conversatio: Please choose one—both will also be offered after lunch
- ◇ [40 Years: A History of the Mountain—](#) Br. Kevin Kriso, Core Community (Chapel)
 - ◇ [The Three Peaks: An Evolving Vision for Mt. Irenaeus—](#) Mike Fenn and Core Community (tent)
- 10:30 Time in Creation
- 11:30 Lunch
- 1:30 pm Conversatio: Please choose one
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- 3:00 Liturgy and Living Stones Celebration (tent)
- 6:00 Dinner

Sunday:

- For those able to join us
- 9:30 am Conversatio: Sharing Your Dreams for the Mountain
- 11:00 Liturgy followed by brunch

It is not you who shapes God; it is God who shapes you. If then you are the work of God await at the hand of the artist who does all things in due season. Offer him your heart soft and tractable, keep the form in which the artist has shaped you. Let your clay be moist lest you grow hard and lose the imprint of God's fingers.

--- St. Irenaeus



Mt. Irenaeus Mission Statement

Rooted in the Franciscan tradition, the Mt. Irenaeus community is committed to simple, joyful, healing communion with God and all creation through contemplation and the communal experience of God's justice, love and peace in contemporary everyday life. Life at Mt. Irenaeus is centered on attending to what is primary: presence to God, others, one's self and earth. All who participate in the mission of the Mountain join with Jesus Christ in "making all things new" by creating and nourishing a community that transcends a particular place, opening to all peoples, ages and cultures.

*The mission of Mt. Irenaeus is to join
with Jesus Christ in
"making all things new!"*

~Revelation 21:5



Mt. Irenaeus Vision Statement

We welcome you on our journey, we who find ourselves blessed to claim the mission of Mt. Irenaeus. We believe that we are one with all peoples, cultures and indeed all creation in the ancient longing to find and to live in peace. The peace we seek is healing and lasting and “makes all things new again.”



St. Paul writes of “all creation groaning” for, and St. Bonaventure speaks of “panting after” this peace, the peace that is Jesus Christ. St. Francis and St. Bonaventure sought mountains, as we have, as a place of rest and encounter when they felt lost or estranged within themselves, the Church, the world. We too have experienced the many things within us and without us that draw us away and lead us to doubt and division. We choose, then, to seek to understand and to serve those who still experience alienation, hurt or are estranged and “find life burdensome.”

Holy places are part of all spiritual traditions. By the late 1970s, it was apparent to a few of us that “a place” was needed “to draw aside and rest awhile,” to come to see things in a new way in order to return again to college life and the living of each day. Through the experience of Campus Ministry at St. Bonaventure University and the life of its students, faculty and others there, the alienation, pain and darkness of life seemed to ask us to find a place of hope and new life.

We wanted a place, but more than that, a community founded in the spirit of prayer and hospitality. After years of consideration and gaining friends to proceed, we found this secluded and wooded hilltop we now call Mt. Irenaeus, the Mountain. We believe that we are in the tradition of all other holy places that help persons recognize the holiness of their own lives and indeed the holiness of the world that has come forth from a loving God. We have established this place and community in the Franciscan tradition of love for the Incarnation, wishing to offer prayerful hospitality to others according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Named Mt. Irenaeus, or the Mountain, its very name means “peace,” “peaceful,” “peacemaker.”**

The practical details of our daily living – work, prayer, solitude, community, – lend to us and



Ours is a life founded In the sapiential tradition, finding experience as a most profound way to knowledge, finding that “doing” leads us to “knowing.” Thomas Merton, in his essay, *Learning to Live*, says “... whatever you do, every act, however small, can teach you everything provided you see who it is that is acting.” And so, with St. Francis, we find rising within us the great contemplative prayer, “God, who are You, and who am I?” This question unfolds in multifaceted ways each day, leading us to believe that God is present and active in our very midst.



This life helps us to see that all life is educative; all life leads us to the knowledge and love of God and each other if we have the heart to see. This approach to knowledge has always had a special place in the Franciscan tradition. Thus we know we have a service to offer to St. Bonaventure University as well as to other colleges, local churches, individuals and groups.

We find, then, an education for life here on the Mountain so that we might live more fully elsewhere with others. We wish to care for all creation, attending to those who are not at home, who are alienated and marginalized. We seek ways of pursuing justice, of forming “family life;” we seek ways of praying, of celebrating, and of ministering God’s presence to others. **We are finding new, as well as old, ways of learning and we wish to pass them on to students, young and old.**

Jesus models a way of servant leadership that we seek to follow and to reflect upon with one another. We find many concrete examples of this model in the lives of Francis and Clare as well, and certainly throughout the Gospel. The simple practices of creating and maintaining the Mountain and its everyday life, as mentioned above, are these “places” of learning where we seek and come to know this God who heals us all and who “makes all things new again.” “Our home” here is also the land and “family” Is all of the creatures with whom we share this holy place. This larger Gospel meaning of “home” and “family” teaches us to live well with others elsewhere in the world. As we find ourselves called to care for the land, we are humbled by and grateful for its care for us.



Silence and the simple activity of keeping a home, working and living on the land with its creatures is instructive in itself. The rest of creation is both companion and mentor to us. We find our contemplative life enriched by word and sacrament, as well as by community and solitude, by time in the woods, conversation and restful quiet.

We are committed to keeping a comparatively small community of guests and core community in order to continue a simple life in which guests help in the preparation of meals, the cleaning, gardening, etc. We promote a more intimate environment, without television or radio so that we are not preoccupied or dominated by the commercial media. Our way of living encourages storytelling, enriches conversation, and the ability for relationships grows naturally.



We have found it a daily practice not to be “task oriented” or “task driven;” we wish to allow life to speak to us rather than to become over-programmed or over planned. We find that relative smallness and informality enhances our spontaneity, calling us to attentiveness.

We who live here and participate in the Mountain seek to open our circle, our common life, to others, for it is our conviction that, as St. Bonaventure says, “God is like a circle or a sphere” who is centered in each one of us and who extends life well beyond us. Our life of prayer is evangelical because we have found that Mt. Irenaeus Is a new “seed bed” for church vocations. Many come here to confirm and to renew their lives of ministry or they begin to discover and to experience affirmation of their gifts for ministry. Further, we wish to continue the mentoring that happens quite naturally each day through prayer, work and community.

We firmly trust in the goodness of humanity and we relish the ancient words of St. Irenaeus “that the glory of God indeed is a human person or ‘humankind’ fully alive!” We believe that all of creation is called to its fullness in Jesus Christ. We, therefore, pursue a common journey with others, believing “that perfect love casts out all fear” and leads us all on our journey into



Gospel Manner of Life and Ministry:

What does it mean to join with Jesus Christ to “make all things new”?

Our manner of life and ministry opens the “eye of our hearts” to see that we have been formed in the image and likeness of Christ. St. Irenaeus says, “The glory of God is a human person fully alive. Our primary work is to contemplatively consider and compassionately live and work at this revealed reality and relationship between ourselves, one another and our God who is “all in all”.

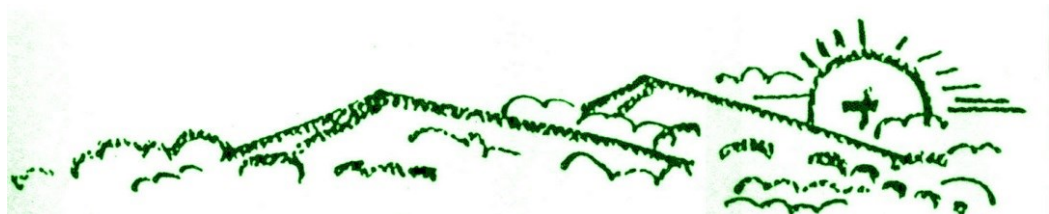
Our Partners in Life and Ministry learn and teach this manner of life informed by the Gospel and model of Jesus Christ exemplified in the early Franciscan tradition of places for renewal and re-creation, often near cities and places of education. These fraternities that tended to include many in their life offered “peace and prayerful re-creation” between “the mountain” and the “marketplace”. An outgoing or “apostolic model of contemplation” was lived through the dynamic elements of silence, simplicity, solitude and service.



Our prayerful and contemplative lifestyle celebrates and proclaims an active awareness of God’s presence with and care for all creatures. We learn, pass on and participate in this awareness by actively caring for ourselves, one another, our earth and sharing in this mutual care as a larger community. “Going out to all the world.”

The Mt. Irenaeus community, open to all people, ages and cultures, is guided by a resident community. The resident community models the hospitality and relationship building, the importance of inclusion and collaboration in light of the fundamental relationship we all have with a common creator and in our Christian tradition a Redeemer, Christ and sustainer of our life, the Holy Spirit, and servant leadership model where labor is shared in service to others, and results are led by the input of every voice.

Maintaining and sustaining our mission requires that we renew and find new personnel and leadership for our resident community and we continue and form further collaborative outreach relationships.



The Conversation of Franciscans: Ministry in Cosmic Context
Notes from Fr. Michael Blastic's article and
notes from the documents of the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor
on "being border crossers."

This style of theological reflection which moves by means of its own inner logic from the religious experience of Francis to the cosmic Christology of the Franciscan doctors leads to a **particular style and understanding of ministry**. Based on Zachary Haye's description of the Franciscan theological perspective, one could **define ministry as service to the divine aim in creation**. Or, again, ministry might be described as **service to the transformation and completion of the world as intended by God**.



What we are speaking of when we attempt to describe Franciscan ministry is a *style* (**manner of life or way of living, which is "colorful"**) of ministry. The Franciscan style of ministry, based on the vision Zachary has articulated, implies the effort to make connections **between the ordinary, everyday human experience of men and women ("looking out at the larger picture of the world") and the story of Jesus (the Gospel as a rule in life)**. Franciscan ministry attempts to discover the inner logic of things as intended by God. One way of approaching this Franciscan style of ministry is by **employing the metaphor of conversation** – Franciscans minister by **"engaging in conversation,"** (or **"conversatio"** or as we often say, **going among others, open to them and to the world**).



Conversation is thus more than a mere speaking of words. Conversation implies **exchange**, a sharing of thought and feeling, a familiarity and close association with another, and even a **style of life**, or as the medieval person might express it, **a manner of life**.



Franciscans have always been border crossers in their yearning for brotherhood (and sisterhood) which springs from a recognition of all creatures as children of the same father."

So as **"children of the same God,"** women and men together of various ages and cultural traditions, we risk now and more than ever "crossing borders," opening, deepening, listening to our hearts, to each other's hearts and the heart of all creation by gathering like this.

Franciscans give us this ancient practice and process as a way to help us "overcome individualism and isolation, which often mark our lives and our works."



We become *"mendicants of meaning."*

As the early disciples:

1. **(Remember)** Broke their silence in order to establish dialogue.
2. **(Reflect)** Learned to interpret their life and experience in light of
3. Sacred Scriptures at the very time the Lord enlightened their hearts.
4. **(Respond)** Stopped their journey and asked Jesus to remain with them.
 - ◆ He entered their encounter and stayed with them.
 - ◆ He took and broke bread ... handed it to them ... their eyes were opened ... they recognized him. (Luke 24:30-31)
 - ◆ They went back to Jerusalem, to "the others" and the work of the Good News.



Saturday: Morning Prayer

9:00 am

Welcome

Introductions

Brief Meditation

Song out of Meditation/Lighting of the Candle

Opening Prayer (prayed as a side-to-side)

Colossians

1:12-20

Christ has primacy in all creation and is in all things first.

1 Give thanks to the Father, who made us fit for the holy community of light and rescued us from darkness, bringing us into the realm of his beloved Son who redeemed us, forgiving our sins.

2 Christ is an image of the God we cannot see. Christ is firstborn in all creation.

1 Through Christ the universe was made, things seen and unseen, thrones, authorities, forces, powers. Everything was created through Christ and for Christ.

2 Before anything came to be, Christ was, and the universe is held together by Christ.

1 Christ is also head of the body, the church, its beginning as firstborn from the dead to become in all things first.

2 For by God's good pleasure Christ encompasses the full measure of power, reconciling creation with its source and making peace by the blood of the cross.



“...you have but **one Teacher** in heaven. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. Wherever two or three are gathered together in my name, there am **I in the midst of them**. Behold I am with you until the end of the world. **The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.**
I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

Reading Philippians 2:5-11

In your relationships with one another,
have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature^[a] God, did
not consider equality with
God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature^[b] of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a
man, he humbled himself by becoming
obedient to death— even death on a
cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest
place and gave him the name that is
above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee
should bow, in heaven and on earth and
under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.



Reflection: **Br. Kevin Kriso**



9:45 am Conversatio: Please choose one (both will also be offered after lunch)

◇ [40 Years: A History of the Mountain—](#) Br. Kevin Kriso, Core Community
(Chapel)

◇ [The Three Peaks: An Evolving Vision for Mt. Irenaeus—](#) Mike Fenn and Core
Community (tent)

Our First Notion of Mission

Much of Creation groans today. Much of humankind aches with the anxieties of not belonging and not being sure of life and its direction. Life itself calls us away from the brink. We need to be refreshed and healed. We need to find our way.

Mount Irenaeus, founded in the Catholic and Franciscan tradition, proclaims the healing peace of Jesus Christ. In that tradition, we are fleshing out a deeply prayerful and familial retreat community. We are responding to the needs of the University community and to others who seek such a place in our world today.

We will establish, with the Board of Directors, a community to create and maintain such an environment which will serve these goals and manage the practicalities of life.

At the heart of our concept is Gospel simplicity of life; to bring people in touch with their personal resourcefulness, the richness of creation we so often pass by, the gifts given free by the Spirit to be given freely, and quite practically, to encourage simplicity and economic responsibility.

Saint Francis and St. Bonaventure after him found their way to mountain retreats. They wrestled over their divided worlds and sought to be reconciled to the divisions within themselves. They are the patrons of our Franciscan order, university, and our project.

Our entire Franciscan heritage is the story of light overcoming the darkness; a compassionate Lord redeeming his lost people in his wondrous love. Saint Francis and Saint Bonaventure offer us insights into all of this, into the heart of God and humankind. Our richly creative and hopeful place in the family of all God's creatures finds its beginning and end – its unity in Jesus Christ.



.....for in Christ Jesus of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26-28

October 9, 1980 Original Proposal for a Retreat/interdisciplinary/seminar site

Location: Ideally within 30-45 min driving time from SBU campus, away from populated areas and areas likely to be developed for industry or homes. Located on roads cleared in the winter and of normally safe passage.

Description of Site: Land of varying terrain – hills, meadows, woods, water (creek or pond) - allowing for various usages within the property – “offering” different “moods” or “feelings” – vistas or a sense of seclusion – clearings denser woods and fields. Land not particularly valuable for or useful for regular farming or development as mentioned.

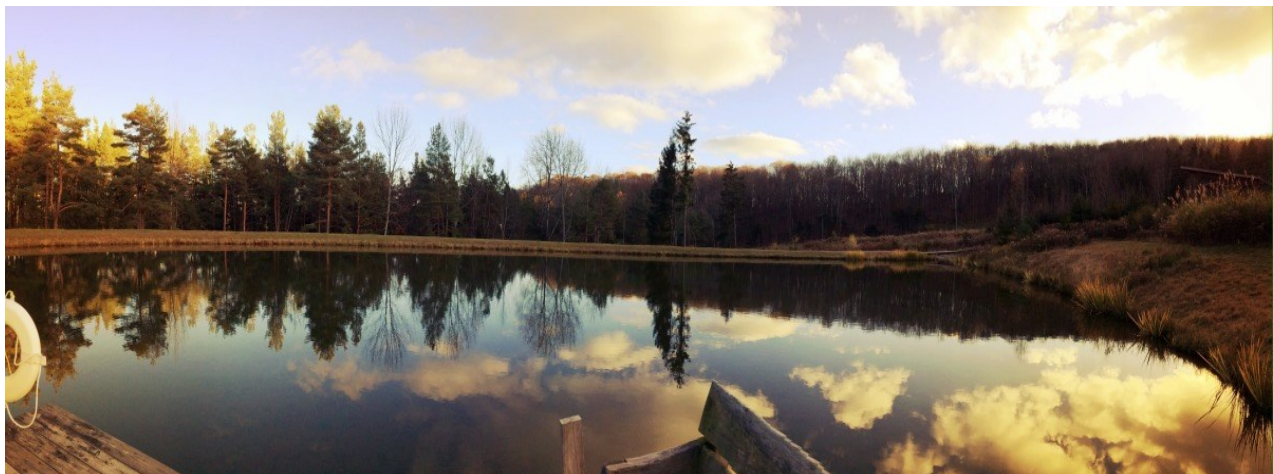
Size: Large enough to ensure privacy and have an adequate variety in land character as mentioned above.

Nature and Purpose: A retreat; a place and facility away from the usual pace and pressure of life offering a re-creative environment and community.

- ♦ To offer the University community and others time, space, to rest from present life, review expectations, values, and begin again.
- ♦ To enhance the educational experience of students and staff by offering another living situation supportive of Christian values of prayer and a simple life.
- ♦ To foster deeper self-awareness and self-appreciation (love) and a more profound relationship to the world around us – thus to encourage growth in communal/social responsibilities.
- ♦ To offer simple communal experiences – eventually a hospitality community.
- ♦ To treasure and ensure solitude and silence in more remote parts of the site.
- ♦ To simplify the usual demands of contemporary life so that people might be more in touch with basic needs and more responsible to human interaction.
- ♦ To live in harmony with the land, keeping facilities and activities in tune with natural surroundings and enhancing our rhythm with the rest of creation.
- ♦ Above all, to welcome and preserve a spirit of joy and prayer. Thus encouraging the best in each person and enjoying familial life as it develops each day.

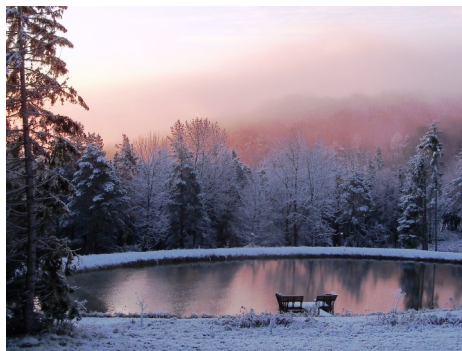
Description of Desirable Facilities:

- ♦ A lodge with kitchen and large common room – possibly bunk rooms attached or bunk cabins nearby. Some private sleeping quarters as well. Possibly a separate building for prayer and liturgy – or at least – adequate space and location to encourage and enhance private and communal prayer times.
- ♦ Cabins in remote clearings for more solitude and hermit experiences.
- ♦ Always care taken not to unduly disturb the trees and other forms of life or to do violence to vistas or build conflicting with the “lay of the land.”
- ♦ Building materials and facilities would be simple and in harmony.
- ♦ At the heart of this site is the purpose of renewal, refreshment – cure, a place for simple healing and rest. To life spirits, gain or refrain vision – and begin again with renewed faith.



Hospitality & Maintenance:

- ♦ A community of Franciscans and those who were prepared to join a hospitality community that would maintain the place, residing there when it was fully established. Initially, a group led by Franciscans and a coordinator would set goals, tone, create norms having studied Franciscan heritage for places of retreat or hermitage. This group would offer hospitality; make the place a home for others and attend to all the practical details of maintenance, etc. Naturally, those spending any time would be included in any necessary work details.
- ♦ Eventually, the resident community members might live sometimes in solitude, sometimes in hospitality to guests, sometimes “on the road” doing retreats, teaching at the college or otherwise working locally or away doing some type of Christian service.
- ♦ Buildings would be simple, plain and made of local materials. If possible, the facilities would be built by members of the University community and friends (approved by professionals). Grants might be gained for such a project. Concerns for energy, ecology, and regular cost of living would be essential in practical planning for any construction.



Three Peaks of Mt. Brengevs

SERVICE TO SBU STUDENTS

Service primarily to the St. Bonaventure University student community on campus and at the Mountain.

OUR CORE FOR 40 YEARS

SERVICE TO ADULTS /FAITH FORMATION

Adult outreach at the Mountain, On the Road, In the Home, through social media, content creation, formation pods and more.

MINISTRY WITH STRONG GROWTH

SERVICE TO THE PROVINCE

A unique ministry within Our Lady of Guadalupe Province for friars to experience and be formed in a contemplative way of life and ministry.

AREA OF STRATEGIC FOCUS

Three Peaks of Mt. Irenaeus

OUR CORE FOR 40 YEARS

Our Core Mission and First Peak: Service to SBU Students

Mt. Irenaeus offers students hospitality, community, Franciscan spirituality, contemplation, and care for creation

- Planned by Ministry Coordinator Natalie Pronlo (SBU '09)
- Modeled by Mountain resident community of 4 friars, 2 lay women

Student engagement is strong!

- ~800 students visited the Mountain this academic year 2024-2025
- ~40 open events, overnights, team and club gatherings*
- Typical events include time on the land, preparing dinner and cleaning up together, reflection and prayer at the Chapel
- 60% women, 40% men
- Student leadership and internship opportunities

Mt. Irenaeus partners closely with SBU and University Ministries

- Variety of engagement opportunities for students on campus and off
- The Mountain assists with programs for student recruitment and retention
- Many joint events with UMin
- SBU Partnership agreement renewed in 2024



Three Peaks of Mt. Brengevs

MINISTRY WITH STRONG GROWTH

Second Peak: Faith Formation, Service to Adults & Alumni

Outreach to adults, alumni, and the world, originally led by Fr. Dan Riley:

- Council for Spirit & Life established in 2016
- Co-led by Karen Pulaski, Director of Faith Formation & Mountain community resident
- Fr. Dan's "Franciscan Lectio" published in 2022

At the Mountain:

- Weekly masses and brunch, lectio and prayer
- Overnight retreats and evenings of recreation
- Special programs on social justice, Franciscan faith in action, and faith exploration experiences
- Next steps: "Everything Belongs" branch starting on civil discourse
- Next steps: Expansion of women's retreats and other adult offerings.

Mountain on the Road - Launched in 2001, 40 U.S. locations

- Partner with SBU Alumni Engagement team
- 2-4 SBU students develop leadership skills as part of ministry
- Br. Joe Kotula, Karen Pulaski, Mike Fenn, Joe Flanagan continue

Mountain in your Home - Evenings hosted in private homes since 2009, open to all

- Next steps: Networks across the country



Faith Formation - sharing Franciscan charism using "Build w/ Living Stones"

- 55 participants in 2024 met in small groups on Zoom for 14 months
- Next Steps: Expanding to new groups, both virtual and in person, starting September 2025 in collaboration with The Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Podcasts (nearly 300) and frequent social media posts available to the world

- Next Steps: Digital Franciscan Library with digital resources available to all

Three Peaks of Mt. Irenaeus

AREA OF STRATEGIC FOCUS

Third Peak: Service to the Province

Mt. Irenaeus offers a unique ministry within the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe:

- The new Province asked all friars to make a contemplative retreat within 3 years
- Mt. Irenaeus is among only a handful of options for these sort of retreats.
- Friars and other religious are joining contemplative retreats at the Mountain, led by Br. Kevin Kriso

Mt. Irenaeus has been fertile ground for Franciscan vocations:

- Of the 29 men currently in Franciscan formation programs nationally, 7 have spent significant time at the Mountain.
- Four of the seven are recent SBU graduates: Fr. Jason Damon '16, ofm, Br. Jimmy Kernan '19, ofm, Br. Tyler Grudi '19, ofm, and Br. Kevin Hamzik '19, ofm.

Mt. Irenaeus friars and community members have participated in the 2-year synod work of the newly created nationwide Province.

- Mt. Irenaeus was the only Franciscan fraternity invited to bring 3 lay people to the national Provincial Synod held in January in Kansas City
- Br. Kevin Kriso, Karen Pulaski, and friends of the Mountain Dr. Allie Lois '13 and Franciscan Media author Stephen Copeland participated.

Relationships are cultivated and maintained with other Franciscan organizations:

- Franciscan Federation
- Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities
- Franciscan Action Network
- Center for Action & Contemplation (Richard Rohr, ofm.)

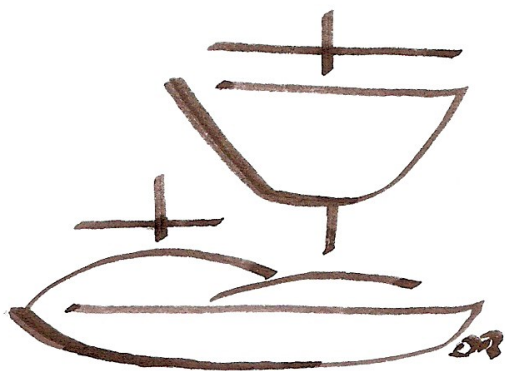


- 10:30 Time in Creation
- 11:30 Lunch (House of Peace)
- 1:30 Conversatio: Please choose one
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- 3:00 pm Liturgy and Living Stones Celebration (tent)

First Reading:

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and Precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2: 4-5, 9-10



Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

If I look to the mountains,
will they come to my aid?
My help is the Lord,
who made earth and the heavens.

May God, ever wakeful,
keep you from stumbling;
the guardian of Israel
neither rests nor sleeps.

God shields you,
a protector by your side.
The sun shall not harm you by day
nor the moon at night.

God shelters you from evil,
securing your life.
God watches over you near and far,
now and always.

Gospel Reading:

John 15:9-17

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”



Presentation of Personal Tiles

Entrance song: Open My Eyes Lord

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.
Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

And the first shall be last, and our eyes are opened.
And we'll hear like never before.

And we'll speak in new ways, and we'll see God's face
In places we've never known.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

I live within you, deep in your heart, O Love.
I live within you. Rest now in me.

Responsorial Psalm: Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth

Gospel Alleluia: (Refrain): Alleluia, Alleluia

I call you my friends, says the Lord,
For I have made known to you all
That the Father has told me.

(Refrain): Alleluia, Alleluia.

Memorial Acclamation: Jesus remember me, when you come into your kingdom. Jesus,
remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Amen

Communion songs: We Have Been Told

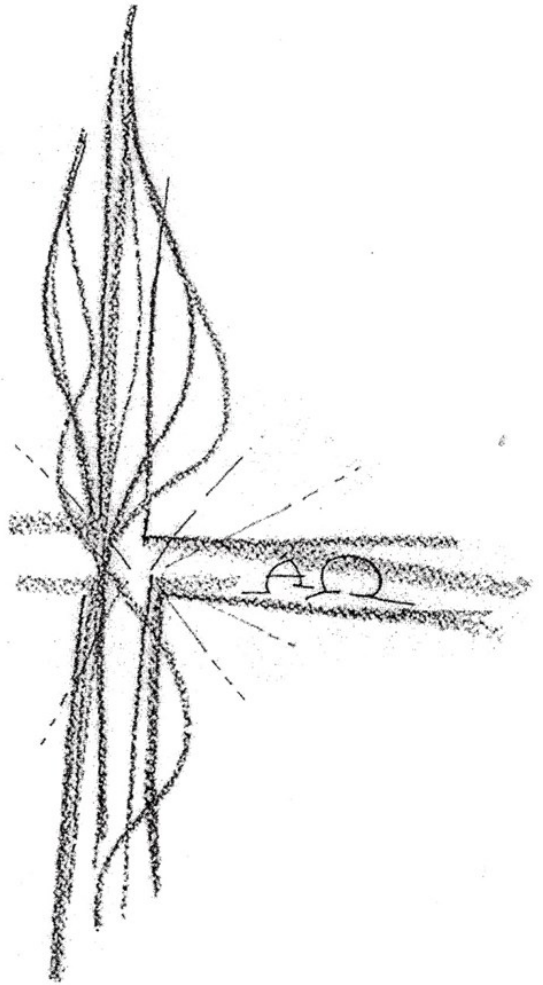
(Refrain)

We have been told, we've seen his face.
And heard his voice alive in our hearts.
Live in my love with all your heart
As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.

v.1 I am the vine, you are the branches,
and all who live in me will bear great fruit. **(Refrain)**

v.2 You are my friends, if you keep my commands,
no longer slaves, I call you friends. **(Refrain)**

v.3 No greater love is there than this:
to lay down one's life for a friend. **(Refrain)**



Lord, When You Came

Lord, when you came to the seashore
You weren't seeking the wise or the wealthy
But only asking that I might follow.

(Refrain): Oh, Lord, in my eyes you were gazing,
Kindly smiling, my name you were saying
All I treasured, I have left on the sand there
Close to you, I will find other seas.

Lord, you knew what my boat carried
Neither money nor weapons for fighting
But nets for fishing, my daily labor **(Refrain)**

Lord, have you need of my labor
Hands for service, a heart made for loving
My arms for lifting the poor and broken? **(Refrain)**

Lord, send me where you would have me
To a village, or heart of the city
I will remember that you are with me **(Refrain)**



Sending: We Are Called (ending mass in chapel before procession to labyrinth.

Come, live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom
Of the city of God.
We are called to act with justice. We are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your hearts! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and blindness
Will be no more.
We are called to act with justice. We are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of the great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers
United in love.
We are called to act with justice. We are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Processional to Labyrinth

Significance of Labyrinth Garden

Presentation of Hanging Tiles

Blessing

Our Labyrinth Garden of Gratitude and Remembrance



The Canticle of the Creatures

1. Most High, all-powerful, good Lord, yours are the praises,
the glory, and the honor, and the blessing.
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.

2. Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.

1. Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

2. Praised be You, my Lord, through brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene , and every kind of weather,
through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.

1. Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

2. Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night, and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

1. Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit
with colored flowers and herbs.

2. Praised be You, my Lord, through those
who give pardon for Your love, and bear
infirmity and tribulation. Blessed are those
who endure in peace for by You, Most High,
shall they be crowned.

1. Praised be You, my Lord, through our
Sister Bodily Death, from whom no one liv-
ing can escape. Woe to those who die in
mortal sin. Blessed are those whom death
will find in Your most holy will, for the sec-
ond death shall do them no harm.

2. Praise and bless my Lord and give Him
thanks and serve Him with great humility.





May 24, 2025

Sean Adcroft
Paul and Marylou Aroune
Sean and Julie Auth
Anthony Bannon and Elizabeth Stewart
Steven and Shirley Barry
Richard and Patricia Benvenuto
Joseph and Valerie Blind
Kathleen C. Boone
In Honor of Patricia Brunk
John and Margaret Burke
Margaret Carney, OSF
Mark and Manuela Ceglinski
Michael Christini
Diana Cianflocco
Laureen Clark
William J. Connors
Eugene and Monica DellaPietra
Joseph and Jacqueline DeMaria
Marylou Domino
Edward and Linda Eckert
David and Kathleen Ernst
Jack and Marge Fenn
William and Lois Giniecki
Rob Granger
Reggie Harris
Kim Harris
Thomas and Mary Hennessy
Betty Hooker, OFS
Jay and Cassie Jilot
Jim and Bobbie Kane
Karen Karaszewski
Mo and Dick Kearns

Marcia & Jack Kelly
Joan King
Billy and Kendra Kistner
Dianne J. Kuzia-Hills
Karen Laurent
Mark and Allison Majka
Wendy Mann
John and Kay Meisch
Eric and Ana Neidermeyer
Michael J. New
Karen Halliday Pulaski
Ryan Pippo Realbuto
Daniel P. Riley, ofm
Kim Wassel Robinson
Mary Dausman Schlosser
Rob and Wendy Sedlak
Shaun and Barbara Sheehan
Martin and Catharine Shields
Don & Kristen Smith
Rick and Kathy Stearns
Michael and Ritaclare Streb
Michael P. Sullivan
Sarino Tropeano
Katie Rinaldi Trosch
Vic and Cindy Vena
David and Sandra Whalen
"Pray, Fight, Win" Ryan Marchiori
The William E. & Ann L. Swan
Foundation



October 14-16, 2022

- A friend of the Mountain
- John and Carol Aceti
- Brian and Jennifer Attea & Family
- Richard and Harriet Attea
- Michele Bednar
- Howard Besecker
- Colleen A. Brade
- Bill and Lisa Bradley
- Tim and Katy Burns
- Michael J. Camoin
- Alva V. Cellini
- Deborah and Philip Ceppaglia
- Robert P. Cesca
- Frances Hungerford Chadderdon
- Larry and Deborah Clark
- In memory of Mary Ann Clune
- William and Mary Lu Coffey
- MaryAnn Coleman
- Kathleen and Thomas Colucci
- Ross and Christine Contiliano
- Lee and Lee Coppola
- James and Kathleen Corcoran
- Neil L. Dempsey
- Dennis DePerro
- Justin and Rita Diehl
- Thomas Dombrowski and Ruth Malek Dombrowski
- Franey and Barbara Donovan
- Ruth and John Doyle
- Robert and Patricia Mahoney Dumser
- Marlene Eaton
- Tom and Joey Enright
- James and Carolyn Feldbauer
- Julie and Michael Fenn
- James and Christine Fien
- Patrick and Patricia Flaherty
- Donald and Carolyn Flanagan
- James Fleischman
- Gerald and Mary Ford
- Virginia Fossaceca
- Mary Freeman and Michael Kelley
- In Memory of Matthew Fritz
- Liz and Ted Gartland
- Patti Grip
- Patty Ann, Eric & Elise Hamblen
- Mary A. Hamilton
- Dennis and Kermuth Haraszko
- George and Norma Hendrix
- James and Robin Hickey
- Jim and Denise Hogan
- Kenneth and Andrea Holet
- Charles and Jane Hurley
- Fred and Lisa James
- John and Carol Kane
- Duane Karl
- Michael Kasperski
- Kathleen Keller
- Tom Riley and Barbara Kelley
- Mary and Jim Kenrick
- John Kilcoyne
- Linda and George Klein
- Paul and Rosemary Kline
- Martha and John Kopcienski
- Mrs. Rachel Kotula

- Linda and Michael Langie
- Greg Licamele
- Patricia and Thomas Liddy
- Robert Liguori
- Roberta and Francis Mahar Jr.
- Michelle G. Marcellin
- A Michelle Marks
- Mary Barb Marra
- Terri and Ryan Marrie
- John McCarthy and Susanna Choi
- Evan and Vickie McElroy
- Donald and Theresa McFadden
- Janice and William C. Murphy
- Evan and Marti Page
- Bob and Lillian Schaffhauser Patten
- Fr. Ron J. Pecci, ofm
- James and Virginia Raftis
- Joseph and Joyce Resch
- Otto and Barbara Rothermel
- Sr. Anne Rothmeier, ofm
- Gordon W. Sear DDS and Beatrice Sear
- Nicholas and Karen Speranza
- Frank and Jane Squillace
- Jeanne Stopha, OFS
- Richard Sullivan
- Ann Swan
- Delphine Szczesniak
- Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation
- Jay and Linda Travers
- Donald and Diane Watkins
- Francis and Patricia Weldon
- Joseph and Anne Wild
- Estella and Keith Wood
- Paul and Mary Lou Wood
- Robert and Norma Chue Worden
- Donna Yellen
- Tom and Linda Young Family
- David and Heather Zatlukal
- William and Margaret Zeis
- Robert and Patricia Mahoney Dumser
- Larry and Bonnie Orsini
- Robert Samuels





May 3-5, 2019

- Dean Aaron
- Allegany Franciscan Ministries
- Mary Arghittu, ofm
- Katherine Barrett
- John and Suzanne Berger
- Sue and Steve Besecker
- Tom Blazejewski
- Laurie Branch
- Tim and Kim Brown
- Agnes Brush, OFS
- Margaret Bryner
- Rob Buckla
- Jim and Eileen Buzzard
- Bob and Barbara Cancalosi
- Fr. Anthony Carrozzo, ofm
- Eileen Charleton
- Sr. Paul Cosmas, ofm and the Ritiro Community
- Dennis Culhane and Alexis Castor
- Edward J. Cunningham
- Robert and Nancy Daugherty
- Raymond and Maureen Dee
- Margaret Dessauer
- Joe Doino, ofm
- Chris Domes
- Mathias Doyle, ofm
- John Ducey
- John Dutcher, OFS and Anita Dutcher, OFS
- The Eberl Family
- Gregg and Barb Fabianski
- Tom and Laura Fenn
- Donald and Gay Fish
- Joe Flanagan
- Michael and Christine Fossaceca
- John Frambes, ofm
- Franciscan Volunteer Ministry
- James and Ann Gould
- Pat and Mike Hahn
- Deb Henretta and Sean Murray
- Joseph and Cecily Higgins
- Holy Name Province
- Connie and Stephen Horan
- Nancy and Chip Howe
- Dan Hurley, ofm
- Stephen and JoAnn Hurley
- Irenaeus Foundation
- The Jilot Family
- Mike Julian
- Sean Keating
- Frank and Barbara Keery
- Paul and Ellen Kruse
- Anthony LaMarca
- David, Jacqueline and Victoria Lanzillo
- Peter and Anne Larkin
- Pete Lauer
- The Lawley Family
- Elizabeth S. Lenna
- Louis B. and Mary Jeanne Lucco
- Jean MacLeay
- Alban Maguire, ofm
- Ann McCarthy
- Glenn McClure

- Jack McGinley Jr
- Delores McIlmali
- Barbara J. and Daniel H. McKee
- Rick Mikolajczyk
- Harry Monaco, ofm
- Peggy Mosher, OFS
- Mark and Margaret Murphy
- Marge Musial, OFS
- James and Marilyn O'Connell
- In Memory of Belesario and Sarah Paladino
- Mary Anne Palermo
- Richard Perry
- Mary Piccioli
- Les and Eileen Quick
- Thomas Quick
- E.F. Robbins
- Arthur and Nancy Roberts
- Subby Rogozinski
- Scanlan Family Peg Tom Lex
- Robert Samuels
- John and Jeanie Scarzafava
- D. "Mike" Schaffner
- Grant E. Scott III and Mary Irwin-Scott
- Joel and Diane Serra
- David Sexton
- Michael Shane
- Sisters of St. Francis of
Penance and Christian Charity
- Lucho Skandar
- John and Maureen Slattery
- Mari L. P. Snyder
- St. Bonaventure Friary
- St. Bonaventure University
- Bill Stephens
- Marv and Donna Stocker
- Bob Struzynski, ofm
- Peter and Madelyn Sullivan
- Robert and Celia Sullivan
- Donald and Mary Swanz
- Kevin Sweeney
- MJ Telford
- The Galasso Foundation
- Theresa Trainor
- Kevin and Hilary Van Norstrand
- Carl Wagner
- Robert E. and Kathleen P. White
- Gabriella Zoghibe



Sunday Morning Prayer

**Gather at 9:30 am (basement of the House of Peace)
for those able to join us**

PRAYER AND THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

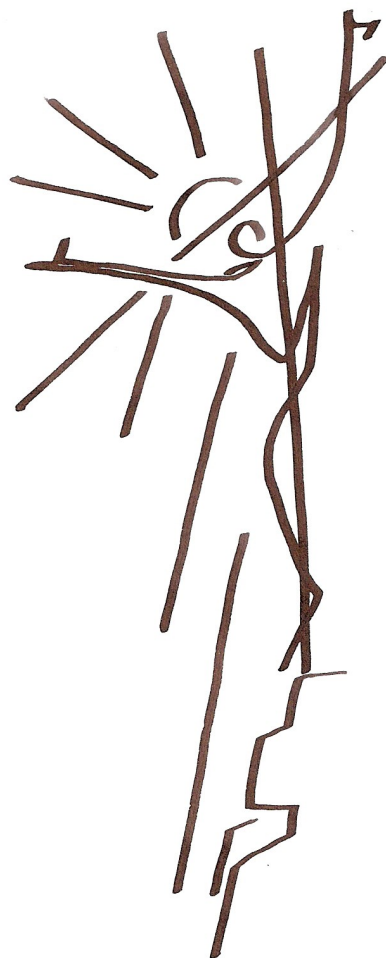
What you hold, may you [always] hold.

What you do, may you [always] do and never abandon. But with swift pace, light step, unswerving feet, so that even your steps stir up no dust. May you go forward securely, joyfully, and swiftly, on the path of prudent happiness. Not believing anything, not agreeing with anything that would dissuade you from this resolution or that would place a stumbling block for you on the way, so that you may offer your vows to the Most High in the pursuit of that perfection to which the Spirit of the Lord has called you.

St. Clare of Assisi

Conversatio: The Future of the Mountain

11:00 am Liturgy with brunch to follow



Mt. Irenaeus Time Line

A History of the Mountain

1971

- ◇ St. Bonaventure University Student Government, Gervase White, ofm and Dan Riley, ofm lead a retreat away from campus and were excited about the idea of a retreat place for students.
- ◇ Dan Riley, ofm and Irenaeus Herscher, ofm, librarian at SBU, talked over coffee, about a place away from campus for retreats and prayer.

1979

- ◇ Dan Riley, ofm met with Allegany Sister Paul Cosmas Gagnon and two SBU students to plan a place of retreat.

1981

- ◇ A Mountain advisory board was formed

1982

- ◇ On June 29, The Franciscan Mountain Retreat was incorporated as a not-for profit corporation in the State of New York. The original trustees of the corporation were Dan Riley, ofm, J. Michael Shane and Clarence M. Schaffner.

1983

- ◇ The name Mt. Irenaeus was given to the corporation in memory of Irenaeus Herscher, ofm.
- ◇ Dan Riley, ofm and Dan Hurley, ofm began Mt. Irenaeus in Collins Hall in Allegany for ten weeks in each of the summers of 1983 and 1984.

1984

- ◇ On November 13, a newly expanded Board purchased 207 acres of land for the retreat in West Clarksville, New York.

1985

- ◇ Dan Riley, ofm and Dan Hurley, ofm began temporary residence in West Clarksville with two "Summer Interns."
- ◇ Students for the Mountain was formed.
- ◇ SBU HEOP and the Mountain begin a relationship that continues to this day.
- ◇ Expansion of the original house to include two bedrooms and a bathroom.
- ◇ Sunrise hermitage built.

1986

- ◇ Further renovations were completed, prayer porch and entrance way were added to the house while Mass continued outdoors in good weather.

1987

- ◇ The Trustees of Mt. Irenaeus established a five-year plan conceiving of a chapel and eventually a new home.

1988

- ◇ St. Joseph Hermitage was constructed through a gift from Holy Name Province. Work started on Holy Peace Chapel. Building St. Clare in the Meadow hermitage began with the help of Rob Granger and BOCES of Belmont.

1989

- ◇ Holy Peace Chapel was dedicated by Bishop Edward Head of Buffalo and further planning and listening sessions with guests highlighted the spectrum of visitors and a needs assessment was completed.
- ◇ Joseph Kotula, ofm took up residence at Mt. Irenaeus.

1990

- ◇ Holy Peace Friary was established with three friars as the core community of Mt. Irenaeus: Dan Riley, ofm, Dan Hurley, ofm and Joe Kotula, ofm.
- ◇ La Posada was built at the top of the Mountain Road.

- 1991**
- ◇ Juniper Hermitage was completed along with further trails. Holy Lady Hermitage, a log cabin, was purchased while a new commitment was made to a capital campaign to complete the 1987 plan. Francis trail completed.
 - ◇ Louis McCormick, ofm joined the friar community.
- 1992**
- ◇ Pica trail created with boy Scouts; St. Theresa of the Little Flower shrine was built.
 - ◇ With the work of volunteers over several years, La Posada cabin was finished.
- 1993**
- ◇ La Posada is destroyed by fire and the site cleared to be rebuilt by volunteers and donated material.
 - ◇ Timber on the north side of Peter's Path is cut to be used for the new Mountain home.
- 1994**
- ◇ Ground-Breaking for the House of Peace took place following the June Trustees meeting for Mt. Irenaeus.
- 1995**
- ◇ An agreement was signed between St. Bonaventure University and Mt. Irenaeus in July.
 - ◇ House of Peace, the new common house, was dedicated on Sept 23 following an evening of discussion and prayer with the Trustees of St. Bonaventure University and Mt. Irenaeus.
 - ◇ Outreach began in neighboring parishes.
 - ◇ Michelle Marcellin joined the Mountain team.
- 1997**
- ◇ The first of four annual Assisi Pilgrimages included an intergenerational group of students and primary sharers of Mt. Irenaeus.
 - ◇ A pond (one-half acre) was put in near House of Peace and Sunrise Cabin.
 - ◇ The Mountain Peer Ministry Program began at SBU.
- 1998**
- ◇ Fifty additional acres of property were purchased for Mt. Irenaeus.
- 1999**
- ◇ September 23, Minister General - Giacomo Bini, ofm and Definitor General, Sean Collins, ofm visited the Mountain for prayer.
 - ◇ Screened shelter was erected near the pond.
 - ◇ Lay Minister Holly Schubert, our first Mountain Companion joined the Mountain in full-time ministry residing at the Mountain and an SBU residence hall.
 - ◇ Men's Overnights begin at the Mountain; other groups enjoy evenings and weekends away.
- 2000**
- ◇ Mt. Irenaeus begins an online presence with www.mounti.com.
 - ◇ Women's Overnights begin at the Mountain.
- 2001**
- ◇ St. Clare cabin expanded to include a kitchen and bath with a grant from Mary Jean Lucco.
 - ◇ Sophia cabin was built with a donation from the Stella Niagara Sisters.
 - ◇ October 20, The Mountain Board of Trustees announced the start of the Mountain's first Endowment Campaign.
 - ◇ October 21, formation programs, in conjunction with the monthly meetings of Partners-in-Ministry, began.
 - ◇ Darren Hartigan becomes the second Mountain Companion.
 - ◇ First annual Mountain Auction raises \$25,902.
- 2002**
- ◇ May 29, the Guardian of St. Bonaventure Friary, SBU (Tom Blow, ofm) and Guardian of Holy Peace Friary, Mt. Irenaeus (Dan Riley, ofm) met with the President of St. Bonaventure University (Robert J. Wickenheiser, Ph.D.) and confirmed a common mission statement and a strategy for ministry to higher education.

2003

- ◇ Mt. Irenaeus share a part in a grant from the Lilly Foundation to foster Church vocations with SBU University Ministries.

2004

- ◇ Mt. Irenaeus is featured in the September 2004 issue of St. Anthony Messenger in an article by Brian Moritz.
- ◇ Mt. Irenaeus is featured in an article in the December 13 issue of the NY Times entitled "Not Much of a Mountain but the Real View's Upward" by Michael York.
- ◇ Ministry of the Mountain Friars and Students to SBU Alumni throughout the country gets its name as "Mountain on the Road."
- ◇ Palm Sunday, Patrick McCarthy, 1995 SBU grad, becomes the third Mountain Companion.
- ◇ June, Contemplative Days are held renewing the dialogue between the Franciscan and Camaldolese traditions of contemplation.

2005

- ◇ Bob Struzynski, ofm arrives as newest member of the Mt. Irenaeus friar community.
- ◇ Shed is built to house the "Blue Forge" wood boiler.
- ◇ Experiential Learning in State Prisons program begins.
- ◇ Home of Caro Taylor is purchased. Eighty-seven acres of land are added to Mt. Irenaeus.
- ◇ Strategic Planning Process begins and Fundamentals are written.

2006

- ◇ Tim Schaffer becomes the Coordinator of Mountain Ministries for Programming and Activities to St. Bonaventure.

2007

- ◇ Mike Kasperski comes on as Business Coordinator

2008

- ◇ Kevin Kriso, ofm joins the friar community.
- ◇ Emily Michaelson becomes the fourth Mountain Companion.
- ◇ Mary Giardini comes on as the Communications and Development Services Coordinator.
- ◇ Franciscan Sojourners program begins.
- ◇ Fr. Dan Hurley's blueberry pie sells for \$900 at the Mountain Auction.
- ◇ Mt. Irenaeus opens a Facebook account at www.facebook.com/mtirenaeus
- ◇ Br. Joe Kotula, ofm agrees to be the caretaker of the Taylor House by moving in and providing more room for guests.

2009

- ◇ About 30 acres of Norwegian Spruce Trees around the pond are harvested.
- ◇ Dan Riley, ofm receives Gaudete Award in May.
- ◇ Mary Schlosser comes on as the Coordinator of Development and Volunteers.
- ◇ Mt. Irenaeus begins a relationship with the Senecas at the Faithkeepers School in Steamburg, NY.
- ◇ "Mountain in Your Home" Programs begin.
- ◇ Mt. Irenaeus opens a Twitter account at www.twitter.com/mtirenaeus

2010

- ◇ Dan Hurley, ofm passes away at the age of 90 in March.
- ◇ Students for the Mountain vote to change their name to "Mountain Community Leaders."
- ◇ Sun and Cloud Reflections by Dan Riley, ofm begin.
- ◇ 25th Anniversary Celebration held at the Mountain.

2011

- ◇ John Coughlin, ofm joins the friar community.
- ◇ Strategic Plan updated.
- ◇ Excavation begins on La Paz hermitage.
- ◇ Kingdom Quest Program begins on Campus.
- ◇ In August, Fr. Dan's Sun and Clouds Reflections find a new medium as podcasts.

2012

- ◇ Martin Spear becomes the fifth Mountain Companion

2013

- ◇ La Paz hermitage completed. The Annual Mountain Auction branches out to add an online component.
- ◇ Bob Struzynski, ofm moves to St. Anthony Friary in Butler, NJ in June and passes away in December.
- ◇ In November, Dan Riley, ofm starts tweeting ministry on Twitter.
- ◇ The Communications Committee unveils a new digital outreach with a monthly e-newsletter.
- ◇ Transitus Ale, home-brewed by Fr. John Coughlin, ofm, sells for \$750 at the Auction.

2014

- ◇ Dan Riley, ofm joins Instagram and begins a digital outreach
- ◇ Fr. John Coughlin, ofm is reassigned to Catholic Center at the University of Georgia.
- ◇ Searches for new Mountain Companions and an Executive Director begin.
- ◇ Br. Kevin Kriso, ofm becomes Guardian of Holy Peace Friary.
- ◇ Joe Flynn becomes the sixth Mountain Companion.
- ◇ 30 year celebrations begin: "Peace with every step for 30 years! Go out to all the Earth!"
- ◇ Circle for Animation

2015

- ◇ Summer Sojourner/Transformation Weekends begin.
- ◇ The SBU School of Business begins summer retreats.
- ◇ Mountain print newsletter goes full color.
- ◇ 30th Anniversary Celebration at the Mountain.

2016

- ◇ Michael Fenn comes on as first Executive Director.
- ◇ First Convocation at the Mountain where we reviewed our strategic plan and documents so as to set a roadmap for the future.
- ◇ The Board voted to provide important benefits to the staff which include health insurance and a matching IRA program.
- ◇ In September, we celebrated Dan Riley, ofm's Golden Jubilee.
- ◇ Hurley Legacy Society begins.
- ◇ Mountain Auction goes fully online.
- ◇ Communications committee start adding video podcasts to the enewsletters.
- ◇ Council for Spirit and Life formed.
- ◇ Daniel P. Riley, ofm Mountain Sustainability Campaign begun.
- ◇ Giving Tuesday appeals begin a long and sustaining addition to the Mountain Fund.

2017

- ◇ New website launched at www.mountainonline.org gives us more space to expand our offerings and helps us stand out as an organization.
- ◇ Online donations through our new website become a significant part of our revenue.
- ◇ Mountain staff moved to offices in the new McGinley-Carney Center for Franciscan Ministry.
- ◇ Mountain Companion Ministry outreach begins.
- ◇ Raised garden beds installed through the gift of a very special friend of the Mountain.
- ◇ The Mountain starts retreats for the American medical Students Association students.
- ◇ SBU has a faculty retreat weekend at Mt. Irenaeus.

2018

- ◇ Daniel P. Riley, ofm Mountain Sustainability Campaign kickoff events held in regional areas.
- ◇ Reunion weekends for student groups held during the summer at Mt. Irenaeus.
- ◇ New fence installed by board member Paul Aroune and others to protect the garden from our native wildlife friends.
- ◇ Thoughts to start creating a master plan that would have us look at all of our land and facilities to help welcome other communities to live amongst the resident friars.
- ◇ Living Stones Recognition Society begins.

2019

- ◇ August Companions begins so to help cover for friar vacations and retreats.
- ◇ Council for Spirit and life branches into 4 main groups, each with their own conveners: Mountain in Your Home Branch; Electronic Media Branch; Weekends & More Branch; Mutual Mentoring & Companionship Branch.
- ◇ Build with Living Stones Weekend takes place in the spring, honoring those who have been the building blocks of Mt. Irenaeus through their gifts of time, talent or treasure. Tiles with Living Stones names added to the arbors at the entrances to the Labyrinth Garden.

2020

- ◇ During the Pandemic of 2020, Mt. Irenaeus reached into new territory while in quarantine – an online presence. Zoom became an integral part of our life and ministry.
- ◇ Office team transitions to work from home until safe to return to campus.
- ◇ Live streaming events start at the Mountain.
- ◇ Digital outreach through Facebook and Instagram explodes into vibrancy.
- ◇ Giving Tuesday becomes single largest Mountain Fund appeal.

2021

- ◇ Young Alumni Mountain in Your Home Groups begin forming through Zoom.
- ◇ The Mountain reopens to traditional way of life to welcome guests.
- ◇ New Marketplace opens on our website offering apparel and other gifts to purchase.
- ◇ Council for Spirit and Life Weekends reestablished.
- ◇ Mt. Irenaeus community and board members gathered for a weekend with a facilitator to brainstorm ideas for a new strategic plan which was formed and implemented.
- ◇ Racial Justice Group forms to help listen to others.
- ◇ Music on the Mountain and celebration of Fr. Dan Riley's 50 years of service through ordination.
- ◇ High speed fiber optic internet allows easier digital communication at the Mountain.
- ◇ Solar field installed at Mt. Irenaeus to supply all of our electrical needs.

2022

- ◇ Ite Nuntiate Group visits Mt. Irenaeus.
- ◇ Karen Pulaski becomes the 7th Mountain Companion.
- ◇ Board of Trustees approved the hiring of 3 new staff positions: Advancement Director; Associate Director; Ministry Coordinator.
- ◇ Build with Living Stones 2022 celebrates new group of honorees.
- ◇ Five Mountain community members visit the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, NM.
- ◇ Several Mountain representatives attend Franciscan Federation gathering.
- ◇ Dan Riley, ofm publishes first book: *Franciscan Lectio: Reading the World through the Living Word* and embarks on regional gatherings.

2023

- ◇ Mike Fenn, Executive Director, graduates from Catholic Theological Union, with a Masters in Pastoral Studies.
- ◇ Outreach ministries thrive and expand – including the introduction of adult women’s overnight retreats as well as many other virtual experiences.
- ◇ Dan Riley, ofm, receives an honorary doctorate from St. Bonaventure University.
- ◇ Natalie Pronio, class of 2009, joins the Mountain as the first full-time Student Ministry Coordinator.
- ◇ Kevin Kriso, ofm and Joseph Kotula, ofm, along with a group of other Provincial friars, complete a pilgrimage to the southern US border/northern Mexican border.
- ◇ Community members attend the annual Franciscan Federation gathering for the second year.
- ◇ Dan Riley, ofm and Kevin Kriso, ofm are invited to Assisi to present the Mt Irenaeus community at the International Meeting of OFM Franciscan Hermitages.
- ◇ Holy Name Province becomes part of the new larger US Province Our Lady of Guadalupe (POLG). The brothers attend the last chapter of Holy Name Province and the first chapter of the new Province.
- ◇ Dan Riley, ofm, along with other Mtn community members and friends of the Mtn, travel together to Rome and Assisi for a pilgrimage.
- ◇ The Mountain purchases the Clark property, adding an additional 11 acres of land with 2 existing dwellings.
- ◇ William McIntyre, ofm, joins the community.

2024

- ◇ The Mountain is 40 years old this year!!
- ◇ Dan Riley, ofm, completes a 3-month sabbatical to California. Stephen Copeland, author, travels with Dan and records hours of conversations.
- ◇ Mt. Irenaeus and St. Bonaventure University renew their ministry agreement.
- ◇ Dan Riley, ofm, completes the audiobook version of *Franciscan Lectio: Reading the World Through the Living Word*.
- ◇ New roofs are completed on the House of Peace and the Chapel.
- ◇ Mary Giardini is named Senior Advancement and Communications Coordinator; Michelle Marcellin becomes Office Manager.
- ◇ Dan Riley, ofm, completes his last podcast for Sun and Clouds– 291 in all.
- ◇ Dan Riley, ofm, Founder and Animator of Mt. Irenaeus, passes away.
- ◇ Kevin Kriso, ofm is named the new Animator.
- ◇ Karen Pulaski is named Director of Faith Formation.
- ◇ Greg Licamele assumes responsibility for the Mt. Irenaeus Instagram site.
- ◇ The Mountain completes its first 40 Hours of Giving; there is an outpouring of support and more than \$120,000 is raised.
- ◇ Rob Buckla, class of ’84, joins the Mountain as Campaign Director. He, along with others, initiates a major capital campaign.
- ◇ Mari Synder becomes the eighth Mountain Companion.
- ◇ The renovation of Juniper is completed.

2025

- ◇ Kevin Kriso, ofm, Karen Pulaski, Aleda Leis and Stephen Copeland participate in the synod meeting sponsored by the US Province, Our Lady of Guadalupe (POLG), in Kansas City.
- ◇ Mt. Irenaeus ministries continue to thrive and expand, encompassing student ministry, adult ministry/faith formation and service to the Province (POLG).
- ◇ A faith formation journey with an emphasis on relationships and community served more than 55 participants and spanned over 14 months.
- ◇ Mt. Irenaeus joins with the Province (POLG) to bring a similar faith formation journey to friars, secular Franciscans and laity across the country.
- ◇ Renovations in the kitchen in the House of Peace are completed.
- ◇ Build with Living Stones celebrates a new group of honorees.
- ◇ Karen Pulaski, Director of Faith Formation, travels to Rome with friars from St. Bonaventure and Siena to attend an international Franciscan Ecological conference.

Come to him, a living
stone, though rejected
by mortals yet chosen
and Precious in God's
sight, and like living
stones, let yourselves
be built into a spiritual
house, to be a holy
priesthood, to offer
spiritual sacrifices ac-
ceptable to God
through Jesus Christ.

~ 1 Peter 2:4-5



THE WAY OF PEACE

I call upon the Eternal Father through his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. That through the intercession of the most holy Virgin Mary, the mother of the same God and Lord Jesus Christ, and through the intercession of blessed Francis, our leader and father, he may enlighten the eyes of our soul to guide our feet in the way of that peace which surpasses all understanding. This is the peace proclaimed and given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ and preached again and again by our father Francis. At the beginning and end of every sermon he announced peace. In every contemplation he sighed for ecstatic peace. Like a citizen of that Jerusalem of which That Man of Peace says, who was peaceable with those.



**Most High
Glorious God,
Enlighten the darkness
Of my heart
And give me, Lord
A correct faith,
A certain hope,
A perfect charity,
Sense and knowledge,
So that I may carry out
Your holy and true
Will.**

~St. Francis of Assisi



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Mt. Irenaeus, a “Franciscan mountain retreat” community of prayer and hospitality is sustained primarily by free will offerings of friends. You can help us by checking our website for ways we can serve you and ways you might help us or you can contact Michelle Marcellin directly at mmarc@sbu.edu.