Grounded in Christ: An Intentional Commitment
What is Ours to Do?

"Take Heart;
get up, He is calling you."

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What is Ours to Do?

Board of Trustees Meeting
September 12-13, 2025

Friday Evening

5:30 pm Gather for drinks and socialization
Welcome, Introductions and blessing of the meal

Quiet walk to the chapel
Instrumental music for entry
Meditation
Lighting of the candle
Song out of Meditation: ***Rooted In Jesus*, by Ed Sheeran**

Opening Prayer: **Written by Sr. Kathy Dougherty**

Loving God, we gather this weekend in the peace of Mt. Irenaeus,
grateful for the gift of one another and for the work entrusted to us.

As your Son teaches, *a good tree bears good fruit.*
Plant us deeply in your Spirit,
that our thoughts, words, and actions
may grow from roots nourished by compassion, wisdom, and love.

And as we seek to serve this community,
help us to build not upon sand but upon the rock of your Word.
May our foundations be steady and sure,
resilient to the winds and waters that test us,
firm in the hope of Christ who is our cornerstone.

Bless this board and community, our conversations, and our decisions,
that they may bear fruit for the good of all
and give glory to You, now and forever.

Amen.

Side to Side Community Prayer: **Ephesians 1:3-10**

1 Bless God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who blessed us from heaven through Christ
with every blessing of the Spirit

2 Before laying the world's foundation,
God chose us in Christ
to live a pure and holy life.

1 God determined out of love
to adopt us through Jesus Christ
for the praise and glory of that grace
granted us in the Beloved.

2 By Christ's blood, we were redeemed,
our sins forgiven
through extravagant love.

1 With perfect wisdom and insight
God freely displayed the mystery
of what was always intended:
a plan for the fullness of time
to unite the entire universe through Christ.

Reading:

Jesus said to his disciples, "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.

"Why do you call me, "Lord, Lord," but not do what I command? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, listens to my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when the flood came, the river burst against that house but could not shake it because it had been well built. But the one who listens and does not act is like a person who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, it collapsed at once and was completely destroyed." Luke 6:43-49

Reflection: Rediscovering Our Foundation in Expanding Expressions of Our Mission
Br Jimmy

Break into Dyads –
Suggested reflective question: your group may want to use these reflective questions as a starting point or may feel called to move in a different direction.

- What is the foundation in my own personal life that guides my actions to *bear good fruti?*
- What actions for the Mtn do I personally feel called to that are grounded in our core documents (Mission and Vision statement, Gospel Manner of Life)? What feels challenging right now?

Return to large group for sharing
Petitions
Closing Prayer/Sign of peace

Saturday:

	Pick up breakfast	
8:45 am	Meet in the Chapel to begin our day	
Brief Introductions		
Meditation		
Song:	***Lord, You Have Come to the Seashore***	**Br. Jimmy**

Reading:

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

John: 3:13-17

Reflection: **Embracing an Intentional Commitment to Extraordinary Love** **Fr Lou**

The Ground We Stand On: An Intentional Commitment

Leader: Kathy Colucci

We believe, embrace and uphold:

- the belief that holy places are part of all spiritual traditions; we hold sacred that Mt. Irenaeus is one of those holy places, founded in the spirit of prayer and hospitality. We understand that our very name means "peacemaker."
- that we are called "to be attentive to the one thing that matters" - a life centered in God and in joyful, living service to others.
- that experience of life is a most profound way to knowledge, that "doing" leads to "knowing"
- that God is active and present in our very midst
- that 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.
- in the inherent goodness of humanity and that the "glory of God is indeed a human person fully alive," that all of creation is called to its fullness in Jesus Christ.

Commitment Response:

(Leader): As board members, we commit to:

(Board members):

- supporting the spirit of the description of role of trustee as described in our bylaws, and in good faith fully participating in board meetings and committee work to support the mission of the Mtn.
- assuming ownership of the board responsibility to make governing decisions that are aligned with the mission and vision of Mt. Irenaeus.

(Leader): As members of the Mt Irenaeus Family, we commit to:

(All):

- maintaining and sustaining our mission by renewing ourselves and finding others who might support and provide leadership, as well as those who may want to join us in residence in this Gospel Manner of Life. We do this by continuing to form further collaborative outreach relationships, always seeking to widen the circle.
- trying to live a life of servant leadership that Jesus modeled for us; and to reflecting with and supporting one other in this pursuit.
- contemplatively considering and compassionately living and working at the relationship between ourselves, one another and our God who is "all in all".
- discovering new ways of learning while simultaneously holding old traditional ways of learning and passing these on to others.
- pursuing a common journey with others, believing that "perfect love casts out all fear" that leads us all on our journey into God's reign of light of justice, love and peace.

All trustees individually receive a Tau cross (given out by Kevin and Mike).

Quiet walk back to the House of Peace

Continued Response: Moving to our Board agenda

8:45 - 9:45 a.m.	(In the Chapel) Welcome, Prayer & Reflections - Introductions and welcome to new board members, guests - Commitment Ceremony
9:45 - 10:00 a.m.	Break – Walk to House of Peace lower level
10:00 - 12:00 p.m.	*Business Meeting Morning Session:*
10:00 – 10:05 a.m.	Welcome (Kathy)
10:05 – 10:35 a.m.	Mountain Updates – SBU/students, adult faith formation, CSL, service to Province and Franciscan world (Mtn. Community)
10:35 – 11:00 a.m.	Endowment Campaign (Rob)
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	40 Hours of Giving/Auction/Advancement updates (Jackie, Mike, Mary)
11:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Group Discussion: Personnel needs/Resident Community
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	Executive Session (board)
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	*Afternoon Session*
1:30 - 2:00 p.m.	Finance Budget (Mike)
2:00 – 2:15 p.m.	SBU Update (Jeff)
2:15 - 2:45 p.m.	Committee Reports: - B&G including proposed chapel entrance (Sarino, Mike) - Land (Mike) - Communications (Mike, committee members)
2:45 - 3:00 p.m.	Wrap-up and prayer (Kathy) - Thanks to outgoing trustee Otto Rothermel!

Notes: Hand out Fundamentals in advance

- *Mt. Irenaeus mission, vision, Gospel manner of life*
- *Board bylaws, list of board members and committees*

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.

MT. IRENAEUS
FRANCISCAN MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY