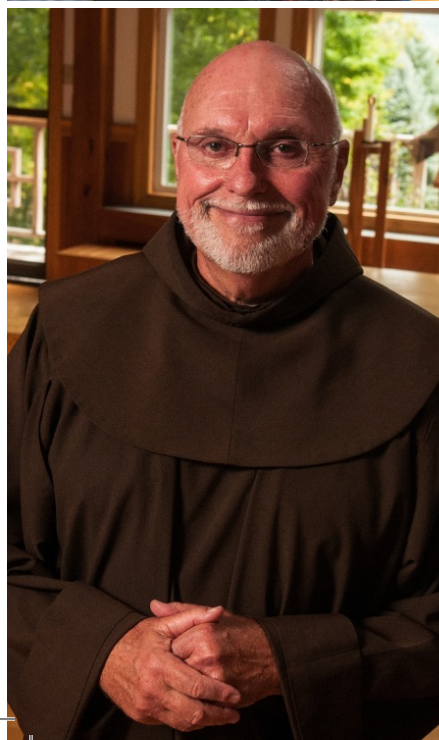




CASE FOR SUPPORT:

Mt. Irenaeus Franciscan Mountain Community



**From the homily, Mass of Christian Burial,
Fr. Daniel P. Riley, ofm:**

Just imagine for yourself that you've died. And we're all going to die. Then Michael (the Archangel) is leading you over but can't seem to find his way. Just listen for the laugh. Because the laugh will be coming from the center of the Kingdom. And, Daniel will make a place for you at the table as he always did on the Mountain. A seed has fallen to the ground and died. And has born much fruit. We have all been nourished by it.

— Fr. Xavier Seubert, ofm, St. Bonaventure University Chapel, Aug. 2, 2024



OUR VISION

Inspired by Founder Fr. Dan Riley, ofm

Mt. Irenaeus is a contemporary expression of early Franciscan life, set on 370 acres of peaceful nature in the Allegany County hamlet of West Clarksville, N.Y. The Mountain is an intentional Franciscan community, comprised of friars and lay residents, whose primary ministry has been centered on St. Bonaventure University since its founding in 1984 by Fr. Dan Riley, ofm and Fr. Dan Hurley, ofm. It is a place of belonging, open to all, where we “join with Jesus Christ to make all things new.”

Mt. Irenaeus serves as a place of peace and contemplation. Rooted in the Franciscan mission of simplicity, service and hospitality, we offer a welcoming environment where people can reflect on their personal faith journey while being surrounded by the beauty of nature. More than a place for a retreat, the Mountain, which is home

to a core community of men and women, is a lifestyle that cultivates wisdom, community, social consciousness and spiritual development.

The Mt. Irenaeus community engages St. Bonaventure University with a vibrant ministry that emanates from our Gospel manner of life, and includes student retreats, faculty and staff reflection days, alumni gatherings, and other faith-based initiatives.

“Mt. Irenaeus is a special place for our university community, offering a unique opportunity to live out the Franciscan values that are at the heart of St. Bonaventure’s mission,” University President Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D., said, upon the 2024 signing of a new partnership agreement with Mt. Irenaeus.

Besides working with students, the Mountain’s outreach includes adult ministries with Sunday masses, Mountain on the Road and Mountain in the Home programs, faith formation, podcasts and social media. Mt. Irenaeus also serves as a place of contemplation, formation and renewal for new and professed Franciscan friars from the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



The Strategic Vision of Mt. Irenaeus

In 2021, a comprehensive Mountain Strategic Plan was developed with the participation of Fr. Dan Riley, friars, Mountain Executive Director Mike Fenn ’91, Mountain trustees, alumni, friends and other key stakeholders.

Six strategic initiatives were established and much has been accomplished to further the Mountain’s mission:

- Enhance outreach to worldwide and U.S. Franciscans
- Seek others to develop a more diverse community
- Continue to co-minister with St. Bonaventure University
- Continue to expand the footprint of the Mountain beyond Mt. Irenaeus
- Ensure stewardship of the land via Master Planning
- Execute a comprehensive Advancement plan to continue fiscal stability

From this Strategic Plan, a three-peak focus has emerged which shapes Mt. Irenaeus’ thriving and purposeful future. The three peaks are illuminated on the pages that follow.

The friars, who comprise the core residential community at the Mountain, have lived at and/or engaged in Mountain ministry for a combined 85 years. The resident community models hospitality and relationship building and the Gospel manner of life.

Why is Mt. Irenaeus a separate not-for-profit organization from SBU?

In the 1980s, SBU President, the Very Rev. Mathias Doyle, ofm, was fully supportive of Fr. Dan’s vision to create a place of retreat, but given the University’s priorities, Fr. Mathias recommended that Mt. Irenaeus should seek status as an entity separate from the University.

Today, it is clear Fr. Mathias’ advice was wise. An independent Mountain is governed by its own Board of Trustees focused on a mission of Franciscan spirituality, contemplation and community. The four decades of partnership between SBU and Mt. Irenaeus helps integrate and deepen the unique Franciscan experience for each student.



FIRST PEAK

Service to the Students of St. Bonaventure University

Since the early 1970s when Mt. Irenaeus was an “idea” before it became a place, the “Mountain” welcomed and embraced St. Bonaventure University students as part of its core ministry. While the breadth of today’s Mountain offerings to students has greatly expanded in scope and depth, it is important to remember how it all began. Fr. Dan Riley, ofm, and Fr. Gervase White, ofm, led an off-campus retreat in 1971, during a tumultuous time in American history, for a handful of St. Bonaventure University students. That sparked a conversation between Fr. Dan and Fr. Irenaeus Herscher, ofm, then the iconic librarian at St. Bonaventure, about creating a space away from the daily bustle of campus life for retreats and prayer.

Forty years after its official establishment in 1984 on 207 acres in West Clarksville, N.Y., Mt. Irenaeus has called thousands of St. Bonaventure students (who are now alumni) to travel the 27 miles from Bonaventure to Allegany County for an engaging one-of-a-kind journey.

Mt. Irenaeus’ campus is alive with four seasons of nature and home to diverse plants and animals. The property was chosen because of its natural beauty but also because of a desire to preserve historic land where Native Americans lived and where the Underground Railroad passed.

For some of our college students, faith has been

renewed or found. For some, servant-leadership is learned and then passionately placed into action in communities around the nation and world. For some, self-acceptance and answers to key life questions are found. For some, a calling to the Franciscan order has been illuminated and pursued. For some, lifelong friendships began at the Mountain and have been sustained over the years.

More than 900 SBU student visits were recorded at the Mountain in the 2024-2025 academic year. Some students have made the journey on their own, but most others have attended one or more of the events designed for student organizations, student athletic teams or other special gatherings. The invitations, recruitment and planning of Mt. Irenaeus student events are spearheaded by Natalie Pronio '09, the Mountain’s Ministry Coordinator whose office is in St. Bonaventure’s McGinley-Carney Center for Franciscan Ministry.

Fr. Dan Riley recalled his early fellow Mountain resident Fr. Dan Hurley, ofm, asking the question, “Will anyone ever find us here?” The answer is a resounding yes.

Upon arrival at the Mountain, students find a place where they are noticed and become known. They experience fellowship and the spirit of inclusion. Students say the Mountain is a place where young people can own their own faith exploration and expression. Mt. Irenaeus has been and continues to be a unique and felt expression of being church. At a time in history when mental health concerns among youth, often exhibited as depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation,

Service to the Students

have attracted national attention, the Mountain provides a place where everyone belongs and whose voices are heard. Some have said that the Mountain has saved and will continue to save lives.

Among the student groups that have gathered recently at the Mountain: Asian Students in Action, Jandoli (School) Women in Communication, Latin American Student Organization (LASO), Men’s Rugby, Women’s Rugby, SBU Resident Life, School of Business students and classes, Women’s Soccer, Step Team, Men’s & Women’s Swimming & Diving and more. The Mountain also collaborates with the University’s Enrollment Management/Admissions office for student recruitment and retention programming.

In addition to organized days and/or student overnights, Mt. Irenaeus leads and coordinates a variety of engagement opportunities for students both on and off-campus. For example, a Mountain-led Franciscan Justice Circle, which meets monthly on campus, focuses on Care of Creation and the Cry of the Poor – specifically inspired by the late Pope Francis’ Laudato Si. This Circle started with 4 adults and has now grown to more than 20 members that include students, Mountain staff members, University faculty, members of campus ministry, Sisters of Allegany, and Olean community members. Mountain leadership has taken students annually to the Franciscan Action Network Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. This intergenerational conference provides an opportunity for all attendees to understand how the Franciscan charism calls us to be justice advocates. The conference provides grounding in Franciscan faith, prayer, development and practice of advocacy skills, and culminates with face-to-face visits with U.S. Senate and congressional staff members. Students advocate for specific bills related to the environment, gun control, human working conditions and more.

Intercollegiate Retreats at Mt. Irenaeus have included students from St. Bonaventure, Siena University, Binghamton University, SUNY Geneseo, Hilbert College, Houghton University and Rochester Institute of Technology to name a few. Students prayed together, reflected together and



cooked meals together over a 48-hour period.

The Mountain is also active in promoting post-collegiate service to the poor. Mt. Irenaeus provides space and facilitates each spring a retreat for the Philadelphia-based Franciscan Volunteer Ministry (FVM) organization. During this week, the Mountain collaborates with St. Bonaventure University Ministry to sponsor an evening for SBU students to join with FVM at the Mountain for dinner, prayer, reflection and storytelling. It is also an opportunity for Bonaventure students to ask questions reflective of their interest in a possible year of service after graduation.

The Mountain was an active participant in St. Bonaventure’s NetVue Project—introduced by SBU President Jeff Gingerich and University Ministry. This project committee explored how best to integrate Franciscan values into students’ collegiate careers while also assisting students navigate big life questions such as “what brings me joy?” “what am I good at?” and “what does the world need?” Participants include members of the University Ministry staff, a member of the Mountain core community and University faculty. When students are not at the Mountain, they are

Service to the Students

encouraged to plug-in to the ministry on Instagram. More than 550 SBU students are Mountain Instagram followers.

Looking to the future, student ministry at the Mountain and on campus will continue to be at the core of what we do at Mt. Irenaeus. However, four initiatives are underway which will expand the Mountain’s impact on students:

MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY LEADERS

One of Fr. Dan’s primary goals in ministering to students was to create future faith-based leaders, no matter the professions or vocations young people choose. The Mountain Community Leaders has been launched with tremendous potential to partner with others at the university to grow this program.

“MOUNTAIN STYLE” MINISTRY ON CAMPUS

Some SBU students are challenged to make the journey or find the time to come to the Mountain. We plan to launch mountain style prayer gatherings on campus to enlarge our circle and illuminate the Mt. Irenaeus way of life.

MOUNTAIN MINDFULNESS

Efforts are underway to partner with groups on campus, such as Counseling Resources, and student groups to support contemporary meditative and reflection practices on campus.

SIENA UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION

St. Bonaventure students, with guides from Mt. Irenaeus, attended a 2-day Siena University Ecological Symposium in the fall of 2024. The trip, supported through philanthropy secured by Mt. Irenaeus, concluded with a visit to Washington, D.C. for Franciscan service. It is our hope to be able to grow our collaboration with Siena University, SBU’s sister institution, on many fronts.

The Mountain has, indeed, left an indelible mark on the lives of students for more than 40 years. Mountain alumni make us proud by the way they express their faith and how they live their lives—impacting others through their actions. Among St. Bonaventure alumni who were inspired by their time at Mt. Irenaeus:

- Dennis Culhane ‘85, Ph.D., Professor of Social Policy, University of Pennsylvania, nationally recognized expert on homelessness in the U.S.
- Fr. Jason Damon ‘16, ofm, SEARCH Ministry, Diocese of Charlotte, N.C.
- Chris Domes ‘85, Ph.D., President of Neumann University, Aston, Pa., leader of a higher education institution founded by the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
- Dianne Kuzia Hills ‘85, Executive Director, My Brother’s Table, Lynn, Mass., the largest soup kitchen on the North Shore of Massachusetts
- Aleda Leis ‘13, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, University of Michigan School of Public Health
- Mari Snyder ‘90, former Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility, Marriott Corporation; former Director of Economic Empowerment for the University of Maryland Safe Center for Human Trafficking Survivors, former U.S.-Mexican Border Lay Missioner for Franciscan Mission Service



SECOND PEAK

Service to Adults and St. Bonaventure Alumni (Faith Formation)

For the past two decades, the Mountain developed and executed numerous opportunities and experiences for adults who wish to explore further their faith via Franciscan spirituality. Participants include St. Bonaventure alumni, parents of students and alumni, friends of alumni and others who have been drawn to the Mountain over the years.

The most visible adult programs are the Mountain on the Road (MOR)—offered in collaboration with St. Bonaventure’s Alumni Engagement office—and Mountain in the Home (MIH). Mountain on the Road, launched in 2001, is a ministry geared toward SBU alumni and is an opportunity for 2-4 SBU students to develop their spiritual leadership skills under the mentorship of the friars. These MOR programs often included Fr. Dan Riley over the years in collaboration with former Director of Alumni Relations Joe Flanagan ’74. Since Fr. Dan’s passing, Br. Joe Kotula, ofm, has led and expanded the Mountain on the Road team to include Karen Halliday Pulaski ‘84 (now serving as Director of Faith Formation and an in-residence Mountain companion) and Mountain Executive Director Mike Fenn ‘91.

Mountain in Your Home, launched in 2009, is a more intimate Mountain experience that takes place in the host’s personal residence. The programs often include prayer, reflection, personal sharing and a communal meal. Approximately 10-40 attendees, per MIH event, include SBU alumni as well as an increasing number of friends of Bonaventure graduates. These programs are staffed by friars and/or lay persons on the Mountain team along with volunteers.

Over the past 10 years, additional adult faith-building experiences, developed under the leadership of Fr. Dan Riley and Karen Pulaski, have been introduced and include Advent-focused programs, virtual lectio experiences, Summer Wednesdays of Re-Creation, and other in-person and virtual afternoons and evenings. In addition, the Mountain has offered two summer weekend retreats, women’s retreats and men’s retreats whose participants include Mountain trustees and volunteers as well as other alumni and friends. The demand for Mountain weekend experiences has increased over the last 5 years, often filling to capacity.

A new program with high demand, *Journeying Together: Formation into the Franciscan Charism*, was conceptualized in 2023 and is one of the last gifts of Fr. Dan Riley. Executed by Karen Pulaski, the 14-month-long faith journey, focuses on deepening participants’ understanding



of the Franciscan charism through a unique Mountain experience of learning. In 2024, 52 participants read the book *Build with Living Stones* (2015, Franciscan Institute Publications, St. Bonaventure University) and met monthly, via Zoom technology, to discuss each chapter. Volunteers facilitated the 5 to 7-member pods which attract participants that span age and geographic ranges.

One of the Adult Faith Formation demographic segments, initiated by Fr. Dan, is the Young Alumni Group. It is primarily a virtual gathering of “newer” graduates in an effort to create a space that was specifically designed for those just starting out after graduating from St. Bonaventure. They meet intermittently through the year, often having a multi-evening virtual experience for Lent, Advent and in the summer. The group continues to invite recent graduates in and are “rethinking” the name of their branch since some participants are now in their late 30s.

Sunday Mass at the Mountain’s Holy Peace Chapel, followed by a community dish-to-pass brunch, continues to attract between 35 and 75 visitors weekly. The Mountain offers van service to the Mountain mass every Sunday from the SBU campus for students. Several people who attend Mass at the Mountain on a regular basis come from Olean, Hornell, the Buffalo and Rochester areas along with students from nearby Houghton University. Weekday masses are also open to overnight visitors and local residents who wish to attend. The resident community practices *Lectio Divina* every Tuesday which is also open to all.

Looking to the future, adult formation ministry via the Mountain will continue to be a peak offering of Mt. Irenaeus. However, several initiatives are underway which will expand the scope of the Mountain’s impact:

WOMEN’S RETREATS:

Increased demand suggests the need to expand faith building experiences specific to women.

MOUNTAIN IN YOUR HOME

Our dream is to build regionally-based volunteer ministry teams who would work together to provide 3-4 experiences per year. Each region would then also have a convener who would help to mentor, organize gatherings and act as the communication link to the Mountain’s Council of Spirit and Life.

DIGITAL FRANCISCAN LIBRARY

It is our goal to provide digital resources related to the Franciscan charism to the Mountain community and beyond. We currently have a professional librarian who is organizing, cataloging and creating a physical lending library. She has also offered to work with us for an electronic library. We are also working with a professional archivist to help us archive significant works from the Mountain that could be a part of this project. This would also include links to other partner organizations such as Franciscan Media and the Center for Action and Contemplation (founded by Fr. Richard Rohr, ofm) as well as archival links to Fr. Dan’s 292 podcasts and any future podcasts produced by the Mountain.



THIRD PEAK

Service to the Franciscan World

Mt. Irenaeus and St. Bonaventure University are fertile grounds for Franciscan vocations. A significant number of recent young men entering into formation to become friars have come through Mt. Irenaeus as SBU undergraduates. Of the 29 men nationally, who are in Franciscan formation programs, 7 have spent significant time at the Mountain. Recent SBU alumni engaged with the Franciscans include Fr. Jason Damon ‘16, ofm, Br. Jimmy Kernan ‘19, ofm, Br. Tyler Grudi ‘19, ofm, and Br. Kevin Hamzik ‘19, ofm.

In addition, Mt. Irenaeus has developed a national reputation as a destination for short-term retreats for summer student friars, Franciscan priests, brothers, sisters and Secular Franciscans. As a contemplative and spiritual hub, the Mountain hosts in Summer/Fall a series of 5-day contemplative retreats for friars. Mt. Irenaeus is one of only a handful of options for these kinds of retreats. Br. Kevin Kriso, ofm, leads and facilitates these efforts.

The Mountain friars, along with the core lay community at Mt. Irenaeus, have participated over the past 2 years in the synod work of the newly created, Atlanta-based, nationwide province,

Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Mountain and St. Bonaventure University were previously members of the New York City-based Holy Name Province. Friars and lay staff attended synod meetings as well as local gatherings at the Mountain with lay and vowed to answer numerous questions posed by the Province. Information from these listening sessions was then gathered and sent to the province. In January 2025, Br. Kevin Kriso, Karen Pulaski, SBU alumna Dr. Allie Leis ‘13 and Franciscan Media author Stephen Copeland attended a weeklong symposium in Kansas City to further explore these areas, including how the province might partner more fully with lay people. Because of the Mountain’s robust ministry with the laity, Mt. Irenaeus had the distinction of being the only Franciscan fraternity invited to bring 3 lay people to the symposium.

Significant time has been devoted to cultivating relationships between the Mountain and other Franciscan organizations including the Franciscan Federation, Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities and the Franciscan Action Network. Mt. Irenaeus has increased its visibility to facilitate growth of the Mountain’s lay community, future student summer companions, active volunteers and special committee members. Relationships are built with regular and consistent face-to-face contact as well as virtually and through electronic communication.



Philanthropy at Mt. Irenaeus: Your Opportunities to Support the “Three Peaks of Mt. Irenaeus”

While the Mountain co-missions with St. Bonaventure University, Mt. Irenaeus has been and continues to be a separate IRS 501(c)(3) organization since its founding in 1984. The financial foundation of Mt. Irenaeus was firmly established when Mountain volunteers launched the first endowment campaign in 2003 under the leadership of founding Mountain trustees and Campaign Co-Chairs Ann Flynn McCarthy ’74 and Les Quick, III ’75. Subsequent endowment initiatives were undertaken in recent years under the leadership of Mike Hahn ’64, Jim Gould ’80 and Jackie Skrzypczak Lanzillo ’84 with support from other volunteers. The Mountain does not have any long-term debt and has been an outstanding steward of buildings, grounds and financial resources for more than 40 years.

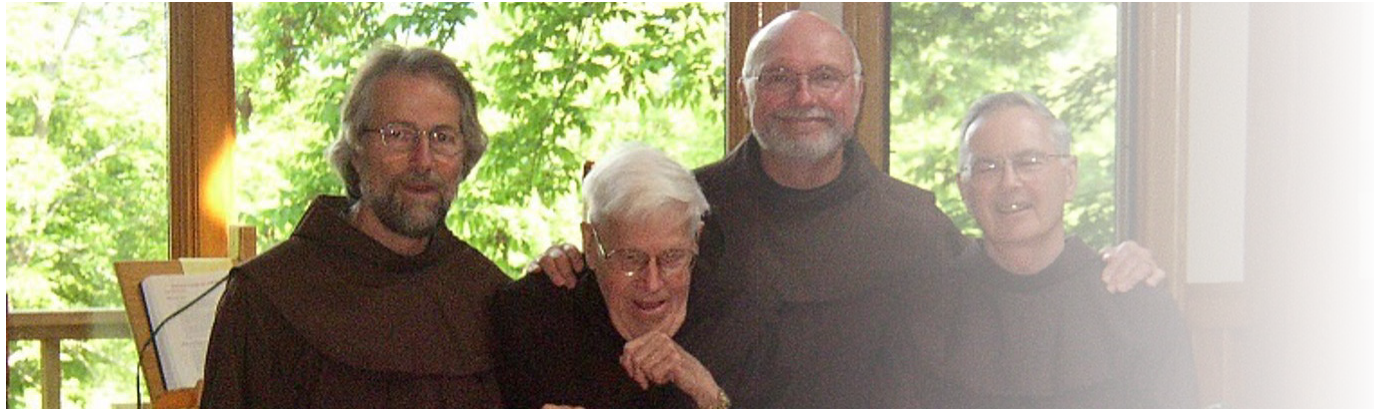
As the Mountain embarks on the next 40 years of its impactful mission and the fifth year of its 2021 Strategic Plan, the time is right to honor the legacy of Fr. Dan Riley ’64, ofm, who passed away in July 2024, and to ensure philanthropic resources are secured to invest in essential people and Three Peaks of the Mountain: St. Bonaventure University community, Alumni and Adult Formation and Friar Formation and Renewal. Under the volunteer leadership of Kathy Colucci ’78, Bob Daugherty ’77, Jim Gould ’80 and Les Quick, III ’75, our plan is to add \$7-12 million in philanthropic gifts to the Mountain’s current endowment fund(s). This investment will ensure the Mountain can serve the demand from University students, faculty, staff, alumni and many friends who have found their way to Mt. Irenaeus’ “manner of life.” An independent and fiscally-sound Mt. Irenaeus helps enhance the St. Bonaventure student experience and helps differentiate the University among its peer competitors. And, this is a campaign that Fr. Dan wanted us to execute—articulated even in the final hours before his passing.



Investing Philanthropically in the Mountain’s Foundational Bedrock

Fr. Dan Riley Memorial Endowment Fund:

Honoring the memory of the late Mountain founder who passed away in July 2024, the draw on investment earnings from this fund will help support day-to-day operations of the Mountain. This endowment, which will supplement annual expendable fundraising such as the Mountain Fund and Auction, will ensure the Mountain’s mission and ministry remain robust and have the potential to grow. Within this endowment fund, donors will have an opportunity to make gifts that honor the various eras and communities served by Fr. Dan: **Devereux Hall residents, SBU Alumni, the Mountain Experience and Digital Ministry.**



Friar Community Endowment Fund:

Currently, three Friars are part of the core residential community at the Mountain. They are Br. Joe Kotula, ofm, Fr. Lou McCormick '57, ofm, and Holy Peace Friary Guardian Br. Kevin Kriso, ofm. The annual cost of stipends, meals, housing, transportation and sabbaticals, per friar, is approximately \$40,000. **Two naming opportunities are available, one at \$1.5 million and one at \$500,000.**



Mountain Buildings & Grounds Endowment:

More than 370 acres of land make up the Mt. Irenaeus campus, including 11 guest cabins/lodges; the House of Peace gathering, kitchen and meal space; Holy Peace Chapel and miles of hiking trails. Since 1989, **Br. Joe Kotula, ofm**, has been the primary caretaker of the land. In addition to his extraordinary role as a spiritual leader in the community, Br. Joe has installed flooring, fixed faucets, helped with lumber harvesting and plowed snow. A recent tour and review of the Mountain property by the Buildings & Grounds Committee of the Board of Trustees suggested that Br. Joe and the friars have been extraordinary stewards of the property! However, with many of the cabins and buildings reaching three decades or more of service and Br. Joe approaching his late 70s, maintenance costs will rise as outside contractors and specialists will be required. **Ten \$100K naming opportunities are available.**



Resident Community Endowment Fund:

Fr. Dan envisioned the Mountain would be staffed by a combination of friars, other religious and compensated lay persons. In fact, when Fr. Dan dreamed of the construction of the La Paz hermitage, where he lived from 2013 to 2024, he insisted that the cabin be built in a flexible way knowing that it could eventually accommodate a lay person or two or even a married couple. During the years 2024 and 2025, the Mountain was part-time home of two lay people. We envision there will be more lay people called to the Mountain to join the friars in the years ahead. **Two naming opportunities are available at \$1 million and \$500,000 to help underwrite the \$35,000 per person annual expenses of non-friar residential community members.** The approximate draw on a \$1 million and \$500,000 endowment is \$50,000 and \$25,000, respectively. The draw on investment earnings will help underwrite stipends, health insurance and other costs including food, lodging and transportation.



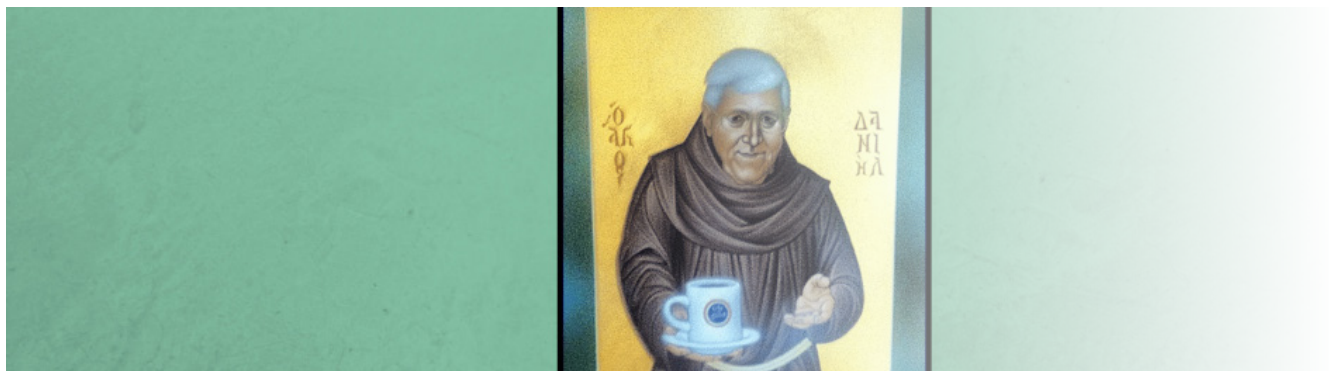
Executive Director Endowment Fund:

Mike Fenn '91 was selected by the Mountain friars and the Mountain Board of Trustees in 2016 as the first-ever Executive Director of Mt. Irenaeus. This leadership position ensures proper management and stewardship of Mountain resources and assets. Furthermore, the Executive Director works in tandem with the Guardian of the Holy Peace Friary, Br. Kevin Kriso, ofm, to ensure proper staffing and direction. **The draw from a \$3 million endowment fund or two \$1.5 million endowment funds would help underwrite Executive Director compensation.**



Caring for Creation Endowment Fund:

The Mountain aspires to be an example to the world for how best to respect and care for all of God’s creation. The Mountain speaks emphatically to late Pope Francis’ Encyclical *Laudato Si* which calls on the world’s citizens to “Care for our Common Home,” as a way of reiterating “the Church’s call for responsible stewardship of creation and calling all of us to ensure that our methods of production and consumption honor our Creator.” Most of the Mountain land is purposely left in its natural state as a home for plants and animals and as a way to mitigate climate warming. This Mountain endowment fund will help underwrite opportunities for gardening and to nourish visitors with more locally harvested vegetables, fruits and other products. Earnings may also be tapped to help retrofit Mountain cabins and buildings for clean energy. **Three naming opportunities are available at \$100,000, \$50,000, \$25,000.**



Fr. Dan Hurley '40, '46 Legacy Society:

All 3 Peaks Campaign donors are encouraged to supplement their philanthropic commitment by including Mt. Irenaeus in their estate plans. All documented estate donors are inducted into the Fr. Dan Hurley Legacy Society. “Hurles,” who passed away in 2010, was a full-time member of the Mountain residential community from 1990 to 2010. He joined the Mountain in 1985 as he neared retirement from St. Bonaventure. This beloved friar was a quiet inspiring figure to St. Bonaventure alumni and those who visited the Mountain. All members of the Hurley Legacy Society will receive a special premium gift with an iconic image of Fr. Dan Hurley—created by artist Br. Robert Lentz, ofm.



Service to SBU Students: Our Core for 40 Years

Mountain Companion Student Experience Endowment Fund:

Currently, the Mountain invites three to four students each summer to live side-by-side with the friars and the resident community. Students participate in daily prayer, reflection and “work on the land.” The cost for housing, food, stipend and mentorship by friars is approximately \$5,000 per student. **Two naming opportunities at \$100,000 each and four naming opportunities are available at \$50,000 each.**

Student Organization Retreat Endowment Fund(s):

Each year, approximately a dozen student-athletic teams and/or student organizations visit the Mountain for retreats. These students pray together, share meals, engage in deep discussions and form bonds that often last a lifetime. **Named endowment funds are available to support these team/organization retreats beginning at \$50,000 each.** Examples: Men’s Rugby Retreat Endowment, Men’s & Women’s Swimming & Diving Retreat Endowment, Cross-Country team retreat, etc.

Student Ministry Coordinator Endowment Fund:

Natalie Pronio '09, whose office is located in St. Bonaventure’s McGinley-Carney Center for Franciscan Ministry, was hired by the Mountain in 2023 to serve as Mt. Irenaeus Ministry Coordinator. She builds relationships on campus with students and works with the friars and Mountain team to lead student-centric Mountain events. More than 900 students participated in Mountain events in the 2024-25 academic year due, in part, to Natalie’s liaison work on campus. **Two \$500,000 naming opportunities are available to help underwrite this critical Mountain-SBU liaison position.**

Mountain Student Internship Endowment Fund:

Currently, the Mountain employs two student communications interns who write and assist with Mountain publications, website and social media. Additional students are employed to drive Mountain vans from the Bonaventure campus to the West Clarkville home of Mt. Irenaeus. Both represent outstanding experiential learning and spiritual development opportunities for young people from St. Bonaventure University. **Two \$50,000 endowment naming opportunities are available.** The endowment draw will help underwrite the cost to employ these students.



Service to Adults/Faith Formation: A Ministry with Strong Growth

National Outreach Endowment Fund:

From digital ministry to Mountain in the Home to Mountain on the Road to women's retreats, the reach of Mt. Irenaeus is, indeed, national in scope. For more than two decades, Mountain in the Home and Mountain on the Road programs have been held coast to coast attracting alumni and friends. Stops have included: Albany, Atlanta, Austin, Buffalo, Charlotte, Chicago, Denver, Naples, Nashville, New York City, Northern New Jersey, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Rochester, San Diego, Stamford, Syracuse, Washington, D.C./N. Virginia, etc. We anticipate the Mountain's digital ministry will also evolve and expand over the next several years. **Seven named endowment funds are available at (1) \$250K, (2) \$100K and (4) \$50,000 to help underwrite this and all national outreach.** When funded, these endowment funds will generate \$32,500 annually to help underwrite this outreach, staffed by friars, lay people and up to 3 students per Mountain on the Road trip. Lodging, meals and transportation are provided for the traveling team.



Service to the Franciscan World: An Area of Strategic Focus

Franciscan Formation and Renewal Endowment:

Mt. Irenaeus has developed a national reputation as a location for short-term summer retreats for friars, priests, brothers, sisters and Secular Franciscans. As a contemplative and spiritual hub, the Mountain hosts retreats for friars annually. Mt. Irenaeus is one of only a handful of options for these kinds of retreats. The annual "room/board and more" cost to the Mountain ranges from \$5,000-\$10,000 annually. In addition, the friar participant immersion into Mountain life may lead some to consider future Mountain residence. **Four \$50,000 naming opportunities are available to endow this important formation and renewal initiative.**

