

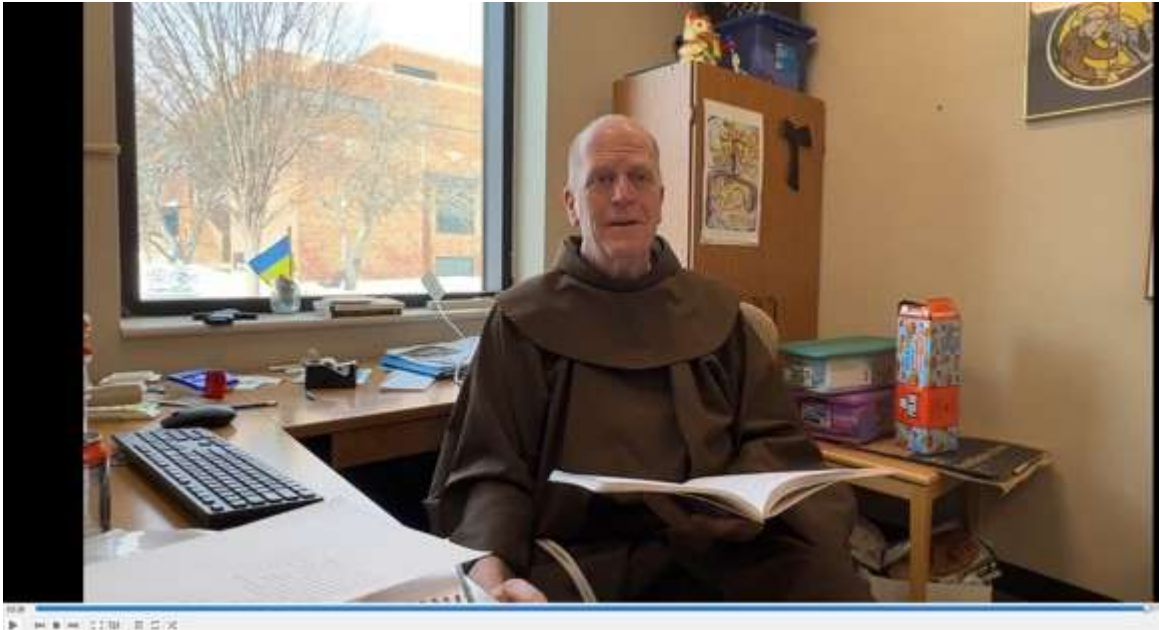
Giardini, Mary D.

Subject: "Making All Things New!" - February 2026 - Words from Isaiah; Jubilee Year; Many Events to Consider!



Making All Things New

February 2026



Click on the video above to hear Br. Kevin [share some words](#) from Isaiah. Isaiah asks us to grow in compassion because that's the fasting that the Lord really appreciates.



We invite you into a special experience - one of sharing community reflections of Lent – a season of contemplation, repentance and transformation. The literal meaning of “repent” is “to turn back” and so for us, this speaks of our desire to find ways to turn back to God, to foster a deeper prayer life, and to seek authentic forgiveness - for ourselves, yes, but also to grow in our ability to offer this to others.

Sprung from the truth that there are many voices of the Mountain, we will be offering 2 reflections a week (Wednesday and Sunday) from a unique voice of our larger Mountain family.

Along the way, feel free to let us know if you are enjoying this experience, any suggestions to improve, and if you would like to participate with your own reflections in the future. Feedback can be sent to peace@mountainonline.org



Experiencing the Intention in Creation at ASBMB Day Away -Amanda Albert, '26

“Be still and know that I am.” These are the stone-etched words outside the chapel at Mt.

Jubilee Year of St. Francis

Pope Leo XIV has decreed the year from January 10, 2026 – January 10, 2027 the Jubilee Year of St. Francis to mark the 800th anniversary of Francis' passing to eternal life. At the Mountain, we are honoring this Jubilee year through contemplation and ministry, taking time to reflect on the world's hunger for the gifts of our tradition, and extending a hand to all to walk with us in the footsteps of St. Francis. We invite our Mountain family to join us in prayer and celebration of the Jubilee Year.

Pope Leo's Prayer to St. Francis of Assisi

Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago

went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano,
teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation
that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding,
give us the courage to build bridges
where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division,
intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers:
unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.

Amen

Irenaeus that speak loudly in the quiet of a snow-fallen January afternoon.

I have always found the Mountain to be a place of deep stillness and quiet, a place to mentally reset and realign my soul with the rest of God's creation. This was especially true during my most recent visit there, that being with SBU's student chapter of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB). The purpose of this trip was to reflect on the wondrous connection between science and God's creation, focusing on how they are in dialogue with one another rather than in conflict.

While comparing images that mirrored one another in creation, such as the bronchioles of lungs and the branches of trees, God's intentionality and detail in creating life became clear. Many of us in our group were reminded of our God-given purposes in life, whether that be in our future careers in STEM, or in our personal lives.

Just as God intentionally created and cares for the trees, the mountains, and the sky, God is taking care of each and every one of us. There is an intention for your life; there is a purpose. Sometimes we just need a moment of stillness to realize it.



The Calm in the Storm: An Annual Prayer Gathering for 80's Weekend ~Karen Halliday Pulaski '84

“God is always there with us, every step of the way.” So shared Br. Kevin Kriso during the annual prayer gathering for 80's weekend held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, in the Great Room of the McGinley-Carney Center for Franciscan Ministry.



Over 65 people joined us for what has become one of the cornerstone events of 80's weekend – an initiative led by Rob Buckla '84 and several other alumni from the decade of the 80's. The prayer gathering offers an opportunity for those of us who graduated in that decade to take some time and space away from the busyness of the weekend - allowing us all to be together, to create a space and time for prayer and reflection, as well as an opportunity to build a continued sense of community.

The event opened with music by Tom Shuh '84 and Tina Corcoran, with John Kopcienski '85 as cantor. Jen Johnson Berretta '87 then led us in a beautiful reading from Mark 4:35-41; Br. Kevin Kriso as well as Mike Fenn '91, Executive Director of Mt Irenaeus, offered us words of encouragement to embrace and live our lives with a heart of Franciscan hope and trust that God walks with us through all the storms of our lives, even when we may not realize it, even in the chaos of today's world.

True to a Mountain experience, space was created for all to have an opportunity to share as they wished. Petitions were then led by Jim Fien '84, and many deceased alumni, including Fr. Dan Riley, ofm, were remembered out loud by name – with the knowledge that they will never be forgotten.

The service concluded with a sung rendition of Cantic of the Sun, and a chorus that tells us that the “heavens are singing the glory of God, and all creation is shouting with joy!” Many thanks to some of our current students who took time to help us with the day and to be present to alumni. We would love for you to join us next year!

Fireside Chat at Mt. Irenaeus

*Clare and Company:
Early Franciscan Women*

Sunday, March 1st | 2pm

Moderated by: Br. Joe Kotula, ofm

Presenters:
Sr. Margaret Carney, OSF, STD
Jean-Francois Godet-Calogeras

Please go to
www.MountainOnline.org/Events
to register.
While registration is appreciated, it is not required.

Can't be with us in person?
Join our Facebook Live event at
www.facebook.com/mtirenaeus




We are excited to announce that we will also be **Livestreaming** this gathering on our Facebook page. You don't need a Facebook account to watch, just click on the link that we will share! We will not be able to answer questions or engage with the virtual audience but those present will be interacting with the speakers.



Being a Kid Again at Play in the Snow Day
-Lindsay Whitaker, '27

I have been going to Mt. Irenaeus since my freshman year. My first time going was for a



More Than Just Trivia: A Mountain 101 Experience
-Ava Ordway, '28

Mt. Irenaeus is a very special and unique place here at St. Bonaventure University. During the Mountain 101 event that was held here on campus, I was fortunate enough to be able to learn why. During this event, I was able to learn more about the people who live at Mt.

Her Campus bonding trip during my Fall semester. When I saw that they were hosting a Play in the Snow Day, I signed up, excited to participate in fun winter activities.

During the day, we went sledding, and we had hot chocolate. It was so much fun, and it brought me back to my childhood when I went sledding with my family. The entire day was a great escape from everyday life, and it was a chance to have fun engaging in winter festivities. The Mountain is such a peaceful environment and it's a great way to get some peace and quiet away from everyday life, hang out with the community, and form connections with people.

Irenaeus as well as the people who are involved in making the Mountain a special place for all students who visit. It was a very nice time to be able to sit down with my friends and find out more information about the Mountain. One of my favorite memories from this night was the scavenger hunt that was held between the reviewing periods of the trivia game. We were told to look for a certain memento of the Mountain. Once that item was found, we were able to learn more about its story and why this memento is important to the Mountain. This event was a great way to get back into the spring semester and to get excited about the upcoming events at the Mountain. Since the event, I cannot wait to be able to go to the Mountain.

Come and Enjoy



MOUNTAIN ON THE ROAD

Join Br. Joe, Karen, Mike Fenn, Joe Flanagan and students from the Mountain/SBU ministry team. We gather together as a greater community for Lenten reflections, prayer, and time to share with light refreshments.

March 20 (Stamford, CT)
Saint Bridget of Ireland Parish
278 Strawberry Hill Avenue
6:30–8:00 pm

March 21 (Mineola, NY)
Chaminade High School's Saragossa Retreat House
267 Marcellus Rd., Mineola, NY
2:30–5:00 pm

Mountain on the Road is a joint SBU-Mountain event envisioned by Fr. Dan Riley. Let us continue to gather in his memory to pray for each other and the world.

Exciting Mountain on the Road Update!

We added a stop in Pompton Lakes, NJ on Sunday, March 22 at 10:30 am!

Please join us for Mass with light refreshments to follow at
St. Mary's Carnevale Center
10 Lenox Ave, Pompton Lakes, NJ

To register, please visit www.sbu.edu/alumni



Summer Retreat Opportunity

Limited Space

Reserve Your Spot Now!

As you make your summer plans, please prayerfully consider joining us for our **annual summer adult retreat weekends hosted by the Council for Spirit and Life** - a time when we create a space at the Mountain where you might slow down,

spend time on the land and share a meal, stories and prayer with others. This is a time for reflection and renewal through a Mountain experience. These retreats also provide an opportunity halfway through the year to step back, reflect and gain a sense of how we are all walking through the world. We offer the same retreat experience on two different weekends. This year, our retreat weekends will be offered on:

June 26-28 OR July 24-26

More information about our summer retreats will be made available in the coming months. **Space is limited.**

Please reach out to Karen Pulaski at kpulaski5204@aol.com to register or with any questions you might have! We look forward to seeing you - peace and all good!



Mountain Lenten Zoom Gatherings

Join us for a series of gatherings this Lenten season, hosted by our Young Alumni Committee. Together we will reflect on our hopes and needs for this time leading up to Easter on April 5.

Gatherings will be held at 8:30 PM on:

Wednesday, February 25
Thursday, March 12
Wednesday, March 25
Wednesday, April 1

We hope you can join us for any or all gatherings. Feel free to invite a friend or two.

Register online at
www.mountainonline.org/events



Mountain in Your Home

You are warmly invited to an evening of Lenten reflection, prayer, and community gathering.

Wednesday, March 25

6:00 PM

HOSTED BY

Jim and Chris Fien
Fairport, New York

The evening will be guided by Br. Joe Kotula and Karen Pulaski, as we gather together for prayer, sharing, and time for reflection during this holy season of Lent.

*A dish to pass would be appreciated.
Details will be coordinated with those attending.*

*May this time together bring peace, renewal,
and the presence of the Mountain into your heart.*

Young Adults Mountain Lenten Zoom Series begins next week!

The dates have been set - mark your calendar and join us for one or all four of these powerful Zoom evenings.

Wednesday, Feb 25
Thursday, Mar 12
Wednesday, Mar 25
Wednesday, Apr 1

More information about this Zoom gathering and other events can be found on our Event Page by [clicking HERE](#).

You are warmly invited to an evening of Lenten reflection, prayer and community gathering in the Mountain style at the home of Jim and Chris Fien in Fairport, NY on Wednesday evening, March 25, 2026 at 6:00 pm

After a dish to pass supper, the evening will be guided by Br. Joe Kotula and Karen Pulaski as we gather together for prayer, sharing and time for reflection during this Holy season of Lent.

More information about this gathering and other events can be found on our Event Page by [clicking HERE](#).



Summer Evenings of Re-Creation at Mt. Irenaeus

Our summer Evenings of Re-Creation will begin with Evening Prayer in the Chapel at 5 pm followed by time on the land and supper.

After supper, join us in the Chapel for Mass and "conversation." The evening concludes around 9:00 pm.

Join us on these Wednesday evenings:
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

All are welcome to join us for these evenings of prayer, reflection, and community.

Spring Work Day

AT MT. IRENAEUS
Saturday, April 11

Schedule

10:00a.m. - Arrive at Mt. Irenaeus
10:15a.m. - Prayer and work group assembly
12:30p.m. - Group Lunch
4:00p.m. - Work concludes

Save the date and look for a registration page to come!

Some of the activities for the day may include prepping the garden for planting, tending flower beds, deep cleaning the House of Peace and cabins, clearing trails, splitting wood and other activities.

Questions? Need overnight accommodations? Call the Mountain: (585) 975-2470



Our annual Community Workday will take place this year on **Sat, April 11.**

All are welcome. Meals included.

Some tasks may include getting the garden ready for planting, working on the flower beds, clearing trails of winter deadfall, deep cleaning the buildings and more!

If you need accommodations, please call 585-973-2470 to inquire about availability. Signups will open soon on our [Event Page](#).

Save the Date for our Summer Evenings of Re-Creation!

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

More info to come!

Upcoming Events:

Schedule and ways to participate can also be found online [HERE](#).

Every Sunday - Mass is at 11 am in Holy Peace Chapel with a dish-to-pass brunch following Mass.

If you would like more information about ANY of our events, please check our [Event Page](#) on our website or contact us at peace@mountainonline.org



February:

Feb 20 - Student Event at the Mountain
Feb 21 - Student Event at the Mountain
Feb 22 - OFS meeting at the Mountain after Mass and Brunch
Feb 25 - **8:30 pm** - Young Adult Mountain Lenten Zoom
Feb 28 - Council for Spirit and Life Meeting at the Mountain

March:

Mar 1 - **2 pm** - Fireside Chat at the Mountain or by Facebook Live
Mar 1 - Franciscan Sojourners Zoom - all are welcome!
Mar 11 - Meet and Greet with the Franciscan Volunteer Ministries Group.
Mar 12 - **8:30 pm** - Young Adult Mountain Lenten Zoom
Mar 13 - Student Event at the Mountain
Mar 20 - **Mountain on the Road** in Stamford, CT
Mar 21 - **Mountain on the Road** in Mineola, NY
Mar 22 - **Mountain on the Road** in Pompton Lakes, NJ
Mar 25 - **Mountain in Your Home** - Fairport, NY
Mar 25 - **8:30 pm** - Young Adult Mountain Lenten Zoom
Mar 27-29 - Student Event at the Mountain
Mar 29 - **11 am** - Palm Sunday Mass with distribution of palms and brunch to follow
Mar 29 - OFS meeting at the Mountain after Mass and Brunch

April:

Apr 1 - **8:30 pm** - Young Adult Mountain Lenten Zoom
Apr 2-6 - Holy Week - Mountain Offices will be closed, please call the House of Peace directly at 585-973-2470
Apr 2 - **7 pm** - Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper (please note time change)
Apr 3 - **1 pm** - Stations of the Cross at the Mountain
Apr 3 - **3 pm** - Good Friday, Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Apr 4 - **7 pm** - Easter Saturday, Easter Vigil (please note time change)
Apr 5 - **11 am** - Easter Sunday Mass with dish to pass brunch to follow
Apr 11 - **SAVE THE DATE** - Mountain Workday - Please join us to help ready the

The Office Squad - you can find Michelle Marcellin (30 yrs) and Mary Giardini (17 yrs) in our offices on the SBU campus. They are always willing to help you in person, by phone or email! (We aren't really called that, we are Mountain Team Members. The shirts are just for fun.)



Mountain for Summer!

April 17 - Student Event at the Mountain

April 18 - Closed Event at the Mountain

April 24-26 - Mt. Irenaeus Board Meeting Weekend

Apr 26 - OFS meeting at the Mountain after Mass and Brunch

May:

May 3 - Franciscan Sojourners Zoom - all are welcome!

May 8 - Student Event at the Mountain

May 9 - **SAVE THE DATE - Open Event at the Mountain**

May 17 - SBU Graduation

May 30 - Summer Companions Arrive

May 31 - OFS meeting at the Mountain after Mass and Brunch

June:

June 7 - Franciscan Sojourners Zoom

June 26-28 - **Open Summer Retreat** -

Registration Required - see our [Event page](#) for more details.

June 28 - OFS meeting at the Mountain after Mass and Brunch

July:

July 1 - Wednesday Evening of Re-Creation

July 5 - Franciscan Sojourners Zoom

July 8 - Wednesday Evening of Re-Creation

July 15 - Wednesday Evening of Re-Creation

July 22 - Wednesday Evening of Re-Creation

July 24-26 - Open Summer Retreat - Registration Required - see our [Event page](#) for more details.

July 26 - OFS meeting at the Mountain after Mass and Brunch

July 29 - Wednesday Evening of Re-Creation

If you would like more information about ANY of our events, please check our [Event Page](#) on our website or contact us at peace@mountainonline.org





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