

Mt. Irenaeus
Board of Trustees Weekend
April 29-May 1, 2022

To join with Jesus Christ
in “making all things new!”

(Revelation 21:5)



St. Irenaeus

FRANCISCAN MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY

“Francis set out shortly afterwards but when he reached the next town, he heard God calling him by his first name as he lay asleep, and saying, ‘Francis, who can do more for you, a lord or his servant, a rich man or a beggar?’ When he replied that a lord or a rich man could do more, he was asked, ‘Then why are you abandoning the Lord to devote yourself to a servant? Why are you choosing a beggar instead of God who is infinitely rich?’ **‘Lord,’ replied Francis, ‘what will you have me do?’ (Acts 9:6)** And God told him, **‘Return to your own land (Genesis 32:9) (where you began, your very beginning).** The vision which you saw foretold a spiritual achievement which will be accomplished in you by God’s will, not man’s.’ In the morning (John 21:4) then he returned in haste to Assisi, joyous and free of care: already a model of obedience, he awaited the Lord’s will.”





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+ ^{the}CHRIST^s - WHO ARE YOU AND WHO AM I? +

Desire

But if you wish to know how these things
come about,
Ask grace not instruction,
Desire not understanding,
The groaning of prayer not diligent reading,
The Spouse not the teacher,
God not man,
Darkness not clarity,
Not light but the fire
That totally inflames and carries us into God
By ecstatic unction's and burning affections.
This fire is God
And his furnace is in Jerusalem;
And Christ enkindles it
In the heat of his burning passion.

Bonaventure

The Soul's Journey into God

FRIDAY EVENING

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.” — **Thomas Merton**

Friday: April 29, 2022

5:45 pm Welcome, brief introductions—Dan—"The String"

Shared dinner and clean up

The Common Life reading:

Individuals take 15 minutes of quiet time on their own to read or refresh their understanding of the reading

Gather outside for reading: Luke 24:13-35

(Followed by quiet solitude walk to the Chapel)

Luke 24:13-35

That very day, the first day of the week,
two of Jesus' disciples were going
to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus,
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.
And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.
He asked them,
"What are you discussing as you walk along?"
They stopped, looking downcast.
One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply,
"Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem
who does not know of the things
that have taken place there in these days?"
And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"
They said to him,
"The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene,
who was a prophet mighty in deed and word
before God and all the people,
how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over
to a sentence of death and crucified him.
But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel;
and besides all this,
it is now the third day since this took place.
Some women from our group, however, have astounded us:
they were at the tomb early in the morning
and did not find his Body;
they came back and reported
that they had indeed seen a vision of angels
who announced that he was alive.
Then some of those with us went to the tomb
and found things just as the women had described,
but him they did not see."
And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are!
How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!
Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things
and enter into his glory?"

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
he interpreted to them what referred to him
in all the Scriptures.
As they approached the village to which they were going,
he gave the impression that he was going on farther.
But they urged him, "Stay with us,
for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."
So he went in to stay with them.
And it happened that, while he was with them at table,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and gave it to them.
With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,
but he vanished from their sight.
Then they said to each other,
"Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"
So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem
where they found gathered together
the Eleven and those with them who were saying,
"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"
Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way
and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



Chapel Time:

Entrance Song: "On the Road to Emmaus"

Meditation:

Responsorial Reading : Cantic of Mary

Cantic of Mary

I acclaim the greatness of the Lord,
I delight in God my savior,
who regarded my humble state.
Truly from this day on
all ages will call me blest.

For God, wonderful in power,
has used that strength for me.
Holy the name of the Lord!
whose mercy embraces the faithful,
one generation to the next.

The mighty arm of God
scatters the proud in their conceit,
pulls tyrants from their thrones,
and raises up the humble.
The Lord fills the starving
and lets the rich go hungry.

God rescues lowly Israel,
recalling the promises of mercy,
the promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham's heirs for ever.



Framing, The Common Life: Kevin and Dan: Interlude about the development, context, and significance of this document.

Reading: The Common Life (first 1/3 of document):

The Common Life at Mt. Irenaeus

We invite you to join a contemplative fraternity in mission that strives to be a new expression of an ancient Franciscan way of life for the reign of God. The mission of Mt. Irenaeus is to live a Gospel manner of Life and Ministry through prayer, fraternitas, simplicity, contemplation, personal on-going conversion, hospitality and evangelization; to “join with Jesus Christ and our sisters and brothers to make all things (including ourselves) new.” This is a transformative life that requires openness to on-going formation/ conversion and spiritual growth.

Each of us embrace and commit ourselves to many aspects of Mountain life and live the life in common. The following is the life that is Common to all members of the Mountain Community and the lenses we use to determine our activities and choices:

PRAYER:

At Mt. Irenaeus we are called to be persons of prayer, both personal and communal. Each of us is on a daily walk with the Creator God. We encourage and support one another in daily personal prayer time, and spiritual reading. We find retreats empower, enlighten and give new energy to our lives so we encourage each other to take two retreats per year.

Our common community prayer is open to all people. We have Morning Prayer four times per week, community Eucharist about three to four days a week, and evening prayer three to four times per week. We are comfortable moving around our horarium and not living a schedule-driven life. On Tuesdays we use Lectio Divina to pray the upcoming Sunday’s gospel. Lectio is a head, heart and personal exercise. The Franciscan Rule states: “The Rule and life of the Friars Minor is this, namely, to observe the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ...” The Gospel is our way of life and our identity. Therefore, we take time with the Gospel so it will inspire us, lead us, transform and convert us.



CONTEMPLATION:

Each member of the Mt. Irenaeus Community is called to be a contemplative. We also live the contemplative life together. Franciscan Contemplation is being present in the world with a deeper look and listening ear for the Divine Presence and God's voice in everything and everyone. At times we are called into solitude, to find a place apart, to be present and connected to the "Right Now" and to consciously reflect on life. We learn to listen and in doing so find a new creation by moving from attitudes of scarcity and fear to abundance and love. We find we are already One and are sisters and brothers to all the earth. Contemplation forms us into the image and likeness of God.

We have semi-annual community retreats and periodic days of reflection with our Mountain Campus Team, Board of Trustees, Partners in Ministry and Leadership that focus on metanoia and transformation. We also have a two-day mid-year review in December or January after the close of the Fall SBU semester.

As part of our ongoing formation activities we read and discuss Franciscan and Church documents. We work our way through the Franciscan Rule and Constitutions and St. Francis' Testament by reading and discussing portions of them. Our Chapters and community life are a major part of our formation.

We offer a five day "Contemplative Days" retreat each summer and invite the friars of the US, Allegany Franciscan sister ritiro community, Franciscan Seculars and other Franciscans to pray, contemplate and discuss our own experiences as contemplatives and readings from Franciscan Contemplative writers. We attend the Franciscan Federation Conferences. We also host times of retreat for the US-6 and Weekends of Transformation for the larger Mountain Community.

We have spent a good deal of time talking about the use of "screens" (television, computers and phones). We do not "prohibit" their use but are clear about guarding our culture that values silence, solitude, simplicity and service. We try to limit our use of screens so they do not become our main source of entertainment or focus of attention. Overuse of screens can lead to individual isolation wherein people retire to their rooms to watch their shows on their television or computer.

FRATERNITAS:

An inclusive Latin word that names men and women pursuing life together, a style of life in which people experience and live out the Good News. Conversatio is a cornerstone of fraternitas. Transformation happens in the dynamics of human relationships and with all of God's creation. Fraternitas gives us the opportunity to be a family.

Mt. Irenaeus life has always been more than just friars. Franciscan ritiro sisters, university faculty and students have all been part of the community from the very beginning. All of these people felt the call to opt out of systems that would see us as workers first. Our first wish is to grow as disciples. We support each other's personal and spiritual growth and the growth in fraternity. The second movement of our life is to live in the world as disciples.

The role of fraternity is primarily for conversion and ongoing formation. It is also our primary ministry. Our life is to live the Gospel through fraternity and to be transformed by the life. The fraternity is a God given community with strong bonds of affiliation and affection that mirrors the community of our triune God. In the Fraternity we find love and meaning, strength and courage, and hopefully the desire to be better people. Fraternity calls us to pray together and encourages us to have our own personal prayer lives. Fraternity inspires us to go out from ourselves, to walk with and encounter people as brothers and sister and to share the love we have received. It gives us the desire to share the Good News with all Creation. Fraternity can teach us everything and by contemplatively considering everything we integrate and find meaning in our lives.

There is also a penitential aspect of fraternity. In addition to joy and affiliation, we experience kenosis through fraternal life. We have to empty ourselves, our attachments and our egos to become teachable and allow God to fill us. Without self-emptying, fraternity can become self-serving. Kenosis can be as small as waiting patiently for everyone to arrive before beginning, letting go of the need to have the last word, to encountering everyone as they are, not as we'd like them to be. When we do this, we can see the Christ in everyone as did Francis of Assisi.

Common meals are practically every night and at breakfast and with student groups or any others present. House Chapters: Nearly every week we have a Chapter for planning and review on Monday, lectio on Tuesday and the friars have a fraternal chapter on Friday.

On Mondays we have prayerful planning and review chapter. A calendar is a theological document because it prioritizes how we are spending the time God has given us. Using the Remember, Reflect and Respond Emmaus Methodology we review the past week, not only as a practice to "do better" but also to discern how God is speaking to us through the events of our lives. We become meaning makers who weave and integrate the stories from the week into "The Story." As Thomas Merton noted in his essay, "Learning to Live," "... whatever you do, every act, however small, can teach you everything- provided you see whom it is that is acting." We ask, "What has this week taught us? How is God speaking to us?" Since the Holy Spirit is active in the process, the stories teach us what to do next. Clare gives similar instructions "to gaze, consider, contemplate and imitate (act)."

We then plan for whatever is coming in the next week, take on assignments such as cooking, presiding or leading prayer and helping out with projects. What times will these be? Who will be on the road? Do we have groups or individuals coming in? Do they have any special needs?

Every Friday the friars have a Fraternal House Chapter. They do fraternal reflection/ discussion/ personal sharing and support of each other in good health care, seeking out times of solitude and other needs. We should always be growing closer to God and answering the question, "How am I growing closer to God?"

In addition to Mountain Companions, most summers we have two to four college-age Summer Companions who live in and co-minister with us. The St. Irenaeus Franciscan Secular Fraternity work closely with us in hospitality and JPIC issues. We have a mainly lay board of trustees with student participation and a lay executive director.

Vacations and "free days" are understood not as a cessation of work but as time for individual growth, rest, relaxation, and re-creation. We support each other to live a life of growth and encourage each other to re-create in ways that are good for the individual and the fraternity. We also take leisure time where it "just us" to get out of the house and talk about "non-work" things. We are also committed to dynamic discussions on the state of the world and Church- Conversatio- to stay current, active and alive to what is going on and ask what is our Gospel response to be. What's next? We find that these times can be enlightening as we learn new things from each other. These times give us hope in a Living God so as to not get dragged down by negative events in the world.

Birthdays are celebrated by going out to dinner as a community. Anniversaries and Jubilees are celebrated with a mass of thanksgiving that is open to the public with a dish to pass supper afterward. Transitions are celebrated at a Sunday mass with a dish to pass brunch after. Other celebrations include anniversaries of the founding of the Mountain- 25 years, 30 years, etc., dedication of new buildings on the Mountain, or a Franciscan Secular profession.

Thanksgiving is celebrated by an 11am mass and fraternal meal. Christmas is celebrated by a public "midnight" mass at 8pm and Feast Day mass at 11am. We have a festive community meal on Christmas night. The Triduum and Easter are planned and celebrated with a community of people who live into the week with us. On Easter night we have a festive meal with the resident community. The Transitus and Feast of St. Francis themselves are usually celebrated with a liturgy on the SBU campus. During "Francis Week" we usually have a Franciscan themed overnight or evening at the Mountain. We also note feast days in our Morning and Evening Prayers. The Feast of St. Irenaeus, St. Clare and St. Bonaventure are remembered in prayer at the Mountain and we join in celebrations on the SBU campus.

Just as a calendar is a theological document because it reflects our values by how we prioritize our time, a budget is also a theological document. Budgets show our values by how we use resources. Our Holy Peace Friary budget is prepared by Lou McCormick, ofm in March of each year. Lou also prepares our Bi-Annual Reports and Annual Report. There is a separate budget for Mt. Irenaeus Ministry prepared by our business manager and Finance Committee for the Mountain Board of Trustees. We are committed to discussion of budgets and reports to have shared ownership of our finances.

EVANGELIZATION/ MISSION Our life is something we give away. We want people to experience a sense of belonging and new sets of learning modeled by Saints Francis and Clare; “the evangelical life,” the joy and hard work of extending the “Good News” ourselves to others. In a polarized world, we search out how to be authentically together.

Mt. Irenaeus is an education site to help form students and others become mature leaders. Wisdom and experience are combined with academics to foster integration, transformation, and depth of meaning. We share a manner of life and ministry at Mt. Irenaeus finding and naming from the beginning, our life as “educative,” active, dynamic, credible and formative for ourselves and others who seek out this way of life, and wish to live the Gospel in the manner of Francis and Clare of Assisi. The **Fundamentals of Mt. Irenaeus Life and Ministry** states that we invite people to join us both here and “on the road” in a contemplatively active and an actively contemplative manner of life and ministry.

We live in and among young people at least four days per week. As a place of contemplation and reflection we ask students and others to consider “vocation” in the largest sense. We are open to all people who seek us out. Once a year we host the Franciscan Volunteer Ministers for a four-day contemplative retreat. We strategize with the Saint Bonaventure University Ministry team to reach out to students. We carry HNP, Franciscan Secular, Allegany Sisters, Franciscan Volunteer and Franciscan Mission Service vocation literature in our foyer. We meet with SBU students to reflect on their ministry and hone ministerial skills for whatever state of life they will lead.

We try to live a simple life for the Reign of God. We are careful about the use of water, chemical fertilizers, pesticides and plastic. We leave large swaths of our land as a home for plants and animals and to help with carbon sequestration. We recycle and also compost food scraps and vegetable refuse. We arrange time for community members to go to Franciscan JPIC events, work closely with SBU students and others to promote sustainability, and attend service trips with SBU students. After these we include a reflective process so that the lessons learned will go deep. We engage with SBU on issues of race, immigration and sexual identity. We post or repost JPIC information in our foyer, on Facebook, Instagram, pod casts and by preaching justice and peace. We are thinking of ways to reach marginalized (rural poor and racial/ religious minorities) people through pedagogies of inclusion. We attend rallies and demonstrations to raise our voices in calls for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

Break into dyads for conversatio:

Suggested reflective questions:

What word, phrase or image stands out to you?

Why does it resonate with you?

What might it want to lead you to?

Return to large group, open sharing with Remember, Reflect, Respond: Karen

Petitions:

Lord's Prayer:

Agenda for Saturday:

Sign of Peace:



“Were not our hearts burning within us ...?”

Luke 24:13-35

We come to the Mountain and other places “panting after peace.” The one peace that Bonaventure sought after as Francis did at Mount LaVerna. We, each in our own way, come here with our own faith, our own culture and life stories, to this Mountain, panting a bit tonight to take some time with one another.

Our hearts, our lives, along with our minds, carry deep and lasting meaning. Bonaventure unfolds some of this meaning when he talks about his own personal journey in “The Souls Journey to God” and when he, there, invites us on a similar journey of opening up all of our senses in celebration of the one who abides in all of creation. *We discover and experience “images” and “vessels,” vestiges and footprints of God everywhere, in everyone and in everything!*

We need each other and each other’s senses, ways of listening and hearing, opening our hearts to each other while on the road together.

“Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord”



is carved in the beam over our table in the House of Peace at Mt. Irenaeus. Our hearts are marked as well with this invitation. God invites us to come to the table of God’s Word, God’s life on the Mountain and in the world.

While we are here and at home now, taste God’s Word, chew it, mull over it, let us savor it together. We are companions of the Word. Ones who break open the Word as “bread” together. We have come, possibly tired and hungry as Elijah did (1 Kings 19).

Sit quietly. Open your heart, open Sacred Scriptures ... open to all of creation and everything that is food for our journey.

Our hearts know their way for they are hungry. Let your mind rest and your deep desires, “taste and see” God’s goodness with us here.

Simply:

Savor silence.

- ◆ **Hear** or read a passage of Scriptures, as “food for our journey.”
- ◆ Let it **rest and refresh** your heart as you would a drink from a stream or a tasty morsel.
- ◆ **Listen** to that which arises in your heart, a word, an image that illuminates, lends life to this moment.
- ◆ **Share** some of this food and light of God’s Word with others.
- ◆ Now, and in all things, “always give thanks!”

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.”

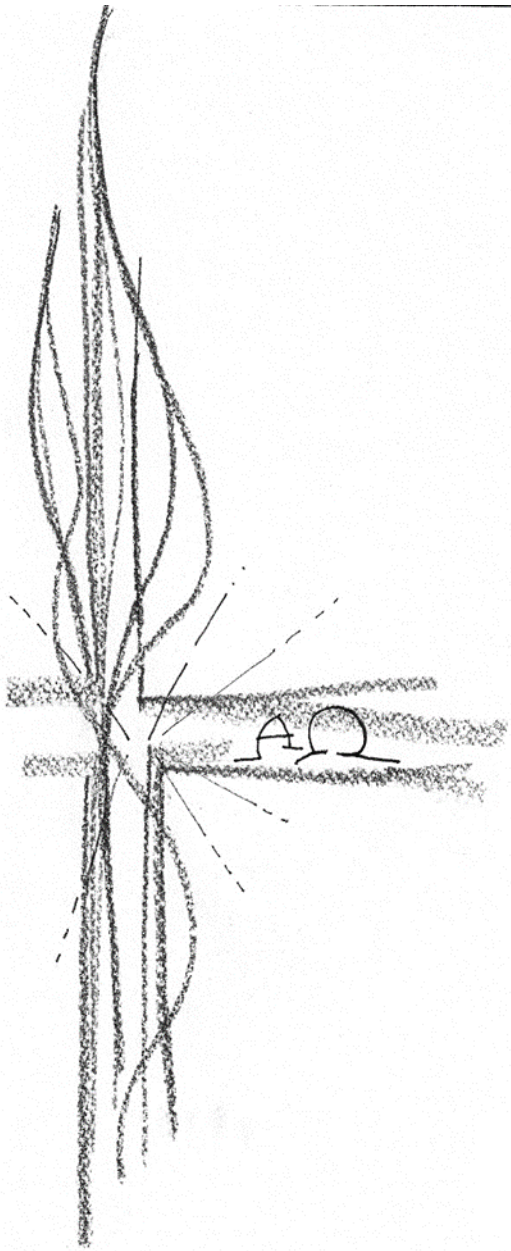
We become “mendicants of meaning.”

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 Sacred Scriptures at the very time the Lord enlightened their hearts.
3. **(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.



+ Living Stones for a New Church +



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 be-
lieving anything, not agreeing with any-
thing that would dissuade you from this
resolution or that would place a stum-
bling block for you on the way, so that
you may offer your vows to the Most
High in the pursuit of that perfection to*

Saturday Morning

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

Saturday: April 30, 2022

9:00 am

Welcome, Brief Introductions

Opening Prayer

Continued reading of The Common Life (see previous pages)

Break into dyads for conversatio:

Suggested reflective questions:

What word, phrase or image stands out to you?

Why does it resonate with you?

What might it want to lead you to?

How might this connect to last evening for you?

Return to large group, open sharing with Remember, Reflect, Respond:

Ready and Able

◇ New Officers

◇ Followed by remaining BOT, friars, and office team together as a group

“Ready and Able” to be a Board of Trustee?

We as Trustees are ministers to Mt Irenaeus **seeking to “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the whole creation.”** We keep Christ as our axle, and we are the spokes. We do this primarily by assuming prayerful, ethical, and intentional responsibility to carry out the mission and vision of Mt Irenaeus while maintaining spiritual, physical, financial, and legal viability through collaboration with the core residential community.

Are you able to work collaboratively with other Trustees, the resident core community and, when appropriate, with other stakeholders? and are you willing to be part of this team?

Will you participate in governing the operations, finances, and affairs of Mt Irenaeus?

Rooted in the Franciscan tradition, **our ministry as Trustees includes enjoying and reflecting upon the beauty of creation with our peers at the Mountain, leading and participating in personal and communal prayer, reading scripture, engaging in conversatio, and caring for each other.**

Are you willing to lead your peers and participate in prayer or in reading scripture?

Are you comfortable being outdoors in nature and does nature connect with your experience of spirituality?

Are you willing to care for each other and to be in service to one another in simple ways, such as preparing meals and cleaning up?

As Trustees, we commit ourselves to leadership by ministering to the entire larger Mt. Irenaeus communities in a variety of ways. We commit to meeting together as a board of Trustees along with our core residential community and as Franciscans a minimum of four times per year. We embrace a culture of collaboration/service; conversatio/conversations in decision making, contemplation/a sustained consciousness of unity “all in all;” companioning/mutual mentoring, as a way of ongoing learning. We participate in committees specifically focused on addressing the different aspects of our ministry. Together, we work closely to review and provide guidance on the direction and decisions that uphold our foundational documents. We seek to reclaim and express new ways to live the Mission of the Mountain. We also commit ourselves to some form of personal reflection and prayer.

Are you willing to share your faith life with your peers? Will prayer or reflection be a part of your life?

Will you be able to participate in board meetings and committees?

Are you comfortable reflecting on your experiences and ministering to one another?

Are you willing to commit yourself to actively and collaboratively participating in leadership decision making that integrates our foundational documents?

Do you desire to commit yourself to be part of our Board of Trustees in the role you feel called to?

10:00 – 10:30	Management and Ministry team report
10:30 – 11:15	Review strategic plan progress, next steps, where do we need further support
11:15 – Noon	2022-23 preliminary budget review, <u>including discussion of proposed new positions (Mountain Companions and employees).</u>



Strategic Initiative #1: Reach out to worldwide and US Franciscan leadership about developing the life and formation at the Mountain.

Champions/Conveners – Paul and Karen

Action Item	Progress So Far
<p>1.1) Develop an expert group on the subject of Franciscan contemplation, helping us become a learning ground for others, nurturing a deeper understanding and formation into the life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming publication of Fr. Dan's book
<p>1.2) Build relationships through outreach to the larger Franciscan community. Garner a greater understanding of their interests in life and ministry, and where the Mountain may be a vessel to help express them. Offer all our gifts to those searching for Franciscan contemplation in their lives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ite Nunciature Group gathering at the Mountain in Feb, including friars from across the country, international.
<p>1.3) Identify and nurture relationships with friars who share an interest in our way of life, with the possibility of future ministry with us. Understand and break down resistance to friars' interest in living here.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friar in formation joining us this summer
<p>1.4) Develop specific partnerships to help with this initiative, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) With the guidance of friends like Kathleen Moffatt, begin to establish relationships with the Franciscan Federation and its membership. b) Visit Holy Name Provincial leadership to share the larger strategic plan, including the potential investment into a hermitage for the larger province. c) Work more closely with SBU friars to bring our collective gifts together as an offering to the larger community. d) Invite Franciscan leadership onto the Mountain's board. e) Meet with Richard Rohr and his organization to share best practices in organizational development and growth. f) Connect with other influential friars about aspirations and see where they may help and we might (i.e. Dan Horan, Bill Short). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group attending Annual Franciscan Federation conference in Pittsburgh early June, a chance to share our ministry and invite others into the life. • Trip to visit Richard Rohr and his organization scheduled for early July. Understand our commonalities, share best practices, their sustainability strategies • Steve Patti, ofm considering joining Mtn. board

Strategic Initiative #2: Seek others and develop a diverse community at the Mountain

Champions/Conveners: Mike New and Katie Trosch

Action Item	Progress So Far
<p>2.1) Working closely with the resident community, expand the responsibility of our personnel committee to include all areas of recruitment, application, acceptance and transition into the Mountain community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Pulaski to join core community beginning end of May, 2022 • Another candidate visiting as part of discernment, interview process, interested in a year long commitment
<p>2.2) Identify and speak to other communities who live their mission through mixed Franciscan communities (i.e. St. Francis Inn, Center for Action and Contemplation) to see what we can learn from them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center for Action and Contemplation visit in July
<p>2.3) Identify the community we aspire for three years from now. Seek a vision for an understanding of the following: How many people live here? Are there multiple communities that live here? Where do they live?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Planning team and core community working on this. As more people show interest, how do we invite others in a way that is comfortable for all?
<p>2.4) Ensure that the mission and the way of life is consistent and being expressed in all who are live here.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft of a “common life” document has been drafted by Kevin Kriso, based on fundamental documents. • Karen’s leadership to create an orientation book for Summer companions, consolidating from other fundamental documents. Likely has usage for others entering into the life

Strategic Initiative #3: Ensure Co-Ministry with SBU helps foster a transformational student experience.

Champions/Conveners: Mike Fossaceca & Dianne Kuzia Hills

Action Item	Progress So Far
3.1) Continue seeking to understand today's students, through relationship building and frank conversations, receive feedback of their Mountain experience through surveys and periodic focus groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research professional willing to help on this when we are ready
3.2) Foster partnerships on campus, expanding our outreach to the student population through channels including University Ministries and beyond.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great progress going forward with Health Professions school. Kevin sits on regular student affairs meetings
3.3) Consider hiring a minister to more deeply engage the student population, including online students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Mountain companions hold a strong interest in Campus Ministry involvement, including potential Minister in Residence. First draft of job description for a Coordinator of Ministry has begun.
3.4) Look for new ways to connect with students directly, inviting them to get more deeply involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications intern relaunched student-centric Instagram (mtirenaeus_happenings)
3.5) Develop consistent messages and solutions to raise student awareness of ability to access the Mountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched regular Sunday van to transport students up to the Mountain for Mass during the school year.
3.6) Form stronger connections organizationally, with the President, senior leadership, our respective boards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike Fossaceca highly committed to working with us in strengthening relationship between boards/organizations.
3.7) Look for ways to serve the staff, faculty and administration of St. Bonaventure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fr. Dan has sent a welcome package to the incoming president.
3.8) Review, update, and formalize agreements in place with St. Bonaventure.	

Strategic Initiative #4: Expand the Footprint of the Mountain beyond the Mountain.

Champions/Conveners : Matrecia James & Greg Licamele

Meeting Time: Communications call

Action Item	Progress So Far
<p>4.1) Further develop on the road and virtual ministries, ensuring a common experience across all types of gathering, and cultivating local leadership to build their own communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project to be led by Fr. Dan along with others.
<p>4.2) Deeply review and recommend changes to our communication materials to make it very clear what it is we offer to the world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have begun a review of website, other communications materials. • Research volunteer willing to help review effectiveness of website
<p>4.3) Develop a Marketing and Digital Ministry plan that provides more ways of sharing the gospel message lived out through the Mountain's life and ministry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of public survey underway. Initial outline of plan forthcoming to connect all strategy areas, existing assets for a plan.

Strategic initiative #5: Design and development a physical master plan to visualize the future of the Mountain

Champions/Conveners : Terri Marrie & Sarino Tropeano

Action Item	Progress So Far
<p>5.1) This group would help begin to visually shape the future of the Mountain in terms of the location and layout of new structures to support the above initiatives. Naturally this group would work closely with what is recommended from the preceding initiatives. This committee would partner closely with current Buildings and Grounds Committee, as well as the Advancement Committee, to align work and goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work on Common Life text was created to support how others would live as and along with the core community • Tammy and Dave Hilbert agreed to support this initiative. Tammy is a professional architect • Core common meeting semi-regularly to discuss, dream about the future • Land committee has begun meeting once more, working on agreement to acquire Habermehl property (our norther border), a plan is place to engage Eschenbachs (just down the hill) • Conversation with Marcia Kelly and others about Robert Lax's house and potentially moving it for use as a place for public discourse at the Mountain.

Strategic Initiative #6: Create a comprehensive advancement plan

Champions/Conveners: Kathy Colucci & Jackie Lanzillo

Action Item	Progress So Far
<p>6.1) While we currently have a very healthy balance sheet and our friends support the “present” ministry of the Mountain, it has been more difficult to find friends who will support the future of the Mountain. This strategic planning project was the means to develop an exciting, vibrant, future vision that gets friends excited about our future. It’s now time to reach out and ask for their help.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Living Stones update letter soon going out to all friends who have given generously. Will include an update on this process. Will follow up with key donors to engage them• A larger effort to engage others will take place when the Master plan is closer to completed.
<p>6.2) Hire an Advancement director to oversee all elements of finding funds to continue our mission.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Job description has been completed

	3/31/2022	Budget	variance	3/30/2021	Variance	Current FY Budget	Proposed 22-23 Budget	Comments
UNRESTRICTED								
Operating Revenue								
Private gifts and grants	\$109,933	\$35,000	\$74,933	\$72,818	\$37,115	\$35,000	\$30,000	This year currently includes \$50K gift that will go to solar project.
Other sources	\$3,012	\$1,667	\$1,346	\$1,940	\$1,072	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Overnights	\$25,391	\$23,333	\$2,058	\$17,415	\$7,976	\$28,000	\$30,000	
Mt. Fund	\$276,678	\$225,000	\$51,678	\$284,131	-\$7,453	\$270,000	\$325,000	Two straight years forecasted to be over \$340K
SBU Operating	\$90,000	\$75,000	\$15,000	\$80,000	\$10,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	Awaiting confirmation from SBU on next year's budget
Special projects	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
FDR designated use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Interest/Dividends	\$745	\$1,250	-\$505	\$1,004	-\$259	\$1,500	\$1,000	
Mountain on the Road	\$313	\$0	\$313	\$0	\$313	\$0	\$500	
Gain on Sale of Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,245	-\$9,245	\$0	\$0	
Timbering Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,348	-\$1,348	\$0	\$0	
Sabbatical	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Book Publishing	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
In-kind revenue	\$46,020	\$41,804	\$4,215	\$50,121	-\$4,101	\$50,165	\$50,000	Maxing out endowment at 6% to fund incremental hires
Transfer from endowment	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$90,000	\$227,773	We will draw from reserves for trips to Rohr, Franciscan Federation conference
Transfer from special projects	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	
Transfer to other funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total unrestricted operating revenue	\$627,092	\$478,054	\$149,038	\$593,022	\$34,070	\$566,665	\$776,273	

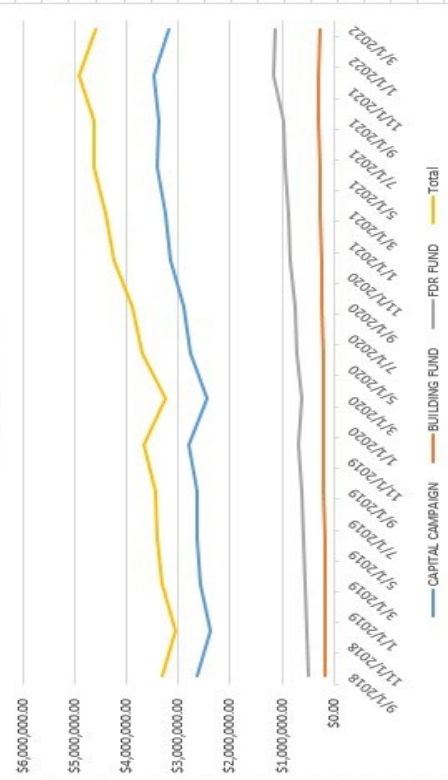
YTD Financial Position: March 31, 2022

ASSETS	3/31/2022	3/31/2021	Variance
Current Assets			
Cash & cash equivalents	\$0	\$0	\$0
Petty cash - imprest	\$0	\$0	\$0
First Tier Petty Cash Checking	\$1,129	\$1,129	\$0
First Tier NOW Checking	\$58,783	\$24,087	\$34,697
First Tier Operating MM	\$453,349	\$439,761	\$13,587
First Tier Special Project MM	\$545,373	\$433,425	\$111,948
First Tier PPE Maintenance MM	\$26,371	\$26,310	\$61
First Tier Auction	\$31,739	\$28,666	\$3,073
ST investment account	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating pledges receivable	\$0	\$604	-\$604
Receivables from reimbursement	\$12,236	\$7,038	\$5,198
Total Current Assets	\$1,128,980	\$961,020	\$167,960
Net Property, Buildings & Equip-			
Land	\$237,307	\$237,307	\$0
Land improvements	\$26,917	\$26,917	\$0
Buildings	\$1,185,663	\$1,179,266	\$6,398
Vehicles	\$294,714	\$294,714	\$0
Tools	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Equipment	\$14,731	\$14,731	\$0
Boiler	\$23,770	\$23,770	\$0
Tractor	\$17,260	\$17,260	\$0
Office Equipment	\$21,552	\$21,552	\$0
Total Property, Buildings & Equip-	\$1,822,914	\$1,816,516	\$6,398
Accumulated depreciation	-\$1,097,570	-\$1,044,434	-\$53,136
Net Property, Buildings & Equip-	\$725,344	\$772,083	-\$46,739
Long-term investments			
D. P. R. Mt. Sustain. Fund	\$1,142,822	\$739,757	\$403,065
Original Endow. Camp.	\$3,342,966	\$2,668,466	\$674,500
Building Maintenance Fund	\$285,986	\$208,655	\$77,331
Pledges receivable	\$13,403	\$50,492	-\$37,089
Total Other Assets	\$4,785,177	\$3,667,370	\$1,117,808
Total Assets	\$6,639,501	\$5,400,472	\$1,239,030

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$0	\$0	\$0
Accounts payable and accruals	\$0	\$0	\$0
Current portion of LT debt	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Current Liabilities	\$0	\$0	\$0
Long-Term Liabilities			
Mortgage	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$17,300	\$17,300	\$0
Auto Loan	\$0	\$0	\$0
Suburban Loan	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$17,300	\$17,300	\$0
Total Liabilities	\$17,300	\$17,300	\$0
Net assets			
Net Operating Assets	\$1,537,804	\$1,567,254	-\$29,450
Net PPE	\$894,947	\$894,947	\$0
Restricted Assets	\$238,325	\$206,687	\$31,638
Net Income	\$3,951,125	\$2,714,284	\$1,236,841
Total net assets	\$6,622,201	\$5,383,172	\$1,239,030
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$6,639,501	\$5,400,472	\$1,239,030

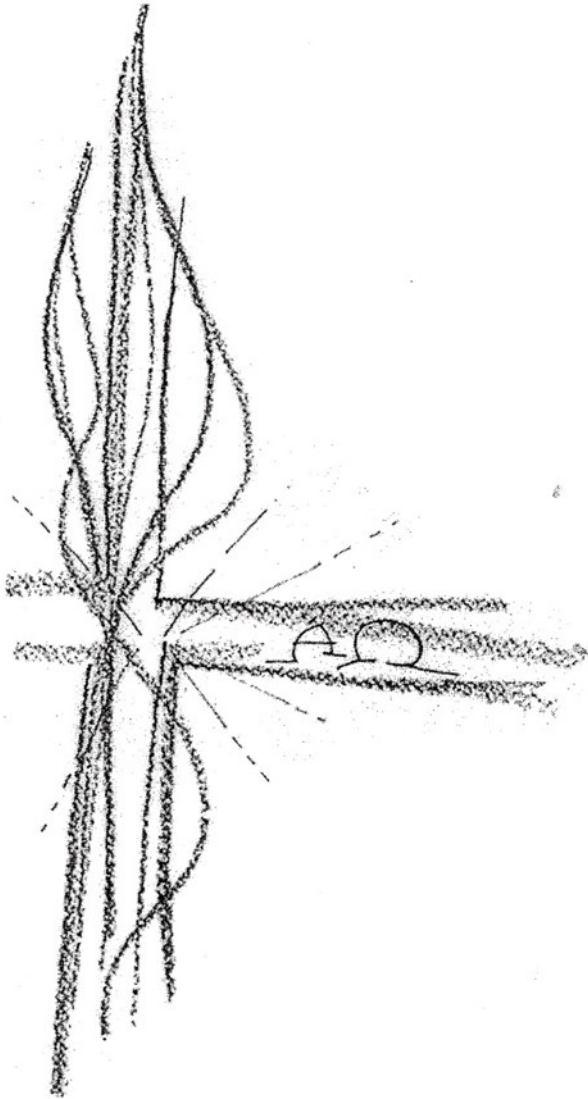
	9/28/2018	12/31/2018	3/29/2019	6/28/2019	9/30/2019	12/31/2019	3/31/2020	6/30/2020	9/30/2020	12/31/2020	3/31/2021	6/30/2021	9/30/2021	12/30/2021	3/31/2022
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	\$2,641,196.65	\$2,372,476.01	\$2,567,120.37	\$2,632,361.01	\$2,636,458.95	\$2,782,218.45	\$2,432,469.91	\$2,756,402.00	\$2,895,261.00	\$3,164,868.00	\$3,256,422.00	\$3,404,887.00	\$3,388,235.00	\$3,462,785.59	\$3,182,990.15
BUILDING FUND	\$183,040.15	\$168,727	\$180,276.14	\$183,908.32	\$198,457.81	\$208,844.33	\$186,951.95	\$218,020.00	\$229,467.00	\$246,730.00	\$258,447.00	\$268,898.00	\$282,727.00	\$293,344.89	\$279,564.45
FDR FUND	\$493,917.75	\$513,690.70	\$556,448.75	\$591,178.52	\$605,640.98	\$668,262.94	\$627,151.60	\$715,722.00	\$757,424.00	\$834,697.00	\$887,870.00	\$951,204.00	\$956,693.00	\$1,169,313.64	\$1,116,340.36
Total	\$3,318,154.55	\$3,054,894.14	\$3,303,845.26	\$3,407,447.85	\$3,440,557.74	\$3,659,325.72	\$3,246,573.46	\$3,690,144.00	\$3,882,152.00	\$4,246,295.00	\$4,402,739.00	\$4,624,989.00	\$4,627,655.00	\$4,925,444.12	\$4,578,894.96

Investment Trends



Change from	3/19	3/20	3/21
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	23.99%	30.85%	4.05%
BUILDING FUND	55.08%	49.54%	9.39%
FDR FUND	100.62%	78.00%	7.75%
TOTAL	38.59%	41.04%	5.11%

+ Baptism + Life in CHRIST +



FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST

Christ on the cross bows his head.

Waiting for you,

That he may kiss you,

His arms are outstretched,

That he may embrace you.

His hands are open,

That he may enrich you.

His body spread out,

That he may give himself totally.

His feet are nailed,

That he may stay there.

His side is open for you,

That he may be you enter there.

- Bonaventure, Soliloquy

+ SATURDAY AFTERNOON +

.....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

Noon **Executive session**

Lunch

1:15 **Afternoon prayer:**
Reflection: Experience of A Mtn Companion into the Common Life. (Dan and Karen)

1:15 – 1:45 **Proposal to purchase Dan Habermehl property.**

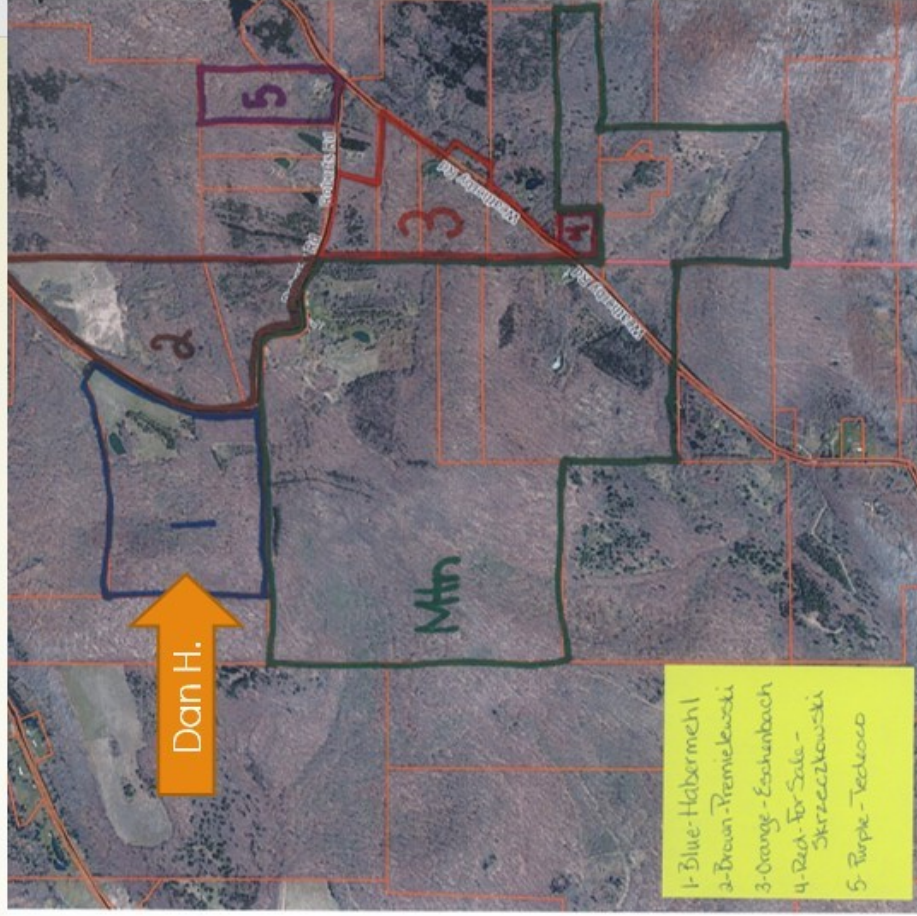
1:45 - 3:00 **Round robin review of other committee key updates and decisions to make.**

Close: Remember, Reflect, Respond – Open sharing on the weekend.



Dan Habermehl Property acquisition proposal

- The land is north of us, past the chapel parking entrance on the left
- Looking to utilize property for as long as he is able, but wants to sell it to us.
- Was planning to sell to neighbors, splitting the land into three parcels. He would stay on the parcel bordering our property.
- Wants to use this money to help daughter pay off her college loans (~\$100k)



One market comparison just north of Dan - Norm Pattinson purchased 71 undeveloped acres for \$60K in 2019.

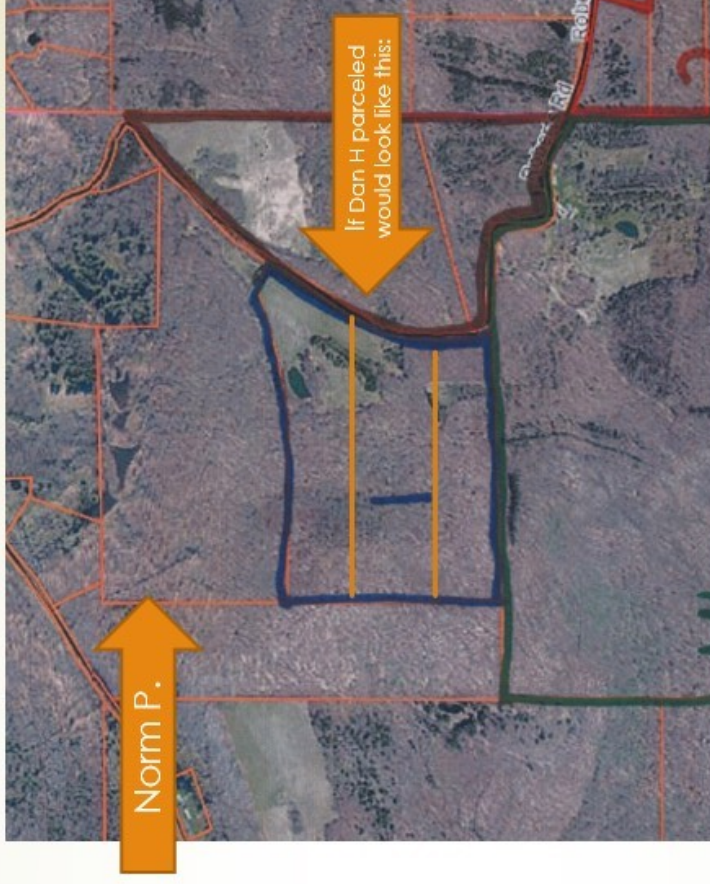
Dan has developed the property, including installation of pond, internal road construction, trees planted. ~\$20K in improvements. Has also done timbering.

He hasn't provided an asking price. The question usually shifts to his daughter's student loans. Recommended that we find a 3rd party appraiser.

Land committee member has suggested a \$50K payment up front, with a larger payout over 15-20 years.

Suggested direction:

Assuming Dan believes value of property to be \$80K+, offer a \$50,000 down payment, and he would hold a 15 yr mortgage @ 5.8% on \$40K loan. ($\$3,996/\text{yr} * 15 = \$59,940$). 5.8% is average student loan rate per educationdata.org. Loan could be called in at any time Dan is willing to vacate. No more timbering can be done.





HIGHLIGHTS

- Successfully live-streamed the Easter Triduum for the first time given our new fiber optic connectivity. More than four hours of live content was shared from the chapel with dozens of people tuning in from around the country (with viewer numbers near or exceeding other Provincial live streams).
- Updated our website at various points to reflect Lent, Easter and now upcoming summer gatherings such as Evenings of Recreation.
- Produced podcast #'s 249-254 since our last meeting. We're nearing 100,000 total listens in more than 10 years of podcasting.
- The electronic library project is underway as a number of documents have been sorted and soon-to-be uploaded to our website, providing key Franciscan resources, readings and other materials.



ANNUAL METRICS	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Website Pageviews	37,925	36,067	32,898	33,923	44,645
Instagram Likes	31,855	30,360	30,365	29,328	22,474
	471 posts	437 posts	502 posts	420 posts	465 posts
Facebook Post Reach	632,321	569,935	359,404	414,407	426,482
Podcast Listens	5,904	4,941	4,032	5,048	4,791
	16 podcasts	13 podcasts	12 podcasts	19 podcasts	19 podcasts

Committee Charter: Established in 2013 as a core, cooperative and collaborative team to provide professional communications guidance, skills and insight in support of the Mountain's mission. Our work will help guide many aspects of communications to help ensure a common message, voice and palette to the many people who minister on behalf of or share life with us. Our work will help shape the Mountain's voice in an increasingly fragmented communications world.

**Building and Grounds Report
April 2022**

Committee Members:

Paul Aroune Mike Sullivan Jim Plukas Rob Buckla Mike Fenn Sarino Tropeano
Brother Joe Grant Scott Dave VanOverwall Otto Rothermel

The committee has conferenced three times since the last board meeting. The committee continues to focus on the list of items that was set during the April 2018 committee overnight, current needs of the facilities, as well as, how does the committee fit into the future planning for The Mountain.

1. Solar Panel Array/Green Energy Initiative:

Solar Liberty installed the Solar Panels array over the week of April 4th. The array is completely up. The following are the next step on the project.

- Two electricians will be at the Mountain tomorrow/Thursday. They will need access to the house to hook the electrical into the box, and nothing else from us. This will not interfere with our own power needs. They think this will take 2-3 days.
- Once completed, a 3rd party inspector will review the work. This would be within a few days of the electricians completing their work.
- Once 3rd party inspector has completed the work, NYSEG needs to come out to make the switch, including new metering. They have ten business days to get there once the 3rd party inspector is finished. NYSEG would then turn on the power. The conservative estimate is this would be around May 6th.

One issue that popped up is the battery back system. Solar liberty has had recent problems with battery back ups working and advised us not to install at this time. The committee is looking for a 3rd party service who has success with the Generac Battery back up wall to see if they would install. Solar Liberty already stated that the 3rd party installation would not cancel any warranty of the solar panel system.

2. High Speed Internet Expansion to ALL Buildings in Main Core area of the Mountain:

Michael Brooks from Denali Solutions, along with Br. Joe, Paul Aroune and Sarino Tropeano, spent time during the week of April 4th to install the system that would push the high speed wi-fi to the Chapel, Other House, and La Paz. The installation was successful and all buildings are showing 200mbps downloads and uploads.

3. St. Joe's Entrance

The design has been set to build a roof over the entrance to St. Joe's. We are in the process of organizing a contractor to come and give estimates on the work. Unfortunately, many contractors are back logged due to covid and material shortages.

The committee is also resolving an issue of icing on the back door roof area of the House of Peace. We are trying to combine the two jobs to make it more lucrative for a contractor to come up to the Mountain for the work.

4. Chapel Parking Lot Design

For those who were at the last meeting you noticed that the Chapel parking lot was expanded and graded. There was also a beautiful new sign created and designed by Fr. Dan and Br. Joe. More discussion has been around the design and flow of the lot, as well as, the entrance design. A concept of a peninsula at the opening to create flow and welcoming space into the chapel lot is being discussed. Grant will continue to work through designs with the committee.

5. Chapel Entrance Update:

Last meeting brought new design concepts that came out of many conversations between Fr. Dan and Grant Scott, as well as, the committee. Designs continue to be shaped by purpose, materials and bringing natural outdoors into the space.

6. Sky Lighting in the Shed

This project is being placed on hold until the Spring or Summer of 2022..

Paul Aroune and Sarino Tropeano

Mountain Advancement Report

April 12, 2022

We are looking for new members to join our Development Committee as we begin to advance our Strategic Plan and work with a new advancement person.

We meet every other month in the early evening for approximately one hour.

Mountain Fund

2021-2022 Budgeted Goal: \$270,000

- 3% growth from 2019-20

Summary: We have raised more than \$300,000! This dollar amount puts us over our goal with a couple months to go until the end of our fiscal year! Thank you to all who have helped with calls and donated to our Mountain Fund.

As of 04/07/22 - \$300,869.57 from 1430 gifts and 730 donors (111.43% of goal of \$270K)

As of 04/07/21 - \$301,823.72 from 1342 gifts and 750 donors (120.07% of goal of \$250K)

As of 04/07/20 - \$217,120.68 from 1011 gifts and 573 donors (80.42% of \$230K)

To date, 392 alumni gave 794 gifts for a total of \$179,460 and 337 non-alumni gave 628 gifts for a total of \$119,009.57.

Overnights

2021-2022 Budgeted Goal: \$25,000 (our goal remains "flat" as we are just opening back up and are not sure how the year will progress.)

As of 04/07/22- \$28,076 from 110 gifts and 87 donors

As of 04/07/21- \$19,655 from 53 gifts and 44 donors

As of 04/07/20- \$24,510 from 122 gifts and 102 donors

Fr. Dan Riley Sustainability Campaign (Endowment/Major Giving)

Major gift: Contribute \$10,000 or more over a period of no longer than 5 years in addition to annual gifts (Mountain Fund and Auction). Coming out of strategic planning process will kickstart this campaign. Need help from friends.

Summary: As we continue to move forward with our Strategic Plan, our development committee is recommending now is a good time to reach out to our largest donors and share the plans progress in order to keep them engaged and informed.

Budgeted Goal: \$3.1 Million

Current Endowment Total to Date: \$873,729.99 committed from 690 gifts and 182 donors. This includes \$26,327.20 in unpaid pledges.

(These numbers are from our current endowment campaign which began in 2012)

- **04/07/22 \$182,171.62 from 39 gifts and 19 donors**
- We will begin reaching out to major donors regarding our Strategic Plan.
- FYI: Other historical sources of contributions to our current Endowment Account:
In an endowment campaign that began in 2003 and ended in 2011, we raised \$1,350,000. For over 20 years and ending in 2015, 10% of all Mountain Fund Donations were allocated to this

endowment account.

Stewardship

- Mike Fenn has helped prepare a letter that will be mailed to our "Living Stones" providing them with an update on important Mountain initiatives.
- Our Second Living Stones weekend will be held October 14, 2022. Living Stones will continue to be an important vehicle for us to stay connected and steward those who have been highly committed to the life of the Mountain.
- We will be looking for volunteers to help us with the planning out of that day.

SBU Endowment for Mt. Irenaeus

(Started with St. Bonas 150th campaign 2008)

Total Balance: \$636,065.43 committed from 367 gifts and 75 donors. We receive a 5% draw from the principal.

The Daniel A. Hurley, ofm Legacy Society- Planned Giving

- Our website has been updated promoting the Legacy Society. A wonderful video of Fr. Dan Hurley is a highlight on the page.

On-Line Auction

2021-2022 Budgeted Goal: \$25,000

Summary: Our 2021 Auction was our highest grossing ever, thanks to the tremendous support from our donors. Save the Date for our 2022 auction: November 4-13.

2021: \$35,692 (Gross)

2020: \$30,805.73

2019: \$22,608

Grants

We are still in need of volunteer to help us with grant writing and finding additional resources for grants.

NAME:	BEGAN ON BOARD: OCT.	END OF 1 ST TERM: OCT.	END OF 2 ND TERM: OCT.	END OF FINAL TERM: OCT.	Comments
FOSSACECA	2012	2015	2018	2022	Mike stepping off now, interested in coming back in a year
HILLS	2013	2016	2019	2023	
LICAMELE	2013	2016	2019	2023	
MARRIE	2013	2016	2019	2023	
ROTHERMEL	2014	2017	2020	2024	
LANZILLO	2014	2017	2020	2024	
TROSCH	2014	2017	2020	2024	
Buckla	2015	2018	2021	2025	
Cleary	2015	2018	2021	2025	Busy with family, officially on leave.
Aroune	2018	2021	2024	2028	
Pulaski	2018	2021	2024	2028	Once Karen transitions to a Mountain Companion, she will be on leave from the Trustee position.
Muffoletto	2019	2022	2025	2030	Family issues and busy work schedule, officially on leave.
Mike New	2021	2024	2027	2030	
Sarino Tropeano	2021	2024	2027	2030	
Matrecia James	2022	2025	2028	2031	
Kathy Colucci	2022	2025	2028	2031	

Updated: 4/28/22

When Karen transitions off the board, we will be down to the minimum number per our by-laws.

“Wisdom of the Poverello”

God is like the father of a family who sees his children grown up and eager to assert their independence, and who says to them: “You wish to leave; you are impatient to live your own life in your own way. Very well, but I wish to tell you this before you leave: If there comes a day when you are troubled and in distress, know that I am always here. My door shall ever be wide open, by night or day. You may always come. You will be at home, and I will do everything I can to help you. When every door is closed to you, remember, my door will always be open.” God is that way, too, Brother Tancred. No one loves as He does. We must try to imitate Him; until now we have done mothering, so let us get started.

“But at which end should we begin, Father? Give me one practical way. Which is the most urgent?” asked Tancred.

“The most urgent thing,” Answered Francis, “is to desire to possess the Spirit of the Lord. He alone can make us good, fundamentally good, with a goodness which then becomes one with our deepest nature.”

He was silent for a moment, then he resumed:

“The Lord has sent us to evangelize men. But have you already thought about what it means to evangelize men? Can’t you see, Brother, that to evangelize a man is to say to him: ‘You – yes, you too are loved by God in the Lord Jesus.’ And you must not only tell him so, but conduct yourself with this man in such a way that he can feel and discover that there is something within himself that is being redeemed, something more majestic and noble than he had ever dreamed. Thus will he be aroused to a new awareness of himself. Thus will you have proclaimed to him ‘the good tidings of great joy,’ this will be possible only if you offer him your friendship, a true friendship, unbiased and without condescension, a friendship rooted in profound confidence and esteem.



“We must go unto all men, but that is not easy. The world of men is a huge battlefield for wealth and power, and too much suffering and atrocity can eclipse the Face of God. In going to all men we must above all never appear to them as a new species of competitor. We must stand in the midst of them as the peaceful witnesses for the All Powerful, as men who covet nothing and scorn no one, men capable of truly becoming their friends. It is our friendship that they are waiting for, a friendship that should make them feel they are loved by God and redeemed in Jesus Christ.”

The sun slipped behind the mountains and suddenly the air was sweeter and cooler. The wind was stirring and nudged the trees. It was almost night now, and from everywhere one could hear the steady crescendo of the uninterrupted chant of the crickets.

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 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.



in



The Canticle of the Creatures

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

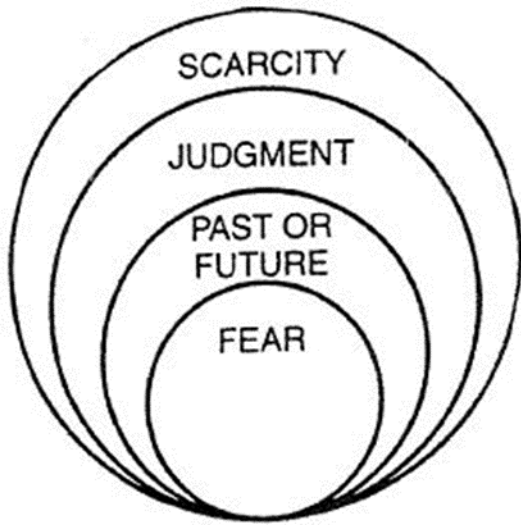
Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give
pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

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

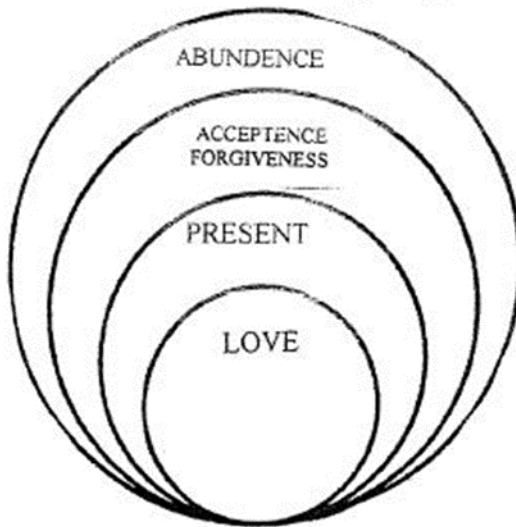
Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.



The Addiction Thought System



The Love Based Thought System



From ADDICTION AND SPIRITUALITY
 Edited by Oliver Morgan and Merle Jordan

Try to REALIZE the Dignity GOD +
 *OPENING PRAYER: LEADER: - SEE WHAT IVE GOD HAS BESTOWED ON US THAT WE MAY BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD. ALL: YES, THAT IS WHO WE ARE. 1974

of His BELOVED SON, AND YOUR SAVING GOD IS IN LIKENESS

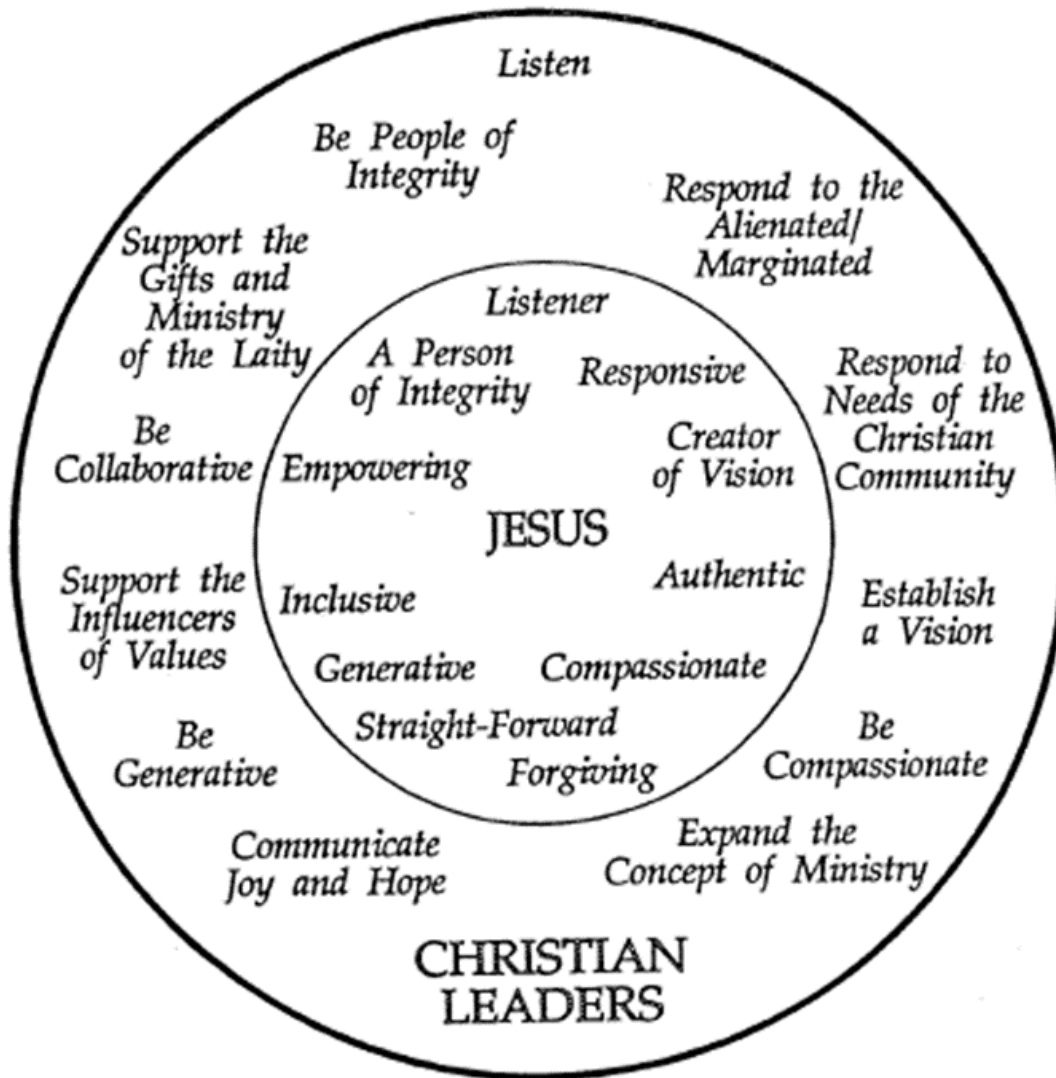
THAT CONFERRED ON YOU. GOD CREATED AND

BE STILL AND KNOW
 I AM GOD

*CLOSING PRAYER: LEADER: BELIEVE WE ARE GOD CHILDREN NOW WHAT WE SHAD BE HAS NOT YET BEEN REVEALED. ALL: WE DO KNOW THAT WHEN IT IS REVEALED WE SHAD BE LIKE GOD, FOR WE SHALL SEE GOD AS GOD IS. 1974

FORMED YOUR BODY IN THE IMAGE

Jesus: The Model for Christian Leaders



JESUS was a man of integrity, who was authentic, generative, compassionate, forgiving and straightforward.

As a minister, he listened to people, responded to what he heard, created and communicated a vision, included all in his community, and empowered people and communities to implement that vision.

The Christian leader is a person of integrity who is generative, compassionate and who communicates hope and joy.

The Christian leader listens to people, creates a vision with those people, responds to the needs of the Christian community, especially the alienated and marginalized, works collaboratively with others in responding

The Praises of God

St. Francis

1. You are holy Lord God who does wonderful things.
2. You are strong. You are great. You are the most high. You are the almighty king. You Holy father, King of heaven and earth.
1. You, are three in one, the Lord God of gods; You are the good, all good, the highest good, Lord God living and true.
2. You are love, charity; You are wisdom, You are humility; You are patience, You are beauty, You are meekness; You are security, You are rest, You are gladness and joy, You are our hope, You are justice; You are moderation, You are all our riches to sufficiency.
1. You are beauty, You are meekness; You are the protector, You are our custodian and defender; You are strength, You are refreshment. You are our hope; You are our faith, You are our charity; You are all our sweetness, You are our eternal life, Great and wonderful. Lord, Almighty God, Merciful Savior.

The Way of Peace

St. Bonaventure – the Soul's Journey into God

I call upon the Eternal Father through his Son, our Lord Jesus, 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 greeting he wished for 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 who hated peace; pray for the peace of Jerusalem.



Most High
Glorious God
Enlighten the darkness
of my heart

And give me, Lord
A Correct faith,
Ascertain hope,
A perfect charity,
Sense and knowledge,
So that I may carry out
Your holy and true
Will.

~St. Francis of Assisi



That is the order, the rhythm, the movement by which created humanity is fashioned after the image and likeness of the uncreated God. The Father makes the decisions and gives the commands, the Son carries them out and adapts them, the spirit provides nourishment and growth, and humanity progresses little by little.

Irenaeus of Lyons *Against Heresies*, IV, 38, 3 (SC 100 bis, pp. 954-6)



Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your Peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And wherever there is sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying, that we are born to eternal life...

Thomas Merton – Thoughts in Solitude

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

We adore you most holy Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all your Churches all over the world. And we bless you because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

“When the vessel of his body was shattered in death, Christ was poured out over the cosmos; he became actually, in his very humanity, what he has always been in his dignity, the very center of Creation.”

~Carl Rahner

Chant:

Altissimu, omnipotente, bon signore

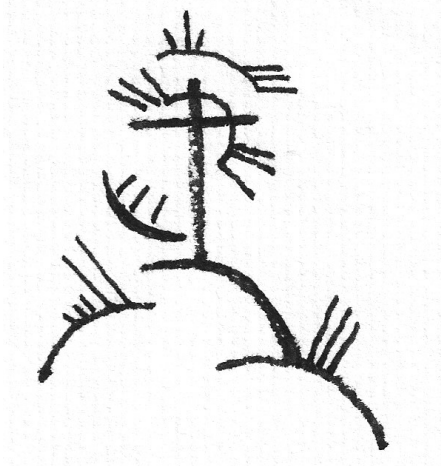
(Most high, all powerful, good Lord)

Laudate dominum, Laudate dominum, omnes, gentes, alleluia

(Praise God, Praise God, everyone, all people, Alleluia)

Laudate Sie Mi Signor cum le creatur

(All praise to you my Lord, with [in/through] all creatures [creation])



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 lost the imprint of God's fingers.

~St. Irenaeus

What we call the beginning is often the end
And to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from

.... And any action
Is a step to the block to the fire, down the sea's throat
Or to an intelligible stone: and that is where we start.
We die without the dying:
See, they depart, and we go with them.
We are born with the dead:
See, they return, and bring us with them

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time

T. S. Eliot, "Little Gidding"



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.