

## Update on Mt. Irenaeus Strategic Planning

February 3, 2023

<p><b>Reach out to worldwide and US Franciscan leadership about developing the life and formation at the Mountain.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publication of Dan's book has raised awareness of Mt. Irenaeus and our Life and Ministry</li><li>• Dan and Kevin part of global gathering in Assisi around the Franciscan contemplative movement.</li><li>• Mountain friars highly engaged in interprovincial retreats and US-6 planning</li><li>• Submission of new ministries to be lived out of our site, including potential investment into hermitages, a Cottage for Social Discourse and other expressions of our life and ministry.</li><li>• A meaningful visit with Rich Rohr and his team, sharing our practices and ways of growing our ministries</li><li>• Outreach with friars in formation, including a visit to Chicago last weekend, where we shared brunch with seven friars. A few shared they are discerning life and ministry from Mt. Irenaeus.</li><li>• Connecting with Jud Weiksnar and the potential for partnerships with a Buffalo Ite Nuntiate Community</li><li>• Membership within the Franciscan Federation as way of connecting with the larger Franciscan community in the U.S.</li></ul>
<p><b>Seek others and develop a diverse community at the Mountain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Karen Pulaski, a lay woman has successfully integrated into the resident community at the Mountain, deepening much of our ministry, and raising the awareness of our mixed community.</li><li>• Hosting a Franciscan Federation weekend in March to develop resources for others seeking opportunities to, live in an Intentional Franciscan Community.</li></ul>
<p><b>Ensure Co-Ministry with SBU helps foster a transformational student experience.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong relationship developing with Jeff Gingerich, including membership on the Mountain Board.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Mike and Dan each meeting regularly with Jeff to continue working on common issues and ways of supporting our institutions.</li></ul></li><li>• SBU board at the Mountain, look to continue that practice on a regular basis.</li><li>• Cottage of Social Discourse being viewed as a possible joint project, with Jeff and Dave Hilmey both engaged.</li><li>• We are investing in a full time Ministry Coordinator working alongside Kevin and supporting our efforts on campus and at the Mountain.</li><li>• Continuously seeking partnerships on campus to support students' transformation through our presence and accompaniment.</li><li>• Have begun conversations with Jeff about reviewing and updating our agreements, most significant ones are 15+ years old.</li></ul>
<p><b>Expand the Footprint of the Mountain beyond the Mountain.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Invested in high speed internet</li><li>• Continue expansion of our online/digital ministries</li></ul>
<p><b>Design and development a physical master plan to visualize the future of the Mountain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Master plan team in place, considering all aspects of what Mountain life will look like in the future.</li></ul>
<p><b>Create a comprehensive advancement plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beginning conversations about how we approach friends, asking for their investment to support the Mountain's future.</li></ul>

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- **Started with the comments that consensus is there has “Never been a better relationship between the Mountain and the University friars...speaking with a shared voice, better for both fraternities**
- **Buffalo community – gave Judd permission to pursue the idea, but there’s a time limit. Need to be in order by June, has to include paid positions of some sort.**
- **New province seeking to create 3 new settings. This will be a priority in terms of new assignments. Few places have two young men in one entity.**
- **Very enthusiastic about what is taking place with Karen joining our community. Mixed, diverse is the future if there is to be a resurgence of religious life. We need to get past a stereotype of unisex...it’s all based on fear**
- **SBU board at the Mountain. Let’s continue this. A visit to the Mountain could be a way to be part of trustee training.**
- **Cottage- right on target, profound societal need, internet of people with interested in Merton and spirituality. College connection makes much sense.**
- **Referred to the St. Francis springs model. Cottages around a main building?**
- **Kevin shared they are meeting Tuesday with the 3 OFM colleges. High level, introductions, what does sponsorship mean for the provinces. How can we bring a sense of sponsorship to the new province. All about seriously intergrating the Franciscan Mission into the University.**
- **We have an important place in the future US province. Unpack what it means to be a Contemplative Fraternity in Mission. The C is not separate, but integrated, and the Mountain can help with this.**