

Jesus the Christ: Teacher of My Heart
Our Choice for Ongoing Conversion
Board of Trustees
September 15-17, 2023

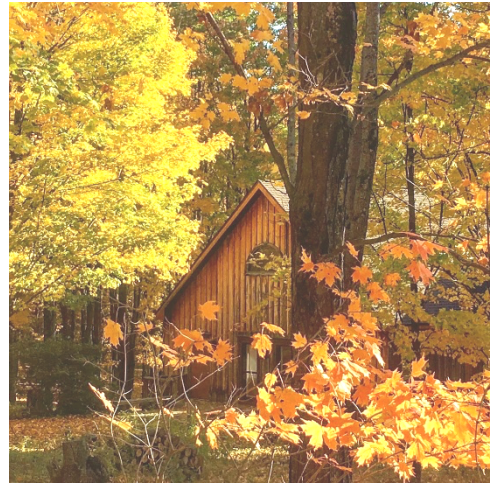
Friday Evening

5:15-30 Gather for drinks and socialization
Welcome, Introductions
Blessing of the meal
Quiet walk to the chapel
Instrumental Music as people enter
Song: "Up on the Mountain"
Lighting of the Candle
Quiet meditation

Psalm: Canticle of the Creatures (Pray as a side to side)

1. 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.
2. 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.
1. Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.
2. 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.
1. Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.
2. Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

1. Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.
2. 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.
1. 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.
2. Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.



Brief Introduction: Our Upcoming Formation Journey

Reading from Build with Living Stones:

In the piazza centrale, stood seven old-timers with their canes, potbellies, gestures and stories. I went up to the closest one and asked him directions to the official Strada Francescana. “We’re pilgrims. Which way is the ay pilgrims have taken when walking to Assisi?”

Before my contact could answer, arms shot out pointing in every direction. Seven different answers came at once out of seven different mouths, and as they heard each other’s recommended directions, their faces filled with color and expression. “What do you mean, turn left at the next street? The bridge on that street has been closed down for months now!”

Disgusted, another man waved them all off, grabbed Ginger and me by the shoulders, and marched us out into the middle of the main street, where he hobbled along with us until we arrived at the lane where he wanted us to turn. He patted me on the back and grumbled, “There it is, my friends, now go, before the others try to change your minds.”

I looked back at his six cronies, and they were still arguing. Waving their arms, shaking their canes, and making dramatic gestures to one another with their hands. I had to laugh; we had asked them too large and weighty a question for an afternoon in the week before the Fiesta di

San Franciscana: "What is the true Franciscan way?"...today, we recognize that the "true Franciscan way" necessarily admits diversity and pluralism.

(Chapter 1, pgs. 5-6)

Francis divides his life into two distinct phases: his "life of sin" and his life of penance..." He recognized that Assisi was essentially a "culture without compassion:" the social system in which he had grown up was not based upon Gospel values, even though it was culturally Catholic. This world was rooted in money, prestige and power as well as the rich over the poor. So, Francis distanced himself from this world to develop his alternative "culture of compassion," rooted in the Gospel... It is this culture that the contemporary Franciscan Movement seeks to continue and strengthen.

(Chapter 1, pgs. 7, 8-9).

Reflection: The True Meaning of Penance: A Path of Transformation

Break into small groups:

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

- What do the stories of Francis and Clare have to do with us?
- How can I authentically be in dialogue with Francis, Clare and the stories of the Franciscan tradition in order to frame my way of living in the world?
- How would you describe a Gospel Life? What do you feel are the values of our Mountain Gospel Manner of Life?

Return to large group for sharing

Petitions

Closing Prayer/Sign of peace

Saturday:

Pick up breakfast

9:00 Welcome and reading as opening prayer

Reading:

Colossians 3:12-14

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Quiet Meditation

Message and Reflection from Fr Dan (audio file)

Large group sharing: Possible reflective questions

- What is resonating for you from last evening?
- What am I finding that affirms my priorities? What do I find challenging?
- How does this impact my role and involvement in the Mt Irenaeus Mission?

Moving into our Board agenda:

9:00 – 9:45	Prayer and reflection time
9:45-10:15	Review of life and ministry, including introductions of Martha Kopcienski and Natalie Pronio
10:15 – 10:45	Budget Review
10:45 – 11:30	Strategic Plan review – what we’ve accomplished, where have we struggled, recommended next steps on each initiative
11:30 – 12:15	Board Committee round robin – what needs to be covered? Closing Prayer
Noon – 12:45	Lunch
Afternoon	Executive Session - with the entire Board together and the need to discuss the transition of Mike from the role of Executive Director, we would like to give ourselves time to freely discuss the topic.