

Mt. Irenaeus

Contemplative Fraternity in Mission

Come Try Our Way of Life



Dear Brothers of the US,

We, your brothers who live at Mt. Irenaeus/ Holy Peace Friary, in West Clarksville, NY invite you to consider joining a contemplative fraternity in mission that strives to be a new expression of an ancient Franciscan way of life. Our mission is to live a Gospel manner of Life and Ministry through prayer, fraternity, simplicity, contemplation, personal conversion, hospitality and evangelization; to "join Jesus Christ and our sisters and brothers into making all things new."

The roots of Mt. Irenaeus stretch back to the 1970's when a few friars and lay people felt the need for renewal and deeper movement into contemplative life, Later Holy Name Province established us as Holy Peace Friary in 1991.

We believe there are more friars in the US who would be interested in this life. Are you?



Mission

We consider prayer and fraternity to be our first mission. Our best offering to the Church- both Catholic and other denominations- is our lived out charism as lesser brothers. By welcoming others into a simple Franciscan family of prayer and hospitality, we are able to discover and learn new ways to positively affect the world around us.

We continue a very vigorous co-missioned relationship with St. Bonaventure University - students, faculty, staff and alumni as well as many other individuals and groups.



Br. Giacomo Bini, OFM visited Mt. Irenaeus in the 1990's when he was Minister General. At that time, he was already conceptualizing what we now call "new communities." **Giacomo** was moved by the life, the quiet setting and beauty of the land and meeting with some SBU students. He later asked Daniel Riley, OFM, to write a piece for the book he assembled, "Signs of the Times." This small book told stories from various places around the world that were practicing new life in response to this "new time." Much later, we were thrilled with the Order's 2017 document ***Ite, Nuntiate*** as it calls for new communities that are strikingly similar to the life we are already living here.

In October 2023, Daniel Riley, OFM and Kevin Kriso, OFM were invited by the Order's Prayer and Devotion Commission to attend an international gathering of Asian, African, European, South, Central and North American friars in Assisi. The friars came from 19 different Houses of Prayer/ or Hermitage Fraternities who were all inspired by the Order's 2017 Document ***Listen and You Will Live; Guidelines for the Establishment of a Hermitage or House of Prayer.*** At this gathering, current Minister General **Massimo Fusarelli, OFM** listened to and encouraged our efforts to be contemporary expressions of Contemplative Fraternities in Mission and help spur ongoing renewal in the Order.



We invite other brothers who are interested in our Gospel manner of life and ministry to come and spend time here with us for a longer or shorter period of time. Our life is open to brothers in initial formation as well as the more "seasoned" who yearn to find a proactive balance of ad intra and ad extra.

Are you intrigued? Might this be a calling to you? Check out our website (www.mountainonline.org) to view pictures, read some stories- information that might connect you to visuals that would help you see and experience us from afar! Click on the for-friars link under the Our Life tab to learn more about this opportunity. Contact Kevin Kriso, OFM Guardian of Holy Peace Friary: kkriso@sbu.edu and he will send more of our primary documents, recent newsletters and such.

**Fraternally,
Joseph Kotula, OFM
Kevin Kriso, OFM, Guardian
Louis McCormick, OFM
Daniel Riley, OFM**

