

Giardini, Mary D.

From: Mt. Irenaeus <mgiardin@sbu.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 3:52 PM
To: Giardini, Mary D.
Subject: "Making All Things New" May 2023 - Buildings and Grounds; Reflection from Ideal Bona Woman, Remembering Betty



Making All Things New

May 2023



[Fr. Dan celebrates St. Bonaventure graduates and invites us all not just to stand together in Franciscan charism, but also to 'join in conversation for a change in our hearts and a renewal of the world.'](#)



A Senior's Reflection

By: Ayushi Jain, Ideal Bonaventure Student Award Winner

When I first walked into the House of Peace at Mt. Irenaeus my first semester freshman year, I immediately noticed a calming warmth radiating from the place, whether it was through the honey-colored wooden floors and walls or the lovely aroma of a carefully handmade meal or the soft chatter of conversation coupled with Fr. Dan's remarkable laughter. Mt. Irenaeus has a special magic about it; not only does it feel like a breath of fresh air beyond the hubbub of campus, but it also invites everyone inside (and outside by the pond!) with a warm hug that just naturally brings out an openness to engage in conversation with new and old friends.

My most recent visits to the Mountain with Asian Students in Action (ASIA) and Active Minds were incredibly special to me because they strengthened my relationship with my culture and spirituality: through the collaborative process of cooking dishes like chana and eating new foods like bibimbap, as well as through my reading of an Indian prayer up in the Chapel.

Ever since my first visit to the Mountain, I have felt drawn back to the energy of the people and place again and again, and I have felt inspired to share this experience with my closest friends, many of whom I have brought to the Mountain to make sure they, too, have the opportunity to experience the joy of Mt. Irenaeus. My own personal growth since freshman year has mirrored the flowering of a deeper connection with the Mountain, and each of the nine times that I have visited (whether it be with the SBU Dance Team, Active Minds, or ASIA) have been a source of the same warmth every time, despite the visits being with entirely different groups of students.

A message for the freshmen and anyone who has not yet been to the Mountain: I cannot emphasize enough how valuable Mt. Irenaeus has been for me. It has truly been an experience that you can choose how much to pour into, but I can assure you that its value goes beyond words. I hope you can embrace being vulnerable there and be a part of the glowing kindness that each individual extends to others.



Buildings and Grounds Update from Sarino Tropeano

Earlier this spring, the Buildings and Grounds Committee met at the Mountain. The primary purpose of our meeting was to update our planning for the upkeep and upgrades to our buildings. But, we also enjoyed fellowship and a time of prayer and reflection.

After Br. Joe led us in a devotion on Saturday morning, we spent the rest of the day walking the grounds and inspecting each of

the buildings. Many thanks to Br. Joe for his insight and guidance. And special thanks to Karen Pulaski who shared her observations from having spent a great deal of time in these buildings serving alongside Br. Joe and Fr. Lou in caring for our guests.

The committee as a whole agreed that although the buildings are approaching four decades of use, they are in remarkably good condition. Everywhere there is evidence of the care that is being given to maintaining the grounds, the buildings, and the furnishings.

This high level of upkeep will allow us to prioritize the timely replacement of major building components like the roofs and heating equipment. It will also allow us to update furniture, appliances, and cabinetry.

We will use the information we gathered to assist the resident community of the Mountain in the planning of this work.



Karen's Corner - Reflection on Mothering and the month of Mary

With the month of May comes thoughts of spring, new beginnings, graduations, and of course Mother's Day. I am privileged to bear the name of "mom" to my 24-year-old son, Jon. The path to motherhood was not an easy one for my husband and me, but certainly was worth all the trials, tribulations

Gratefully celebrating the life of Betty Hooker, OSF

On March 20th, our dear sister Betty Hooker left this earth. In the reflections below, her Franciscan brothers and sisters remember her Franciscan spirit,



and disappointments we experienced to finally receive this wondrous gift from God. May is also the Month of Mary – a time to honor Mary, the mother of Jesus. We honor the young teenager she was when she was asked to have faith, to reveal to Joseph that she was a virgin with child, and to accept what must have been an overwhelming sense of fear and responsibility to do what God called her to do. Quite simply, Mary said "yes" - a yes that not only delivered Jesus to her, but to all of us. The opening words of the Canticle of Mary so beautifully express how she felt: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, My spirit rejoices in God my Savior!" Courage, faith, selflessness, grace and love – these are all words that come to me when I think of Mary and all that she experienced and endured. Our children are not truly "ours" – they are a temporary gift from God; a gift that God entrusts to us but also that God asks us to release into the world. As a mom, this has been incredibly difficult and incredibly rewarding – to watch my son Jon as he grows into the person that God created him to be. Mary was called to the ultimate sacrifice as a parent – to be both mother and disciple to her son, and to stand witness to His journey, His crucifixion and ultimately His resurrection! With this incredible sacrifice, she helped to create the path for Jesus to offer eternal life to all of us. In this time of spring and new beginnings, perhaps you might take a moment to find your own way to honor Mary that is meaningful to you!

Peace and all good...

Karen Pulaski
Mountain Companion



which was evident long before she even started the formal formation process.

'Betty cared deeply and genuinely about people, and others enjoyed being with her because of her interest in their story, as well as her sense of humor. Her kindness to others while dealing with adversity in her own life was inspiring and comforting. She rarely talked about difficulties she was experiencing. Rather, when life would seem to be more than overwhelming, she demonstrated an ability to move the conversation away from herself to one of compassion for others.'

'She expressed her compassion in many ways: helping others through life's difficulties as a Stephen Minister, working at the Mountain, taking on leadership roles - including serving as minister of St. Irenaeus Fraternity - when others were reluctant, caring for her family or just being a shoulder to cry on. Most of the time, few were even aware of her many contributions.'

'While she lived her faith rather than just talk about it, Betty was committed to wearing her Tau, and always happy to share with anyone who inquired about the meaning of the Franciscan tradition.'

'Among the special things we remember: She supported the Sisters of the Holy Cross refugee center at the southern border, and traveled places many of us dream of, including Turkey and Tibet. She chose to live close to nature in a rural setting, and even cuddled orphan bear cubs! We especially remember her infectious laugh, which was often at herself.'

'Betty is no longer with us physically, but the impact that she had on so many of us will never be forgotten. May we always be better sisters and brothers because she was in our lives.'

Sue English, OSF
Agnes Brush, OSF
Bonnie Orsini, OSF

Upcoming Events:

[schedule can also be found online here](#)

**June 28 and July 5, 12, 19,
26:** Evenings of Re-Creation



As in the past, this summer's Evenings of Re-Creation will be held rain or shine and will begin with Evening Prayer in the Chapel followed by time on the land and supper.

This year, our Evenings of Re-Creation will be held on June 28 (St. Irenaeus Day!) and July 5, 12, 19 and 26.

After our dish to pass supper, join us in the Chapel for Mass. During the homily, we will have time for an open "conversatio." The evenings will conclude around 9 pm. You are invited to come to any or all of the evenings.

There is no need to sign up this year, but please bring a dish to pass for supper. If you are looking for accommodations, please call Fr. Lou at 585-973-2470.

Our schedule is approximately as follows:

5:15 p.m. – Meet in the Chapel for evening prayer followed by quiet time on the land

6:30 p.m. – Dish to pass supper

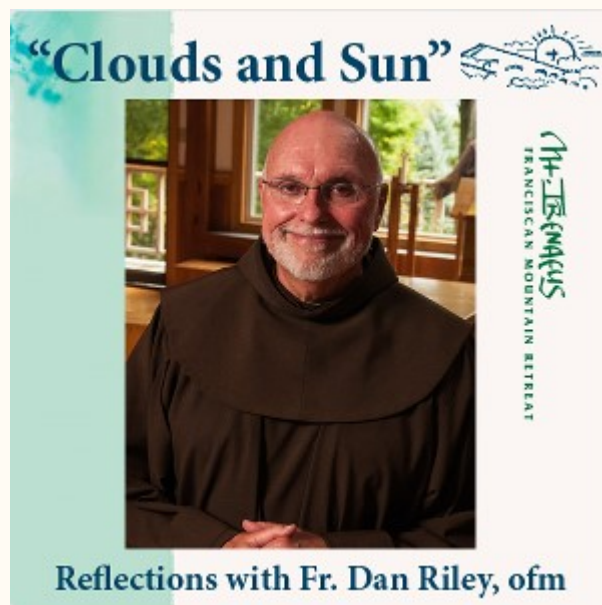


"Franciscan Lectio" Podcasts

Fr. Dan Riley, ofm, invites us into the world of Franciscan Lectio, a companion podcast to [his book](#).

[Gazing at What's Present](#)

[We All Have a Story](#)



"Clouds and Sun" Podcasts

["Don't Let Fear Stand in the Way"](#)

7:30 p.m. – Mass at the Chapel
9 p.m. – End of program and departure
from the Mountain

Please park on the road near the House of
Peace.

["Our Inner Rooms for Lent"](#)

[You can find more podcasts, and many
other resources at \[mountainonline.org/be-
still-and-pray\]\(http://mountainonline.org/be-still-and-pray\).](#)

You can also [check out our video library on our
YouTube channel](#), which includes reflections from
the friars and Mountain Companions, and behind-
the-scenes looks at our way of life.

May 31 is the end of our fiscal year.

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The Mission of Mt. Irenaeus is to join with Jesus Christ in "Making
all things new!" (REV. 21:5)

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