

**Giardini, Mary D.**

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**From:** Mt. Irenaeus <mgiardin@sbu.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2024 1:21 PM  
**To:** Giardini, Mary D.  
**Subject:** "Making all things new" July 2024



## Making All Things New

July 2024



### Hear different voices from the Mountain!

As part of our year of celebration, we are inviting others to occasionally open our newsletter with updates or thoughts they would like to share.

Natalie, the Mountain's Ministry Coordinator, gives us an update on the summer events and what we have planned for when the students return to campus at SBU.

Natalie has been with us for almost one full year now and is making a tremendous impact on our reach to SBU students and more. Her joy for people, ministry and God is shown each day with her powerful laugh and welcoming presence. **Click on the video above to hear her update.**

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### Celebrating St. Bonaventure

This month, on July 15, people around the world celebrated the Feast Day of St. Bonaventure, a leading medieval theologian and inspiration for the naming of St. Bonaventure University. Known as the Seraphic Doctor, Bonaventure contributed mightily to Franciscan thought, philosophy and theology, writing numerous mystical and ascetical treatises, including the notable "The Soul's Journey Into God."

Among St. Bonaventure's many writings, one which bears special relevance in our world today, is his definition of justice: "Justice makes beautiful that which has been deformed." Justice is, first and foremost, a relational term — people living in right relationship with God, one another, and the natural creation. Might justice, then, be the path to peace?

The Mountain's print newsletter in September will delve a bit deeper into St. Bonaventure's definition of justice and its relevance today.

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### St. Bonaventure

"When we pray, the voice of the heart must be heard more than the proceedings from the mouth."





## Confirmation Class Visits the Mountain

On a bright, sunny Sunday in June, the Mountain welcomed a confirmation class from Allegany County on a retreat. The students spent the time with their teacher, Natalie, the friars and our Summer Companions Alexis and Astou. We would like to share with you reflections that Astou and some of the confirmands shared with us.

### **Astou Sidibe, Mountain Companion:**

While being at the confirmation retreat with these young students it was such a great opportunity that I was able to experience. It was a moment that I felt proud that I can take part in to be able to tell them about my journey as a Muslim and for them to understand that each religion has its own perspective in life. After taking a long walk through nature and up the mountain I was able to tell them that I, as a Muslim, recited the Quran that was verbally revealed from Allah Swt (The Most High) to Prophet Mohamed peace be upon him through Angel Gabriel, while we walked up the mountain. I recite the Quran not only for myself but also for the creations of Allah like the trees because we are taught that the trees can testify for you on the day of judgment. This is why we honor creation because we believe that everything is alive, and all the trees, leaves, grass, or any animals around you that heard you recite the Quran will intercede for you in the day of judgment.

### **Aly M.:**

"My experience at Mt. Irenaeus was very peaceful. I loved how out in nature everything was. It's a very close-knit community and I loved that."

### **Sierra C.:**

"I felt like my experience at Mt. Irenaeus was very positive. I loved the environment and the people there were so kind. I really enjoyed going to the church and seeing how differently it operates from other churches. I would definitely go back there sometime in the future!"

### **Lydia K.:**

"I really enjoyed going to Mt Irenaeus and liked how different it was. The mass was very interesting and i liked seeing how different you can express your faith. Walking around the property and being able to talk to different people and see their views was fun."

### **Reece W.:**

"The retreat was very enjoyable. The sense of community was very inspiring and shows how depending on people and listening to each other is very important, especially in your relationship with God! We took time to reflect what we have learned and to understand our



relationships. Getting to attend a different style of mass showed how there are many different ways to learn the teachings and practices!"

**Addy C.:**

"The retreat was amazing! I really like how close everyone was there. I like the difference in the Mass setting and how they prayed for the LGBTQ+ community! It very inclusive there and i think they keep their teaching very modern while still being connected to God."

**Jack C.:**

"The Mountain was a very good experience in all. It was interesting to see how other people get closer to God, and at the end, i definitely felt like my relationship with God was strengthened."

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## **Evenings of Re-Creation Reflect the Power of the Slowing**

Birds sing and late afternoon sun streams through Holy Peace Chapel, scattering light gently throughout this sacred space. It is time for "The Power of the Slowing," the theme of this summer's July Evenings of Re-Creation at Mt. Irenaeus.



As with all Wednesday Evenings of Re-Creation, prayer starts in the Chapel, followed by time on the land and a dish-to-pass supper in the House of Peace, before culminating in the Celebration of the Eucharist in the Chapel.

The July 3 evening coincided with the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, with a reflection on "Touch My Wounds" – Christ's and our own – and proclaiming the Cantic of the Creatures in choir. Two weeks later, Br. Joe Kotula, ofm, reminded the group gathered in the Chapel that we are not simply slowing down, but rather we are experiencing "the slowing" as an actual encounter.

Reflections on the first few Evenings of Re-Creation share the encounter:

**The slowing reminds me to take every opportunity** to observe God's beauty because if you live in the fast lane, you will miss many beautiful things. **Br. Ricky Madere, ofm**

**The first Evening of Re-Creation's** theme, The Power of the Slowing, has made me more intentional when I am on the Land. The inner wisdom from being in God's presence from the stillness has Creation speaking beauty and peacefulness, that is a true gift... I have learned from Gerald May's book, that

"fear is beautiful." I will keep that thought in the back of my mind if I experience a bear encounter one evening... As we continue with the theme, I will look forward to the wisdom I may gain from the gift of the Mountain's beautiful creation, "praised be You, my Lord." **Michele Bednar**

**To me the Power of the Slowing is being granted the Grace** to be in a moment where no outcome is expected, only being, resulting in a sense of utter peace. **Mary Casey**

**As I walked the Land** during the first Evening of Recreation, I reflected on the words spoken in the Chapel - "Real quiet is Presence": All I could think of is how many more things could I learn...and maybe, more importantly, how many things could I unlearn that didn't serve me well simply by practicing the Power of the Slowing. **Linda Bysiek**

**The naming of and now being so aware** of "The Power of the Slowing" has allowed me to more understand actions I have taken and am taking in my life. As long as I can remember I would pursue time at the ocean, in the mountains, on the river, in the forests, on the lake shores or the waterfalls. I would find peace with my friends and strangers in these places. It is the wilderness I pursue because in the embrace of Mother Nature, she pulls me into her rhythms. This to me is "The Power of the Slowing." I realize now I felt that the first time I set foot on the 600-acre St. Bonaventure University Franciscan campus. I feel it always on the Mountain. We all share it, and it brings us together. **Jim Vendryes**

The source of "The Power of the Slowing" is Gerald May's book, *The Wisdom of Wilderness*. The last Evening of Re-Creation this summer will take place at the Mountain on July 31, starting at 5:15 p.m. All are welcome; all belong. Peace!



## Mountain Moments by Greg Licamele

We're beginning a new series called "Mountain Moments," when we will occasionally share photos from 40 years of our life and ministry on Facebook and in our e-newsletters.

Some photos will have captions, for others we'll let the image speak for itself, and on occasion, Fr. Dan will offer an extended reflection and history about a particular photo.

If you see yourself in a photo on Facebook, please comment and offer a thought or reflection!

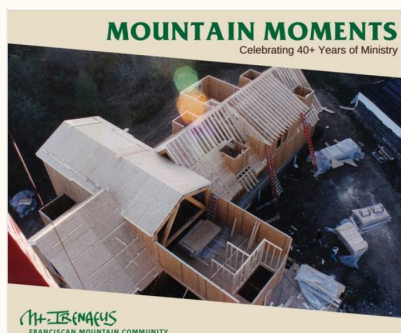
If a photo strikes you in any way, we welcome you to share.



Our first photo shows construction of Holy Peace Chapel in 1989.

Our second photo reminds us how we've been gathering around tables sharing meals and fellowship for decades! This photo comes from the mid-1990s in the House of Peace.

In the third photo, we have a birdseye view of the building of the House of Peace, which was opened and dedicated in 1995.



For the fourth, we show you that the setting for fellowship takes on many flavors at the Mountain, including decades of washing dishes! That simple act has led to countless conversations and fellowship for so many people through the years. Here's a 1980s photo from the original house at the Mountain (now known as The Other House).

We would love your memories and reflections on these photos. Please share and encourage others to post on them too. Help us reach others we haven't heard from lately.

Do you have any photos and reflections you'd like to share? Send them to Mary at [mgiardin@sbu.edu](mailto:mgiardin@sbu.edu) and we might be able to use them in some way!



## **New Roofs for the House of Peace, Chapel and Other House** ~Martha Kopcienski

## **Did you know?**

There is good news coming for the House of Peace, Chapel and Other House this summer in that they will all be getting new roofs!

Thanks to generous donors and years of Mountain Auction proceeds that have gone towards our Building and Grounds Fund, the Mountain is able to fund a complete tear off and replacement of all of these building's roofs.

Work is expected to begin on June 24<sup>th</sup> on the House of Peace roof. After the completion of that work, the roof on the Other House will be replaced, followed by the Chapel roof.

Weather permitting, we hope to have all the work wrapped up by late July. We are working closely with our contractor to keep each

work area safe and have little to no disruption to summer activities on the Mountain.

So please feel free to come to the Mountain for Mass on Sunday, the Wednesday Evenings of Re-Creation in July, or just for a visit! We'd love to see you and also show off the new roofs!



Don't know what to get a loved one on a special occasion?

Do you need help showing support to someone in their time of loss?

### **Consider one of our Honor or Memorial cards.**

When you donate in Honor (for a living person) or Memorial (for a deceased person), we will add their name to our prayer list for the next month. For all Masses in that month, we will remember this person in our prayers. Also, if you provide an address, we will send out one of our beautiful cards (pictured to the left), to the person you honored or the family of the deceased.

Click on the donate button just below and make sure to check the box that says "I would like to dedicate this gift" and fill in the needed information.

We do not set a specific donation amount on these cards.

[Click HERE to make a Donation](#)

Find videos and Fr. Dan's reflections on our [Instagram page](#).

And don't miss our student-run Instagram page at this link:  
[Mt. Irenaeus Happenings](#)

**Upcoming Events:**  
[Schedule and ways to participate can also be found online HERE.](#)



**Join us for Mass on any Sunday at 11 am and stay for our dish-to-pass brunch!**

### July:

**July 24** - Evening of Re-Creation - **Theme: The Power of the Slowing** - see our [Events Page](#) for more details and our schedule!

**July 28** - Summer Companions leave

**July 31** - Evening of Re-Creation - **Theme: The Power of the Slowing** - see our [Events Page](#) for more details and our schedule!

### August:

**August 2-4** - Council for Spirit and Life Weekend Retreat - contact Karen at [kpulaski@sbu.edu](mailto:kpulaski@sbu.edu) if you are interested in becoming more involved.

### September:

**Sept 2** - Office Closed, please call the Mountain at 585-973-2470

**Sept 20-22** - Mountain Board Meeting

### October:

**Oct 3** - Transitus

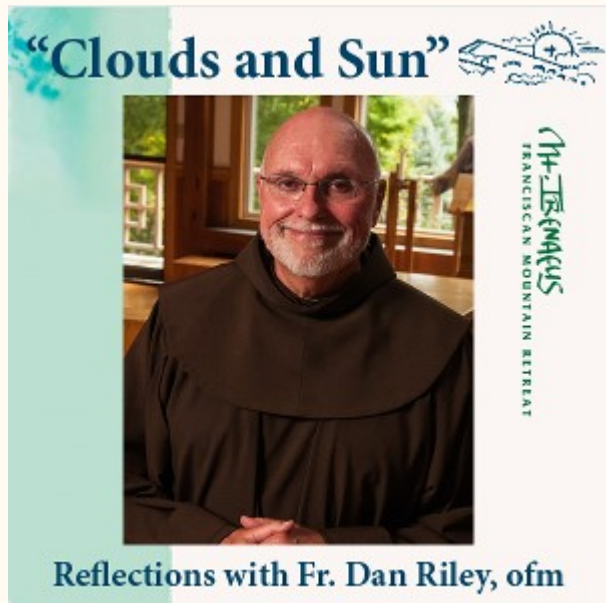
**Oct 7-11** - Friar Contemplative Retreat - Brothers, email Br. Kevin Kriso for more information at [kkriso@sbu.edu](mailto:kkriso@sbu.edu)

**Oct 14** - Office Closed, please call the Mountain at 585-973-2470

### November:

**Nov 1-10** - Mountain Online Action

**Nov 27-29** - Office Closed, please call the Mountain at 585-973-2470



### "Clouds and Sun" Podcasts

["Sharing Our Lives as Nourishment for Others"](#)

["Set the World on Fire with Love and Peace"](#)

["Grounded in Love"](#)

["The Journey Toward Easter"](#)

["The Rich Possibility of Mercy"](#)

["The Deep Roots of Lent"](#)

["Blossoming in the Desert"](#)

["The Beauty of the Journey"](#)

["Chosen In This New Year"](#)

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

You are also invited to [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.





### **"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](#)

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If you would like to leave a prayer request or you can help answer other people's, please click on this link below.

**PRAYER REQUEST**

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We appreciate you and pray for you and your family.

Come visit and pray with us!

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## Mt. Irenaeus



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Watch us on  
YouTube



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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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Be sure to add our email address to your address book or safe senders list so our emails get to your inbox.

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Mt. Irenaeus

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