

Giardini, Mary D.

Subject: "Making all things new" September 2024 - final podcast, student visits, Francis Week and more!

From: Mt. Irenaeus <mgiardin@sbu.edu>

Sent: Friday, September 27, 2024 16:06

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Making All Things New

September 2024

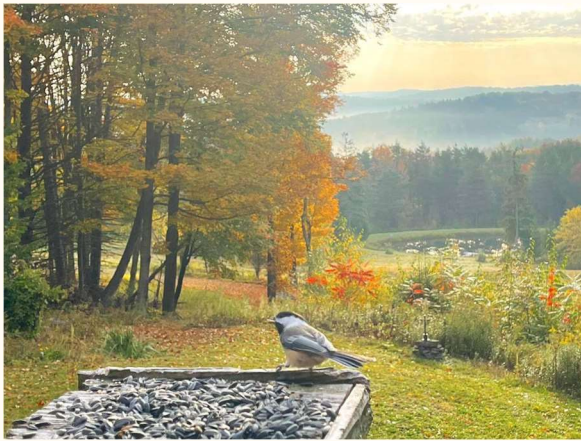


In this final episode of ["Clouds and Sun" titled Well Done, Faithful Servant](#), we remember and reflect upon the life of Fr. Dan Riley, ofm. Greg Licamele, the producer of this podcast, opens the reflection, followed by Fr. Xavier Seubert, ofm, who delivered the homily at Fr. Dan's funeral. Music is by Fr. Cyprian Consiglio from Fr. Dan's funeral. As we listen to this final episode, we offer special gratitude to Greg, whose generosity and creativity in digital ministry allowed Fr. Dan's voice and wisdom to reach each of our corners of the world for the past 14 years.

In addition, Juniper, a guest-favorite cabin, is 33 years old and needed some touchups. We want to be conscious of people's experience while they retreat as their time in nature is just as important as their time inside for space and solitude. In the future, more work will be done to Juniper including gutting the bathroom, but for now, the big update is kitchen updates, fresh flooring, painting and new furniture. The work so far has been done by a mix of contractors, Mountain volunteers, Mountain employees and Br. Joe.

What's next for the committee? They want to look at all the cabins, slowly making renovations in each building. A lot of love, care and usage has gone into each building, but it is time to make sure they are still functioning and effective. The committee will be looking at buildings through a comprehensive lens: looking at large projects such as the roof and stovetops and as small as shelving and furniture. Additionally, regular attendees of Sunday Mass may know that we have been having some trouble with our dishwasher. By the time this is released, we will have ordered a NEW dishwasher that will be installed soon.

We would be remiss if we did not mention Martha Kopcienski, a former member of the Buildings and Grounds committee. She tirelessly got quotes for the new roofs, found contractors and established what the work needed actually was. Without her, these projects would not be complete. Going forward through the committee's master plan, the ultimate goal is to minimize our use of fossil fuels or propane and instead using electric. We want to take more steps to use fully renewable energy. For example, we are converting to electric stovetops in the House of Peace, moving away from propane fueled. More updates to come as they happen!



Our visit to Mt. Irenaeus was transformative for the camaraderie of our Women's Rugby Team.
~Makenna Ramsey, Student Captain

Nestled in the peaceful beauty of nature, we had the chance to disconnect from the fast pace of life and really connect with each other on a deeper level. Preparing food together allowed us to share responsibility and bond over something as simple yet as profound as a shared meal. The act of cooking and eating as a group broke down barriers, fostering a sense of unity and trust.

Attending the Chapel and spending quiet moments in reflection gave us the opportunity to open up, be vulnerable, and grow closer, not just as teammates, but as friends. The friars were instrumental in guiding us through these experiences, sharing their wisdom and offering insight into how we can support one another both on and off the field. Their teachings helped us understand the value of community, communication, and mindfulness, which are essential not just in rugby, but in life.

Through this retreat, we became more than just a team — we became a family connected by shared experiences, nature, and a deeper sense of purpose.



**On October 4th we will
celebrate the Feast of St.
Francis.
May we unite, near and
far, in prayer.**

Feast of St. Francis Prayer

"O Beloved Saint Francis,
gentle and poor, your
obedience to God, and your
simple, deep love for all God's
creatures led you to the
heights of heavenly perfection
and turned many hearts to
follow God's will. In your
mercy and kindness, and
through your intercession,
come to my aid in my present
distress and grant my humble
petition."



Francis Week Work Day and Open Overnight at Mt. Irenaeus

OCTOBER 5-6, 2024

Vans leave from Café La Verna at 9:15 a.m.
Vans return to campus around 4:30 p.m.
OR, stay for the Open Overnight!



QUESTIONS? ASK NATALIE!
NPRONIO@SBU.EDU



[Click HERE for more information](#)
or call the Mountain at 585-973-2470.



Summer Companion Reflection - Alexis Serio

This summer, I had the opportunity to live in community at the Mountain. As someone from Forestville, New York, a hamlet in Chautauqua County, I knew the same people from the time I started elementary school until the day I graduated high school. Forestville called itself a community, but I never quite understood the full meaning of the word.

When I first visited the Mountain for the Orientation Overnight retreat in the summer of 2023, I had my first glimpse into a different type of community. This community at the Mountain believes in peace, depth, and a gratitude for the people we surround ourselves with. Each time I returned to the Mountain, I felt the same desire to go deeper into the Franciscan life. I continually observed the way the Mountain welcomed everyone in, no matter who they were or where they had started from. Everyone had a place of belonging at the Mountain.



I developed a deeper understanding of why community life is so valuable. Every person in the community has a purpose, and the responsibility is not dropped on one person in the way our society tends to do. The world around us needs a model like this to understand that by sharing the work, no one feels left out, nor do they feel alone. By giving everyone a place to grow and share their talents, people are able to better express who they are and what makes them spark. The Mountain was the first place I found a space to become a more full version of myself. Through fostering a space for sharing and learning, everyone leaves the Mountain changed in some way. I felt myself grow in immense ways this summer, without being critical of the ways I changed. Being supported by those I was living with, as well as those who entered the Mountain for Mass or a visit, gave me hope for a world where we can live with a desire to support and deeply care about one another.



A Start to a Spiritual Journey

~Jude Biviano

I have always wanted to go up to the Mountain, to experience life there and to meet new people. I also wanted to go to the Mountain to find somewhere quiet when college life here on campus becomes too loud. The stories I've heard from my dad and my sister were very vague. They would always say "It's just a house on a mountain," and they're right. That's what makes this place so special, because everyone will have a different experience, even when you go with

a whole group

The thing that drew me to the mountain was the spirituality of it. I heard it is a place where the presence of God is felt throughout your whole experience. And as someone who is on the journey of building a connection with God, it felt like I was being called to the Mountain.

When I registered for the Freshmen Overnight, I asked around to see who was going. I then found out that my neighbor on my floor was going and we both decided to bring our guitars and just have fun playing music for everyone. Before we did that at the bonfire, we prayed in the chapel, and as I walked up, I got the feeling of being hugged. And being able to experience it with my friends was such a blessing.

I stayed for the Welcome Back BBQ, and during the few hours I had to myself, I decided to walk around the property. I spent about an hour in and around the chapel. Just being outside

and being able to get fresh air was so nice. And then more people showed up around five o'clock. It was so much fun meeting new people.

The more recent overnight where it was open to the whole campus, was also so much fun. The air was a little cooler, but it was still comforting. After dinner we were getting ready to go up to the chapel. It was pouring cats and dogs and right before we went out, we heard thunder. Instead of walking out in the pouring rain we decided to hold our evening prayer in the basement. Again, it was such a blessing to be with everyone and share our experiences with each other.

Every time I think about the Mountain I want to go back and learn more. I've learned so much from everyone, and I feel like I've grown so much as a person. I love this place, and I feel sure that many more will learn to love it as well.

The Seeds Are Planted, and the Garden Grows ~Mary Freeman

The garden reveals itself in different ways each year, said Br. Kevin Kriso, ofm, guardian of Holy Peace Friary at Mt. Irenaeus, and chief gardener at the Mountain.

"Thomas Merton said that anything can teach you everything, if you know the one who is bringing it to be," he noted.



As in all seasons, the garden at Mt. Irenaeus yielded a bounty of vegetables, shared by and with the Mountain community and enjoyed by all who visited the Mountain this summer and stayed for a meal. Baskets of tomatoes, herbs, and other vegetables often were seen after Sunday Mass with an invitation to "take some home."

So, what was new in the 2024 season?

"I dried some tomatoes this year for the first time; it took almost four hours in the oven," Br. Kevin said. "Another new thing was a natural fertilizer made out of weeds and water and mixed with charcoal from a bonfire, which created a biodynamic way to help the soil without chemicals."

The minerals, organic compounds, fungi and bacteria interacting with plants is not a simple matter, but it's all things coming together, he explained.

"There is also an awareness that everything in the garden was planted before Dan died, and that, at least this year he enjoyed the plants, the beauty and the flowers that came from it," Br. Kevin said. "This will be in some way the last year of a common effort, but his spirit will be with me and gave me the motivation to buy a whole lot of daffodil bulbs which will bloom in the spring."

While he is not sure exactly who will enjoy those daffodils, Br. Kevin knows they will bring joy to someone.

Fruits of the Mountain Garden will also be available as auction items at the Mt. Irenaeus Auction, from November 1-10. Some of the more popular items will include dilly beans, pickled beets, hot pepper jelly, zucchini and cucumber relish, and a salsa made with onions, garlic, tomatoes and cilantro.

**“Everyone’s talents and involvement are needed”
~Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’* 14**

Orientation Team Visits the Mountain

My name is Keyara Wingate, and I’m a senior Psychology major from Henrietta, New York. Since my first year at Bona’s, I’ve been part of the orientation team and the SBU Dance Team! This year I had the privilege to serve as St. Bonaventure’s Summer Orientation Coordinator, welcoming the class of 2028. In my leadership role, it opened my eyes to seeing just how crucial a role Mt. Irenaeus has played in students’ ability to blossom into not only teams but families.



My whole job position was built on helping to guide new students on their transition and assimilation to Bonas. Transitioning to a new environment can be challenging, especially for those leaving home for the first time. During orientation, we encourage students to find their safe space, which for many is the Mountain. I worked with Natalie Pronio and several Mountain companions to raise awareness about this special place, offering information sessions and a Mountain overnight experience for first-years.

The orientation team’s retreat to the Mountain is always a highlight of my summer. We enjoy cooking dinner, swimming, nature walks, and quality time together while embracing our school’s Franciscan values. The Mountain serves as a wonderful spot for reflection, home-cooked meals, a conversation with a friar, and even Mass at the beautiful Chapel! The team loves any chance to share this experience with the first-years.

St. Bonaventure is rooted in community and family, and Mt. Irenaeus embodies that spirit. I’m grateful for the opportunity to connect with so many amazing individuals in the Mountain community during my time at Bonas. I encourage any Bonaventure student who has not gone to the Mountain yet to go. It is one thing to hear other students’ accounts, but once you experience it yourself you won’t be able to stay away. My hope is that new students discover a piece of themselves and a sense of home at Mt. Irenaeus.

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 an archive of Fr. Dan's reflections and new content from our community on our [Instagram page](#).

And don't miss our student-run Instagram page:
[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!

September:

Sept 28 - 11 am - 4 pm - Family Weekend Open House at the Mountain
Sept 30 - St. Francis Week begins at SBU

October:

Oct 3 - Transitus
Oct 5 - 10 am - 4 pm - St. Francis Workday at the Mountain

Francis Week events to focus on sustainability

Francis Week 2024 St. Bonaventure University celebrates the life of St. Francis of Assisi with a focus on the theme "Sustainability: It's complicated." Events run through Saturday, Oct. 5.

The theme draws attention to Pope Francis's continued call to respond to the climate crisis, said Fr. Stephen Mimnaugh, O.F.M., vice president for Mission Integration.

One year ago on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis issued his letter addressed "To all people of good will" calling attention to the urgency of environmental and social devastation resulting from the

Oct 7-11 - Friar Contemplative Retreat - Brothers, email Br. Kevin Kriso for more information at kkriso@sbu.edu

Oct 9-15 - Karen, Natalie and Students at the Franciscan Action Network and Siena Conferences

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

Oct 19 - Student event at the Mountain

Oct 25 - Student event at the Mountain

Oct 26 - Adult Women's event at the Mountain - reservation required - contact Karen at the Mountain to check availability - 585-973-2470

Oct 29 - Mountain on the Road in Buffalo! Save the Date!

Oct 30 - Mountain on the Road in Rochester! Save the Date!

November:

Nov 1-10 - Mountain Online Action

Nov 8-10 - Mountain Board Meeting

Nov 24 - Student Thanksgiving Dinner at the Mountain

Nov 27-29 - Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed, please call the Mountain at 585-973-2470

December:

Dec 7 - SBU Reading Day Away

Dec 7 - Advent Overnight for SBU Students

Dec 14 - Student event at the Mountain

Dec 23 - Jan 1 - Merry Christmas! Office Closed, please call the Mountain at 585-973-2470

January:

Jan 24 - Student event on campus

Jan 25 - Student event at the Mountain

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

climate crisis. In 2015, the Pope first called people to act in his letter *Laudato Si'* using words from St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of Creation."

Pope Francis did not mince words: "With the passage of time, I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point."

Fr. Stephen said this year's Francis Week presents St. Bonaventure with an opportunity to examine what we are doing and what we still must do to be better stewards of our common home.

Schedule of events:

Thursday, Sept. 26 - 6 p.m.: [Empty Bowls & Baskets Dinner](#), Richter Center

Friday, Sept. 27 - 7:30 p.m.: ["From Bebop to Broadway"](#) performance in the Quick Center.

Saturday, Sept. 28 - 11 a.m.-3 p.m.: Sustainability table at Family Weekend Festival, featuring Beat the Brothers cornhole game

Saturday, Sept. 28 - 4 p.m.: Family Weekend Mass, University Chapel, Doyle Hall

Monday, Sept. 30 - All day: Opt-outside scavenger hunt begins

Monday, Sept. 30 - 12:30-1:30 p.m.: "Hunger & Resilience" exhibition walk-through, Quick Center; free lunch for the first 50 people.

Tuesday, Oct. 1 - 5 p.m.: "Sustainability in the Food Cycle: It's Complicated" screening and discussion with the filmmaker, Tom Murphy, in the Quick Center; hot appetizers to follow.

Wednesday, Oct. 2 - 12:30-1:30 p.m.: Sustainability table in Hickey Dining Hall and University Ministries, featuring Beat the Brothers cornhole game.

Thursday, Oct. 3 - 7 p.m.: Transitus, University Chapel; the ritual celebrates the university's Franciscan identity with Scripture and the heritage of the early stories surrounding St. Francis.

Friday, Oct. 4, Feast of St. Francis - 1:30-3:30 p.m.: Pet blessing, University Ministries

PRAYER REQUEST

We appreciate you and pray for you and your family.

Come visit and pray with us!

Friday, Oct 4, Feast of St. Francis - 4 p.m.: Feast Day Mass, University Chapel, followed by a special dinner in Hickey at 5 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 5 - All day: [Franciscan Center for Social Concern Day of Service](#) and [Mt. Irenaeus Day of Service/Open Overnight](#). Click on the links to the left or stop in UMin to learn more and sign up.

Mass will be held weekdays in the Great Room of University Ministries at noon.

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