

Giardini, Mary D.

From: Mt. Irenaeus <peace@mountainonline.org>
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To: Giardini, Mary D.
Subject: "Making all things new" March 2025 - Mountain Updates and Easter Schedule



Making All Things New

March 2025



Fireside Chat on St. Bonaventure

Three Franciscans shared their knowledge, perspectives and wisdom on St. Bonaventure, the saint, in a Fireside Chat at Mt. Irenaeus on Sunday afternoon.

The conversation featured Br. Tyler Grudi, ofm, a 2019 St. Bonaventure University alumnus who serves the homeless population at St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia; Jean-Francois Godet-Calogeras, a medieval historian and professor emeritus from the Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University; and Br. Joseph Kotula, ofm, from the Mt. Irenaeus community, who moderated the discussion.

Opening the conversation, Br. Joe said, "Franciscans are fun, and we are going to have fun today." And, so it was, with questions that elicited spirited discussion on Bonaventure's spirituality, contributions to Franciscan life, and to church history.

Jean-Francois and Br. Tyler examined Bonaventure's view of justice, which is to make beautiful that which has been deformed, and his improbable journey from scholarship at the University of Paris to focus on the identity of the Order of Friars Minor outside of the arena of scholarship and based on the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi.

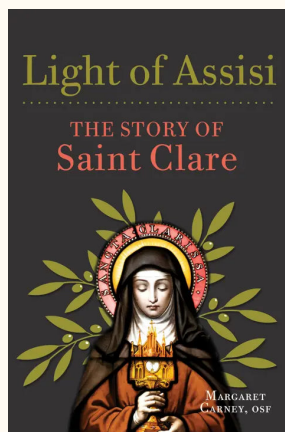
Attendees, all of whom were invited to participate in the discussion, were both in-person and via livestream on the Mountain's Facebook page. Perhaps the most unexpected communication came from Bonaventure alumnus Patrick Brennan. Patrick shared a copy of his 1981 editor-in-chief column, entitled "In Search of St. Bonaventure," in *The BonaVenture* student newspaper, detailing his difficulty in obtaining information on Bonaventure, the saint.

The Mt. Irenaeus Secular Franciscans and the Mountain's Council for Spirit and Life, who co-sponsored the gathering, hope that the recent Fireside Chat shed a bit more knowledge about this important Franciscan saint. For anyone who would like to view and listen to the recording, it will be available for a limited time at <https://www.facebook.com/mtirenaeus>.

The Franciscan World: St. Clare's Leadership in a Time of Division

Friends of Mt. Irenaeus may enjoy [this conversation](#) between Sr.

Margaret Carney, OSF and Stephen Copeland of Franciscan Media, which is framed by the wisdom of Fr. Dan Riley and the spirit of the Mountain. Sr. Margaret, a renowned scholar on St. Clare and beloved past president of St. Bonaventure University, offers her astute insights about how we can look



Lighting the Candle - One Last Time **~Claire Fisher, senior**

As a senior at Bonaventure, I am slowly starting to take note of all my "lasts."

My last spring break, my last birthday in Allegany, and, as of this month, my

to St. Clare as a model for dialogue in these divided times.

Stations of the Cross on Good Friday - Join Us!

All are invited to Mt. Irenaeus to celebrate Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 18, at 1 p.m.

The theme of this year's observance is *Stations of the Cross: In Atonement for Abuse and for the Healing of All*.

The *Stations of the Cross in Atonement for Abuse and for the Healing of All* invites a wounded church to contemplate the passion and death of Jesus through the experience of clerical abuse survivors. The resource is written by Paul Turner, pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, MO, and illustrated by Ronald Raab, CSC, spiritual director of Holy Cross House, in Notre Dame, IN.

The titles of the 14 stations are the Scripture-based Stations of the Cross, which fill out the meditation on the passion with more details from the Gospel accounts, accompanied by voices of abuse victims/survivors and of the church hierarchy.

The Mountain's physical Stations of the Cross are outdoors, in the Franciscan tradition, so participants are encouraged to dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. A limited number of booklets will be available, so



last overnight at Mt. Irenaeus as an undergraduate student.

My four years have been incredible and tremendously fruitful; however, one of the most consistent things throughout my Bonaventure experience was always the Mountain. I knew at least once a month I could run away from my routine, bond with other students of faith, and hug my favorite friars.

About half of the March women's overnight had passed before I realized it was my last 'sleepover' at Mt. Irenaeus.

After that, I could not focus on much else, and I became incredibly nostalgic.

My first time sleeping at the Mountain was another women's overnight in December of 2021 and, truthfully, I did not have the best time. I hid in the back of the van where most of the upperclassmen girls already knew each other. I selected a room by myself as well.

I wish freshman year me could see my Mt. Irenaeus self now.

Now in 2025, I bellow in laughter when I enter the House of Peace, usually charging to Br. Joe. Instead of selecting a room by myself, I smile around the room at my friends and chat about what I call "*my* bedroom". Instead of hiding in the back of the Mountain van, I'm usually the one driving, reminding everyone that Saturday morning McDonald's in Cuba is always my treat.

I tried to not let the nostalgia swallow me, but it was hard. The Mountain has changed a lot in my four years. The world was still recovering from Covid-

registration would be advisable, although not required.

Register Now - Stations of the Cross or other events!

AL Holy Week

Come Celebrate with us!

All Are Welcome!

Palm Sunday

Mass at 11 am with dish to pass brunch to follow

Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Last Supper—8 pm

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross—1 pm

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion—3 pm

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil—8 pm

Easter Sunday

Mass at 11 am with dish to pass brunch to follow

19 in 2021. Karen, Natalie, Fr. Bill and Mari were all not here when I started my journey. Fr. Dan was still here.

However, as much at the Mountain has changed, so much has stayed the same: love for creation, love for humanity and love for God.

There are truly no words I could use to describe how Mt. Irenaeus has changed my life, but I know it in my soul.

"What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see."

I cannot wait to see how the Mountain continues to evolve after I graduate. I did my best over my four years to plant miniscule seeds into Mountain Community Leaders, Mountain on the Road, even the student Mountain Instagram.

As I take on new challenges and opportunities in my post-grad life, I will always have the love of Mt. Irenaeus in my back pocket. Know this: you haven't seen the last of me!

Mt. Irenaeus, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

I couldn't give you back a fraction of what you have given to me.

A Revolution of Belonging, Hope and Kindness

Revolution is characterized as innovation, upheaval or transformation, depending on the source consulted.

A Revolution of Belonging, Hope and Kindness: Celebrating the Woven Tapestry of Our Lives, which was celebrated earlier this month at Mt. Irenaeus, encompassed transformation, education and inspiration.



Guided by a reading from Colossians 2:2: "I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God," the day explored the Mountain calling to inform, reform and transform.

In a day filled with prayer, readings, reflections, art expression, small- and large-group discussion, and time in solitude in creation, an intergenerational community explored issues of justice and mercy, compassion, community, and relationships as each community member walks through the world.

Intergenerational participants offered heartfelt reflections and original creative expressions. In addition, Bill Wynne, a 1968 St. Bonaventure alumnus and author of "Understanding and Combating Racism: My Path from Oblivious American to Evolving Activist," and Reggie Harris, songwriter, storyteller, lecturer, and co-president and director of music education for the Living Legacy Project, were on hand to offer personal perspectives from their work regionally and nationally.

Participants were treated to a concert by Reggie Harris at the day's close, featuring songs of hope, embracing change, and being in relationship with one another. With beautiful music echoing through the chapel, the sun broke through the clouds in a fitting finale.

To become more involved with Mt. Irenaeus, please click here <https://mountainonline.org/give-receive/volunteer-at-the-mountain/>



Kitchen Renewal Update!

The Mountain land, Holy Peace Chapel and the House of Peace Kitchen are essential to Mt. Irenaeus. Nature is always renewing the land. With God's help and yours, we are renewing the kitchen in the House of Peace. The extended Mountain family has enabled us to renew our kitchen, which is an important and well used area of the Mountain. As good stewards of Creation, we are taking steps to rely more on our solar energy.

Earlier this year new electric stoves, a dishwasher and refrigerator were installed. Members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the resident community and Plukas Furniture Makers of Rochester have met and planned for our kitchen

restoration. Our beautifully planned and crafted kitchen will not undergo a complete rehab. It will be renewed.

Jim Plukas and his team, his sister Sue Besecker and Mountain volunteers will work to finish this project by Memorial Day Weekend. Thank you again for your prayers and commitment to the Mountain. We look forward to preparing and sharing a meal with you very soon.



Spring Work Day

AT MT. IRENAEUS

Saturday, April 5

Schedule

10:00a.m. - Arrive at Mt. Irenaeus

10:15a.m. - Prayer and work group assembly

12:30p.m. - Group Lunch

4:00p.m. - Work concludes

Some of the activities for the day may include prepping the garden for planting, tending flower beds, deep cleaning the House of Peace and cabins, clearing trails, splitting wood and other activities.

Sign up so we know you're coming:



Questions? Need overnight accommodations? Call the Mountain:
(585) 973-2470



Upcoming Events:

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

Every Sunday - Mass is at 11 am with a dish-to-pass brunch following Mass.

All are welcome - we'd love to see you!

March:



March 28 - Student Event at the Mountain
March 29 - Closed Event at the Mountain

April:

April 3 - Lenten Zoom Series - *More details coming soon on our Events page*

April 5 - COMMUNITY WORKDAY at the Mountain - please save the date and help if you can!

April 6 - Franciscan Sojourners Zoom - all are welcome! Email us for more information.

April 11-13 - Student Event at the Mountain

April 13 - 11 am - Palm Sunday Mass with dish to pass brunch to follow

April 15 - Lenten Zoom Series - *More details coming soon on our Events page*

April 17-21 - Campus Offices Closed

April 17 - 8 pm - Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper

April 18 - 1 pm - Good Friday - Stations of the Cross and Celebration of the Passion

April 19 - 8 pm - Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil

April 20 - 11 am - Easter Mass with dish to pass brunch to follow

April 25-27 - Mt. Irenaeus Board Meeting Weekend

May:

May 4 - Franciscan Sojourners Zoom - all are welcome! Email us for more information.

May 9 - Student Event at the Mountain

May 13/14 - Student Event at the Mountain

May 16 - University Ministries Reception and Candlelight Ceremony on SBU Campus

Mountain on the Road: Spring 2025

On the Road again!

This semester, three students, along with members of the Mountain Core community, traveled to New Jersey, Philadelphia, Virginia and Maryland.

What struck our team most was the gift of community.

Each night that we hosted was entirely unique and never to be replicated, even if we had the same exact readings and the same exact people!

Even besides the prayer services themselves, the Mountain on the Road team found community all over the East Coast, whether it was a cashier at Sheetz, the guests at the Saint Francis Inn or a hotel chef from Philadelphia.

People are the reason why we do what we do! From people come stories. From stories come connection.

The three students had a tremendous time chatting about life on the long car rides, giving witness to their faith, and meeting the larger Mt. Irenaeus family.

May 17 - Baccalaureate Mass on SBU Campus
May 18 - SBU Graduation
May 24 - Closed Event at the Mountain
May 26 - Campus Offices Closed
May 31 - Summer Companions Arrive!
May 31 - End of our Fiscal Year - **Last day to help this year's Mountain Fund!**

June:

June 6-8 - SBU Alumni Weekend - check out our table at registration and visit us at the Mountain on Saturday for an open house or on Sunday for Mass!

June 13-15 - Closed Event at the Mountain

June 23-27 - Franciscan Friars Retreat



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

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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