

Fall 2019

...find the missing peace.

# FRANCISCAN RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER



A spiritual oasis for people of all faiths seeking a deeper relationship with the Almighty.



## Martyrs

by Br. Bob Roddy, OFM Conv., Director

*“Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?”<sup>14</sup> I said to him, ‘My lord, you are the one who knows.’ He said to me, ‘These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’*

—Revelation 7:13-14

Like most people I was horrified by the mass shootings that have occurred in our country in recent weeks, from the Garlic Festival in Gilroy, California, to a Wal-Mart in El Paso, Texas, to a popular night district in Dayton, Ohio. There have been 255 mass shootings (the Gun Violence Archive defines a mass shooting as any shooting where four or more victims are shot, excluding the shooter) in 2019 alone. On a call in program on Minnesota Public Radio the Monday after the shootings in El Paso and Dayton, a caller said that when she asked her daughter, who was going to be a senior in high school this year, how she was affected by the recent gun violence the daughter responded something to the effect, ‘Mom, me and my friends think about something like this happening at our school nearly every day.’

This violence is not limited to guns or weapons; our media are flooded with messages of hate, bigotry, racism and untruth. Words do matter. Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, summed it up best in a Twitter post on August 7, 2019: **“Rhetorically, if you intentionally walk the crowd to the edge of cruelty, it is not true to say that you are in no way responsible for those who fall into the abyss. Our cultural debasement of words is only surpassed by our cultural disregard for human life. The two are related.”** Our words matter and what comes out of our mouths can have dangerous consequences.

As I thought of the pain of the survivors of these mass shootings, and the damage done to their communities, the above passage from the Book

of Revelation came to mind. The white-robed ones in the passage are the martyrs, those men, women and children who gave their lives in witness to their faith in Jesus Christ. The word “martyr” derives from a Greek word that means, “witness.” Martyrdom is not relegated to the past; in 2015 twenty Coptic Christians from Egypt and one Christian from Ghana were abducted by ISIL and beheaded in Libya. Persecution of Christians and other religious minorities thrives in many parts of our world today.

As I thought of and prayed for the many, many victims of mass shootings and gun violence in our country, it struck me that one might consider them martyrs as well. What is their witness? All of these men, women and children were in the wrong place at the wrong time, yet their deaths and the deaths of countless others serve as a witness to our inability or some might say, our refusal, as a nation to find ways to reduce these horrific acts of violence.

How do we honor these witnesses whose lives were cut down in a volley of hate and suspicion? We can be careful about what we say, what we view, and what we read. We can listen to one another without judgment; we can ask questions of one another. We can identify and own the fears that hold power in our own lives. Perhaps in this way we can better respond to the fears in the lives of others.

I write these words to you on the Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe, “Martyr of Charity,” who offered his life in Auschwitz so that a man with a family might have a chance to survive. In El Paso, a young couple shielded their infant son from the volley of bullets and gave their lives for their son. May we all resolve to find ways to turn back this wretched tide of violence and fear.





Just Around the Corner

**Theme: *Silence: The Icon Of God's Mystery.***

**October Men's Silent Retreat October 18-20, with Fr. Daniel Manger, OSB Cam.**

*"God speaks to each of us as he makes us, then walks with us silently out of the night."*

—Rainer Marie Rilke



Fr. Daniel Manger will be returning to Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center in October to lead the

October Men's Silent Retreat. His theme for this year's retreat will be: **Silence: The Icon Of God's Mystery.** This retreat will focus on God's language of silence that accompanies us throughout our spiritual sojourn. Silence is God's poetry and wisdom. We will explore the means we have to 'hear with all our being' the divine presence that is addressing our indigenous capacities to hear and be transformed by the Sophia of God, Christ the eternal Word.

Space is limited on this retreat, so please register today! 952-447-2182 or [www.franciscanretreats.net](http://www.franciscanretreats.net)

## Franciscan Mission Association (FMA) Enrollments Moving to Mt. St. Francis

The Retreat Center has stocked a number of greeting cards and memorial folders for our Franciscan Mission Association. Friends often choose to send an offering for a one, two, five or perpetual enrollment for their loved one. A Mass is offered monthly here at Prior Lake and at our other friaries for the intentions of members enrolled in the Franciscan Mission Association.

Effective September 1st, the Retreat Center will no longer be processing enrollments in the Franciscan Mission Association. If you wish to enroll a loved one, please contact our Mission Advancement Office at Mt. St. Francis: 812-923-5250. Usually enrollments will be processed and sent in the mail within 24 hours of the Mission Advancement Office's receiving them. We will still be offering Mass intentions for Masses said at the Retreat Center itself in Prior Lake.

## Sharing the Stories of the Friars

As many of you know, Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center is a ministry of the Conventual Franciscan Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation. In addition to our two ministry locations in Minnesota (Prior Lake and Bloomington) we serve in Indiana, Kentucky, New Mexico, Ohio, and Texas.

Our friars have many interesting stories to share about their work, their community life and their hobbies. We would like to make sure that you are aware of the broader scope of our friars' ministries so you will be receiving a copy of *Conventual Franciscan Life*, a quarterly mini-magazine about the ministry and life of the Friars in the Province of Our Lady of Consolation, and *St. Anthony's Newsletter*, a monthly publication that highlights our friars' varied interests and service.

We hope that you will look forward to receiving these two publications. We see it as an opportunity for all of our retreatants, friends and benefactors to be made aware of the good news from the friars.

*"The personal witnessing of lived experiences at the retreat conferences is powerful! Brother Bob had a perfect balance of personal and other examples that were about someone else."*



## Transitions...

You may have noticed a new voice on the end of the line when you call the Retreat Center. Chaska native, **Terri Farr**, joined the staff of the Retreat Center as administrative assistant in May. Terri has expansive experience in office management and organization having served at Guardian Angels School in Chaska and Holy Family High School in Victoria.



Terri Farr

**Brandy Blanch**, our administrative assistant since the Fall of 2015, resigned in mid-May to pursue "the one job that she would consider leaving the Retreat Center for." Brandy's outgoing and friendly personality, coupled with her keen organizational skills made her a beloved and vital presence on our staff. We wish her well in her new adventure working for the Prior Lake Chamber of Commerce.

We will be welcoming

**Fr. Jim Kent** to Prior Lake at the end of August. Fr. Jim will be a part of the retreat preaching team and will be available to help out in parishes as fits in his schedule. Fr. Jim is a native of Indiana and holds a masters degree in theology as well as a masters in creative writing. An avid reader and enthusiastic downhill skier, Fr. Jim is excited to be a part of the friars who serve in the "Bold North."



Fr. Jim Kent

**Fr. Xavier Goulet** has been reassigned to Our Lady of Consolation Friary in Carey, Ohio. Fr. Xavier had been spending the summer in Carey helping the community there during the busy pilgrimage season. At the request of Fr. Tom Merrill, the Guardian and Rector of the Shrine, Fr. Xavier was asked to remain in Carey to assist with pastoral ministry there. Fr. Xavier developed quite the reputation as a compassionate and understanding confessor as well as a preacher of depth and accessibility. Fr. Xavier will not only be missed by our retreatants, but by the local parish community of St. Michael in Prior Lake, where he often assisted in pastoral ministry.



Fr. Xavier Goulet

## Captain's Profile

Each one of our 25 multi-day retreats has a Retreat Captain who calls, emails, and texts or speaks in person with past retreatants to see how their retreat experience was and to invite retreatants again to the upcoming retreat. Captains also actively invite people they know to their retreats. Often becoming the face of the retreat to retreatants, the captains are a big part of the glue that has kept the retreat center intact for 53 years. We thought you'd like to get to know some of these enthusiastic helpers.

### Tom Lerick—Captain of October Men's Silent Retreat



#### What led you to Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake?

The first silent retreat was a calling to me during a spiritual drought I was going through. I was searching to be closer to the Lord and many of my friends had attended other retreats in other places. The Franciscan Retreat Center was nearby so I thought I would give it a try.

#### How many years (roughly) have you attended?

I have attended the Men's Silent Retreat since the first one in 2013, and have attended this retreat every year since, except 2017—that year I attended the Men's Advent Retreat.

#### Do you have a favorite part of the Retreat?

The silence and the time of reflection after the conference sessions—the Healing Mass is also up there on the list.

#### What are the challenges with being a captain?

Getting my experiences of my retreats to possible newcomers and how valuable and wonderful the silence really is during the time at the center.

#### What are the satisfactions of being a retreat captain?

Talking to the first-timers after the conclusion of the retreat when our silence is broken and hearing how the retreat has impacted their spiritual life

#### What would you like readers to know about attending retreats?

The weekend is yours at the Retreat Center and God allows you to experience what you need that weekend, whether it's walking the grounds or reading in your private room—it takes the day-to-day chaos away.

## Garden Party—A Divine Time



Guests and volunteers enjoy the beautiful views of the garden



'Flora'

The friars were very gratified to see such a robust turnout in spite of the tropical conditions on Sunday afternoon, July 14. About 250 friends old and new turned out for our outdoor Garden Party.

The Boom Island String Quartet created a spirited ambiance and the garden volunteers took it from there, sharing stories with guests about the ups and downs of their garden plots through this rainy summer.

Our naming contest for our whimsical wooden garden volunteer was a hit. About 150 guests either suggested a name or voted for one already on the board. We had very creative garden-like or Franciscan-like names; Rose, Lily, Iris, Hope, Grace and Francine all were in the running but the name 'Flora' carried the day.

So treat yourself to a three-day retreat soon to walk our trails, experience the spiritual tranquility of the Chapel, discover the challenges around our theme *Rejoice and be Glad; Our Call to Holiness Today* and, when you reflect in our garden areas, pay a visit to Flora as well!

We appreciate our door prize donators; Lunds, Fongs of Prior Lake, Ace Hardware, and Sailers Greenhouse. We also thank Prior Lake Rental for donating use of a canopy to keep the string quartet comfortable.

Thank you to the garden volunteers, our grounds keepers, and also to the Secular Franciscans who cheerfully dispersed Judy's refreshing light summer sandwiches and desserts to the crowd. We appreciate all the friends, old and new, that visited that day.



The Boom Island String Quartet



Guests mingle at the Garden Party

# Retreat Schedule

through December 2019



**FRANCISCAN**  
RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY CENTER

*...find the missing peace.*

## 2019 Theme

*Rejoice and Be Glad: Our Call to Holiness Today*

A retreat for everyone...please pray for these retreats and consider joining us!

### Weekend Retreats 2019

|             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Jan. 11-13  | Women's Weekend              |
| Jan. 18-20  | Women's Weekend              |
| Feb. 1-3    | Men's Weekend Retreat        |
| Feb. 8-10   | Married Couples              |
| Feb. 22-24  | Women's Weekend              |
| April 5-7   | Married Couples              |
| April 12-14 | Women's Palm Sunday Retreat  |
| April 18-20 | Men's Holy Week Retreat      |
| April 26-28 | Women's Weekend              |
| May 9       | FIA Dinner                   |
| June 20-23  | Silent Retreat (Men & Women) |
| August 8-11 | Silent Retreat (Men & Women) |
| Sept. 6-8   | Prayer Shawl Retreat         |
| Sept. 19-22 | Silent Retreat (Men & Women) |
| Oct. 4-6    | Women's Weekend Retreat      |
| Oct. 11-13  | Women's Weekend Retreat      |
| Oct. 18-20  | Men's Silent Retreat         |
| Oct. 25-27  | Friends of Francis Retreat   |
| Nov. 1-3    | Women's Weekend              |
| Dec. 6-8    | Serenity Retreat             |
| Dec.13-15   | Men's Retreat                |

### Midweek Retreats 2019

|            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| April 9-11 | Women's Midweek |
| May 14-16  | Women's Midweek |
| June 11-13 | Women's Midweek |
| Sept.10-12 | Women's Midweek |
| Oct.1-3    | Women's Midweek |

### Day of Prayer (Thursdays)

| LENTEN   | ADVENT  |
|----------|---------|
| March 21 | Dec. 5  |
| March 28 | Dec. 12 |
| April 4  | Dec. 19 |

## Register for Retreats

Call 952-447-2182

Online [www.FranciscanRetreats.net/register](http://www.FranciscanRetreats.net/register)

or

Complete Registration Form below

## Registration Form

Retreat Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee \$30.00\* Payment Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: Visa Discover MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Approval \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to:** Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center, 16385 Saint Francis Lane, Prior Lake, MN 55372-2220

**\*A non-refundable registration fee of \$30.00 per person is required and must be received in order to reserve a room.**

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# FRANCISCAN

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- youtube.com/user/FranciscanRetreats
- facebook.com/FranciscanRetreatsPriorLake

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## Judy's Summer Gem

### Summer Caprese Salad

#### Ingredients

- 2-3 cups tomatoes cut into large chunks
- 1 cucumber seeded and sliced
- 1 large bell pepper (any color) diced
- ½ cup red onion sliced
- 1-2 cups fresh spinach leaves
- ½ cup fresh basil leaves julienned
- 8 oz. fresh mozzarella pearls or balls
- 1 bottle Zesty Italian Dressing

#### Directions

Place tomatoes, cucumber, bell pepper and red onion in a large bowl. Toss with some of the dressing and marinate for 1 hour. Before serving, add spinach, basil and mozzarella. Add more dressing to taste. Salt and pepper if needed.

Variations: Add green beans, asparagus, zucchini or olives.



**BOOK CLUB**  
& BOOKSTORE SALE DAYS



Tuesday, September 17th, at 10:00 a.m.

Title: *Lying Awake* by Mark Salzman

In conjunction with the book club, during September 17th & 18th, **all** bookstore items are **20% off**. There will be certain tables of items with much steeper discounts.