



St. Francis Woods Campus Newsletter

St. Francis Woods: A Place of Hope, Healing, Harmony

A Franciscan Sister's Confession ... and Transformation



Illustration by Allegany Art

Has it ever happened to you that someone lightly prized early on, "grows on you" and, over time, becomes a most treasured friend? It is comparable to children being amazed at the amount of wisdom their parents acquire between the children's fifteenth and twenty-fifth birthdays!

Well, this is my confession! As a young person, I had little love for St. Francis! In fact, when I entered this Franciscan community, I "offered it up" that it was Franciscan! **Why?** Because Francis made no sense to me, and of course I thought I knew Francis. Who could be inspired by a saint who ran around talking to birds and wolves when there were people around to love? How little I knew about Francis!

I think my heart began to change when I began to understand **why** Francis talked to birds and wolves, as well as trees, crickets, fire, and more. He was a man totally in love with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit! The actions of lovers are sometimes hard to understand. Reason seems to take leave and the excitement and thrill of love takes over.

What I learned next about Francis was **why** he was so in love with God. The fact of the matter was that God loved Francis first! God was pursuing Francis' love; and Francis was listening for that voice of God in his heart. Then, one day, Francis made a sobering discovery: God's love for Francis lay wide open for all to see in Crib, Cross and Eucharist! **Why?** Because our God is All-Good! God is Love as St. John says.

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Sisters and Associates to Enjoy Historic Gathering this Month



October 19-21, 2012, Sisters and Associates from around the country will gather at the FSSH Motherhouse to celebrate the gift of the Associate relationship with prayer experiences and a presentation, "Stepping into the Future with Hope and Joy."

Associates of the FSSH are men and women, at least 18 years of age and of any Christian faith, who desire to identify more closely with the Franciscan spirit. Our Associates are located in several states throughout the United

States, witnessing to Christ in all aspects of their lives. They share prayer, spiritual programs and ministries with the Sisters without becoming vowed members.

Applications are accepted online or by mail. Please see the Associate section of www.fssh.net to print or submit your application.

For receive more information, please contact Sister Ella Binz at 815.469.4895, Ext. 0, or at SrElla.Binz@fssh.net. You can also stop by the Front Office of the Motherhouse from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Mon.-Fri.).

Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
9201 W. St. Francis Road
Frankfort, IL 60423-8330

Phone: 815.469.4895
Fax: 815.464.3809
www.fssh.net

Dates to Remember

- Oct. 2 – *Transitus of St. Francis, 7 p.m.*
- Oct. 4 – *Feast of St. Francis 7:45 a.m. Mass*
- Oct. 5-6 – *Garage Sale*

"If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men."

—St. Francis of Assisi

Highlights

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Worship with Us!

Although we cannot accommodate weddings or funerals because we are not a parish, we warmly invite you to join us for the times of prayer and worship shown on page 2.



A Sister Re-discovers the Gift of Associates



Associates

celebrate

25 years

with FSSH this

October 2012.

As we mourn the passing of Sister Marilyn Ellert, we offer this reflection about the Sister-Associate relationship which she wrote shortly before her death. Sister Marilyn passed away on August 31, 2012.

Throughout our lifetimes all of us have received gifts for various occasions. Most are opened with great enthusiasm and usually used and enjoyed. However, sometimes not recognizing the value, the gift is put on a shelf or shoved in a corner and forgotten. Sad to say, the Associate Program fell into that latter category for me until recently.

When started, I can remember being excited about the fact that our community was initiating such a program; but I was too busy to be

directly involved. It has only been within the past few years that I took this forgotten gift from the shelf and became more closely involved with the Associates in our area. I found a group of people who were eager to learn about us as religious, as well as share our love of Francis and Clare and the Franciscan Spirituality. I found people eager to carry our spirit and charism into their own homes and workplaces and to talk to others about who we are.



As with many good gifts, the Associates have increased and multiplied over the years, carrying the spirit and charism of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart into places untrodden by the vowed members of our congregation.

I feel truly gifted and blessed by their presence.

Sister Marilyn Ellert, Frankfort, IL

Queen of Angels Chapel

Private Prayer:

Daily 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Mass:

Mon. through Fri. 7:45 a.m.

Saturday 8:15 a.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

(Morning Office 15 minutes before Mass)



Holy Hour with Benediction:

First Friday (Sacred Heart) 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, Silent Adoration & Evening Prayer:

Every Wednesday (Vocations) 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Annual Garage Sale

**on the FSSH Motherhouse
Grounds**

**Proceeds benefit
the FSSH Brazilian
Missions**

October 5 & 6, 2012

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.



It's Easy to Receive the St. Francis Woods Campus Newsletter by Email

Three Ways to Register:

1. Drop off this form at the Motherhouse or
2. Leave a phone message for Sheila at 815.464.3800 or
3. Send your information to Sheila.JenningsGeorge@fssh.net.

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

City: _____

Phone Number: _____

Thank you!

St. Francis Woods: A Place of Hope, Healing, Harmony

A Franciscan Sister's Confession ... and Transformation *(continued from page 1)*

How does one respond to that kind of love? Our Third Order Franciscan Rule calls it the "obedience of love." Just at Jesus' love for the Father was manifest in Jesus' **obedience** to the Will of the Father in the Incarnation, Redemption and Eucharist, so Francis longed to completely renounce his own will—to be obedient, like Jesus! In article # 7 of the *Rule and Life of the Brothers and Sisters*, candidates are to be "received **into obedience**, promising to observe this life and rule always." Francis understood that obedience to the will of the Father covered every moment of Jesus' life. In Francis' desire to imitate Christ literally, Francis wanted his life, too, to be completely covered by the blessing of obedience. In this way, Francis would be able to express in a concrete way, the love he had for the God Who had loved him first!

Do I take quiet time, at least weekly, to listen for the Lord's voice in my life? Do I recognize God's immense love for me, personally, in the Incarnation, Redemption and Eucharist? How do I manifest my response to God's infinite and faithful love for me? Like Francis, do I praise God for and with all of creation, as well as for the Gift of Jesus in the Incarnation, Redemption and Eucharist? Do I know God/Jesus better/more personally now than in my youth? What in my faith life am I "offering up?" Could it be that I am lacking accurate information about that specific area of my faith? Love, for Jesus and for Francis, was expressed most fully in the "obedience of love." What does my obedience or lack thereof, express?

Sister Lois Ann Cline, Rockford, IL

October Programs at the Portiuncula Center for Prayer

Igniting the Flame Within: A Heart-Based Approach

Date: Monday, October 1 **Time:** 9:30-Noon **Fee:** \$20

Through a combination of silence, journaling, sharing, and creative expression, you will be invited to follow your heart on a journey of authentic self-discovery. Please bring a journal and an open heart.

Teresa of Calcutta

Date: Monday, October 15 **Time:** 9:30-Noon **Fee:** \$20

Her heroic charitable works are known worldwide, but after her death it was discovered that Mother Teresa's spiritual life had many ups and downs. Faith was a real struggle for her. Maybe it is a struggle for you? Her struggle helped form her into the compassion of God. This presentation will include input, personal reflection time, and a period for discussion and questions.

Awakening the Dreamer: Changing the Dream

Date: Monday, October 22 **Time:** 7-9 p.m. **Fee:** \$10

Three factors of a new dream for humanity and planet Earth are explored in this timely film: Environmental Sustainability, Social Justice and Spiritual Fulfillment. Conversation and refreshments will follow!

Women's Retreat Weekend: "Coming Home to Ourselves"

Dates: 10 a.m. Saturday, October 27 to Noon Sunday, October 28

Fee: \$135 (includes program, meals and overnight) \$85 (commuter/includes program, meals)

Water, wind, earth, and fire are all windows into the holy and pathways that carry within themselves the power to lead us "home" to a more centered place within ourselves. Drawing upon the spirit of St. Francis and the guiding force of women in scripture and mystics throughout the ages, we will invite these natural elements to become sacred containers of wisdom offering us guidance and carrying seeds of transformation for our personal lives, our churches, and the world we are a part of!



Portiuncula Center for Prayer

I would like to register for:

Igniting the Flame Within

Teresa of Calcutta

Awakening the Dreamer

Women's Retreat Weekend

Date

Oct. 1

Oct. 15

Oct. 22

Oct. 27-28

Time

9:30 am-Noon

9:30 am-Noon

7-9 pm

10 am Sat-Noon Sun

Fee

\$20

\$20

\$10

\$135/\$85

Other ways to register:

- To pay by credit card, call 815.464.3880
- send an email to info@portforprayer.org
- visit our website: www.portforprayer.org

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Method of Payment

Check (mail or drop off)

Cash (drop off at The Port or the Motherhouse)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to: Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart

Mailing address: 9263 West St. Francis Road, Frankfort, IL 60423-8330

Monthly Events Focus on Discerning a Call

Young men and women, ages 18-40 are invited to come to St. Francis Woods for a series of Discernment Evenings where they can explore the possibilities of religious life and priesthood in the Catholic Church. Enjoy prayer, a presentation, reflection and discussion. You can attend any or all of the sessions that are being offered the second Wednesday of each month beginning September 12, 2012—June 11, 2013. Sessions are from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Motherhouse, 9201 W. St. Francis Road, Frankfort. Different speakers will be featured for each topic. Hope to see you there!

Mark your calendar for the following:

October 10, 2012 Discovering the Call

November 14, 2012 .Ways of Praying

December 12, 2012 Types of Spirituality

January 9, 2013 Religious Life

February 13, 2013 .. Vows (Chastity/Celibacy)

March 13, 2013..... Vows (Poverty)

April 10, 2013 Vows (Obedience)

May 15, 2013 Bumps in the Road

June 11, 2013 Explore Religious Orders

For more information, call Sr. Maria Brizuela at 815.464.3873 or send an email to vocations@fssh.net.



Scripture Reflections

On Thursday mornings from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m., in our library, there is a reflection and sharing on the Scripture readings for the following Sunday by Sr. Marilyn Renninger, OSF. No fee and no need to register. Just come and share the Word of God.

Individual Spiritual Direction

Being companioned on your spiritual journey by a trained spiritual director offers the opportunity for ongoing spiritual growth. In the context of an hour session (often scheduled monthly), you are invited to share ordinary life experience, listen for the movement of the Holy Spirit, and be gently guided in paying attention to how God seems to be speaking through the twists and turns of your journey.

Mary Ruth Broz, RSM 815.469.4883

Mary Shinnick, OSF 815.464.3807

Norma Janssen, OSF 815.464.3808

Nancy Roberta Schramm, OSF 815.464.3848

Time: Call for an appointment **Fee:** \$50

Fall 2012 Adult Faith Enrichment

Saturday Mornings of Spiritual Energy

Join us for Mass at 8:15 a.m. in our Chapel.

Breakfast / Cup of Spirituality

Goal: To grow in the knowledge, love, and appreciation of our Catholic faith.

Saturday, November 17

Vatican II: How Are We Living It 50 Years Later?



Second Vatican Council
by Lothar Wolleh 007.jpg, Wikipedia

Pope John XXIII (1958-1963) called for an ecumenical council for us to read the signs of the times and thus update the Church. It is now the second generation since it ended in 1965. Pope Benedict XVI has declared 2012-2013

as the “Year of Faith” in honor of the anniversary of the Second Vatican Council which opened October 1962. What has been its impact, and what are the highlights of its documents? How are we as Church today trying to live Vatican II?

Saturday, December 8

Mary: A Blessed Woman with Innumerable Titles

Over the centuries, Christians have given Mary a proliferation of names that reflect the different ways people relate to her. Each name associated with Mary has a spiritual significance. We will look at the story behind many of the more popular titles and what they mean. These reflections will help us get to know our Blessed Mother better and enhance our spiritual lives.



“Annunciation” by Philippe de Champaigne, 1644, Wikipedia

Time: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Location: Motherhouse Auditorium
Presenters: Sr. Marilyn Renninger, OSF and Fr. Ildephonse Skorup, OFM
Fee: \$15 per person

Reservations are necessary because of the food and handouts.

**To reserve, either call 815-464-3886
or e-mail smhrosf@live.com**

Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart Motherhouse
St. Francis Woods, 9201 St. Francis Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423