



January 2018

Letter to Our Ministry Associates

Upcoming Events

January 18-21: Mothers Retreat w/Fr. Eric Nielsen

February 11: Evening for Lovers

February 23-25: Silent Ignatian Spiritual Exercises Men's Retreat

March 4: Lenten Day of Prayer

March 16-18: Eucharist Retreat

March 23-25: Silent Sacred Listening & Speaking Women's Retreat

April 14: Compassionate Caregivers Workshop

April 21: Earth Day Celebration

April 27-29: Medieval Women Mystics Retreat

May 18-19: Exploring Nature's Ways Retreat

June 1-3: Serenity Retreat for Recovering Alcoholics

June 7-10: Silent Solanus Casey Retreat w/Fr. Dan Crosby

June 15-17: Retreat for Those Left Behind by Suicide

July 27-29: Twelve Step Retreat

August 4: Continuing the Journey of Widowhood

August 11: St. Clare Day

Who Was Here

- 11 Private Retreatants
- Diocese of La Crosse Lay Formation & Deacon Formation
- Knights of Columbus
- 2 Priest Support Group Retreats
- Retrouvaille Board Meeting
- Advent Day of Prayer
- Marathon City Holly Day
- Diocese of La Crosse Curriculum Planning
- New Year's Eve Retreat

INTRODUCING MARIE FLEISNER

OUR NEW MINISTRY ASSOCIATES COORDINATOR!



Marie Fleisner describes herself as first a woman of God, who is a wife to Tom, mother to two grown children, and grandmother to the two loves of her life, Landon and Grace. She worked at the Marshfield Clinic for 38 years, the past 13 years as an editorial specialist in the research division. Marie is a long-time member of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Marshfield, where she lives. She says she is a "professional volunteer" and gives her time in the church choir, as a lector, Eucharistic minister, sacristan, and lay leader of prayer. Marie lives her Christian faith beyond the borders of her parish and is involved in social ministry activities in her community, the Marshfield Deanery, and the La Crosse Diocese. She holds certificates in women's ministry and pastoral care, and is mid-way through a spiritual direction preparation program. She also works with Rachel's Vineyard and Silent No More where she helps post-abortive women find acceptance, healing, and forgiveness. She has been married to her husband Tom for nearly 35 years, and together, Marie and Tom serve as community coordinators for Central Wisconsin Retrouvaille, a marriage healing ministry.

A FESTIVE CHRISTMAS SEASON IN THE KITCHEN



Sandra, Haley and Josefina pulled out all the stops with this year's batch of Christmas deliciousness. They even dressed for the occasion!



You Made Our Annual Appeal a Success!

In typical Capuchin tradition, the friars and priests of St. Anthony's would go out into the community yearly to beg for donations to sustain their friary/seminary. It recalls St. Francis' "beggar bowl." Francis felt that he was being treated too preciously by a priest with whom he was staying, so he went out into the village to beg for scraps of whatever he would receive. The result was a bowl of various, odious bits. He said it tasted like nectar of heaven.

Our nectar of heaven is your continued generosity year after year, month after month of your time, talent and treasure.

In a recent staff meeting, we spent time talking about how much we rely on our volunteers and donors. We have a small staff, and we can only do so much. YOU are what bolsters our ability to function in our ministry. Each staff person has volunteers who help keep everything going. And as a whole, St. Anthony's needs our donors to supplement funds so we can keep our prices affordable, therefore bringing more people through the doors.

Deacon Bryan said it best, "2017 was a great year. We ended the year in the 'black,' but most importantly, we touched a lot of hearts and helped people feel the presence of our Lord."

Dear Ministry Associates... YOU did that. Good job.

Cheers to a great 2018 ahead of us.

Upcoming Book Discussion Opportunity

If you are longing for stimulating conversation, spiritual growth and the respectful sharing of various perspectives this winter, you are invited to gather at St. Anthony's for a lively discussion of Pope Francis' encyclical

"Laudato Si - On Care for Our Common Home."

Discussion begins on Wednesday January 17th from 9:30-11:00 am and will continue every other Wednesday. If you need a copy please contact the front office at 715-443-2236 by Jan. 8th.

Looking forward to seeing you and sharing with you on January 17th!

Did you know... Hundreds of volunteer hours are donated to the Center to keep it running and reduce our costs.

In November, 43 volunteers gave more than 950 hours. (That's nearly six full-time employees!)

May God return their blessings!



Naturally Franciscan

St. Francis and St. Clare chose life styles that were filled with austerity, hardship, and minimal possessions. However, Francis, in his Rule says "Let all the Brothers always strive to exert themselves in doing good works." Their living of the Gospel was strongly in the call to be of service to others. Our many volunteers follow that message faithfully even in their hardships and struggles. Moreover, our volunteers also follow another message of St. Francis which is: "Wherever the Brothers may be and in whatever place they meet, they should respect...one another and honor one another without complaining. Let them show themselves joyful, cheerful, and consistently gracious in the Lord".

That spirit is definitely experienced when all of you come to be of service here! Truly there is evidence that you are Naturally Franciscan! Thank You!

~Sr. Jolynn Brehm, FSPA, Spiritual Leader



A Very Special Event Just For You

*In February and March, the Saint Anthony Community ... **that includes you!** ... will have the opportunity to participate in Franciscan Formation sessions with our own Sr. Jolynn.*

She explores topics related to our ministries and ties them directly to stories of St. Francis, St. Clare and others so that we can more fully understand the Franciscan tradition that we have continued to carry on from the Capuchins.



Join us Monday, February 5 from 6:30-8 p.m. or February 6 from 10-11:30 a.m. The March dates are March 5 & 6, same time frames.

No RSVP necessary.

Ways to help sustain St. Anthony's financially

Honor or Tribute Gifts: "In Memory Gifts" are received most often in the passing of a loved one. With these types of donations, we will send a letter to those you designate to notify them of your gift in their honor.

Leaving A Legacy Gift to St. Anthony of Marathon Inc. Leaving a gift in your will is one of the best ways to fund our work into the future – helping us meet the challenges of the years ahead. Contact your personal financial representative for information on the different ways you can leave a "Legacy Gift" to St. Anthony of Marathon Inc. If you already have included St. Anthony of Marathon Inc. in your estate plan, please let Deacon Bryan know.