



June 2018

## Letter to Our Ministry Associates

### Upcoming Events

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

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

**June 29-30:** Writing Workshop

**July 26:** Theology of the Body w/Fr. Bob Streveler (Know Your Faith)

**July 27-29:** Twelve Step Retreat

**August 4:** Continuing the Journey of Widowhood

**August 11:** St. Clare: Mirror of Christ

**August 18:** Healthy Spirituality with Cancer or Chronic Pain

**August 23:** Partners of Grace: Mary and Joseph w/Fr. Al Burkhardt (Know Your Faith)

**August 24-26:** Creative Retreat (Journal Making and/or Drum Making)

**August 25:** Caregivers Workshop

### Who Was Here

- 20 Private Retreatants
- Diocese of La Crosse Lay Formation, Deacon Formation
- Knights of Columbus
- Priest Support Group Retreat
- Ascension Senior Level Training
- Serve with Liberty Volunteers
- Good News Baptist Church
- Confirmation Retreat
- WDEF Board Meeting
- Evening for Women
- Wausau Deanery Marriage Prep
- Catholic Order of Foresters
- Exploring Nature's Ways Retreat
- Living Emmaus Retreat for Women
- Exploring the Book of Wisdom w/Sr. Jolynn Brehm, FSPA
- Fr. Trempe Bible Study Group

## WELCOME DR. LORI RANDALL!

The new director of St. Anthony Spirituality Center will start Monday, June 11. Here is her letter of introduction so you can get to know her.

*It was springtime.*

*Delicate breezes cooled my apartment, while drawing the jumbled, earthy scents of new life into the tidy constancy of a manmade environment. The soft palette of deep grey storm clouds, pale green leaves, and shocking purple redbuds intensified the mellow sunlight casting its helpful rays across the table where I sat with my biology homework.*

*I would finish this biology course in just two weeks, simultaneously finishing the bachelor's degree in Modern Languages that I had started six years earlier at Kansas State University with a generous scholarship, but little idea of what do to with a college degree and whether or not I really needed one.*

*The need for a bachelor's degree had become clear a few weeks earlier: I had been provisionally accepted, pending completion of my bachelor's degree, into the Capuchin Franciscan Volunteer Corps of the Midwest. I waited (rather impatiently) that spring evening to receive my Cap Corps placement. No matter what the placement (soup kitchen? inner-city school? prison ministry?), my work was sure to contribute to my goal of creating a more just and loving world.*

*When Brother Dave Schwab, OFM Cap, called to inform me that I would spend my Cap Corps year at a retreat center in Marathon, Wisconsin, I was stunned. How could I transform*



*the world by working at a retreat center? Shouldn't I be caring for the homeless or feeding the hungry?*

*Instead, I spent the year engaged in the joyful and never-dull work of retreat ministry, living in community with three other lay volunteers and six Capuchins. During that year, I began to understand what my Cap Corps directors already knew: retreat ministry goes far in satisfying others' spiritual hunger, a hunger that is no less detrimental to the health of society than physical hunger. For it is spiritual hunger that blinds us to our own dignity and the dignity of others, concealing our need for and repressing*

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## Don't Forget to Come on Sunday, June 10th!

We are gearing up in hyper-speed for our Centennial Celebration. Tour guides are being trained, booklets created, displays put together, and so much more.

The afternoon starts with a Eucharistic Procession from Veterans Park just down the street. We'll have a cornerstone prayer service with a ceremonial "laying of the stones" with the descendants of community members who donated rock from their fields for the construction of the foundation.

From 2-5 p.m., bring your family and friends for the grand tour of this beautiful building. We have historical photos posted and so many stories to tell. The full tour covers three floors, but we do have a slightly abbreviated tour for those with mobility issues, so don't let that stop you!

After the tour, please join us for a social (free-will offering) in the dining room where you can chat with Capuchins who lived and studied here. The book store will be open with Centennial souvenirs and Solanus Casey materials prominently displayed.

As a special gift, we'll have little flower pots for you to take so you can bring the beauty of Creation (and spirit of St. Francis) home with you.



## Most people hear about St. Anthony's from a friend - and that's a lot cheaper than ads!

- Talk to people about your own experiences as a volunteer or as a retreatant.
- Suggest to friends, neighbors, and family members to call and schedule a time for a tour.
- When you volunteer – bring a friend(s) along.
- Share your Ministry Associates Newsletter with a friend, or suggest they contact us so we can put them on our mailing list.
- If you know of a group/company/organization that would like to know more about St. Anthony Spirituality Center, we would be happy to visit them or invite them here for a tour and history of the center.
- Give the gift of a retreat to family members or friends.

## Continued...

our ability to develop loving and just relationships grounded in respect and compassion. I began to understand that offering hospitality and being present to others as they discover or rediscover their connection with the Divine is a crucial step in fostering the peace of heart that leads to peace in our homes, our neighborhoods, our nations, our world.

While my year of service at St. Anthony's helped me understand the transformative power of retreat ministry, I remained convinced that I could find a more concrete way of contributing to the creation of a just and loving world.

My quest for social justice work took me to graduate school in Wisconsin and Arizona with intermissions of full-time work as a musician, a sales clerk, and an employee in the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. Eventually, my quest turned into a Doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison coupled with a fifteen-year career in post-secondary education at UW-Madison, the University of Michigan, and Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Throughout the journey, I remained close with my Capuchin family, and I continued both to return to St. Anthony's as a volunteer and to ponder the lessons I had learned there.

The more I pondered those lessons, the more I realized that my quest for social justice work had never really taken me away from retreat ministry. Although I worked in a classroom instead of a retreat center, my work was still grounded in a desire to help others satisfy their spiritual hunger, their eagerness to know who they are and how they can be of service in the world. It seems that my Cap Corps placement had not, after all, been so radically inconsistent with my wish to transform the world.

It is springtime again.

The apartment is different; the biology class is twenty years behind me; and the quality of the wind and the sunlight in Ohio are subtly different than their counterparts in northeastern Kansas. But my mission is the same: to create a more just and loving world through retreat ministry. I am delighted and deeply honored to join the staff, volunteers, and resident community of St. Anthony's once again in welcoming all who seek to satisfy their spiritual hunger.

I look forward to greeting you on your next visit to St. Anthony's!

Peace and All Good,

Lori A. Randall