



AUGUST 2018

Letter to Our Ministry Associates

Upcoming Events

August 11: St. Clare: Mirror of Christ

August 18: Healthy Spirituality with Chronic Pain or Illness

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

September 14-16: Scripture Retreat w/Sr. Dianne Bergant

September 28-30: Silent Franciscan Living Retreat

October 5-7: Serenity Retreat for Recovering Alcoholics

October 7: St. Francis Day

October 14: 5K Soles & Spirit Run/Walk

October 14-20: Icon Writing Workshop

October 25: Central American Martyrs w/Fr. Tom Lindner (Know Your Faith)

November 9-11: Seasons of Our Lives Silent Theme Retreat (co-sponsored with Wis. Rapids Churches)

Who Was Here

- 12 Private Retreatants
- Knights of Columbus
- Madison Vipassana
- Know Your Faith w/Fr. Bob Streveler
- Volunteer Week
- Priest Support Retreat
- Sacred Circle of Spiritual Directors
- Little Flowers Retreat for Girls

RELATIONSHIP



As I write this St. Anthony's is buzzing with activity. It is volunteer week. There are volunteers busy washing windows, weeding gardens, fixing broken screens, and folding towels. People are climbing ladders and stairs, opening and closing doors, and carrying all manner of tools. I hear the sounds of the vacuum cleaner, hammers and power washers. And above all, I hear the sounds of conversation and laughter. These sounds fill my heart with joy and gratitude! But, since I've already written about gratitude and joyful service, I want to focus on St. Anthony's core value of relationship. After all, isn't that what all of us as humans desire... to be in relationship? The description of St. Anthony's core value of relationship reads "Empowering people to realize and respect their own dignity and potential." It is through our relationships with each other and with God our Creator that we truly come to realize our uniqueness and our potential.

The desire for relationship is in our DNA. God created us to be in relationship. From the beginning, God said it was not good for us to be alone. Genesis 2:18 reads, "The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a

helper suitable for him." And it is through our relationship with others, whether in marriage or friendship, that we learn what it is to be in relationship to God. The greatest commandment (Matthew 22:36-40)—to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and to love our neighbor as our self—is about relationship.

We all know, however, that being in relationship with others is not exactly easy all the time. Most of our relationships are less than perfect. We are not perfect, so how can we expect our relationships to be perfect. Relationships are messy and tough and painful at times. Whether it's with our spouse, our friends, or our



co-workers, relationships require work. Relationships require us to use our God-given virtues of justice, temperance (self-control), patience and prudence.

At some point, in every relationship there comes a time when we become

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Thank You to Our Volunteers

Although at this writing Volunteer Week is only in its second day, so much has already been accomplished. We are so grateful to the many volunteers who have come to do those jobs that we rarely have time to do; jobs that aren't really that much fun—washing windows, weeding, organizing closets. Based on these first few days, these volunteers will have accomplished so much by the time our Appreciation Picnic rolls around on Thursday. So...thank you for all you have done for us! You are awesome!!



Volunteer Opportunities

Prayer Partners: We believe in the power of prayer, and we know you do, also! We invite you to join us in this important part of our mission and ministry. Even secular studies have shown the awesome power of prayer! Contact Marie to become one of our Prayer Partners and receive a weekly email of prayer requests.



Hospitality Ministry: Couples and/or individuals who would enjoy spending an occasional weekend at the Center to host retreat groups. Stairs and the ability to lift up to 15 lbs. are involved. Lodging and meals are provided. Weekday and evening opportunities are also available. Those interested in hosting can choose a weekend to “shadow” an experienced host to see if it would be the right fit for you. **We are in particular need of a host for the caregivers’ retreat on Saturday, August 25.**

Music Ministry: Are you blessed by God with the gift of music, vocal or instrumental? If so, please consider volunteering for our music ministry. Occasionally we have retreats where we need someone to lead the music for services or liturgies. This is a great opportunity to share your gifts.

To learn about ways you can donate your time, talents, or treasures, please contact Marie.

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discouraged and disappointed. The strength of a relationship isn't measured by the absence of problems; in fact, if a relationship is free of problems, it's likely not much of a relationship. Rather, it is how we handle the problems in the relationship that we can determine its strength and value. When a relationship is important, we work at overcoming conflicting values and desires, disappointments and minor offenses, which ultimately strengthens the relationship.

An article in Psychology magazine from August 2012 says that relationships make us better people. That is true, don't you think? I know that my friends make me a better person. The best relationships are the ones that bring out the best in us. Love is powerful that way. The article also says that having someone who knows you deeply is validating. Think about your most important relationships—having someone in your life who knows you intimately is truly a gift. Knowing that there is someone out there who notices and cares about you and the things you do gives you more reason to keep doing them.

I am blessed in this ministry at St. Anthony Spirituality Center to be able to establish relationships with others that ultimately enhance my relationship with God. Every day I talk with the people who volunteer here. I hear them speak with joy and pride about how their relationship with St. Anthony's has impacted their lives. I listen as they tell their stories...stories that might have begun with pain and sorrow, then moved to self-discovery, and finally to healing, joy and laughter. I hear people tell of how this place has enriched their lives, allowing them to form strong, lasting relationships with others and with God. St. Anthony's truly lives its value of empowering people to realize their dignity and potential!

~Marie Fleisner

Update on the Elevator Project

We have been working hard the past several months writing grants to help secure funding for our much needed elevator. Combining the grants and private donations, we have so far raised just over \$52,000. Our target to begin the elevator project is \$70,000, which is half the projected total cost. So, while we're not there yet, we are definitely well on our way.

Our public campaign is now just underway. We're hoping to replace “Charlie Chairlift” with “Lula Elevator.” Donors will be asked to **sponsor an inch or two of the elevator. The cost to sponsor one inch is \$250.** Of course, donations of any amount are welcome.

To learn more about our **Elevator Project** visit our website at www.sarcenter.com.

If you would like to help fund our elevator (to “Give St. Anthony's a Lift”), contact Marie Fleisner to make your tax-deductible donation.