



Bridging Urban & Rural Life for 25 Years



TROUBADOUR SPRING 2016

OUR MISSION:
To promote a relationship with God that brings dignity and hope to the sacred process of all life through programs that assist, educate, enrich and inform.

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*"The Lord seeks us all.
He wants everyone
to feel the warmth of
His mercy and love."*

Homily, Rio de Janeiro
July 28, 2013

Lowell Campus Grows as Retreat Center

"Retreat - a period of withdrawal for prayer, meditation, study, or instruction."

The Franciscan Life Process Center offers several ways for individuals, families, small groups, and large groups to experience time on the land to get away from the distractions and "noise" of daily life. For those interested in staying overnight, accommodations are available in the main building, San Pietro Guest House and the two yurts, Santa Chiara and San Francesco.

The Center offers:

- **Scheduled Retreats** - Through our scheduled retreats, people come to the Center for a morning, a day, or an evening of prayer and reflection on a particular topic.
- **Customized Retreats** - Center staff can create customized retreats that meet the needs of a specific group or individual by providing a facilitator, a land experience, and/or a prayer experience.
- **Retreat Facilities** - The Center also provides space for those who have a retreat planned but want to experience the natural beauty found at the Lowell Campus.

In the last year, the Lowell Campus has been visited by an increased number of schools, businesses, Catholic parishes and church groups from other denominations.

Marcia Foote, retreat coordinator, invites those interested in experiencing the peaceful Presence found on the land to contact her. "Once visitors tour our facilities and walk the land, they are usually anxious to schedule a time to stay." She continues, "The Stations of the Cross, the Rosary Walk, the water fountain, the trails, and the gardens all provide opportunities to be still, to reconnect with self, and to hear God's voice."

Another aspect of the retreat center is the establishment of the Lowell Campus as a retreat center for artists. Kathy Bechtel, art director, encourages artists to consider the Center as one of two art retreat destinations in the Midwest. Kathy states, "Artists can shut out the distractions of daily life and find many opportunities to revive their creative spirits in order to give new expression to their artistic talent."

If you'd like to learn more about retreat opportunities, go to www.lifeprocesscenter.org or email Marcia at mfoote@lifeprocesscenter.org. Artists interested in visiting the Center should contact Kathy at kbechtel@lifeprocesscenter.org.



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Spring and Summer greetings to you all.

As we live into more of all that 2016 holds for each of us, I would like to offer a short reflection during this Holy Year of Mercy.

Pope Francis called for this special year for all people, Christian or not, and invited us to grow and stretch into becoming people of Mercy.

In his book, *The Name of God is Mercy*, Pope Francis tells a story of what a man said to him after the Pope tried to explain what mercy is. The man said, "Oh, Father, if you knew my life, you wouldn't talk to me like that! I have done some terrible things!"

In reply, Pope Francis said, "Even better! Go to Jesus: he likes to hear about these things. He forgets, he has a special knack for forgetting. He forgets, he kisses you, he embraces you, and he says: 'Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.' That is the only advice he gives. If things haven't changed in a month...we go back to the Lord. **The Lord never tires of forgiving: never! It is we who tire of asking him for forgiveness. We need to ask for the grace not to get tired of asking for forgiveness, because he never gets tired of forgiving.**" introduction p.xi

I would like to suggest that this skill is something we might want to practice during the coming months: yes, the skill of asking for God's help to never tire of asking him for forgiveness.

If we can get into the habit of asking God to forgive us again and again, it is possible that we can also ask one another more often for forgiveness.

Just think of the creative possibilities that could open up if we all practice forgiveness as we enjoy these wonderful months of effusive nature, warm temps and family time.

Peace to each of you,

Sister Colleen Ann Nagle, FSE

Sister Colleen Ann Nagle, F.S.E., Director

Center Adds Music Therapist

Amanda Partlo, MT-BC joined the Center staff in February. After graduating in 2005 from Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Music Therapy degree, Amanda has worked in a variety of settings including nursing facilities, hospice, and a maximum security forensic facility. She has a passion for seniors, which includes Alzheimer's and dementia care, and for hospice work. She is currently working to complete her Hospice and Palliative Care MT Certification. Amanda also teaches piano and violin at the Center.



Amanda, her husband Greg, and their two dogs Libby and Charlie, live in Ada. Amanda enjoys jogging and has run in two half marathons.

Three FSE Sisters Celebrate 50th Jubilee

Sister Margaret Dahl, Sister Darlene Wessling, and Sister Janet Marie Bagniewski are celebrating their 50th Jubilee as consecrated women religious on Saturday, June 4, 2016 at 4:00 pm at the Lowell Campus.

Sister Margaret Dahl has been a piano instructor throughout her professional life. She is also the treasurer for the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist (FSE) Community. She has a great love of flowers and gardening and has been at the Center for six years.

Sister Darlene Wessling is a medical social worker for Great Lakes Caring. She also manages finances for the Sisters in addition to her many other responsibilities on the land. Sister is a master bread baker and helped found the Franciscan Heritage Food Bakery and Coffee Shop in Ada in 1980.



Sister Janet Marie Bagniewski is a registered nurse and was a nursing education instructor in Pocatello, ID. She also did pastoral work in Idaho and Minnesota before coming to Lowell in 2013. Currently, she cares for the older sisters in residence in Lowell for the FSE Community. Sister loves to garden and work with herbs.

The Sisters will celebrate their Jubilee at 4:00 pm with a Jubilee Mass celebrated by Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak followed by a dinner for family and friends. (Invitation only)

In Memory of Sister Theophane Wurzer, FSE

Sister Theophane Wurzer, FSE, died at the Franciscan Sisters' Cantic House on May 4 at the age of 94. She was one of the 55 founding members of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist and served as a nurse, nurse educator, and nursing supervisor in the area of maternal-child care. During her stay in the Holy Land from 1979-1991, Sister initiated a nursing program for Bethlehem University in Bethlehem. In five Palestinian villages, she also began a program of teaching new mothers techniques of infant massage to increase parent-child bonding and to promote physical and psychological health for the babies.

Upon returning to the United States, Sister Theophane came to Lowell where, as a nurse, she cared for the elderly Sisters and coordinated a group of volunteers, the Franciscan Friends, to assist with Center projects.

As the fifth of twelve children raised on a farm near St. Lucas, Iowa, Sister Theophane learned early the important practical skills of life. She was well known for her quilting and her love of canning and freezing the fresh produce from the farm.



Mark Your Calendar for a Year of Enriching Events

Community Workdays: Second Saturday Monthly, March through November, 9:30 to Noon

Lowell Campus

Join us for work on the farm while you enjoy the peace and beauty found on the land. Activities begin at 9:30 a.m. followed by a communal lunch. Work days are open to individuals, families, and church and business groups.

If there is a question about weather, call 897-5220 the day of the event.

Bowl-a-Rama: Thursday, August 4, 2016, 5:30 - 9:00 pm

Northfield Lanes, 2222 Plainfield Ave., NE Grand Rapids, MI

Please contact Gerrie Murray, event coordinator, for more information or to purchase a lane.

HARPFest 2016: Frank Voltz Revisited, Friday, August 12 - Saturday, August 13

Lowell Campus

To register for HARPFest 2016 or to purchase concert tickets, go to www.lifeprocesscenter.org and click on the Events tab.

Memorial Service and Tree Planting: Thursday, September 15, 2016 4:00 pm

Lowell Campus

You are invited to join us as we remember loved ones who have died in the past year. Please call Barb at 616-897-7842 if you'd like to remember a loved one with flowers, bushes or trees. Donations appreciated.

Franciscan Rhythms 5K Trail Run: Saturday, October 1, 2016, 9:00 am

Lowell Campus

To register for the Run/Walk, please go to www.lifeprocesscenter.org and click on the Events tab.

LIFEfest 2016: Bridging into the Future, Wednesday, October 19, 2016 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Bridgewater Place, 333 Bridge St., Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Join emcee Shelley Irwin and auctioneer Jason Lamoreaux to partner with us as we *Bridge into the Future*. This event is a major fundraiser for the Center. Please contact Gerrie Murray at gmurray@lifeprocesscenter.org for more information.

Additional Events at the Center

Brew-B-Que, a Beer Pairing Dinner: Thursday, June 2, 2016, 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Lowell Campus

Just in time for summer! Join us for **Brew-B-Que** to learn which beers to pair with your summer picnic foods from Taylor Remy and *New Holland Brewery* and Mike Saladino and *Saladino Smoke*. Wagon ride tours begin at 5:30 pm. Proceeds from this event benefit the Center.

Cost: \$35 per person

Please go to www.lifeprocesscenter.org to purchase tickets.

Day Camps: Integrated Experience of the Natural World for Children, Ages 5 - 12

Held at the Lowell Campus, these camps offer an integrated experience of the arts and the natural world with a special focus on group interaction and creativity, building cooperation, problem solving and conflict resolution skills.

June 13-17 - Art from Nature - Explore different art media and techniques such as sculpture, painting and weaving, utilizing things found in nature.

June 20 - 24 - Rockin'-n-Rollin' - This rocky "hands-on" theme will integrate the arts, age appropriate activities and exploration of history through rocks and fossils.

August 1 - 5 - Bugs, Bees, Butterflies and Creepy Crawlies - This camp is for those who love creepy crawly creatures. We will explore facts, create crafts, concoct interesting snacks and even do "buggy" face painting to enhance our dramatic play. Don't miss out on the fun!

August 8 - 12 - Animals: Wild and Tame - Children and animals are natural partners. This camp will provide ample opportunity for children to interact with all kinds of critters while learning about their habitat and unique characteristics.

Camps run from 9:00 am - 2:30 pm.

Cost: \$125 if registered by May 31 and \$150 after May 31.

For more information or to register, go to www.lifeprocesscenter.org and click on "Events."

Special Day Camp for Special People: Integrated Experiences of the Natural World, Ages 7-18

July 26 - 28 - Children with special needs are invited to this sensory summer camp that includes music therapy, adaptive art activities, and nature experiences with one day open to the entire family.

Camp runs from 9:00 am to noon.

Cost: \$150 if registered by May 31 and \$200 after May 31.

For more information or to register, go to www.lifeprocesscenter.org and click on "Events."

Watch for more information about these events coming FALL 2016

Harvest Pie Making: Wednesday, October 12, 2016 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Lowell Campus

Gluten Free Bread Baking - Just in Time for the Holidays: Thursday, November 3, 2016, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Lowell Campus

Hops and Harps, a Beer Pairing Dinner: Thursday, November 10, 2016, 6:00 - 8:30 pm

New Holland Brewery, Grand Rapids, MI

Winter Events at the Center



Noto's Charity Winefest 2016



Lenten Lunches



Lenten Retreat



Lincoln School



Retreat Day



Noto's Charity Winefest 2016



Marriage Retreat



SS Peter and Paul School, Ionia



Couples' Bread Baking



Polish Easter Egg Decorating



Byron Center Christian School



Lenten Retreat



Lenten Retreat

2016 Art Workshops – Lowell Campus

Josh Clare:
"How To Paint Everything"
Jun 9 – Jun 11

Jon Redmond:
"Light And It's Relationship
In The Landscape"
Jul 8 – Jul 10

Aaron Schuerr:
"Fresh And Direct Landscape Painting"
Jul 22 – Jul 24

Jim Johnson:
"Loosen Up And Have Fun With
Watercolor"
Aug 4 – Aug 6

Tim (TJ) Cunningham:
"Plein Air Workshop"
Aug 4 – Aug 6

Catherine Kehoe:
"The Head Examined"
Aug 17 – Aug 21

Eric Bowman:
"Figuring The Figure"
Aug 26 – Aug 28

For more information, go to
www.lifeprocesscenter.org and click
on "Art Programs" or contact
Kathy Bechtel at 616-897-7842 or
email kbechtel@lifeprocesscenter.org.

Did You Know?

- Sister Mary Margaret was the featured harpist for the Memorial Service held at the 99th Annual State Convention of the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs on May 20, 2016.
- Our music therapists are traveling to Whitehall, Hastings and Muskegon to bring music therapy to persons in those areas.
- On April 16 Sister Mary Margaret, Sandy Koteskey, Miranda Eden and Dr. Peter Birkeland gave a team presentation at the annual Great Lakes Regional Music Therapy Conference held in Indianapolis on "The Power of a Genogram to Deepen the Family Music Therapy Assessment."
- Kenny Wittenbach will put in the drainage tiling and add the sand base for the horse arena so that we can purchase and lay down the footing with our grant money.
- The two silos located on the farm at the Lowell Campus were taken down May 2. They have served as landmarks for many people in the Lowell area and even guided airplane pilots heading to the Grand Rapids airport.
- The Franciscan Friends, who gather every Friday at the Lowell Campus, have made over 850 items that were donated to various groups in the community and to the Center. In the past year, these skilled knitters, quilters and seamstresses made chemo caps, baby caps, quilts, dolls and doll quilts, mini bags, prayer shawls, clothing, harp dust covers, weighted vests and dog toys.

Rosary Walk to be Dedicated May 31

The Sisters and the staff of the Franciscan Life Process Center invite you to join them for the dedication of the Rosary Walk on May 31, 2016 at 4:00 pm at the Lowell Campus.

The idea of the Rosary Walk grew through the friendship of Kevin Matthews, the Franciscan Sisters and the staff of the Center which began when Kevin was one of the masters of ceremony at LIFEfest 2013. There he shared his story of "Broken Mary," which involves a statue of Mary that he rescued from the trash.

Through Kevin's idea and help, the generosity of a donor, and the skill of Cris Ritsema, site manager, the Rosary Walk has slowly taken form. Located near the yurts, the Rosary Walk is a paved sidewalk where people can pray the rosary as they walk. Surrounding the walk is the San Damiano Cross outlined with plants of lavender.

Like the Stations of the Cross, dedicated a year ago, the Rosary Walk will provide visitors, retreatants and guests of the Center another way to pray and meditate while experiencing the natural beauty of God's creation.

Visitors are welcome to visit both the Rosary Walk and the Stations of the Cross at the Lowell Campus Monday - Fridays 9:00 to 5:00 or by appointment.

To learn more about Kevin Matthew's "Broken Mary" please go to <http://bit.ly/BrokenMary>



Retreats at the Lowell Campus

MEN'S SUMMER RETREAT – August 3, 2016, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Lowell Campus

The Lowell Campus offers a beautiful setting for hearing the word of God, silence, and reflection. Led by Msgr. Gus Ancona, this special day will include presentations, meditation and prayer time, Confession and Mass.

Arrangements have been made for those in need of transportation to use the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish bus.

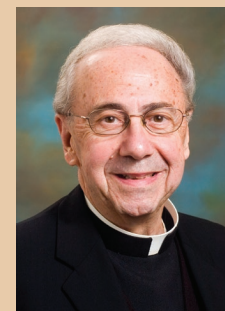
Cost: \$50

For more information, go to www.lifeprocesscenter and click on "Retreats."

Coming this Fall!

AT THE HEART OF MARRIAGE LEVEL II
Saturday, November 5, 2016
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

ADVENT RETREAT FOR EMPTY NESTERS
Saturday, December 3, 2016
9:00 - 5:00 pm



Bowl With Us

Northfield Lanes, 2222 Plainfield Ave. NE Grand Rapids

Enjoy our 7th annual Bowl-a-Rama with family, friends or office staff on Thursday, August 4 from 5:30-9:00 pm. Purchase a lane for a team of six people, which entitles you to enjoy bowling, delicious food, a photo of your team and a team T-shirt. Proceeds from this event goes to support Center programs.



Please email Gerrie Murray at gmurray@lifeprocesscenter.org for more information.

Celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi

Lowell Campus

Friends of the Center and members of local parishes are invited to celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi with Mass and a Procession on Sunday, May 29 at 4 pm at the Lowell Campus. Refreshments will follow.

Corpus Christi, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, is one of the days the Church designates each year to honor the gift of the Eucharist. Traditionally, this feast includes a solemn display of reverence through a public procession.

This event is free, but please go to www.lifeprocesscenter.org and click on the Event tab to register so that we can adequately prepare for the day.



Troubadour

Franciscan Life Center Network, Inc. dba
Franciscan Life Process Center
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www.lifeprocesscenter.org

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Frank Voltz Leads HARPfest 2016

Lowell Campus

The FLPC welcomes back Frank Voltz for HARPfest 2016 on August 12-13. Frank led HARPfest 2012 and fell in love with West Michigan and the Center and is excited to return to the area to work with local harpists. Frank, who started playing the harp as an adult, serves as a guest clinician and performing artist and is especially known for his harp arrangements. He also is in demand in churches around the country as a Gospel Jazz Harpist.

A few of the topics Frank will address during this two day workshop are "The Music Equation, Talent + Ambition = Excellence", "Cool Chords (You Can Use)", and "Inspired Composing for the Harp".

Frank will give a **concert** at 7:30 pm, August 12. All are invited. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

To register for HARPfest 2016 or to order concert tickets, please go to www.lifeprocesscenter.org and click on "Events."



Tune up for the Franciscan Rhythms 5K Trail Run/Walk

Lowell Campus

Come join us for the 2nd annual 5k Trail Run/Walk, October 1 at 9 am. Enjoy a unique new t-shirt design, beautiful ambiance and motivating music to spur you on! Also new this year is a fun run for kids!

Cost: \$30

To register, please go to www.lifeprocesscenter.org and click on the "Events" tab.

