

Franciscan Spiritual Center

Peace. Presence. Community.

Grief and/or Gratitude?

As I shelter in place, I am aware of things that are no longer possible. My list would include: going to the office to see colleagues and guests, inviting friends over for dinner, gathering for Sunday morning worship, going to the theater, even going grocery shopping. What would your list include?

Besides the ordinary stuff, I am grieving the cancellation of our pilgrimage to walk St Cuthbert's Way in Scotland with 12 others. I had already started to train and was looking forward to walking across the sands (tide out!) to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. Our family cancelled a trip to see more family and a new grand niece in the Midwest. And, the Center cancelled some really good programs. I guess my grieving list goes on a bit.

This grieving is more than personal. We are seeing global impacts and tragedies across the globe that touch our hearts. **At the Franciscan Center, we have been closed for over two long months. We have seen our income decrease by 40% as groups and programs and pilgrimages have been cancelled.**

Yet, mixed in with the grief and anxiety is wonder and even hope for what new might come of this pandemic with our resilience and your support. We are grateful to see signs of possibility already beginning.

First on my gratitude list is YOU. Thank you for staying connected to one another and to the Center in these challenging times. Thank you, thank you for your gifts toward our new Outdoor Labyrinth that we were able to begin and complete in April. Hallelujah! It is beautiful and already some are finding their way on the paths, keeping safe distance, of course.

There is one more thing we'd like to add: additional plants to provide color and screening for those of you walking the labyrinth.

Can you help with a financial gift?

Thanks to the staff who put many of their programs online. Tuesday morning meditation. Engaged Mysticism, Universal Christ and Search for Sunday book groups.

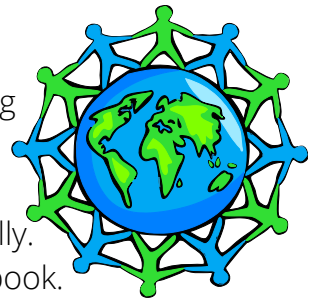


And, especially, thanks to our six spiritual directors who are learning new technology to continue meeting with nearly 100 persons each month. **Two more spiritual directors will help meet the need. Will you help make this possible?**

Thanks to new teachers who offered chair yoga and art classes for free online. The classes held many more people than our Conference Room and attracted people from all over the United States. **We need an additional Zoom account and tech support to offer you recorded programs and more online resources.**

Can you help make this happen?

Thanks to our new social media staff person, you are spreading the word about St Francis and St Clare and the ministry of the Center. The word is leaping and growing, oh my, and how; our new Spiritual Direction Training Program has accepted persons from Zambia (yes!), Vermont, Georgia, Texas, Washington and Hawaii. **You** are reaching and connecting globally and nationally. If you haven't already, check out the Franciscan Center on Instagram and Facebook.



Can you send a check to help continue this staff position beyond one year?

In the midst of the pandemic, the hardships and fears, we can see the planet coming back to life with cleaner air and new bird songs, and we see communities responding with kindness and compassion. **Because of you, the Franciscan Spiritual Center is responding in labyrinths and online programs and spiritual direction.**

You have helped us be resilient in offering the peace of St Francis and the love of God in ever widening ways. However, 40% in reduced revenue makes outreach and ministry difficult, and so limited.

You can make a difference. You are with us listening and guiding others. Your gifts build a community of peace. **Your financial support is needed...today.** So, thank you – in advance – for making a gift to sustain and affirm the Franciscan ministry as “essential.”

Bless You,

Larry Peacock, Director

P.S. You can send a check in the enclosed envelope. Or you can make your donation through our website at **www.francisspctr.com/giving-back** Your gifts are so needed and they are a blessing to us. Thank you for your generosity.