ST. FRANCIS RETREAT - A Renewed Focus

As we come to the end of 2015, we do so with a sense of gratitude, relief and reflection. All of you have blessed us in so many ways through the year as retreatants, guests for First Fridays, benefactors and friends. Thanksgiving reinforced that feeling as the presence of friends and loved ones buffered some of the pain of world events so at odds with the message we proclaim. But we must look to the future.

Challenge number one for the future is eliminating our rebuilding debt. The devastating fire of 2006 devoured our elegant, old Ranch House which was the heart of the Retreat Center. Three years later, with the financial help of many of you and a loan from the Diocese of Monterey, we were able to open our modern, new facility. To date we have met our $5,000 monthly interest payments and paid down $900,000 of principle. That still leaves us with $990,000 of debt and $60,000 a year in interest! This situation makes it next to impossible to move on in addressing other capital needs.

Our main source of income, actually 90% of our income, is derived from people coming here on retreat. That income and your generous contributions have allowed us to keep our doors open. Happily, our weekends are booked to the hilt most of the year; now we are focusing on opportunities for mid-week retreats and events. But even if we fill up the weekdays, we are still needing your support to eliminate the debt.

8,000 newsletters go out 4 times a year – to 8,000 friends of St. Francis Retreat! Imagine if each one receiving this letter took the time to write a single, tax-deductible check for $100! Please, do more than imagine; let’s make this dream of paying off the debt actually happen and allow us to convert those interest payments into property improvements long overdue. It can happen, and then we can replace those tired beds, upgrade the bathroom in each room, replace the well-worn carpet, and do all those things many of you have suggested over the years. Donations to St. Francis Retreat, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, are generally tax deductible, and the end of the year approaches quickly.

After spending almost five months here at the retreat, I never tire of hearing the good, positive stories that come from our guests. The words peaceful, refreshing ambiance, renewing, magical, beautiful, spiritual and serene are repeated most often, as are comments about the restaurant quality food service. Will you please consider a gift to allow us to keep welcoming all with open hearts and souls?

Thank you for your time, your stories, and your legacy for our shared future.

Sincerely,

Bill Healy, Executive Director
Operating and Building Towards the Future? How?

1. Pay off the remaining $1,000,000 by June 23, 2016! This will be the tenth anniversary of the devastating fire that stopped St. Francis in its tracks and continues almost ten years later to have the same effect.

2. THIS IS THE START OF OUR NEW “BRING BACK ST. FRANCIS II” DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. Included with this newsletter is a donation envelope and if you would send us a check for $100 to start this “Bring Back St. Francis II” Program it would be greatly appreciated. If everyone reading this newsletter (we send out over 8,000 newsletters) right now would stop and pick-up a pen, write out a check for one hundred dollars ($100) or more, we would have our mortgage reduced to almost nothing. You would enable us to begin moving forward with your tax deductible donation to St. Francis Retreat.

3. To all of those who supported our initial building program “Bring Back Saint Francis” I personally I want to thank you for your commitment to paying off your pledges. We also thank those who send us donations on a monthly basis. We all here at the Retreat center will continue to keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers.

4. Additional money raised above the diocesan debt will become our Capital Budget to start upgrading: carpets, beds, bathrooms, sinks, bathroom cabinets, faucets, mirrors in the bathrooms, overhead fans, bedspreads etc.

We have a gift from God at the St. Francis Retreat. We have a responsibility to embrace it, honor it, protect it and preserve it.

If you have any questions and can help us, please call us at 831-623-4234.

Thank you for your support.

The Franciscan Friars and Staff at St. Francis Retreat would like to take this time to wish you, your families and friends a Blessed Christmas Season.

FRIARS
Brother Keith
Father Paul
Brother Mateo

ADMINISTRATION
Bill
Ed
Brother James
Lois

FOOD SERVICE
Chef Jeff
Amelia     Caitlyn     Zach
Matt     Lenolia     Nila
Rob    Blanca    Lucy     Liz
Tina     Anna

MAINTENANCE
Roger
Samuel
Angel
Carlos

HOUSEKEEPING
Lala
Jamie
Antonia
First Friday Days of Recollection
9:30 am. - 2:00 pm. (Lunch/noonish)
Mass is at 11:00 am.
Suggested Donation: $25.00

JANUARY 1ST - No Service
(NO Mass or Lunch)

FEBRUARY 5TH
God Writes Straight with a Crooked Line
Father Rudy Ruiz

MARCH 4TH
Is it possible to live a life of simplicity, mindfulness and peace in an age of consumerism, distraction, and violence?
Sister Margie Will, OSF

APRIL 1ST
Let Him Easter In Us - Resurrection now and after life.
Father Patrick Doolan

MAY 6TH
Making Mercy Together
Father Michael Marini

JUNE 6TH
Reconciliation
Father Jerry Maher

Lenten Wednesdays of Recollection
9:30 am. - 2:00 pm. (Lunch/noonish)
Mass is at 11:00 am.
Suggested Donation: $25.00

February 10 (Ash Wednesday)
February 17, 24 & March 2, 9, 16, 23
Using the First Friday Format we will be focusing on the scripture readings for the Sundays of Lent. These days will include Stations of the Cross among other prayer experiences.

~ SAVE THE DATES ~ 2016 Retreats
January 15-17, 2016
68th ANNUAL Men’s Retreat:
“Come Follow Me”
Br. Brian Maloney, OFM
St. Francis & the Wolf of Gubbio
This classic tale of love, friendship, and the importance of living together in harmony will give us a fresh approach to respond to the Spirit in our own lives.
Br. Brian has been a professed Franciscan Friar for 47 years and has ministered in the church and to the people of God as teacher, parish administrator, psychologist and councilor, missionary to the Navajo Nation in Arizona, prison chaplain, retreat director and spiritual director. He presently serves as the Secular Franciscan (3rd Order) Regional Spiritual Assistant to the Holy Trinity Region in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. He currently lives at St. Francis Seraph Friary in Cincinnati and continues his ministry as spiritual director as well.

June 24-26th
Women’s Group Retreat
Rosemary Apodaca
A weekend of serenity focused on prayer and meditation.

July 22-24th
Women’s Retreat
Sister Loretta Schaff, OSF
Holy Women of God: Be with Us
Come and be part of a Sacred Circle of holy women. From the New Testament, our mystic tradition and our contemporary lives. Be inspired by their wisdom, vision and courage that will strengthen our hearts on our spiritual journey
Sister Loretta Schaff, OSF is a Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia. Sister holds a B.A. in Music, a Master’s in Liturgical Studies, and a Doctorate in Ministry. Her experience includes ministry as a musician, liturgist, professor, campus minister, congregational leadership, spiritual director and a retreat facilitator.

August 12-14th
Father Jim Nisbet Retreat
Fr. James Nisbet

August 19-21st
VAQUERO HERITAGE DAYS AT ST. FRANCIS RETREAT CENTER

August 26-28th
Marriage Retreat - 5 Commitments
Bill and Eileen Healy
Learn and practice the five commitments to a long and happy marriage.

Call us for information on Private Retreats and Facilities Rentals: (831) 623-4234

RESERVATION FORM

NAME ________________________________ PHONE (__________) ________________________________
ADDRESS ________________________________________________________________ ________________________________________________
ROOM PREFERENCE: ( ) SINGLE ( ) DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ROOMATE’S NAME ________________________________
NAME OF RETREAT ________________________________ DATE OF RETREAT ________________________________
SPECIAL NEEDS __________________________________________________________________________________________

( ) VISA ( ) MASTERCARD CREDIT CARD NUMBER ________________________________ EXP DATE ________________

$260.00 person (Single Occupancy) $210.00 per person (Double) unless otherwise noted.
(Limited scholarships are available)

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR A RETREAT, SEND THIS FORM AND $25 DEPOSIT (PER PERSON) TO:
ST. FRANCIS RETREAT / P.O. BOX 970 / SAN JUAN BAUTISTA, CA. 95045
(831) 623-4234 / FAX: (831) 623-9046 / WWW.STFRANCISRETREAT.COM / E-MAIL: INFO@STFRANCISRETREAT.COM
Veterans Helping Veterans is a new ministry of the Diocese of Monterey and offered its first retreat here last month. The retreat ran from Nov 8th to 12th and included a special celebration on Veterans’ Day. Br. Mateo came up with a patriotic cake and Bishop Garcia travelled over to join the retreatants at supper that night. This ministry will be continuing and growing to serve this special group of people, and we are happy to announce that St. Francis Retreat will be home to future retreats as well.

This non-denominational retreat has a maximum of 35 participants, one third of who are civilians. The retreat is a four day process to facilitate an exploration of soul/moral wounding in a safe environment, to further a healthy and integrated arrival back home. The retreat is based on the Soldier’s Heart Retreats following the teachings of Dr. Edward Tick and Kale Dahls. They are renowned experts on PTSD and its effects on the veterans’ active military duty and their families.

For further information contact us here at the retreat!