

**“O Lord, our Lord, how glorious
is your name over all the earth!”** – Psalm 8:1



Our new windows and new boards on the face of our Chapel shine in the morning sun – thanks to funds raised through our annual Auction.

How many more days might there be like this one?

The sun rose and warmed our hillside, Chapel and the land and valleys all around us here at Mt. Irenaeus with the taste and feel of late-summer.

So lovely, what a morning - I long for more like this! These days, moments come to us, don't they, as all of life ... now ... one at a time!

It is a new morning, it is a “new day,” and God is the “more” we long for and the one who visits our hearts now when we have concerns, worries or a sense of anxieties. Sometimes the scarcity of seeing, our own narrow view of life, opens in us to God who gently invites us to see and believe in abundance! ... To be “taken up in God!”

The vistas before me here on the Mountain and off from La Paz draw me into a prayer, seeing “the more” for all of us with a deep and peaceful smile. We then move more easily to offer each other what we are inclined to hold back because of our fears.



Bona students came to the Mountain to participate in the “Day of Involvement.”

This abundance – always given, present – though not always seen easily or felt, is the promise we are given by our loving God... God's reign, the gift of each moment as we offer ourselves to one another and those in need around us. We each open to receive this life.

Recently we became more aware, as a resident community along with the women and men who share our day to day life, from campus and their homes, that we long for and are all looking for the “more.” A deepening of life while ... yes, there is more. This fullness includes new students visiting the Mountain, stepping beside us in ministry.

And, we are blessed with the gift of a Mountain

Mt. IRENAEUS

FRANCISCAN MOUNTAIN RETREAT

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Peer coaches came to the Mountain for hiking and reflecting on their roles in helping BSU freshmen adapt to campus life.

Companion this year! **Martin Spear**, a graduate of 2011 from St. Bonaventure University, has, over the years, been involved with us in our life and ministry. He lived with us one summer and reached out to us and we to him with the desire to grow further, that he might join us and grow in our life and ministry beside us. He matches, meets the strains that we sensed of our own growing here at the Mountain as our brothers felt the need for others to companion them on the Mountain in hospitality, daily care taking and work on the land. We have hoped for others to join us and now Martin has come among us! (See Martin's remarks later in this newsletter.)

Over the years others have been with us for a year or more particularly in our ministry to St. Bonaventure University. But the growth here on the Mountain and beyond, the fullness of

our life and its daily needs calls out for other involvement here as well. We have been looking, wondering who ... possibly for you!

Last summer **John Coughlin, ofm** came into our community and now also extends his affable self and his vigor for the Gospel to Bona's and beyond. His wonderful cooking, leadership in prayer and his desire to enjoy life is explosive and expansive and thoroughly enjoyable! He is leading others to lead others in a quest for "the Kingdom."



With John last summer and Martin now this year we say welcome and welcome again! And then look to welcome others! We know our "vision of life" finds itself grounded in our mission. It lets us know - and we believe we learn and teach each other and others who join us each day - how to open to a "new way" of an ancient practice of transformation.

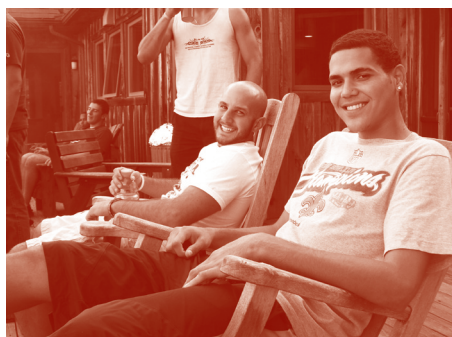
As the sun rises higher in the sky this morning, shedding more and more light on the earth and the world of pain and darkness around us, we still hope in abundance, long for others to consider this way of life, this "manner of life and ministry" for Mt. Irenaeus, "to come and try our way of life!" (St. Francis of Assisi)

You may have considered this life following a visit, taking an extensive time or may know someone who might consider this. We continue to understand and share this life as transformative of ourselves as well as a simple gift of living each day in a "down to earth way." "The practical details of our daily living - work, prayer, solitude, community - lend to us and lead us to an experience of life upon which we reflect. This 'daily bread' of our life nourishes us for the life of justice, love and peace here and elsewhere. Living each day in a 'down to earth' fashion, we find that we have the gift of coming to 'see' a God who loves us far more than we love ourselves." (Mt. Irenaeus Vision Statement) "We find, then, an education for life here on the Mountain so that we might live more fully elsewhere with others." (Mt. Irenaeus Vision Statement) (See our website for other documents: Mission, Vision, etc.)

Would you now take some time with us and pray for others who might, in the coming months, the next year or so or more, come here and discern a longer stay with us?

"Mountain Companions" is a somewhat defined way to walk and work beside us. We can make this information about our Companion Program available to you.

Possibly this would be a sabbatical from one's usual life or work or a time of transition between employments or other



The pictures above are St. Bona's Men's Rugby Team who begin each year with an overnight at the Mountain; relaxing and bonding, meal preparation, long walks in the woods and deep personal sharing at Mass. This has become a tradition for a number of our teams and other groups who are seeking growth with one another.

relationships that may afford you or someone you know a year, or possibly more, to step into the "streams of living water" flowing from Christ on this hillside in Allegheny County, New York out to others in the world. *Our mission says, "To join with Jesus Christ to make all things new!"*

Basic skills and the desire to work beside **Joseph Kotula, ofm** and **Louis McCormick, ofm**, as well as the rest of us in our Gospel manner of life and ministry, would invite you to "roll up your sleeves" as you open your heart in a new and a renewing way.

Consider this simple request and please contact me. You might call me, email me or write me. I will share your interest with others here at the Mountain as we continue to pray for you. Your prayers, ideas, inspiration will help both the renewal of our local life and its growth for others here and well beyond here so that we might continue to companion other efforts and with other companions help "join with Jesus Christ to make all things new!"

Our world, the Franciscan movement today, the Church and people we have yet to greet ... they all call out to us to join in the renewal of the earth.

The Sun rises on this day, "Yom Yahweh," the promised day of the Lord. Let us share the light and life of this promised abundance with others!

*Peace!
~ Ann Gould*

Several "Mountain in Your Home" evenings have taken place in the Rochester, NY area

over the past year. Small groups of alumni, friends, and family have gathered in homes to share prayer, pot-luck meals, and warm conversation, much in the same way as the early Christians. Dave and Amy Thomas kicked off the new school season in September 2011 with a wonderful evening in their home. Jim and Ann Gould hosted the next event on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in December which was made special with Mass said by Fr. Dan. An evening at Mike and Jennifer Petix's home followed in June. The new 2012 school year started off with a "Mountain in the Park" Mass and picnic held in Durand Eastman Park on September 9 and attended by over 75 friends.

While each of these gatherings had a slightly different mix of attendees, they all successfully melded new and old friends in a shared desire to deepen their faith and learn from each other. Mark and Margaret Murphy will host the next Mountain in the Home on October 24th, and it will be sure to be another night to nourish body and soul!

~ Ann Gould

Ann is part of a group growing in Rochester as part of a Mountain outreach with Bonaventure alumni and for others in their region. We have found that the Mountain spawns new life for the Church and teams like this in different locales are creating opportunities "in homes."



I find myself often struggling to find the right way to describe Mountain on the Road. I've been blessed to attend three of these trips, yet I am still amazed at how unique each experience is. The Lord blesses us all, providing insight into His word, and teaches how to share it with others. This ministry is the most important--an essential outreach to Alumni--and the best way to foster or fuel a relationship with God. We are all eager to see God "face to face", as the Psalm reads, and MOTR allows us [students] to serve His Will while in the pursuit of eternal life. This ministry, led by Fr. Dan Riley, ofm and the Director of Alumni Services Joe Flanagan, is a reminder that the Bonaventure family has an unbreakable connection that does not need to be restricted to campus for it to grow.

~Lilly Whelan



We continue to work diligently to maintain our property and buildings with the help of many volunteers and wonderful leadership from **Joe Kotula, ofm**. The Chapel received all new windows this summer and new siding on the front of the building. A maintenance fund was established when the Chapel was originally constructed and proceeds from our annual auction also assist in funding that account. At a cost of over \$ 31,000.00, projects such as this certainly remind us of the important work that our auction committee does and their value to our Mission at the Mountain. As the House of Peace was constructed in the same manner as the Chapel, we have already begun work to revamp the structures around each window in an effort to reduce decomposition of the windows and structure within. We also thank **Joe Higgins** for all of the time and effort he donated to manage this project.

A group of volunteers including **Sarino Tropeano, Mike Jennings, Brother Crispin** from the Bronx, and **Steve Cooper** replaced the roofs on Sunrise and Holy Lady in August. **Both** roofs were replaced for just about \$1,000.00 in materials. THANK YOU GENTLEMEN!

A land management plan was recently completed by FORECON and was accepted by the Board at our spring meeting. By fully implementing this plan, we will be better stewards of over 274 acres of managed land and forests. This plan calls for initial investments of both time and financial resources over the next seven years. By year ten of the plan, it is estimated that we will be able to harvest enough wood to provide some substantial income to the Mountain while at the same time increasing our saw timber volume by over 12% and the quality of trees within our forests. Brother Joe is already working with volunteers to clear some of our invasive species on the land and begin this long-term sustainability project.

~**Michael P. Sullivan**

Chair of Buildings and Grounds Committee



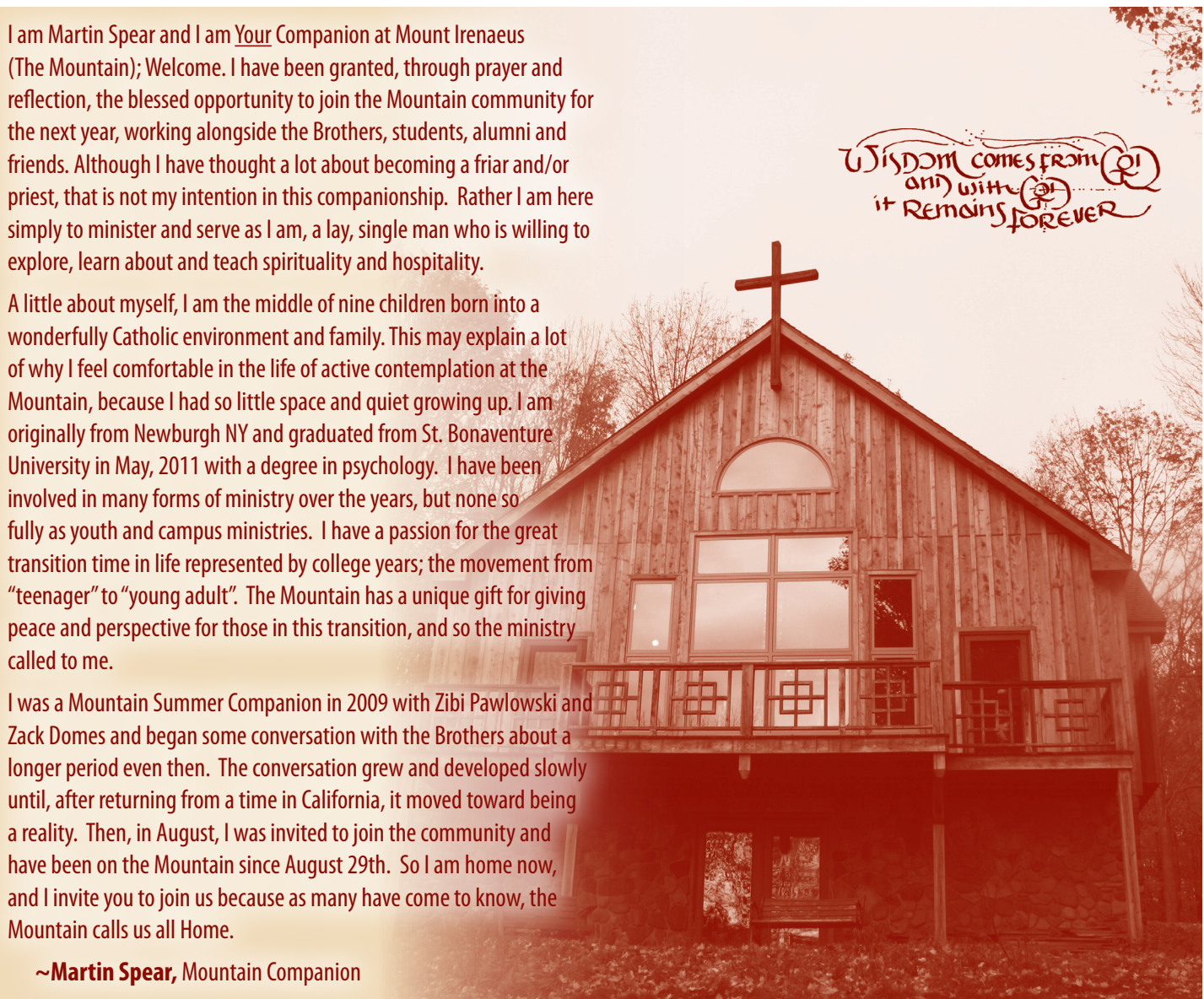
I am Martin Spear and I am Your Companion at Mount Irenaeus (The Mountain); Welcome. I have been granted, through prayer and reflection, the blessed opportunity to join the Mountain community for the next year, working alongside the Brothers, students, alumni and friends. Although I have thought a lot about becoming a friar and/or priest, that is not my intention in this companionship. Rather I am here simply to minister and serve as I am, a lay, single man who is willing to explore, learn about and teach spirituality and hospitality.

A little about myself, I am the middle of nine children born into a wonderfully Catholic environment and family. This may explain a lot of why I feel comfortable in the life of active contemplation at the Mountain, because I had so little space and quiet growing up. I am originally from Newburgh NY and graduated from St. Bonaventure University in May, 2011 with a degree in psychology. I have been involved in many forms of ministry over the years, but none so fully as youth and campus ministries. I have a passion for the great transition time in life represented by college years; the movement from "teenager" to "young adult". The Mountain has a unique gift for giving peace and perspective for those in this transition, and so the ministry called to me.

I was a Mountain Summer Companion in 2009 with Zibi Pawlowski and Zack Domes and began some conversation with the Brothers about a longer period even then. The conversation grew and developed slowly until, after returning from a time in California, it moved toward being a reality. Then, in August, I was invited to join the community and have been on the Mountain since August 29th. So I am home now, and I invite you to join us because as many have come to know, the Mountain calls us all Home.

~Martin Spear, Mountain Companion

WISDOM COMES FROM GOD
AND WITH GOD
IT REMAINS FOREVER



HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Thanksgiving - November 22, 2012

11:00 a.m. Mass

Christmas - December 24, 2012

9:00 p.m.

Christmas Mass at Night

December 25, 2012

11:00 a.m.

Mass for Christmas Day

New Year's - December 31, 2012

11:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Prayer Service

January 1, 2013

11:00 a.m. Mass



Our garden continues to serve our table and with (above) Kevin Kriso, ofm, Martin Spear, John Coughlin, ofm, Lou McCormick, ofm and Joe Kotula, ofm. We were able to freeze various vegetables for our winter meals.



Franciscan Mountain Retreat

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Pictured in the background is a large group of Bonaventure students on the deck of our House of Peace where also gathered SBU Board of Trustees and many others this autumn.

Please support "our Gospel manner of life and ministry" open to all, by making a donation to our annual Mt. Fund. The Mt. Fund supports one third of our yearly operating budget.

We are excited to share that gifts can be made through a number of ways:

Online: visit www.mounti.com/gift-support

Phone: Call 716-375-2096 or 716-375-2081

Recurring Gift: Use your credit card or bank account to make automatic monthly, weekly, or quarterly donations. Contact Michelle Marcellin at 716-375-2096.

Matching Gift: Your employer may match your gift – contact your Human Resource office.

Mail: Send a contribution to Mt. Irenaeus, P.O. Box 100, W. Clarksville, NY 14786.

In Person: While at the Mountain drop a gift in our donation box in the House of Peace, or stop by our office in the Merton Center.

The Mountain is reviewing, within its Development Committee and other fine members of the Mountain family, our concern for and ability to sustain our life. As we look to this we would welcome your prayerful consideration with us about how we might go forward. You will hear more about this in the coming months.

CHRIST YESTERDAY AND TODAY