

“At five-thirty in the morning I am dreaming
in a very quiet room
when a soft voice awakens me from my dream.
I am like all mankind awakening
from all the dreams that ever were dreamed
in all the nights of the world.

It is like the One Christ awakening
in all the separate selves that ever were separate
and isolated and alone in all the lands of the earth...”

-Thomas Merton, *Hagia Sophia*

**Do you find yourself waking up as dawn appears and are you dreaming?
I am. The Mountain is a “field of dreams” and I am in it!**

Mottled deep greens lie lingering in the sleepy shadows of large spruce trees waking up as well standing by our pond. Our sister “Mother Earth” appears in many greens this morning. Slowly, these cool colors, allow the summer sun to spill in on them through the branches of these tall ragged trees... spreading, spreading out in stillness... lightening to a lime green... this light of this day moves as sunlight will, as the earth moves and the sun slips in and over and through everything, warming us, awakening us to this new June day. The fresh fields of a new June and the call to dream!

*“We have seen all the days of creation in one day: this is the day of the waking dawn and all over the field the people are moving, they are coming to praise the Lord: and it is now the first day of creation. We were there on that day and we heard Him say: Let there be light. And we heard him say: Let the firmament be; and water, and dry land, herbs, creeping things, cattle and men. We were there in the beginning for we were there in the morning and we saw the rising of the tent and we have known how it was in the beginning. We have known the creation of the firmament: and of the water, and of the dry land, and of the creatures that moved in the deep, and of the creatures that moved on the land, and of the creation of men: the waking of the acrobats. **We have known these things from the beginning of the morning, for we woke early. We rose and came to the field.”***

-Robert Lax, *The Circus of the Sun*

Bob Lax, in his own solitude, and his friend, Tom Merton, wrote in their own way of the delight and desires that come with opening to creation, creation opening to us. To the life and light that is in this summer moment, breaking now upon us. “Like the first morning of the world”, “the first day of creation”.



Mt. IRENAEUS

FRANCISCAN MOUNTAIN RETREAT

Visit Mt. Irenaeus online at www.mounti.com or email us at mountain@sbu.edu



"We rose and came into the field!" I woke early and took coffee out to look upon this dappled field by the pond and found myself wanting to write you as I sat on the deck of St. Joe's cabin. The morning filled the field and my heart. A hummingbird dashed by, stood – as we say – in thin air! He found the geranium flowering beside me about a foot away and took nectar from it! This bold bird awakening to its own needs, awaking me to mine, to be here, to be-hold the wonder of this day's morning, this moment, with Wisdom's light playing, this bird, the life that is given to me ... and to you!

Here held by this Mysterious "Mother Earth", "invisible fecundity", the deep green of shadowy Self, the place from which life comes and the lightening bright green of this spring's grasses, our hearts and souls begin to welcome the lushness of this day. All this comes to us arising and "coming into this field." Here we come upon hope. Hope finds us here and we smile. Sensing even now the burdens and dangers other's experience in their arising, trying to arise up today. And we wake to our own work of this day yet to begin. None the less, the day plays here before us, the sun circles and we are in "the circus of the sun!" The field that is before us and within us opening our eye, "the eye of our heart."

Christ *is risen*... and rises still... quiet now in the stillness that you and I share we let Christ visit our busy hearts... with all human kind "awakening from all the dreams ever dreamed... in all the nights of the world."

This light of Christ casts out the shadow of yesterday's fears while it unsettles our settledness. I sit and notice that both light and shadows move. You and I allow ourselves to drift a bit as we see and hear, experience the invitation to "come and see". The sun, and the bright green and ruby throated bird hummed through here, the light wind and water and all of this laps us into awareness of where we rest. *Prayer, not named yet, for it too creeps in arises in us for all others in this moment that is "all in all".* A-mazed and grateful, we sense the summer days ahead, the needs we might have this summer as well as hopes for relaxation, renewed joy and enjoyment. Smile and "come into the field", maybe in the city or at a kitchen table now.

Enjoy these days! God, the shy and humble One, all Power and Mystery, lingers and almost "lurks here" like lazy shadows lying, waiting for us in the shade of our own hearts and in this moment. Often noticeably unnoticed... still God stays and smiles!

God's color seems now to be green or possibly the darkness before awakening, to our light even now as we find fullness, the other side of worry finding our way to quiet, rest and reading. *Dreams awaken in our stillness and still want to waken if we listen to each other, to a friend, smile even now as this summer opens, and trees sway with all their limber strength.* The whole earth is new! Wants a summertime of becoming new and reawakening this, our hope, making us "living stones" for the new.

Come and enjoy summertime on the Mountain! Let the Mountain be part of your summer! Let this "greening" join you in your home and workplace so that our moments in shade might witness to us that from out of our "tombs" and other times Christ is risen! God goes "before us" into these summer moments and lively times. We will find Christ there, possibly the God of no name, as we listen and allow ourselves to be loved by Mystery, by this moment, by this greening, by this rising light of fields we might look upon, walk in by which we are stirred to dream with all the world. We allow ourselves the lush longings of the shadows for a moment. Trusting their dark green as a promise of tender shoots that rise to bloom soon with a new dawn.



A doe and her fawn stand in our new meadow in the evening's light.



“There is in all visible things an invisible fecundity, a dimmed light, a meek namelessness, a hidden wholeness. This mysterious Unity and Integrity is Wisdom, the Mother of all,... I am awakened, I am born again at the voice of this my Sister, sent to me from the depths of the divine fecundity.”

-Thomas Merton, Hagia Sophia

Now, you might wish to sit quietly wherever we found each other-

Open the Psalms or other texts, or stay with one of these images - find a chair, a blanket, a bench in the garden, a friend in the shade. You may paint, enter a reflection in your journal, take a leaf of grass or clover and chew it...

Enjoy and savor the places and times which await you in your own backyard, in a park nearby, beside a pond or river as well as on the Mountain.

We will be with you in prayer my friend, these coming months as we wake from our own sleepy places and let the summer light spill in upon us here and “on the road” in homes that become “the Mountain” for others and become the greening of all of our hopes.

For we are to rise together and come into the field!

*the Hope of Now!
“all things”
Danofm*



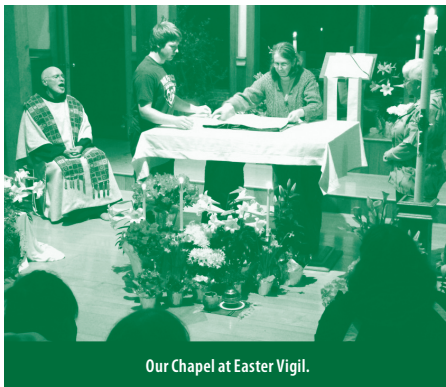
Ginny Fuller, Kevin Kriso, ofm, and Ryan Schlosser harvest leeks for Holy Week soup.



A group of Bonaventure students prepare an evening meal.



A “Mountain in Your Home” at John & Jeanie Scarzafava’s home in Sonoma, CA.



Our Chapel at Easter Vigil.



The first Springtime dip in the Mountain pond!

UPCOMING DATES FOR SUMMER 2011

June 24-25 Third and Eleventh, Fourth and Fifth Step Workshops

Summer Events

On Friday we begin with steps three and eleven and then Saturday will be divided into two parts. In the morning participants will go through writing exercises about their fears, etc. (Step Four). After a dish to pass lunch, participants who wish will share their inventory with another participant (Step Five).

As with this and all other overnights and Evenings of Re-Creation, you may find more information by contacting us at 716-375-2096 or by email at mmarc@sbu.edu. If you wish to stay overnight, please make reservations by calling 585-973-2470 and speak with Fr. Louis McCormick.

June 27- July 1 Contemplative Days

For over six years now, we have gathered as sisters and brothers from various traditions and practices.

We celebrate the summer "Seeing Things Differently... All Things New!" The transformational power of contemplative practice.

June 29- August 3 Summer Evenings of Re-Creation begin and continue every Wednesday until Aug. 3 - A Transformation of Consciousness:

Summer Evenings of Re-Creation

"To make all things new in Jesus Christ" is the Mountain's mission. We look this summer for the new life that is emerging when old structures of society and Church seem to be passing away. We are an Easter people who celebrate the resurrection. Witnessing to Christ who has risen from the dead and calls us to the new life that comes after death.

With Eucharist at 4:45, 6 pm dish to pass supper and 7:30 time in our chapel for prayer, teaching and conversation, we will be "listening" to one another seeing life as a pilgrimage finding renewal in nature reconciling what appears to be divided, hearing what might transform us and the world.

July 14-16 Circle for Animation
A gathering of members of our "Circle for Animation".

July 15-17 Mountain Coordinator/Intern Weekend

July 18 "Mountain in Your Home" in Chicago, IL
– please see our website for more details

July 23 "Mountain in Your Home" in Pittsburgh, PA
– please see our website for more details

Aug. 5-6 Franciscan Sojourner's Weekend

Aug. 28 New St. Bonaventure University Student Orientation at Mt. Irenaeus

Fall Preview

Sept. 10 Camping Overnight at the Mountain

Sept. 24 Family Weekend Open House at the Mountain

Oct. 1 Francis Week Overnight at Mt. Irenaeus

Oct. 14 Retreat for Formation

Oct. 14-16 Mt. Irenaeus Board of Trustees Meeting

Nov. 5 Annual Mountain Auction

Nov. 23-25 Thanksgiving

If you would like more information on our upcoming events, please contact us at Mountain@sbu.edu or 716-375-2096. Some additional information particular to our "Mountain in Your Home" and Wednesday Evenings...may be found on our website www.mounti.com or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/mtirenaeus.

Spring has Sprung! Alleluia! Sr. Rain has filled Mother Earth with much water and now Br. Sun is bathing all of the Mountain with warmth and light and the result is tremendous growth. We are blessed to have such a life. In addition to our blessings we have much to tend to and could use your help! The gardens need constant care, the trails need a major clearing of branches, there are entrance doors that need painting, the 50 windows in the House of Peace need attention, the grass needs to be cared for and the equipment needs to be kept in good shape. So perhaps you could adopt a flower bed, or help out with any of the other chores. We need you and hope you might have time to experience the Mountain through manual labor. If you can help, please contact Br. Joe at 585-973-2470 or jkotula7@gmail.com -Peace, Br. Joe

DAILY SCHEDULE

Monday ~ Wednesday ~ Friday

Morning Prayer – 8:00 a.m. • Mass – 4:45 p.m. • Evening Prayer – 7:45 p.m.

Tuesday ~ Thursday

Morning Prayer – 8:00 a.m. • Evening Prayer – at table • Mass – 7:45 p.m.

Sunday

Mass – 11:00 a.m. followed by a dish to pass brunch.

Evening Prayer – after supper

BEGIN ANEW, OUR LIFE AS TRANSFORMATIONAL ...
"GOSPEL MOUNTAIN MANNER OF LIFE AND MINISTRY OPEN TO ALL."

"Climb the Mountain!"

We have begun a Mountain style formation process to our Gospel manner of life and ministry. You are welcome to join us as we draw together conversation circles of four or five persons from various places and homes.

With the leadership of **Paul Kline, Michelle Marcellin, Louie McCormick**, along with others, we are "beginning anew" to find ways to let light and wisdom open to us, renewing, refreshing our lives and our commitments.

Passages from our Mountain Vision Statement might help us consider this:

"We find, then, an education for life here on the Mountain so that we might live more fully elsewhere with others."

And:

"Jesus models a way of servant leadership that we seek to follow and to reflect upon with one another. We find many concrete examples of this model in the lives of Francis and Clare as well, and certainly throughout the Gospel ... these 'places' of learning where we seek and come to know this God who heals us all and who 'makes all things new.'"

You might have thought or wondered, "How do I take the Mountain home?" "As I move around in my own work and daily life, hard and happy times, what helps me find the core and convergence of my faith and values?" "I would like to find a way, I want to grow so that I can learn how to share the Mountain with others."



There is still time to join us. Contact Michelle Marcellin (mmarc@sbu.edu; 716-375-2096) if you would like to join one of these conversation circles and, in particular, if you have more questions. Paul Kline or Dan Riley, ofm and others are ready to respond to your questions or interest.



Our leadership team for our Alumni Mass and Gathering in Boston, MA.



Joe Flanagan, Director of SBU Alumni Services, speaks to us in S. California.



Brian Cummings, SSE, and Dan Riley, ofm with faculty staff, administrators and retreatants from St. Michael's College in Vermont.



Franciscan Mountain Retreat

Box 100 West Clarksville, NY 14786

Tel. (585) 973-2470

Fax (585) 973-2400

Office (716) 375-2096

Visit us online.

www.mounti.com

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 3
West Clarksville, NY 14786

 **Consider joining us for our Fall 2011 Mountain Family Retreat, October 14-16.**

Many thanks to all of you who made a gift to our Mt. Fund and to those who volunteered their time to make phonathon calls. We have reached our 2010-2011 Mt. Fund goal! We could not have achieved our goal without you! As you know the annual Mt. Fund supports one third of the Mountain's operating budget. Your gifts & efforts make it possible to continue all the good work done at the Mountain and "on the road".

This year's Mt. Fund goal has been set for \$147,000 to be reached by May 31, 2012. Please know that you may make a donation in the following ways: go to www.mounti.com and click the "Give and Support" link; send in a check to Mt. Irenaeus, P.O. Box 100 W. Clarksville, NY 14786; or contact Mary Schlosser our Coordinator of Development & Volunteers at mschloss@sbu.edu or 716-375-2081.

Thank You - Mary Schlosser, Coordinator of Development and Volunteers

NOVEMBER 5, 2011 – OUR 11TH ANNUAL MOUNTAIN AUCTION

Our dedicated Auction Committee is hoping that you and others would be willing to help us by hosting a gift gathering party. Each of these simple and very enjoyable events have been tailored by our friend and host according to their own home, local, time, etc. If you would like more information about hosting a party with a purpose, or to receive additional information, please contact Margaret Bryner at mbryner@sbu.edu or 716-373-0807.