



**“Send forth your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth,
enkindle in us the fire of your love!”**

Hot spring days and now some incredibly warm summer ones came on quickly after a cold winter that stayed beyond its invitation here in the hills of Allegany County, Western New York.

Nonetheless, people continue to come, possibly you were with us, warmed by the presence of one another here at the Mountain seeking God’s breath, God’s Spirit of peace at Mt. Irenaeus. We have been remembering the beautiful prayer that we pray throughout the year, particularly at Pentecost and now as we move into the summer months. We continue to ask God to “send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth, enkindle in us the fire of your love!”

“We welcome you on our journey: we who find ourselves blessed to claim the mission of Mt. Irenaeus. We believe that we are one with all peoples, cultures and indeed all creation in the ancient longing to find and to live-in peace. The peace we seek is healing and lasting and ‘makes all things new.’”

The above is the opening to our Vision Statement for Mt. Irenaeus. Over time we hope to begin to reflect more and more on what indeed are our grounding documents – our intuitions and early dreams. These are the ways in which we taught each other the possible and converged “heart to heart” the real into a Mountain mission. These still-inspiring words lend direction as well as confirm purpose for whom and what we are today here at the Mountain and beyond. (You will find this Vision Statement arising on our website soon in an e-newsletter, possibly in my podcasts.)

The word peace, expressed so often and anew each time – peace, peace to all people, peace on the earth, peace with our Mother, Sister earth, peace, may it dwell in your heart. Peace, our longing for it my sisters and brothers for Shalom, Salaam, Paz, Pax, Pace, Mir, and so many other ways of languaging as it was so crisply burned into the table before our fireplace - peace is a path, a doing and being “word” all and at once. And, our hearth is a place where we gather, where we come here on both warm and cold days. It is the place where the fire of our hearts and hearth hold our longing for peace as we hold one another and our stories hoping, working for peace.

Mt. IRENAEUS

FRANCISCAN MOUNTAIN RETREAT

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



The Mountain has always been a refuge for those who (as we say in our Vision Statement and like St. Bonaventure and St. Francis also went to a mountain – La Verna in Italy) “are panting after this peace.” Bonaventure notes well in his “Itinerarium – The Soul’s Journey into God,” that this peace “is beyond all understanding.” So our seeking is endless and for everyone. Our path is one of hope and trust. We search and walk together for what is beyond literal expressions. Logos for Christians “the Christ” is this ultimate meaning, this outpouring love, this naked goodness arising now in the greening of creation, the newness of our springtime that images for us the person and path of Jesus Christ.

To “be beyond understanding” is not to be without it in our hearts. It is not so much out of our hands as it is something “out of our mind!” It is beyond our ability to think thoughts that would grasp or shape an adequate concept of what life is like “in peace, at peace.” You might have read, or might read now, an old classic, “Courage to Create,” by **Rolo May** – a significant psychologist. You and I are choosing a journey to be courageous enough to find and create ways of peace for ourselves and all creation. This is risky and also not what we think of as “popular.” And so, there is critical need for visions of hope, “pictures of peace,” narratives of our longings and stories when we have felt we found it. When it has found us. Being held in the heart and the eye of God *is* our peace. We too, as expressed in our Vision Statement, “have experienced many things within us and without us that draw away or lead us into doubt and division. We choose, then, to seek to understand and serve those who still experience alienation, hurt or ARE estranged and ‘find life burdensome.’” As Thomas Merton said in Calcutta, before his death in Bangkok in 1968, “We are discovering our original unity ... we are already one.”

Completing the first paragraph of our Mountain Vision Statement, I share with you these initial reflections, knowing that others will chime in here, offering you the clear bell of peace as it rings out from their hearts. They offer their invitation, their own words, that invite you to join us through these summer months and in the coming months beyond to share in the life of this place.

We welcome you into the restfulness of the land, the work of the day and occasional projects as new life springs up and the fullness of bloom and foliage fills the hills. Leaves have come as their own bright green and move now in the air around La Paz, the hermitage, as I complete this short reflection. Warm days have moved to cold and the cool late spring leans into hopefully, a long warm summer for us all. Come and rest with us. Come rest in the clear, clean, cool green of hope, “the hope that surpasses all understanding,” the peace – draw a breath, it is with you, it is here – it is beyond all understanding.

*Peace!
is just for*

GREENER than any other GREEN



At the Chapel rededication, new names were added to our Labyrinth Garden of Remembrance.



Allie Leis a 2013 Bona grad shows her love for the Mountain on her graduation cap.



Seniors from St. Bonaventure University's class of 2013 came to the Mountain to reflect on their upcoming graduation and their time at SBU.

After hearing the Vision Statement read so often over many years, I'm not always eager to hear it read again. Yet it does need to be continually read and heard again because there are always those who haven't heard it very much, or at all. Hopefully, the hearing becomes the living. Living the Vision Statement is a whole different matter because that is what life here at the Mountain is all about. The statement "we chose to seek to understand and to serve those who still experience alienation..." is lived every time the front door opens to welcome another person or group. It is lived every time the telephone is answered, anytime Mountain people are on campus, or "on the road" in someone's home - or in Tops Market. The hearing becoming the living follows the Gospel model, which is always the Mountain model. Living the Vision Statement becomes part of the air we breathe wherever we are. "Welcome on the journey" indeed! How blessed we are to be called forth on that journey, and the companions we are given to share it. When you feel yourself "panting after peace", stop in for a visit, call for a chat, open up the website or listen to the latest podcast. Peace and be well!

~ Lou McCormick, ofm



Many friends of the Mountain, including Mike and Nancy Jennings, attended the Chapel Rededication.



Early spring comes to Juniper Cabin overlooking the meadow.

Summer Events

August 2-4, 2013

Summer Renewal Weekend

September 18, 2013

Rochester Mountain in Your Home

**Summer Evenings of Recreation
at Mt. Irenaeus**

"Unfolding the Good News for Today's World"
July 17, 24 and 31

Evening Prayer 5:15 PM

Quiet time on the land

6:30 Dish to Pass Supper

Eucharist 7:30 PM

Call to arrange transportation 585-973-2470
or drive your own vehicle.

Driving directions can be found at
www.mounti.com

All are welcome!

***"We are Mountain people readying for
the marketplace. We are marketplace
people looking for the Mountain."***

***"Food for the Journey:
Weekends of Renewal for Mountain Companions"***

August 2-4, 2013

September 27-29, 2013

As followers of Jesus and friends of Francis and Clare we are called to live as instruments of peace and healing in a world that is aching to hear the good news!

Come back to the Mountain for a weekend of rest, renewal and enrichment with friends old and new.

Experience, again, God's gentle Presence in the stillness and beauty of the woods and the Chapel!

Come and be nourished around the table of the altar and the main house!

Come and receive food for your "good journey!"

Register and reserve your space on the Mountain at mmarc@sbu.edu.

For more information contact:

Fr. Dan (mmarc@sbu.edu) or Paul Kline (kline@bc.edu)

*(If you can't complete the whole weekend,
join us for an overnight or a day!)*

I have always known that Mt. Irenaeus was a special place. I had not understood its full impact on me until I was asked this question, "If money was not object, what would you be doing?" My answer was, "I would be at the Mountain," which was not what the questioner expected. Confused he replied, "Not where, what?" I told him that they go hand in hand, then went on to explain what the Mountain was and that my reply meant that I would give myself to God. He had one more question for me, "Why aren't you pursuing this?" I quickly responded with all the normal excuses about responsibilities, etc; he just shook his head.

A few days passed and the thought of giving myself to the Lord and going into religious life would not leave my head. "I realized that this is something that I had to pursue. Now, almost two years later, I have entered my candidacy with the Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown, New York. It may not be the Mountain, but is where God has lead me.

~ **Patty Urbinelli, SBU '92**



Late April was a busy time at the Mountain. Bishop Malone's visit followed up in the same week with the rededication of Holy Peace Chapel were both blessed occasions. Signs of spring renewal were alive and well that week. I recall the sunshine and warm temperatures urging tree buds to literally burst into flower over the course of two days. What a sight! All of this natural splendor coinciding with spiritual rebirth and an outpouring of gratitude for what has been, what is and what is to come.



Many St. Bonaventure students were in attendance for the Bishop's visit sharing their stories of what the Mountain means to them. As we went around the Chapel sharing a word or two that we associate with the Mountain, themes began to emerge such as family...gratitude...peace...love...and renewal. For the students who call the Mountain "home" and say that it "feels like family" when they are away from both, the Mountain serves as a respite from the hustle and bustle of campus life and a way for them to reconnect with their faith. How wondrous to have these reminders of the many gifts the Mountain provides to so many: a place of quiet and connection to each other, to God and all creation. I am profoundly grateful to have been present at these events to be reminded how the Mountain continues to grow and touch people's lives, "making all things new."

~ **Erica Fleischman Roethel,**
Mt. Irenaeus Board of Trustees member



Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., S.T.D., President of St. Bonaventure University, and other friends of the Mountain celebrate time with Bishop Malone.



Bishop Malone addresses those gathered at the House of Peace.



The Mountain Community gathers for Grace.



Mt. Irenaeus has a very dear and special meaning to myself and my wife, Marcia. Our daughter (**Elizabeth**) spent 4 years at St. Bonaventure University and made many spiritual retreats at Mt. Irenaeus. Our other daughter, **Christina**, currently attends St. Bonaventure and finds so much spiritual fulfillment at Mt. Irenaeus. Thank you for touching their lives.

~ In Christ's love,
Gene and Marcia D'Onofrio

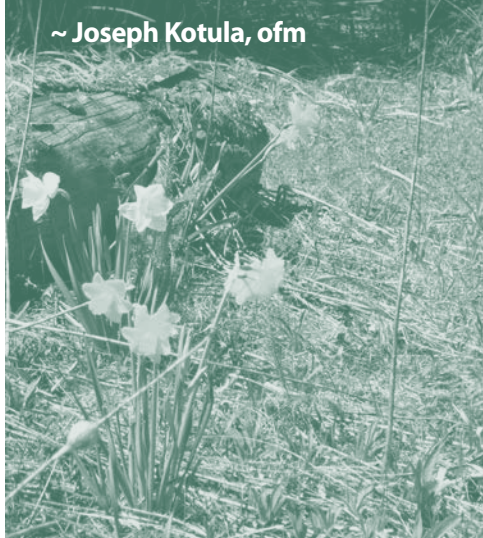
What a gift! Our Gospel manner of life and ministry was acknowledged through **Dan Riley**, ofm at St Michael's College in Vermont on May 12, 2013. St Michael's bestowed Dan with an honorary degree. I was blessed to be there as we celebrated this great gift.

Friday evening we had a "Mountain on the Road" event and there were about 40 people from St. Michael's and the surrounding area; some were Bonaventure Alums. We gathered together to hear the readings from scripture and share faith. The gathering was very prayerful for all. The Edmundites hosted us for a very nice meal after our time in prayer.

Saturday we participated in the Baccalaureate Mass where the Bishop presided and Dan wonderfully proclaimed the Gospel. Afterwards we enjoyed dinner with the President of the University and all the honorees and their guests. At the end of dinner each honoree was asked to share a few words. I experienced a deep sense of gratitude in the room as each person shared their stories.

The next day was Commencement and I felt blessed to witness Dan receiving the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. Dan Riley lives a life of relationship and that is the gospel manner of life and ministry that is in our documents. Through that whole experience I recognized many people expressing gratitude for their experience of Dan and how he touched their lives. Praise God!

~ **Joseph Kotula, ofm**



It truly was a special blessing to have Fr. Dan with us at Saint Michael's once again. He has shared so much with our community - from offering days of recollection to our Campus Ministry staff, Edmundite priests, and Diocesan priests, to leading a retreat weekend for our Faculty and Staff, to simply his deep presence to each one of us that he extends whenever our journeys cross. Being able to honor him in the way of an honorary doctorate was truly meaningful for our community to recognize all that Fr. Dan has done, both in his ongoing presence to our campus community as well as the great vision and passion he has given to building up the community at Mt. Irenaeus and St. Bonaventure. Having Fr. Dan and Br. Joe offer a "Mountain on the Road" for us was especially moving and poignant. He has a way of bringing us all into that moment and space that seems to instantly make us feel connected with one another, whether a St. Bonaventure alum or member of the Saint Michael's community. By inviting us to accept being God's beloved and really experience what it means to be known, by God and by each other, offers a deep peace in that moment of belonging. Fr. Dan's way of being fully and utterly present to whomever he is with...gently affirming and sincerely joyful to be with each person...is a great model of faith and seems to immediately give us the freedom to be that way with each other.

~ **Anna Lester**
Edmundite Campus Ministry
Saint Michael's College



What a wonderful experience it was to be with Father Dan and witness him receiving an Honorary Degree from St. Michael's College. When he spoke at the special President's Dinner the night before commencement the entire room fell silent and our hearts were touched by Dan's words as his face lit up in talking about our great Lord being among us, reaching out beyond Mt. Irenaeus, making new friends, and living our lives with the passion of Christ.

~ **Paul & Eileen Kendall SBU '85**





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 Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 869
Erie, PA

New Email Newsletter!

In addition to the printed newsletter you're reading, we will begin publishing a monthly email newsletter soon. We invite you to subscribe as we expand ministry to more online mediums.

Sign up by:

- Texting MOUNTAIN to 42828
- Visiting www.mounti.com/subscribe



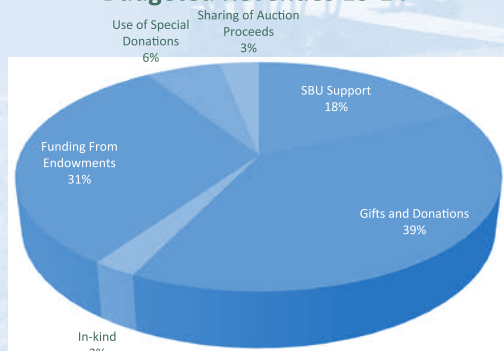
Sign up soon for the Weekend of Renewal August 2-4 (mmarc@sbu.edu)

We exceeded our Mt. Fund goal again this year!

I want to thank all of our generous supporters and volunteers as we once again exceeded our Mt. Fund goal by raising over \$167,000. Special thanks to our Mt. Fund chairperson, Marv Stocker, who is a blessing to work with and never tires of making calls for the Mountain!

I thought you might be interested in seeing the yearly operating budget for the Mountain and how it is funded.

Budgeted Revenues 13-14



Thanks so much and please do not hesitate to contact me if you are interested in volunteering or donating to the Mountain ~
Mary Schlosser, Coordinator of Development and Volunteers
716-375-2081, mschlosser@sbu.edu

MOUNTAIN AUCTION TO TAKE PLACE NOVEMBER 2, 2013

The planning for the Auction is underway. The evening begins with the celebration of Mass at 5:00 pm in the University Chapel on the St. Bonaventure University campus. Auction/Social begins at 6:00 pm in the Robert R. Jones Board of Trustees Room, Doyle Hall, where cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts will be served. This evening has become a very popular social, spiritual and beneficial one for the Mountain and all who attend.

The Auction has been our largest fundraising gathering each year with over \$30,000 raised and donated last year. The gathering is successful each year because of the generous gifts donated. If you would like to donate a gift, host a gift gathering party or receive additional information please contact Michelle Marcellin at mmarc@sbu.edu or 716-375-2096.

