

NEUMANN INSTITUTE NEWS

A Publication of the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies

Volume 22, Issue 1

August 2019



University-wide Theme for 2019-2020: *Live the Truth in Love: Reverence*

At Neumann University we emphasize three aspects of **Reverence**:

- ♦ We honor the worth and dignity of each person.
- ♦ We celebrate our relationship as sisters and brothers with one another and all creation.
- ♦ We create a compassionate, welcoming, and reconciling community.

The Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies has planned several programs related to the value of **Reverence**. These programs respond to the recommendations received on past evaluations and the 2018-2019 required institutional effectiveness assessment of the Neumann Institute. In summary, the institutional effectiveness assessment revealed priority for the following type programs:

- *Book Studies* (This semester's Book Study honors the 800th anniversary of the meeting of St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan Malek al-Kamil and develops the idea of *Reverence as Sacred Encounter*)
- 60-90 minute programs offered multiple times throughout the year (We will offer multiple opportunities to discuss an article by Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, entitled *Sacred Encounters: The Heart of Franciscan Education*)
- *Reverence Reflection Guides* for personal use and sharing at regularly scheduled division and unit meetings (A reflection booklet was distributed on Welcome Back Day.)
- Continued focus on learning more about *St. Clare of Assisi* (We will offer an Advent Evening of reflection and a Lenten Lunch and Learn)
- Continued focus on *Environmental Stewardship* (We have exciting plans for celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the publication of *Laudato Si* and the 50th Anniversary of *Earth Day*. The NIFS is also collaborating with other University units to increase our efforts to *reduce, reuse, and recycle!*)
- Promotion of existing online opportunities for education in the Franciscan tradition (See descriptions in this newsletter.)

*Loved unconditionally by God,
we are invited to love, support, and care for life in all
stages, from conception to natural death.
We respect diversity in all forms and seek to reconcile
divisions of any kind. We promote communications
which are meaningful, honest, and inclusive by listen-
ing reflectively to one another and encouraging vary-
ing points of view.*

Book Study on *Daring to Cross the Threshold: Francis of Assisi Encounters Sultan Malek Al-Kamil* by Kathleen Warren, OSF

In her article *Sacred Encounters: The Heart of Franciscan Education*, Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ says, "There is no better example of (sacred encounter) for me than the inspiring story of Francis of Assisi and the Sultan...In the 'other,' the Sultan, the believer of another faith, Francis sees his brother. Their encounter is sacred. It produces a change in (their) thinking, and in the way (they) look upon the world" (p. 26-27).

In her short book, Sr. Kathy provides insights into the historical, social, and cultural context of the sacred encounter between these two men. In addition, the book offers profound insights into the nature of interpersonal dialogue, barriers to such conversation, and suggestions for creating a climate where every voice is welcomed with reverence.

When you register for the book study, you will receive the book and a discussion guide. The book study will include three meetings with an opportunity to share insights and questions with colleagues on the following dates:

September 18

Breakfast 8:00 to 9:00 AM
Introduction and Chapters 1 & 2

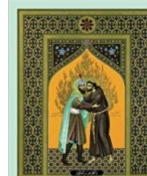
October 17

Lunch from 11:20 to 12:50
Chapters 3 & 4

November 19

Wine and Cheese from 4:20 to 5:50
Chapter 5

DARING TO CROSS THE THRESHOLD



Kathleen Warren

All sessions will be held in the Devine Hospitality Suite. Please register on or before September 6, 2019 by contacting Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy at mccarthm@neumann.edu

**Reflections on Sacred Encounters:
The Heart of Franciscan Education
by Sr. Mary Beth Ingham, CSJ**

Sacred encounters with one another and with creation give concrete expression to the value of **Reverence**. In her short 6-page article, Sr. Mary Beth reflects:

It is in our educational practice that we encounter the world as the locus of beauty and goodness, the place where we discover the unique individuals that we are, the place where we encounter the divine in our lives and the lives of others.

Our vocation (is) to recognize and promote the dignity, the development and the integration of each student, each person, as one of inestimable value given by God.

The 60-90 minute reflections offer an opportunity to gain insights into Reverence through sharing with colleagues. You are invited to attend any of the following sessions:

Tea and Conversation

Thursday, October 31, 2019 2:40 to 4:10 PM

Thursday, February 20, 2020 2:40 to 4:10 PM

Lunch and Conversation

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 12:40 to 1:40 PM

Tuesday, January 7, 2020 12:30 to 1:30 PM

All Sessions are in the Devine Hospitality Suite. When you register, you will receive an electronic or paper copy of the article. [Please register as least 2 weeks before the session you plan to attend by contacting Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy at \[mccarshm@neumann.edu\]\(mailto:mccarshm@neumann.edu\).](#)

Reflections on Reverence Booklet

One of the recommendations from the NIFS institutional effectiveness assessment was to offer a “Do it Yourself” type resource on Reverence that could be used for personal reflection and prayer and/or discussion at regularly scheduled meetings. The **Reverence Guide** was distributed on Welcome Back Day and is posted on the NIFS website. We also invite you to participate in one of the always popular Tea and Conversations from 3:00 to 4:00 PM at the Ministry House on one of the following dates:

Monday, September 23, 2019

Thursday, November 14, 2019

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Monday, March 2, 2020



[Please register as least 2 weeks before the session you plan to attend by contacting Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy at \[mccarshm@neumann.edu\]\(mailto:mccarshm@neumann.edu\)](#)

Meeting St. Clare of Assisi

Over the past few years, many have questioned why we do so little to promote understanding of the place of St. Clare of Assisi in the Franciscan tradition. To respond to this question, we invited Dr. Eileen Flanagan to develop a presentation on *Clare of Assisi and her legacy to the Franciscan world* in March 2019. Evaluations of the Dr. Flanagan’s presentation were so positive that we have engaged Dr. Flanagan to offer two presentations this year:

**Advent Dinner and Evening of Reflection on December 3, 2019
from 5:15 to 8:00 PM in the Franciscan Spiritual Center on
*Clare of Assisi and Advent Prayer: Lectio Divina.***



A description of the presentation follows:

In the *Letters to Agnes of Prague*, Clare instructs Agnes, a prominent princess who desires to follow the way of life practiced by Clare and her Poor Sisters in San Damiano. Mandated by the papacy to follow the *Rule of Benedict*, Clare integrates Benedictine wisdom, especially the method of *lectio divina*, and shares her own unique approach to *lectio* and *meditatio* with Agnes. Our Advent evening will focus on engaging Clare’s graced insights about “gazing” on the medieval mirror, a metaphor “for Him who was placed in a manger and wrapped in tiny garments” (4 LAg 19).

Please register before November 22, 2019 by contacting Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy at mccarshm@neumann.edu When you register, indicate whether you will attend dinner and talk (beginning at 5:15 PM) or talk only (beginning at 6:00 PM).

On April 7, 2020 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM, Dr. Flanagan will offer a second presentation on *Clare and Prayer in the Devine Hospitality Suite*. Look for additional details in January! Please register by March 27, 2020 by contacting Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy at mccarshm@neumann.edu

Campus-wide Focus on Environmental Reverence and Stewardship

Care for Creation is an essential commitment in the Franciscan tradition. In 1979, Pope John Paul II named St. Francis of Assisi the patron of those who promote ecology in. In the encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home*, Pope Francis wrote: "I believe that St. Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically." Over the years, Neumann University has demonstrated a strong commitment to care for creation through both education and action. The NIFS has offered programs dedicated to environmental awareness and stewardship during Lent of every year. These programs have included book studies and discussions, prayer services, and presentations by Neumann faculty, staff, and invited guests. Concrete actions have included the installation of several water bottle filling stations in various locations on campus, purchase of distinctive trash and recycling containers, initiation of tray-less meals in the cafeteria to limit food waste, participation in composting efforts through Kitchen Harvest with Linville Orchards, conversion to recyclable containers in the Knights and Crossroads cafes, and more! This past year Vice President for Finance Gene McWilliams invited Amy McDowell, President of Waste Matters, to collaborate with Neumann to examine current waste management practices as the basis for developing and coordinating additional campus-wide efforts to become even more engaged stewards of creation! The 2019-2020 year is an especially appropriate year to intensify efforts on behalf of the environment because we will mark the 5th Anniversary of the publication of *Laudato Si* and the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day!

To coordinate efforts, a campus-wide **Care for Creation Advisory Council** is being formed.

The initial organizational meeting of this Council will take place

on **September 17 from 3 to 4:30 PM**

in the Assisi Room of Bachmann Main.

If you wish to join this effort, please email Pat Evans at evansp@neumann.edu.

Please save the following dates for NIFS sponsored Care of Creation events:

Season of Creation Prayer Service on Friday, September 13 at noon in Sacred Heart Chapel

To learn more about the Season creation, visit <https://seasonofcreation.org/>.

Lenten Soup and Sharings from 12:40 to 1:40 PM in the Library Classroom
on the following Fridays: March 20, March 27, and April 3, 2020.

Earth Week Mass and Festival on April 22, 2020



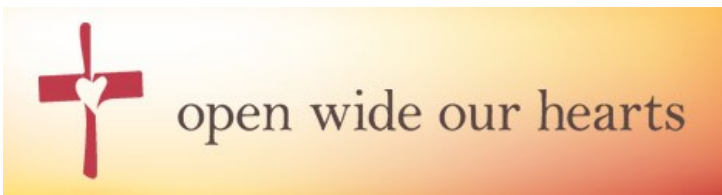
Pastoral Letter on Racism II

In November 2018, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops released a long-awaited Pastoral letter on Racism entitled *Open Wide our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*.

"But racism still profoundly affects our culture, and it has no place in the Christian heart."

In February 2019, Father Stephen Thorne offered a presentation on this critical document. Attended by more than 100 faculty, staff, and students, this presentation was so well-received that we have invited Father Thorne to offer a second session in February 2020.

The session is tentatively scheduled for February 5, 2020 from 12:40 to 1:40 PM in the Student Multipurpose Hall of the Mullen Center. In early January, we will confirm the date and send a registration reminder!



AFCU Symposium 2020



Every other year, The Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU) sponsors a Symposium that brings together faculty, staff, administrators, and students from the 24 Franciscan colleges and universities.

The next AFCU Symposium will take place on our campus from June 2-4, 2020!

The theme of the 2020 AFCU Symposium is ***Distinctively Franciscan, Vibrantly Catholic: The Franciscan Tradition's Unique Contribution to Catholic Education***.

To learn more about the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities, consider participating in a

Tea and Conversation session on Thursday, September 26, from 2:40 to 4:10 PM in the Assisi Room.

Please register by September 13 by contacting Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy at mccarthy@neumann.edu

Online self-paced course on the Franciscan tradition

The Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU) has developed a resource for faculty and staff who wish to incorporate elements of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition (FIT) into their teaching or ministry. This course allows faculty and staff members to identify key elements of the FIT, to locate and utilize FIT resources, to understand ways to incorporate the FIT in specific courses and programs, and to develop learning activities. The course is self-paced and is in the form of a PowerPoint presentation.

You can access and download the course here: <http://franciscancollegesuniversities.org/portfolio-view/the-franciscan-intellectual-tradition-in-your-course/>.

The course is free and designed to be used flexibly. No prior approval is needed but we would like to identify the extent to which the course is used. Please email Sr. Pat Hutchison if you decide to participate.



On-line Certificate in Franciscan Studies

For those who wish a more in-depth and formal program of study, the AFCU offers a four-course certificate program. Courses include:

Understanding Franciscan Origins and Values I	September 15- October 13, 2019
Understanding Franciscan Origins and Values II	October 20- November 17, 2019
Franciscan Spirituality and Evangelical Life	January 13 – February 9, 2020
Franciscan Tradition in Art and Literature	February 16-March 15, 2020

The NIFS can fund this program (\$250 for each course) for a limited number of participants. To discuss and receive additional information, contact Sr. Pat Hutchison!

Building Intercultural Competencies for Catholic Colleges and Universities: *Integrating Intercultural Competencies on Your Campus*

Recognizing the increasing diversity among the students attending Catholic colleges and universities, the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) has developed interactive intercultural competency training workshops.

In September 2018, Dr. Leanne Havis, Mrs. JeNai Righter, and Sr. Pat Hutchison participated in the first train-the-trainer workshop at Chestnut Hill College.

On Tuesday, January 14, 2020, Neumann University will offer this workshop. Look for additional details in future communications.

To learn more about this ACCU initiative, visit <https://www.accunet.org/Programs-Events/Building-Intercultural-Competencies>



Franciscan Spiritual Center Programs (contact NIFS for information on funding)

11/2/19 Saturday 10AM—3 PM	Living Mindfully presented by Susan Long
Friday-Sat. 10/11-12/19	Praying with St. Francis and the Sultan Presented by Michael Calabria OFM
12/12/19 Thursday 7-8 PM	Taize Prayer—Advent with Sister Andrea Likovich OSF
3/9/20 Monday 6:30 PM	Celtic Spirituality Carmel Boyle
3/19/20 Thursday 7-8 PM	Taize Prayer—Lent with Sister Andrea Likovich OSF
3/22/20 Sunday 1PM—4PM	Annual Charism Day <i>Justice and Joy in Challenging Times</i> presented by Sr. Simone Campbell SSS
3/26/20 Thursday 6:30 -7:30 PM	Celebration of the Passover Seder with Rabbi Nathan Martin

IMPORTANT CELEBRATIONS

Mass of the Holy Spirit

Catholic colleges and universities traditionally begin the academic year with a special Mass asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our Mass of the Holy Spirit will be celebrated in the Rose Garden on **Thursday, August 29, at 3:00 PM** (Rain location Meagher Theatre). The time and location have been changed this year with the hope of encouraging additional attendance! After Mass we invite you to join in a Barbecue and assist in serving our students as an expression of our value of Service. The annual student Involvement Fair will follow!

Season of Creation Prayer Service

on Friday, September 13

at noon in Sacred Heart Chapel

To learn more about the Season of Creation, visit <https://seasonofcreation.org/>.

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

On every Franciscan campus, October includes special celebrations connected with the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi.

We encourage attendance at

the **Blessing of Animals at 4 PM on September 29**

and

the **Mass for the Feast of St. Francis at noon on October 4**

in Sacred Heart Chapel.



Bock Book Award 2019

There will be a special **Wine & Cheese Reception on October 1** from 5-6 PM in the Mirenda Center in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the Bock Book Award.

The 20th Bock Book Award is being presented to *Super Manny Cleans Up!*,

written by Kelly DiPucchio and illustrated by Stephanie Graegin,

at the **Award Ceremony on October 2** at 10:30 AM in the Mullen Student Multi-purpose Hall. Come meet the illustrator and learn more about this inspiring tale of involvement and environmentalism.

Spirit of Assisi Prayer Service

In October 1986, Pope John Paul II invited representatives of world religions to Assisi to pray for Peace. This experience came to be called the Spirit of Assisi, reflecting the example of St. Francis as a symbol of peace, reconciliation, and mutual relationship with all people and all creation. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis continued the tradition inviting persons of good will to come to Assisi to pray for peace. In this same "Spirit of Assisi," our Neumann University Peace Pole was dedicated in October 1995. Tens of thousands of Peace Poles in countries around the world each bear the message *May Peace Prevail on Earth* in the diverse languages of our planet. **On Friday, October 25, at 12:30 PM**, please join us at the Peace Pole to pray that we may be instruments of God's peace and justice in our individual lives, in our families, on this campus, in our neighborhoods, and in the world.

Greccio

St. Francis of Assisi was the first to commemorate the birth of Jesus with a live Nativity. Please join us as we commemorate this beautiful tradition! The date and time are currently under discussion. More information to follow!



NIFS Committee 2019-2020

Sr. Patricia Hutchison, OSF, Chair

Robert Benefield

Gail Corso

Richard Cunningham

Lee DelleMonache

Tammy Feil

Claudia Kovach

Jackie Martin

Janet Massey

Sr Linda Sariego

Jo Lynette Watley

Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy,

Administrative Assistant

Sr. Marguerite O'Beirne, OSF,
ex officio

Thank you and Farewell to former committee members:

Jenelle Abnett

Lisa Bjorkelo

Sr. Suzanne Mayer, IHM

Sophia Park

Anne Ramirez

Rev. Stephen Thorne

Sr. Diane Tomkinson, OSF

*Walk with
REVERENCE
in the footsteps
of
Francis,
Clare,
&
John Neumann*



NEUMANN R.I.S.E.S.

on its Values & YOU...