

## Programs at Franciscan Spiritual Center

We are pleased to support participation in the following programs at the Franciscan Spiritual Center. Please register through Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy at least one month prior to the program because spaces are limited.

### ***An Interwoven World: The Christian-Islamic Fabric of Culture*** **presented by Michael Calabria, OFM**

In recent decades it has become a common myth that Christians and Muslims are locked in some sort of “clash of civilizations.” This workshop takes a different view – that the worlds of Christianity and Islam have been interdependent for more than a millennia, freely borrowing from and inspired by one another to produce magnificent works of art and architecture, as well as advances in virtually every field of science. From the words we use to the clothes we wear, and from the places we study to the places we worship, neither Christian nor Muslim communities would be what they are today without the other. This workshop explores the common cultural heritage of Christianity and Islam while considering the sources of current global tensions.

This program is offered from September 26 to 27, 2014. It begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and continues through Saturday afternoon. There is a Sunday Vigil Liturgy celebrated at 4:30 p.m..

### ***Annual Trafficking Symposium: How One Person Can Fight Child Slavery***

Join the sisters of St. Francis as we continue to address the horrific issues related to Human Trafficking. Carol Hart Metzker is the keynote speaker. Carol is the author of “Facing the Monster: How One Person Can Fight Child Slavery.” She will address the plight of the world’s children who live a life of modern slavery. Carol will respond to our questions about human trafficking, share her experiences and provide us with actions to make a difference.

This program is offered on October 18, 2014. It begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m..



### ***Retreat Day for Veterans: Honoring our Veterans: Heart to Heart*** **presented by Bayada Nursing Staff**

This retreat is an invitation to come together in a supportive, safe, comfortable environment with other veterans who share similar experiences. Take time for **YOU!** Come, be refreshed, strengthened, supported and renewed. Strategies for moving forward as well as simple approaches to maintain balance in life will be offered. Break-out sessions will be provided and resource material will be available.

This program is offered on November 22, 2014. It begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. It includes Lunch. There is no cost for this program.

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### ***Advent Retreat: Away in a Manger: Christmas at Greccio***

**presented by Sister Clare D'Auria OSF**

St. Francis is often credited with giving us “the first Christmas crib.” While his devotion to the Christmas mystery has no doubt influenced our modern custom of arranging Nativity scenes in our churches and homes at Christmas, what Francis did at Greccio was something more, something deeper. You are invited to “come to the stable” during this weekend of quiet prayer to reflect on how this familiar scene portrays the kind of human heart which can hold in welcome this Incarnate God-Child who comes to dwell with us. This program is offered December 5 to 7, 2014. It begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday night and ends at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday.

### ***Celtic Spirituality***

**presenting team: Sister Marguerite O'Beirne OSF, Sister Julie Keegan OSF,  
Barbara Jaffe, violinist**

Come, experience the spiritual expression of God's nearness in the Celtic tradition. It is said of St. John, who leaned against Jesus at the last supper, that he heard the “Heartbeat of God”. This listening for the heartbeat of God is what Celtic spirituality invites us to do, listen for the best of God's presence within every created thing and within every moment. Weaving together prayer, history, poetry, and music, we will begin a spiritual pilgrimage that leads to PEACE, BEAUTY, and to the HEARTBEAT of God. This program is offered on March 16, 2015. There is an optional dinner at 5:30 p.m. and then the program begins at 6:30 p.m.

### ***Circles of Prayer with Mary***

**presented by Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS**

If you can color and at least make an attempt to stay in the lines, then you can create mandalas, an ancient form of prayer which draws on your own creative imagination with the help of the Holy Spirit. You needn't be an artist, just a spiritual seeker in search of new ways to find prayerful peace. With Mary as our guide and inspiration we will discover ways in which color and shape can help us on our journey to God through personal and traditional symbols. Included: lessons in basic techniques. Crayons and a small set of markers required. Watercolors are welcome for the experienced.

This program is offered May 1 to 3, 2015. It begins at 7:00 p.m. Friday and ends at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday.

For more information about the Franciscan Spiritual Center and what they offer go to <http://fscaston.org/>. Take time to enjoy the inspirational videos.