As many of you know, the Retreat Center makes an annual appeal at the end of the calendar year for financial help on a specific project or projects. This year, we are seeking funds to upgrade the retreat bedrooms with new countertops, sinks, towel racks, light fixtures above the sinks, and new draperies for the rooms.

A common complaint among retreatants is that there is no room on the current, wall-mounted sinks to place toiletries and other items. In two of the retreat wings we have moved the electrical outlet to a more convenient location on the wall near the mirror, which is a good start, but more needs to be done to make the bedrooms more comfortable for our guests.

The current draperies utilize a traverse rod for opening/closing, but they leave almost one fourth of the view outside the window obscured because of the way in which they were mounted. We would like replace the current draperies with custom made draperies that would utilize a wand to pull the drapes open or closed. The drapes would be positioned in such a way that when open the full view out the window would be seen.

Thanks to the generosity of JoAnne Boche, we were able to purchase new bedspreads for the retreat bedrooms and these new bedspreads have dramatically changed the appearance of the rooms. The bedrooms have not received a major updating in 30 years, and we think that now is the time to embark upon this project.

The cost to upgrade one bedroom with a new countertop, drop-sink, hardware, towel racks (the towel racks have to be altered to accommodate the new countertops), light fixtures above the sink, and new draperies comes to $1,100.00 per room. The cost for this project may decrease if we are able to update the remaining 56 bedrooms at the same time. We realize that this is a far more ambitious project than we have ever attempted, but this year is our 50th anniversary in Prior Lake, and we are nearing the end of the year – what better time to make a lasting impact on the retreat center?

Benefactors who are willing to donate $1,100.00 or more would have the option of a memorial plaque as a tribute to a loved one. I know that some people may say that this updating is too extravagant; that such money would be better spent on other projects. I would respond to this objection by saying that the retreat center must present a welcoming, appealing and modestly comfortable environment for its guests. The changes that we propose are by no means extravagant, rather they are a sign of our continuing commitment to give our retreatants a space that is conducive to prayer and reflection.

Thank you for your support.

“May the Lord give you peace.” St. Francis of Assisi
The Retreat Preaching and Ministerial Staff have formulated the theme for the 2017 Retreat Season: "Find the Missing Peace — Retreat Conference Titles:

1. Prayer: Magic or Mystery?
2. Prayer: The Path to Transformation and Freedom
3. Prayer: Guiding our Feet into the Way of Peace
4. Prayer: Why aren’t my prayers answered?

Our 2017 Retreat Theme: Our 50th Anniversary Year

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3. Prayer: Guiding our Feet into the Way of Peace
4. Prayer: Why aren’t my prayers answered?"
2017 Theme: *Finding the Missing Peace – Pathways to Prayer*
A Retreat for Everyone… Please pray for these retreats and consider joining us!

**WEEKEND RETREATS 2016**
- December 2-4, 2016: Serenity AA-Al-Anon
- December 9-11, 2016: Men’s Weekend

**WEEKEND RETREATS 2017**
- January 13-15: Women’s Weekend
- February 3-5, 2017: Men’s Retreat
- February 10-12: Married Couple’s Retreat
- February 17-19: Women’s Weekend
- March 31 - April 2: Married Couple’s Retreat
  - April 7-9: Women’s Weekend – Palm Sunday Retreat
- April 13-15: Men’s Holy Week Retreat
- April 21-23: Women’s Weekend
- August 10-13: Silent Retreat
- September 8-10: Prayer Shawl Retreat
- September 15-17: Retreat for those in Grief
- October 6-8: Women’s Weekend
- October 13-15: Women’s Weekend
- October 20-22: Men’s Silent Weekend
- October 27-29: Friends of Francis Retreat
- November 3-5: Women’s Weekend
- December 1-3: Serenity/Recovery Retreat
- December 8-11: Men’s Weekend

**MIDWEEK RETREATS 2017**
- January 17-19: Women’s Midweek
- May 16-18: Women’s Midweek
- June 13-15: Women’s Midweek
- September 12-14: Women’s Midweek
- October 3-5: Women’s Midweek

**DAYS OF PRAYER 2016 (Thursdays)**
- Advent: December 1, December 8, December 15

**DAYS OF PRAYER 2017 (Thursdays)**
- Lenten Advent
  - March 9, November 30
  - March 16, December 7
  - March 23, December 14

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

**RETREAT DATES:**

SEND TO:  Franciscan Retreat & Spirituality Center, 16385 St. Francis Lane, Prior Lake, MN 55372-2220

Name: __________________________ Telephone # __________________________

Address __________________________ City __________________________

State ______________ Zip __________ - _________ E-Mail __________________________

REGISTRATION FEE $30.00*  Payment Check # __________________________

Credit Card:  Visa  Discover  MasterCard  # __________ - __________ - __________ - __________  Exp. Date __________  Sec. Code __________

Signature Approval __________________________

*A non-refundable registration fee of $30.00 per person is required and must be received in order to reserve a room.*

Register by calling 952-447-2182 or online at www.FranciscanRetreats.net
Thoughts from a Retreatant…

Following the death of my daughter, now eight years ago, I came to the Franciscan Retreat Center for a day of prayer. It was an indescribably sacred time for me. As I processed the magnitude of my loss, God’s presence enveloped me and gave me the strength to move forward with my life. It was a turning point on my journey of grief. I’m in a much different season of life now, but I still come to the retreat center for quiet days of reflection. I offer my whole-hearted endorsement of the Franciscan center to all those seeking spiritual rest, renewal, and peace.

Nancy Jo Sullivan
Catholic author and speaker

Pumpkin Spice Bars with Cream Cheese Frosting

Ingredients:

Bars:
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 can (15 oz) pumpkin *not pumpkin pie mix*
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg

Cream Cheese Frosting:
- 1 package (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 cups powdered sugar

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Spray 15x10x1-inch pan with cooking spray.
2. In large bowl, beat eggs, granulated sugar, oil and pumpkin with wire whisk until smooth. Stir in flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Spread in pan.
3. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool completely.
4. In medium bowl, beat cream cheese, butter and vanilla with electric mixer on low speed until smooth. Gradually beat in powdered sugar, 1 cup at a time, on low speed until smooth and spreadable. Spreading frosting over bars. Store covered in refrigerator.