

## Quotes from previous retreatants

\*"St. Anthony's is a very warm, welcoming and safe haven. I love to leave the noisy world we live in and come into a world of silence. We need this time to get our focus back and become rooted again in our faith, our journey."

\*"The atmosphere was very welcoming and gave me a true sense of peace and fellowship."

\*"The time spent here as always, was wonderful, peaceful and very up lifting. I've experienced things even hard to believe but I know it's a deep sign from Jesus asking me to follow Him all the way."

\*"It has been welcoming, safe and prayerful. The simplicity first struck me as "stark." As time here went on, I appreciated how all was in the right place and blissfully uncluttered."

\*"I have and always will recommend St. Anthony's for a spiritual 'get-away.' Franciscan hospitality is evident in each and every person one meets in the process. God bless you all for your ministry to others who come to this special place in Marathon! Every long or short term visitor always leaves St. Anthony's better-thanks to you!"

## SCHEDULE OF SILENT THEME RETREATS

### 2011-2012

September 9-11 (Women)

October 5-6 (Women & Men)  
Special Short Mid-Week

Silent Theme Retreat  
Begins with the noon meal on the  
5th and concludes  
at 4:00 p.m. on the 6th.

**Offering: \$ 100.00**

November 11-13 (Women & Men)

*("Sponsored" by  
Stevens Point and Wausau Area)\**

January 13-15 (Women & Men)

*("Sponsored" by WI Rapids Area)\**

February 10-12 (Men)

March 30-April 1 (Women)

**Offering: \$155.00**  
**(includes private room  
and all meals)**

### **These retreats are silent.**

Retreats begin with 7:00 p.m. meal on  
Friday and conclude with the  
noon meal on Sunday.

\* While "sponsored" by the named  
area, these retreats are open to ALL  
individuals from All areas

## *"LIVING IN DIFFICULT TIMES, LEARNING FROM ST. FRANCIS"*

### *Silent Theme Retreat*

*2011-2012*



*St. Anthony Spirituality Center*

*300 East Fourth Street*

*Marathon, WI 54448*

*Phone: 715-443-2236*

*Fax: 715-443-2235*

*E-Mail: [Info@sarcenter.com](mailto:Info@sarcenter.com)*

*Web-Site: [www.sarcenter.com](http://www.sarcenter.com)*

# “LIVING IN DIFFICULT TIMES, LEARNING FROM ST. FRANCIS”

No doubt about it: we live in difficult times. Most people continue to struggle financially. Our nation becomes more and more polarized. Problems in the Church do not go away. Where do we look for hope and encouragement? Come to this weekend retreat! We will discover how similar the difficulties of our times are to those St. Francis of Assisi faced in his time. More importantly, we'll discover with him how he found hope and joy in the midst of the pain – and, in the midst of the difficulties, courage to keep building a world where people really are brothers and sisters. We can learn so much from St. Francis!



## **First talk: “Connecting Our Times with Francis’ Times”**

Because we have never lived in a time quite like this, we think that no one ever did. This opening talk will highlight some of the main struggles of our times (including our world and church). We'll then see how nearly all of them were struggles Francis faced in his world and his church. We'll also look at how different groups of Francis' times came up with different ways of dealing with these problems – usually with fairly disastrous results.

## **Second talk: “ Look at the Humility of God!”**

Francis was a product of his times. His goals were the same as others who wanted to get ahead and look good. He had the same prejudices and aversions as those around him. But something happened to him; he came to know there had to be another way. And gradually he discovered that way – the way God showed us in sending us Jesus. “Look at the humility of God,” he would say. Francis' values and life were turned around when he saw God coming to us first in the crib, then on the cross, and now in the Eucharist. Jesus showed us what it means to be a brother, a lesser brother. That became the burning desire of Francis, too, coloring his whole spirituality.

## **Third talk: “By His Wounds We Are Healed”**

Francis learned that Jesus' love for us was not something romantic or pretty. It was strong. It went against the grain of most people and even the religious establishment of his time. That is why they tried to do away with him. He was wounded because of his love – but he kept true to his way. Francis learned the same thing when he took up Jesus' way. He was not always accepted, even in his own community. He knew pain, failure, discouragement; woundedness in body and spirit. But look what an image of Christ he became! “Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus” he tells us as we are wounded in our struggles.

## **Fourth talk: “Go and Repair My Church Which You Can See Is Falling Apart”**

In the midst of his difficulties, Jesus taught Francis that he was not to live for himself but as a brother, for others. All our sisters and brothers are wounded in their own struggling and suffering. Jesus taught him that it's OK to look at the flaws and failings all around him, in the world and in the church. But he taught him to not get stuck there. All of this is still my body, my broken body. DO not shrink away in judgmentalism or helplessness. Let my spirit in you love and build up your brothers and sisters, not tear them down. Before he died he told the brothers, “Let us begin to do good for up to now we have done so little!”

### Registration Form

Please reserve a space for me for this year's Silent Theme Retreat on the following date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish/Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Street/PO Box \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in carpooling? \_\_\_\_\_ Can give ride? \_\_\_\_\_ Need ride? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this Retreat? \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form to St. Anthony Spirituality Center, 300 East Fourth Street Marathon, WI 54448 with a \$35.00 non-refundable, transferable deposit to be applied to the total fee. Deposits are non-refundable; however, they are transferable to another retreat in the same year. We have an early-bird discount... Those who register and send a \$35.00 deposit 30 days prior to a weekend retreat can save \$10.00 off the cost of registration for the weekend.*