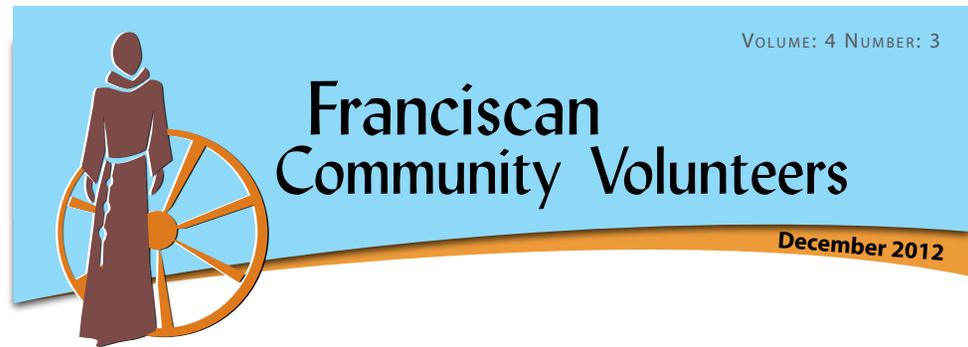




Franciscan
Community Volunteers

1600 11th Avenue S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

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We are grateful

Bells ring out each Christmas announcing the Good News that God's Love has been made incarnate through the coming of Jesus. Our hope and prayer is that you and your loved ones will know the blessings of this Season of Love.

At this time we give thanks to the parents of our volunteers. Our Franciscan Community Volunteers are doing a marvelous job in carrying out the mission of Jesus in their lives and in their service with us. We give thanks for the many ways you support their work in these agencies: St. Cloud Children's Home, Lutheran Social Service, Catholic Charities' Immigration and Refugee Office, St. Cloud School District 742-Autism Resource Program, and GRIP (Great River Interfaith Partnership).

The volunteers thank their companions — Maureen Reynolds: Roger and Sue Linz and Sister Carol Virnig; Kristine Origone: Patty and Morris Keeling and Sister Maurita Bernet; Phil Lomneth: Tom and Cathy Rudolph and Sister Bernice Rieland; Lisa Yanzer: Caroline Linz and Sister MaryAnn Capizzo; Shannon Hagerty: Mary Helen Montgomery and Sister Joanne Heim.

We are most grateful to Father Tom Knoblach and Holy Spirit Parish for the use of Elizabeth Seton School and the Knights of Columbus for supporting us at the Pancake and Sausage Breakfast fundraiser. Chris Brixius and Mark Schneider graciously made the pancakes and sausages! Thank you to all who supported us in any way at that event!

We are grateful to Tom and Diane Cassady and Duane and Terry Sakry, who have become FCV Sustainers by donating \$50 monthly. Thanks for your faithfulness and generosity. Thank you donors: Loren and Deanna Boone, Tom and Colleen Borgert, Pat and Lynda Brandt, Elaine Northern, Larry and Bea Britz, Dorothy Chizek, Bob Claegens, Pat and Kathryn Cox, Father Gerald Dalseth, Gary and Jo Hennen, Renee Hoffman, Morris and Patty Keeling, Bev and Cliff Korkowski, Sandra Krebsbach, Leander Kruchten, Gertrude Martini, Irene McGeary, Conrad Meier, Michael Monnens, Janice Morloch, MaryAnn Penick, Mike and Barb Petschl, Connie Sias, Brother Dan Stang, Rosie and Jim Sauer, and Janet Wiener.

Christmas Greetings

from the Franciscan Community Volunteers
to you and your family!

“When God enters human history as a poor child of a virgin, born in a stable with angels filling the sky, the old order is thrown into confusion. Who holds power now? How does the world look? How does it work? Who holds it together? This shift in perspective provokes powerful changes. Anything becomes possible. It is possible that the powerless will dethrone the powerful. It is possible that swords will be beaten into plowshares. It is possible that the poor will triumph and slaves will be freed, and that all who call earth home can live to fullness.

What is the meaning of Christmas? To imitate God and imagine a different world.”

Excerpts taken from “A Monk in the Inner City” by Mary Lou Kownacki



Fall Retreat offers support, reflection and encouragement

During the middle of October when many schools have breaks and the leaves provide a crunchy layer on the ground, the Franciscan Community Volunteers had their second of four retreats for the year. During the fall Orientation retreat, the volunteers enjoyed visiting the sisters at the mother-house of the Franciscan Sisters in Little Falls. We took the opportunity to hold the October 14-17th retreat in St. Francis Center. We



we were very fortunate to have the support of Rosanne Fischer, FCV Advisory Board member, who led the retreat. Rosanne's experience as a former Jesuit Volunteer and work as the director of the Diocese of St. Cloud Mission Office provided wisdom, as her life has continually given love and service to others.

The retreat focused on various aspects of Community: the intentional community of the FCV program and the larger community in the city of St. Cloud; the sense of universal community in the Church as formed by the early Christians; and the community we have within our World and how we, as servant leaders, are called by God to care for one another. Other highlights of the retreat included videos on finding community in cities and connecting as world neighbors, an art project with reflection on letting go of our apprehensions, and a walk around a Little Falls park with reflections on the early church. We also enjoyed a sing-along with Sister Maurita Bernet, reconnecting with sisters at the motherhouse, and time exploring the beautiful grounds and walking trails.

We are appreciative of the time for this reflection and for our facilitator, Rosanne, and all those who support our FCVs in their year of service, spirituality, and community.

Save the date

Taste OF ST. CLOUD



Monday

May 6, 2013

4:30–7:30PM

Tickets can be purchased online: www.fcvonline.org.

We are collecting empty baskets for silent auction items for this May event. Please save and donate baskets to us if you are able.

A Special Olympics day with the Knights...

By Kristine Origone

The Franciscan Community Volunteers were given a great invitation to join the Knights of Columbus from the Cathedral of St. Mary's in St. Cloud to assist at the State bowling tournament for the Special Olympics, which is the largest Special Olympics event in the area. The day started with a bus ride with the Knights to Brooklyn Park's Brunswick Zone. After a pasta lunch and orientation, we were each assigned to a lane and assisted the athletes with rotation and location. We were also given the opportunity to celebrate with them as they received their awards.

