Dominican Retreat & Conference Center
1945 Union Street, Niskayuna, New York 12309
(518) 393-4169 www.dslcny.org

Solitude on a Busy Highway

The Good News

September 2016

You are cordially invited to attend our
18th Annual
"More Than Just Desserts" Benefit
Sunday, October 30, 2016
at the
Dominican Retreat & Conference Center
6:00 - 8:00 PM



Hors d'oeuvres & Dessert Buffet
Wine & Light Beverages
Music by Ed Munger, Classical Guitarist
Silent Auction

Come bid on a wide range of items.
Watch our website and Facebook page
for a list of some of them.

If you would like to participate in this fund raiser to benefit the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center, please complete the R.S.V.P. form and send it with your check to:
Dominican Retreat and Conference Center
1945 Union St. Niskayuna, NY, 12309

✂

"More Than Just Desserts"
Reservation Form
R.S.V.P. before Friday, October 24

Name _____

Phone _____

*Address*_____

I/We ***will*** *attend as:*
____ *Friend - $50 per person* $ _____
____ *Partner - $75 per person* $ _____
____ *Patron - $100 per person* $ _____

I/We ***cannot*** *attend, please accept this contribution* $ _____

Enclosed is my check # _____ *or*
bill my M/C ____ *Visa* ____ *Discover* ____

#_____
Expiration date _____

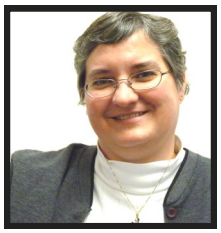
_____
(Signature for Credit Card Authorization)

_____
(Please **PRINT** *name as it appears on card)*

Please make checks payable to:
Dominican Retreat & Conference Center
1945 Union Street, Niskayuna, NY 12309

For those attending,
the tax deductible portion of your contribution is the amount in excess of $25 per person.

(For office use only) DB_____ BC or BC ANON p&e
ℓ copy copy prog LT _____
sent_____by_____



From the Desk of our Administrator

(Sr. Sue Zemgulis, OP)

Let's talk about grass…the kind in your yard! I've been focusing a lot on grass lately. Our construction project has gone very well. The drainage seems to be working as it should, and all seem pleased with places to park. But…we had a whole lot of dirt in need of grass, and any of you who have had to grow grass in the middle of the summer know that it is not an easy task…particularly the watering!

As the ground was hydro seeded, it made me think of the parable of the seed, where some falls on the path where it gets trod upon, some falls on the rocky ground (or the brick wall of the building) where it cannot take root, and some falls on good soil where it can grow. But without water, it will wither and die, or simply bake in the sun. It gave me a very vivid picture of Jesus' parable asking us to reflect on the Word of God. Where do we sow God's love and mercy? How is it received? How do we care for what we sow and what is sown in us? Do we water and nurture that faith that has been planted in our hearts?

And have you ever noticed, that in the psalms, references to time are often compared to the grass that withers and fades? Psalm 103 tells us, "*As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more."* Watering grass takes time, and reminds me that I too need to take time in prayer, in the beauty of creation, with those I care about, in order to flourish during my lifetime here on this Earth of ours.

Psalm 90 says, "*You sweep them [thousands of years] away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers."* Yup, I know that feeling! You give that grass a good drink early in the morning and it looks all perky, and then the sun comes out during the day, causing it to dry and wither! Have you ever felt like that? You start your morning full of energy and as your day unfolds, certain events and circumstances cause you to wither – your energy fades. But Psalm 147 reminds us that *"God covers the heavens with clouds, prepares the rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills."* It is God who sends the refreshing rains, waters the seeds of our faith. As we take time in prayer throughout each day to nurture our relationship with our God, may we come to know God's eternal love and mercy...which *never* fades or withers!

So next time you come on retreat, check out the grass – some of it is lush, some of it is patchy, some of it got washed away. How does it remind you of the grass of your life?

S. Sue, OP.

Two Unique Prayer Opportunities: Taize Prayer and Voice of the Grove Drum

Taize Prayer refers to *Sung Vespers in the Spirit of Taize.*



This prayer experience is offered monthly and comes to us from the ecumenical community of Taize in France. This community was founded by Brother Roger Schütz in 1940 as a place that encourages reconciliation and tolerance of all faiths. The style of sung prayer is incredibly simple and meditative. Using various chants from Taize as well as other liturgical psalm settings, we will experience Vespers in song, scripture and silence.

Thursdays: Oct. 13, Nov. 17 and Dec. 1 7:00-8:00 PM

Voice of the Grove Drum refers to an evening presentation by a community of drummers and singers from the Capital Region, who are full blood or of partly Native heritage or who follow the Native way of living, join together at pow wows and other gatherings and drum on a large 32" mother drum while singing and playing Native songs.



They drum for our Creator, for others and themselves. They drum to pray and to give thanks to our Creator for their life and all of life. They drum for others so that the Native way might be better understood and appreciated. They experience their drum beat as the very heartbeat of Mother Earth. *(free will offering)*

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 7:00-8:30 PM

A Few of Our Blessings

Do you know that each one of you is a blessing?
When you pray for the people who come here,
you bless the ministry of Dominican Retreat and Conference Center.
When you come on the property, when you attend a program,
your presence blesses this house and all of the people who come here.
We take this time to share ***some*** of our blessings: retreat director,
volunteer and generous sew-ers and we give thanks.



Mural

Silent beautiful
Inviting, questioning, calming
Messages in silence
Sacred

On June 26 in the midst of her presentation on Resistance and Spirituality, Sr. Kay Kanick, RSM taught us about cinquain poems. She then encouraged us to take some time of reflection and then write a cinquain. Sr. Kay chose to go to the chapel and the above poem is her cinquain.

We Give You Thanks



For the past two years the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center dining room has been moving towards being paperless by the end of 2016. What this means is that we will no longer use paper placemats or paper napkins in our dining room. Throughout the year a group of women called the "Sewers" grace us with their presence and turn our home into a sewing festival. Through their generosity, they have used the remnants of various projects to create for us over one hundred and fifty cloth napkins.

Well done ladies, we are very grateful for your Time, Talents and Treasures; our retreatants will enjoy the service you have provided.

Ceil Amendolia, OPA

"WOW! WELCOME BACK!"



That's how the staff feel about everyone who steps through our doors, but did you know our volunteers feel the same way? As everyone knows, volunteers make the "world go 'round" – especially here at the DRCC. Since we'd be lost without them, it's wonderful when we experience something that makes them happy while they're helping us.

One volunteer, Phyllis, (pictured above) updates our card file for the database. It's here where frequently she shouts out, *"WOW! WELCOME BACK!"* She's referring to a retreatant who hasn't been here for a while and whose card she finds in our inactive file (for those we've lost touch with). Soon after, the proclamation travels our office grapevine and we are all cheered by the news and grateful God has provided a reward for the work that is done here.

Equally joyous is when Phyllis needs more file cards made. It's an indication to all of us that we've been blessed with newcomers or retreatants that have attended so many programs their card is full and a new one is needed to list the program codes!

Thanks to all of our volunteers, especially those who work with me in the office. May God bless each and every one of you and reward you.

Deb,
Secretary



"Falling"

(Annette Brooks, Program Director)

In our minds we can, no doubt, envision what "falling" means, from someone literally falling, to having the autumn leaves falling from trees, and gracefully sailing through the air to rest peacefully on the ground below. There are many ways to interpret "falling". Another phrase that one might be familiar with is "Falling in Love". Over the summer that was a theme of one of the retreats that was offered. Also, Pedro Arrupe, S.J. wrote a prayer entitled, "Falling in Love with God", and because we are entering into the season of Fall, why not look at "Falling in Love"?

I believe that "Falling in Love" is a continuous and deepening experience of discovery. "Falling in Love" can be a journeying experience with God. It is our falling ever so gracefully into the arms and heart of God. Once you have come to the discovery of falling in love with God, it will affect everything in your life. The last line of Father Pedro Arrupe's prayer says:

"Fall in love, stay in love
and it will decide everything."

And that is what I have come to appreciate about the DRCC. It is a place where people can come to find rest, refreshment and an opportunity to continue "falling in love with God", by participating in the many different offerings at the DRCC. One can "stay in love" by taking the time to be renewed, and by realizing that, deep within, one is being transformed. And, that transformation will ultimately decide everything.

So, I encourage you to take a look at the many different Days and Evenings of Reflection offered this Season. Our Theme Retreats and other Retreats will give you the opportunity to take some time to relax and have some time "to be", considering the fast pace that many of us live. Don't forget our workshops and presentations. Although they might only last for a couple of hours, you will be fed and nourished with information that will help you to "stay in love" and bring you to another place on your journey.



Workshops and Presentations

Organizing, Changing, Downsizing and Rightsizing

As you read those words how did you react? Excited about the possibilities? Did you groan because it seems overwhelming? Do you secretly wish that *Samantha* of *Bewitched* fame would twitch her nose and all would be just as you would like it?

We don't have Samantha but we do have Ceil. Ceil has started new business endeavors, helped close businesses, moved and downsized family and friends.

Ceil Amendolia, OPA has offered various programs on downsizing and rightsizing and this past April Ceil once again guided us as we developed a plan to get organized. There is the saying "Two heads are better than one". One Thursday morning a month, people working on plans for change and downsizing come together for two hours. There is a sharing of ideas and together plans are created and revised. *Feel free to join this ongoing group for as many or as few sessions as you like.*

Dates: October 13, November 17, December 15

Evening Presentation

The casinos are here and more are coming. The Powerball amount gets larger and larger.



On Tuesday evening, October 25, from 7-9PM, Stelianos Canallatos, of the New York Council on Problem Gambling, will offer a presentation entitled: ***Responsible Gambling* and *Understanding Problem Gambling.***

He hopes his presentation will help us understand and recognize the difference between *responsible* and *problem* gambling. His goal - letting us know how to stay on the safe side!

Day/Evening Programs September-December 2016

FYI: times on calendar indicate the ***scheduled time*** for the actual beginning and end of the program.



Coffeehouse featuring…..
Running the River 7:00PM-9:00PM
Sunday, September 18 $16.00
Benefits Dominican Pastoral Counseling Center

NEW! Grounds Evenings 4:00PM-7:00PM
Come join us for our fall cleanup! *dinner provided*
September 20 and /or **September 21**

Presentation: *Voice of the Grove Drum* 7:00PM-8:30PM
Wednesday, September 28 *Free will offering*

Promoters' Conference
Sunday October 2 2:00PM-6:00PM

Evening of Reflection for Visitation Ministers
The Holy Ground of Visitation Ministry
Wednesday, October 5 6:20PM-9:15PM
Marylyn deGonzague, OPA $25.00

Day of Creativity
Contemplative Creativity
Monday, October 10 10:00AM-3:00PM
Claudia Gregoire, OPA $30.00

Senior Day of Reflection
Spiritual Remedies and Prescriptions for the Soul
Wednesday, October 12 9:45AM-3:00PM
Fr. Thomas F. Berardi $25.00

Monthly Workshop
Ongoing , Changing,
Downsizing, Rightsizing 10:00AM-noon
Thursdays: Oct. 13, Nov. 17, Dec.15 $15.00 per session
Ceil Amendolia, OPA

Vespers in the Spirit of Taize
Thursdays: Oct. 13, Nov. 17, Dec. 1 7:00PM-8:00PM

Evening Presentation
Responsible Gambling and
Understanding Problem Gambling
Tuesday, October 25 7:00PM-9:00PM
New York Council on Problem Gambling $15.00

Harvest Evening for Married Couples
What's it All About, as you Go to the Altar of God?
Thursday, October 27 6:20PM-9:15PM
Fr. Ed Deimeke $45.00/couple

Annual Fund Raiser: More Than Just Desserts
Sunday, October 30 6:00PM-8:00PM
(see invitation p. 1) $50.00

CASAC Training
Healthy Coupleship for
Survivors of Trauma 9:00AM-4:00PM
Friday, November 4 fee paid **by**10/28: $60.00
John Crowe, LMHC, BCSA **after** 10/28: $65.00

Thanksgiving Day of Reflection
I Am Grateful For...
Tuesday, November 8 9:45AM-3:00PM
Fr. Pat Butler $30.00

12 Step Evening of Gratitude
The Power of Gratitude
Tuesday, November 15 6:20PM-8:30PM
Sonya Boesse $25.00

Advent Day of Reflection
Preparing for the Coming of the Lord
Tuesday, December 6 9:45AM-3:00PM
Fr. Christopher DeGiovine $30.00

CASAC Training
Special Topics in Problem Gambling 9:00AM-4:00PM
Friday, December 9 fee paid **by**12/02: $60.00
Jaime Costello, CPP **after** 12/02: $65.00

A Special Evening
The Creche From Francis to Today
Friday, December 9 6:20PM-9:00PM
Dominican Retreat Staff $25.00

Pray and Paint Workshop
Painting of the Evergreens.
"Whoever believes in the Son has Everlasting Life"
Saturday, December 10 1:30-PM-4:30PM
Noreen Powell $35.00

Advent Evening of Reflection
Tuesday, December 13 6:20PM-9:15PM
Fr. Rick Lesser $25.00

Annual Carol Night 7:30PM
Friday, December 16 (Doors open at 7:00PM)

New Year's Evening of Reflection
Saturday, December 31 7:30PM-1:00AM
Fr. Louis Sogliuzzo, SJ $25 eve/$50 overnight



Dream Group ~ with **Sr. Carol Davis, OP**
September 12, October 17, November 7, December 5
Meets monthly / $25 per class
CarolDavisOP@gmail.com OR call:(518) 393-5517

The Good News is published four times a year.
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1945 Union St, Niskayuna, NY 12309
518-393-4169 dslcny@nybiz.rr.com (email)
www.dslcny.org

Weekend Programs September-December 2016

Women's Theme Weekend
Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (1 Cor. 3:16)
September 16-18
Sr. Marilyn Vassallo, CSJ $205.00*

Women's Theme Weekend
Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (1 Cor. 3:16)
September 23-25
Sr. Maureen Murphy, OP $205.00*

Retreat for Women Concerned with Alcoholism
Awake and Walk with the God of Your Understanding
October 14-16
Margaret Maniaci, MA, LCAC $205.00*

Men's Theme Weekend
Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (1 Cor. 3:16)
November 4-6
Fr. Dan Dwyer, OFM $205.00*

Weekend for Women: Heart and Soul Quest
You are God's Beloved
November 18-20
Sr. Carol Davis, OP $205.00*

Advent Silent Weekend for Men and Women
December 2-4
Fr. John Lydon, OP $205.00*

Weekend Retreat for Men and Women
Dreaming in Winter
January 13-15, 2017
Sr. Carol Davis, OP $205.00*

Weekend Programs begin Friday with sign-in at 6:45 PM

***Weekend Retreats - $205.00**
Seniors (65 and older - $190.00)
Be assured however that no one will ever be turned away for lack of funds.

$5.00 Coupon
Present this coupon to receive$5.00 off a **day** or **evening** program at:
Dominican Retreat & Conference Center

$10.00 Coupon
Present this coupon to receive $10.00 off a **weekend** program at:
Dominican Retreat & Conference Center

NEW!! Grounds EVENINGS at DRCC

September 20 and 21, 2016 4:00pm to 7:00pm



Dinner provided.

Bring your gloves, rakes, hedge trimmers, etc. and your energy. Come the 20th or 21st OR both evenings.
Contact Ceil at: 518-393-4169 Ext. 231, if you can help.

CASAC Training

*These trainings are designed to provide CASAC credentialing credit. However, **all** are welcome to attend.*

Friday, November 4, 2016
Healthy Coupleship for Survivors of Trauma
a CASAC/CPP/CPS Workshop with
John Crowe, LMHC, BCSA
Early registration on or before 10/28/16

Friday December 9, 2016
Special Topics in Problem Gambling
a CASAC/CPP/CPS Workshop with
Jaime Costello, CPP
Early Registration: on or before 12/02/16

Each of the trainings begin with registration at 8:30AM and end at 4:00PM. They are approved through NYS OASAS for 6 hours credentialing credit. Coffee, tea, lunch , and snacks are included. Early registration $60.00 per person.

Complete this **REGISTRATION FORM** *and include with deposit ($50.00 non-refundable for Weekend Registration)*
To save time and postage, Credit Card Reservations can be
√ *e-mailed (dslcny@nybiz.rr.com)*
√ *faxed (518-393-4525)*
√ *phoned in (518-393-4169)*

Name: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Other _____ _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip _____

Phone (h) _____(w)_____

(c) _____

E-mail _____

Diet/room need_____

_____

Please register me for the following Program:

_____ Date_____

Deposit: $_____Check #: _____Coupon_____

Credit Card: M/C Visa Discover

_____ Exp. _____

_____
Signature (for Credit Card Authorization)

_____
***Print** name as it appears on card for clarification*
(Office Use only)
____*BK*____*DB*____*List*____*Conf* *Code:*_____

"More Than Just Desserts"

Dominican Star Pass
Entitles
winner
to attend any and all programs at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center
free of charge

Valid 1/1/2017– 12/31/2017

This year the Committee has decided to have **two special drawings**.

One drawing is for the popular **Year Long Pass**, this pass is good from Jan. 1-December 31, 2017 and enables you to attend any and all programs at DRCC free of charge.

The other drawing is for a ***24" x 28" framed Thomas Kinkade offset lithograph* entitled*** **"Christmas Tree Cottage,"** signed with **Thomas Kinkade** DNA matrix signature authentication system & numbered (***lithograph itself measures 12" x 16"**). Park West Gallery examined and appraised its value as $595.00 US on 5/8/15.



Drawings will be held on Sunday, October 30, 2016 at our Fall Benefit, "*More Than Just Desserts*"

On each ticket please put a check mark ***before*** *the drawing of your choice.*
Need not be present to win.
Donation not required for participation.

Dominican Retreat & Conference Center 2016 Drawing
__Year Long Pass OR __ *a framed Thomas Kinkade lithograph*.
Name _____
Address _____
_____
Telephone _____
Please make checks payable to: D.R.C.C.
Mailing address: *1945 Union St., Niskayuna, NY 12309.*
Tickets: $2.00 each /3 for $5.00. Need not be present to win.
Drawing: Sunday, October 30, 2016
Donation not required for participation

Dominican Retreat & Conference Center 2016 Drawing
__Year Long Pass OR __ *a framed Thomas Kinkade lithograph*.
Name _____
Address _____
_____
Telephone _____
Please make checks payable to: D.R.C.C.
Mailing address: *1945 Union St., Niskayuna, NY 12309.*
Tickets: $2.00 each /3 for $5.00. Need not be present to win.
Drawing: Sunday, October 30, 2016
Donation not required for participation

Dominican Retreat & Conference Center 2016 Drawing
__Year Long Pass OR __ *a framed Thomas Kinkade lithograph*.
Name _____
Address _____
_____
Telephone _____
Please make checks payable to: D.R.C.C.
Mailing address: *1945 Union St., Niskayuna, NY 12309.*
Tickets: $2.00 each /3 for $5.00. Need not be present to win.
Drawing: Sunday, October 30, 2016
Donation not required for participation



News from our Conference Program Director

Happy autumn!
With this crazy spring and summer we had no fruit on any of our trees. No cherries, pears, apples, peaches. We did get blueberries and we did enjoy them very much.
Often you never know what you are going to get, except at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center. At DRCC you consistently get great hospitality and help whenever you need it. A glance at the calendar on our website *(www.dslcny.org)* shows a variety of groups we have assisted in planning their gatherings: the Cursillo Community, Siena College and the Interfaith Community of Schenectady to name a few. Please call me and let me share our Dominican hospitality with you.

Shawn Palleschi, 518-393-4169



Give the Gift of Time

Have you ever heard someone say they don't have enough time? Retirees wonder how they found the time to work because they are so busy in retirement. Time is precious and yet it is a gift you can give to yourself or to someone else. Attend one of our programs and experience the gift of time. Our secretary can also make it possible for you to *gift someone else with a gift certificate for programs here.*



DRCC Recovery Corner (Sr. Barbara Ebner, OP)

We had to quit playing God. It didn't work. (How it Works, AA Big Book)

The gift of Dominican Retreat and Conference Center is that there are many opportunities to "quit playing God;" many opportunities to "Let Go and Let God." Offered specifically for people in Recovery are our weekend for **Women Concerned with Alcoholism, Oct. 14-16** and our **Evening of Gratitude, Nov. 15.**

Margaret Maniaci is the director for our weekend for **Women concerned with Alcoholism.** Margaret has been with us before and she brings a great deal of personal and professional experience with her. Margaret has over 40 years of continuous sobriety, she is a Licensed Clinical Addictions Counselor and she has experience offering retreats. She has chosen the theme: *Awake and Walk with the God of your Understanding.* Margaret describes the weekend in this way, " Using AA approved literature, other resources and personal experiences, we will spend our time together to explore the Higher Power of our understanding and how we can improve our relationship with this Power".

Our annual **Evening of Gratitude** is an Evening of Reflection for Men and Women. We begin with a lovely dinner, hear a presentation and have opportunity for questions/comments. This year **Sonya Boesse** will be our presenter. Sonya has chosen the theme: *Power of Gratitude*. It is Sonya's belief that gratitude adds power to our lives and that practicing gratitude is a powerful process. She believes that in a state of gratitude we have the ability to shift the mind and transform a person and any situation.

*Also of interest, offered on Tuesday evening October 25, is a presentation entitled: "**Responsible Gambling and Understanding Problem Gambling."***
This presentation is open to all.

Enjoy the gift of time, come on a weekend retreat.

If you have never had the opportunity to make a weekend retreat perhaps now is the time. Some of our retreatants tell us that when family or friends are wondering what to get them for birthdays or Christmas they suggest a gift certificate for Dominican Retreat and Conference Center. So many of us are down sizing that often we don't want one more thing.

But **time** to do whatever you like or to do nothing at all is priceless and that is what a weekend retreat is all about time for you. You can come on retreat by yourself or with a friend or with a group. Often people come with people they've been "retreating" with for years, sometimes they see people here that they only see once a year— on retreat.

Our theme this year is *Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (1 Cor. 3:16).*
Women can enjoy reflecting on this theme with director ***Sr. Marilyn Vassallo, CSJ September 16-18*** or with director ***Sr. Maureen Murphy, OP, September 23-25.***

Women can also enjoy a special weekend entitled *Heart and Soul Quest: You Are God's Beloved.*
Sr. Carol Davis, OP has been directing this weekend over the years and it has become quiet popular. The retreat includes lectures and meditations with questions for reflection followed by time for prayer and journaling. There is also opportunity for small group sharing.
Dates: November 18-20

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Men can enjoy reflecting on the theme *Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (1 Cor. 3:16).* The director for the theme retreat for men is **Fr. Dan Dwyer, OFM.** Dan teaches History at Siena College. He has a very varied background as is shown by his membership in both the Friends of Albany Rural Cemetery and also the Mormon History Association.



Finally, there is a weekend for both **men and women** that is popular. The draw of this retreat is silence. This retreat is our Advent Silent Weekend. Some people long for this retreat all year long. Some people crave silence. This retreat does include presentations and prayer services and conversation at Sunday lunch.
Fr. John Lydon, OP is the director for this weekend.
~~~~~

If you can't come on a weekend, come on a Day or an Evening of Reflection

Day Programs

Claudia Gregoire, OPA has a great gift for photography and for encouraging people to take time to "smell the roses". On Columbus Day, **Monday, October 10,** Claudia will encourage us to enjoy our time and our surroundings and to do whatever is creative for us as we move through a day of *Contemplative Creativity.*

Our **Senior Day** is on **Wednesday October 12**, the theme is *Spiritual Remedies and Prescriptions for the Soul* and our presenter is **Fr. Tom Berardi.** We are happy to welcome Fr. Tom back.
In his description of the day, Father raises two questions: *As a senior, is there a remedy for feeling better spiritually? Is there a Rx for talking to God and being happy?* During this day we will look at some rituals, prayers, symbols and antidotes, for spiritual healing and growth. There will also be a presentation and an explanation of several spiritual traditions of prayer, laughter and finding something new each day (*a prescription*) to celebrate.

Our **Thanksgiving Day of Reflection** is on **Tuesday, November 8,** Election Day**. Fr. Pat Butler** will be our presenter for the day and the theme he has chosen is: "*I am Grateful For…"* This day will focus on how we recognize and grow to appreciate in our lives what we are grateful for and how our expression of that gratefulness might help us deal with the daily struggles and joys of our lives.

Married and Engaged Couples



You are invited to an evening designed for you
Harvest Evening of Reflection
Lovely Candlelight Dinner
Presentation by **Fr. Ed Deimeke** entitled:
What's It All About, As You Go to the Altar of God?
Celebration of Eucharist
Date: October 27, 2016
6:20-9:15 PM

Evening Program

Our Evening of Reflection for Visitation Ministers is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 5.** Our presenter is **Marylyn deGonzague, OPA**. Marylyn has vast nursing and volunteering experience. Marylyn is both a Dominican Associate and a Faith Community Nurse. She describes her view of visitation ministry and the flow of the evening in the following prayer poem.

The Holy Ground of Visitation Ministry

The visitation minister has received
a special calling, a sacred calling.
To visit the sick, the elderly, and their caregivers at home
or in health care facilities is a gift that sometimes brings us
joy, sorrow, anxiety, or wonder and awe.
Let us take some time together this evening
to reverence the gift of visitation ministry,
to renew our appreciation for our calling,
to receive strength from each other
and from the Lord we serve.



Promoters Conference
Sunday October 2, 2016
2:00PM-6:00PM

Celebrating Advent

On Tuesday **December 6, Fr. Chris DeGiovine** will guide our **Advent Day of Reflection**, *Preparing for the Coming of the Lord.* Fr. Chris tells us, "We are reminded that the Lord came at a time in history, comes to us daily, and will come at the end of time." During this day we will consider how Advent can be an invitation to go even more deeply into our relationship with God."

On Dec. 13 we will offer an Evening of Reflection (more to come)

Dominican Retreat & Conference Center
Dominican Spiritual Life Center
1945 Union Street, Niskayuna, NY 12309

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Place label here



A Special Evening

On **Friday, December 9** we will come together to celebrate the Christmas Creche. Plans for the evening are under construction but we do know that the theme is: *The Creche From Francis to Today.*

We also know there will be a delicious dinner.

Time: 6:30-9:00

More information to come in flyers and online.

Workshop for Men & Women: Pray and Paint

"Pray and Paint" is a workshop directed by artist, **Noreen Powell** who combines nature, painting, and God's word to bring those who attend to an understanding of who they are in God. The theme is based on John 3:3:

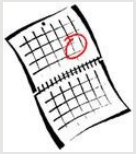
Whoever believes in the Son has everlasting life.

The workshop includes doing a step by step painting of *Evergreens.* This will be your take-home reminder of what you learn.

Saturday, December 10



In April we had a full house for this program, so register early! No art experience needed.



Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, September 18:
Coffeehouse featuring **Running the River**
Proceeds Benefit Dominican Pastoral Counseling Center
Time 7-9PM **Cost: $16.00**
Contact: Sr. Carol Davis, OP 518-393-5517

Friday, Dec. 16: Carol Night.
Take a break from the business of life and enjoy music, story, cookies, hot chocolate and apple cider.
7:30 PM (Doors open at 7:00)

Saturday, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve:
Welcome in the New Year in a special way.
The actual program runs from **7:30PM-1:00AM, staying overnight is optional.**
The program includes presentations, exposition, opportunity for confession, refreshments and concludes with the Celebration of Mass.
Fr. Lou Sogliuzzo, SJ is our presenter for the evening.