

Dominican Retreat & Conference Center

1945 Union Street, Niskayuna, New York 12309
(518) 393-4169

www.dslny.org

The Good News

March 2016

Praised Be Laudato Si

Join artist, author, and story-teller **Bro. Mickey O'Neill McGrath, OSFS** as he sheds light on LAUDATO SI, Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on nature and creation.

Using his own art and stories of saints from across Church history, we will take a loving look at God's most beautiful gift to us: Mother Earth.

Friday, May 13



On Thursday
April 21,
Fr. Jim Kane
will offer a

presentation on the
Gospel of Luke:
the Gospel of Mercy in the
Year of Mercy.

Learn why it is called the social Gospel and why this evangelist is symbolized by an ox. Notice how Luke highlights the role of women in Jesus' public ministry. Handouts will include an outline of the Gospel.



Gospel Women

in Our Midst

offers an experience of
prayer, reflection and

creative expression on
Women of the Gospel.

Tuesdays

Apr. 5, 12, 19 and 26

Presenters—**DRCC staff**



*Spring into
one of
our new
programs*



Emmaus Meals

*"Were not our
hearts burning
within us..?"*

(Lk. 24:32) A
time for sharing
a meal, breaking

open Scripture and sharing
our faith journeys—

Wednesdays,

Apr. 13, 20, and 27.

**Come to any
or all!**

Presenter:
**DRCC
Staff**

Tuesday, May 3

Day of Reflection

in Honor of

St. Joseph

Presenter:

Sr. Betsy

Van Deusen, CSJ



Saturday, April 16

Waterlily Pray and Paint

This Waterlily "Pray and Paint" workshop combines nature, painting, and God's word to draw those who attend closer to understanding who they are in God.

The theme is based on Isaiah 61:3: "... bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes."

We will spend the afternoon focusing on the beauty that God sees in each of us.

The workshop includes doing a step by step painting of a Waterlily. *Supplies included.*

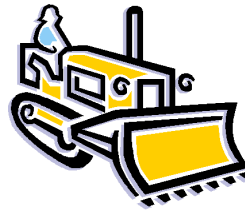


From the Desk of the Administrator

In the Gospel of Luke we hear: "I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a person building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built." (Lk 6:47-48)

Now anyone who lives in Niskayuna knows all these houses were built not on rock but on swamp! Many of you have seen our "pond" out back growing each year – much to the pleasure of the mallards and the hockey players. While there is no problem with our foundation currently, our Congregation is supporting us in taking care of our drainage issue so that our foundation remains firm. And we are most grateful for their willingness to make this happen!

So through these next few months you will need to be patient with the construction happening around the retreat house. In addition to redirecting the drainage to firm up our foundation, we will also be adding parking spaces in order to make access to our house easier for you, so that *you* can come and firm up your spiritual foundation.



Special Weeklong Retreats for Women

Each of the following retreat programs are silent retreats. This means that conversation only takes place at the evening meal; and, if desired, it is possible to have silence at the evening meal.

June 20-26 is a **weeklong preached retreat for women religious**. The theme is *Falling in Love*, and our director is **Fr. Lou Sogliuzzo, SJ**. Currently, Fr. Lou is a pastoral team member of the Spiritual Renewal Center and he is also on the staff of Christ the King Retreat and Conference Center both located in Syracuse. Fr. Lou describes the week in this way: "We'll spend the week together in reflective solitude as we pursue the movement of the Spirit in our hearts and lives, searching for the One who has loved us first."

July 5-11 is a **weeklong silent preached retreat for women: Lay and Religious**. The director for this retreat is **Fr. Bill Sheehan, OMI**. The theme he has chosen for the week is: *Embracing the Spiritual Journey*. Fr. Bill says, "During this retreat we will reflect upon some foundational scriptural themes through the process of Lectio Divina...we will grow in our awareness of being invited to put on the mind and heart of Christ."

July 5-11 Silent Directed Retreat for Women: choice of **Sr. Carol Davis, OP** or **Annette Brooks, MA** as your director. On a directed retreat you meet with your director once a day and have the rest of the time for your own personal prayer and reflection.

It is possible to attend all or part of these retreats.

***The Dominican Retreat and
Conference Center
and
The Consultation Center of the
Diocese of Albany***
are co-sponsoring
an evening presentation on

**Anger in the Workplace
May 11**

Fr. Tom Konopka,
director of the Consultation Center,
will be the presenter.

Interfaith Community

The Interfaith Community of Schenectady holds their monthly dinner programs here at Dominican Retreat and Conference Center.

Upcoming Dates:

April 12, May 12, June 1

For more information contact:

370-2150 or

schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com



The Time of the Year

By Annette Brooks, Program Director

Lent is almost over; how amazing is that! We will be celebrating Easter in just a couple of weeks, and the season of Spring is almost here. Having seasons in Nature, as well as having Liturgical Seasons in our churches, allows us to reflect and contemplate, and put things into perspective. So, we are moving from Winter into Spring, when so many plants have been dormant, and now buds are just beginning to appear indicating that new life will blossom. Not much different from one's own life. It is time to look at where we have been these last months, and where we are in the present moment. A time to contemplate and reflect. What has God been doing in my/your life during the Lenten Season? What has God been asking of me/you? It may be a dying to self, a giving more of myself to others, or some challenge that maybe I would rather not address... Whatever it is, as the Lenten journey comes to a close, each of us will embrace the Easter Season, a time of Resurrection and new life. What that may look like, we may not know at this time. But, as each bud holds some-

thing special within, so too does each of us hold within ourselves, something waiting to come forth. It is up to us to allow that to grow and blossom.

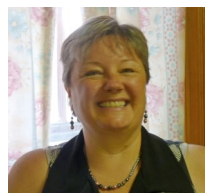


I came so that you might have life and have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)

As we continue on this journey of life, it is good to take the time to reflect and contemplate. Our programs allow you time to do just that. Whether it is on a three day retreat, a day or an evening of reflection, a workshop, I invite you to look over our schedule (calendar pages 5,6). Hopefully at least one of our programs will speak to you.

Looking forward to seeing you in Spring at the DRCC.

HAPPY EASTER!!



News from Our Conference Center Director

For some of us this can be a sad time of year, not quite winter not quite spring. Football is over and baseball has not started. It can also be a very exciting time, think of all the possibilities; do you have meetings, dinners or retreats, you have to book?

The Dominican Retreat and Conference Center is booking for 2016, 2017, and believe it or not 2018! We have plenty of week day time available. Call me if you want to book a meeting, dinner or weekend. Happy Spring!

Shawn Palleschi 518-393-4169.



Rest in Peace, December 29, 2015

We are sorry to share that Sr. Ethel Detz, OP died suddenly on December 29, 2015. Our prayers go out to her congregation, the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, and to her family and friends.

May she rest in peace.

DRCC Wish list

For those of you who are wondering what the retreat house is in need of, we are currently looking for the following:

- Twin size COTTON or ACRYLIC blankets for the beds
- Wooden Rockers in good condition
- AND
- Someone to join our cooking staff!

For details contact: Sr. Sue, OP

518-393-4169

Opportunities to Reflect on Our Journey

On **March 17**, **Sr. June Fitzgerald, OP** returns to DRCC to guide us in our reflection on **Celtic Crosses: Stone, Reed, Wood - Symbols of Faith.**

This day we will pray with St. Brigid as she teaches us about the importance of the Holy Cross in Celtic Christian Spirituality and of the other signs and symbols of this deep faith. The retreat will begin and end in prayer and will include several interactive conferences. You will be guided in creating a *St. Brigid Cross* and will use it as we pray the Celtic Way of the Cross together. You will leave the day with your own handmade cross and a deeper understanding and knowledge of how Celtic Christian Spirituality is a rich way to encounter God always and in all ways.



Yearning to be organized? Join **Ceil Amendolia, OPA** at one of the ongoing monthly gatherings where we will experiment with all the possibilities of organizing, changing, downsizing and rightsizing.



Mar. 10, Apr. 14, May 19,

June 9. Come to any or all!

OR join in a **one-day workshop** on **April 9** from 10-3. ***"Spring Into Action - It is time to Organize!"***

Weed out dead weight, dig up the old stuff, fertilize new ideas, plant the roots of success, water the plan, grow and harvest the benefits!

On **April 8**, **Nancy Gendron** returns and invites us to ***A Poetry Feast.***

Come feast on the sweet and savory sustenance of verse in its many and varied forms. We will read, reflect on and discuss a selection of poems sure to delight the palates of novices, seasoned poetry lovers and everyone in between.

Weekend Retreat Possibilities

Retreats for Women: This is a wonderful opportunity to get about 43 hours for yourself! Just think ... 43 hours when there is nothing you have to do, 43 hours when meals are prepared for you, 43 hours to reflect on your life journey!

Our 2016 theme is :

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (1 Cor 3:16)

Choose: April 1-3, directed by

Sr. Kitty Hanley, CSJ

OR May 20-22, directed by

Sr. Teresa Tuite, OP

Back by Popular Demand

Apr. 15-17: Knitting and Crocheting Retreat for Women and Men

Our director for the weekend, **Sr. Marguerite Chandler, OP**, sees this weekend as a time to explore how Earth's wisdom and the wisdom of Laudato Si reveal the profound depth of the interconnection of all creation.



June 3-5: Yoga Retreat Weekend for Women and Men. Registered yoga instructor **Sonya Boesse** returns to guide this retreat. The theme is:

Healing Our Layers and Levels With Gentle & Restorative Yoga "What are You Healing?"

In addition to a variety of yoga practices, this weekend includes:

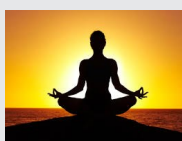
private journaling time,

readings,

poetry,

inspiration and

self-reflection writing exercises.



A Special Weekend: May 6 and May 7

We are happy to once again present **Girls Night Out** - an evening for us to celebrate with the special women in our lives: friends, sisters, cousins, children, etc. We begin with Mass, followed by a festive dinner and a presentation during dessert. Our presenter is **Kim Harris, PhD** and the date is **May 6**. Kim has been involved in ministry for many years. Her topic for **Friday** is: ***Women Rising in the Church.***

Kim follows this up with a **Day for Women** on **Saturday, May 7** and this time the topic is ***Women Rising in the World Community.***

We are sure we will all be enriched after listening to Kim.

Ladies, consider this:

Come to Girls' Night Out, stay overnight and the next day attend the Women's Day of Reflection or the Day of Creativity all for **\$80.00. This includes Breakfast on Saturday.**

On **May 7**, **Claudia Gregoire** will guide a **Creativity Day** for Men and Women. Her theme for the day is **Contemplative Creativity**. Claudia tells us that Jesuit theologian Walter Burghardt once described contemplation as "a long, loving look at the real." Claudia invites us to bring our journals, sketchbooks, cameras or just



come and join us for a "long, loving look at the real."

On **May 15**, **Sr. Carol Davis, OP** will offer an afternoon on ***The Art of Healing Through Dreaming.***

***Participants must have previously attended one of Sr. Carol's dream programs or dream groups.**

Day/Evening Programs March-June 2016

Times on calendar indicate the **scheduled time** for the actual beginning and end of the program.
Registration begins 30 minutes **prior** to the start of the program.



Monthly Workshop

Organizing, Changing, Downsizing, Rightsizing

Thursdays: March 10 April 14 May 19 June 9

10:00AM-Noon

Ceil Amendolia, OPA

\$15.00 per session

Sung Vespers in the Spirit of Taize

Thursdays: March 17 April 14 May 19 June 16

Dominican Sisters

7:00PM-8:00PM

Celtic Day of Reflection

Celtic Crosses: Stone, Reed, Wood—Symbols of Faith

Thursday, March 17 9:45 AM-3:00 PM

Sr. June Fitzgerald, OP

\$30.00

Morning Presentation

Gospel Women in Our Midst, An Experience of prayer, reflection and creative expression on Women of the Gospel

Tuesdays: April 5, 12, 19, 26 10:00AM-Noon

DRCC Staff

\$15/each or \$55 for all

4

Coffeehouse

Sunday, April 3

7:00PM-9:00PM

Mark Rust

\$20.00

Evening Presentation

A Poetry Feast

Friday, April 8

7:00PM-9:00PM

Nancy Gendron

\$15.00

Organizing Workshop

Spring Into Action - It is time to Organize!

Saturday, April 9 10:00AM-3:00PM

Ceil Amendolia, OPA

\$30.00

Emmaus Meals

"Were not our hearts burning within us?" (Lk. 24:32)

Wednesdays: April 13, 20, 27 6:30PM-8:15PM

DRCC Staff

\$15 each or \$40 for all 3

Afternoon Workshop

Waterlily Pray and Paint

Saturday, April 16

1:30PM-4:30PM

Noreen Powell

\$35.00

(includes supplies)

Sunday afternoon 12 Step Presentation

TBA

Sunday, April 17

1:30-4:30PM

TBA

\$20.00

March 2016

(518) 393-4169

Scripture Presentation

Luke: The Gospel of Mercy in the Year of Mercy

Thursday, April 21

10:00AM-Noon

Program repeated

7:00PM-9:00PM

Fr. Jim Kane

\$15.00

Day of Reflection

St. Joseph

Tuesday, May 3

9:45AM-3:00PM

Sr. Betsy Van Deusen, CSJ

\$30.00

Benefactor's Appreciation

7:00PM-9:00PM

Girls' Night Out

Women Rising in the Church

Friday, May 6

6:00PM-8:30PM

Kim Harris, PhD

\$25.00

Day for Women

Women Rising in the World Community

Saturday, May 7

10:00AM-3:00PM

Kim Harris, PhD

\$30.00

Day of Creativity

Contemplative Creativity

Saturday, May 7

10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Claudia Gregoire, OPA

\$30.00

Evening Presentation

Anger in the Workplace

Wednesday, May 11

7:00PM-9:00PM

Fr. Tom Konopka

\$15.00

CASAC Training

Comprehensive Mental Status and Suicide

Friday, May 13

9:00AM-4:00PM

Sue Sulzman fee paid by May 8: \$55/after May 8: \$60)

Evening Presentation

Praised be Laudato Si

Friday, May 13

7:00-8:30PM

Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS

\$15.00

Dreaming Workshop

The Art of Healing Through Dreaming

Sunday, May 15

10:00AM-4:00PM

Sr. Carol Davis, OP

\$40.00

**Participants must have previously attended one of Sr.*

Carol's dream programs or dream groups.

Eucharistic Ministers Evening of Reflection

Tuesday, May 31

6:20PM-9:30PM

Fr. Bob Longobucco

dsleny@nybiz.rr.com

Weekend Programs March-June 2016

Weekend for Women Survivors of Sexual Abuse

Mourning Losses, Claiming Life

March 18-20

Sr. Carol Davis, OP \$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)

April 1-3

Sr. Kitty Hanley, CSJ \$205.00*

May 20-22

Sr. Teresa Tuite, OP \$205.00*

Knitting and Crocheting Weekend:

All Are Connected.

April 15-17

Sr. Marguerite Chandler, OP \$205.00*

Retreat for Men & Women in 12 Step Recovery

God Chooses Recovery for Us

April 22-24

Sr. Maureen Murphy, OP \$205.00*

Retreat for Women Religious

Survivors of Sexual Abuse - Grace will Lead us Home

April 29-May 1

Sr. Carol Davis, OP \$205.00*

Yoga Weekend Retreat for Men & Women

Healing Our Layers and Levels with

Gentle & Restorative Yoga "What are You Healing?"

June 3-5

Sonya Boesse \$205.00*

Weekend for Persons with Disabilities

June 10-12

\$100.00

Instruments of Joy and Peace

Fr. Ron Meyer, OMI returns to be with us on this special weekend. He brings a lot of energy, enthusiasm and surprises. Fr. Ron tells us "We are all instruments in God's band ... members of the divine orchestra. Brand new or seasoned, quiet or loud, in perfect pitch or rough melody, with clear melody or spontaneous percussion, ringing bells or waving colored scarves ... God wants to make beautiful music with, in and through us. Most of all, God wants us to fill our lives from wall to wall and floor to rafter, with sounds of peace and joy."

This will not be a quiet weekend!!



Weekend programs begin Friday with sign-in at 7:00 PM and conclude early Sunday afternoon.

***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.

Thank you for your understanding and for all you have done in the past to support the Retreat House.

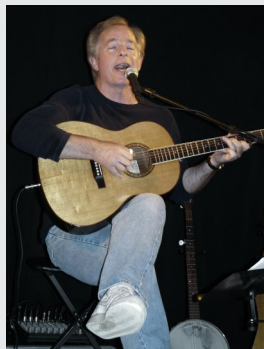
Mark Rust Returns

Coffeehouse

April 3, 2016 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Cost \$20.00

For information
call (518) 393-4169,
email dslcny@nybiz.rr.com,
or visit us online at:
www.dslcny.org



*Proceeds benefit
Dominican Retreat
and Conference Center*

REGISTRATION FORM: Please include deposit (\$50.00 non-refundable for Weekend Registration)

To save time and postage, Credit Card Reservations can be made via:

- ✓ website (www.dslcny.org)
- ✓ faxed (518-393-4525)
- ✓ Phoned in (518-393-4169)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

E-mail _____ (c) _____

Diet/room needs: _____

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: _____

It's never too early to start thinking about our annual fund raiser, **"More than Just Desserts"**.

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

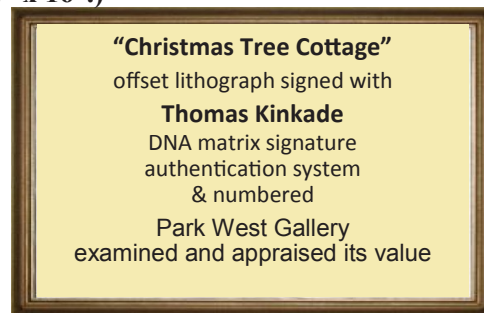
One drawing is for the popular **Year Long Pass**, this pass is good from January 1-December 31, 2017 and enables you to attend any and all programs at DRCC free of charge.

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").



**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

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Donation not required for participation

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\$10,000 + Ministry Partner

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Updated as of January 1, 2016
(Every effort has been made to be
accurate. Please inform us of any
omissions or inaccuracies)

***We thank all of you for
sharing your time, talent
and treasure with each
person who walks through
our doors!***

A Reflection from our Secretary:

Recently I was babysitting my grandchildren and 3-year old Everett was trying to eat dinner while dealing with all the miserable symptoms that accompany a nasty head cold. He stopped everything and pitifully looked at me, saying ... as if I didn't know ... "I've got a cold." Without missing a heartbeat and in a voice full of compassion, my 6-year old granddaughter, Juniper, said, "It **BREAKS** my heart when he says *that!*"

Sweet as it was to hear, it got me thinking about what breaks *my* heart. Of course there are many things I could list on a personal note, but thoughts also worked their way to the Domini-can Retreat and Conference Center. As the secretary, I hear all sorts of things and the one thing I can say that I share with everyone here, is how it breaks *our* hearts when someone feels they can't make it to a program or retreat due to the cost.

We offer pay-as-YOU-can payment plans for those who can't pay all at one time. On occasion we have scholarships thanks to people who have the means donating to those who do not. PLEASE don't feel that you can't afford to come! Please call and discuss it with someone so you don't miss out on something that *you can't afford to miss!*

Debbie, 518-393-4169.



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Recovery Corner

In the book the Language of Letting Go, Melody Beattie reminds us that *Acceptance is the Magic that makes*

Change Possible. Here at DRCC we offer several programs that help us grow in our experience of acceptance.

Sr. Carol Davis, OP will guide our retreat weekend for Women Survivors of Sexual Abuse. The dates are: **March 18-20** and the theme is *Mourning Losses; Claiming Life*. In her description of the weekend, Sr. Carol says: "There is a release in acknowledging the truth of sexual abuse and in feeling the grief. It takes courage and stamina to move through shock and denial to the grief of betrayal, loss of safety, loss of innocence, loss of trust, loss of control over one's body. In a spirit of sacred compassion we will explore these themes this weekend. The retreat will include lecture, music, sharing, prayer, rest, tears, and laughter!"

On **Sunday afternoon, April 17**, we will offer an afternoon for people in recovery. Our presenter and topic are yet to be revealed! Watch for more details.

The following weekend **April 22-24, Sr. Maureen Murphy, OP** returns to guide our spring retreat for Men and Women in 12 Step Recovery. The theme Maureen has chosen is: *God Chooses Recovery for Us*. Sr. Maureen tells us God has offered recovery to each of us. She also raises the question, what is my daily response to this gift?

On **April 29-May 1**, our theme is *Grace Will Lead Us Home*. This is a weekend for Women Religious who are survivors of sexual abuse. **Sr. Carol Davis, OP** will guide this retreat. This retreat will provide a safe gathering space and time for healing. We will acknowledge the long-term effects of sexual abuse. It will be a time to honor your courage and resiliency in claiming healing and a time for connecting with the blessed beauty of your truest self.

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