



SAN DAMIANO RETREAT

DANVILLE • CALIFORNIA

AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2015

We have begun asking ourselves a new question at San Damiano. The question no longer is how we are as a retreat center. Sure, we will always make a hospitable place for people to retreat from the world to learn, rest, pray, and heal. However, the question now being asked is how are we a Franciscan presence in Northern California. From that question, many things are incarnating.

We are searching for a new employee to increase our outreach to the poor and marginalized, strengthen our retreat options for people who desire to make a private retreat, and increase the opportunities for people seeking spiritual direction.

San Damiano could not exist without a building. With that in mind, we have also been doing some “Tender Loving Care”. These projects of love have included getting new

chairs and installing ceiling fans in the dining room, adding better and more cost effective lighting in several meeting rooms, replacing some old windows, painting meeting rooms, helping several hives of bees find a better home than our roof, repairing parts of and painting the outside of the building, and generally cleaning out clutter. (see page 5 for more about our story)

We are doing a great deal. Yet, 60 minutes watching the nightly news will tell you we have much more to do. With these challenging and often annoying words of St. Francis, “Let us begin again, for up till now we have done little or nothing”, I invite you to join us in being a Franciscan presence in the world. Peace!

Br. Michael Minton, OFM



**A FRANCISCAN PRESENCE
IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**



FR. VINCE MESRI, OFM, DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of San Damiano,

Peace and all Good!

As you can see from this Newsletter, there are many wonderful opportunities for you to make a retreat and to receive some valuable spiritual formation in your Christian life! I call your special attention to the Franciscan celebrations to be held here at San Damiano. The Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula is August 2nd. I invite you to this lovely afternoon of reflection on this special feast day for Franciscans. On this day we commemorate the birthplace of the Order in this tiny chapel in the Assisi Valley and also where the early friars were sent out on mission. It was here at the Portiuncula, "The Little Portion", that Francis died on October 3rd, 1226. Then, we keep the feast of St. Clare, Francis' closest companion, on August 11th. Come along for beautiful Solemn Vespers and a Presentation. A lovely reception to follow. Please take time to look over this brochure and find an offering which is just right for you!

In closing, I regretfully have to tell you that my short time here at San Damiano has come to an end. I have been invited to accept a new assignment at St. Elizabeth's Friary in Oakland as Guardian and Formation Director of our Franciscan students. I have enjoyed my time here and have learned a lot! I do look forward to coming back to celebrate Liturgy with you and to present some retreats. Please keep me in your prayers in this new venture. Also, please keep Br. Mike Minton in your prayers who now will add the Directorship of the retreat center to his many hats!

Much Love,

San Damiano Retreat Presents "Late Nite Catechism"

2:00 p.m., Sunday, August 30, 2015
St. Isidore Parish Hall
Monsignor Cardelli Center
440 La Gonda Way, Danville, CA 94526

Late Nite Catechism is an uproariously funny play that takes the audience back to their youth. The irrepressible Sister teaches class to a roomful of "students". Throughout the course of the class the benevolent instructor rewards the "students" for correct answers with glow-in-the dark rosaries and other nifty prizes. Naughty students might well find themselves on stage sitting in a corner reflecting upon their actions. Even the most reluctant "students" are clamoring to get into Sister's class! This nostalgic and delightful comedy will be sure to bring lots of joy and laughter to all of us! This show will be a fundraiser for San Damiano Retreat and so come along, have some fun and support San Damiano at the same time!



4 OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT SAN DAMIANO & Have Fun!

August 30, 2015

"Late Nite Catechism"



September 20, 2015

Family Spaghetti Dinner

Bring the whole family and enjoy a great meal!

October 25, 2015

Fall Auction and Dinner

Space will be limited so sign up early, meet some new friends and support San Damiano.

May 16, 2016

3rd Annual Golf Tournament

Visit sandamiano.org for more details.

Experiences of Prayer and Celebration

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2015

FRANCISCAN FEAST DAY THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS: THE PORTIUNCULA

Fr. Vincent Mesì, OFM

This Franciscan Feast gets its name from the Latin word "Portiuncula" meaning "little portion" in honor of a "little church" restored by St. Francis in the Assisi Valley. On October 3, 1226, Francis died here. Also known as the Feast of the Great Pardon, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day ends with a Festive Mass. (Hors d'oeuvre Reception)

Check-in at 1:30 pm, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm. \$15

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2015

FRANCISCAN FEAST DAY THE FEAST OF ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

Fr. Vincent Mesì, OFM

Clare of Assisi was born into nobility but having been inspired by the preaching and simple lifestyle of St. Francis, she left all things to follow a similar path to holiness. During Solemn Vespers and our conference we will explore how Clare of Assisi was a "Living Mirror of Christ" and how we too who follow her example, can be light — "mirror" Christ the Light in our own lives. (Solemn Vespers & Conference followed by a festive dinner)

Check-in at 4:30; 5:15 pm – 7:00 pm. \$20

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2015

THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING JESUS, THE KING OF HEARTS

Fr. Vincent Mesì, OFM

In our reflection today we will try to understand more fully what we mean by the title "king" as applied to Jesus. The kingship of Jesus is not of this world. Jesus Christ is the ideal ruler. How will we meet the challenges of proclaiming the Kingdom of Christ in our world today? Along with the presentations, we will celebrate a festive Eucharist! Check-in at 9:00 am, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm. \$35

Weekend Retreats

JULY 31-AUGUST 2, 2015

SILENT CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE: BECOMING A PROPHECY OF MERCY AND JOY

Fr. Dan Manger, OSB, Cam.

Our contemplative practice should stimulate the heart and spirit and deploy the development of prophetic living out of mercy and joy. This retreat offers reflections and content on utilizing these two aspects of contemplative habitation with the God of all mercy and joy. \$230/\$205

AUGUST 14-16, 2015

SPIRITUAL SPA WEEKEND SPIRITUALITY AND CREATIVITY: WHERE THE TWO COME TOGETHER BEAUTY AND GRACE HAPPEN

Rena Grant, MA & Kathy Miranda, MA

Come away this weekend to nourish mind,

body and soul. You're invited to immerse yourself in the beauty of life, releasing your creative spirit while being attentive to abundant grace. \$235/\$205

AUGUST 21-23, 2015

WOMEN IN SCRIPTURE THE HIDDEN GEMS OF THE BIBLE AND OUR FAITH

Fr. Garrett Galvin, OFM

This retreat will look at the famous and not-so-famous women of the Bible: Ruth, Esther, and Judith. These women question the certainties of dogma with an openness to the boundary-breaking love most perfectly exemplified by Ruth and Mary. \$235/\$205

SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2015

RECOVERY RETREAT KEEPING IT PRACTICAL AND SIMPLE: LIVING IN THE WORLD OF RECOVERY

Fr. Tom Weston, SJ

A weekend of conversation, quiet, and reflection focused on the 12 Steps of Recovery and the Traditions. All in recovery are welcome. \$235/\$205

OCTOBER 2-4, 2015

FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY RETREAT Franciscan Voices

There is no better way to experience Franciscan spirituality than to see how it is incarnated into people's lives. This weekend will celebrate and explore the Franciscan Charism in the many ways it is lived out by many different people (friars, sisters, secular, lay). On Saturday we will travel by bus to St. Boniface in San Francisco to join the secular community in celebrating their 100th anniversary. Transitus will be celebrated here at San Damiano Saturday evening. \$235/\$205

OCTOBER 9-11, 2015

INTERFAITH RETREAT THE SPIRIT BREATHE WHEREVER THE SPIRIT WILLS

Fr. Tom Bonacci, CP

It is quite important to establish principles by which we might dialogue, encounter, and appreciate the religious practitioner of a "Faith" Tradition other than our own. We do so that we might re-encounter our own faith tradition with the mind and heart born of our encounter with others. \$235/\$205

OCTOBER 23-25, 2015

SPIRITUALITY RETREAT MORE FULLY, MORE FAITHFULLY: LIVING YOUR COMMITMENT

Fr. Patrick Foley

Whatever your commitment might be — married life, single life, religious life, ordained life — finding it is one challenge. Learning how to live it with ever-increasing meaning and ever-greater fulfillment is another ongoing challenge. This weekend will address both of those challenges. Whether you are now living a committed life, or are still searching for one, you might just find this weekend an invaluable retreat experience with numerous practical tools that you can incorporate into life. \$235/\$205

OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 1, 2015

GRIEF RETREAT

AM I GOING CRAZY

Fr. Padraig Greene

Surrender your grieving heart to the healing process and you will find your way through it. A grief retreat is not an escape but an experience of healing from grief. When we begin healing, we begin to live again. Give yourself (or a loved one) a weekend away in a safe and beautiful environment in the presence of people who understand as you cherish the memories through prayer, writing, reflection, music and ritual. \$225/\$195

NOVEMBER 27-29, 2015

RECOVERY RETREAT CELEBRATING THE MIRACLES OF RECOVERY

Sr. Briegeen Moore, OSC (Sr. B)

This weekend at peaceful San Damiano will provide an opportunity to: REMEMBER the miracles of the 12 Step recovery program. Topics to be explored will include: Faith in a loving God, Acceptance of "life on life's terms", Gratitude for all of life as we continue our recovery journey. \$235/\$205

DECEMBER 4-6, 2015

SILENT ADVENT RETREAT THE PILGRIM'S WAY

Paula D'Arcy

The images and dreams we have for our lives are always different from what actually unfolds. Let us discover ways to walk with an open heart this Advent, learning to embrace the changes we can never anticipate and beginning to belong with great fidelity to something deep within. Silent prayer as well as silent meals will be part of the weekend experience. \$235/\$205

DECEMBER 30 – JANUARY 1, 2016

NEW YEAR'S RETREAT YEAR OF MERCY

Fr. Vincent Mesì, OFM

What better way to ring in the New Year than taking time to give thanks for this past year and to anticipate 2016 as a time of newness and surprises! Through Liturgy, presentations and sharing, we will begin the New Year, which Pope Francis has called the "Year of Mercy". And don't think we won't have fun too! Our New Year's Eve Party will be a delight! Come join the San Damiano Community. \$225/\$195

Day Retreats

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2015

SILENT MEDITATION DAY CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING IN A HECTIC WORLD

Sr. Barbara Hazzard, OSB

The most important part of life is our relationship with God. How do you experience God? This day of reflection will help to reveal peace and presence in your life. It will include the teaching and practice of Silent Meditation, Lectio Divina (Sacred Scripture), and mindfulness.

Check-in at 9:30 am, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. \$60

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2015
YOUNG ADULT RETREAT DAY
FACING CHANGE

Paula Jenkins, MAR, Earl Rivaard, & Carol Valladao

Life is full of change, and the way we react and adapt to new changes dictates our personal sense of peace and well-being. What does Jesus teach us about change through His life and resurrection? Using John 21 as a starting point, we will reconsider the role of change in our lives, looking for ways to identify it as a transformative and powerful force. *Check-in at 9:00 am, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. \$55*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2015
JOURNALING WORKSHOP
A PATH TO SPIRITUAL DISCOVERIES

Nancy Burchett

Do you journal regularly? Occasionally? Think it's a good idea you never got around to? Come for a relaxing and inspiring day offering ways to deepen your spiritual journey through journaling. Get to know yourself better and increase God-intimacy. Writing exercises and discussion will expand your imagination and thought. Bring your own journal or a notepad. *Check-in at 9:00 am; 9:30 am - 3:00 pm. \$45*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015
EVERYTHING IS SACRED

Sr. Joanna Bramble, CSJ

This day of prayer, poetry, music, conversation and times of silent reflection will focus on Mary Oliver's questions: "What does it mean that the earth is so beautiful? And what shall I do about it? What is the gift that I should bring to the world? What is the life that I should live?" (From *Long Life*, p. 9) **All poetry will be from Mary Oliver.** *Check-in at 9:00; 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. \$55*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015
PERSONAL GROWTH DAY
COSMIC SPIRITUALITY

David Richo, Ph.D.

With the resurgence of spirituality today, institutional religion has become a target of mistrust. Our spirituality is cosmic when it opens to the mystical realization that the whole universe is on a spiritual path. Our

challenge then is to trust our connection to one another and to the cosmos. We will see that since all that has happened to us has offered us graces, reality itself is holy. This is how we find a big-minded and big-hearted spiritual life. 5 CE Units for MFT, LCSW, RN, & LVN's. *Check-in at 9:00 am, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. \$85/\$105 with CE units*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2015
DAY FOR VETERANS
JOURNEYING IN THE SPIRIT

*Sr. Peggy Dwyer, CSJ, MFT
 Lt. Col. (Ret.) Bryne Sherwood*

This day will provide the place and time for veterans of all wars to come together for conversation, reflection and networking. Discussion will include what has worked, what hasn't, and what supports are needed. The team of facilitators includes a therapist, spiritual director, and several veterans. This year is 40 years since the end of the Vietnam War and 70 years since the end of WWII. *Check-in at 8:30 am, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, lunch included. \$15*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2015
AN ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION
PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

Fr. Vincent Mesi, OFM

In the midst of Christmas parties, gifts and greeting cards, we should take this opportunity to reflect on Jesus who is "the Reason for the Season!" With our Advent companions, Isaiah, John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph, we will spend this day studying the Advent Scriptures so that we may prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming of Jesus into our hearts at Christmas. We will end the day with the celebration of the Eucharist. *Check-in at 9:00; 9:30 am – 3:00 pm. \$35*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015
SILENT MEDITATION DAY
PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

Sr. Barbara Hazzard, OSB

This will be a quiet day of reflection and concentration on the practice of Christian Meditation in preparation for Christmas. *Check-in at 9:00 am, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. \$55*

Afternoon/Evening Retreats

SUNDAYS, AUG. 23 & NOV. 8, 2015
DAY OF DIALOGUE FOR
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL &
TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE

Br. Mike Minton, OFM

"You are also a child of God, gifted and called for a purpose in God's design." We will share stories and prayer. Family members and friends are welcome. *1:00 – 4:00 pm. No Cost*

WED., SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 & OCT. 7 & 14, 2015
EMBODIED PRAYER SERIES

Rev. Steve Harms, Elise & Kaleo Ching

East meets west in this journey of deepening your connection to the Divine through Qigong, meditation, and prayer involving your body, mind, and spirit. Drawing from Judeo-Christian, Taoist, and Buddhist wisdom and compassion practices, explore, engage, and share your ever-unfolding spiritual awareness. *Check-in at 5:30 pm, 6:00 – 7:30 pm \$15 per session, \$75 for series*

TUESDAYS, SEPT. 22, 29 & OCT. 6, 13, 20, & 27
FALL BOOK SERIES

GOD WHISPERS - STORIES OF THE SOUL,
LESSONS OF THE HEART BY KARYN KEDAR

Facilitated by Kathy Miranda, MA

Explore matters of the heart and soul and how they connect to all that is essential to self, family, community and God. God may whisper, but the stories in this book speak loud and clear. *Check-in at 9:00 am, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, lunch optional at \$10. \$20 per session, \$100 for series*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2015
JUNIPERO SERRA DAY

THE TRANSFORMATION OF A
MISSIONARY: JUNIPERO SERRA IN HIS
OWN WORDS

Robert Senkewicz

What we will be trying to do is present a rounded picture of Serra, as a human being and in all of his complexity. The focus will be on his relationship with the native peoples and upon his own perception of his self-identity as a missionary. *Check-in at 1:30 pm, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm. \$15*

RESERVATION FORM

TO MAKE A RESERVATION:
 please send this form & a \$50 deposit per person to:

San Damiano Retreat
 Reservations
 PO Box 767
 Danville, CA 94526-0767

www.sandamiano.org

Deposits are non-refundable, but transferable to a future retreat (within one year) providing cancellation is received at least 7 days prior to the retreat.

Phone: (925) 837-9141
 Fax: (925) 837-0522

Name(s): _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip+4

E-mail: _____ Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Special Needs: _____ All Rooms are Non-Smoking

Room Preference: Private Double Share With: _____

Name of Retreat: _____ Date of Retreat: _____

Dollar amounts for each retreat noted above are donations for "Private Room/Double Occupancy".

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Charge All Deposit Only

Name on Credit Card: _____ Signature: _____

HOW ARE WE A FRANCISCAN PRESENCE IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA?

Ecumenical



We are working at healing the “scandal of division” amongst the Christian Churches by offering ecumenical prayer services; first with Taize during Lent and now every Saturday with Morning Prayer at 8:45.



Care for Creation

We are deepening our care for creation by looking at our water usage, updating our spring-fed water tank, changing our watering system from spray to drip, capturing rain water, placing signs in

guest rooms encouraging conservation of “sister water”, mulching more to keep the moisture in the ground, making plans to address sustainability in the gardens, and exploring the feasibility of putting in solar power. Also, we have flowers that are specifically attractive food sources to bees and butterflies, helping them have places to eat as they migrate and move.

Liturgy

We have added more Franciscan themed prayer and retreat experiences.



Outreach to the Poor

We have agreed to be the last resort short-term placement for an established social service agency in the East Bay helping refugees as they arrive in this country.



Interfaith

We are continuing to work at being “a bridge” for people of different religions and cultures to meet, talk, and know one another.



Spiritual Direction

We have continued helping people discover what God is doing in their lives. We are making plans to increase Spiritual Direction availability on weekends and in private retreats.





SAN DAMIANO RETREAT

DANVILLE • CALIFORNIA

P.O. Box 767 • Danville, CA 94526-0767
710 Highland Drive
Phone: 925-837-9141 • Fax: 925-837-0522

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BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On Saturday, Oct. 3rd at 2:00 pm, bring your furry, feathered and four-legged friends to San Damiano for a special blessing to honor the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi.

The Franciscan Friars will bless all pets and pet owners. Meet in the front by the statue of St. Francis.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



HOSTED RETREATS

We have meeting and retreat space mid-week for religious, non-profit and secular groups. We provide a unique environment for conferences, meetings and workshops. Using our center can enrich, inspire and revitalize your group. Consider us the next time you need a space. Contact Lisa: lisab@sandamiano.org, 925-837-9141 ext. 303

PRIVATE RETREATS

We offer private retreat opportunities mid-week. A private retreat can be scheduled with or without spiritual direction. Contact Kateri for reservations: katerik@sandamiano.org, 925-837-9141 ext. 315

MARK YOUR 2016 CALENDAR

Franciscan Spirituality Weekend

Sr. Mary Beth Ingham
January 22-24

Ash Wednesday Day Of Renewal

San Damiano Friars
February 10

Holy Week Retreat

Friars & Retreat Team
March 24-27

Recovery Retreat Weekend

Fr. Tom Weston, SJ
April 8-10

Praying With Icons Weekend

Robert Lentz
April 22-24