

SAN DAMIANO RETREAT

The Canticle

A Franciscan Presence in Northern California

WINTER 2019/2020

Greetings!

Over 800 years ago, St. Francis never set out to found an order. However, within a few years there were thousands of men following his way of life. They traveled the country sides proclaiming the Gospel and living their lives of total dependence on God for their daily needs. Women who wished to follow this same way of life could only do this by entering a convent. So, when St. Clare wanted to continue the works of mercy she was already performing and follow Francis, she was housed in an already existing convent. This gift of the Franciscan charism continues to be lived out in the world today through all vocations in life.

As the charism has changed and grown, we move on to a new stage of life for San Damiano which is lay persons as administrators. **Mr. Peter Wise** was one of the first lay directors joining us in 2017. Although a Vincentian, Peter's love and care for creation and this space are unmistakably Franciscan. Peter is stepping down as director to spend more time with aging family members and will continue his good work in many other ministries. One of the ministries Peter and his wife Patrice hold dear to their hearts is serving at a convent and school in Ethiopia.

Here at San Damiano, he has overseen many projects and was literally hands-on from planning to completion. He worked closely with our maintenance crew and could be seen around the grounds lending a hand and a fair amount of sweat to many projects that came to fruition under his leadership. He could be found scraping and painting the newly restored courtyard fountain, felling trees and teaching the maintenance men the proper way to sharpen their chainsaws. He helped dig out the stairway and poured cement to form stairs that lead to one of the hiking trails and orchard. He will leave us soon, but not before the completion of the new heating and cooling system, replacing the original 50+ year old system which services the meeting spaces and friary.

The friars have asked for **Ms. Lisa Briones** to serve as San Damiano's Interim Director. Lisa has worked at San Damiano for over 13 years and knows this place inside out. Her loyalty to the Franciscans and deep devotion to our guests has served us well and we know San Damiano will continue to flourish. Both Peter and Lisa give thanks to our leaders in the past and are grateful for the opportunity to carry on the legacy. As the world is in transition, so are we.

As lay administration is growing in our retreat houses, we look to the friars who have mentored us over the years and those who continue to mentor us every day. They have given us the tools to use in our daily lives that will continue the charism that St. Francis started so many years ago.

—*The Staff and Friars at San Damiano*

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Retreats & Worship

Here is a listing of upcoming retreats and worship opportunities.

We also invite you to visit www.sandamiano.org or call for more details or to register.

Green shaded boxes indicate opportunities to experience Franciscan spirituality.

DECEMBER

December 30–January 1

New Year's Retreat: Every Ending is a New Beginning

Fr. Rusty Shaughnessy OFM
with Jim Gibson & Laura
Woodworth Gibson

Cost: \$245 (private room) or
\$215 (shared room)

JANUARY

January 10–12

*Trauma Recovery Retreat:
Charting a New Course with
Meaning and Purpose*

Tom Gorham & Sabrina
Bolus from Options Recovery

Cost: \$245 (private room) or
\$215 (shared room)

January 24–26



*The Franciscan Heart
of Thomas Merton*

Fr. Dan Horan OFM

Cost: \$250 (private room) or
\$230 (shared room)



FEBRUARY

February 7–9

*Married Couples Retreat:
Life-giving Love & Proactive
Interdependence*

"I'll take care of me for you,
You take care of you for me"

Fr. Rusty Shaughnessy OFM
& the Obergnessers

Cost: \$350 per couple

February 26



*Ash Wednesday Day
of Renewal*

Fr. Rusty Shaughnessy OFM

Time: 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Cost: \$40 (lunch included)

February 28–March 1

*LifeSHIFT: Work & the
Christian Journey*

Dr. Thomas Bachhuber &
Jim Briggs

Cost: \$255 (private room) or
\$225 (shared room)

February 29–April 4

Stations of the Cross

Jan Stegner

Saturdays 9:30–10:30 AM

Cost: Free

MARCH

March 3–April 7

*Lenten Book Series:
"A Tree Full of Angels"
by Macrina Wiederkehr*

Kathy Miranda

Tuesdays 9:30 AM–12:00 PM

Cost: \$25 per session;
\$20 optional lunch

March 4–April 1

Lenten Taize Prayer

Wednesdays 7:00–8:00 PM

Cost: Free

March 17



*Lenten Day of Renewal:
My God and My All*

Fr. Rusty Shaughnessy OFM

Time: 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Cost: \$40 (lunch included)

March 21

*Christian Meditation Day:
"Connecting with the
Inner Spirit"*

Hesed Community and
World Community for
Christian Meditation

Time: 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Cost: \$55 (lunch included)

Retreats & Worship

March 27–29

Feisty Gospel Women

Kathy Coffey

Cost: \$245 (private room) or \$215 (shared room)

March 29–April 2

Working Retreat

Staff and Friars of
San Damiano Retreat

Cost: Free



Photo: Jennifer Ortega

APRIL

April 9–12

Holy Week Retreat

Fr. Richard Juzix OFM

Cost: \$265 (private room) or \$245 (shared room)



April 14–May 5

The Unspoken Women of Holy Week

Jan Stegner

Tuesdays 9:30 AM–2:30 PM

Cost: \$35 per session
(lunch included)

MAY

May 8–9

Awakening the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit During Times of Transition

Colette Lafia

Cost: \$245 (private room) or \$215 (shared room)

May 22–24

Retreat for Adult Children of Alcoholics

Tom Gorham & Sabrina Bolus
from Options Recovery

Cost: \$245 (private room) or \$215 (shared room)

JUNE

June 5–6

Retirement and Purposeful Aging – What's Next in My Life?

Jim Briggs

Cost: \$135 (private room) or \$120 (shared room)

June 5–7

You Are Wonderfully Made: Welcome and Respect for Transgender Individuals and Their Families

Deacon Raymond Dever

Cost: \$245 (private room) or \$215 (shared room)

June 14–20

Holy Belonging: Our Unbroken Wholeness Silent Retreat

Dr. Carol Quinlivan CSJ

Cost: \$375 (private room) or \$325 (shared room)

June 21–26

Parables: Surprised by Grace

Sr. Patricia Bruno, OP &
Jude Siciliana

Cost: \$375 (private room) or \$325 (shared room)

These groups meet monthly throughout the year:

First Wednesdays and Saturdays:

Group Spiritual Direction (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM)

Second Thursdays:

Circle of Compassion (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM)

For details and to join, please contact group leader

Kathy Miranda at katesloan7@comcast.net

Spotlight On...

Shining Brightly: Evening Under the Stars

In a word, this year's event was STELLAR. We thank the nearly 200 guests who attended as well as those who supported us from afar. The net proceeds from the evening exceeded \$90,000 and set a new record. Your generosity enables people of all income levels to experience Franciscan hospitality while providing for the future.



Live auctioneer
Chris Regalia

volunteers for sharing their God-given gifts to further the Franciscan mission: **Debbie Alexy, Cindy Fox, Nancy Lisiak, Jane Korinke, Bernie Mahan, Robin Moody, Marcy Parker, David Perna, Chris Regalia, Jane Thomas, and Alison Yount.**

If you would like to be part of the enthusiastic team organizing Evening Under the Stars 2020, please contact this year's committee chairperson, **Debbie Alexy** (Debalex@att.net).

We are most grateful to this year's auction committee

Al Alexy, Steve Yount, and Scott Whitmer review the fine wine offerings.



George Dooley (middle) is flanked by his number one friends Jane Thacker and Phil Radlick.



Brother Christopher Best considers a silent auction bid for sports memorabilia.

Photos by David Perna

Speaker Spotlight

Fr. Dan Horan OFM

San Damiano welcomes Franciscan **Father Dan Horan** on January 24-26 to reveal the "The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton."



Fr. Dan teaches systematic theology and spirituality at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, writes a column for National Catholic Reporter, and is the author of twelve books including the award-winning *The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton: A New Look at the Spiritual Influence on His Life, Thought, and Writing* (2014).

Thomas Merton was a Trappist monk and one of the most popular spiritual writers of the 20th century. St. Francis and Franciscan scholars Scotus and Bonaventure inspired Merton, shaping his notions of "the true self": "The measure of our identity, of our being (the two are the same) is the amount of our love for God."

Fr. Dan's approachable style is at once profound and humorous. Be sure to ask Fr. Dan about his "Play-Doh Theory of Individuation".

If you would like to read books by Thomas Merton or Dan Horan, we have many titles available in the San Damiano gift shop.

In The News



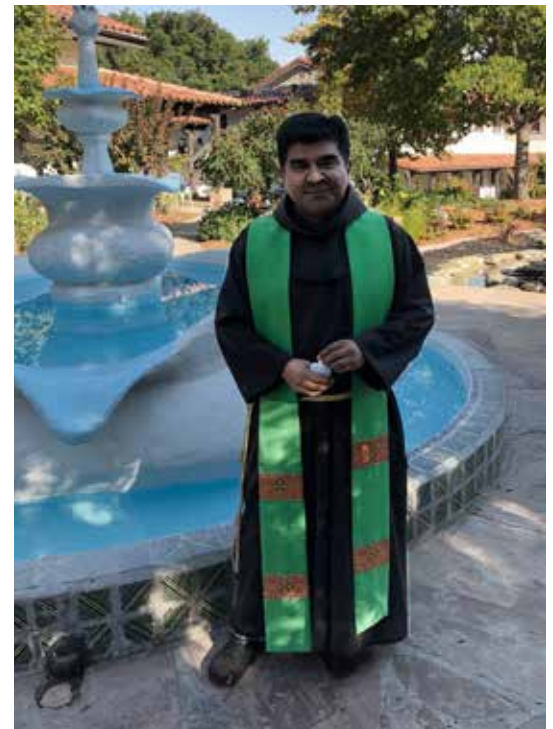
Guests of San Damiano's **Wine and Jazz Reception** in July were once again treated to wonderful weather, delectable appetizers and wines, and the **CoolTones'** uplifting renditions of stage and screen favorites.

Photos by David Perna.



Fr. Philip Garcia blesses **Christiana Loew Reed's** pigeons before she puts them up for adoption. See www.pigeonrescue.org for more information. We like the pigeons so much, that we are in the process of building an aviary near the orchard.

Photo by Dominique Mintz



Fr. Luis Guzman blesses San Damiano's fountain. Fountain restoration was one of outgoing director **Peter Wise's** pet projects. Special thanks to volunteers and staff member **David Shell** for your labors of love.



With trowels, shovels, gloves and plants, twenty "gardening angels" from **Diablo Garden Club** descended on San Damiano. **Cindy Fox** (front, center) coordinated the courtyard sprucing up event and was overwhelmed by the response.



SAN DAMIANO RETREAT

DANVILLE • CALIFORNIA

710 Highland Drive
Danville, CA 94526

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit our website: sandamiano.org or
Call: (925) 837-9141

SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

January 19	Dinner Around the World: Asia
February 9	Dinner Around the World: Latin America
March 15	Dinner Around the World: Ireland
May 10	Mother's Day Brunch
June 21	Father's Day BBQ
July 19	Jazz & Wine Reception
August 16	Bluegrass + Pasta
September 26	Evening Under the Stars Auction Dinner
October 18	Dinner Around the World: Germany
November 15	Dinner Around the World: USA's Traditional Thanksgiving
Coming in December	"Tips for Change" Dinner at Gianni's Italian Bistro



Photo: David Perna