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Dear Friends,

Summer is here! Let’s celebrate the beauty of nature which is God’s handiwork in action. We, Tiffin Franciscans, welcome you to our campus, a place of beauty, peace, and quiet where you can absorb the beauty of creation . . . a gift we have been given to share.

It’s a wonderful time of the year to stroll through our campus and experience nature unfolding in all its glory. It’s a time when my senses are heightened as sounds and signs of new life are made visible each day. What a gift it is for me to enjoy “God’s handiwork” as I listen to the chirping of the birds, watch the flowers sprouting their bright colors after a long winter’s nap, feel the gentle breeze or warmth of the sun on my face, smell the grass being mowed, or stop to encounter someone as I walk on our grounds. The glory of God is indeed all about us.

In this issue of our magazine you will discover the various ways that we are caring for all of God’s creation. The Franciscan Earth Literacy Center shares how the Seeds of Hope Farm has created a partnership with the Natural Health Care Center in Tiffin selling microgreens. A participant at the Oasis Days at St. Francis Spirituality Center relates the impact these days have had on her life. The Sisters are partnering with the St. Mary’s Rosary Club, students in grades 3-5, as a means of enriching their faith.

As you enjoy the beauty of this season, I thank you for the ways you are partnering with us. Our ministries depend upon your good will, prayer, and financial support. You are signs of new life and hope for all those we serve. Together we make a difference. Let us remember in the words of St. Paul to the Ephesians, that we, too, are part of God’s handiwork fashioned in Christ Jesus to lead a life of good works. Eph. 2:10

In the words of singer, Diana Ross, “Reach out and touch somebody’s hand, make this world a better place if you can.”

May you experience the handiwork of God in your lives,

Sister Joanne Lammers

Join the St. Francis Legacy Circle to Increase Your Impact

Over the years, supporters like you have selflessly given their time, talent and assets to support the Sisters’ mission. Each contribution has allowed us to sustain a growing level of support that secures our long-term stability.

If you feel strongly about our charitable work and would like to join with other supporters who share your values, we hope you’ll consider becoming a member of the St. Francis Legacy Circle.

If you have already planned a gift to support the ministries of the Sisters of St. Francis, please let us know so that we can properly welcome you into the St. Francis Legacy Circle.

E-mail Sister Rozanne Swope at mission@tiffinfranciscans.org to learn about various planned giving options and for information on how to join St. Francis Legacy Circle.

On the Cover: In May, students from the Children’s Rosary Club at St. Mary Church in Tiffin visited the Grotto. They enjoyed a program on Our Lady of Lourdes by the Sisters of St. Francis, presented flowers and consecrated themselves to Our Blessed Mother, and had their rosaries blessed by Reverend Thomas Abraham, Parochial Vicar of St. Mary Parish.
“Come to Me and I Will Give You Rest”
Mt. 11:28

In Mark 6:31 we hear Jesus say to his disciples, “Come away with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” That is exactly what Pat Holmer, a member of Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church in Attica, Ohio did. Over the years she found her quiet place to be on the grounds of St. Francis Campus . . . her favorite place where her spiritual needs are met.

Pat’s shares that her life has been enriched because she participated in various Bible Studies, a few weekend retreats, some seminars, and a special program in which Sister Gemma Fenbert portrayed “The Woman at the Well.” Her favorite means of nourishment are the Oasis Days that are held quarterly on Saturday mornings from 9 AM – noon. Each Oasis Day focuses on a specific theme. The presenter began by creating an atmosphere of wonder, anticipation and peace. Our time together included prayer, meaningful input, time to integrate the message through quiet reflection, and the opportunity for small and large group sharing. The inner peace that she experienced was enhanced as she walked the grounds soaking in their peace and beauty. “Setting aside these three hours on a regular basis, was perfect for me. Time seemed to fly by.”

Pat also enjoyed the time she had to meet new people, engage them in conversation, shop at SpiritSpace Gift Shop and have lunch with the Sisters.

In the words of Pat, “St. Francis Spirituality Center is an amazing asset to our area. Do yourself a favor and check it out!”

Holy Leisure Sundays This Summer

St. Francis Spirituality Center (SFSC) sponsored its first of four Holy Leisure Sundays on May 14. On these days, families and friends are invited to pack a picnic and enjoy time together in Sacred Heart Courtyard. The Spirituality Center provides a variety of jumbo yard games and activities, as well as $1 root beer floats made with Jolly’s root beer, a local favorite. It is three hours of fun in the sun.

While Holy Leisure Sundays are a new event hosted by SFSC, the concept of otium sanctum, or “Holy Leisure,” dates back to the Early Church. Holy Leisure is also related to practicing Sabbath. In the words of Katie Snitker, administrator of SFSC, “Living in a culture that puts so much emphasis and value on productivity and work can make it difficult to make time for renewal and what matters most to us. By sponsoring Holy Leisure Sundays, the Spirituality Center hopes to provide a fun and easy way for people to spend quality time with family and friends. Moreover, joy and hospitality are a part of the charism of the Tiffin Franciscans, and Holy Leisure Sundays are an opportunity to share these spiritual gifts with others.”

SFSC will sponsor two more Holy Leisure Sundays this summer: July 9 and August 13 from 12 PM – 3 PM in the Sacred Heart Courtyard (weather permitting). We hope to see you there!
Making Microgreens Part of a Healthy Lifestyle

Sister Rita Wienken, OSF, who is both the founder of the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center (FELC) and a volunteer for the organization, has always had an interest in growing healthy vegetables, and the benefits that come from microgreens. Microgreens are grown annually in the greenhouse at the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center and are for sale at the Seeds of Hope Farm Stand. Those available include: radish, broccoli, sunflower, peas, and cabbage.

In addition to the farm stand, microgreens are sold at the Natural Health Care Center in Tiffin. “Having the microgreens from Seeds of Hope Farm available at the Natural Health Care Center is also a way to show people the nutritional health benefits of produce that is grown without the use of harmful chemicals and that there are local farms, like Seeds of Hope Farm, who grow and sell them directly to the customer. The farm to table movement is alive and well in Tiffin,” said Sister Rita.

“Microgreens are a quick and easy way to add nutrition to any meal; whether it’s a salad, wrap or smoothie,” said Cory Blust, owner of the Natural Health Care Center. “And, microgreens add a huge nutritional benefit.” The Natural Health Care Center sells microgreens grown by FELC to clients of his business as a way to help improve their health.

Sister Rita continued, “I have been a client of the Natural Health Care Center since it opened in Tiffin many years ago.” The Meridian Stress Assessment is a wonderful tool to help find the issues that might affect the body, mind and emotional health. This assessment helps to see what is needed in terms of supplements to bring the body back into balance. The needed vitamins and supplements can be purchased right from the Natural Health Care Center. Sister Rita added that each person is unique and is cared for in that manner.

Sister Shirley Shafranek, Seeds of Hope Program Coordinator, said, “I appreciate how the Natural Health Care Center has grown into such an important partnership with FELC and the Seeds of Hope Farm. Partnerships are so valuable to us; we would not be able to function without them.’ She added, ‘I appreciate their support and willingness to help out. They also have given us advice on what would work and what does not work. FELC and the Seeds of Hope Farm are always looking for additional ways to create partnerships with other groups in the community, whether it is selling microgreens or providing other services.”
The 16th Annual Summer Harvest Gourmet Gala will be held on Friday, August 11, 2023 from 5:30-10:00 PM. All proceeds will benefit the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center and Seeds of Hope Farm. The event will be hybrid so that those who would like to support the cause, but cannot attend in person, can still participate in raffles and the online auction.

Tickets are $75/per person. There is an Early Bird Drawing for anyone who purchases a ticket before July 1. They will be entered into a special raffle to win a Gala theme basket filled with wine, craft beers, gift cards and more. The theme is Garden Party, and while garden party attire is suggested, it is not required. Guests can mingle around outside and enjoy appetizers created with fresh vegetables, microgreens and herbs grown by the Seeds of Hope Farm located on St. Francis Campus. The appetizers will be created and served by The Empire at 138 of Tiffin, Don Tomasso’s American and Italian Kitchen of Upper Sandusky, and Parkhurst Dining of Heidelberg University in Tiffin. Attendees will be able to sample various wines and craft brews from Gillig Winery of Findlay, Ralph’s Joy of Living, Laird Arcade Brewery of Tiffin and Carey Brewing Station of Carey. Dinner will be catered and served by Carolyn’s Personalized Catering of Millbury inside air-conditioned Elizabeth Schaefer Auditorium while guests enjoy a live jazz music trio. Special raffle drawings, a silent auction, wine grab and live auction will follow. After dinner, the party continues outside until 10:00 PM with more music and drinks under the lights.

Again, this year there will be a special Grand Prize Raffle for the Stairway to Heaven Cottage, a week-long vacation rental for up to 11 people in Rosemary Beach, Florida, valued at $10,000. Winner also receives a $500 VISA card. Tickets cost $50 each or 3 for $100. For more information, visit https://www.30aescapes.com/rentals/stairway-to-heaven-cottage.

Winners of all of the raffle drawings will be announced at the event, posted on Facebook, and contacted by phone. To view auction items and set up an account, go to: https://www.32auctions.com/FELCGala2023 or scan the QR Code. Winners of the auction items will be notified at noon on August 11 and will also be able to pick up items the week of August 14 at the St. Francis Convent, 200 St. Francis Ave., Tiffin, Ohio or have them shipped for an additional fee.

Anyone who cannot attend can still support by participating in the online auction between August 7 (12PM) – August 11 (12PM) and be entered into raffles for a “Chance to Win $500” and a Gift Card Tree valued at $250. Tickets for additional raffles are also available.

The Franciscan Earth Literacy Center is grateful to the 2023 Honorary Gala Co-Chairs, Travis and Ashley Hoffbauer.

The deadline to purchase dinner tickets is Wednesday, August 2, 2023. For more information or for ticket purchase, call the Mission Advancement Office at 419-447-0435 or visit www.felctiffin.org to purchase tickets online.

Day of Giving

Thursday, August 10, 2023 • 12:00 AM – 11:59 PM

On your phone, text FELCNATURE to 44321 and click on the link and you will be directed to the Give Lively Franciscan Earth Literacy Center site. Visit www.felctiffin.org and click “Donate Here.” You may also call to donate at (419) 447-0435.

Cash, Credit Card, Check or Online Donations Accepted

Link for Franciscan Media feature article entitled Followers of St. Francis: Sister Shirley Shafranek/OSF/T
Children’s Rosary Club Ends Year with Visit to Grotto

Children participating in a newly formed Rosary Club, offered through St. Mary Church in Tiffin, ended their year with a visit to the Grotto on St. Francis Campus on May 16. They were able to consecrate themselves to the Blessed Mother, have rosaries blessed that were made during monthly meetings throughout the school year, and presented flowers they made during a presentation to our Lady of Lourdes.

“We love Rosary Club. I think it’s great they get to make them and then pray with them,” said Sarah Hess, homeschool parent of Gabrielle, age 11 and Isaac, age 7.

In 2022, St. Mary Church, in response to a parish priority to increase opportunities for youth to practice and share their faith, formed the Children’s Rosary Club, created and managed by the parish’s Discipleship Team. The club began in October of 2022, just in time to celebrate the Month of the Rosary. During the first meeting, children learned how to make wood beaded and knotted rosaries. All were able to complete a one-decade rosary for use during meeting prayer time.

Andrew Smith, a 5th grader at Calvert Catholic Schools said, “It’s a time to pray together with friends.” He said that his favorite part of being in the club was making rosaries.

Since the club’s inception, 17 local children in grades 3-5, have been actively participating in the club’s monthly meetings. Each month, children focus on a single mystery of the Rosary and complete a corresponding activity or craft. Most importantly, they gather around the prayer corner to pray a decade of the Rosary and meditate on that month’s highlighted Mystery. Other activities of the club have included studying in more depth the many names of Mary, her feast days, global Marian Apparitions and about her love, humility, and service to others.

Tiffin Franciscan Sister Patricia Miller, who volunteers with the elderly at St. Francis Home, was excited to assist the children with making rosaries and talking to them about her own experience. “It has been a pleasure to be back working with children. The Blessed Mother has always been an important part of my life. We used to pray the rosary every night as a family when I was growing up,” she said.

With the generous assistance of the Sisters of St. Francis, children were excited to learn about the Marion Apparition, Our Lady of Guadalupe. In December, Sister Margaret Slowick and Sister Linda Scheckelhoff, who served for many years in Mexico, visited the group at St. Mary’s School. They shared a wonderful presentation about Our Lady of Guadalupe, her roles as Patroness of the Americas and Protectress of the Unborn, and the symbolism in the image on the tilma.

“I was impressed by their participation and willingness to learn about the different apparitions of the Virgin Mary and how to pray the rosary, a prayer teaching us about the life of Jesus, her Son,” said Sister Linda Scheckelhoff. “And when they came to visit our grotto and I did a little review, I was surprised they remembered so much about our Lady of Guadalupe from last December. The number of parents who accompanied their children also was very inspiring.”

“I was so happy that Sister Linda and I were given the opportunity to teach the children about Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mary is such a tender and caring mother. I think the children need a figure like that in their lives,” said Sister Margaret.

Students also enjoyed the activities provided by the Sisters after the presentation. An unexpected, delightful experience for club members was learning from Sister Patricia about both her traditional Franciscan habit, as well as her daily recitation of the Rosary as her way of expressing her special devotion to Our
Blessed Mother. “If I can inspire anyone to pray the rosary, physically show them how to help make rosaries, and encourage them to have devotion to the Blessed Mother, I will. She can help us in any way we need,” Sister Patricia explained.

As a year-end culminating activity for the Rosary Club, the Sisters of St. Francis invited club members to visit their Grotto and celebrate The Month of Mary as well as Our Lady of Lourdes. The Sisters of St. Francis shared how Our Lady of Lourdes appeared to Bernadette in France. Rosary Club members enjoyed the experience; and in gratitude, children led a special ceremony to honor Our Blessed Mother in the inspiring Grotto setting. Sister Shirley Shafranek also spoke to the children about the St. Clare statue located near the Grotto.

“It was a joy to share about Our Lady of Lourdes with these children and to recall that Our Lady of Fatima visited three children with the same message to pray the rosary,” said Sister Judy Leibengood.

Children today need to be inspired to pray the rosary, especially as a family and I am so happy to be a part of that,” said Sister Patricia. “It’s something spiritual to do. Sports are great, but not the same. It was great to have this type of a club offered, explained Mary Massi, mother of Vinny, age 10 and Mara, age 9, who attend Calvert Catholic Schools. “And, it’s fun for them to have a chance to do an activity like this with their peers while learning about their faith,” Mary added.

“The thing I enjoyed the most about Rosary Club was making the Rosaries,” said Jahnessa, a 5th grader at Calvert Catholic Schools. “As a parent, I believe having the Rosary Club and introducing our children to Our Blessed Mother at this age opens the door to seeing her as an example of following the will of God while leading their hearts closer to Jesus,” said Britani Young, Jahnessa’s mother. “There is nothing else I would desire more for a child of mine than to draw nearer to our Lord through our Mother Mary.”

Reverend Thomas Abraham, of St. Mary Church, blessed all the rosaries the children made. Afterwards, Adult Leader Sue Ritzler presented each child with a “YES” medal during the program at the Grotto. As she congratulated everyone, she reminded each boy that they are “examples of courage” and reminded them that the Rosary Club is not just for girls and that they have to set the example for other young men. “Rosary Club is a gift to me and I am learning along with each of the children,” said Sue.

“One highlight for me was the reverence and happiness with which the young folks sang and did the actions to a special Hail Mary – they seemed to live the experience of who the Blessed Mary is for them. Listening to that song and watching the actions seemed as though the singers relived who Mary was. It was a little taste of heaven,” said Sister Leanne Kerschner.

Regina Runion, an adult leader of the Rosary Club, said, “Witnessing our youth’s basic knowledge of the Rosary grow to a fuller understanding is such a spiritual thing for me to behold. I’m sure the Holy Mother smiles upon our Children’s Rosary Club meetings.”

After the ceremony, everyone enjoyed a reception of cookies and punch.
New Director of Community Properties and Facilities

Heather Pollick began her ministry as Director of Community Properties and Facilities in April. “This job is a culmination of all my skills set from education to work experience…kind of the crowning achievement or the ‘cherry on top’ toward the end of my career. It is a joy to be surrounded by the Sisters and share in their charisms. I am so happy to be here,” said Heather.

Heather comes to us from New Housing Ohio, Inc. as their Regional Manager. Other recent positions held were with Eden Incorporated as their Property Manager and Rural Alaska Community Action Partnership as their Residential Operations Director.

Heather was born and raised in Vancouver Canada. She was adopted by her mother and father, Dennis and Joan McKelvie. She joined the Canadian military right out of school to become a Military Police officer. She then met her first husband and had three beautiful girls, Amanda (29), Brittany (27), and Kylie (25). Sadly, she ended up having to leave that relationship.

Heather then met her second husband, Jason Pollick, while working as a Registered Practical Nurse in Canada right across the water in Leamington, Ontario. They married in 2005 and Heather relocated to the United States. They bought a home in Fremont, Ohio and have, two beautiful sons together, Logan (17) graduating with honors this year, and Kole (14).

Heather found it difficult to get her nursing license in the United States. She then decided to go back to school with the encouragement of her husband. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration in 2013 while working at Great Lakes Community Action Partnership in their Permanent Supportive Housing program in Seneca County. Then in 2015, she graduated with honors from Walden University with her Masters in Business Administration with a concentration in Leadership.

Heather loves gardening, landscaping, and cooking! She has four pets; her lab/golden retriever, Trivia, who is a 3-year-old retired service dog, and three rescued cats; Biscuit, Ash and Char.

Did You Know?

Many of our electronic communications are sent through a company called Constant Contact. Based on our recent experience, we have learned that anyone who unsubscribes to St. Francis Community Magazine, a specific E-newsletter from the Sisters of St. Francis, the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center, St. Francis Spirituality Center, Padua Center or St. Francis Senior Ministries will automatically be unsubscribed from all of them.

If you unsubscribe from any of these communication by mistake, please contact Mission Advancement Office at 419-447-0435 or by emailing mission@tiffinfranciscans.org.