



SAN DAMIANO RETREAT

DANVILLE • CALIFORNIA

A FRANCISCAN PRESENCE IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



JULY 2016 TO SEPTEMBER 2016

710 Highland Drive • Danville, CA • Phone: 925-837-9141 • www.sandamiano.org

@SanDamianoCA



Greeting, Sisters and Brothers!

Summer is upon us and the upcoming Solstice reminds us that we have reached the mid-point of the year. It is time to take a break to reflect upon what has transpired as well as what lies ahead in 2016.

This summer, we are offering two extended silent retreats. In July, Sister Ishpriya will help spiritual sojourners connect to their mystical Christian roots. Later in July, Jean Molesky-Poz and three Poor Clare sisters will join to offer a rare and meaningful opportunity for anyone who loves and wants to experience Franciscan spirituality. Indeed, the story of San Damiano is not complete without Saint Clare and her sisters. Contemplation. Trust. Poverty. Love. Meditation. Healing. Bravery. Fortitude. Silence.

Yet, it will not be all silence this summer. Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Wine and Cheese Reception on July 17 and our Fall Auction & Dinner on September 18.

Peace and All Good,

Brother Mike releasing lady bugs as part of San Damiano's Earth Day 2016 celebration.



New Friar in Residence

We are happy to welcome Father Charles Talley as a San Damiano resident. While he will have a full-time job working for the Province, he looks forward to assisting as able with retreats and in the community at large.



About Fr. Charles Talley

Fr. Talley has been a Franciscan priest since 1993. He was born in Ohio and did his undergraduate studies at Oberlin College prior to receiving his Masters of Divinity from the Franciscan School of Theology. For the past 4 years, Fr. Talley has been the pastor at St. Barbara Parish at the Old Mission Santa Barbara. He will now be the Director of Communications Outreach for the Province of St. Barbara with responsibility for internal and external friar communications. Fr. Talley speaks multiple languages including French, Spanish, Swedish, German, and English. Welcome, Fr. Charles!

Reflections on a Year of Refugee Ministry

By Brother Mike

Recently, Pope Francis welcomed three Muslim Syrian refugee families to live at the Vatican. This has prompted me to reflect upon San Damiano's refugee ministry. In partnership with Jewish Family and Community Services, the first refugee to live at San Damiano moved in last August. He has since moved on, and 5 others are now in residence.

I could tell you about some of the problems we have had with communication, arguments about washing machines, mistrust, and even donors telling us they would never give us money again. Instead, I choose to share one of my favorite stories.

While on retreat, a Methodist minister met one of the refugees and was totally moved by his story and what we were doing. She gave us some money to help feed the refugees. Even more importantly to our hearts was an e-mail she sent a few weeks later explaining that her congregation had prayed for us that Sunday morning. Here are Protestant Methodists praying for Roman Catholic Franciscans working with Jews to help Middle Eastern Zoroastrians, Muslims, and Sufis.

Thank you for joining us in building the beloved Kingdom of God through your prayers, love, and generosity.



Br. Mike with the Shamsi brothers (picture courtesy of SideXSide Studios)

Foot washing during the Holy Week 2016 retreat (photo courtesy of Brother Dick Tandy, OFM)



Upcoming Events: Register Today!

Gardening Workshops

- June 18 Hugelkultur (raised garden beds)
- July 2 Aquaculture
- July 16 Seed Saving
- August 6 Irrigation
- August 20 Restoration Practices



July 17: Wine and Cheese in the Courtyard

3:00 PM–5:30 PM. Enjoy a relaxed afternoon in the courtyard catching up with friends and soaking up the beauty of summer. Cost: \$20 per person; \$10 for non-alcoholic beverages.

Marden Ping, Teresa Festa and Gabriel Raymundo enjoying appetizers at a San Damiano reception last summer



September 18: San Damiano Fall Gala Auction & Dinner

It's back! Enjoy an evening of entertainment, shopping, and dining. Purchase your tickets today at www.sandamiano.org or call 925-837-9141.

Carmen Castillo at the 2015 Fall Gala Auction



Retreats and Worship

Here is a listing of upcoming retreats, dialogue sessions, and worship opportunities for the third quarter of 2016. We also invite you to visit our website or call for more details or to register. You may also register using the enclosed envelope.



Some of our wonderful volunteers posing at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon held in February. If you are interested in volunteering with us, please call or visit our website for more information and to apply.

JULY

June 27–July 1

Silent Contemplative Retreat:
The Two Windows
Sr. Ishpriya. Cost: \$320 (shared room) &

July 1–3

Interfaith Retreat. Cost: \$205 (shared room)
Both retreats will be lead by Sr. Ishpriya, founder of the International Satsang Association. Satsang is a Sanscrit word meaning the coming together of those who are seeking Being, Truth, God in order to support each other's spiritual quest.

July 6

A Day of Care for Caregivers
Beth Witrogen
9:00 AM–2:30 PM. Cost: \$40 (includes lunch)
A spiritual, non-denominational retreat to focus on a caregiver's journey and the need for self-love and compassion of self when taking care of a loved one. This retreat will address frustrations and quiet myths about caregiving and provide self-care tools that participants can take with them.

July 24–29

5-Day Silent Contemplative Retreat
Jean Molesky-Poz and Poor Clare Sisters
Cost: \$320 (shared room)
This retreat will draw from reflections on St. Clare's spirituality. While this is a silent retreat, there will be optional times for creative expressions and sharing with each other.

July 31

Muslims & Christians: How We Know Ourselves by Knowing the Other
Dr. Nazeer Ahmed & Br. Michael Minton, OFM
9:00 AM–4:00 PM. Cost: \$40 (includes lunch)
From plants, to bugs, to animals, to birds, to people; God has mercifully created an abundance of diversity. We will explore and experience how the people of these two religions are moved to respond to God. The day will include shared prayer, lectures, reflection, and conversation.

AUGUST

August 5–7

Interfaith Retreat
Fr. Tom Bonacci. Cost: \$205 (shared room)
As the world confronts the threats of terrorism and political and economic unrest, people of faith strive for peace. What are the spiritual, religious, and cultural sources and implications of the pursuit for peace? This question forms the heart and soul of our retreat.

August 11 - Feast of St. Clare

The Resolution and Healing of Clare
Donna Foley, OFS
9:30 AM–4:00 PM. Cost: \$40 (includes lunch)
On this Feast of St. Clare, we look to her example and ask how the woman of Assisi was able to remain both authentic and faithful throughout her life. Through images, stories and reflection, we may come to experience this tenacious Franciscan healer for ourselves, our communities, and our world.

August 21

The Spiritual Rumi
Ustadh Feraidoon Mojadedi
3:00 PM–7:00 PM
Cost: \$5 (includes "hefty" snacks)
Join Ustadh Feraidoon Mojadedi as he brings Rumi's poetry to life and helps listeners recognize Rumi's essential message of love, coexistence, and connection with the Divine.

August 27

Christian Meditation Day
Sr. Barbara Hazzard
10:00 AM–4:00 PM. Cost: \$55 (includes lunch)

SEPTEMBER

September 6–October 25 (Tuesdays)

Fall Book Series: "The Soul of a Pilgrim: 8 Practices for the Journey Within"
Kathy Miranda, MA
9:30 AM–12:30 PM. Cost: \$140 (series) or \$20 (day)
Our text for this book series is by author Christine Valters Paintner and is available at the San Damiano Gift Shop.

September 9–11

Henri Nouwen Retreat:
Communion: Way of the Heart
Wil Hernandez, Obl. OSB, Ph.D.
Cost: \$220 (shared room)
Nouwen believed that communion is the true driving force of our spiritual journey. This retreat explores the avenues of solitude, identity, and presence in order for us to cultivate an intimate, centered, and attentive heart — ways of being that deepen our common union with God who created us for such ultimate purpose.

September 9–11

Retreat for Family and Friends of Alcoholics and Addicts
Fr. Tom Weston, SJ. Cost: \$205

September 11

Day of Dialogue for LGBTQ
Br. Mike Minton, OFM
1:00 PM–4:00 PM. Cost: Free
An afternoon of facilitated conversation for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer people and their families and friends. It is a safe space for people to share their stories while being able to listen and learn from others.

September 16–18

International Day of Peace:
Speaking in Peace with Each Other
Fr. Tom Bonacci & Rev. Will McGarvey
Cost: \$205 (shared room for entire retreat; see website for other options)
Come for the day, an afternoon, or the whole weekend.

- Friday, September 16; 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Shabbat Service at Congregation Beth Chaim: 1800 Holbrook Drive, Danville
- Saturday, September 17; Retreat and program on compassionate listening and interfaith dialogue: San Damiano Retreat
- Sunday morning, September 18; Prayer service at San Damiano led by Father Tom Bonacci

September 30–October 2

Franciscan Spirituality Retreat:
Franciscans as Missionaries
Presenter(s): Fr. Eddie Fronske, OFM; Anna Reno; and more to be announced
Cost: \$205 (shared room)
Francis sent us into the world to proclaim the Gospel. This weekend, we will listen to many different voices in the Franciscan family as they share their experiences and stories.

OCTOBER

October 1

Embodied Prayer
Steve Harms and Kaleo & Elise Ching
9:00 AM–4:00 PM. Cost: \$40 (includes lunch)

East meets west in this journey of deepening your connection to the Divine through Qigong, meditation, and prayer involving your body, mind, and spirit.

October 1

Blessing of the Animals
2:00 PM. Cost: Free
Bring your pets up to San Damiano for a blessing. We may even bless a few humans.

October 3

Transitus of St. Francis
7:00 PM. Cost: Free
Each year, Franciscans and friends gather to commemorate the passing of our founder, St. Francis of Assisi. Please join the San Damiano community as we remember St. Francis in song and prayer. A reception with refreshments will follow the service.



Our capable volunteers helping to plant a peach tree in the Canticle Garden during San Damiano's Earth Day 2016 celebration

October 15

Out of Poverty Debora K. McDermed
9:00 AM–3:00 PM. Cost: \$40 (includes lunch)
We will explore solutions, ideas, and tools a community needs to prevent, reduce, and alleviate poverty.

October 28–30

Wise and Holy Women
Br. Mickey McGrath, OFM
Cost: \$205 (shared room)
From Mary and Elizabeth to Kateri Tekakwitha and Dorothy Day, we will look at women whose joy and optimism can still inspire us in our own time of crises in faith and identity. They can teach us to live with hope and compassion as we discover a new face of Christ alive in the margins.

October 30

Thea Bowman Afternoon Retreat
Br. Mickey McGrath, OFM
Time: 2:00 PM–5:00 PM. Cost: \$15
We will look to the late African-American Franciscan Sister Thea Bowman as an example of how to transform sorrow into joy and despair into hope. This presentation is based on the book "This Little Light: Lessons in Living from Sr. Thea Bowman," which is available in the San Damiano Gift Shop.

Ecumenical Prayer Service

Every Saturday

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM in the San Damiano Chapel

