



Franciscan Season of Giving

Join us during our year end fundraiser as we reflect on this Franciscan community. May it inspire you to appreciate both the sacred and what is yours to do.

Peace and all good,
FSC's Director, Christine



a word from Randy

The Myth of the Lone Ranger

“Hi-Ho, Silver, Away” was the signature line for the Lone Ranger, a radio and television character who rode into my childhood on Saturday mornings to the Rossini’s “William Tell Overture.” He was

an anonymous masked Texas Ranger from the Old West. Fighting for justice, he projected an image of self-sufficiency, but he always was companioned by a faithful friend, Tonto. Though named the “Lone” Ranger, he was never alone. That is the myth.

In my early professional years, I worked in a hospital-based, outpatient counseling program sponsored by the Sisters of Little Company of Mary. There we had expectations of monthly consultation and supervision, peer review groups, and continuing education. With an emphasis on professional ethics and standards of practice, the team also developed as an intentional community of collegial support. There was a deep sense of belonging, identity, and shared concerns. They walked me through some dark patches of life. As I also accompanied others in their time of trials and traumas. Those formative years were etched into my heart. Blessed are those Sisters.

While preparing for pastoral ministry, I realized two things: ministry is difficult and it is easy to become isolated. Shaped by earlier lessons, I developed peer support groups and participated in continuing education as part of my ministry. Sadly, in the world of pastoral ministry, there is little formal supervision, so I nurtured long standing collegial relationships with experienced ministers who served as mentors. This practice sustained my pastoral ministry for almost 40 years.

It was during this time I learned of ministers who were known as “Lone Rangers.” Projecting self-sufficiency and independence, they were isolates, shunning collegial support groups. There are many reasons why one might be a “Lone Ranger” but when troubles come (and troubles will come), if the minister does not course correct, they (and their congregation) will crash and burn.

In these my latter years, my work transitioned from pastoral ministry to spiritual direction. While differing in form, I have discovered that spiritual directors can be ‘Lone Rangers,’ too. The dangers are present, too. I am grateful for the work of Spiritual Directors International that created a Code of Ethics for spiritual directors, highlighting supervision as a core value.

I am grateful, too, for the Franciscan Spiritual Center (FSC) that holds high standards for the practice of spiritual direction. Mostly, I am grateful for the FSC that encourages the development of intentional communities of shared values and collegial support – all for the betterment of our practice. Blessed are they!

With gratitude,

Randy Miller
Spiritual Director and Training Program Facilitator

October 2026

To make a charitable donation to the
Franciscan Spiritual Center
PO Box 144, Marylhurst, OR 97036
or
use our online portal.

Give

Randy Miller served as faculty in our last Spiritual Direction Training Program.
He facilitates Group Spiritual Direction for pastors.
Contact him if you are interested in joining a group. rmiller@francisspctr.com

Franciscan Spiritual Center | PO Box 144 3159 Furman Dr. | Marylhurst, OR 97036 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!