

Franciscan Season of Giving

a word from Mark...

Together, we are entering a season of prayer and thanksgiving.

We share with you the voices of our Franciscan community as an invitation to recognize what is sacred in your life.

We also invite your partnership through financial support.

With your gifts, we can reach our \$30,000 goal and continue this work into the year ahead.



Dreams fascinate me. I love to work and play with them. Many dream workers believe that the most vital dreams are the ones you have when you're about to wake up for the day. One of those "dreams" came to me a few years ago. I've learned that some of those highly charged dreams are more like visions, or visitations. Sometimes they cause the dreamer to

“wake up.”

I was standing alone in a narrow hallway of a modern house. I could see the front door from where I stood. There was a grandfather clock and an old round thermostat on the wall to my left. I turned to look at them. Suddenly, an ancient man in a ragged, dirty white shawl came through the wall between the clock and the thermostat! There was no sign of damage to the wall or the old man. I was stunned into stillness yet unafraid. Eye contact was instantly made. His eyes, which I can still see and feel, looked deeply into me.

After what seemed like an eternal instant, I looked into him. With our eyes still attached I pointed at him and said with certainty, “You are the prophet, Ezekiel.” In a heartbeat his sharp chiseled nose was just a warm breath away from my face. He pointed a gnarled finger at me and proclaimed, “You are the prophet, Ezekiel.” Still looking at me and through me, he took two steps backwards and disappeared through the invisible portal between the grandfather clock and the old-fashioned thermostat.

We are living in times that stir up the prophets in our midst and the spirits of the prophets in our souls. Can you feel it? In Ezekiel’s time the prophets stood alone, separate from the crowds but calling out to them. In our times, we are seeing the rise of Prophetic Groups. The yeast for that rising can be detected globally...if you’re looking for it. That which is rising is being called “Unity Consciousness.”

“Unity consciousness is a concept that emphasizes awareness of the interconnectedness of all beings and experiences. It posits that all life is interconnected, transcending beyond individuality and separateness.” (wisdomlib.org)

All over the earth people of various backgrounds and persuasions are connecting in small groups prophetically proclaiming through silence, words, actions, and contemplative presence, that “the Light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi were deeply committed to life in community. At the Franciscan Spiritual Center we, too, are committed to continually co-creating a spiritual community that embraces the “interconnectedness of all beings and experiences.” We do this through facilitating and hosting small groups and individuals who hear the call to be “channels” of peace and justice...and through the internet we have gone global!

We warmly greet all who come to us, including their dogs!

With gratitude,

Mark Lesniewski

spiritual director, supervisor for other directors, group facilitator

To make a charitable donation to the Franciscan Spiritual Center:
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