



Franciscan Season of Giving

We share these voices and experiences to ignite your imagination, both so you may join us in community and because it is a way to describe the subtle and countercultural value of a place like the Franciscan Spiritual Center.

Our annual operating expenses are modest. Approximately 50% of our expenses are covered by fees and tuition, another 22% by your generous charitable donations, and the remainder through the faithful stewardship of the Sisters of St Francis.

Peace and all good,
FSC's Director, Christine

a word from Melinda



I was introduced to the Franciscan Spiritual Center 13 years ago. I had just completed spiritual direction training elsewhere and was seeking supervision as I began to accompany people on their journeys. A friend had told me there might be a spot opening up in a peer supervision group at the Center. I called the group's facilitator,

Sr Mary Jo Chaves, to inquire. She invited me to come in so that we could get to know each other a little.

A week later I anxiously climbed the steps and rang the doorbell of the old house on Monroe Street in Milwaukie that held the Franciscan Spiritual Center at that time. Sr Mary Jo immediately put me at ease. I found myself pouring out my story in her welcoming presence. She did not seem surprised by anything I said. She called a few days later and invited me to join the group.

Our peer supervision group became a sustaining spiritual community for me for over 12 years. Sr Mary Jo gracefully and skillfully held a safe, contemplative space for our small group to slowly grow deeper in our understanding of what it means to be a spiritual director. Together we learned to provide supervision to each other as Sr Mary Jo modeled how to hold that post from her own deep well of wisdom. Her strong presence invited us to notice the Spirit's guidance among us and within ourselves. Our monthly meetings became for me a form of contemplative prayer, a wisdom circle, and a beloved faith community. I am grateful to all of my peers in that group for the ways that being with them has formed me.

The charism of the Sisters of St Francis of Philadelphia animates the Franciscan Spiritual Center community. The sisters preach the gospel soundlessly in the tradition of Francis and Clare by their humility, hospitality, and loving presence. You can feel the calm, joyful energy as soon as you enter the building. It invites you in to unburden yourself and rest awhile. There's something for everyone here - spiritual direction and supervision, prayer and meditation groups, book groups, sacred music nights, creative arts workshops, shared meals, rituals, celebrations, and retreats. Outside, the lovely grounds of Marylhurst offer walking paths, benches, plants and wildlife to nourish your spirit.

I am thankful for all the ways that the Franciscan Spiritual Center has nurtured my soul in the years since I first crossed that threshold on Monroe Street. A beloved community indeed! I encourage you to drop by, stay awhile, and partake of what touches you. I know I will be going back to the deep well there again and again. That is why I choose to give back as I am able to help maintain this thriving community.

Melinda Lee Jackson
spiritual director, supervisor in FSC's SDTP program, artist

September 2026

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

Give

To share your own word of reflection, thanksgiving, or prayer
email info@francisspctr.com.

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