



Franciscan Season of Giving

We offer you voices from this Franciscan community so you may pay attention to what is sacred.

We also ask for your support with your presence, in prayer, and financially.

We hope to raise \$55,000 to meet our year end obligations. We are one quarter of the way there.

a word from Emily



When I was nineteen years old, I moved to Fălticeni, Romania, to volunteer in an orphanage. Even though I had only spent two weeks there the summer before, I heard what felt like an almost audible voice, a tug on my heart, to return. This was the first time I had lived outside of my parents' house and traveled to another country alone.

The transition was less than graceful and took some time. Still, I soon found that the echo of children's voices bouncing off the walls, the smell of covrigi wafting through the town streets, and the countless people who patiently (and with much laughter) navigated conversations with me as I attempted to learn Romanian in an immersion setting; all became home. I was experiencing things that had always been there, but were being awakened within me for the first time. This season grew my heart in ways that continue to unfold even twenty-five years later. It was sacred.

I find my experience at the Franciscan Spiritual Center to be of a similar nature. My first encounter was a Zoom call with Eileen as I inquired about the Spiritual Direction Training Program. It was the last call in a list of programs I was considering. What I noticed about that conversation was the way my body settled into a deep exhale along with Eileen's response, which continues to linger in my memory: "There is one spot left, Emily, so pay attention."

I entered the training program in 2022, and what took place over the course of the two-year program was much like pulling a book I had been meaning to read off a shelf, only to discover that while it had been there all along, the words were exposing new caverns within my soul. Each turn of a page offered the peeling back of another layer within, where God was inviting me into an intimate encounter.

It wasn't quite as neat and tidy as that last line makes it sound. I was challenged. I felt vulnerable. At the beginning, there were more questions than answers, and I had to look at parts of myself I wanted to reject. However, because I believe we live in the both/and, it was also revealing in beautiful ways. It paved the path into a new way of prayer through poetry; it brought me into community; it taught me to listen deeply; it broke open the very small box I had put God in. I was held in the mystery of Christ's abundant love. It was sacred.

Four years later, I continue to find myself at the Franciscan Spiritual Center weekly. I don't always have an answer as to why, but I know I'm drawn there, and that is enough. It is sacred.

With open hands and an open heart,

Emily Konoske

Spiritual Director, Retreat Leader, Writer, and FSC Facilitator for the upcoming program, "Soul Exploration through Writing."

September 2026

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

Give

A new cohort is forming for our Franciscan Spiritual Direction Training Program,
apply now or refer a friend.

Apply to our Training Program

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

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