



Franciscan Season of Giving

For the next several weeks we offer you voices from this Franciscan community so you may pay attention to what is sacred in your life.

We dedicate this time of year to pray, offer thanks, reflect, and plan. We also seek to raise the funds we will need to satisfy our year end obligations.

We are grateful for you,
Christine, FSC's Director



a word from Sister Mary Jo

Are you looking for a safe community? A place to share your own sacred story? The realization that just being is a blessing? You have found it – the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Portland, Oregon.

I have been on staff at the Franciscan Center since its inception 26 years ago. Our current location on the former Marylhurst University campus provides a peaceful setting. Trees, grassy fields, birds, and the Willamette River allow one to simply enjoy and be renewed by beauty. One of my directees walks frequently on the grounds and

always feels renewed. When she walks into the Center she is greeted warmly. It is a place of peace, presence, and community.

A year ago I moved into Orchard House Assisted Living in Mount Angel, Oregon. It has been a year of adjustment, letting go, growth, and saying yes to a whole new reality. I have a studio apartment - adequate for my needs and comfortable.

Like Peter at the moment of the Transfiguration, I now can say, "It is good for us to be here." This past year has been a time of sacred exchange - both giving of myself in new ways and learning to receive care from others with a gracious spirit.

With stabilized health, I continue to minister at the Center. This gives me hope for the future despite chaotic changes in our nation and war in the world. My hope is grounded in the Franciscan values of relationship and trust in God's goodness. I find these values manifested daily at the Center - by staff, directees, students, retreatants, and visitors alike.

These days I participate in ministry mostly via Zoom. I join weekly with the staff for faith sharing and prayer. I participate in staff meetings and peer supervision. I am able to meet with all of my directees via Zoom. One directee tells me about the power of my prayer and Spirit presence as he encounters significant challenges in his personal life. He, too, finds hope in relationships and trust in God's goodness.

This Fall I will begin facilitating a monthly Supervision Group for spiritual directors. I look forward to the opportunity to invest in the growth and development of other spiritual directors in this way.

The Center and our ministries flourish because of your generous donations. My community, The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, sponsors this ministry and considers it both a viable Franciscan presence in the Northwest and part of its continuing legacy.

I thank you for your prayer for us and for any financial contribution you may be able to make as we walk together with St. Francis and St. Clare in the footprints of Jesus in this our Franciscan Season of Giving for 2026.

Peace and good,

Mary Jo Chaves, OSF
Spiritual Director and Supervisor to other spiritual directors

September 2026

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

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

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