

We offer you voices from this expanding Franciscan community so you may pay attention to what is sacred. We ask for your support as we endeavor to engage the sacred.

Peace and all good,
Christine, FSC's Director



a word from Sister Theresa

The Call – The Answer – The Journey

Imagine being in Fourth Grade and coming to school with all of your baked goodies and cards for Valentines' Day. We were so excited that we started passing out our goodies as soon as we entered the classroom. Our teacher didn't say anything to us, but all of a sudden the principal showed up with the cafeteria rolling garbage can. We were told to dump everything to do with the party in the garbage! "There will be no party since you started before it was supposed to happen!" Nine year old faces dropped, but I was enraged! So, when we went out for recess, we planned a sit-in. I felt like we needed a way to show our discontent at this injustice. We all sat on the floor when we came back in the classroom and wouldn't get up, telling the teacher that what they did was not fair. And so began my life of standing up for what I believed in and being my true self!

As I matured, I continued to grow in this conviction to be my true self. I went to Calcutta to see what Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity Sisters were doing there. Was I being called there to serve the poor? No, but my eyes were opened to the abject poverty there. My heart could not help but be changed as I sat and held the hand of a dying person just lifted off the streets - my sister or brother in Christ.

What was to be the next step in my heart's hunger for truth and justice? I took a teaching job in Saudi Arabia. New language, a different culture, and way beyond my comfort zone, but it felt right. It was truly an educational and growth experience.

After teaching in Saudi Arabia, hungering for a better way to live my life, I decided to make a Pilgrimage to Medjugorje. It is a place where the Blessed Virgin Mary had been appearing to people for many years. My soul was thirsty. For what, I didn't know. There was a Cenacolo Community Rehabilitation Center there in Medjugorje for people fighting addictions. We got the opportunity to listen to a presentation given by those who ran the Center and those in treatment. As I listened with rapt attention, I realized that tears were running down my face. I was crying as I heard each of them share from their hearts. As I reflected on this throughout the week, I knew that I was being called to community in religious life. This was what I was seeking, what I was looking for, what I truly desired! So, I joined the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia.

As I discerned how to best minister as a Franciscan Sister, I kept hearing about the people struggling with homelessness, poverty, addictions or mental illness. My heart was moved and so my journey took me to a number of places: Haiti, Transitions' Women's Hearth Day Center in Spokane, WA, MacDonald Center and Rose Haven both in downtown Portland, OR.

In the midst of working with the poor, I also felt a stirring to walk with others on their spiritual journey, so I participated in the training program at the

Center and am proud to say, “I am a Franciscan Spiritual Director!”

Presently, my ministry is mostly remote as I am caregiving my dear mother in her home. What a blessing to be able to spend this precious time with her. Yes, once again, this, too, is gift and an expression of my call to be my best self.

Clare of Assisi continues to inspire me to stay true to myself and to let God dwell in me. As Ilia Delio states, “Christ lives in each of us and we are called just to be ourselves and to let God dwell within us” (Clare of Assisi, A Heart Full of Love). Clare left all that was familiar to her to live her vision of staying true to the Gospel despite her family’s desire to have her marry well. As people began to hear of Clare’s devout faith and her example of living the Gospel life, women from all social and economic strata came to join her. Her mother and her sister Agnes came too. People flocked to San Damiano for advice, to ask for prayer intentions, or to seek healing.

Clare had written a rule that reflected the spirit of Francis and his way of living. She wanted the privilege of poverty and was unwilling to accept anything less. But for years, the popes urged Clare to follow the Benedictine Rule and own property. Her final response to Pope Ugolino was “I will respect you, but I will not obey you. Do not dissuade me from following Christ.”

Clare speaks to my heart and keeps me true to my own journey. As Clare found a home in San Damiano, I have found a home, a community, love and inspirational models as a Franciscan Sister and at the Franciscan Spiritual Center.

Please consider supporting the Franciscan Spiritual Center so others may hear and answer their call to live the Gospel values in our world today!

Let the celebration begin,

Sr. Theresa Lamkin
OSF

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

Give

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Try email marketing for free today!