



May 2024

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Dear Friends,

Greetings as we continue our Easter celebration!

We hope this message finds you and your loved ones in good health as we move beyond the winter season. Spring is a perfect time for rejuvenation and renewal, whether it comes in the form of spring cleaning, refreshing our homes, or creating opportunities for rest and recreation during the summer months.

The Franciscan Center has been similarly involved in spring rejuvenation and renewal, and part of this has entailed engaging the Center's Board, Staff, and Franciscan Sisters of Allegany in a thorough discernment process to assess the long-term needs and aspirations of the Franciscan Center. This process was undertaken with a collective desire to sustain the Center's vibrancy and legacy as "a place of peace, healing, and joy."

Having just completed this discernment process, we are pleased to launch a long-term giving program which we are calling *The Franciscan Center Giving Tree*. This program focuses on five issues, critical to the continued vitality of the Center, around which our current and future fundraising efforts will be focused. These issues and the funds attached to each are as follows:

- 1) Franciscan Sisters of Allegany Legacy Fund: Addressing Buildings & Infrastructure Needs;
- 2) St. Francis Eco-Fund: Ensuring Maintenance & Sustainability of Grounds, Trees, and Plants;
- 3) St. Clare Spirituality Fund: Supporting Spiritual Programs, Franciscan Initiatives, and Compassionate Care;
- 4) Operation Restore Fund: Providing Scholarships, Support, and Trauma Recovery for First Responders;
- 5) Conscious Contact Fund: Offering Spiritual Support for Addiction Recovery.

Enclosed is a donation brochure, which provides more details about the projects encompassed within each fund, and an impact report, which celebrates the accomplishments of the Center's programs and services. Please take pride in these achievements because they would not have been possible without your prayers and financial support. Please also consider continuing your support of the Center by either designating your contributions to the particular fund(s) you most wish to support, or by making a general contribution which will be utilized where it is most needed.

*In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, we welcome everyone who seeks spiritual growth through a deeper relationship with God in a place of peace, community, healing, and joy.*

In many ways, the Franciscan Center is at an inflection point. Having emerged from the COVID crisis, redrafted our by-laws, assembled a vibrant leadership team, and secured the long-term commitment of the Franciscan Sisters of Alleghany, the Franciscan Center is poised for great success in fulfilling and expanding its mission. We invite you to partner with us in this exciting new era for the Center as it approaches its 55<sup>th</sup> year of existence.

The fundraising initiative introduced by this letter and represented in the accompanying “Giving Tree” brochure will have three distinct phases. In the first phase, we will focus primarily on individual and family donations, recognizing and honoring each donor by name (with their permission) next to the specific fund(s) (and tree limb of the “Giving Tree”) for which they designated their contribution. In the second phase, we will acknowledge all corporate donors, mentioning their organization’s name, the specific fund(s) they choose to support, and the donation amount in categories such as Platinum, Gold, and Silver. In the third phase, we will recognize all the foundations from which we receive grant funding.

We believe that this “Giving Tree” model will be a great way to allow our many supporters to earmark their contributions and to see the direct, positive impact of their support on specific programs of the Center. Furthermore, by including wear-out and replacement scheduling in each of these fund categories, we can help ensure the long-term sustainability of the Center.

In closing, we extend our deepest gratitude to all those who have generously supported the Franciscan Center during its nearly 55 years of existence. Please know that the Franciscan Sisters of Alleghany, The Franciscan Center Board members, and the Center staff, keep you in our thoughts and prayers, always!

Wishing you continued blessings of “peace and all good.”

Brian A Lemoi  
Executive Director

James Cavendish, PhD  
Franciscan Center Board Chair



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