



SYLVANIA  
FRANCISCAN  
VILLAGE

OCTOBER, 2017

### In This Issue

[Franciscan Tidbits](#)

[Campus Sustainability Day](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[From the Director](#)

[St. Francis Week](#)

[The Silent Witness Project](#)

[Christian Responses to White Supremacy](#)

[Intergenerational Religious Dialogue](#)

### From the Director



As we enter into our week long celebration for the Feast of St. Francis, I am reminded that it was this time last year that I accepted the position of Director of the Sylvania Franciscan Village (SFV).

Although my official anniversary date isn't until October 31st, my first encounter with the SFV was the Zero Waste Luncheon. I remember taking in the laughter and joy in the room, reflecting that soon I, too, would be a part of this Franciscan community. And now it is hard to believe that the year has passed so quickly.

My understanding of the role as Director has grown in that time, as has my understanding of this Franciscan community, and of the Sylvania Franciscan Sisters who are the foundational base of the laughter and joy that I first experienced at the Zero Waste Luncheon. The year has affirmed for me the notion that the Sylvania Franciscan Village is not a place, but rather a way of being with each other. It's not defined by the boundaries of Convent Blvd. and Main St., but by the way in which we engage with one another as religious sisters, associates, partners in ministry, friends and supporters of these Sisters who have committed to living Franciscan values and committed to works that reflect our Franciscan heritage. It is the way in which we bring our unique gifts to the table to share in the richness of our many blessings. I pray that I have adequately brought my unique gifts to this Franciscan table, as I know I have been the beneficiary of the unique gifts of so many who work to nurture and the build the Sylvania Franciscan Village.

Sophia Lloyd  
Director, Sylvania Franciscan Village

### Franciscan Tidbits



By Sr. Joan Jurski  
**The 'Little Portion'**

As the followers of Francis begin to grow it was evident they needed a place to gather. Francis was reluctant to settle his brothers in one place or community. After the approval of his rule in 1209, he knew, however, he needed some center for the friars

## Celebrating the Feast of St. Francis

to gather and to "come home". Francis accepted an offer from the Benedictines to use the chapel of St. Mary of the Angels. True to his reluctance to own anything, Francis accepted the gift of the chapel as a rental agreement. The friars were to pay the Benedictines an annual rent of fish. The chapel, also referred to as the Portiuncula, which means, "little portion," became central to the life of Francis and the friars. It was here in 1226 that Francis died. Franciscans throughout the world commemorate the death of Francis the day prior to his death with a special prayer ritual referred to as the Transitus, a crossing over. As Sisters of St. Francis, we celebrate Transitus on October 3 in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel. All are invited.

### Campus Sustainability Day

**Wed., Oct. 25  
Lourdes Commons, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Celebrate campus-wide efforts to promote sustainability and environmental wellness with a sneak peek at Al Gore's movie "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power," (which will be shown in its entirety in the Den on Thurs., Oct. 26), a bounty of tips for water conservation and grab some seriously delicious Granola from Chef



On the Sylvania Franciscan Village (SFV) campus we launch October with a week-long celebration for the Feast Day of St. Francis that includes a Transitus Prayer Service and Reception, the Feast Day Mass and a care-for-creation inspired event, the Zero-Waste Lunch.

We remember the anniversary of St. Francis' death on Oct. 3. As Franciscans, we call this annual remembering Transitus, which is derived from the Latin meaning "passage," "crossing" or "going over."

St. Francis crossed over to "Sister Death" much as he lived in God's Creation on Earth; his last days, hours and minutes were spent drawing people near to him in order to savor the joy of praising God together. True to his lifelong charism, he even beseeched the animals and all of creation to join him in praising the Creator.

All are welcome to join us for the 7 p.m. Transitus Prayer Service on Tuesday, Oct. 3 in Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel. For centuries, Franciscans have gathered on this evening to prayerfully recall Francis' passing (his transitus) from this world to a new life in Christ. Please join the Sisters of St. Francis as they continue this tradition.

After the service, all are invited to Madonna Hall for a simple reception. Wednesday, Oct. 4 all are invited to the Feast Day Mass at 4:30 p.m. in Queen of Peace Chapel.

The SFV will host the Zero-Waste Lunch on Thurs., Oct. 5 from 11:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Everyone in the Village is invited to a free lunch at the Franciscan Center catered by Rosary Care Center Chef, Marshall Goldstein. The goal is to feed over 200 people while producing as little actual trash as possible. Last year the Village was able to compost or recycle all but one pound of trash.

The Zero-Waste Lunch honors St. Francis and his charism for caring for creation by promoting greater

Marshall. (Get there early before Gubi eats it all!)  
Contact Environmental Services Supervisor Becky Smith at 419-824-3633 or [rsmith@lourdes.edu](mailto:rsmith@lourdes.edu) to receive updates from the Environmental Wellness Committee.

**Bring your expired batteries, toner and cell phones and we'll recycle them the earth-friendly way!**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out upcoming lectures, classes, special events, volunteer opportunities and more.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE SFV CALENDAR](#)

### OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

**Sylvania Franciscan Village Member Organizations:**

Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania

Lourdes University

Sylvania Franciscan Ministries

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### QUICK LINKS TO OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



awareness of how we affect the environment by seeking to bring attention to ways we can waste less and be better stewards of the earth. Through a "Zero-Waste Jeopardy" game, participants will learn a few new things about sustainability by cheering on their favorite contestants Sr. Barb Vano, Dr. Dwayne Boggs and Carol Lindsley.

This event, now in its seventh year, began as "Village Day" as a way to also promote the then new concept of the SFV and how the entire Village works together to achieve even more good in the world.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Reiter at [ereiter@sistersosf.org](mailto:ereiter@sistersosf.org) or 419-824-3515.

### Bethany House Adopts BSGU Program



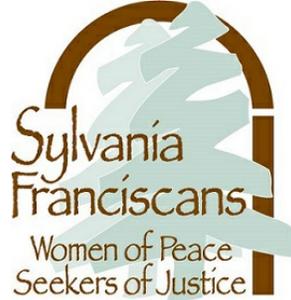
Two ministries of the Sisters of St. Francis are teaming up to ensure that a meaningful community project succeeds. [Bethany House](#), with support from [Lourdes College of Social Science](#) students, will stage the annual **Unveiling of the Silent Witness Project** at the Franciscan Center at 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 2.

The project itself is not new but needed a new home, so this past September Bethany House adopted the [Silent Witness Project from the BGSU Women's Center](#). The Center created the program in recognition of the murder of Michelle Rizzi who was killed by her husband in 2000. Her body was discovered on the BGSU campus in 2001.

In the *Silent Witness Project*, a free-standing wooden silhouette represents Michelle Rizzi and is displayed at domestic violence awareness events.

Sadly, today *The Silent Witness Project* is home to 63 haunting silhouettes of area women and children murdered by an intimate partner or stalker in the past decade. Bethany House will ensure that their tragic deaths are not forgotten by coordinating opportunities for other organizations, such as Tammy's Walk, to borrow the silhouettes.

For the *Unveiling of the Silent Witness Project* at the Franciscan Center, volunteers are essential. Moving



[Sisters of St. Francis](#)



[Lourdes University  
Calendar](#)



[All Good Things Art &  
Gifts](#)



[Bethany House](#)



[Sophia Center](#)

the silhouettes and setting up the space takes a good number of people. Finding volunteers who are able to handle the emotional task of becoming the voice of one of these women or children is challenging.

"I always advise my volunteers that they should probably go through an unveiling first. It's extremely difficult to listen to these tragic stories and then be steady enough to get up and read a first-person narrative," Bethany House Executive Director Deidra Lashley says.

Terry Keller, Lourdes University Dean of the College of Social Sciences, was happy to get involved when he heard about the project. He invited Deidra to visit his class to talk about Bethany House and recruit volunteers for set-up and tear-down, and he integrated the Silent Witness Project into his curriculum so that the entire class will be in attendance.

You can show your support for this project and help bring awareness to end domestic violence at 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 2, in the Franciscan Center.

For more information, please contact Dr. Mary Krueger at [silentwitnessproject@bethanyhouse.org](mailto:silentwitnessproject@bethanyhouse.org).

## Christian Responses to White Supremacy



There are times when sharing your microphone is the best gift you can offer the community.

In the wake of the protests in Charlottesville, VA, the Sylvania Franciscan Village (SFV) was pleased to welcome two well-known community religious leaders, Father Jim Bacik, retired priest and theologian, and Bishop Robert A. Culp, senior minister of First Church of God on Collingwood Boulevard.

On Aug. 29, both men spoke at the Franciscan Center to an audience of over 400 on the theme "Combating White Supremacy: Christian Responses." Sister Shannon Schrein, Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis Councilor, introduced the speakers and moderated a 30-minute open-mic forum that allowed participants to pose questions and statements to the speakers and audience.

Bishop Culp explained that racism is contrary to Gospel.

"As far as the church is concerned, racism is not just a social issue. It's a gospel issue. If the church is to be of any help to those who are enslaved to these racist ideologies we have to first see the gospel as the basis for our response.

Throughout scripture we see that the Gospel demands this diverse community to intentionally pursue one another in love. You know the bible story where Peter stopped associating with gentiles? Paul says that his behavior was out of step with the teaching of Jesus Christ," said Bishop Culp. "The gospel demands a relationship with each other."

[\(Hear Bishop Culp's entire speech here, at WGTE's Knowledge Stream.org.\)](#)

Charlottesville was a kairos moment, says Fr. Bacik. The event gives us an opportune time to break through our false consciousness of thinking we are not a racist society.

"In Catholic teaching we learn of social sin. We understand personal sin: we failed to love, we fail to do what is right. We know personal sin from our own hearts.

What happens in fact is that all of those personal sins become embedded in institutions and part of the culture. Racism is a social sin and it produces false consciousness. We don't see where evil is at work and that evil people have distorted the reality of God's world. We can't see it. We can't see the racism. It takes prophets, such as Martin Luther King, to help us see it."

[\(Hear Fr. Jim Bacik's entire speech here.\)](#)

Following the hour-long forum, participants were invited to share their thoughts with the general audience.

Members of the First Church of God took part in the lecture and commentary, as well as nearly two dozen

Lourdes University students and faculty. A representative from Senator Sherrod Brown's office also attended. The event was covered by The Blade, NBC 24 and WGTE.

Both Fr. Bacik and Bishop Culp waived speaking fees and asked that proceeds from the event be used to develop new programming to address racism. Sylvania Franciscan Village will partner with the Toledo Community Coalition in the coming months on the project.

To receive information regarding upcoming Fr. Bacik lectures, emails [ereiter@sistersosf.org](mailto:ereiter@sistersosf.org).

## Intergenerational Religious Dialogue

When was the last time you saw a 16-year-old Muslim sitting at a table with a 95-year-old Catholic talking about religion?

There will be eight such tables arranged with an even mix of students and seniors from a variety of faith traditions on Tuesday, Oct. 3. The Intergenerational Religious Dialogue was organized by Mary Beth Wielgopolski, Lourdes University Theology Instructor and Sophia Lloyd, Sylvania Franciscan Village Director.

"These students are at the beginning of their spiritual journey as an adult and they are speaking to people who are at the end of their own journey. People who have lived it. My students are always amazed at how engaged these seniors are, and how bright and sharp they are," says Mary Beth.

Participants come from a variety of faith traditions that include Hindu, Muslim and Baha'i Faith traditions in addition to several denominations of Christianity. To engage such an intergenerational interfaith group in meaningful conversation requires a carefully directed program.

Participants take a few moments to introduce themselves to the rest of their table by their name, age, hometown and current religious tradition.

A short reading helps focus the conversation, followed by ten minutes of quiet time where everyone writes out their responses to questions drawn from the readings. For many of the participants, it might be the first time they have had the opportunity to articulate their own responses and this reflective time helps them find their voice. Each person is asked to share their response with everyone at the table and then

conversation begins.

"This conversation gives everyone a chance to see what they share in common, despite the differences in age or faith tradition. That is what St. Francis was all about," explains Sophia Lloyd.

It also provides inspiration for those coming into their own as they grapple with their religious practices.

"So many people are unchurched now," Mary Beth Wielgopolski says. "They may not really practice the religion and the older people have always practiced it. They've walked the walk. The kids are impressed at how they have maintained that."

For more information on participating on future Intergenerational Interfaith Dialogues, contact SFV Director Sophia Lloyd at 419-842-3533 or [slloyd@sistersosf.org](mailto:slloyd@sistersosf.org).

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