We’re happy to share lots of good news in this fall issue of St. Francis Community magazine. All of our ministries continue striving to live and embody our Franciscan core values. You’ll learn how St. Francis Spirituality Center cultivates St. Clare’s love for contemplation through their summer guided meditation program. Children are thrilled to learn St. Francis’ love for nature and to pet the animals at the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center’s new Peaceable Kindom, and teachers gain insights to instill love for learning about God’s creation back in their own school classrooms. St. Francis Senior Ministries welcomes new servant leaders who care for residents and encourage staff at St. Francis Home. And Sisters of various ages and stages, from one making perpetual vows to another celebrating 50 years in God’s service; from those serving in ministries from rural to urban areas of our country and Mexico— all are life-long learners and teachers, sharing these values in today’s world.

Victims of recent natural disasters, hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes call us to our knees to offer prayerful support for lives that have been shattered or lost. And we all respond in whatever ways we are able. In the spirit of St. Francis, we know we must be instruments of light, hope, and peace for them.

May the changing colors of fall offer you contemplative opportunities to season your own heart by sharing in the beauty of creation.

Sister Sara Aldridge
Community Minister

The Gift That Keeps Giving

Your support for the St. Francis Community is of great value to us, and it is our goal to make it rewarding for you as well. That’s why we want you to know about the financial tools you can use to plan your gift to us so that it can return benefits to you:

• You can make a gift as a cash donation which can be designated for special needs.

• You can make a gift that insures your family and the St. Francis Community are remembered through a bequest.

• You can give a gift of real estate, which can be more beneficial than giving cash.

• You can turn surplus life insurance coverage into a gift.

• You can make a gift through company sponsored pension and profit sharing plans.

Please see “Plan a Gift” at tiffinfranciscans.org or contact Sister Joanne Lammers at (419) 447-0435 and she will be glad to answer any questions.
Canticle of the ARTS is a one-hour presentation by a St. Francis resident, for St. Francis residents and staff, on the person's crafts, hobby, past occupation or life experience.

The presentations began in the summer of 2015 for the purpose of bringing Villa and other campus residents together to get to know each other and appreciate each other's life experiences. Past presentations covered a wide variety of topics such as classical music, art, crafts, travels, world and local history and social issues.

In June, Daniel Johnson spoke on the *Ein Deutches Requiem*, created by German composer Johannes Brahms between 1857 and 1868 in memory of his recently deceased mother. Daniel educated and entertained attendees with musical excerpts, symphonic analysis and history.

While the main focus of the *Ein Deutches Requiem* (which is more like a cantata than a Mass) is on the blessedness of life with God in heaven, the reality of death and grief is also faced directly. It was chosen to be broadcast on public radio after the 9/11 attack in 2001 to provide meaning and consolation to a shocked and grieving American public.

During July, Sister Paulette Schroeder offered a brief introduction of Palestine. A slide show and explanation of her recent trip offered insight into the delegation experience, including photos of biblical sites, infrastructure and encounters. She described her interactions with the people and some of their daily challenges, traditions and celebrations. Charts and maps were on display to illustrate how dramatically the Palestinian-Israeli borders have changed over the years. Sister Paulette gave a brief historic overview of major events that influenced those changes. She has made 13 trips to the region and encourages others to join her in future trips to connect with the people there and experience the richness of their history.

In August, Eugene Miller spoke on “Sharing Life-Changing Events”. He opened with a story about how, when out with the guys one evening, his very rich college friend invited a homeless man to join them in a meal and conversation. Eugene was so in awe of his friend’s natural graciousness that it forever changed his preconceived perceptions of people -- of all walks of life. This enlightening event inspired life changes and gave Eugene better ability to deal with unusual people and events as he grew older.

Audience members were then encouraged to partner up and discuss their own profound experiences. Collectively, they uncovered deeper meaning in those life lessons. They confirmed that even the most unpleasant ordeals gave them insight and strength and built character like easy times never could.

Canticle of the ARTS Continues

Donations of any amount THAT ONE DAY ONLY to St. Francis COMMUNITY will benefit all of our ministries. On November 28, St. Francis Community has a goal to raise at least $10,000. Please make a donation online or by check which MUST BE DATED “November 28, 2017.” Call Mission Advancement Office for details at 419-447-0435 ext. 132.
Bonnie LaFleur of Hilliard, Ohio scheduled some get-away time for a private retreat at St. Francis Spirituality Center this summer. She had received a gift certificate for the Center from her daughter as a Christmas gift. Although she had never been to the Center before, she was in need of some time away for herself.

During her five-day stay, she sat in the meditation garden a few times because it was in such close proximity to the facility. “What a refuge! I take care of my 13-year old grandson and am always on the go and I needed a refuge,” explained Bonnie, “and that is what it proved to be.”

“I came ‘frazzled’ and ‘unfocused’. However, I left peaceful and centered and determined to remember what peace feels like and can return to it when I feel it slipping away. I also left with a deep appreciation for St. Francis and St. Clare and the example that they left for us to follow, ponder, and pray,” explained Bonnie.

She continued, “I felt embraced and accepted by Sister Edna, Jenifer and all of the Sisters. I was touched by their friendliness and openness to sharing their life’s journey with me and impressed by learning of the vast diversity of their ministries among the lay people, including Sister Patricia Miller’s time working with preschool children in Houston, Texas.”

“Gift certificates make great Christmas presents. Call Jenifer at 419.443.1485 for more information.”

The peace and beauty of the gardens ministered to my spirit. Thank you for being God’s instrument of peace and enlightenment and growth.

- Bonnie LaFleur

Give an Honorary Christmas Gift

Use the enclosed envelope to contribute an item below to St. Francis Spirituality Center as a Christmas gift in honor of a loved one. St. Francis Spirituality Center will send a Christmas gift acknowledgement to the honoree in your name.

- $225/room to refurbish 10 guest rooms
- $200, $100 and $50 each for scholarships for spiritual renewal and healing programs for veterans, cancer patients, caregivers, respite workers, families affected by drug addiction, abuse survivors
- $50 for replacement bed sheets for participants
- $25-50 for replacement lamp shades for participant rooms
- $1,000 for new carpet for conference room

Check out What’s New?

On our Legacy Planning website http://plannedgiving.tiffinfranciscans.org

- How to Donate Stock
- 4 Insider Tips From a Will Planning Attorney
- Tribute Gifts: Your Search for the Perfect Gift Is Over
St. Francis Spirituality Center is launching a new fundraiser in 2017 in place of the Annual Fall BBQ. This year we will be offering a Calendar Raffle with 31 great opportunities to win either cash or a gift card for various businesses throughout the region (e.g. restaurants, stores and other services). The minimum prize value is $50.00; maximum value is $500. A winner’s name will be drawn daily during the month of December. Each raffle entry is eligible to win multiple times.

You may enter as many times as you wish. The cost of each ticket is $10.00 or six entries for $50.00. Tickets are available through our website, at our center and at other community events between September 1 - December 30.

Surprise yourself or a loved one with an unexpected gift during the Christmas season, and at the same time support St. Francis Spirituality Center’s programs for healing, reconciliation and renewal.

Visit http://franciscanretreats.org/31-days-of-winning/ to purchase tickets online.
This past June, Franciscan Friars, Sisters, and guests celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Pilgrim House located next to Our Lady of Consolation Church in Carey, Ohio. The Tiffin Franciscan Sisters originally built the Pilgrims House in 1917 as a hospice where worst cases of illness and the most helpless cripples could find care and in later years hosted many retreats and pilgrimages. The Sisters managed the Pilgrim House into the 1990s. The Pilgrim House and Retreat Ministry are now integrated into the overall pastoral ministry of the Shrine overseen by the Franciscan Friars.

Celebrating Sisters

Pictured are several Franciscan Friars and twenty-seven Tiffin Sisters who have lived or worked at the Pilgrim House over the years.

This past June, Franciscan Friars, Sisters, and guests celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Pilgrim House located next to Our Lady of Consolation Church in Carey, Ohio. The Tiffin Franciscan Sisters originally built the Pilgrims House in 1917 as a hospice where worst cases of illness and the most helpless cripples could find care and in later years hosted many retreats and pilgrimages. The Sisters managed the Pilgrim House into the 1990s. The Pilgrim House and Retreat Ministry are now integrated into the overall pastoral ministry of the Shrine overseen by the Franciscan Friars.

Give an Honorary Christmas Gift

Use the enclosed envelope to contribute toward an item below to Sisters of St. Francis to use as a Christmas gift in honor of a loved one. The Sisters will send a Christmas gift acknowledgement to the honoree in your name.

- **Assistance for Those in Need**
  - $50/trip for transportation to doctor
  - $400/utility bills for family
  - $50/toddler car seat
  - $25/month to sponsor a child’s education in Mexico
  - $725/U.S. Citizenship Application for a documented immigrant
  - $10/citizenship test for a documented immigrant

- **Inner City Ministries**
  - $25.00 for school supplies for children in after school program
  - $25.00 to sponsor a child for one week day camp
  - $100.00 to sponsor a child for 7 weeks of day camp
  - $50.00 for art/craft supplies
  - $50.00 for seeds and plants for Ujima Urban Agriculture program
  - $25.00 to sponsor a Kwanzaa Park Neighborhood support meeting
  - $25.00/$50 to purchase food for the food pantry

- **Education: Vulnerable People**
  - $350/workshop: Victims of Human Trafficking
  - $50/anti-bullying classes for middle school children

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Congratulations to Sister Rozanne Swope who celebrated her 50th Jubilee on the Feast of the Stigmata on Sunday, September 17, 2017.
As a young girl, Marcia Boes had never considered religious life. In fact, she pictured herself getting married and having children. But on October 15, 2017, she took the last step in her journey to sisterhood when she made her perpetual profession of vows as a Sister of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio in the presence of her family, friends and fellow Sisters.

As a child, Marcia grew up near Kirby, a small town near Upper Sandusky, Ohio. Her family belonged to St. Mary’s Chapel, a part of Transfiguration of the Lord Parish in Upper Sandusky. When in 8th grade, she played the piano at Mass for the first time. “The Church and my faith have always been important to me,” she said. “I came from a strong Catholic family and am a middle child among three other siblings. I have 11 nieces and nephews whom I love dearly.”

Following her high school graduation, Marcia worked as a medical transcriptionist until the age of 27 and eventually earned her Bachelor of Music Education Degree. For eight years, she taught music to students in grades K-7 at Benton-Carroll Salem School in Oak Harbor, Ohio. It was during this time in her life that she began discerning her life’s vocation. “At that point, I was really searching and wondering exactly where I was going in life,” Sister Marcia said as she looked back.

In the summer of 2008 Marcia contacted Sister Barbara Jean Miller, a Tiffin Franciscan who was the Pastoral Associate in Upper Sandusky, and talked to her about her soul-searching. “She asked if I had ever considered religious life,” said Sister Marcia. “My response was tears…lots of tears. I needed to talk to someone about it and knew deep in my heart that she had touched upon a really deep truth. I then met with a local priest who really encouraged me to deepen my prayer life, pray for insight and be open to the possibility.” That was the point at which Marcia’s discernment changed. “When I was finally ready to be open to the possibility of a religious vocation, it became clear that the real question was more about what God’s will was for me and less about what I thought I wanted,” she added.

According to Sister Marcia, there were two very important questions that she needed to address during the discernment process. The first was “Am I called to religious life?” and the second, “What community am I being called to?”

“All religious orders have lots to offer, so it was a matter of deciding which was the best fit for me,” explained Sister Marcia. In April of 2009, she visited the Sisters of Notre Dame in Rensselaer, Indiana. She currently serves as the Pastoral Associate of Music and Worship at All Saints Parish in New Riegel and Sts. Patrick and Andrew in Bascom. “I love my ministry. It is multifaceted. It is intergenerational. I have grown to truly love the people in these parishes.”

To read the entire story, visit www.tiffinfranciscans.org.
On August 14, St. Francis Senior Ministries celebrated the installation and commissioning of Executive Director Sean Riley and Manager of Mission and Pastoral Care, Beth Westphal. There was a reception that followed in the multipurpose room where employees, residents, sisters and family gathered to continue the celebration.

“Thank you everyone for the warm and gracious welcome to St. Francis Senior Ministries,” said Sean. “I am honored to become a member of an organization which has been serving the Tiffin and regional community for more than 148 years.” Sean especially appreciates St. Francis Senior Ministries’ mission: We exist to create a community where each individual can live life fully.

Sean’s experience has been entirely in the post-acute care and older adult housing and services arena. He became a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator in 1986 and has thoroughly enjoyed working with residents, families, and coworkers ever since. He has found the variety of services and the collaborative nature of working so closely with residents very rewarding.

During his career, Sean’s previous responsibilities have included roles as Senior Administrator, Chief Operating Officer, and Executive Director/Vice President of Operations with both small, regional, and public organizations.

Sean and his wife, Sheila, have been married for 27 years and have two children, Casey (daughter) and Addison (son), both named after grandparents. “We look forward to learning more about Tiffin and all that it has to offer,” added Sean.

Beth Westphal and her husband Dave are both pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Prior to coming to St. Francis, they together served a congregation in Canal Winchester, Ohio. When Dave decided that he would retire in June, Beth decided to explore ministry opportunities in elder care. This was actually a return to her roots because she worked for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs as a compliance auditor before seminary, and her first call in ministry was chaplain for a Lutheran elder care community in Frostburg, Maryland.

“I am tremendously grateful to the Sisters of St. Francis and the SFSM Board of Directors for their willingness to hire a Lutheran minister as Manager of Mission and Pastoral Care for our community,” said Beth. “My prayer is that God will use this partnership to draw all of our staff and residents together into a deeper appreciation of the charism of Saints Francis and Clare. I am delighted to serve in a community where we celebrate Mass every morning and where I can take my turn at the organ when needed. I also love leading ecumenical Bible studies throughout campus and gathering our protestant residents for worship. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone as we work together to serve Jesus in our sisters and brothers.”
Villa Residents Enjoy Food and Fellowship Together

St. Francis residents Louis Miller and Joan Gray decided to coordinate monthly lunches at area restaurants for villa residents about a year ago. Since then, residents look forward to getting together on the 3rd Friday of each month so they can enjoy some fellowship while trying out new restaurants in Tiffin.

“We are not concerned about how many or few people gather for lunch. We just want to make sure that the opportunity is there, especially for residents who might live by themselves and would not feel comfortable going out to lunch alone,” said Louis. In May, as many as 23 residents gathered at Madison Street Tavern in Tiffin. Other locations have included Fort Ball Pizza Palace, Reino’s Catering, Wall St. Grill, TJ Willies, Asian Grill, Carmie’s, Phat Cakes and Fireside Café on the Heidelberg University Campus.

“The monthly lunches have really been successful. The residents that come out really enjoy it,” said Joan. “Personally, it has helped me meet new people since my husband and I moved back to Tiffin about four years ago from South Carolina. Other than our daughter, we came home to a bunch of strangers because so many of our old friends had relocated over the years or past away. I enjoy connecting with other residents and making new friends.”

Resident Ida Cooley also enjoys having the opportunity to get everyone from both ends of the campus together that may not otherwise meet. Eugene Miller and his wife Barbara Steinbeigle, residents at Friedman Village, are celebrating their first anniversary of living on St. Francis Campus and have been participating in the monthly lunches. “The lunches are low key, you have an opportunity to meet your neighbors, try out restaurants and learn more about the Tiffin community and what events are happening,” explained Eugene. “Besides, we have five grandchildren that were not being properly spoiled, so we do not have to commute anymore from Chicago.”

Give an Honorary Christmas Gift

Contribute an item below to St. Francis Senior Ministries as a Christmas gift in honor of a loved one. St. Francis Senior Ministries will send a Christmas acknowledgement to the honoree in your name.

- $150 each for televisions for 132 residents’ rooms
- $150 each for wheel chairs for residents
- $300 each for pressure relieving mattresses for bedfast residents
- $1,530 each for power lift recliner chairs for residents’ rooms
- $1,935 each for electric beds for residents

SAVE THE DATE
Annual Memorial Service ~ November 5, 2017
The Franciscan Earth Literacy Center (FELC) hosted their first Summer Camp for Elementary Grade Science Teachers in July. The camp consisted of four days and focused on how to apply the state standards to the natural world.

Teachers learned all about worms and vermi-composting and made their own classroom worm box to use with their students. A grant from the Donald D. Lynch Family Foundation provided all of the camp supplies and take-home materials. While learning about renewable energy, they assembled mini-classroom wind turbines. Teachers also had the opportunity to paint cold frame boxes constructed by presenter Jim Mason. The bottomless box, with a skyward-facing window, protects tender plants or rooted cuttings during the colder months. It acts as a passive solar energy collector and reservoir.

Other activities included making a solar oven out of a pizza box and foil, making fossil imprints using a clay mixture, exploring the woods and using various utensils to pick up small objects during a bird beak challenge.

“It seems that when I go to schools I hear many elementary teachers tell me that they are not comfortable teaching science, said Sister Shirley. “We were able to show these teachers that it is not difficult and there are many hands-on approaches to teaching the state standards in science,” she explained. The camp also covered animal adaptations. All of the activities were adapted for use on school grounds, nearby parks, natural areas, and in the classroom. “We are hoping to continue the camp next summer with more teachers.”

Teachers received a certificate upon completion of the workshop. “FELC is always looking for ways to reach out to educators and more adults,” added Sister Shirley.

“I had fun and learned so much I can apply in the classroom that I know the students will learn while having fun. It was really like camp - we sang songs, played games, built projects, walked in the woods and cooked over a fire”, explained Alana Stevens, a fourth grade teacher at New Riegel Schools. “It was a great experience and very worthwhile! We were all hands on, so I felt the camp was modeled perfectly!”

I will definitely be using anything we learned that goes with 4th grade standards (and more), for example, the Simulating Fossil Formations and everything else,” added Alana.

“In fact, it was one of the best science teaching (or just teaching in general) workshops I have attended. Thank you for having us DO to learn, as learning should be. This really helped me to reaffirm that many of the things I am doing in the classroom are on track, and it gave me many new ideas that I can apply in the classroom. I looked forward to coming...
each day. It was a great experience simply visiting the FELC. My favorite part, the campfire, was a great way to wrap up the week, immerse ourselves in nature, and bond together,” added Alana.

Fifth grade teacher Carrie Alvarado of Christ the King School in Oregon, Ohio enjoyed “Fossil Day” the most. “I learned ways to experiment with solar cells and wind turbines that I can share with other teachers back home. I will definitely be using the predator/prey game “Squirrel” and the worm compost activity.”

Third grade teacher Melissa Bellman of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Ottawa, Ohio described the workshop: “Hands down, this was by far the BEST class I have ever taken and it far exceeded my expectations!” She continued, “I will use everything in my classroom. I loved all of the activities! The presenters kept us moving and involved! I am excited about using the animal games, worm farm, and sun/wind power resources.”

Kelly Morman, a fourth grade teacher, who also teaches at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School of Ottawa agreed with Melissa. “This workshop, by far, exceeded my expectation! I will be using everything that pertains to 4th grade. I was impressed by all the hands on activities, slide presentation and the knowledge of all the presenters,” said Kelly.

“Teachers turn into students then back into teachers again when done with this program! Thank you very much for this program!”

“My favorite was probably the wind turbine and seeing how they work,” said Patricia Stechschulte, a fifth grade teacher who traveled with her co-workers from Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School. She also left with several useful tools and ideas for her classroom. She added, “I can’t think of just one thing that was the best! The games we played will be very useful as well as all the activities. Even making the worm farm was fun - and I don’t like worms!”

“FELC is a great place for kids and teachers to learn,” said Patricia, “It was a great week and I left with so many wonderful items to bring home!”

Facilitator Jim Mason added, “The summer camp was a wonderful opportunity to share ideas with several very dedicated teachers.”

“Teachers turn into students then back into teachers again when done with this program! Thank you very much for this program!”

-Kelly Morman

Give an Honorary Christmas Gift

Use the enclosed envelope to contribute to the children’s environmental class items below as a Christmas gift in honor of a loved one. FELC will send a Christmas gift acknowledgement to the honoree in your name.

- $2,000 each to sponsor three college student interns teaching children at FELC
- $500 to sponsor guest speaker fees for special programs
- $500 to $2,000 to sponsor a children’s summer camp
- $250 to sponsor children’s transportation for a school field trip
- $100 each to sponsor 50 low income children to attend summer camp
- $100 to sponsor a garden tool set for a low income family’s gardening at FELC

(Each sponsor’s name will appear on associated publicity/materials for each event)
Sisters, employees and residents took part in a campus wide Solar Eclipse Viewing Party on August 21. Everyone was treated to Cosmic Brownies, Star Crunches and punch.

Campus residents Millie and Louie Lee (left) received a special blessing while celebrating their 75th wedding anniversary with family at the Summer Harvest Gourmet Gala. This year over 300 guests attended this 10th annual event and approximately $25,000 was raised to support the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center’s educational programs.

St. Francis Home resident Harold Shultz spent his 100th birthday riding around town in a 2017 Cadillac. Harold owned Cadillacs all his life. After the ride, Harold returned to one of his favorite activities, BINGO! Thanks to General Manager Chuck Miller at Baumann of Port Clinton for the use of the car and General Manager Dave Conn of Baumann Tiffin, who arranged for a driver.