This year’s theme highlights the Neumann University motto found on the university seal (Veritas - Caritas) *Live the Truth in Love*, the core value of Excellence, and Pope Benedict XVI’s designation of October 11, 2012 to November 24, 2013 as a **Year of Faith**. We will highlight this theme on Welcome Back Day, August 22. Our keynote speaker for the day, Pat Ciarrocchi, news anchor for CBS 3, received the 2004 Neumann University Presidential Humanitarian Award.

As an extension of our theme, we encourage everyone to participate in an afternoon of “Tea and Conversation.” All of these events will take place from 2 to 4:30 PM in the Devine Hospitality Suite of the Mirenda Center for Sport, Spirituality, and Character Development.

It is customary for Catholic colleges and universities to begin the academic year with a special Mass asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our Mass of the Holy Spirit will be held in Our Lady of Angels Chapel on Thursday, August 30 at 11:30 AM. After Mass we invite you to join in a Picnic. As has become our tradition we invite faculty, staff, and administrators to assist in serving lunch to our students.

In 1981, the United Nations passed a resolution to establish an International Day of Peace. In 2002 the UN General Assembly officially declared September 21 the permanent date for the International Day of Peace. In the past Neumann has celebrated this day with a prayer service. This past summer, Neumann students who attended the Symposium of the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU) committed themselves to commemorate this day after hearing about the activities initiated by students at Viterbo University. The NIFS is happy to support the student efforts to mark this special day. Watch for additional information!

The NIFS is moving!
Please visit us in our newly renovated rooms on the third floor of the library!
336 Sister Pat's Office
334 Sister Mary Ann's Office
333 Francis & Clare Library
332 Assisi Room
Feast of St. Francis of Assisi & Francis Week Celebrations

On every Franciscan campus, October includes special celebrations connected with the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. On the afternoon of September 30 at 4 PM, we invite you to gather with your pets in St. John Neumann Circle for the Blessing of the Animals. On the evening of October 3 at 7 PM, we are invited to join the Sisters of Saint Francis in celebrating the Transitus of St. Francis. This ritual commemorates Francis’s passage into eternal life. We will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis on Thursday, October 4, with a Morning Prayer Service at 8:30 AM in the RAB Lobby and with Mass at noon.

On Thursday, October 4, the Care of Creation Committee and the SEA Club (Students for Environmental Awareness) will sponsor a special presentation entitled Sun Come Up which depicts some of the world’s first “climate refugees,” inhabitants of the Carteret Islands just north of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. Accompanying the film will be discussion periods before and after the film, and action steps students, faculty and administration can take to respond to the unfolding climate crisis from a Catholic perspective.
Time: 9:40 to 11:10 AM Place: to be announced

The date and time of the Bock Book Award will be announced when arrangements have been made with the winning author and illustrator.

Look for further details about each event in the coming weeks.

Canonization of Sister Marianne Cope of Molokai, OSF and Kateri Tekawitha

On October 21, 2012 Pope Benedict XVI will celebrate the ceremony which officially affirms Sister Marianne Cope and Kateri Tekawitha as saints in the Catholic Church. Sr. Marianne’s canonization holds special meaning for Franciscans since she was a member of the Syracuse Franciscans, a branch of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia! Kateri Tekawitha was born in New York State in 1656 of an Algonquin mother and a Mohawk Chief. To learn more about Saint Marianne and Saint Kateri, please explore the following websites:

http://blessedmariannecope.org/
http://www.katerishrine.com/kateri.html

The following article on Sister Marianne Cope from the 2012 AFCU Journal may also be of interest
http://www.franciscancollegesuniversities.org/images/stories/journal/20129-1.pdf#page=42-52

Dr. McParland’s article and the story of Sister Marianne of Molokai offer an excellent example of connecting the story of Francis and the leper, literature, healthcare, and reverence for the dignity of the human person!

To learn more about the meaning of sainthood and the process of canonization, please come to a presentation by Sr. Pat Smith OSF on Thursday, October 18, 2012 from 12:30 to 1:30 in the new Assisi Room 332 BMB Lunch will be provided.
Registration deadline: October 5, 2012.
The Nicene Creed: What We Believe
September 25, 2012 8:30 to 9:30 A.M.
Presented by Reverend Philip J. Lowe
Father Lowe will lead a presentation and discussion on the essential elements of the Nicene Creed, prayed on most Sundays at the Catholic liturgy (Mass). This presentation will be of interest to persons of all faith traditions!

Join us for this event on Tuesday, September 25, 2012, from 8:30 to 9:30 in the Assisi Room 332 (third floor of library).
A light breakfast will be provided.
Registration deadline: September 10, 2012

According to the Summer 2012 Newsletter of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, “by declaring the Year of Faith, Pope Benedict seeks to foster in every believer the aspiration to profess the faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, confidence, and hope.” The opening of the Year of Faith coincides with the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. The Vatican website includes two documents which explain the Year of Faith. You may access the documents here:

Suggestions for celebration of the Year of Faith which are especially appropriate for Catholic colleges and universities include: dialogue about the connection between faith and reason in academic and artistic communities, exploration of the meaning of the Creed professed by Catholics, opportunities for ecumenical discussion, and examination of the documents of Vatican II. Accordingly, Neumann University will sponsor or support the following activities:

Simply Divine: Art and Faith in the Islamic World
September 28-29, 2012
Presented by Michael Calabria OFM, from St. Bonaventure University
Franciscan Spiritual Center at Our Lady of Angels Convent

This workshop explores the Scripture, spirituality and history of Islam as expressed by masterpieces of calligraphy, painting, textiles, stonework, glass, ceramics and metalwork from museums in the United States, Europe and the Middle East. Particular attention will be given to the integral connections between the Islamic world, and the cultures of the Near East, Byzantium and Medieval Europe. In addition, there will be an examination of some of the greatest architectural works in the Islamic world as expressions of faith and spirituality.

The workshop begins Friday evening at 7 PM; Saturday session is 10 to 3 with lunch included. Liturgy at Our Lady of Angels begins at 4:30 PM for those interested.
Registration Deadline: September 14, 2012

The Nicene Creed: What We Believe
September 25, 2012 8:30 to 9:30 A.M.
Presented by Reverend Philip J. Lowe
Father Lowe will lead a presentation and discussion on the essential elements of the Nicene Creed, prayed on most Sundays at the Catholic liturgy (Mass). This presentation will be of interest to persons of all faith traditions!

Join us for this event on Tuesday, September 25, 2012, from 8:30 to 9:30 in the Assisi Room 332 (third floor of library).
A light breakfast will be provided.
Registration deadline: September 10, 2012
**Faithful Citizenship: A Matter of Conscience**  
October 22, 2012  12:30 to 1:30 P.M.

Led by a panel of faculty and staff members

In preparation for Election Day 2012, we invite everyone to take time to reflect upon the connection between faith and issues such as war and peace, the economy, the common good, global solidarity, and the sanctity of human life.

For those who may wish to discuss the connection between values and voting, we will offer an opportunity for conversation on Monday, October 22, 2012, from 12:30 to 1:30 in the third floor Assisi Room 332. Lunch will be provided.

Registration deadline: October 12, 2012.

**Nine Things that Make Us Catholic**  
December 6, 2012  5:30-7:30 P.M.

Presented by Sr. Marguerite O’Beirne OSF  
Advent Dinner and Evening of Reflection  
Franciscan Spiritual Center at Our Lady of Angels Convent

This presentation and discussion is based on a document prepared by Thomas H. Groome, chair of the department of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry and professor of theology at Boston College. Sr. Marguerite will combine her own insights into the Catholic Faith with her personal knowledge of Dr. Groome and his keen theological mind (and Irish wit and wisdom!).

Dinner at 5:30 PM / Program at 6:30 P.M.  
Registration deadline: November 26, 2012

**Saved by Beauty: Dorothy Day**  
November 13, 2012  5:30-8:00 P.M.

Presented by Michael McGrath OSFS  
Franciscan Spiritual Center at Our Lady of Angels Convent

Through the inspiration of Dorothy Day, as seen in the paintings and stories of his latest book, Brother Mickey explores the beauty of our church, world, and homes. Dorothy Day's life motto, "In the end, beauty will save the world," is the inspiration for a look at Catholic social teaching and justice. Come re-discover the healing power of beauty as well as ways to be a beautiful presence in our troubled world and church.

Dinner at 5:30 PM / Program at 6:30 P.M.  
Registration Deadline: October 30, 2012

**Journey with the Saints of Lent**  
February 27, 2013  5:30-8:00 P.M.

Presented by Michael McGrath OSFS  
Lenten Dinner and Evening of Reflection  
Franciscan Spiritual Center at Our Lady of Angels Convent

Lent is the perfect season to take a good look at our priorities and needs. Helped by Brother Mickey's paintings and stories, the saints and Gospel stories of Lent will come alive, leading us to a deeper awareness of God's presence as we journey together towards Jerusalem. Make the Stations of the Cross as you've never done before.

Dinner at 5:30 PM / Program at 6:30 P.M.  
Registration Deadline: February 13, 2013
The Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities: Preparing for June 2014

From June 12 to 15, 2012, fifteen members of Neumann University traveled to LaCrosse, WI for the fifth biennial Symposium of the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities to reflect on the conference theme, *Franciscan Leadership: Serving, Learning, Leading*. Several members of the Neumann community presented papers at the conference. For the first time, the AFCU welcomed student presenters and participants. Neumann was well-represented by current students Frank Altimuro, Tiffany Connelly, and Brande Marshall, and recent graduates Jessica Koronik and Melissa Martin. Neumann students, who presented papers both independently and with Neumann faculty and staff members, were outstanding representatives of our university!

Neumann University will host the 2014 AFCU Symposium from June 3-5, 2014! The theme of the Symposium, *Catholic in the Franciscan Tradition: Formation, Integration, and Assessment*, will offer something for everyone – faculty, administrators, staff, and students. Dr. Mirenda will appoint a Planning Committee in preparation for the symposium and many sub-committees will be formed. As we prepare for 2014, we invite everyone to take time to learn more about the AFCU by attending an introduction to the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities and/or one of the presentations offered by the 2012 participants.

A schedule of presentations from the 2012 AFCU Symposium held at Viterbo University in June 2012 will be available later in the Fall semester! All presentations will take place in Spring 2013.

A Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi for Faculty and Staff

Have you considered participating in the Rome-Assisi Pilgrimage with members of other Franciscan colleges and universities?

Come and learn more about this life-changing experience from Neumann faculty and staff members who have participated in past pilgrimages.

Enjoy lunch and hear about this wonderful opportunity on October 3 at 12:30 to 1:30 PM.

Registration deadline: September 21, 2012.

Neumann University celebrates GRECCIO

A Highlight of Advent is our celebration of Greccio, commemorating the first Live Nativity initiated by St. Francis of Assisi. Our Greccio celebration will be Sunday evening, December 2. Mass will take place in Our Lady of Angels Convent at 5:00 PM, followed by the Greccio celebration at 6:15 PM.

The AFCU: What it is and why I should care!

Presented by Sr. Pat Hutchison OSF and past AFCU participants

Learn about the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities and receive a preview of the 2014 Symposium and how you can be involved!

Wednesday, January 30, 2013 from 8:30 to 9:30 AM in the Assisi Room 332. A light breakfast will be served!
Online Certificate in Franciscan Studies

In 2007 the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities launched an online certificate program in Franciscan Studies. Now in its fourth year, the certificate program is designed to:

- Provide a unified understanding of the Franciscan Tradition
- Prepare students to form Franciscan experiences in their personal and professional lives
- Strengthen students' relationship with Franciscan History, Tradition, Art and Literature

Sr. Margaret Klotz of Cardinal Stritch teaches the program which is “housed” at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, IL. The program consists of four courses, each four weeks in length.

The 2012-2013 schedule follows:

I. Understanding Franciscan Origins & Values I
   Sept. 24 - Oct. 19, 2012

II. Understanding Franciscan Origins & Values II
   Oct. 22 - Nov. 16, 2012

III. Franciscan Spirituality and Evangelical Life
     Jan. 7 - Feb. 1, 2013

IV. Franciscan Tradition in Art and Literature
    Feb. 4 - March 1, 2013

In the past Dr. Bryce Johnson, Vincent Riley, Stephanie Taylor, Sr. Mary Ann McCarthy, and Melissa Hickey have participated in the program. If you wish to enroll in the program, please contact Sr. Pat Hutchison as soon as possible.

Lenten Soup & Sharing

During Lent 2013 we will continue the tradition of a weekly Soup and Sharing sponsored by the Care of Creation Committee. We will continue to explore our initiative on Sustainability and Catholic Higher Education: A Toolkit for Mission Integration.

This publication offers practical ways for all members of the campus community to respond to the Gospel call to be good stewards of the environment. The document has been endorsed by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities, the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

This year we will focus on specific groups each week and how they can address sustainability on campus:

- February 20, 2013 Faculty & Staff
- February 27, 2013 Administration
- March 6, 2013 Facilities
- March 20, 2013 General Conversation

All sessions will take place in the Assisi Room 332 (third floor of library) from 12:30 to 1:30 PM. Registration deadline: One week before each session!
**Special Opportunity on the Franciscan Intellectual and Spiritual Tradition**

The NIFS is happy to sponsor participation of a limited number of Neumann employees at the following special program which will be held at the Franciscan Spiritual Center. If you wish to attend, please contact Sr. Pat before October 5, 2012 and explain how you will integrate the program into your service at Neumann.

"And Those Seen Dancing" —
*A Workshop and Training Program Addressing the Prophetic Originality of the Franciscan Tradition*

Begins with supper on Tuesday, October 23, 2012 & ends with lunch on Thursday, October 25, 2012

The Bardi Dossal of St. Francis in Santa Croce, Florence, Italy, painted around 1245 is witness to the alternative vision of St. Francis for his church and society. Through the lens of this significant story in Art, together with St. Francis' little known Salutation of the Virtues, Giles and Kathleen have designed a program that addresses the "sea changes" happening in these times toward the retrieval of the Franciscan theological tradition. This is a program rich in content, resources, exchange and new hope.

This is both a general program and a training workshop that can be adapted to the needs of any group. Those choosing the training will leave with all resources necessary to give the program as needed.

Presenters:
Giles Schinelli TOR and Kathleen Moffatt OSF

Registration deadline: October 5, 2012.

**Resources on our Identity as Catholic in the Franciscan Tradition**

The Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies is continually expanding our library of print and media resources related to our mission as a Catholic university in the Franciscan Tradition.


Visit the Francis & Clare Library (third floor of the library, Room 333) to borrow a CD or DVD, or call Sister Mary Ann (ext. 4270).

Be sure to review the recently created index of AF-CU Journal articles at [http://libguides.neumann.edu/content.php?pid=218203](http://libguides.neumann.edu/content.php?pid=218203).

Consider discussing an article or DVD at a division or department meeting!

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**2011-2012 Days of Reflection**

**Summary of the Day**

During the 2011-2012 academic year, the Mission and Ministry Office and Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies offered 11 half-days of reflection for members of administration, faculty and staff (September 28; October 27; December 2, 2011; January 30; February 14; March 12, 18; April 17, 20; May 22; June 1, 2012).

A total of 188 employees (101 staff members; 44 faculty; 43 members of the University Management Team) attended these days of reflection.

Participants chose a morning or afternoon of reflection at the Franciscan Spiritual Center located in the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia or the Mirenda Center for Sport, Spirituality, and Character Development.
The goals for the day were to:

- Celebrate the gifts of all who minister at Neumann
- Express gratitude for the many ways each person promotes our mission
- Deepen our understanding of what it means to be a Catholic institution in the Franciscan tradition
- Explore the meaning of the Neumann University core value of Service

Each day included an opening and closing prayer based on the theme of Service and a theological reflection process developed and facilitated by members of the Pastoral and Theological Studies faculty. A total of 131 participants returned evaluation forms.

Summary of Evaluations

**Least helpful part of the day of reflection**
- 22 people stated that all was helpful
- 6 people found the opening presentation least helpful
- 2 people found the large group sharing least helpful
- 3 people found the music and singing least helpful
- 4 people felt more time was needed to complete the process
- 1 person found the individual reflection least helpful (this person found the group sharing more helpful)
- 4 people felt the process was too complicated or deep
- 2 people felt the food was least helpful
- 1 person found the room too cold
- 1 person commented: *Mood was too somber; why does spiritual work have to be so melancholy?*

**What would have made the day more valuable**
- 25 people thought everything was perfect the way it was.
- 10 people wanted a longer period of time to hear comments and develop the model further
- 10 people wanted more group discussion
- 3 wanted a simpler process or more practice on the theological reflection process
- 2 wanted more input about Francis & Clare or Franciscan values
- 4 felt it would have been more valuable if they had done more community service
- 3 felt it would have been more valuable to break into smaller groups for sharing

Other ideas included: using an easel pad to write down the experiences of service, more singing, more time for reflection, more prayer time, a “Tea” or wine & cheese
2011-2012 Days of Reflection (continued)

Actions in response to Service Reflection

In response to a question about actions they might take as a result of the day of reflection, participants shared the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reflect further on service in which you have participated</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflect further on your “work” at Neumann as “service”</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invite students into reflection on life’s “big questions”</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invite students into service and reflection on service</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage in some form of volunteer service</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn more about the value of reflection</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn more about the importance of Service-Learning and how to incorporate Service-Learning into a course that you teach</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in discussion of a book on the theme of service</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Neumann University Strategic Plan

Goals I and III of the Neumann University Strategic Plan state:

I. Integrate our Catholic Franciscan identity.

III. Strengthen a spirit and culture of reverence, integrity, service, excellence, and stewardship.

The various events sponsored by the NIFS directly support these two strategic priorities. Last year 45% of faculty members; 74% of administrators; and 57% of staff members attended at least one mission-related event. We are grateful that so many of our faculty, staff, and administrators chose to attend these events. Please consider attending at least one afternoon of reflection and one other event during the coming year!

Peace and All Good as we begin another academic year!

Patricia Hutchison, OSF, Ed.D.