

Franciscan Ministry of the Word

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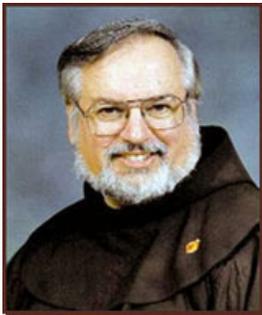
Bethany Ministries



*Gaze upon the Lord,
Gaze upon His Face
—Clare of Assisi*

*Preach the Gospel at all times.
...If necessary, use words.
—Francis of Assisi*

MISSION AND RETREAT TEAM



Fr. Peter Chepaitis, OFM



Sr. Anna Tantsits, IHM

Mission Statement

Bethany Ministries is a spiritually diverse community of financially independent households who seek to live creatively in the tension between solitude and community. The stories of Jesus in relationship with Martha, Mary, and Lazarus of Bethany, as mirrored in the lives of Clare and Francis of Assisi, provide the inspiration for the existence and activities of Bethany Ministries.

Prayer, Proclamation and Hospitality are the three principal activities of Bethany Ministries.

Sacred Creation

A 45-minute presentation based on
Francis & Clare's Spirituality of Creation

Sacred Creation includes stories from the lives of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi, as told in the writings of the saints themselves. The spiritual insight of Francis' "Canticle of Brother Sun," forms its frame.



This dramatic reflection touches on nature, the environment, mystical prayer, death, friendship and peace. Friar Peter and Sister Anna use stories, puppets and music to appeal to people of all ages and backgrounds. Sacred Creation was created and presented for the first time at the opening of the Pierce Cedar Creek Environmental Institute in Michigan.

Since then it has been presented many times in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Mississippi and in Canada for a wide range of people including two Native American groups, a variety of parishes and ecumenical gatherings. See our website for more specific information about this presentation.

Phone: 518-827-4699

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Website: www.midtel.net/~bethmin

Bethany Ministries



Fr. Peter and Sr. Anna are supported by the stipends they receive for the parish missions, retreats and presentations they give for various groups.

This income, however, is not enough to completely sustain the ministry while maintaining a preferential “option for the poor”.

Bethany Ministries is not financially subsidized by any diocese or parish or the Franciscan Order.

So, we must also ask for donations in order to maintain a contemplative attitude while continuing our three ministries of Prayer, Proclamation and Hospitality.

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Donations are tax deductible

if made payable to

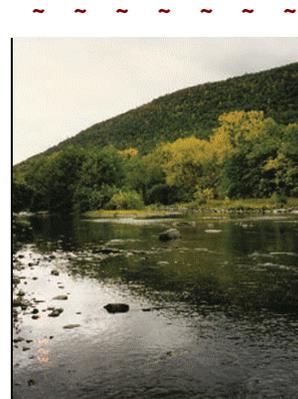
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Missions, Retreats, & Presentations

We do parish missions/retreats/revivals. Day, evening, weekend, or 3 or 4-evening formats are available. There is always a preliminary meeting with the staff so that the presentations can be tailored to meet the needs of the community or groups that will be gathering. We have done them for single parishes, a cluster of parishes, and for ecumenical groups in a town or area.

Call, e-mail, or check our website for more information about the themes of our missions or some of our weekend or week long retreats done at retreat center settings.



Schoharie Creek in Middleburgh

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When we are home in Middleburgh we do welcome guests for spiritual direction. Sometimes 1 or 2 people at a time also come for just an afternoon, or a day or more for retreat time and/or some quiet reflection time.

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