

Dear Friends,

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You can hear it on YouTube by putting in the first line.

## Spiritual Prayer

The rhythm of our lives includes daily personal prayer as well as group gatherings for prayer sharing. Often our ministries consist of the interruptions or situations that call us to reach out at unscheduled events.

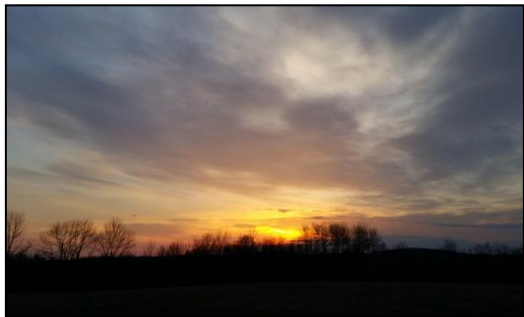
Our weekly contemplative prayer group based on the book of AA continues to meet with seasonal exceptions, we gather after a brief hospital stay she needs assistance at her home she was unable to be the Mondays so we volunteered to cover the first one. Stasia sent Peter to get to the office while in Stevensville, a friend of U g ] U D g ' k \ c ' b c h ' c b ' m ' V Y W U a Y ' \ Y f ' A c b X U now meets on Monday. The Holy Spirit has often brought us whole group to grow & concern for each other.

Our Franciscan Spirituality Group likes to thrive, with people meeting regularly. Depending on schedule we end up meeting about once a year. Each session lasts 2-3 hours. Members of the group rotate in Middleburg, Schoharie or Deland NY. The faith sharing is always transformative & supportive. We share between formal gatherings so it seems like we gather more often. Topics ranged from reflecting on Francis meeting the Sultan of our Baptism in our everyday lives.

Once again, we joined Franciscan friends in "U h ' A h " = f Y b U Y i g ' Z c f ' í 7 c b t h w a n d t easy to keep our commitment to be there, since it followed a trip to NYC with our friend Terry. Our House Community meeting a wedding in Northern NY. This journey stayed in indifferent places days. Our retreat was wonderfully relaxing following that, had a chance to visit the new president Sait B b U j Y b h i f Y ' I b ] j Y f g ] h m ž ' k \ c ' \ U h S i n B u f f a l o i n d e h s N g D g ' g h i

## Ecumenical Interfaith Charities Ministry

We meet with Middleburg clergy from the Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, & Reformed churches once a month at a table. We preached at the Lutheran service in Feb & during Lent a renewal program at both the Catholic & Lutheran churches. We were blessed to lead the Episcopal Easter Sunrise Service on April 1st reflecting on the Resurrection of Mary of Magdala.



The clergy group planned a Eucharistic Service on the steps of the local HS but were hampered by the absence of Pastor B, who was in the hospital. The group was sure who would play the music so we volunteered. It was a wonderful



& at the last minute, B was able to play which added so much to the service. In Nov, we led the faith sharing year at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Methodist Church.

Finally, in Dec we were again invited to tell stories, use a collection of puppets, & sing the early Middleburg celebration of Christmas. We think that event as part of our 60th anniversary & U b ' c d d c f e h i g ] h m ž ' V m f Christmas stories & singing carols that proclaim the Gospel.

Westill meet times a year with the Prayer House Community in Pater continues to serve as pres Anna as secretary. So we could continue our ministry as a hermitage but be free to evolve as a seminary property building to some friends of Prayer House to rent it from

With the support of the that we manage friend, has been able to begin a full with the Fortune Society has moved into his own apartment in the Bronx.

### Reaching Ministry at Home - on the road

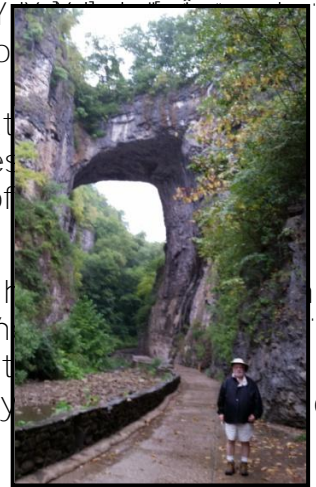
In the course of the year, we visited parishes/ colleges/ We did 5-day Mission at Sacred Heart Stamford, NY, during week of Advent. We were also invited to do retreats for the Kateri Institute for a group of Catholic nurses in our diocese. We are part of parishes in Sept. It has been a blessing to regularly collaborate with Our Lady of the Valley Middleburgh [Our Lady of Fatima Delanson M] to help at both parishes with regular industry funerals; visiting the sick and especially during vacations, Christmas, Holy Week, Easter

We also covered in Cherry Valley times after their Sacramental Minister died, working with [ ] & their wonderful deacons & . Our weekend ministry has expanded to do Sunday Masses at colleges Oneonta Albany several times a semester. Peter has also been invited to cover St. Francis at Wolf Ruffed by the Friars at Siena as well as preaching and presiding at the Alumni Mass which attended the anniversary of his graduation from Siena.

In July c Z D Y h Y f, g W U g g a U h Y g & , came to Middleburgh for own reunion. Since Peter no longer has a guest room, his classmates stayed with a member of our Francis Spirituality Group. Along with their extended families, classmates X U X a Y h Z each year for over years after their graduation. The informal meeting last summer was a time of celebration, rekindling friendship, and became a time of healing and sharing of faith

### Home is stronger than death

Home is a celebration of life that makes it possible to endure even the pain of loss. We had the joy of weddings. In June we travelled to Essex, NY to play blessing at the wedding of & attended c h \ Y f g \ Z f c a \ h \ Y \ D f U m Y f \ < c i g Y X U m á k i Y for & . They wanted a Catholic wedding, but also wanted to have a civil ceremony. Peter presided at a Mass on Fri at the Middleburgh parish wedding in immediate family where they exchanged their divorce marriage license. The next day on a hillside overlooking the Catskills, they completed the celebration with the exchange of rings, confirmed their commitment celebrated with a larger group of family. A brass quintet accompanied both celebrations.



= b \ G Y d h ž \ k Y \ X f c j Y \ h c \ 6 i f b g j ] \ ` g Y ž \ B 7 ž to h . The c W U \ \ 6 U d h ] g h \ D U g h c f \ c Z \ > signed the marriage license. Peter sang the Spraches the hymn. We did a special blessing to t a Y \ c X m \ c Z \ G U V V U h \ \ D f U m Y f ž \ U W c a, who also played prelude music before the ceremony with his wife, the way in VA we saw , which is a wonderful visual of how v a v d v b b í.

Our for members of the web of relationships which is called us out of our regular routine to be part of funerals burials. In Jan we participated in funeral, a member of Our Lady of the Valley. In Feb ž \ D Y h Y f \ g \ U m o v e d peacefully Wappingers Falls to be reunited with her husband at the heavenly banquet. Feb found us involved in more funerals weeks.

The first was Deacon . A few days later we had the funeral of while Fr. Matt was away. Both Mike his wife are part of our Franciscan Spirituality group. We have weekly Contemplative Prayer days. After that, we celebrated funeral whose family knew for many years especially his brother. We had participated the funeral of both his parents his son. Another friar, covered his burial the next day

In May we were part of more deaths. Two of them were burials. May we travelled to Morris for the memorial service of [Name], the husband of our good friend, [Name], who passed Sacred Heart Parish there. A few days later we again stayed with the [Name]s in Falls Falls Poor Clares. We had a [Name] & [Name] family for the funeral of [Name], his ex-wife. In Nov we did a Funeral in Roscoe, NY for [Name], a longtime friend. A Minister of Prayer for Bethany Minister stayed with children. We did a home Mass for them before leaving.

In Dec we were called to walk with our friend, a member of our step contemplative prayer group for 10 years. His partner of 41 yrs, [Name], was hospitalized for congestive heart failure. A week before we celebrated the Sacraments of Anointing, Reconciliation, the last communion before death. He died the following week while we were doing a parish mission. We celebrated a Mass for David at our next meeting a week later. The saddest funeral of the year was the intense experience of the pain. As we were about to start the Advent Mission, Peter received a call from his cousin, [Name], informing that his son, Paul, had committed suicide. The funeral was scheduled for the following week. We celebrated the funeral in a full church. [Name] & [Name].

**Monitions**

5 b b U W c b h ] b i Y g h c a to travel to Schanton for a [Name]s Summer, she preached for the [Name] in Syracuse Diocese. [Name] pronounced [Name]. Peter & [Name] 9 a a Fraternity has evolved into a sharing group of 7 Friars who live in diverse states every 3 months, usually a [Name] [Name] St. Vincent in the Bronx attended provincial chapter in June, reflecting with him about the merger of the US Province with the Franciscan brothers at Siena where he is able.

**Health & Recreation**

Both of us enjoy good health. The pace of scheduled ministry has slowed. While at his chapter, Peter contracted Lyme disease, but it was caught early and treated. Recently had minor surgery on his right wrist to relieve pain of tendonitis. Anna had a procedure requiring anasthesia referred to a sleep study because of possible sleep apnea.

A & [Name] the couple we stayed with when we went to [Name] offered us a place for vacation in Westport, Lake Champlain, where we were in Sept. The beauty of creation, the music at the Lake George Jazz Festival.



new friends blessed us with vigils. We had the joy of praying with [Name] while on vacation. In awe of the beauty he brings to life as [Name] Peter continues to sing with the Depot Lane Singers, experiences both relaxation as a revelation of [Name].

**God's Providence**

We are full of gratitude for the generous support & prayers we received throughout the year & all the previous years. Bethany Minister God has even provided our means of transportation through the generous gift of a car just when we needed it. Our present car will be able to meet our travel needs for the months we trust God will continue to take care of through your generosity.

We are working to reduce our expenses as costs continue to rise. Your donations account for half of our income and will continue to depend on your supporting year.

Thank you for the you have shown us over the years your participation in Ministry. Prayed by the [Name] you share with your own families in spite of difficult circumstances. Spiritual turmoil, remains always the thing [Name].

May the Lord, whose very name is to continue to bless you, heal you and guide you in every step.

**Peter & Anna**

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Ourscheduleis on our [Facebook](#) /newsletters on [Facebook](#) & many other social media sites  
You can find our contact information on our [Facebook](#) page

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