



San Damiano Sun

Volume 7

Number 1

Spring 2015

San Damiano Celebrates 15 Years of Blessings

The San Damiano House of Prayer at 333 Pawtucket St., Lowell, MA is well into its 15th year of dedicated service to the people of Lowell and surrounding communities. The house of prayer was established in November 1999 by the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi of Penance and Charity, a Roman Catholic religious community based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The primary purpose of San Damiano is to provide a quiet space for women and men to explore their spiritual lives through spiritual direction, days/evenings and/or extended retreats. In 2006 a spiritual direction training program began with 15 students, all of whom went on to graduate in 2008 at the end of the two year program. This program is a collaborative effort between two ministries of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi: Cardinal Stritch University/Milwaukee and San Damiano House of Prayer/Lowell.

We also have a ministry that reaches out to those who are bereaved, and have collaborated with St. Anthony's Shrine in Boston with their care for parents who have lost a child in death. We have monthly support groups and a retreat day each year to provide a caring space for these parents.

The house itself was a gift to the Sisters of St. Francis from the Sisters of Charity of Quebec on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of both congregations. While the staff since the beginning

has consisted of Sister Linda Greenwood, OSF, director, and Sister Kenan Rebholz, OSF, assistant, other women and men contributed by leading programs, serving as spiritual directors, and being on Spiritual Direction teams. In this 15th anniversary issue, readers will be introduced to those who have helped grow San Damiano over the years.



Sisters Linda and Kenan (Kay)

The house of prayer has served individuals from various areas of Massachusetts, from Maine to Connecticut. In Massachusetts from Nantucket to Fitchburg to Attleboro to Boston and to the surrounding towns around Lowell.

*"Our aim is to welcome those in need of spiritual guidance and support."
says Sister Linda.*

**For further information about
San Damiano House of Prayer**

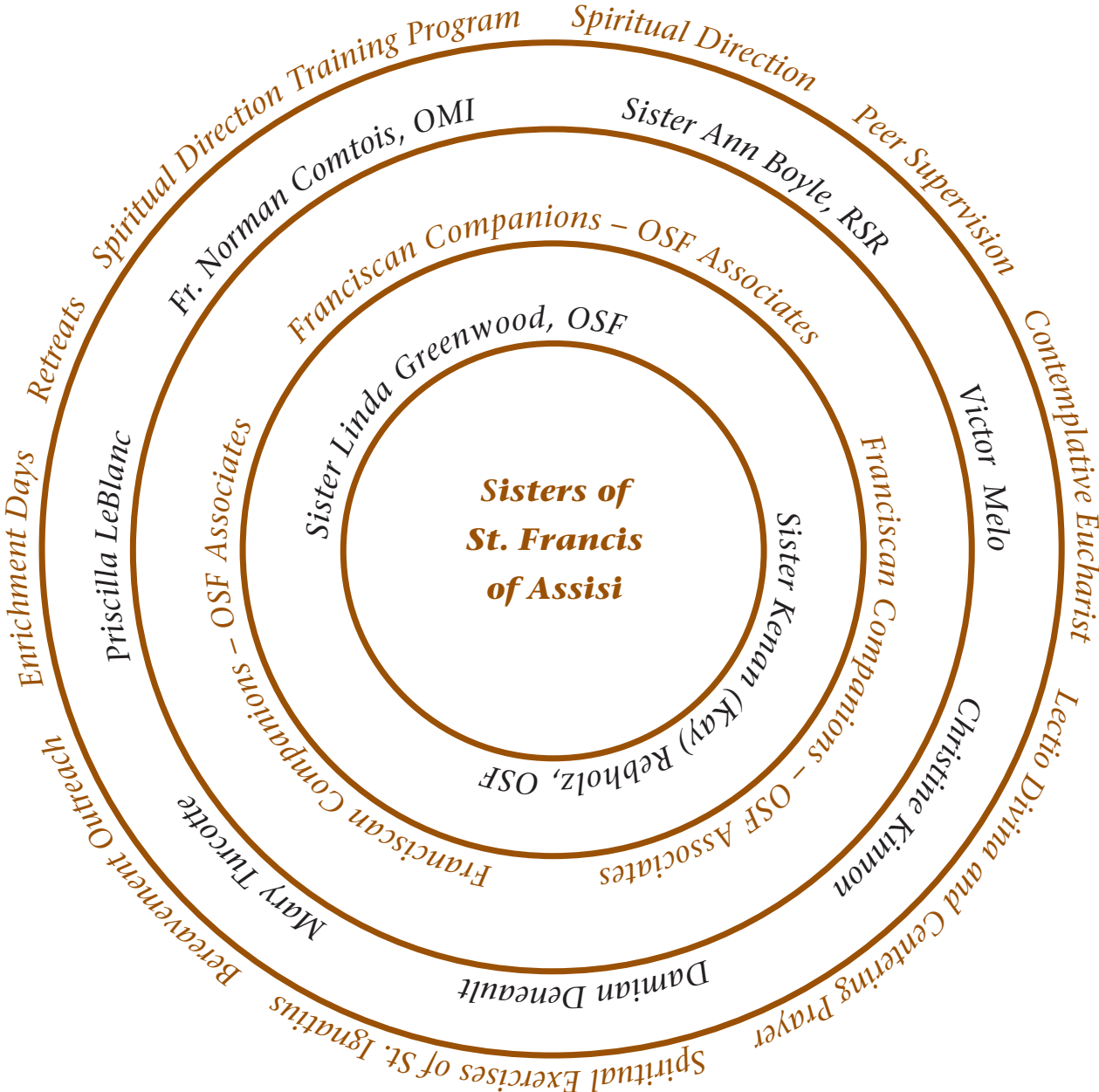
Call 978-441-0988,

Email lgosf@netzero.net

or view our website at

www.sandamiano-houseofprayer.org

San Damiano House of Prayer . . .



Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

-- Francis of Assisi

People who we are Grateful for...



***Sister Ann
Boyle, RSR***
SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR
AND
GRAPHIC DESIGNER



***Fr. Norm
Comtois, OMI***
SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR



***Sister Janet
Deatte, SND***
SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR
AND EDITOR OF
SAN DAMIANO SUN
NEWSLETTER



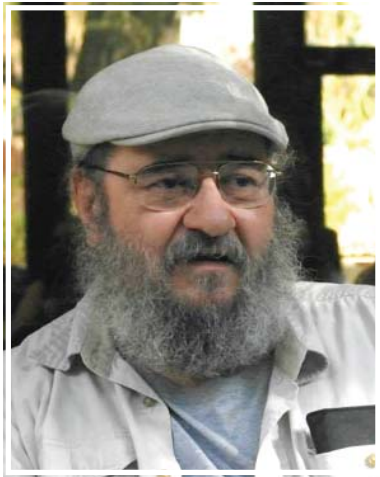
***Christine
Kinnon***
OFFICE MANAGER



***Priscilla
LeBlanc***
COOK



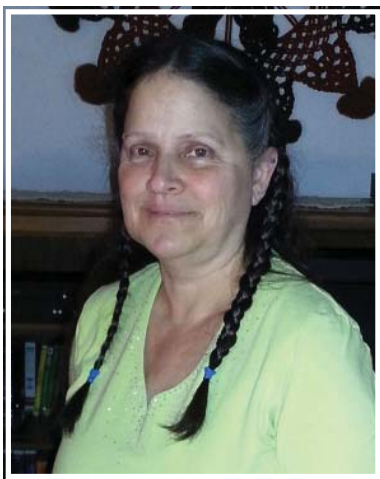
***Mary
Turcotte***
MASSAGE THERAPIST



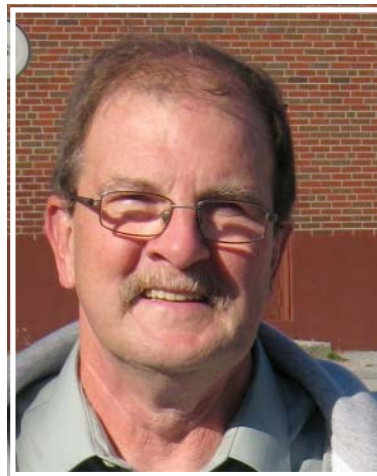
**Victor
Melo**
FACILITATOR,
19TH ANNOTATION



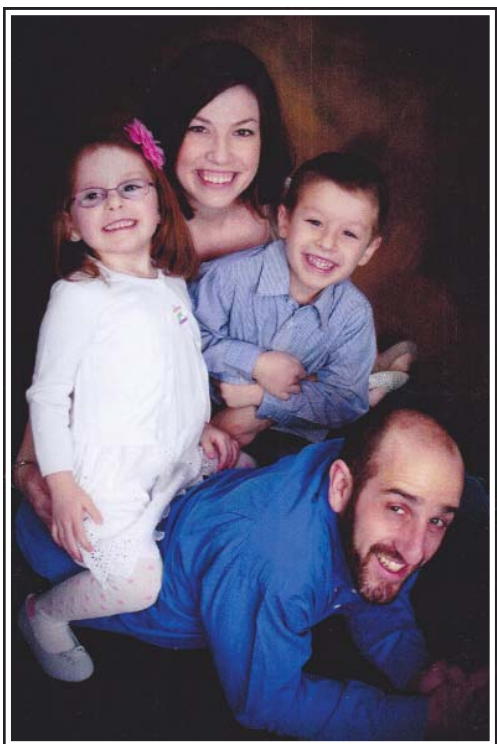
**Damian
Deneault**
FRANCISCAN
COMPANION



Doris Atencio
HOUSE CLEANING



**Bill
Greenwood**
ON CALL
MAINTENANCE



Emma, Melinda, Logan and Brian Bettencourt

GREENWOOD FAMILY

- Kathy Monty, Cook*
- Joseph Greenwood, Carpentry*
- Bill Greenwood, Maintenance*
- John Greenwood, Roofer*
- David Greenwood, Carpentry*

YARD WORK AND SNOW REMOVAL

Nick Bettencourt

**BAKER OF COOKIES
FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS**

Jeanne Diette and her son Greg

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION
TRAINING PROGRAM STAFF
– GROUP 8 (CLASS OF 2015)**

back row, left to right, Helene Belanger, Joyce Dyer, Sr. Kenan (Kay) Rebholz, OSF; front row, Sr. Linda Greenwood, OSF, Sr. Janet Deatte, SND and Cathy Desfosse.



Spiritual Direction Training Program – Graduating Class of 2015

Eileen Bowes

Thomas Callery

Kathleen Castagna

Janice Colgate

Deacon Malcolm Colgate

Mary Anne Dinning

Jay Keddie

Carrie Little

Joanne McCarthy

Mark Riopelle

Jane Spickett

Julia Steer

Margaret Sulkowski



**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION
TRAINING PROGRAM STAFF
– GROUP 9 (CLASS OF 2016)**

left to right, Cecily Markham, Sr. Ann Boyle, RSR, David Sylva, Lynn Marie Varney and Sr. Linda Greenwood, OSF.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS AT SAN DAMIANO

Sister Linda Greenwood, OSF
Fr. Norm Comtois, OMI
Sister Ann Boyle, RSR
Sister Janet Deaett, SND
Cathy Desfosse
Doris Hallee
Joseph Donnelly
Nancy Harrington
Alan Hicks
Geraldine Kelly
Carrie Little
Donna McLaughlin
Mark Riopelle

PEER SUPERVISION LEADERS

Amy Hunter
Karen Coughlin
Marilyn Kopriva
Geraldine Kelly

FORMER STAFF MEMBERS

Joyce Wholey
Kathy Sennott
Marilyn Kopriva
Karen Coughlin
Alan and Peg Hicks
Susan Glasheen
Fr. Richard C. Flaherty, OFM

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT FOR PARENTS WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD

Donna McLaughlin
Maureen O'Neil
Cathy Desfosse
Sister Linda Greenwood, OSF

CENTERING PRAYER

Sister Linda Greenwood, OSF
Christine Kinnon
Betty Conlon
Sister Ann Boyle, RSR
Frances Taylor
Marilyn Badger
Lillian Murgia

Spiritual Direction Training Program St. Anthony Shrine, Boston

As a graduate of Sr. Linda's first Spiritual Direction Training Program, "The Dream Team", I have been amazed how the Spirit continually infuses blessing and transformation in this ever-expanding ministry. When I first began the program in a hesitant, tentative and curious demeanor, I never could have predicted where the path would lead. I now realize that we grow, we stretch, we flourish to become the person God intended by doing this work. I am learning to notice, savor and respond to the deep loving touches of God. I am now in my 7th year at St. Anthony's Shrine in downtown Boston.

We are thrilled to announce that we are continuing Sr. Linda's well-developed and evolved curriculum in the Boston location. We have collected a talented team of men and women with a rich history of doing this work.

Four of us are graduates of San Damiano and we have been meeting and making plans to effectively (with God's help) translate the training program to Boston. We are encouraged by the initial interest and are praying for a healthy class of candidates to present themselves.

Our training program will begin in September 2015. The course will take place on the **third Saturday of the month, with four meetings determining a semester.** The program includes the reading of current spiritual direction books and articles, leading prayer, listening to and interacting with guest speakers, practicing spiritual direction skills, doing an internship under the direction of an individual supervisor and peer supervision, presenting oral and written papers, and making a retreat.

The program is credentialed through **Cardinal Stritch University**, a Franciscan University in Milwaukee, WI. The curriculum was developed by Sr. Linda Greenwood, OSF of the San Damiano House of Prayer in Lowell, MA.



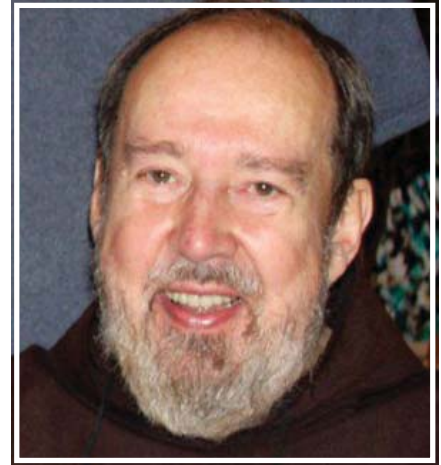
Nancy Nichols Kearns

Father James Czerwinski, OFM

Father James Czerwinski, OFM passed away January 2, 2015, at St. Anthony Shrine in Boston, MA, at the age of 67.

Fr. Jim was a graduate of the Class of 2014 Spiritual Direction Training Program at San Damiano House of Prayer, Lowell, MA.

Fr. Jim ministered to the Polish-American community in Boston and befriended the downtown homeless community. He had a wonderful liturgical presence at St. Anthony's Shrine. Fr. Jim will be greatly missed.



Fr. Jim Czerwinski, OFM
1947 – 2015

*Remember that when you leave this earth,
you can take with you nothing that you
received – only what you have given.”*

-- Francis of Assisi



*The San Damiano House of Prayer through the Emmaus Ministry offers a Spiritual Support Group for **Parents** who are grieving the loss of a child **of any age by any cause**. All parents are welcomed to attend regardless of how long ago or how recent their loss has been. We offer a safe and sacred place for parents to share their grief.*

DATE: Group meets monthly, October through June
Last Saturday of the month

TIME: 10:00 am – 11:30 am

PLACE: The San Damiano House of Prayer
333 Pawtucket Street, Lowell, MA

For more information contact:

Sr. Linda Greenwood, OSF
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Please visit our website www.sandamiano-houseofprayer.org



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**Sister Linda
Greenwood, OSF**
DIRECTOR



**Sister
Kenan (Kay)
Rebholz, OSF**
ASSISTANT

“We should seek not so much to pray but to become prayer.”

-- Francis of Assisi

Enriching my Life of Prayer

San Damiano House of Prayer
is offering a series on ways
to deepen one's prayer life.

Join us

Wednesday Evenings
beginning April 29th

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

333 Pawtucket Street

Lowell, MA

For more information

visit our website at

www.sandamiano-houseofprayer.org

San Damiano House of Prayer
*a ministry of
the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi*

A place where you will find . . .

a listening ear

a peaceful setting

a place to pray,

*a chapel with the Blessed Sacrament,
an outdoor Peace Garden*

*a way to review one's life
with a spiritual director*

a spiritual library and bookstore

*a place to receive training in
becoming a spiritual director*

*a place to gaze upon a large image
of the San Damiano Cross*



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