

Within the present decade of this new millennium, the eighth centenary of the birth of one of the most distinguished friars of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition has occurred: Giovanni di Fidanza, later known as St. Bonaventure. Although scholars have different opinions concerning the actual date of St. Bonaventure's birth, many have settled on 1217. While we are within this decade of the new millennium, we invite you to celebrate the eighth centenary of the birth of the Seraphic Doctor, St. Bonaventure, by attending a retreat on his masterpiece, *Itinerarium Mentis in Deum*, his *Journey into God*.

Jean Gerson (+ 1429), chancellor at the University of Paris, St. Bonaventure's alma mater, said that the *Itinerarium* is "more valuable than all literature which had ever been written," and confessed that he made the *Itinerarium* his "chosen reading for 30 years, without ever ceasing to obtain great fruit from it." And more recently, Lawrence Landini OFM (+ 2005) called this writing "a religious classic, theology rooted in experience!" And Zachary Hayes OFM (+ 2014), a Bonaventurian scholar himself, said that "virtually the whole of Bonaventure's theology is present in the few compact pages of the *Itinerarium*."

In 1259, St. Bonaventure, wanted "to satisfy the desire of (his) spirit for peace." So around the time of the thirty-third anniversary of the death of the saint, he wrote: "I was moved by a divine inspiration and withdrew to Mount LaVerna since it was a place of quiet." And there he experienced his *JOURNEY INTO GOD*.

The retreat opens with a presentation on the life of Bonaventure in order to provide a context for reflection on his work. Each of the eight days of the retreat is then dedicated to one of the chapters of *THE JOURNEY*. Each day is a balance of instruction on the text, periods for reading and personal and communal participation in eucharist, morning and evening prayer. The liturgical and para-liturgical prayer is especially designed by the presenters to disclose the profound themes in a contemporary experience.

A typical day would be spent in the following manner. After morning prayer, time is provided for reading the chapter of *THE JOURNEY* under consideration, then, an input session on the same chapter followed by quiet time. Only the Eucharist is celebrated in the afternoon, the remaining time for reflection and quiet. Evening prayer is followed by optional sharing on the chapter of the day.



Each retreatant will need two books: ***Journey into God***, Raischl & Cirino; and the songbook, ***Love Holding Love***, both available from Tau Publishing, Phoenix, AZ.

Former retreatants have said:

"This is the most holistic, inclusive, all-encompassing retreat I have ever experienced, incorporating body, mind, spirit, movement, the arts, visuals, audio, symbols and rituals."

Christelle Watercott, OSF, Minnesota

"A spiritual experience of a lifetime. I have studied Bonaventure's Journey, but this time I experienced it."

Paula Scraba, OFS, New York

"I came to this retreat wondering if I would ever understand Bonaventure. I left with a sense of peace in my search for God."

Barbara Goergen, OSF, California

"The Journey into God retreat was a true journey within my soul as well as a journey with others."

Celestine Giertych, CSSF, Italy

"The finest retreat I've ever made!"

Joseph Schwab, OFM, Arizona

"The retreat is a living experience that immerses the retreatant in the teaching of the Seraphic Doctor. You might think of it as theology for the non-theologian."

Paul Perkins, OFS, California

"It reconnected me to the Word of God who walks in our skin."

Jan Kilian, OSF, Minnesota

"A life-transforming experience! It has opened up new horizons for my own journey."

Clare Ruva, OSC, England

André Cirino OFM has worked in parishes, formation, education, and the Little Portion Retreat House for the poor. His books include *Teens Encounter Christ*, *In the Womb of the Cave*, and *The Cross Was Their Book*. Since 1984 André has conducted pilgrimages to Italy, Prague, England, Mallorca, France, Germany and California for FRANCISCAN PILGRIMAGE PROGRAMS. He taught at the Franciscan International Study Centre, Canterbury, England.

Josef Raischl, OFS, a native of Germany, lives with his wife Bernadette, in Dachau and works with Hospice in Munich. He studied theology in Germany and at the Franciscan International Study Centre, Canterbury. Josef also studied in Rome at the Capuchin Franciscan Institute where he met André and developed this retreat.

André and Josef have published: *Franciscan Solitude*; *Journey into God*; *A Forty-Day Journey into God*; *My Heart's Quest: Collected Writings of Eric Doyle*; *Three Heroes of Assisi in World War II*; *A Pilgrimage through the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition*; *Bringing Forth Christ*. André and Laurent Gallant OFM published St. Francis' *Office of the Passion: The Geste of the Great King*. Josef produced the CDs for the *Office of the Passion* and *Love Holding Love*—mantras drawn from the writings of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi. See our website: www.assisijourney.com

Registration and Event Information

Starts :
Thursday evening, August 9 2018
to
Friday August 17, 2018, after lunch.

Registration Is Open !

Please send registration and check
made out to :

Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center

and mailed to :

P.O. Box 858

Wappinger Falls, N.Y. 12590.

Fees (8 days, all options include 24 meals):

Single occupancy room	\$800
Double occupancy room, each person	\$700
Commuter	\$500

Early Bird registration:

Pay in full by March 1, 2018 and save \$50.

After March 1, 2018 :

Pay \$200 with registration, non-refundable.

Balance due by July 23, 2018

Initial registration payment applies to total.

Cancellation :

Prior to July 23rd, \$200 non-refundable,
anything over will be refunded.

After July 23rd, no refunds.

Emergency cancellation on *individual basis*.

SAINT BONAVENTURE'S *Journey into God*



**A Centennial
Franciscan Retreat Experience**

**August 9-17, 2018
Mount Alvernia Retreat House
Wappingers Falls, New York**

