

## 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, California

*“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



## Franciscan Renewal Center

Peace. Renewal. Good.

### About the Franciscan Renewal Center

The Franciscan Renewal Center began in 1951 as a place for retreat programs. Affectionately known as the “Casa de Paz y Bien” or simply “the Casa,” it is today a Catholic renewal center in Paradise Valley, Ariz., offering spiritual growth, healing and transformation, and service to others.

The Casa is an active religious community of the Order of Friars Minor — part of the worldwide Franciscan family, following in the footsteps of Sts. Francis and Clare of Assisi. The Casa works cooperatively with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix.

Activities at the Casa include daily and Sunday Mass, retreats, gathering space for non-profit groups, licensed behavioral health counseling, and more than 50 volunteer ministries.

5802 East Lincoln Drive  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85253

480.948.7460 phone  
TheCasaFRC on social media

[thecasa.org](http://thecasa.org)

All Are Welcome  
Register soon—limited availability.

*The retreat will be professionally filmed.  
See inside panel for details.*

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Saint Bonaventure's  
**Journey**  
into  
**GOD**

A Franciscan Retreat Experience | 1988 – 2024  
*Final Presentation in the United States*  
(Painting by Amber Knorr)

Thursday, October 31 – Friday, November 8, 2024

## Registration and Event Information

*Thursday evening, October 31, 2024 to  
Friday, November 8, 2024 after lunch.*

### **A typical day:**

After morning prayer, time is provided for reading the chapter of THE JOURNEY under consideration. Then, an input session on the same chapter is followed by quiet time. Only the Eucharist is celebrated in the afternoon; the remaining time is for reflection and quiet. Evening prayer is followed by optional sharing on the chapter of the day.

### **Two books will be provided for each retreatant:**

*Journey into God*, Raischl & Cirino; and the songbook, *Love Holding Love*, both published by Tau Publishing.

### **Registration is open!**

Visit [frc.retreatportal.com](http://frc.retreatportal.com) to sign up for this amazing experience. (Please note: You must call 480.948.7460 to register for any payment plans, deposits or discounts. Online registration is full price only.)

### **Fees (all options include meals):**

With Lodging (Single occupancy room)	\$1,250
With Lodging (Double occupancy room)	\$950
Commuter	\$800

### **Early bird registration:**

*Pay in full by April 1, 2024 and save \$50.*

### **After April 1, 2024:**

*Pay \$200 with registration, non-refundable.*

*Balance due by October 17, 2024 (Initial payment applies to total).*

### **Cancellation:**

*Prior to October 17, 2024, \$200 is non-refundable; anything over this is refunded.*

*After October 17, 2024, no refunds. Emergency cancellation only on individual basis.*

## About this Retreat

We invite you to join this retreat on St. Bonaventure's masterpiece, "*Itinerarium Mentis in Deum*," his Journey into God.

In 1259, St. Bonaventure wanted "to satisfy the desire of (his) spirit for peace." "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 community participation in Eucharistic liturgy, 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.

We have conducted this retreat since 1988 more than 50 times.



## Facilitators



**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 and three children, in Dachau and works with Hospice in Munich. He studied theology in Germany and at the Franciscan International Study Centre, Canterbury. He 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, Prayer of Franciscan Solitude*. 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.

**FILMING NOTICE:** This Journey Retreat will be the last one presented in the United States, and it will be professionally filmed for posterity. It is likely that retreatants will appear on camera. However, anyone preferring not to be photographed may request to be excluded from the filming.