

## Presentation Prayer Center Brunch 2020



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The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Presentation Prayer Center Brunch was held on November 5, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this was a virtual event utilizing Zoom technology.

Our featured presenter was Rick Dietz, the Director of the Franciscan Life Center in Little Falls, MN. Rick shared some of the significant events in the life of Francis of Assisi, how Francis understood them and how they were fundamental to what has become known as the Franciscan way of living the Gospel.

One such experience was Francis' encounter with a Muslim leader during one of the crusades leading Francis to a broader appreciation of God's presence among differing religions.

Using a demonstration of 3 chairs facing inward, Rick effectively demonstrated Bonaventure's and Francis' understanding of God as 3 persons perpetually loving one another. And from that love gushes forth fountains of love spreading outward toward all creation.

Rick also identified 4 main features of the Franciscan Charism including continual conversion, humility, poverty(living simply) and contemplation(deep listening); he noted how these elements might help us address some of the compelling issues of our day such as environmentalism and interfaith relationships.

Forty-eight people registered for the Brunch with many participating from their home computers alongside a family member or friend.

Among participants were a number of Presentation Sisters and many Presentation Associates. Sr. Petronilla Metzger was acknowledged in the introduction as a "strong positive force in shaping the spirit and programming of the Prayer Center." Sr. Petronilla died on October 14, 2020 at the age of 101.

Prayers were requested for Sr. Andrea Arendt, another former director who recently entered Villa Maria Nursing Home in Fargo. Sr. Andrea also brought much energy and life to the Center through her many years of service.

Written evaluations of the Brunch through an on-line survey have been excellent. Donations are still being processed.

Plans are underway for next year's Brunch. Time will tell if the event will be in person or virtual.

Peter Edwards, Director  
Presentation Prayer Center