From: **Mercy Spirituality Center** <bryan@mercyspiritualitycenter.org>
Date: Wed, Dec 28, 2022 at 7:10 PM
Subject: The Blessings of the New Year to you!
To: <wewynne1@gmail.com>

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| Dear William, |

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Happy New Year! We certainly do hope that 2023 is a more positive one for our Center.We are continuing to develop new opportunities and appreciate the ideas you have sent in. We have received some great suggestions of speakers, program themes, and special events. We are doing our homework to learn what may be feasible. Keep your ideas coming!The New Year will have lots to offer. As mentioned previously, we are looking forward to the *Walking in their Footsteps: The Journey to Sainthood*program*.*each session will be unique and enlightening -- even a saint you may be familiar with will be presented in a different manner. You can register for the whole series below (at a great savings) or each session. Please consider opening your minds to this illuminating series.May the New Year be healthy and bring great happiness to all! |

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| **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**Would you like to share your time and talent with Mercy Spirituality Center? We would love to have you join us!Even if it is just a day here and there, we would greatly appreciate your help. We are in need of the following:* Cooks and helpers for our retreats
* People to do laundry after retreats
* Help with indoor cleaning the Center
* Gardeners

Please contact Joyce Martelli, jmartelli@mercyspiritualitycenter.org, if you are able to help in any way. We would love to have your energy! |

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| ***Walking in Their Footsteps: The Journey to Sainthood***Each session of this monthly program will take a more in-depth look at the life and work of one of these holy role models. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about a lesser recognized saint, or a different perspective on someone you thought you knew. Every month will be enlightening. More information on the subject of the month will be featured as each session approaches. |

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| **January:**We need a patron saint of girls. Wait, we have one! Saint Agnes of Rome (c. 291-C.304) is the virgin martyr and venerated saint in the Catholic Church, Oriental Orthodox Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church, as well as the Anglican Communion and Lutheran Churches. On her feast day, January 21, two lambs are blessed in the Church of Sant-Agnese in Rome, and from their wool are made the pallia sent by the Pope to archbishops as tokens of jurisdiction. Come, learn more and let’s talk about how we might bring Saint Agnes to others.**Facilitated by:** Joyce Martelli |

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| **February:**St. Josephine Bakhita -- a contemporary saint who died in 1947 and was canonized in 2000. Josephine was born into a prosperous family in Darfur. As a child she was kidnapped by Arab slave traders and spent years in servitude. Learn more about her journey -- walking hundreds of miles through deserts, sheltering with the Canossian Sisters in Venice, and receiving the sacraments from the Pope. A young student once asked Bakhita: "What would you do, if you were to meet your captors?" Without hesitation, she replied: "If I were to meet those who kidnapped me, and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands." She certainly sounds like she has much to teach us on forgiveness! St. Josephine is the patron of victims of human trafficking and the nation of Sudan.**Facilitated by:** Sharon Therkildsen |

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| **Series Schedule:****﻿****Date:** Second Tuesday of each month in 2023(January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12)**Time:**2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**Location:**Mercy Spirituality Center**Fee:** Early Bird (Until 12.21.22) Series Price - $200As of 1.1.23 $240 for the seriesA la carte sessions $25 each. |
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| [**Register here**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0010tILUuGEfCVPX-_KNHZH5KgwFSaePl5e7Fv6WTY7Hl3HIAPywXgeaRY7jefVSGAJmL5OuLOGmkaWCS3__wgz1vzN37TUnY3uqGyFwlw5GBXCytwD0UC7EF81-heVV0_0BJbPs_ak_J8=&c=ti9Pe5ByoBl9hXAbjpjV0T9mPhDVX-e0DqR9lHsXbyj4wWBz_s1fMQ==&ch=hTvDpU6QUEKZETpemneJUHjTBCDizdRBV_TpDQZIpgntrGntFWaFXg==) |

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| ***Circle of Compassion*** |
| How can we keep our intention to be a compassionate presence alive and active in today's world?Circle of Compassion is being established just for this purpose. We will discuss self-compassion, compassion of others, nature, and the world. We will also learn and practice compassionate listening.The inspiration for this connection is *Boundless Compassion*by Joyce Rupp. |

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| [**Register now**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0010tILUuGEfCVPX-_KNHZH5KgwFSaePl5e7Fv6WTY7Hl3HIAPywXgeaRY7jefVSGAJmL5OuLOGmkaWCS3__wgz1vzN37TUnY3uqGyFwlw5GBXCytwD0UC7EF81-heVV0_0BJbPs_ak_J8=&c=ti9Pe5ByoBl9hXAbjpjV0T9mPhDVX-e0DqR9lHsXbyj4wWBz_s1fMQ==&ch=hTvDpU6QUEKZETpemneJUHjTBCDizdRBV_TpDQZIpgntrGntFWaFXg==) |

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| **Facilitator:**Joyce MartelliCertified Facilitator-Boundless Compassion**Dates:**Third Thursday- **8 sessions**Nov. 17, Dec. 15, Jan. 19,﻿Feb 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, TBD**Time:**Choice of Morning or Evening Session: Register forMorning 10:30-11:30 AM OREvening session 6:30-7:30 PM**Location:**Mercy Spirituality Center65 Highland Ave., Rochester, NY**Fee:** $100 |

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| ***Contemporary Conversations Book Group******﻿with Jane Sutter Brandt*** |
| Come join us again for this successful forum to talk about books written by contemporary authors. Books will tie-in to Christianity in the 21st century through a variety of topics that may include the current state and the future of the Christian church, mysticism, social justice, racism, LBGQT+, women’s equality, and so on. Participants will be encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas in a moderated and civil discussion where a variety of opinions are welcome. The group will meet bimonthly throughout 2022 and 2023. Participants are responsible for obtaining a copy of the book on their own and reading the book before each session.**Session 1:***How to Be: A Monk and a Journalist Reflect on Living & Dying, Purpose & Prayer, Forgiveness & Friendship*by Judith Valente and Paul Quenon, OCSOWednesday, Sept. 21, 2022 -- 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. EST via ZOOM **THANK YOU FOR JOINING!****Session 2:***Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned*by Brian D. McLarenWednesday, November 16, 2022 -- 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. EST via Zoom **THANK YOU FOR JOINING*****Session 3:****Understanding and Combating Racism: My Path from Oblivious American to Evolving Activist* by W.E. “Bill” WynneWednesday, January 18, 2023 -- 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. EST via Zoom***Session 4:****Wild Mercy: Living the Fierce and Tender Wisdom of the Women Mystics* by Mirabai StarrWednesday, March 22, 2023 -- 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. EST via Zoom**Session 5:***Woman Between the Worlds: A call to your ancestral and indigenous wisdom*by Apela ColoradoWednesday, May 17, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. EST via Zoom **Facilitator:**Jane Sutter Brandt**Fee:**$25 per session.﻿ |

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| [**Register now**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0010tILUuGEfCVPX-_KNHZH5KgwFSaePl5e7Fv6WTY7Hl3HIAPywXgeaRY7jefVSGAJmL5OuLOGmkaWCS3__wgz1vzN37TUnY3uqGyFwlw5GBXCytwD0UC7EF81-heVV0_0BJbPs_ak_J8=&c=ti9Pe5ByoBl9hXAbjpjV0T9mPhDVX-e0DqR9lHsXbyj4wWBz_s1fMQ==&ch=hTvDpU6QUEKZETpemneJUHjTBCDizdRBV_TpDQZIpgntrGntFWaFXg==) |

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| ***Day To Call Your Own*** |
| Come and enjoy a day to yourself in your own, private, comfortable room at Mercy Spirituality Center. You will be able to pray, contemplate, read and relax without being disturbed. Soup is included for lunch. Morning prayer is optional.‌**Facilitator:**Sr. Gert Erb, RSM**Dates: 2nd Thursday of each month**January 12February 9March 9April 13﻿May 11**Time:**9:00 am-4 pm**9:30 am:**Morning Prayer (optional)**Fee:**$25 |

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| [**Register now**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0010tILUuGEfCVPX-_KNHZH5KgwFSaePl5e7Fv6WTY7Hl3HIAPywXgeaRY7jefVSGAJmL5OuLOGmkaWCS3__wgz1vzN37TUnY3uqGyFwlw5GBXCytwD0UC7EF81-heVV0_0BJbPs_ak_J8=&c=ti9Pe5ByoBl9hXAbjpjV0T9mPhDVX-e0DqR9lHsXbyj4wWBz_s1fMQ==&ch=hTvDpU6QUEKZETpemneJUHjTBCDizdRBV_TpDQZIpgntrGntFWaFXg==) |

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| **Being Safe at Mercy Spirituality Center** |

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 We are continuing with live sessions at the Center. We want our team, volunteers and guests to feel safe during their visits. The health and safety of everyone remains our #1 priority.  We will continue to follow the CDC requirements and the mandates given us by the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. ﻿The following protocols are currently in place: * Participants must bring proof of vaccination the day of the program. **This includes the booster vaccine.** If you do not have proof and/or have not been vaccinated you will be asked to wear a mask. We accept the original card, or the New York State Excelsior Pass. Images of a vaccination card can't be accepted.
* Weekend retreatants must send proof of vaccination before their stay at the Center.
* Upon entering you will be asked to use hand sanitizer and sign and date the contact tracing record and note your arrival and departure time when leaving.
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