

**Chiara Center  
Franciscan Place of  
Spirituality**

**Programs and Retreats  
July 2011-July 2012**



Cover photo: Clare of Assisi (Chiara Center)



*Peace and all good.*

*Chiara Center is a place of retreat and insight... healing and wholeness... faith and hope... illumination and clarity—the latter fittingly so, for Chiara (Italian for St. Clare of Assisi) means light.*

*The life of St. Clare of Assisi is the mystery of light within her soul. It is, as the poet T.S. Eliot wrote, “A condition of complete simplicity (costing not less than everything).”*

*This year we celebrate Clare for it is the 800th anniversary of the Rule she wrote. She was the first woman to write an approved way of life for religious women and obtaining approval of the Rule was both a challenge and accomplishment.*

*We invite you to come to Chiara Center to experience the spirit of Clare. As always, we're pleased to host individuals, couples, groups, and organizations. We're close. We're Franciscan. We're ready to assist you.*

*At Chiara Center, you'll more deeply discover the mystery of light within your own soul.*

*Sister Renita Brummer, OSF  
Program Director*

The programs listed throughout this booklet are experiences sponsored by Chiara Center. In addition, Chiara also hosts events and retreats for many individuals, groups, churches, and organizations.

## Be enlightened at CHIARA



### **Rest and Re-Creation Days**

Individuals, couples, and small groups are welcome to visit Chiara Center for a day, or several days, of quiet, rest, and re-creation. A spacious guest room and meals are provided for each guest. This time can be spent resting, walking the grounds, touring St. Francis of Assisi Church, or using Chiara Center spiritual resources.



### **Individual Spiritual Direction**

Spiritual direction is a way for a person to companion another on the spiritual journey toward growth and wholeness. Generally, sessions are one hour and spiritual direction is held at Chiara Center with a certified spiritual director. Financial arrangements and frequency are discussed at the first session.



### **Massage**

The healing touch of massage can assist with overall relaxation of body, mind, and spirit. Donna Darling and Sister Nancy Vandever, OSU, licensed massage therapists, contract to provide massage therapy to Chiara guests and visitors. Massage therapy can be scheduled at any time – as part of the stay at Chiara or while attending an event.



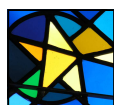
### **Chiara Light e-newsletter**

Chiara Center provides an informative and inspirational monthly e-newsletter.



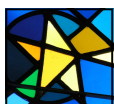
### **Heritage Museum in Poverello Hall**

Guests are invited to experience the Heritage Museum which traces the guiding spirit of St. Francis of Assisi from the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis' founding in Telgte, Germany to the present.



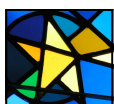
### **Gifts in the Spirit of Chiara**

Guests can continue to experience the peace of Chiara Center through several specialized items— healing oils made by Poor Clare Sisters, Franciscan pottery, and items unique to Chiara Center.



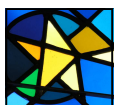
### **Tours**

Discover the history of the grounds of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. Tours of Chiara Center and its magnificent stained glass windows, along with the Heritage Museum and St. Francis of Assisi Church, are available by appointment. Donations are welcome.



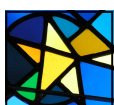
### **Gift Certificates**

A gift of time at Chiara Center is a priceless gift. To celebrate any occasion, consider giving a Chiara gift certificate to a program at Chiara Center, a private retreat time, or for an overnight stay.



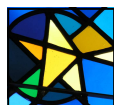
### **Centering Prayer**

The Rochester Illinois Centering Prayer Group hosts various Centering Prayer workshops and retreats at Chiara Center and all are welcome.



### **Walking Meditation**

A Guide to Outdoor Sacred Places and Walking Meditation brochure assists guests in enjoying the sacredness of the grounds and the peacefulness of walking in a spirit of meditation and healing.



### **Engaging Spirituality**

This is a small group transformational process of spiritual practices, lifestyle challenges, and outreach ministry created by JustFAITH Ministries and is held at Chiara Center.

## **Special Events—**

### **Celebrating the Year with Clare of Assisi**

◆ **Experience being with Clare during our *Ah Days of Quiet***

*Praying with Clare of Assisi*

August 1, 2011      1 p.m.

*Walking the Journey with Clare of Assisi*

October 17, 2011      1 p.m.

*Reflecting with Clare of Assisi*

February 6, 2012      1 p.m.

*Sitting with Clare of Assisi*

April 16, 2012      1 p.m.

*Reservation required (free)*

◆ **Celebrating the Feast of Clare**

August 11, 2011      7 p.m.

“Clare of Assisi: Love’s Reflection in the Window”

A contemplative presentation and prayer experience.

*Renita Brummer, OSF*

*Reservation required (free)*

◆ **Clare: First Franciscan Woman**

November 3, 2011      6-9 p.m.

The evening will include dinner and a journey to San Damiano to meet Clare, the first Franciscan woman.

*Renita Brummer, OSF*

*\$20 per person/ \$35 per couple*

*Reservation required*

***“Clare urged her companions to  
discover the fullness of Love by basking  
in divine light as living icons of God.”***

Robert Woods, OFM Conv.



## Top Ten Questions asked of Chiara Center

1. Who are the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis?  
*The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis are an international Catholic congregation of Franciscans Sisters founded in Telgte, Germany in 1844 and who continue to be Christ's healing presence in the world through their international ministries.*
2. What does Chiara mean?  
*Chiara is Italian for Clare. Chiara Center is named for Clare of Assisi, the feminine counterpart of St. Francis of Assisi in the 1200s. Chiara and Clare are words which mean light.*
3. Where are you located?  
*Chiara Center is located on the northeast side of Springfield, IL on 300 peaceful acres. This is conveniently located off Interstate 55 at Exit 100 A.*
4. How can I be part of what happens at Chiara Center?  
*You can give a donation to help support the retreat work of Chiara Center or tell others about your experience at Chiara.*
5. Do you have a newsletter?  
*Yes, Chiara Center has a monthly e-newsletter (Chiara Light). Please let us know your e-mail address.*
6. Can non-Catholics come?  
*Chiara Center welcomes all persons, groups, and peoples who seek peace and healing.*
7. Do you provide food or can I (we) bring my own?  
*Home cooked meals are available or guests are welcome to bring food. Kitchenettes are available in each guest room area.*
8. How do I register?  
*Visit [chiaracenter.org](http://chiaracenter.org) or call 217-523-0901.*
9. Are there walking paths?  
*Scenic walking paths and shrines are one of our best attractions.*
10. What does it cost?  
*Our prices are modest and are designed for persons and groups. Please contact us for rates.*

## Programs and Events July 2011—July 2012

**July 10-15, 2011**

**Retreat: Mystics in the Marketplace**

Journey with some of the great mystics, past and present, and enter into the way of mysticism. This Retreat offers silence, conferences, and optional exchange.

*Director: Georgene Wilson, OSF*

*Sister Georgene, a Wheaton Franciscan Sister, lives in silence and solitude at Wisdom Webbing's Anchorhold near Chicago. Poet, retreat director, author, publisher, and teacher, she is the editor of Interreligious Insight.*

*Retreat begins with 5 p.m. dinner on Sunday, July 10 and concludes with the noon lunch on Friday, July 11.*

*\$400*

*Registration form is available at [chiaracenter.org](http://chiaracenter.org).*

**August 1, 2011**

**Ah Day of Quiet**

Enjoy a day in the beauty and peace of Chiara Center—walk, read, pray, journal, listen, and enjoy a nutritious lunch. *(Optional Session at 1 p.m.—Praying with Clare of Assisi)*

*9 a.m.—3 p.m.*

*\$20 per person*

*Reservation required*

*“A thirteenth century noble woman, by faithfully embracing poverty out of love for the Poor Christ, sheds light on the shadow side of our lives.”*

*Ramona Miller, OSF*



**August 11, 2011 (Feast of St. Clare of Assisi)**

**“Clare of Assisi: Love’s Reflection in the Window”**

**A contemplative presentation and prayer experience**

The evening will be a photo meditation containing 33 windows into the world of Clare. The interplay between illumination and shadow is based on the work of Franciscan Brothers Joseph Wood and Robert Melnick. The evening will conclude with a prayer service in Clare’s spirit.

*Renita Brummer, OSF*

*7 p.m.*

*Reservation required (free)*

**September 8, 2011**

**Dinner and Talk: Meeting Dorothy Day**

This remarkable woman began the Catholic Worker Movement and once said “Don’t call me a saint. I don’t want to be dismissed so easily.” Nonetheless, having treasured the memory and witness of many saints, she is a candidate for inclusion in the calendar of saints. “If I have achieved anything in my life,” she once remarked, “it is because I have not been embarrassed to talk about God.”


*Presenter: Brian Terrell*

*In 1986, Brian and his wife founded the Catholic Worker Farm in Maloy, IA. He served as associate editor of The Catholic Worker while Dorothy Day was publisher.*

*6—9 p.m.*

*\$20 /\$35 per couple*

*Reservation required*



## **September 16 & 17, 2011**

### **Praying Peace: Harnessing the Energy of the Universe**

This overnight retreat will explore questions such as: Who is the God of our prayer? What is our role in presenting the divine? How do we move toward personal and cosmic peace and healing?

*Presenter: Barbara Fiand, SNDdeN*

*Sister Barbara is a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur who has authored numerous writings and given retreats throughout the world. She is committed to taking the message of transformation and the new universe story to all people.*

*Friday, September 16 at 6 p.m.— Saturday, September 17 at 4 p.m.  
Fee: \$85 (additional \$60 for overnight guest room)  
Registration form is available at [chiaracenter.org](http://chiaracenter.org).*

## **September 18, 2011**

### **Breakfast with Barbara Fiand**

Opportunity for informal conversation over breakfast. This session, for a limited number of guests, can be a follow-up to the retreat on September 16 & 17 or a separate event.

*10 a.m.—noon*

*Fee: \$45*

*Registration form is available at [chiaracenter.org](http://chiaracenter.org).*

## **October 17, 2011**

### **Ah Day of Quiet**

Enjoy a day in the beauty and peace of Chiara Center—walk, read, pray, journal, listen, and enjoy a nutritious lunch.  
*(Optional Session at 1 p.m.—Walking the Journey with Clare of Assisi)*

*9 a.m.—3 p.m.*

*\$20 per person*

*Reservation required*



**October 23-28, 2011**

**Five-day Directed Retreat**

A Directed Retreat is a time of prayer, silence, and solitude with the opportunity to meet daily with a spiritual director. Retreatants are invited to reflect on ordinary life, its joys and struggles, along with experiences of prayer and one's response to all of it.

*Spiritual Directors: Maureen Fagan, OSF  
Anna Phiri, OSF  
Melanie Roetker, OP*

*Retreat begins with 5 p.m. dinner on Sunday and concludes with a noon meal on Friday.*

*Fee: \$400*

*Registration form is available at [chiaracenter.org](http://chiaracenter.org).*

**November 3, 2011**

**Clare: First Franciscan Woman**

The evening will include dinner and a journey to San Damiano to meet Clare, the first Franciscan woman. How is it that this 13th century woman continues to radiantly shed light upon our times?

*Presenter: Renita Brummer, OSF  
Sister Renita has given retreats and programs on Clare of Assisi throughout the United States.*

*6—9 p.m.*

*\$20 per person/ \$35 per couple*

*Reservation required*

**December 2-4, 2011**

**Franciscan Nativity Festival**

A display of nativity sets from around the world celebrates the great mystery of the Incarnation. Visitors also tour St. Francis of Assisi Church. The event is free and open to the public.

*Friday, December 2 from 2-7 p.m.*

*Saturday, December 3 from 12-4 p.m.*

*Sunday, December 4 from 12-4 p.m.*



**January 26, 2012**

**Meeting Mother Teresa of Calcutta**

She once said, “By blood, I am Albanian. By citizenship, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the Heart of Jesus.” Learn more about this luminous woman whom the whole world recognizes.

*Presenter: Vickie Schmidt*

*At the age of 24, she traveled to India to work with Mother Teresa’s community. In 1999, she became involved with the co-workers of Mother Teresa as she served as the USA National Link for lay people serving the poorest of the poor. Currently, she serves as the director for Theresians International.*

*6—9 p.m.*

*\$20/\$35 per couple*

*Reservation required*

*Like the Mother of God, the virgin Clare and her Sisters  
gave birth to Christ’s humanity  
for a people wandering far away from Divinity.*

**February 6, 2012**

**Ah Day of Quiet**

Enjoy a day in the beauty and peace of Chiara Center—  
walk, read, pray, journal, listen, and enjoy a nutritious lunch.  
(Optional Session at 1 p.m.—*Reflecting with Clare of Assisi*)

*9 a.m.—3 p.m.*

*\$20 per person*

*Reservation required*



**February 10-12, 2012**

**Recovery Retreat**

The annual Recovery Retreat is for individuals or couples working a Twelve-Step Program to take time to grow spiritually, physically, and emotionally through their recovery program. The weekend is led by individuals who are not only active in Twelve-Step recovery, but who have decades of experience with individuals, couples, and families.

*Directors: Archie Ford, Chuck Kerwin, and David Kerwin  
This team has 85 years of professional and personal experience in the field of recovery.*

*Friday, February 10 at 5 p.m. - Sunday, February 12 at noon*

*\$185*

*\$100 (no overnight guest room)*

**March 1, 2012**

**Discover the Treasure Within**

Enjoy dinner along with a journey of discovery into who you really are: the beloved of God. The seed of God is within you so how can you experience this deep truth and grow in it?

*Presenter: Anna Phiri, OSF*

*Sister Anna serves in Pastoral Care at St. Mary's Hospital, Decatur, IL, and assists at the local OASIS Day Care Center for the homeless. She is a spiritual director and offers spirituality programs throughout the area.*

*6—9 p.m.*

*\$20/\$35 per couple*

*Reservation required*

*Clare and her Sisters conceived new life as their withdrawal from destructive social norms. This allowed them to cherish the entire Body of Christ.*

**March 8-10, 2012**

**And They Were Seen Dancing**

Recognizing concerns deepest within the human heart, this is an opportunity to address those concerns. The days will be an experience of hope rooted in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. Using key writings of St. Francis, along with art and prayer with the opportunity for exchange and reflection, participants will experience the core values of Franciscan life and tradition.

*Presenters: Giles Schinelli, TOR and Kathleen Moffatt, OSF  
Giles has written extensively and developed numerous Franciscan programs. Currently, he serves on the staff of the Franciscan Pilgrimage Program and as Director at San Pedro Retreat Center in Winter Park, FL.*

*Kathleen is Director of Office of Franciscan Charism Services, Aston, PA and is a member of the executive committee of the Franciscan Federation's Commission of Charism Services.*

*Thursday, March 8 at 5 p.m.—Saturday, March 10 at noon*

*\$185*


*\$100 (no overnight guest room)*

*Reservation required*



*Clare urged her companions  
to discover the fullness of Love  
by basking in divine light  
as living icons of God.*

Clare of Assisi  
Hospital Sisters of St. Francis



**March 14, 2012**

**The Spirituality of Being a Health Care Practitioner  
*Third Annual Spirituality in Health Care Conference***

Hospital Sisters Health System and Chiara Center welcome health care professionals, physicians, nurses, pastoral care staff, mission integration leaders, and students to this conference on end-of-life issues.

*Presenter: Daniel P. Sulmasy, MD, PhD, FACP  
Dr. Sulmasy is a Franciscan Friar and Kilbride-Clinton Professor of Medicine and Ethics in the Department of Medicine and Divinity at University of Chicago Medical Center and Associate Director at The MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics. He has authored numerous books including The Rebirth of the Clinic, A Balm for Gilead, and The Healer's Calling.*


*Time and Fee: TBA  
Contact hours will be awarded  
Registration form available at [chiaracenter.org](http://chiaracenter.org).*

**April 16, 2012**

**Ah Day of Quiet**

Enjoy a day in the beauty and peace of Chiara Center—walk, read, pray, journal, listen, and enjoy a nutritious lunch. (Optional Session at 1 p.m.—Sitting with Clare of Assisi)

*9 a.m.—3 p.m.  
\$20 per person  
Reservation required*



**June 24-29, 2012**

**Five-day Directed Retreat**

A Directed Retreat is a time of prayer, silence, and solitude with the opportunity to meet daily with a spiritual director. Retreatants are invited to reflect on ordinary life, its joys and struggles, along with experiences of prayer and one's response to all of it.

*Spiritual Directors: Maureen Fagan, OSF  
Anna Phiri, OSF  
Melanie Roetker, OP*

*Retreat begins with 5 p.m. dinner on Sunday and concludes with a noon meal on Friday.*

*Fee: \$400*

*Registration form is available at [chiaracenter.org](http://chiaracenter.org).*

**July 8-13, 2012**

**Aramaic Words of Jesus**

This retreat features the mantric Aramaic words of Jesus and will include sacred chants, movement, restful silence, and other spiritual practices.

*Presenter: Joseph Kilikevich, OP  
Brother Joseph is a Dominican Friar who serves as the Director of Shem Center of Interfaith Spirituality in Chicago.*

*Please contact us for more information.*

**Special Opportunities in 2013**

**July 7-12**

**Retreat with Melannie Svoboda, SND**

**August 2-10**

**Soul's Journey into God**

**Andre Cirino, OFM**

**Josef Raischl, SFO**



## **Groups who have experienced Chiara Center**

Benedictine University Springfield

Brothers and Sisters of Charity

Calvary Temple

Cherry Hills Baptist Church

Christian Church Disciples of Christ

Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Evangelical Free Church

Franciscan Federation

Franciscan Friars

Illinois Clergy Women of Great Rivers Conference

Illinois Right to Life

Leadership Conference of Women Religious

Oneness Retreat

Parish Nurses from Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the  
United Methodist Church

St. John's Hospital Center for Living

Simons Cancer Institute at SIU

United Methodist Pastors

West Side Christian Church

### What we hear from our guests . . .

- The place is so clean and everyone is so friendly.
- Your food is delicious and so healthy.
- There are awesome, peaceful views everywhere.
- Healing peace and the quiet surrounds you.
- The guest room is so large, so inspiring. The beds are so comfy and the recliner was a wonderful surprise.
- The walking paths expanded my spirit. I met so many creatures and felt so close to earth.
- This is the most scenic, peaceful Retreat Center I have ever experienced.
- You're easy to find—close and yet away from the hub-bub.
- I could feel God's spirit here.
- This place is truly sacred.

*“Clare was the first flower  
in Francis’ garden and she  
shone like a radiant star,  
fragrant was a flower  
blooming white and  
pure in springtime.”*

St. Bonaventure





## **Chiara Center**

Chiara Center, a ministry sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, opened in 2007 to serve as a retreat and conference facility with the purpose to expand the Sisters' mission of being Christ's healing presence in the world. All individuals, groups, churches, and organizations whose spirit and mission are in accord with Chiara's mission are welcome. Chiara Center is located on the northeast side of Springfield, IL within the 300 acres of the Hospital Sisters' scenic grounds.

### **Mission Statement**

Chiara Center is a faith community dedicated to the discovery and healing presence of God within one's self, everyday life, relationships, and all of creation. All programs, services, and hospitality are grounded in the spirit and heritage of Francis and Clare of Assisi.

### **Staff**

Peter Garvey, Administrator  
Sister Renita Brummer, OSF, Program Director  
Melissa Renfro, Administrative Assistant



**Chiara Center**

**4875 LaVerna Road  
Springfield, IL 62707  
217.523.0901  
[chiaracenter.org](http://chiaracenter.org)**

**A ministry of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis**