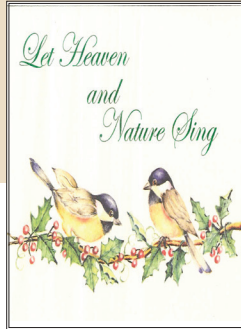


The Flame

News & Events From The Cenacle Autumn 2022

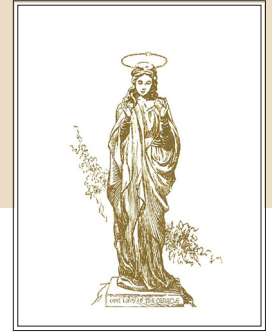


The Reimagining of Cenacle Prayer Cards! Thanks to your persistence, prayers, and God's providence.



**Mass Cards
Prayer Enrollments
Christmas Cards**

*More information
on the reverse side.*



Several weeks ago, I was on the “El” returning from a trip to the main library on State Street. At one of the stops along the way a woman got on and after surveying the available seating she sat down next to me. I looked over to her, smiled, and went back to my reading. A few minutes later I was surprised to hear her asking me about what I was reading. From there she went on to share about the books she preferred and this in turn led to her sharing about her family and other topics. Thirty minutes later I had learned a great deal about her life: the difficulties, the good times, the challenges, the frustrations.



I had barely said a word except to nod in agreement to some of the things she spoke of when I realized that my stop was coming up. As I was getting ready to leave the train she thanked me for listening; I had helped her clarify her thinking about a particularly painful family situation.

Walking home from the train station, I continued to ponder our encounter. When she first started the conversation, I looked longingly at my book, and decided to let go of the prospect of reading and focus on listening to her. I am glad I did and I thanked God for the nudge he gave me to be present to another human being, not providing solutions but simply being there. When I got home, I went to my file of resource material from when I was doing spiritual counseling. Let me share with you some of the material I found on “listening”.

- Just the act of listening means more than you can imagine. (Bob Nelson)
- Listening is about being present, not just about being quiet. (Krista Tippet)
- Listening is one of the loudest forms of kindness. (Anonymous)
- One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say. (Bryant McGill)

Listening is something we can all do, something we can all learn to do better. Think about your own situations, the people in your life and learn how to listen not only to them but to yourself.

Have a great Fall!

Marguerite Gautreau

Marguerite Gautreau, r.c.



NEW: Prayer Card Ordering Info

Anticipated launch ~ End of October
ONLINE Orders: www.cenaclesisters.org
PHONE Orders: 1-866-219-1772

Please do not call our main/Provincial phone number!
Enrollments ordered online or by phone and payment by credit card only.

Cenacle Prayer Card Ministry

A resurrection and reimagining of our prayer cards

As we were in the throes of the inescapable challenges of our evolving religious life, exacerbated by the pandemic, we notified you in January of 2021, that after much discernment and prayer, we were closing our beloved prayer card ministry. Unbeknownst to many, undergirding this decision was the sincere hope for redirecting our energies toward the emergence of something new.

Amazingly, when we let go of trying to do it ourselves, space opened up for something creative and fresh. We heard you. We prayed. We were surprised by the Spirit. A serendipitous meeting occurred among our Office for Ministry and Mission Advancement, Devco Foil Printing (the company that has manufactured our cards for the past three decades), and Deluxe Corporation, an on-line card and e-commerce provider. After several engaging and energizing meetings, this innovative team submitted a win-win proposal to our Leadership Team. In turn, the Team presented this proposal to our sisters at our June Province Gathering. After hearing about it first-hand, and taking time for prayer, reflection, and conversations, a vote was taken: Shall we re-ignite our passion for our prayer card ministry through this Deluxe-Devco-Cenacle collaboration to produce prayer cards? The response was unanimous: **"Yes!"**

When we launch you will see many familiar cards, although fewer, as we aim to streamline the selection. A calligrapher re-painted some cards for digitization as we have moved to personalized digital printing. Our intent is to start small and grow into this new format of a time-tested ministry. This unexpected joy, this happy announcement of a reimagined Prayer Card Ministry was inconceivable in the winter of 2021; but, through your persistence and prayers, we all see that it is a time to build, to rejoice and give thanks for God's fidelity and desire to continue to use us for God's divine good pleasure in our world today. We thank you for staying with us throughout this mystifying journey. We look forward to welcoming your requests and walking more closely with you, again, throughout the steppingstones of your life. More information may be found on our website. Please continue to stay tuned to www.cenaclesisters.org.

If you're receiving more than one copy of *The Flame*, or if you wish to be removed from this thrice-a-year newsletter, let us know. Donations aren't required but they help! No amount is too small — or too large!

CENACLE SISTERS NAP

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HELP for the HOLIDAYS **Upcoming Online Offerings**

The Cenacle is pleased to offer a variety of spiritually vibrant online programs, small groups, and retreats. This expression of our charism, which includes free and nominally priced events, features excellent facilitators, and an array of topics, though many focus on keeping the *peace* Christ offered to us, especially in this happy — though stressful — time of the year. We hope you can join in our mission by logging on and participating in one of these offerings. For a complete list of upcoming programs, please visit: www.cenaclesisters.org/retreats-programs.

An Introduction to Spiritual Direction

Sr. Roselle Haas, r.c., facilitating // Oct. 19 or 26

Aging as a Spiritual Practice

Joan McGovern, facilitating // Nov. 2 and/or Nov. 16

Holiday Centering Prayer

Jackie Herbach, facilitating

Mondays 11/7 -12/12, 10am - 11am CST

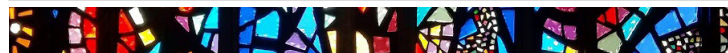
Let Peace Be Your Aim

Judith Valente, facilitating // Nov. 10 at 1pm CST

Group Spiritual Direction

Sr. Roselle Haas, r.c., facilitating // begins Nov. 29

January '23: Br. Paul Quenon OCSO & Judith Valente presenting, **"Letter Writing as Spiritual Practice"**



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

The Cenacle's 2022 Advent Retreat

with Cenacle Sister Roselle Haas, r.c.

Offered online at two different times
10am or 7pm on December 7



More information & registration: cenaclesisters.org