



# Faith Houses Newsletter

University of Dayton  
MSCs & FVLs

March 2020

## Upcoming Events

March 3rd  
**Taize Taco Tuesday**  
9:00-10:00pm  
1056 Brown Street

March 5th  
**Gals Prayer Night**  
7:00-8:30pm  
429 College Park

March 8th  
**Lent Night Hike**  
2-8pm  
Twin Creek Metroparks  
Register by March 4:  
[tinyurl.com/registerudretreats](http://tinyurl.com/registerudretreats)

March 8th  
**Chocolate & Chat**  
1:00 pm  
340 Stonemill

March 10th  
**Beyond UD Vocation  
Panel**  
5:00-6:30pm  
Art Street Studio C

More March events can be  
found on page 3



## The Vulnerability of Lent

Reiley Harrington

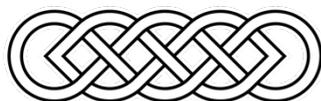
*And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there.*

*Matthew 27:33-36*

I don't know about you, but when it comes to the idea of Lent, I get pretty uncomfortable. I don't like the idea of "giving something up" or "fasting." As crude as that may sound, it does not feel good. It does not feel good to take away something that I am used to having every day and it definitely does not feel good when we are vulnerable to doing other things when that comfort is taken away.

For example, a couple of years ago I gave up Netflix for Lent and I was put in some interesting situations. I was suddenly in places where people would want to watch either a show or movie on Netflix and I would find myself having to say either yes or no according to my Lenten promise. I was affected by the idea that I would have to share this personal sacrifice I was doing with people who may not have been very into their faith. I felt stripped of my guard that I normally had when I could just sit down to watch Netflix without worrying about it. We all have these personal comforts and when they are taken away, we feel naked. We feel vulnerable.

I continue to ponder what Jesus must have felt like when he was stripped of something that we don't think twice about on a daily basis - his clothing. Lent can be a time of complete vulnerability based on the different types of situations we could be placed in. To me, Lent is a time of sorrow indeed, but it is also a time of significant self-growth if you let yourself go deep enough. I like to think about the ways Jesus is trying to work on my heart during Lent and really open myself up to that. Lent is a time to fully leave yourself out in the open for Jesus. If we are closed up, there is no room for Him to come in and fill us with His love. Let Him come into your heart this Lent and see where He takes you.



# Alumni Story Spotlight

## Br. Nathaniel Szidik

57 Woodland  
340 Stonemill

### What are your favorite memories from living in a Faith House Community?

The people I lived with were quite spectacular if you ask me. Some of my favorite memories are pretty small and relate to the times we would spend together as a community.

At 57 Woodland, I really enjoyed our "beverages on the balcony." It was a time for us to check in with each other and hangout. We often played the game "Catch Phrase" on that balcony. We also tried having a continuous Risk (board game) game going for a while. That game brought out some interesting personality traits in each of us.

At 340 Stonemill, we used to make cookies to serve after Mass at our house on Monday evenings. At some point, we all realized that each of us at different points throughout the week would sneak a piece of cookie dough, thinking that no one else would do such a thing. When it was time to bake some cookies, we only had maybe 6 pieces of cookie dough left. Well, we had to figure out who was taking all the cookie dough. We all laughed about it.

### What impact did living in Faith-Based Housing have on your life?

You can't offer what you don't have. In other words, you can only offer what you have. In some sense, my community really focused internally before we focused externally. We focused internally as an individual, for example, making sure we got enough sleep and keeping on top of our studies. We also focused internally on our community as a group. We prayed together, we shared reflections, struggles, and joys of our faith together. That relationship served as our foundation for going out to serve the community. When we were "healthy" as a community, we could put our best foot forward in showing the greater community the love that it deserves. I still apply this framework today in my monastic vocation. I best serve others outside of my monastic community when my relationships with my brother monks are in order and I've taken time to take care of myself.

### How have you created community since leaving UD?

One instance that sticks out is a work that I've started with another monk. We make our own peanut butter. We package hundreds of jars a month to be sold these days. Everything throughout the process is done by hand. Many of us in the monastic community come together roughly once a week to work on this common project. The tasks are quite simple. It's definitely not rocket science. Nonetheless, we can come together for a few hours outside of our normal routines to be with one another. It's great to catch up with each other during these times. A lot of times, the room fills with laughter. That brings a smile to my face.

*Br. Nathaniel is currently a Benedictine Monk of St. Meinrad Archabbey. He is a full-time seminarian, Master of Ceremonies for Liturgical Celebrations, a certified personal trainer, and a Peanut Brother peanut butter dude.*

**March Birthdays:**

- March 1 – Sarah Bertrand
- March 1 – Austin Whisman
- March 3 – Lanna Klausung
- March 6 – Will Capuano
- March 8 – Kristen Sanson
- March 8 – Ashley Kush
- March 16 – Natalie Allen
- March 31 – Sam Barnhart



204 Lawnview FVL – "Vocation Vacation"



1312 Brown St FVL – Prayer & Pain Night

## More March Events

March 10th  
**Agape Latte**  
7:30–9:00pm  
Torch Lounge

March 27–29th  
**Lighthouse Retreat**  
Register at  
[tinyurl.com/registerUDretreats](http://tinyurl.com/registerUDretreats)

Wednesdays during Lent  
**Lenten Vespers**  
5:30pm  
Chapel of the Immaculate Conception



## Community Prayer

Lord,

In the midst of Winter, when the days are cold and wind can pierce remind us of the warmth of your love.

In the midst of Winter, when days are short, dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early, remind us that in the darkness your light still shines.

In the midst of Winter, when the flowers of spring still lie hidden in the earth, when leaves are off the trees, and the world can seem bleak remind us that Easter is but a short time away.

And when in our lives we feel as if we are experiencing a season of winter, reach out to us with the power of your resurrection so that we may feel the warmth of your love and see your light that alone can take away the darkness of our soul.



204 Lawnview FVL – "Vocation Vacation"

LeeAnn Meyer  
Office for Mission & Rector  
Marianist Student Communities

Elizabeth Montgomery  
Campus Ministry  
Faith, Vocation, & Leadership Student Communities