

JTO Connect

FRANCIS NOW! Celebrating the Journey, Living the Dream

Date: July 29-31, 2016

Location: Bergamo Center

FRIDAY OPENING PRAYER – 5:45 PM (approx.) Friday, July 29, 2016

Theme: Welcome

Leader: Therese Zins

Location: Darby Room

Needed materials: Song Books, Guitar/s, music stand

Pre-work: Put song books at each person's place, make sure a music stand (or two) is in the front of the room

After Ken's Opening Session is finished.

Teach "Christ in Me Arise" # 513 (Therese and small group of singers who know the song)

Closing Prayer (Therese reads)

Welcoming God, whose abiding love sustains our world, with glad hearts we gather here in celebration of our shared histories.

In deep gratitude that stretches back through the years, we remember the strong friendships forged in our youth. We give thanks for the devoted lives of spiritual assistants, mentors and family whose generosity nurtured us as we grew. We pray for all who have touched our lives through Francis, especially those who are unable to join us this weekend. As we rekindle old friendships and make new ones, we are tenderly mindful of our brothers and sisters who are no longer with us on earth. We give thanks for their lives, and we pray for peace and comfort to those who grieve their loss.

May our time together be joy-filled as we share memories of days gone by and news of where life's journey has taken us. Give us grace to recognize our mistakes from the past, so that we might have forgiving hearts. May our personal reunions be shaped by kindness and laughter, and may the stories told and retold this weekend bring delight and good will.

We give thanks for the food we will share tonight, for the hands that harvested, transported, prepared and serve it. And as we enjoy our meal, may our festivities be a toast—in honor of and thanksgiving for those who had a part in our lives.

Bless this reunion time. May these moments together lead us to treasure ever more fully each beat of our hearts and every new day life brings us. With the hope of God's peace in our world we pray, Amen.

Dismiss the group to dining hall.