

JTO Connect

PeaceMaking: Living the Peace Prayer of St Francis

Date: July 28-30, 2017

Location: The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, Maria Stein Ohio

Participant Evaluation Results

The JTO Connect 2017 brought about 45 people to the Spiritual Center-Maria Stein in Maria Stein Ohio on the weekend of July 28-30.

We had people from all over the Midwest (and one kinda southern guy) attend the weekend activities:

- Ohio (n=23)
- Illinois (n=6)
- Kentucky (n=2)
- Indiana (n=4)
- Michigan (n=1)
- Minnesota (n=2)
- Nebraska (n=1)
- North Carolina (n=1)
- South Dakota (n=1)

EXPECTATIONS (from the first session). Expectations seemed to center around 6 themes.

Theme #1: **Making Peace Actionable** (n=13)

- Take Peace to family, co-workers and classroom (n=3)
- Learn what peace is and what we can do
- Discern how to bring peace to my community
- Absorb peace and live it!
- Find peace with me, family, community
- Uncover something to take back and act upon
- Bring harmony to people
- Care for each other
- Make the world better in my world
- Share to change our lives entirely
- Be vulnerable and shift something so I can change the world in a small or big way

Theme #2: **Searching for Peacefulness** (n=11)

- Inner Peace (n=2)
- Quiet time, peace, slow down
- Peace
- Peaceful, relaxing weekend with old and new friends
- Find peace
- Peace, relaxation
- Respite
- Find harmony with creation
- Center
- Prayer time

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Theme #3: **Sharing Time with People** (n=10)

- Time with People who share values
- Renew kinship with Franciscan brothers and sisters
- See family
- Enjoy people
- Meet 5 people (n=2)
- Share with new members
- Communal retreat
- Make sure everyone has a good time
- Tolerance

Theme #4: **Renewal** (n=7)

- Spiritual renewal (n=3)
- Inspiration through prayer
- Blessing and renewal
- Renew faith, St Francis
- Rediscover Franciscan spirit

Theme #5: **Searching for Direction** (n=4)

- Looking for direction
- Crossroads in my life
- Learn what God wants

Theme #6: **Open to However the Spirit Moves** (n=4)

- No expectations!
- Open to spirit
- See where it leads
- Open book

FEEDBACK – last session

At the last session, we asked what participants LOVED about JTO Connect 2017.

Theme #1. **GOOD Feelings**

- Sharing – I'm not so alone!
- Message spoke to my heart
- Hope for the future
- Acceptance / Understanding
- Re-connecting
- Feeling safe to share
- Laughter, Joy, Humor

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Theme #2. Program and Liturgy

- Our Peace Prayer(s)
- Brother Al's songs
- Liturgy
- Music
- Action Plans – challenge
- My job is doing the peace prayer
- We've got stuff to DO!
- Committee did a great job!

Theme #3. Facilities, Food and Natural Ambience

- All the snacks
- Good weather
- Beautiful grounds
- Inviting facility

The best 2 comments:

- We smell more Franciscan
- Reflection: Decision 40 years ago affected our lives today!

SURVEY RESULTS

Feedback from the Evaluation (38 of 45 participants) was very positive with participants rating 4.76 on the question, ***"This weekend was a good use of my time."*** See the rest of the results in the table below:

Questions	Average	Rank	
1 This weekend was a good use of my time.	4.76	G	1 Highest
2 Keynotes were meaningful to me.	4.66	G	3
3 Activities were meaningful to me.	4.58	G	5
4 There was an adequate balance of program and free/social time.	4.58	G	6
5 The facilities adequately served my needs.	4.65	G	4
6 I would come to another JTO Connect	4.68	G	2
7 I am willing to serve on a committee for a future JTO Connect gathering.	3.64	Y	8
8 I would tell others about a future JTO Connect gathering.	4.47	G	7
9 I'm interested in participating in a virtual JTO Connect community.	3.58	Y	9 Lowest
Overall Average	4.40		

The lowest scores were around willingness to serve on a committee for a future JTO gathering and interest in participating in a virtual JTO Connect community. This is not, however, a lack of interest in future JTO Connect gatherings. 32 participants indicated they would like to participate in future JTO Connect events (84%, 4 blanks and 2 Undecideds), with **28 indicating they would like it to continue as an annual event!** At our final session discussion, participants clearly indicated that July is the optimal timeframe – not immediately before or after July 4th.

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Seventeen people indicated on the survey that they were willing to help with future JTO Connect events:

- Rita Pietsch Moore
- Tim Moore
- Pam Hayes
- Bernie Hayes
- Bob O'Dwyer
- Kathy O'Dwyer
- Mary Lamping
- Glo Story
- Sue Auferman
- Bill Auferman
- Peg Westrich
- Therese Zins
- Barb Lang
- Kevin Mosher (discerning)
- Mary Bergman
- Marilyn Ford
- 3 Folks said they would be willing to help but submitted anonymous survey 😊

WOW! This is AMAZING!

Open Ended Comments on Survey

- Keep free time free
 - Patrick NOTE: This one was my fault. I mis-labeled the time after lunch as Free Time when it was actually allocated to a Group Activity. I didn't double-check the Program Summary with the Detailed Program. 😞
- I would like to discuss and ask question of others about how they concretely live as peace makers. How do you deal with frustrations, challenges tensions of putting this prayer into practice?
- Would have liked a chance to talk with Brother Al one-on-one or in small group after he talked.
- Loved Brother Al's input and would have liked to hear more about his ministry.
- Well Done!
- I'm learning in spiritual gifts and new, relationships, connections, friendships
- Need vegetarian options for all meals
- If Collage in the future, need a better variety of magazines and different genres
- I am willing to be on or lead the Planning team (Mary Lamping).

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Here's the BEST ONE!

- **I am a first timer. I was so uplifted and blessed to have had this opportunity to share such a loving experience. Thank you for the fellowship and humor which was so needed in my life. It has renewed my soul and I'm leaving with a peace I haven't felt in such a long time. I truly felt God's presence and the love shown has put such joy in my heart. Thank you for everything.**

JTO Connect 2017 was a success! Participants' expectations were met and maybe even exceeded. Participants committed to many Personal PeaceMaking Missions to change the world. They wanted to do this annually and 17 people said they would help make that happen in 2018!

We are blessed!

NOTE: This first draft of this report was prepared by Patrick. I take full responsibility for any errors or misrepresentations.