

JTO Connect

Jesus I Trust You – Franciscan Spirituality

Date: July 27-29, 2018

Location: St Meinrad Archabbey – St Meinrad, Indiana

Participant Evaluation Results

The JTO Connect 2018 brought about 49 people to the St Meinrad Archabbey in St Meinrad, Indiana on the weekend of July 27-29, 2018.

49 people from all over the Midwest, West and even a little South from North Carolina and Tennessee joined us for JTO Connect 2018!

- Ohio (n=17)
- Illinois (n=10)
- Kentucky (n=6)
- Indiana (n=10)
- Minnesota (n=2)
- North Carolina (n=2)
- South Dakota (n=1)
- Tennessee (n=1)

At the last session, we asked participants for feedback about JTO Connect 2018.

What did you LOVE?

- Visual Meditation by Fr Don
- Conversation
- Franciscan-oriented
- Franciscan Identity
- Liturgy
 - Music
 - Handouts were good
 - Prayer packets were complete A+
- Penance Service
- Theme of Trust and the journey over the weekend
- Loved group setting for reconciliation
- Easier to get to know people this time

What could we IMPROVE?

- More time for reflection
- Build a Tour into the schedule
- Too much walking – need a smaller footprint
 - One person said she appreciated the walking!
- Available and convenient chapel is highly recommended
 - Knocking out Purdue as a location
- Chaplet needed more explanation
 - Some positive comments
 - Some wanted to replace this with meditation time
 - Some suggested to make this optional

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- 1:1 time with priests
 - Confession 1:1 time with priests would be nice
 - It would be nice if priests provided 1:1 time to talk
- Friday night was WAY TOO HEAVY after people were tired from traveling
- Building the Program
 - Expert Model
 - Some want an Expert as presenter rather us creating the program
 - Group Build Model
 - Let fraternities plan sections of the retreat, although some are not in fraternities
 - Cursillo model - Team builds the program
- Make JTO Connect an evangelism activity

SURVEY RESULTS

Feedback from the Evaluation (43 of 47 participants; 91% response rate!). Participants responded very positively with a 4.79 rating 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.	4.79	G	1 Highest
2 The presentations were meaningful to me.	4.68	G	3
3 Activities were meaningful to me.	4.56	G	5
4 There was an adequate balance of program and free/social time.	3.84	Y	6
5 The facilities adequately served my needs.	4.51	G	4
6 I would come to another JTO Connect	4.66	G	2
7 I am willing to serve on a committee for a future JTO Connect gathering.	3.45	Y	9 Lowest
8 I would tell others about a future JTO Connect gathering.	4.30	G	7
9 I'm interested in participating in a virtual JTO Connect community.	3.51	Y	8
Overall Average	4.26		

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. 35 participants indicated they would like to participate in future JTO Connect events (71%, 9 blanks).

32 participants indicated they would like to continue JTO Connect as an annual event!

28 participants indicated that end of July is the optimal timeframe. Next highest ratings for schedule preferences were 8 people voted for end of June and 8 people voted for beginning of July.

29 people wanted more free time (un)balanced by 1 person wanting more program time!

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

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- Bill Auferman
- Mary Bergman
- Maria Costello (new)
- Marilyn Ford
- Tony Gillman (new)
- Bernie Hayes
- Pam Hayes
- John Heitker (new)
- Terry Kemper (new)
- Mary Lamping
- Patrick Mosher
- Peg Westrich
- Rita Moore
- Tim Moore
- Glo Story
- Tina Watulet (new)
- Barb Weller (new)
- Marilyn (Langferman) Williamson (new)
- Therese Zins
- 1 said they would be willing to help but submitted anonymous survey 😊

WOW! This is AMAZING!

22 people are interested in participating in JTO Connect Virtual!

- Mary Bergman
- Maria Costello
- Marilyn Ford
- Tony Gillman
- John Heitker
- Mary Lamping
- Neil Langferman
- Rita Moore
- Tim Moore
- Patrick Mosher
- Glo Story
- Tina Watulet
- Barb Weller
- Peg Westrich
- Marilyn (Langferman) Williamson
- Blank (7)

Let's launch a JTO Connect Virtual discovery team! Goal is to talk to JTO Connect, gather requirements, design and pilot test JTO Connect. Target launch within calendar year 2018!

RECOMMENDATION: Send an eMail to JTO email list, asking for volunteers to be on the design team.

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Open Ended Comments on Survey

32 people made 87 comments on the evaluation! WOW! 51 of the comments were positive and 36 were constructive criticism. There were 6 Thank You's!

7 comments about Fr Don's presentations.

- Fr Don is a great presenter; able to tap into the feelings and intentions of the group
- Good program --especially liked the mediation on Saturday
- Talks were informative, creative and moving
- Very relaxed, personal presentation (Fr Don) brought Francis to life for me
- Fr Don was very inspirational, humble and humours! Loved him!
- Fr Don was a great speaker and calming
- Not sure all the presentations were on topic. Not sure I saw a connection between openness and Father's topics

21 comments about the facilities

- About St Meinrad
 - Nice building but too large (6)
 - Lots of area to cover
 - Let's use a retreat center
 - Overwhelmed by the magnitude
 - Smaller footprint
 - Scheduled Tour (4)
 - Come back to explore the grounds and history!
 - Better Signage (2)
 - Difficult to get to and far away from expressways
 - Rooms were nice but small
 - General Positive Comments
 - Grand feel and nice change of pace
 - Loved the chapel
 - Beautiful location
 - Love the setting
 - Place was awesome
- Comparing across our 3 locations
 - Maria Stein
 - Maria Stein is in the middle of nowhere
 - Likes the closeness of Maria Stein
 - Maria Stein was convenient
 - Bergamo was better centralized

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28 recommendations for improvement

- Scheduled break times (6)
 - Quiet time to pray and reflect
 - Give us a break! Seemed like you wanted to fill every moment!
- Divine Mercy (4)
 - Explain it (2)
 - Let's not redo the chaplet (2)
- Get a more consolidated space (4)
 - Smaller footprint
 - Better maps
 - Use a retreat center
- Scheduled tour (2)
- Bi-annual preferred (2)
- Comments from one person
 - More time to mix with people during discussion times
 - More down time
 - 1:1 time with priests during penance
 - Include the rosary in the weekend
 - Reflective time with priests by appointment
 - Use Pope Francis' encyclical about the environment as a future topic
 - Recognize the history and theology of the places we hold our JTO Connects
 - Add Icebreakers

Thank YOU for your willingness to continue!

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SOMETHING NEW! SOCIAL MEDIA

Patrick Mosher tried something new at JTO Connect 2018. He wanted to create more ongoing excitement throughout the weekend for people who couldn't attend. During each session he took a picture and posted with a short comment.

Overall, there were 14 Facebook posts which focused on generating enthusiasm and inclusion. As of Monday afternoon, 14 posts generated 1203 views, 89 comments and 188 Likes and Loves! People were tracking throughout the weekend! Here's a list of the highest Likes/Loves of non-participants:

- Beth Herron (12)
- Judy Zins Franzen (9)
- Maureen Grisanti Larison (8)
- Suzanne Miller Nickols (8)
- Julie Kaschke Rashid (7)
- Rusty Farrell (6)
- Barb Strobl (6)
- Paul Grote (5)
- Carrie Chevalier Mosher (5)
- Greg Friedman (4)
- Cheryl Einsele (4)
- Elaine Sundrup Schumacher (4)

I believe most (or all) of these people longed to be with us! Let's reach out specifically to these people to see if we can get them to come next year.

Please find below a list of the FB Posts and the number of Likes/Loves, Comments and Views for each.

#	Post Date	Description	Format	Question	Posted By	Likes and Lov	Comments	Views
1	9-Jul-18	Getting Excited	Text		Tina Watulet	9	7	112
2	26-Jul-18	Say a Prayer for those who couldn't go	Quote Card		Denise Lynn	10	4	93
3	26-Jul-18	Planning Team Gathers	Picture	X	Patrick Mosher	15	18	112
4	26-Jul-18	Evening Prayer with Planning Team	Picture		Patrick Mosher	21	2	99
5	26-Jul-18	Safe Travels	Text		Gloria Story	7	5	97
6	27-Jul-18	Evening Session: Lilies of the Fields	Picture		Patrick Mosher	21	0	92
7	28-Jul-18	Saturday Liturgy	Picture	X	Patrick Mosher	16	35	103
8	28-Jul-18	Saturday Afternoon Session	Picture		Patrick Mosher	16	8	80
9	28-Jul-18	Morning Session: Faith Hope and Charity	Picture	X	Patrick Mosher	11	0	72
10	29-Jul-18	Liturgy: Homily	Picture		Patrick Mosher	19	2	90
11	29-Jul-18	Thank you for the weekend	Quote Card		Rita Pietsch-Moore	10	3	67
12	29-Jul-18	What is YOUR Mission?	Text	X	Patrick Mosher	9	0	65
13	29-Jul-18	Morning Session: Peace is Flowing	Picture	X	Patrick Mosher	15	0	71
14	30-Jul-18	Liturgy: Final Song	Video		Gloria Story	9	5	50
TOTALS						188	89	1203

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Tina Watulet's post on July 9th really got things started with 112 views! And Glo Story's posting of the final song at our Sunday liturgy is generating LOTS of social media activity. Thank you, Tina and Glo!

Going forward, I recommend a more proactive approach to our social media strategy – to promote virtual participation and generating excitement/momentum. Possible options for the 2019 planning committee to consider:

- Shoot more video and post
- Shoot action / participation shots (most of the shots this year were people watching a presenter)
- Let's go REAL wild and see if we can LiveCast portions of JTO Connect on YouTube. That way people can participate in real time OR catch the video/audio later!

Reactions?

CONCLUSION

JTO Connect 2018 was a success! Participants' expectations were met and maybe even exceeded. They want to do this annually and 16 people said they would help make that happen in 2019!

We are blessed!

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