As we embark on a new year we are thankful for the many blessings that God has given us in 2011. Our faith, our family, our friends are graces that we can be thankful for. The new year of 2012 brings a time of anticipation and hope as we work to complete education programs with the diocese, continue Saturday workshops and weekly Taize Prayer sessions, develop fundraisers and request grants to provide for much needed building repairs and student scholarship needs.

Of course, we continue to offer opportunities for students from around the world to obtain further education, or take time for rest and renewal during a sabbatical. We also provide educational and spiritual opportunities to the community. We always try to help people discern how God is calling them to service in our church and in our world.

Notwithstanding these tasks, we remain excited about the opportunities ahead. Your financial support enables us to accomplish this work and continues to provide much needed support to our students. Throughout the year you will receive correspondence from us outlining our progress on the projects scheduled for the year.

I am grateful to be engaged in TMI’s mission and to work with you, our donors, on these important tasks. As we complete this holiday season, may the peace and blessings of God’s Holy Spirit be with you and your families.
We will continue our two seminar series and Taize this spring!

**SKILLS FOR SERVICE WORKSHOPS:**

**Seeing with the Eyes of the Heart**

**Saturday, February 11**

**Scripture, Poetry & Journaling - Dr. Shann Ferch**

Writing from the Heart of God

Dr. Shann Ferch has a complex, creative intellect with a PhD in Psychology and a Masters of Fine Arts in Writing. He is a professor in the Gonzaga doctoral program in leadership studies, a practicing psychologist and a renowned expert on forgiveness and reconciliation. He edits a scholarly journal and is a published poet. AND he is a “retired” professional basketball player, spiritual leader, and devoted husband and father!

**Saturday, March 10**

**Wisdom from India – Dr. John Sheveland**

Meditation practices from various traditions

Dr. John Sheveland is one of our favorite presenters on inter-religious dialogue. A TMI student recently said she felt more deeply rooted in her Catholic faith and her African culture, and simultaneously more open to other cultures after her sabbatical. John has been both a teacher and a model for such transformation. As a new father, he and his wife are enjoying the joys and challenges of parenthood.

**Saturday, April 14**

**Wisdom in Native American Traditions – Drs. Catherine & John Reimer**

Prayers for observing God’s presence in our daily lives

Dr. Catherine Reimer attended Seattle University when Fr. Nigro taught there. He inspired her to earn a doctorate in counseling psychology, and to be certified in spiritual direction. Dr. John Reimer ran educational programs in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. They share their own Inupiat culture, and continue to enrich Native American life. Students said our retreat at their lovely home was “the best activity so far.”

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$35.00 per workshop ... Skills for Service workshops and Fr. Nigro seminars 9:30 - 1:00, includes lunch ------------ RSVP today! Call Shonna, 509.313.5765

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**Taize on Tuesdays**

at THE MINISTRY INSTITUTE
405 E. Sinto, Spokane, WA 99202

4:15 to 5:00 PM

Taize is a form of prayer rooted in song, silence and readings, often from scripture. A Taize prayer service includes simple, repetitive chants, and times of meditative silence. The Ministry Institute adds poetry to prayers and Scriptures.

We invite you to join us for reflection and contemplation. **There is no cost to you.**

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**FR. ARMAND NIGRO, SJ**

This much beloved professor emeritus at Gonzaga University, and leader of retreats around the globe, will present two lectures this winter at TMI.

We have had many requests that these be more widely available, so we have moved them to **SATURDAYS.**

**Saturday, January 28 – Discernment**

Are the most important decisions of our lives rooted in faith? How can we develop practices of prayer and reflection that lead to wiser choices?

**Saturday, February 4 – Spirituality**

What does it really mean to be a “spiritual” person? How can we become more aware of God’s presence? How can we share our spiritual perspectives in a loving way as we walk with the companions of our lives?