

ANAWIM COMMUNITY
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April 18, 2017

Dear Anawim Associates and those interested in the Anawim Associate Program!

The Anawim Community is announcing the dates for the upcoming **Anawim Associate Program gatherings**. These are open to any Anawim Associate member or anyone interested in possibly becoming a member. The Anawim Associate Program dates for 2017 are:

Saturday, June 3, 2017 from 9:00 AM through 6:00 PM

Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 9:00 AM through 6:00 PM.

These days will include Continental breakfast, 3 conferences, lunch, anticipated Mass for the Sunday at 4:30 PM on Saturday, followed by dinner and departure. As part of the Liturgies, there will be an opportunity after Communion for those wishing to make a commitment to being an Anawim Associate member to make that intention. We will have written statement ready that can be read by individuals feeling called to make this step. People can still attend and be a part of these days without making a formal commitment as they discern their involvement over time. Anyone is welcome to stay overnight at Bethany the evening before the Saturday Program or overnight the Saturday to Sunday if interested. The conferences will be focusing on individual Beatitudes and the deeper layers of what living out these Beatitudes means in our daily lives. There will be time for presentations, personal reflection, and sharing of insights.

We know that these times may be busy in your family lives and schedules. Please let us know if you are able to attend the June 3rd gathering by emailing us directly and not responding to the group email. Our email is anawimco@gmail.com. We look forward to whoever is able to join us. We hope to have a better means of getting information from the conferences out to those who are unable to attend. We will work on it! Thank you for your patience!

UPDATE ON THE ANAWIM COMMUNITY:



Sr. Ruth Ann: It has been a very difficult five months for Sr. Ruth Ann and her family. Sr. Ruth Ann's sister, Margie Price, who also happened to be the daytime director of Marian House (our emergency shelter for women and children), has had a life threatening medical situation that she is just now becoming stabilized from after many ups and downs. At the end of November, Margie developed stroke like symptoms and was found to have a vascular brain tumor (non-cancerous). She underwent urgent brain surgery in Pittsburgh on November 30th and has had a very rocky course in the intervening five months. She was in and out of the intensive care units with multiple complications. Sr. Ruth Ann was present with her in Pittsburgh for 3 months during this time. Margie is now in a nursing home in Dubois and is gradually recovering. Her memory has been majorly affected and her cognitive abilities are just now starting to improve slightly. Sr. Ruth Ann has been grateful for all the prayers for Margie and all the family as she has said that is what has gotten them



Ruth

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through these stressful months. Due to the absence of both Sr. Ruth Ann and Margie from the ministry of the emergency shelter for the past five months, the Anawim Community made the difficult decision to close Marian House shelter. Sr. Ruth Ann is now back living full-time at Bethany Retreat Center and focusing on directing the retreats at Bethany Retreat Center, continuing in her intensive spiritual direction training course through Shalem Institute, and providing spiritual direction. The spring and summer retreat season is in full swing at Bethany with retreats most weekends and three eight day retreats in the upcoming few months! Sr. Ruth Ann also is continuing to be a supportive presence with Margie as she struggles to recover. Margie may be going home soon from the nursing home as she continues to make progress. For the first time in almost five months, Margie has eaten solid food as she passed her swallowing study. The hope is that the PEG tube used for liquid feedings will be able to be removed soon bringing her one step closer to coming home. Continued prayers are appreciated!



Sr. Suzanne: Sr Suzanne has been intensely involved in her work with youth formation as Director of Religious Education for the local parish cluster of three Churches - St. Mary's of Frenchville, St. Severin of Drifting, and Sts. Peter and Paul of Grassflat. This is the first year that all three Churches have combined their religious education programs into one. She has not only provided leadership for the program but also has done teaching and retreats for all of the children in this program. Confirmation and First Communion of the next upcoming events! She also coordinated the Spring Break Direct Service Program for college students and is preparing for the upcoming Summer Service Program for high school students. She will be training a staff of four college students (two are seminarians) who

will be assisting her in the running of the Summer Program. We anticipate the arrival of more than 250 high school students and their adult leaders in the months of June and July from all around the country to provide direct services for the poor and disadvantaged in their homes. The Anawim Community's ministry is to do those things that fall between the cracks of other agencies. And our definition of poverty is: "Poverty is present when someone has a need that is not being met." It is not dependent upon financial status. Many of the people served through the direct service program that she coordinates have the "poverties" of loneliness, lack of family in the area to assist them in household tasks, illness, lack of transportation, lack of resources, or social isolation. Much of the work coordinated by Sr. Suzanne is to meet the needs of these people that are not being met. She works to open the minds and hearts of the young people and adults to broader ways of serving. In this work, the lives of those who serve and those who are being served are transformed! A quote from Rachel Ramen summarizes the "soul work" Sr. Suzanne is involved in: "Helping, fixing, and serving represent three different ways of seeing life. When you help, you see life as weak, when you fix, you see life as broken. When you SERVE, you see life as WHOLE. Fixing and helping may be the work of the ego, and SERVICE the work of the soul." Please pray for the success of the upcoming summer service program!



Sr. Karen: Sr. Karen has been developing her new Integrative Medicine practice (open to anyone) which runs side by side with her free clinic primary care practice which is only open to the low income uninsured. In September she completed her training in Medical Acupuncture and in Prolotherapy (injection treatment for chronic pain in



joints and ligaments) and offers these services as well as Lifestyle Medicine visits (focusing on nutrition, exercise, non-medication approaches to chronic medical conditions) to anyone using a sliding scale fee schedule. Many people are receiving great relief from their chronic pain conditions through the medical acupuncture and prolotherapy. Sr. Karen also was a co-leader for another medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic where their team of four doctors, three nurses, one pharmacist, and eight college age assistants saw over 400 patients in four days in remote sugar cane villages where there is no medical care. In two of the villages there was no running water, no electricity, and extreme poverty conditions. Making a difference in the lives of the poor and disadvantaged in the global community is another outreach of the Anawim Community through the Susquehanna Rural Free Clinic's International Outreach efforts.

We thank all of you for your presence with us and your prayers for us! We hope to see you at the upcoming June 3, 2017 gathering of the Anawim Associates (and those interested in the program)! Please bring anyone else along you might think may be interested. Again, please respond by individual email and not group email to: anawimco@gmail.com

We would appreciate knowing both ways - if you ARE able to attend or if you are NOT able to attend. Know that you are in our prayers as well!

Peace in Christ!

Sr. Karen Willenbring