

## **Nonprofit housing and shelter organization to receive 2016 Franciscan International Award**

SAINT PAUL, March 30, 2016 - Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is to receive the 2016 Franciscan International Award at a dinner Thursday, May 5, at the Wilds Golf Club in Prior Lake. Beacon was selected for its commitment to end homelessness through housing development, the Families Moving Forward shelter program and advocacy for public funding and policies supporting services and housing.

“Since 1959, the Franciscan International Award has honored men, women, and organizations who symbolize the spirit and apostolic zeal of St. Francis of Assisi,” said Brother Bob Roddy, director of the Franciscan Spirituality and Retreats Center, which presents the award.

Since 1959, the Franciscan International Award has honored men, women and organizations who symbolize the spirit and the apostolic zeal of St. Francis of Assisi. Previous recipients of the award include: Dr. Billy Graham for True Ecumenism (1972); Dr. Mildred Jefferson, M.D. - as a leader in the Pro-Life Movement (1978); Habitat for Humanity - for making available housing for the poor (1999); Sister Helen Prejean - for being an advocate for those on death row, their victims, their families, and the families of their victims (2003) and Fran Heitzman, the founder of Bridging for helping families to furnish homes with hope (2014).

Since 2003 Beacon has created or preserved almost 500 homes for 800 people, families, youth and adults. By 2020, Beacon hopes to provide 1,000 homes for people in need.

Through the Families Moving Forward program, which Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center participates in along with the Church of St. Michael, Prior Lake, and other area congregations, families experiencing homelessness are provided hospitality, emergency shelter and a path to home with support for stability.

Tickets to the dinner are available by calling the retreat center at 952-447-2182.

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**About Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative** | Beacon is an interfaith collaborative of nearly 80 Twin Cities area congregations committed to ending homelessness through housing development, the Families Moving forward shelter program and advocacy for public funding and policies | [www.beaconinterfaith.org](http://www.beaconinterfaith.org)

**About Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center** | Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center has been providing programs for spiritual renewal for over fifty years in its Prior Lake location. Grounded in the Roman Catholic tradition and nurtured by Franciscan Spirituality, the Center's programs welcome anyone who seeks a deeper relationship with the Almighty. |

**[www.FranciscanRetreats.net](http://www.FranciscanRetreats.net)**

Media contacts:

Kris Berggren, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative  
651-789-6260 x224  
[kberggren@beaconinterfaith.org](mailto:kberggren@beaconinterfaith.org)

Brother Bob Roddy, Franciscan Spirituality and Retreat Center  
952-447-2182 ext. 11  
[director@franciscanretreats.net](mailto:director@franciscanretreats.net)