



The Franciscan Institute Summer 2025 Program *On the Road, On Zoom, On Campus*

Programs designed to provide in-depth Franciscan learning to
people around the world

To register for the programs below, go to:

[Franciscan Institute Programs & Conferences | St. Bonaventure University](#)





The Franciscan Institute Summer 2025 St. Bonaventure University Programs and Conferences

A Word of Welcome

Peace and all good! Welcome to the Franciscan Institute's Summer 2025 Program. This year, we are on the road, on Zoom, and on campus with a rich variety of programs on diverse themes and topics for your Franciscan learning. Whether you're a Franciscan scholar, a Secular Franciscan, a Poor Clare sister, or simply someone with a thirst for knowledge, there's something here for you.

We have an international mix of scholars, including Dr. Luke Togni, a Franciscan Institute Research Fellow, and Dr. Drew Belfield, Assistant Professor at St. Bonaventure University and Book Review Editor of *Franciscan Studies*, ready to broaden your knowledge of Franciscan thought. Here is a brief summary:

A Franciscan Institute Research Fellow, Dr. Luke Togni has organized two wonderful sessions on Nicholas of Cusa for the University of Leeds International Medieval Congress. The Franciscan Institute sponsors these sessions.

Dr. Drew Belfield, Assistant Professor at St. Bonaventure University and Book Review Editor of *Franciscan Studies*, will offer "Thursdays with St. Francis" during June 2025. We will read and discuss the new book by Volker Leppin, "St. Francis of Assisi: A Restless Life."

Fr. Liam Kelley, OFM, an Irish friar, will conduct a week-long workshop on his new book, "Poverty, Peacemaking and the Sacred: A Girardian Reading of the Early Franciscan Movement."

Dr. Michael Shane Harless will present an afternoon lecture on "St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Art." It will be held at St. Elizabeth Motherhouse in Allegany NY.

Fr. David B. Couturier, OFM. Cap. will be on the road and Zoom this summer. First, he will join Jeff Papia at Domus Pacis in Assisi to present to the IFC Tor. And then, he will present three sessions for Secular Franciscans on "The Franciscan Way of Bold Hope: Caring When It's Hardest to Care"

Jeff Papia, Debi Haug, and Julianne Wallace will join Fr. David Couturier to lead the Padua Program's Franciscan Mission-Based Leadership Training session.

and more. Welcome... from Fr. David and the entire Franciscan Institute staff. We invite you to join us this summer and deepen your understanding of the Franciscan tradition. Enjoy the summer and we look forward to seeing you at the Institute!



The Franciscan Institute on the Road

IFC-TOR · International Franciscan Conference of the Institutes and Monasteries of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis

General Assembly
May 10-15, 2025
Domus Pacis, Assisi, Italy

Fr. David B. Couturier, O.F.M. Cap., Mr. Jeff Papia

“Franciscans and God’s Great Plan for the Renewal of Humanity”

“Franciscans in the Public Square”

“Mission-Based Caring in a Time of Isolations”



The University of Leeds, International Medieval Congress July 7-10, 2025



Title: NICHOLAS OF CUSA AND HIS LEARNING FROM THE RELIGIOUS ORDERS, Session I

**Sponsor: Franciscan Institute, St Bonaventure University,
New York /**

Cusanus Society UK & Ireland

**Organizer: Luke Togni, Franciscan Institute, St
Bonaventure University, New York**

Moderator: Volker Leppin, Yale Divinity School, Yale University

- Bringing Ruusbroec into Concordance: Henry of
Coesfeld's Devotional Theology in Relation to Nicholas of
Cusa's Early Sermons, Tom Gaens, Ruusbroecgenootschap,
Universiteit Antwerpen

- Re-Evaluating Nicholas of Cusa and the Formal Distinction:
Scotist, Nominalist, and Carthusian Influences (Language:
English) Simon J. G. Burton, School of Divinity, University of
Edinburgh

**The Trinitarian Rose: Bonaventure in Cusanus' De docta ignorantia and De possest (Language:
English)**

**Francesco Maria Zema, Dipartimento di Scienze Filosofiche, Pedagogiche ed Economico-
Quantitative, Università degli Studi**

- 'Gabriele d'Annunzio', Chieti-Pescara

- Comparing the Preaching of Nicholas of Cusa and Giovanni of Capestrano on the Hussites
and the Jews

- Andrea Di Giampaolo, Dipartimento di Scienze Filosofiche, Pedagogiche
e Economico-Quantitative, Università degli Studi 'Gabriele d'Annunzio', Chieti-Pescara

Title: NICHOLAS OF CUSA AND HIS LEARNING FROM THE RELIGIOUS ORDERS, Session II

**Sponsor: Franciscan Institute, St Bonaventure University, New York /
Cusanus Society UK & Ireland**

Organizer: Luke Togni, Franciscan Institute, St Bonaventure University, New York

Moderator: Jonathan Reinert, Lehrstuhl für Kirchengeschichte und Ökumenik,
Theologische Hochschule Reutlingen

- Cusanus' Annotations on Bonaventure's Collationes in Andrés García-Rengifo, Kueser Akademie für Europäische Geistesgeschichte
- Imagination, Mystical Space, and the Twin Loves in Bonaventure and Cusanus Jacob Torbeck, Department of Theology, Briar Cliff University, Iowa
- The Coincidentia Oppositorum in Bonaventure of Bagnoregio and Nicholas Cusanus Joseph Ahmad, School of Theology & Religious Studies, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
- Cusa on Praise as Wisdom and Its Relationship to Monastic Practice Daniel O'Connell, Department of Language & Communication, University of Michigan-Flint



Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities AFCU Symposium

June 4-7, 2025

Viterbo University, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Fr. David B. Couturier, O.F.M. Cap., "Franciscan
Mission-Based Caring in Higher Education"

For more conference details, go to:

[AFCU Symposium 2025 | Viterbo University](https://www.viterbo.edu/afcu-symposium-2025)



The Franciscan Institute on Zoom

FOUR-SESSION SEMINAR

July 7-10, 2025

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (EST)

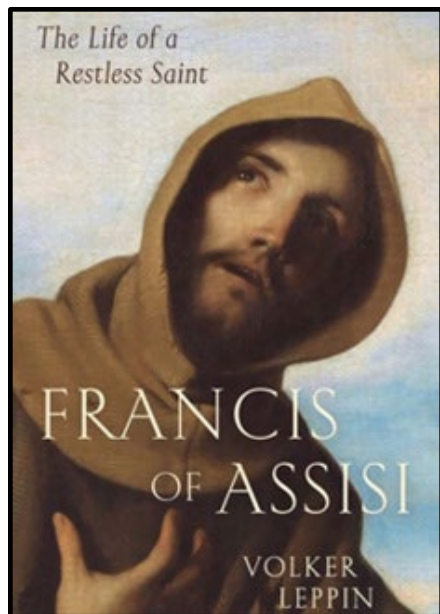
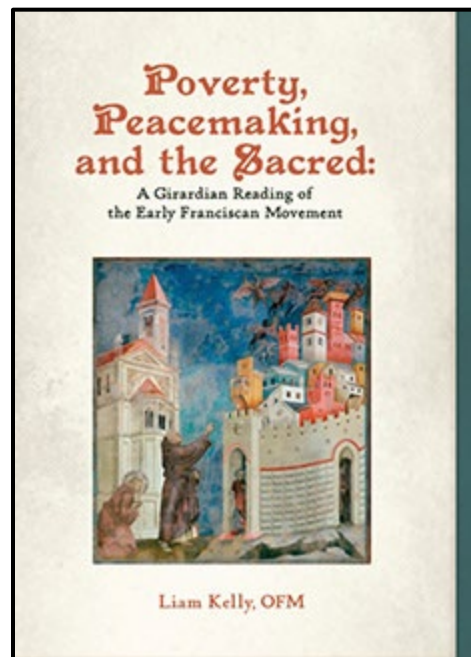
Cost: \$40 plus purchase of book

Fr. Liam Kelly, OFM, PhD. “Poverty, Peacemaking and the Sacred: A Girardian Reading of the Early Franciscan Movement.”

Fr. Liam will lead participants through his new book (by the same name), offering a vibrant and fresh reading of Francis and his movement in a way that, as one reviewer noted, “speaks persuasively to contemporary people wrestling with questions of belonging, desire, rivalry, and hope.”

[Register for the Four-Session Seminar](#)

[Get your copy of Poverty, Peacemaking, and the Sacred: A Girardian Reading of the Early Franciscan Movement](#)



THURSDAYS WITH ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI: A SUMMER BOOK CLUB

June 12, 2025; June 19, 2025; June 26, 2025

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (EST)

All sessions will be held by Zoom

Cost: \$25 plus purchase of book

Dr. Andrew Belfield, PhD, Assistant Professor at St. Bonaventure University, will lead participants through a reading of three chapters of a wonderful new biography of St. Francis of Assisi by Volker Leppin, *St. Francis of Assisi: The Life of a Restless Saint*. Published in 2025, this book offers an invigorating and accessible look at the times and concerns of Francis and his movement from its inception to his death. Dr. Belfield is a popular new professor at the University and will bring his superb knowledge of the medieval world to life in three sessions.



[Register for the “Thursday with Francis of Assisi: A Summer Book Club”](#)



SECULAR FRANCISCANS SUMMER PROGRAM

**"The Franciscan Way of Bold Hope:
Caring When It's Hardest to Care"**

David B. Couturier, O.F.M. Cap., Director of the Franciscan Institute

June 14, 21, 28, 2025

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (EST)

All sessions will be held by Zoom.

We are living in a time when the great democracies of the world are pulling back from their great commitment to care for those who are most vulnerable in society today. Some have called it a "crisis of care." As Secular Franciscans, we have been caring directly and communally for the poor since Francis of Assisi first founded the Order in the 13th century. This three-part series will review the history and spirituality of Franciscan "caring when it's hardest to care." The Zoom presentations will be:

1. "The Courage to Care: Embracing Hope in Difficult Times"

Exploring the Secular Franciscan call to love and serve even when faced with suffering, division, or despair.

2. "Wounded Healers: A Franciscan Theology of Disability and Care"

Seeing disability through the lens of Franciscan spirituality—how vulnerability, interdependence, and dignity shape a compassionate practice of care.

3. "Franciscan Transformative Care: Rebuilding Communities of Hope"

Drawing from the Franciscan tradition to create healing, inclusive, and hope-filled communities—especially in times of crisis and marginalization.

A Zoom link will be provided to all those who register for this program.

Register for the "Franciscan Way of Bold Hope: Caring When It Is Hardest To Care"

The Franciscan Institute on Campus

THE POOR CLARE ASSEMBLY

June 18-28, 2025

Prayer and Discernment: A gathering of Poor Clare Sisters from around the country.

**Fr. Russel Murray, OFM, Fr. Joseph Chinnici, OFM., and others
Francis Hall**

St. Bonaventure University, Allegany, NY

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY IN ART



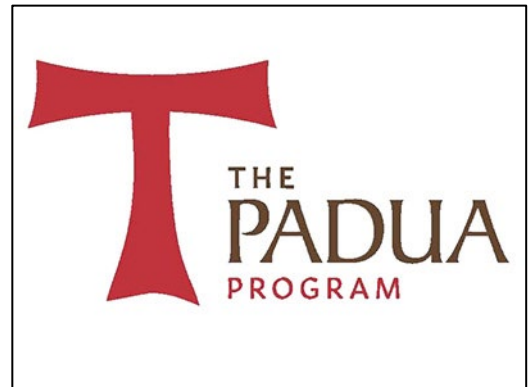
July 7, 2025
St. Elizabeth Motherhouse
Allegany, NY
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Franciscan Institute Research Fellow, Dr. Michael Shane Harless, will deliver a public lecture at St. Elizabeth Motherhouse at 4 p.m., July 7, on his study of art and architecture dedicated to St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Europe. Dr. Harless recently received his PhD from Rice University in medieval art and architecture.

Registration link will be found at
www.sbu.edu/franciscaninstitute

July 9-12, 2025

The Padua Program is an intensive year-long program of Franciscan Mission-Based Leadership training. It begins with a four-day seminar on the campus of St. Bonaventure University, which will introduce foundational concepts of Franciscan spirituality, leadership theory, and organizational development. The program will continue with monthly Zoom meetings from September 2025 through June 2026.



The seventh cohort of The Padua Program, the Franciscan Mission-Based Leadership Training, will begin their year-long internship here at St. Bonaventure University.

The program is directed by Fr. David B. Couturier, OFM. Cap., Mr. Jeff Papia, Mrs. Debi Haug, and Dr. Julianne Wallace.

Learn more about The Padua Program at
www.sbu.edu/franciscaninstitute