“When God enters human history as a poor child of a virgin, born in a stable with angels filling the sky, the old order is thrown into confusion. Who holds power now? How does the world look? How does it work? Who holds it together? This shift in perspective provokes powerful changes. Anything becomes possible. It is possible that the powerless will dethrone the powerful. It is possible that swords will be beaten into plowshares. It is possible that the poor will triumph and slaves will be freed, and that all who call earth home can live to fullness.

What is the meaning of Christmas? To imitate God and imagine a different world.”

Excerpts taken from “A Monk in the Inner City” by Mary Lou Kownacki
Fall Retreat offers support, reflection and encouragement

During the middle of October when many schools have breaks and the leaves provide a crunchy layer on the ground, the Franciscan Community Volunteers had their second of four retreats for the year. During the fall Orientation retreat, the volunteers enjoyed visiting the sisters at the motherhouse of the Franciscan Sisters in Little Falls. We took the opportunity to hold the October 14-17th retreat in St. Francis Center. We were very fortunate to have the support of Rosanne Fischer, FCV Advisory Board member, who led the retreat. Rosanne’s experience as a former Jesuit Volunteer and work as the director of the Diocese of St. Cloud Mission Office provided wisdom, as her life has continually given love and service to others.

The retreat focused on various aspects of Community: the intentional community of the FCV program and the larger community in the city of St. Cloud; the sense of universal community in the Church as formed by the early Christians; and the community we have within our World and how we, as servant leaders, are called by God to care for one another. Other highlights of the retreat included videos on finding community in cities and connecting as world neighbors, an art project with reflection on letting go of our apprehensions, and a walk around a Little Falls park with reflections on the early church. We also enjoyed a sing-along with Sister Maurita Bernet, reconnecting with sisters at the motherhouse, and time exploring the beautiful grounds and walking trails.

We are appreciative of the time for this reflection and for our facilitator, Rosanne, and all those who support our FCVs in their year of service, spirituality, and community.

Contact: Sister Clara Stang, Director – cstang@fslf.org; Kaitlin Depuydt, Associate Director – kdepuydt@fslf.org
Office phone: 320-229-0307 • Website: www.fcvonline.org

Save the date

Taste
OF ST. CLOUD

Monday
May 6, 2013
4:30–7:30PM

Tickets can be purchased online: www.fcvonline.org.

We are collecting empty baskets for silent auction items for this May event. Please save and donate baskets to us if you are able.

A Special Olympics day
with the Knights...

By Kristine Origone

The Franciscan Community Volunteers were given a great invitation to join the Knights of Columbus from the Cathedral of St. Mary’s in St. Cloud to assist at the State bowling tournament for the Special Olympics, which is the largest Special Olympics event in the area. The day started with a bus ride with the Knights to Brooklyn Park’s Brunswick Zone. After a pasta lunch and orientation, we were each assigned to a lane and assisted the athletes with rotation and location. We were also given the opportunity to celebrate with them as they received their awards.