

The Anawim Community of Frenchville, Pennsylvania
P.O. Box 35, Frenchville, PA 16836

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March 20, 2016

Dear Friend,

The Anawim Community of Frenchville, Pennsylvania is excited to announce that its newly developed Anawim Associate Program is open for membership! Over the years, hundreds of people have been informally connected with the Anawim Community as volunteers, retreatants, family members, co-workers, local supporters, benefactors, and friends. Many people have been touched by the spirituality of the Anawim Community, its ministries, personal experiences on retreat, or through involvement in the events and activities of the Anawim Community. In the recent years, many of these people have been asking how they can become even more deeply connected to the Anawim Community. In response to the leading of the Holy Spirit and the requests of interested people, we have officially developed the Anawim Associate Program and are excited to start the process for membership and hold the first Anawim Associate Program inaugural event on Saturday, June 25, 2016. We chose this date specifically as it is the anniversary of Sr. Therese Dush's profession of vows and we know she will be with us in spirit and will be blessing us all on that day. This was one of the programs I was working on with Sr. Therese in the last few months of her life and I know it is dear to her heart.

Enclosed please find a brochure that describes in detail the components of the Anawim Associate Program and how to become involved. The Anawim Associate Program gives lay men and women the opportunity to become more closely associated with the Anawim Community, its spirituality, and its ministries. Anawim Associate Members receive support, education, spiritual opportunities, and a sense of community from the Sisters in the Anawim Community and other Associates. Anawim Associate Members live out the spirituality of the Anawim Community in their own families, communities, and lives. They learn about what it is to be "Anawim", which is to live life totally dependent upon God, trusting in that relationship, walking in faith, living in hope, and reaching out to those in need, knowing that we all are together in those needs. Prayer, simplicity, hospitality, and service in the spirit of the Beatitudes are at the heart of the life of the Anawim Community and the Anawim Associates.

The Anawim Community has had the privilege of its outreach extending to people from all parts of the United States. Many people interested in the Anawim Associate Program live a distance away in Pennsylvania and many are from states across the whole country. In order to accommodate the reality of the difficulty of traveling to Frenchville for various meetings, or educational, spiritual and community opportunities, we are developing distance learning options for the program so that distance and travel are not an issue. If you feel called to become an Anawim Associate there will be all kinds of ways to be active in the program if you are not able to be physically present at meetings and events.

If you feel God calling you to become an Anawim Associate Member, please complete the enclosed application and mail it back to Anawim Community, P.O. Box 35, Frenchville, PA 16836. For any questions, please contact me by phone at 814-263-4855 or by email at anawimco@gmail.com. More information on the June 25th Introductory Session will be provided to those who either complete an application to become a member or who contact us for more information by email or phone. Please feel free to stay at Bethany Retreat Center on June 24th and/or June 25th if attending that event on June 25th. A postcard reminder is also included with this letter with the date and time of the Anawim Associate Introductory Session. We hope you will prayerfully consider becoming a member and we look forward to what God has in store for this exciting new chapter to the life of the Anawim Community!

In Christ's Peace and Joy,

Sr. Karen Willenbring
Servant Leader of the Anawim Community