

CLARE

GALLERY

at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry

For Immediate Release
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Completing the Journey: The Art of Hospice Care

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present *Completing the Journey: The Art of Hospice Care*, an extraordinary and powerful multi-media exhibition depicting the use of the arts in hospice care. Artists participating in this exhibition are constituents of The Complementary Therapy Team, a Connecticut VNA *Partners* organization. The exhibition is free and open to the public and extends from November 6 to December 15, 2008. A reception will be held on Tuesday, November 18th from 5 to 7 p.m., at which time participating artists will be available to discuss origins and themes of their artwork. Along with the artists, professional musicians from The Complementary Therapy Team will perform original music during the reception.

Completing the Journey: The Art of Hospice Care features a collection of photographs, drawings, paintings, poetry and shadow boxes that have been specifically created for or about hospice patients at the end of their lives. Susan Rosano, an Expressive Arts Therapist with Connecticut VNA's Hospice team and an organizer of the exhibit, said the group wanted to show the public the incredible work that is being done with people at the end of their lives and how it can contribute to the process of emotional healing for family members and friends. "The poems we write with our patients—the collages and drawings we help them make (their hand castings) all have become lasting memorials to them."

This exhibit has previously been displayed at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, the NOMA Gallery in Middletown, The Windham Area Arts Collaborative Gallery in Willimantic, Masonic Healthcare Center in Wallingford, and The Institute for Community Research in Hartford. The Clare Gallery is pleased to bring this exhibition to the Hartford-area once again.

Along with this exhibition there are also two other programs that might be of interest to people dealing with loss. The first program, sponsored by the ministries of *Women of Hope* and *Bereavement* from the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, is "***Grief – Shattered and Mended: How Hopeful Women Survive***" on November 12th from 5–9 pm. It may be hard to be optimistic about the future after the loss of a loved one. Come find encouragement and support. Learn why you shouldn't be ashamed of your grief and why you don't want to rush through your healing. This Twilight Retreat includes dinner, a discussion on how women deal with grief, and a hands-on project. The cost is \$15.00. The second program, sponsored by several Ministries of Pastoral Care is a "***Service of Remembrance***" on November 25th from 7-8 pm. If one would like more information on either of these programs, please call the Urban Center at 860-756-4034. All are welcome to these two events, the exhibition and the reception.

The Clare Gallery primarily features exhibitions that emphasize world religions or interfaith themes, as well as social justice themes, on either a global or local level. The Gallery is housed in the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry at 285 Church Street. The Center is part of St. Patrick – St. Anthony Church, a vibrant and active downtown faith community.

The Clare Gallery's hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays; Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Gallery and all related events are free and open to the public. Free parking is available directly across from the church, and the facility is handicapped accessible. More information may be found under "ministries" on the church's website: <http://www.spsact.org/>