



For Immediate Release
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Exhibition *Intimate Spirits* Opens at Clare Gallery

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present *Intimate Spirits: Photography and Poetry in Conversation*, an exhibition by artist and poet Sister Jo-Ann Iannotti, OP. The exhibition displays both poetry and photography in concert accenting the power of word and image. The artist wishes to draw viewers into the space between themselves and the two creative expressions allowing the works to be “seen,” as well as “read.” This exhibition is free and open to the public and extends from January 19–March 15, 2015. A reception will be held on March 5th, from 6:30–8:00 p.m. At the reception, Sister Jo-Ann will discuss the intimacy that results from spending time with images and words and her various processes of creative expression.

Sister Jo-Ann wants viewers to think about conversations one has with her artwork—photography and poetry—and allow for transformation. Viewers are asked by the artist, “to make room for the words and images. Listen to them. Approach them from a distance and then draw closer.” These conversations do not have to be demanding, rather they can be silent, unscripted, non-judgmental and not sitting on either side of right or wrong. These conversations provide an invitation for the unexpected to happen—a transformation.

In the past, Sister Jo-Ann has been an elementary and secondary educator in New York and New Jersey, as well as a reporter and photographer for the *Catholic Transcript*. She has scripted programs for the Office of Radio and Television for the Archdiocese of Hartford and was the Director of Religious Education at St. Ann Parish in Avon, CT. Frequently, Sister Jo-Ann lectures on the 14th Century English mystic, Julian of Norwich, as well as the inter-relationship between Art and Spirituality. She is the Art and Spirituality Coordinator at Wisdom House Retreat and Conference Center in Litchfield, CT and the author of *Remember, Return, Rejoice: Journeying from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday*.

Sister Jo-Ann Iannotti, OP is a native of Paterson, New Jersey and belongs to the order of the Dominican Sisters of Hope. She has a Bachelor of Education from Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, New York and a Master’s Degree in Theology from Fordham University in Bronx, New York.

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, Hartford, CT. 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 7 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 open to the public. Free parking is available directly across from the church in Saints Lot. The facility is handicapped accessible. More information may be found at spsact.org/clare2.