

February 14, 2014

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### **Unexpected loss opens our hearts**

LA CROSSE, Wis. — The Franciscan Spirituality Center proudly presents keynote speaker Paula D'Arcy at their 29<sup>th</sup> annual conference, *Opening Doors to the Unexpected* on May 2-3, 2014. Open to everyone, the conference begins at 1 p.m. on Friday and concludes at 3 p.m. on Saturday at English Lutheran Church in La Crosse. D'Arcy will share bits of her personal life story to reveal wisdom and provoke larger, life-giving questions about new possibilities, embracing the present moment and the power of love.

In 1975, D'Arcy survived a drunken driving accident that took the lives of her husband and infant daughter, Sarah. Pregnant at the time, she gave birth to a second daughter months later. Between the lines of those two events are mountains and valleys of personal and spiritual growth that D'Arcy shares generously with her audiences. Through a synchronistic chain of events during her grief recovery process, D'Arcy was mentored by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale and worked with the Peale Foundation. Today her work includes leading workshops and retreats related to spirituality and aspiring writers. She is the author of eight books including titles; *Song for Sarah, When People Grieve, Gift of the Red Bird, Red Fire, A New Set of Eyes, Seeking with All My Heart* and *Sacred Threshold*. She is president of the Red Bird Foundation which supports the growth and spiritual development of those in prison and those living in third world or disadvantaged cultures. In recent years she has teamed with Richard Rohr, OFM to present seminars on the *Male/Female Journey* and *Spirituality in the Two Halves of Life*. Presently D'Arcy serves as adjunct faculty at Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas, Seton Cove in Austin, Texas, Institute of Adult Spiritual Renewal at Loyola University in Chicago, and The Living School sponsored by Richard Rohr's Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, N.M.

The conference includes workshops on Friday afternoon with local presenters, Amy Zalk Larson, Kristy Walz, Sonja Larson and Steve Spilde, and an evening book signing with D'Arcy at the Franciscan Spirituality Center. The full conference is \$75 before April 1, daily rates and scholarships are available. Visit [www.FSCenter.org](http://www.FSCenter.org) for more information or call 608-791-5295 to register.

The FSC is dedicated to anyone seeking wholeness and is open to people of all faiths. Located at 920 Market Street in La Crosse, Wis., the FSC is a sponsored ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

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