



*The National Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order - USA*

Media Contact:

Bob or Mary Stronach, SFO, 315-796-9284, stronach@kateriregion.org

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SECULAR FRANCISCANS ELECT NATIONAL OFFICERS

Illinois Man Leads Secular Franciscan Order in the U.S.

J. Patrick Mendés, SFO, of Oakbrook, IL, has been elected national minister of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States for a three-year term.

The election took place during the order's annual national gathering and triennial chapter of elections held Oct. 24-29 at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Marathon, Wisconsin.

Other newly elected officers are:

- National Vice Minister & Substitute International Councilor: Deacon **Tom Bello**, SFO, of McLean, VA.
- National Secretary: **Sarah Mulholland**, SFO, of Bend, OR.
- National Treasurer: **Dennis Ross**, SFO, of Mentor, OH.
- National Councilor: **Pat Brandwein-Ball**, SFO, of South Berwick, ME.
- National Councilor: **Mike Carsten**, SFO, of Fenton, MI.
- National Councilor: **Clare McCluggage**, MD, SFO, of Vancouver, WA.
- International Councilor: **Anne Mulqueen**, SFO, of Kingsville, MD.

At the same time, Fr. Bart Karwacki, OFM Conv., of Ellicott City, MD, began serving as President-in-Turn of the order's Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA).

Mendés, professed in 1961, has been regional minister for the Chicago-area Mother Cabrini Region. He recently retired as parish coordinator of ministries at St. Colette Parish in Rolling Meadows, IL, and he is vice president of the board of directors for two Franciscan retirement communities, Mayslake Village in Oakbrook and Cedar Lake Village in Plainfield, IL. He formerly was a university professor and chief nursing officer/vice president for professional services of a multi-facility healthcare system. He holds master's degrees in nursing and education, a C.A.S. in gerontology, and a doctorate in adult education. He is credentialed in ministry with mandate from the Archdiocese of Chicago/University of St. Mary of the Lake. He served on the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, is involved in ministries of care and bereavement, and is a Eucharistic minister. He has been active in and has held leadership positions in several professional associations.

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Bello is a teacher to adult immigrants and refugees in Fairfax County, VA. Ordained to the permanent diaconate in 1987, he is assigned to St. James Catholic Church in Falls Church, VA. A summa cum laude graduate of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Bello is a Rhodes scholar who earned both a B.A. and M.A. from Oxford University (Merton College) at Oxford, England. He holds a master's in religious studies from Notre Dame Pontifical Catechetical Institute in Arlington, VA. In addition to parish work, Deacon Bello works in Catholic Charities Prison Ministry at the Alexandria Detention Center and is a member of St. Ann's Hospital Ministry Team. He has worked with the poor and homeless at Christ House in Alexandria. Professed in 1983, Bello is a member of St. Thomas More Fraternity in Arlington. He served in a number of Franciscan leadership positions, including local fraternity minister, regional councilor and regional minister for St. Margaret of Cortona Region. He and his wife, Judy, have three children.

Mulholland is a freelance editor for American Psychological Association in Washington, D.C. She retired from APA last year after working in its Publications Department for 26 years as an indexer, editor and manager of abstracting/indexing. She holds a BA in psychology. After retiring, she and her husband, Dan, moved to Bend, OR. She is involved with the prayer shawl ministry and the Small Communities Bible Study at St Francis of Assisi parish in Bend. Her Franciscan fraternity has adopted a section of highway, as part of its ecology work. On the national level, she and her husband are former co-chairs of the order's National Peace and Justice Commission, and she is the executive secretary for the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants. Mulholland has held a number of leadership positions, including fraternity minister and formation director, and was recently elected secretary of her local fraternity, St Francis of Assisi. She and her husband have seven grown children and 13 grandchildren.

Ross, who begins his second term as national treasurer, is a retired high school math teacher and junior high assistant principal. He holds a BA in sociology and mathematics and an MA in education administration from John Carroll University, Cleveland Heights, Ohio. He is active at St. Bede the Venerable Parish, serving on the parish council, as a Eucharistic minister, and as a religious education principal. Professed as a Secular Franciscan in 1986, Ross served in a number of local leadership positions, including minister of Br. Jacopa Fraternity, before being elected regional minister and regional treasurer for St. Maximilian Kolbe Region. He and his wife, Lynn, have four daughters, two sons, and seven grandchildren.

Brandwein-Ball is a former two-term regional minister of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region. She is a staff nurse with Rochester Pediatric Association, Rochester, NH. Before that she was a pediatric nurse and a psychiatric unit counselor at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital in Dover, NH. She holds an LPN from Nevada Public School of Practical Nursing, Nevada, MO, and a BA in Psychology from University of New Hampshire. She completed the Spiritual Direction Training Program with the Mercy Center, Colorado Springs, CO, and is a member of Spiritual Direction International. Active in Our Lady of the Angels Parish in South Berwick, ME, she served as a Eucharistic minister and as a member of the parish merger taskforce. She previously was parish newsletter editor and confirmation teacher. As a Secular Franciscan, she was local fraternity minister and regional vice minister. She also serves on the national Spirit and Life Team, and she conducts retreats and days of recollection. She and her husband, Gary Ball, have two sons.

Carsten, re-elected to a second term as national councilor, is a construction superintendent and carpenter. He completed trade school and high school. He is active at St. Augustine Parish in Deerfield Township, MI, and was involved at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Fenton, where he had been a catechist, RCIA team member, Eucharistic minister, lector, and parish council president. Also active in the community, he has been a Boy Scout leader, soccer coach, Little League coach and Girls' Softball coach. Carsten has held a number of leadership positions in the Secular Franciscan Order, including local fraternity minister, regional Youth/Young Adult Commission chair, regional councilor and regional minister for Divine Mercy Region. He and his wife, Sharon have three grown children and four grandchildren.

McCluggage is a family physician who recently relocated to Vancouver, where she practices with Kaiser Permanente. For 20 years she was on the faculty of University of Texas Southwestern Medical School Dallas, where she taught medical students and residents, and was Residency Program director. Dr. McCluggage volunteered at North Dallas Shared Ministries Clinic. She received her medical degree from University of Missouri, Columbia, with training at St. Paul Medical Center and University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. In her parish she taught CCD, led scripture study groups, sang in the choir, was a RENEW small group leader and served on the liturgy planning team. At her new parish, St. John the Evangelist in Vancouver, she is a Lifeteen Core member. As a Secular Franciscan, she was a founding member and minister of Immaculata Fraternity, and held several regional offices with Los Tres Compañeros Region, including secretary, formation director, vice minister and minister.

Mulqueen has served at all fraternity levels as formation director (local, regional and national), and she was an International Formation Workshop lecturer in Rome in 2006. She is a retired aide to three successive chief judges of the Federal District Court of Maryland. She holds a BA in English and is a certified spiritual companion/director. A parishioner at St. Stephen Church, she has served as a lay representative to the Archdiocesan Regional Council, a member of the parish council, coordinator of parish Small Church Communities, Bible Studies instructor, and spirituality writer for the local newsletter. Mulqueen has conducted multiple workshops and seminars for the Secular Franciscan Order. She and her husband, Bill, have two daughters and two grandchildren.

The Secular Franciscan Order is a Catholic order of single and married people who strive to follow the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi. It is part of the Franciscan family that includes friars and sisters. In the United States, the order is geographically divided into 30 regions with more than 15,000 professed members who belong to local fraternities. For more information on the order, call 1-800-FRANCIS or on the internet go to www.NAFRA-SFO.org.

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