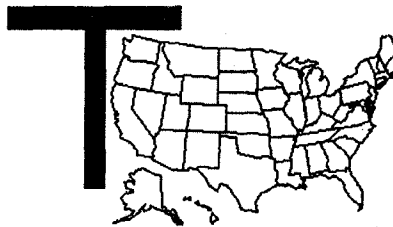


The National Fraternity  
of  
**THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**



Issue Number 2

THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Winter, 1994

### **PENANCE/CONVERSION**

By the time you receive this newsletter, Lent will have been under way for several weeks. Now is a good time to take inventory to see how we are doing. Are we still giving up everything that we told ourselves we would? Are we still doing the things we promised ourselves we would do? Or have we started to compromise just a little bit here and a little bit there? If we've started to slip, we shouldn't get too discouraged. There is still time to make adjustments.

As we take inventory, we need to be sure we understand what penance is supposed to be about. It could be that we focus too much on doing things and giving up things and we miss the real purpose of our penitential acts.

(to p. 13)

#### **In this issue:**

- +Lifelong Formation
- +Peace in the Balkans
- +Evangelization 2000
- +Can You Hear It?
- +Family Commission
- +Financial Statement
- +Let Mankind Learn
- +Happenings

### **SFO NETWORKING**

Networking is a 1990s concept for building resource communities within interest groups to increase knowledge and potential of the participants.

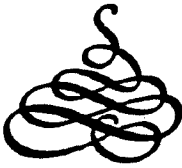
Advantages of networking as Secular Franciscans includes the opportunity to explore a profession or area of interest from a Franciscan viewpoint.

The National Fraternity is gathering names of Secular Franciscans who are interested in participating in networking with Seculars of similar professions or similar interests.

Possible networking areas include: lawyers, medical professionals, SFO Deacons, SFO diocesan clergy, writers, youth workers, and any others you may suggest.

If you are interested in belonging to or assisting in developing this kind of networking, please contact:

Mary K. Mazotti, SFO  
National First Vice Minister  
P. O. Box 2571  
Arnold, CA 95223-2571  
(209) 795-3809



## Lifelong Formation

Naomi Gilpatrick, SFO, Ed.D.

*Spiritual formation for each Secular Franciscan is an on-going process culminating in meeting God at death. It takes place only when the Secular becomes aware that he or she alone is responsible for the climate wherein the Eucharistic Savior dwells. The Secular must realize that he is being formed through daily decisions of his own inner counsels: Should I do this or do that? Should I be resentful or heartening? Should I help or pass by? And for what reason?*

Others may see what the Secular does but only God sees the counsels of the heart: the either-or and why one chooses one instead of the other. Therefore, *formation is inner choice-making in the presence of God.* The Secular acknowledges when considering alternatives that God is witness to the countless choices he makes. Choice is pivotal to formation.

A person elects to be a member of the Secular Franciscans. In the eyes of others he enjoys the esteem of belonging to such a community. Until he makes choices solely out of love for God and rejection of self, he does not begin to be formed into an image of Christ crucified. At every stage of giving gifts freely to others, we must ask, "Is this for me or for others?" "Is this to satisfy my emotional need to control, judge, get recognition, shut out or is this a chance to sacrifice for one who needs the light?"

Choices here and elsewhere are: consciously to hold back a retaliatory response to another's jibes; to refrain from polluting the atmosphere with complaints about physical discomforts, food, slights, others having more, inconveniences. Stopping complaints before they erupt into a flaming lava flow is a choice one can make. So is the resolve to listen rather than monopolize to the exclusion of others who want a say.

Being formed from within several times a day into Christ manifest, means a conscious resolve to think each time: Should I give a tongue-lashing to another or let what affronts me fade into the mists? Should I hold up a mirror to let others see a Secular's failing or should I search instead for good qualities and speak of those? It requires constant going against the grain of human nature. Each time one checks the first impulse to out-do the other in effontery, it take a human and supra-human effort--an awareness of in Whose presence we make the choice. One may feel a bitterness at being morally required to substitute kindness for anger when to do the reverse is much more tempting. Once the harder choice is made and put into action, the skirmish is over and true peace comes.

*Spiritual formation for the Franciscan is an interior process known only to God and unique to each person. Because it is unseen, it brings no praise except from God.*



## Evangelization 2000

This article is being written in January with expected publication in late February. Some issues will of necessity become urgent matters requiring your immediate input to your elected representatives in Congress between issues of the newsletter. Case in point: the U.S. Bishops' drive, via the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, on its January 23 "Project Life Sunday." Since 84% of U.S. diocese ordered more than six million sets of postcards to petition representatives in Congress to keep abortion out of needed health care reform, I hope that you became aware of this program through your parish or diocesan newspaper and participated in it. Secular Franciscans should be in the forefront in promoting an effort like this for our Bishops. This is an ongoing issue. While six million postcards would have made a tremendous impact, individual letters stating your view are of great importance. Keep on writing!

Health care should save lives, not destroy them. It should protect all including the unborn. Abortion is not health care. Pregnancy is not an illness or disease. To include abortion in the Health Care Plan has the effect of codifying abortion into law and forcing everyone to pay for it. This is no way to cut costs; it increases cost.

Mary C. Lahiff, SFO, Chairperson

Another serious objection is that inherent in this bill is rationing of health care. Who will be denied life saving procedures? The poor and most vulnerable such as mentally disabled? Who will make the decision? Not the doctors, not the patient, not the family but a set of rules interpreted by a clerk. One mold fits all. Give this angle some thought. Write to your representatives in the U.S. Senate and House stating your views.

### Other Pending Issues

Congress reconvened January 25. A holdover from the last Congress is the FACE (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act) bill, HR 796, S 636. The Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities feels that the bill presents a 3-fold threat to civil liberties since; 1) It punishes conduct motivated solely by a desire to protect innocent human life. One can obstruct access to a clinic for any reason except to convey a message about abortion. Its penalties hinge entirely on the viewpoint of the person charged with its violation and therefore infringes upon the First Amendment guarantee of free speech. 2) The bill would penalize conduct that makes it merely "difficult" to enter or exit a clinic including handing out pro-life fliers on the sidewalk, engaging in peaceful sidewalk counseling. Again, in violation of the Right of Free

Speech. 3) The bill imposes penalties disproportionate in many cases to the underlying offense, and is disproportionate to penalties for other acts of civil disobedience. It targets peaceful civil disobedience only if the person's motive is to convey a message about abortion. The bill was in conference at the end of the last session but is expected to come to vote soon.

**Welfare Reform:** Two unanswered problems are financing and continuing employment. What is proposed cost? What programs will be cut to cover it? The plan proposes a two-year limit on welfare benefits after which recipients would have to enroll in a work program. The work program could be temporary. What would happen to families who still could not find private jobs?

**Federal Budget Recissions:** These could impact on programs serving poor families. Deficit reduction amendments are certain in the Senate. Keep informed and evaluate issues by measuring them against the Gospel.

**Housing Justice Campaign:** Over 5 million very low income American families suffer from worst case housing needs, paying more than half of their incomes for housing, living in seriously substandard housing or both. We will never fulfill the promise of stable families and vital communities until we eradicate this problem. We must increase public awareness of the

housing crisis and call on our nation's leaders to develop a comprehensive housing assistance program for all very low income Americans with housing needs. The HUD budget threatens critical housing, community development, and homeless programs.

### On the State Level

Slightly over 500 fraternities have been put in touch with their State Catholic Conference Director or Diocesan officials during the past year. If you have received information from your SCCD or Diocese, please notify me what your fraternity is doing on State or National issues.

Miss Mary C. Lahiff, SFO  
1260 Lakeland Avenue  
Lakewood, Ohio 44107-2425

**Our special vocation is to bring Jesus and His teaching into our little area of the world where we live and work. Our Commissions—Peace & Justice, Family, Ecology, Work—educate us to accomplish this. We need to understand our role as laypeople responsible for bringing Christ into our sphere of activity in order to bring Jesus and His teachings into the public policy area.**



*SFO Hostels in SFO Homes: An idea for the future. Look for further information in the next issue of The Newsletter.*



## Can You Hear It?

James Schafer, SFO

Over a thousand years had passed since those who lived the gospel had died. The world had changed. The business class was emerging. He was part of that middle class. His father was a fabric merchant. He had the best clothes and plenty of spending money. He wanted to be a success. He was popular. Everyone in town knew him. He was the center of a fun-loving group of friends. He was a party animal. He lived the good life.

The Church had become an institution. A powerful, wealthy institution. The gospel was preached. The gospel was quoted. The gospel was studied. The gospel was discussed. The gospel was written about. He heard the gospel. He heard Jesus' words. He heard about Jesus' power. He heard about the power of Jesus' name. He heard about the disciples. He heard about their mission. He heard what had happened a thousand years before. He heard the gospel year after year.

An illness threatened his life. His illness separated him from his friends and from the noise of the world. In the silence, he listened. He listened for a long time. One day he heard a voice. He heard it call his name. It was the voice of someone closer than his best friend, closer than his family. It spoke with more love than he spoke to himself with. The voice called to the best that was in him and set it free. It was as if he had been imprisoned by his clothes,

his songs, his family, his friends, his world, the good life. But now he was free.

He heard the gospel pulsating in his ears. He wanted to live the gospel. Jesus and his disciples had lived it in first-century Palestine. He wanted to live it in thirteenth-century Italy. Francis of Assisi believed that it could still be done.

He became poor. His condition demanded total trust in God. He mourned his lost innocence. He suffered on account of his search for holiness. He was meek. He accepted his lot patiently as God's gift. His central task in life was the fulfillment of God's will. He was merciful. He actively remedied distress. He was honest. His intentions were pure. He was an agent of peace. He gave alms. He prayed. He fasted. He took anger as seriously as murder, lust as seriously as adultery. He forwent retaliation. He loved his enemies. He promoted justice. He respected all creatures, animate and inanimate. He heard the call to live the gospel and proved that it could be done.

One of his more thoughtful friends observed him carefully. He saw that this new life was better than anyone else's. He wanted it, too. They got together. The love they shared was like a magnet that drew others. Soon there were a dozen living the gospel life. Francis wrote a rule

(continued on p. 9)

## Let Mankind Learn

The National Ecology Commission is sponsoring a National Ecology Apostolate Leadership Training Conference, September 3-9, 1994, at the Franciscan's Graymoor Christian Unity Center, Garrison, New York. The growing list of speakers includes:

**Fr. Camillus MacRory**, OFMCap, President of the Conference of Spiritual Assistants, SFO USA,

**Fr. Thomas Berry**, CP, author, featured contributor to "The New Cosmology," and founder of The Riverdale Center for Religious Research

**Dr. Richard Clapp**, epidemiologist and executive director of JSI Center for Environmental Health Studies,

**Merritt Clifton**, journalist and editor of "Animal People,"

**Dr. Paul Connett**, chemist and founder of "Work on Waste, U.S.A.",

**Lois Marie Gibbs**, author of Love Canal: My Story, and executive director of Citizens Clearing House for Hazardous Waste, Inc., and

**Charles Spencer**, SFO, Chairman of National Ecology Commission.

Registrations are now being accepted. Cost is \$210 (double occupancy). A limited number of single rooms are available for \$230. A \$60 deposit is required with balance due May 1, 1994. The menu will be vegetarian with fish

and dairy included. Confirmation will include public transportation arrival and departure form. Free shuttle service will be provided to and from Graymoor and Stewart International Airport, Newburgh, NY.; Amtrak Station, Cronton-Harmon, NY; Metro North Station, Peekskill, NY (from Grand Station, NYC).

Make checks payable to: "NEC."

Mail to :

National Ecology Commission

107 Jensen Circle

West Springfield, MA 01089-4451

### Franciscan Family Apostolate

Individuals or fraternities who are considering supporting a family in India through the Franciscan Family Apostolate (see The National Newsletter, Fall, 1993), may receive information by filling out and returning the following request to:

Alan Ouimet

Franciscan Family Apostolate

303 Church Street

Guilford, Ct. 06437

Dear Alan: Please send me information on joining the Franciscan Family Apostolate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Fraternity \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Carol Gentile Heads Family Commission

Carol Gentile has accepted the challenge of heading the National Family Commission. In a letter to SFOs Carol describes herself as "grounded by persistence." Her life story reflects that quality. A return to high school to take college prep courses was followed by a License in Practical Nursing. This enabled her to work evenings while attending college. Private duty nursing at the Clinical Moscate Hospital in Rome, Italy, interrupted her studies but she returned to graduate in 1972. Shortly after, she married her husband, Lou. Two months later they became parents--to a twelve year-old boy whom they adopted. Two daughters followed to add more joy to their family life.

Carol's specialty is drug and alcohol abuse and mental health problems. She pursued a Master of Education degree plus additional training which has led to a career as prevention/intervention specialist in Pennsylvania schools. The school-based program has allowed her to work around her children's schedule, a high priority for Carol. She also teaches master's level courses at Pennsylvania State University and has a private practice in family therapy.

Carol became a Secular Franciscan ten years ago. Her ministry has become the development of the Church Assistance Program (CHAP) which

deals with drug, alcohol, mental health and related problems in church congregations. In January SFOs of St. Augustine Province, Portiuncula Fraternity, CCD and Youth Coordinators in Beaver County parishes received CHAP training.

Carol has a vision for all Franciscans in the country to become aware of the need for mutual support, to have a CHAP manual and training in order to form support teams for those in need. The mission: To strive for the total growth and nurturance of all children of God. Carol challenges SFOs to "FACE" the nation:

- F - Franciscan Families
- A - Aware and Alive
- C - Caring and Concerned for others
- E - Effecting Eternity

Carol says, *"We must rebuild the Church with this thought in mind: God knows no distance! Let us bridge the distance to our brothers and sisters by reaching out our hands."* Fraternities will receive information about how the mission can be realized.

Carol can be reached at:

Carol Gentile, SFO,  
Chair, Family Commission  
136 Woods Avenue  
Monaca, PA 15061  
(412) 775-4248





## Can You Hear It? (from p. 6)

consisting of a few verses from the gospel. They went off to Rome to have it approved. The Pope and his advisors thought this way of life was too hard. But one cardinal told them to be careful about saying that the gospel could not be lived. And so, soon after that the little band left Rome with their Rule approved.

More and more were attracted to the gospel life. The number drawn to the loving community increased. They even went to foreign countries to show the gospel could be lived anywhere.

Eventually he died. A few kept on living the gospel. But more of the new ones were content to quote the gospel and to quote him. They studied his life. They discussed his deeds. They wrote about him. They preached about him. They wrote a new, easier rule.

Another eight hundred years have passed. The world has changed. It has very little in common with thirteenth-century Italy; even less with first-century Palestine. The Church is still there. It is less powerful, less wealthy. The gospel is still preached, quoted, studied, discussed and written about. But late in the twentieth century in this place amid the noise of the business of the world a voice still calls for the gospel to be lived. *Can you hear it?*

from The Franciscan Worker  
as reported in Cabrini Herald, 11/93



## Franciscan Hawaiian Experience

It happened! Approximately 65 Secular Franciscans from all corners of the mainland United States gathered on the Big Island of Hawaii February 10-15 for the first ever Franciscan Hawaiian Experience.

Born of a conversation and challenge to Carole and Ken Amaral at the Quinquennial Congress in Dayton, Ohio, in August, 1992, this unique event provided an opportunity for the participants to experience Franciscan Community as it has never been experienced before. All those who attended were enriched by their experiences and the friendships made. Gatherings such as this help us realize that our Secular Franciscan Order is broader in scope than just our local fraternities.

Our thanks go to Carole and Ken for all the hard work and sacrifices they made to plan and successfully carry out the gathering.

An article describing the event in more detail is in preparation for the next issue of The National Newsletter.

Richard Morton

Coming in the next issue of The National Newsletter

--The SFO Hawaiian Campout of 1994  
--More on networking  
--Information on SFO Hosteling--staying with SFO members while you travel--inviting SFOs into your home

**Correction:** If 20,000 Secular Franciscans who use 5 grocery bags a week reused their bags until they were unusable (about 25 trips to the store), about 2,500,000 bags would be saved (not 50,000 as previously reported). That is a large forest or a landfill of plastic. Reuse-Reduce-Recycle! It is very Franciscan.



NATIONAL FRATERNITY – SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER – U.S.A.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1993

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+ + +  
+

Quarter Ended:	03/31/93	06/30/93	09/30/93	12/31/93	TOTAL	BUDGET
<b>--- INCOME ---</b>						
PER CAPITA	13,760	16,443	19,076	8,773	58,052	60,000
INTEREST	112	96	151	70	428	500
MISCELLANEOUS	530	98	151	570	1,348	1,500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>14,402</b>	<b>16,636</b>	<b>19,377</b>	<b>9,413</b>	<b>59,828</b>	<b>62,000</b>
<b>--- EXPENSES ---</b>						
CIOFS PER CAPITA	4,148		4,108		8,256	4,000
NEWSLETTER	(522)	(102)	1,505	990	1,872	2,400
ANNUAL MEETING	1,507	866	3,424	14,012	19,808	15,000
COUNCIL OFFICERS	866	3,915	1,584	3,972	10,336	6,000
CIOFS MEXICO MEETING			3,800	293	4,092	3,000
COUNCIL MEETINGS	4,181	2,911	3,711	350	11,153	10,000
VISITATION				500		1,000
COMMISSIONS:						
FORMATION	106	3,800		(1,000)	2,906	5,000
PEACE & JUSTICE		669	45	603	1,318	1,750
FAMILY		481	368	492	1,341	1,750
WORK	316	452	484	531	1,783	1,750
ECOLOGY		100	435	1,034	1,568	1,750
REGIONALIZATION	387	362		19	768	3,500
MISCELLANEOUS:						
LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS		1,021	447	441	1,910	800
OMNIBUS DONATION				500	500	500
OTHER	1,771			(745)	1,026	1,200
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>12,759</b>	<b>14,475</b>	<b>19,910</b>	<b>21,992</b>	<b>68,635</b>	<b>59,400</b>
<b>NET INCOME (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>1,643</b>	<b>2,161</b>	<b>(533)</b>	<b>(12,579)</b>	<b>(8,807)</b>	<b>2,600</b>
BEG: CHECKING – MARINE	40,273	41,394	43,560	43,545		
BANK OF ORWELL		522	518			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,273</b>	<b>41,916</b>	<b>44,077</b>	<b>43,545</b>		
END: CHECKING – MARINE	41,394	43,560	43,545	30,966		
BANK OF ORWELL	522	518				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41,916</b>	<b>44,077</b>	<b>43,545</b>	<b>30,966</b>		

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

John K. Sanborn, sfo  
National Treasurer

12-Jan-94

FILE NAME: NAFQFR93

NATIONAL FRATERNITY – SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER – U.S.A.

BUDGET FOR 1994

AS APPROVED BY THE DIRECTIVE BOARD 10/93.

--- INCOME ---	1994	PER CAPITA	ACCOUNT NUMBER
PER CAPITA	60,000	3.00	6110
INTEREST	500	0.03	6120
MISCELLANEOUS	1,500	0.08	6140
<hr/>			
TOTAL INCOME	62,000	3.10	
<hr/>			
--- EXPENSES ---			
CIOFS PER CAPITA	4,000	0.20	7110
NEWSLETTER	2,400	0.12	7120
ANNUAL MEETING	15,000	0.75	7130
COUNCIL OFFICERS	6,000	0.30	7140
COUNCIL MEETINGS	10,000	0.50	7150
VISITATION	4,000	0.20	7160
COMMISSIONS:			
FORMATION	5,000	0.25	7181
PEACE & JUSTICE	1,750	0.09	7182
FAMILY	1,750	0.09	7183
WORK	1,750	0.09	7184
ECOLOGY	1,750	0.09	7185
REGIONALIZATION	2,000	0.10	7186
MISCELLANEOUS:			
LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS	800	0.04	7191
BUILD WITH LIVING STONES	1,500	0.08	7198
EVANGELIZATION 2000	500	0.03	7195
CONFERENCE NAT SP ASST	1,000	0.05	7199
OTHER	1,200	0.06	7197
<hr/>			
TOTAL EXPENSES	60,400	3.02	
<hr/>			
NET INCOME	1,600	0.08	

John K Sanborn, sfo  
National Treasurer

01/11/94

## PROVINCE SUMMARY REPORT

#	PROVINCE NAME	YEAR	NUMBER PROFES	# CAND	# INQU	BALANCE DUE (\$)
01	ASSUMPTION PROVINCE	1993	748	0	0	0
02	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PRO	1993	859	65	33	0
03	ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PROVI	1993	1327	42	44	0
04	HOLY NAME OF JESUS PROVIN	1993	2468	181	124	0
05	SACRED HEART PROVINCE	1993	1808	0	0	1275
06	ST BARBARA PROVINCE	1993	2006	0	0	0
07	HOLY LAND PROVINCE	1992	180	0	0	0
09	ST AUGUSTINE PROVINCE	1993	489	36	15	0
10	ST JOSEPH PROVINCE	1993	1708	102	0	3124
11	HOLY STIGMATA PROVINCE	1993	481	43	10	0
12	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PRO	1993	199	4	43	0
13	ST MARY PROVINCE	1993	2111	70	0	0
14	ST BONAVENTURE PROVINCE	1993	103	10	4	309
15	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PRO	1993	616	42	18	0
16	OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION P	1993	638	0	0	0
17	MOST SACRED HEARTof JESUS	1993	837	70	75	0
19	HOLY SAVIOR PROVINCE	1993	306	14	0	0
20	OUR LADY OF ANGELS PROVIN	1993	122	21	12	0
23	ST ANTHONY OF PADUA PROVI	1993	391	49	0	1173
24	ST CONRAD PROVINCE	1993	199	32	30	0
25	ST CASIMIR PROVINCE	1993	81	11	5	0
27	ST STEPHEN KING PROVINCE	1993	68	0	0	0
31	ST JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO PR	1993	215	9	0	0
32	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PRO	1993	175	5	1	0
33	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PRO	1993	214	4	12	0
50	OHANA O KE ANUENUE REGION	1993	39	11	10	0
51	5 FRANCISCAN MARTYRS REGI	1993	601	71	63	0
52	ST FRANCIS REGION		0	0	0	0
53	JUNIPERO SERRA REGION		0	0	0	0
54	TROUBADOURS OF PEACE REGI	1993	433	63	16	0
55	QUEEN OF PEACE REGION	1993	743	25	43	543
56	DIVINE MERCY REGION		0	0	0	0
57	MARGARET OF CORTONA REGIO		0	0	0	0
58	ST. THOMAS MORE REGION		0	0	0	0
59	MOTHER CABRINI REGION(EM)		0	0	0	0
60	JOAN OF ARC REGION		0	0	0	0
61	BR/SIS OF ST FRANCIS (EM)		0	0	0	0
62	EASTERN CHURCHES REGION	1993	99	7	2	0
***	Total ***		20264	987	560	6424



RECYCLED PAPER

SOYA INK

## Penance/Conversion (from p. 1)

We recall that:

"United by their vocation as 'brothers and sisters of penance,' and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls 'conversion.' Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily."

"On this road to renewal the sacrament of reconciliation is the privileged sign of the Father's mercy and the source of grace." (Rule, VII)

Our Rule reminds us that we are committed to our profession to be brothers and sisters of penance, conforming our lives to the life of Christ by undergoing an intense and radical interior change. The experience of gospel conversion is the transformation realized when going from the kind person we are not to the kind person we have promised to be. This change or conversion is necessary if we are to fulfill completely our baptismal commitment as a member of the Body of Christ. These intense interior changes of heart are meant to be on-going and part of a continuous process, something we live daily as Secular Franciscans.

At times it may seem easier to give up things or to do things that are measurable and from which we can realize instant gratification rather than concentrate on somewhat more elusive concepts of conversion. Fasting, doing good works, etc. are good and help put discipline into our lives, but they themselves are not to be the ultimate goal. Their purpose is to be a part of the means we use to help us



experience the profound "change of heart" we are seeking. If they are not used for that purpose, we may miss the opportunity to become more Christ-like. We recall the words of the prophet Isaiah (58:1-8):

Look, you do business on your fastdays,  
you oppress all your workmen;  
look, you quarrel and squabble when you fast  
and strike the poor man with your fist.

Fasting like yours today  
will never make your voice heard on high.

Is that the sort of fast that pleases me,  
a truly penitential day for man?

Hanging your head like a reed,  
lying down on sackcloth and ashes?

Is that what you call fasting,  
a day acceptable to Yahweh?

Is not this the sort of fast that pleases me  
--it is the Lord Yahweh who speaks--  
to break unjust fetters

and undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and break every yoke,

to share your bread with the hungry,  
and shelter the homeless poor,  
to clothe the man you see to be naked  
and not turn from your own kin?

Then will your light shine like the dawn  
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you  
and the glory of Yahweh behind you.

Cry, and Yahweh will answer;  
call and he will say, 'I am here.'"

So where are we

So where are we with our inventory?

Are we making progress in the right areas  
and for the right reasons? Do we really  
understand where our emphasis should be?

By the way, don't forget the Sacrament of  
Reconciliation and the role it plays in our  
lives as modern day penitents.

Have a spiritually rewarding Lent!  
Richard Morton, Minister





# HAPPENINGS



***Share the Vision—  
Share the Dream***

*The Joliet Franciscans  
&  
The College of St. Francis  
are sponsoring  
the Fourth Franciscan Institute  
on*

*Relationships as Modeled  
by Francis and Clare  
July 10-15, 1994*

*Presented by Beatrice M. Eichten, OSF  
Liturgist, Dennis Schafer, OFM  
at the*

*College of St. Francis  
Joliet, Illinois (35 mi. SW of Chicago)  
For additional information,  
write:*

*Brigid Jacobs, OSF  
520 Plainfield Avenue  
Joliet, Illinois 60435  
815/727-7516*

**Farewell to Father Brendan Farnell,  
Provincial Spiritual Assistant**

Fr. Brendan (John) Farnell, OFMConv, 45, died November 26, 1993, after a lengthy illness. Father Brendan moved to Arroyo Grande, CA, in 1991 to serve as Provincial Spiritual Assistant to the Secular Franciscans of St. Joseph Cupertino Province. He also served as chairman of the Peace, Justice & Preservation of Creation Commission.

Fr. Brendan came to the Conventual Franciscans in 1984 after serving with the Christian Brothers. While studying theology at the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, Fr. Brendan continued his social work with the Catholic Worker Soup Kitchen and the Dorothy Day movement. He was ordained in 1989.

Fr. Brendan is survived by his mother, Catherine Farnell, and brother, Michael, both of Philadelphia.

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**Peace in the Balkans (from p. 3)**

Fr. Franjo Radman, OFM, JP Office  
Hotel Salija 58320 Basko Vodo, Croatia  
FAX:011 385 58 620740  
Sr. Jeia Pilje, Superior  
Congregation of the Franciscan School Sisters  
Bosnian-Croatian Province of Christ the King-  
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\*\*\*\*\*

Canadian Citizens: Canadian Ambassador to  
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Yugoslavia FAX:011 381 11 641 480U.S.  
Citizens: Ambassador Victor Jackovich  
American Ambassador to Bosnia  
AmericanEmbassy in Bosnia  
c/o American Embassy in Vienna  
27937 APOAE 0922 FAX: 011 431 310 682

## Letters to the Editor:

"I was delighted beyond words to read Alan Ouimet's article on the F.F.A. The Bishop he helps in Alleppy Diocese, Kerala, was here 2 times to raise funds--stayed with us at St. Clare's retreat for a few days. His visit was a highlight indeed. Despite all the sad (and unneeded) problems in the Church, God still raises up those who indeed most effectively serve the poor.

"Alan and the SFO is an instrument to bring such knowledge to us. [Perhaps he will] write an article about Bishop Peter M Chenaparampil. Our small and struggling fraternity helps support a few families in Alleppy. God love you. In Christ, Mary and Francis."

Fr. Stephen J. Maskell, MM, S.A.  
Holy Cross Fraternity  
Santa Cruz, CA

"...a few things that I would like to see....1) Suggestions on how to live out our Franciscan vocations in the secular world. 2) Feature articles on individuals, especially those who can serve as models for the 'average' Secular Franciscan. 3) Suggestions for meetings-things that some fraternities have done that 'work.'"

Elicabeth L. Feetterers, SFO  
Ravenna, Ohio

## From the Editor:

A sincere "thank you" to all who contributed articles and ideas to this issue of The National Newsletter. Your contributions from around the country bring information from people and places I cannot possibly reach in person. Send self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of articles. Submit articles to:

Patti Normile, SFO, Editor  
NAFRA Newsletter  
609 Amherst Avenue  
Terrace Park, Ohio 45174  
513/831-6575 or FAX 513/831-2804



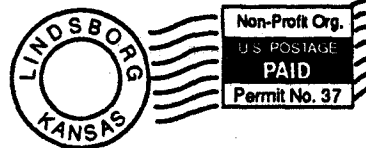
In the recesses and  
cul-de-sacs of wood  
and mud and stone  
I'm wandering  
Waiting.



Silenced by the God-  
presence around me.  
Always twilight-never grey but  
golden sheaths  
dip and flow branch to branch, over  
and beside me.  
The trees, their envelopes sculpted  
rough or peeling shiny smooth  
beckon me to touch.  
Timidly exploring folds of crusty pulpy skin  
I embrace as though an old, old man  
the bent and twisted body in my arms.  
It is you Lord - no other artist's brush or  
pen  
could ever be so strong, express such  
will to Be!  
The tiny growing things,  
all roundness greenness  
curiously prodding upward  
reaching for warmth,  
curling, unfurling, little trumpets heralding  
your Glorious Name  
I see the miracle unfold before me  
Each soft flower of each furry moss  
a separate living creature in itself.  
From moist and seeping pockets climbing,  
the tender newlings gently press, green soft  
insistent opening, blinking toward  
the sun.  
And you again Lord - the mystery of birth  
from mud and dirt burts forth the child of  
the Spring-seed  
the Easter sown, the gently harbored,  
nurtured new.  
It is you Lord - always You, and on my  
knees  
I bend to touch and welcome You.

Mary Zablocki, SFO  
reprinted from Good News,  
Holy Name Province

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