



# TAU-USA

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Publication of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States  
Summer 2010 - Issue 67

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**Secular Franciscan Order**

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*Photo by William Wicks, SFO*

*O Give Us Pleasure in the Flowers Today*  
*Robert Frost*

**THANK YOU !**

In the name of Frances Wicks, SFO, I wish to thank the staff for their wonderful contributions to the TAU-USA over the years. Together you have produced a magnificent publication that is worthy of a Pulitzer prize, if one were given for this category. This newsletter, actually more a magazine, with its diversity of articles, has connected our Franciscan family all across the country, brought us all closer together as family.

It is always a joy to read - from cover to cover.

Bill Wicks, SFO



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**Submitting Articles for the TAU-USA**

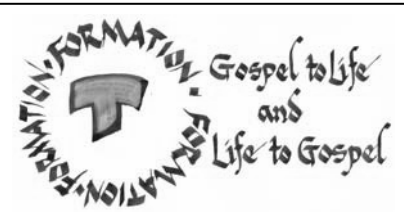
The deadline for sending address changes to Robert Herbelin, Data Base Adm. and for submitting articles to the Editor for the next issue is

July 15, 2010.

Submissions to the newsletter for possible inclusion are welcome. To increase the likelihood of your submission being published, the following guidelines are offered:

- Articles should not exceed one page in length (single spaced).
- Please send all submissions for possible publication in WORD format, as an e-mail attachment or mail to Editor Frances Wicks (address is on top left of this page).
- Material received after the deadline for a particular issue will be considered for other issues.
- Please understand that all articles may be edited for length and clarity.

TAU-USA does not accept ads.



***Pen & Ink Calligraphy Logos for the TAU***

TAU-USA has been gifted with new logos for some of our articles by **Fr. Franklin Fong, OFM.**

He is assisting in pastoral ministry for the English speaking community of St. Elizabeth Church, in Oakland, CA.

Fr. Franklin's main academic interests are in plant hormone physiology during maize seed development and his hobbies include gardening and pen & ink calligraphy. You can see some examples of his calligraphy on his Face book website and <http://tau-publishing.com/giftShopProducts.aspx?cat=46>



Minister's Message.....1  
Regional Roundup.....2  
Little Weeds.....4  
Franciscan Living.....5  
Formation.....6  
The Green Franciscan.....7  
Classic Franciscan.....8  
FYI.....9  
Poets are We..... 10  
CNSA News & Views.....12  
Ecumenical/Interfaith ...14  
Celebrate Youth.....15  
Humor Page.....16  
History Topic.....17  
Youth/FFA.....18  
Reg. Rndup (Cont.).....19  
You Know You're.....20



# The Minister's Message

## Bearers of Peace (The Peace Award)

By Tom Bello, SFO  
National Minister

On behalf of the NAFRA Peace Award Committee

"Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon" (SFO Rule 19).

My brothers and sisters, your NAFRA Peace Award Committee is making three requests to you:

First, we would like each fraternity in the United States, locally, regionally and nationally, to pray and work with renewed Spirit from our Risen Lord Jesus Christ for Peace: Peace in our hearts, Peace in our families, Peace in our Church, Peace in our fraternities, Peace in our world, all for the glory of God. Please pray and work for that Peace that only our Lord Jesus can bring!

Second, we would like each fraternity in the United States, locally and regionally, to consider giving some Peace Recognition to a worthy recipient of its own choosing. This Peace Recognition may be a letter from the Minister of the fraternity thanking this individual for working for Peace in the fraternity, in the parish, in the community. You might invite this person to break bread together in Peace at a local restaurant. You might write an article in your fraternity or regional newsletter or send this article to TAU-USA. Anything you might do to recognize those who work for Peace furthers our Lord's message of Peace.

Third, we would like each fraternity in the United States, locally and regionally, to consider making a nomination to us, the NAFRA Peace Award Committee for a recipient to receive the 2010 NAFRA Peace Award at the NAFRA Gathering in Arizona in October 2010.

You might click on or insert into your Web browser the following eight-and-a-half-minute YouTube discussion that I offered at NAFRA 2009 to explain the NAFRA Peace

Award:

<http://www.youtube.com/secularfranciscans>.

We would prefer that fraternities, local or regional, make these nominations, but nominations by individual Secular Franciscans will be accepted. Nominations may be submitted in hard copy or email to any of the members of the Committee: La Verna Regional Minister and former Chair of the Peace Award Committee Ken Beattie

(beatiesfo@aol.com); National Secretary Jan Parker (jansfo@yahoo.com); former Mother Cabrini Regional Minister and current FAN Area Commissioner Stephanie Sormane (stefsfo@sbcglobal.net); or to me directly (Tom Bello, SFO/ 1710 Chesterbrook Vale Ct./McLean, VA 22101-3244 or (tbellosfo@gmail.com).

Our firm deadline is July 1, 2010. Please act NOW.

A nomination is not complicated or time-consuming. It needs only three parts: one, the name of the possible recipient; two, reasons why this person should be considered; three, the name of the person or group making the nomination.

As you will be able to read in the Guidelines and discern from the full list below of the past Peace Award recipients, each fraternity has great freedom of choice in their nomination for the NAFRA Peace Award.

Here are the Guidelines:

"A nominee should have made significant efforts in the generally defined area of Peace. Current activities would carry more weight than past activity; that is, a nominee exhibiting current Peace activity will have more weight over a nominee who displayed activity a few years ago. In order to prevent any scandal, the nominee should be of known good moral character.

As this is a National award, nominees who reside in the United States or U.S. Territories would have more weight than nominees from other parts of the world. Nominees need not be Franciscan or Catholic. Nominees should not be political, nor carry an agenda."

A list of past recipients includes Ralph Bunche (1954); Archbishop Richard J. Cushing (1957); Rev. Martin L. King, Jr. (1963); Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1974); Archbishop Helder Camara (1975); Archbishop Joseph L. Bernadin (1976); Anwar Sadat (1980); Pope John Paul II (1986); James Flickinger, sfo (2000); Dr. Anthony Lazzara, sfo (2007); Marie Dennis, sfo (2008); Don Ryder, sfo (2009).

As you can see, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, for one example, was neither American, Catholic nor Franciscan. However, since 2000, the NAFRA Peace Award has gone to an SFO residing in the United States.

If your fraternity has made a nomination before that was not recognized, please consider making that nomination again.

With many worthy Peacemakers in the world, one nomination may not be enough to bring proper and deserved recognition.

Let us pray: "Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, please bless our small efforts to be bearers of Your Peace, the Peace which the world cannot give."

Thanks for all you do to pray and work for Peace. Let us always pray for one another.

# Regional Roundup

## Santa Maria de las Montanas

Blessed Luchesius and Buonadonna Franciscan Community of the Fountain Valley was Canonically Established January 3, 2010.

After seven years another mile stone has been completed by the Blessed Luchesius and Buonadonna Franciscan Community of the Fountain Valley by being canonically established on January 3, 2010 at a Mass celebrated at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Security Colorado. Fr. Bill Carmody, Spiritual Assistant to the Fraternity and Friar Felix Petrovsky, OFM Capuchin, Regional Spiritual Assistant con-celebrated the Mass.



Fr. Felix Petrovsky, O.F.M. Cap., Kathy Smith, SFO, and D. J. Walker, SFO (L - R)

During the Mass gathering Felix Petrovsky, OFM Capuchin, Kathy Smith, SFO, (Santa Maria de las Montanas Regional Vice Minister) and D.J. Walker, SFO, (St Francis de Sales Fraternity Minister, Sponsoring Fraternity) were the final signers to make the process complete.

Jim Snodgrass, SFO (Blessed Luchesius and Buonadonna Fraternity Minister) introduced Mary Anne Lenzi, SFO (Santa Maria de las Montanas Regional Minister) and she gave a short congratulations to both St. Francis de Sales Fraternity and Blessed Luchesius and Buonadonna Fraternity for a job well done. All active members of Blessed Luchesius and Buonadonna Fraternity were present for the ceremony as well as many St Dominic Catholic Church parishioners as well as Tom McMahan, SFO, (Santa Maria de las Montanas Councilor).



Front row (L – R) : Fr Bill Carmody, Kato Kinhofer, SFO, Lew King, SFO, Mary Schmitt, candidate, Cathy Snodgrass, SFO, Lynnette Snyder, SFO,

2<sup>nd</sup> row l to r: Gladys Dierks, candidate, Cathy King, SFO, Sandy Bower, candidate, Steve Lammert, SFO, Sharon Lammert, SFO, Mary Champion, SFO, Sharon Williamson, SFO, Andrea Jones, SFO, Jim Snodgrass, SFO, 3<sup>rd</sup> row l to r: Pene Hargis, SFO, Dennis Speer, SFO, Sam Hargis, SFO, Robin Speer, SFO.

The Blessed Luchesius and Buonadonna Franciscan Community of the Fountain Valley was established as a newly forming group in January 2003 and the name of the Community was thought of by Jim Snodgrass, SFO. He had been praying, reading and talking with his mentor Rory O'Donnell with the thought, "a name that is faithful to the roots of the Third Order Secular Franciscans vocation, feeding the spiritual poor". Picking the names of the first married couple of the Order was perfect. The first candidates to be professed were Cathy King, SFO and Cathy Snodgrass, SFO on March 16, 2005. The Community became an Emerging Community in June 2006 and on July 26, 2009 the Community was visited by the Regional Fraternity at the request of the Community to become a canonically established fraternity. September 18, 2009 the approval was given by the Region to proceed with the establishment and on December 16, 2009 members of the Community along with representatives from the Region met with Bishop Michael Sheridan for his approval to accept the Blessed Luchesius and Buonadonna Fraternity. Fr Bill Carmody said, "I am pleased with the efforts of the Community and expect to see the Fraternity to continue the good work."

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### Queen of Peace Region

Congratulations to Richard and Karol Morton, SFO.  
Richard and Karol celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their profession on March 30.



## Blessed Junipero Serra Region

During 2009, we established one new fraternity, Sung Antonio, in San Francisco. We voted to emerging status four groups: Sts. Francis and Clare, Paradise, Blessed Giles, Twain Harte; Santisma Trinidad, Greenfield, and Brother Juniper, Fortuna, which was transferred back to us from Troubadours of Peace Region. We also began four forming groups: Stockton, Wasco, Delano, and San Francisco (of the Shrine). Jose Alvarez and Estela Huete celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of profession in October, 2010.

## Mother Cabrini Region



Marianne Brashinger, (Center, Sitting) a Secular Franciscan, professed since 1974, turned 100 years old on December 19, 2009. Marianne is a member of St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity located in Oak Lawn, Illinois. Marianne was born in Austria in 1909. When she was a child, her family moved to Wisconsin, then on to Chicago. She attended St. Leo grammar school and then went to a trade school instead of high school. She learned how to type and manage an office. She worked in the office of Almore Dye House on Chicago's south side and retired in 1981. Because Marianne is a people person and wanted something to occupy her time, she started volunteering at Little Company of Mary Hospital, in the gift shop, and as a Eucharistic Minister. To this day, Marianne continues to serve the community in the southwest suburbs.

We also celebrate the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of profession of Patrick Mendés, SFO, on April 16 – the same day, in 1209, that St. Francis was professed. Patrick is former Regional Minister, and also former National Minister. Patrick, next year you are golden.

Thank you!

I wish to thank all of you who prayed for Frances during her illness and subsequent death. She received more than 130 sympathy cards, half of them perpetual Mass enrollments - from individual Seculars, local and regional fraternities, and from national and international leaders. She was loved.

## St. Francis Region



Saint Anthony of Padua Fraternity, of San Diego, celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its formation. The fraternity, presently, has more than 40 members.



Joseph Lee, SFO, of St. Anthony of Padua fraternity, San Diego, left his earthly home to be with his heavenly father on April 16.

The picture shows Joseph at the 2007 Quinquennial Congress held in Pittsburgh, celebrating the Multicultural Theme. Joseph

represented the Korean community as a member of the National Multicultural Committee. Comments sent from his SFO brothers and sisters describe Joseph as: cordial, incredibly kind, a man of honor and integrity, a kind and gentle man, a good and gentle man—our brother, exudes a deep spirituality and profound dignity, he gave so much – very enthusiastic, very dedicated and responsible. Joseph will be missed.

St. Anthony of Padua fraternity of Santa Maria celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment (December 16, 1984) on November 21, 2009, with a Mass at the Chapel at the St. Joseph of Cupertino Friary, Arroyo Grande, Provincial, and fraternity Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Christ Dietz, O.F.M. Conv., presiding. The Mass was followed with a banquet at the friary. A “trptych” type panel of the history of the fraternity was displayed.

On April 25, John and Rhoda Dwyer, SFO were professed at a celebration of Holy Mass at the Chapel at the St. Joseph of Cupertino Friary, in Arroyo Grande. Brunch was served following the profession.

# Little Weeds

## PRAYER

By M. Marko, SFO  
camontcu@aol.com  
Brother Jacoba Community  
St. Peter's in the Loop, Chicago, IL



So much has been written about prayer, so many workshops given, so much said, that if I had any sense, I wouldn't even try to write something about it. But I've never been noted for my sense . . . Besides which, the books, workshops, etc. were/are usually presented by someone with theological/liturgical training, some with college degrees, someone who's a priest or a sister – in short, someone you could look up to. So at least this article will be coming from a different direction!

Some of us can just “rap with God;” we feel quite comfy just talking to Him, telling Him how we feel, what we think, etc. Others of us prefer formula prayer because otherwise we can't seem to find the words. Also, as Franciscans, we say an Office, whether it's the very simple 12s or something more complex. The usual “formula” prayers are very lovely and can be an important part of one's prayer life. However, they can pose problems, too. The same can be said of having a prayer routine – it's an excellent idea, but one that can also prove problematic.

Chances are you learned the usual formula prayers when you were quite young. You were told this is how you pray and the words were repeated for you until you could repeat them yourself. You learned them by rote. And many people never outgrow that – years later, they're still praying by rote, by reflex.

Another problem is that, if you ever did take a close look at formula prayers, you'd notice that they're not exactly couched in contemporary language. I mean, you don't really talk like that, do you? And so, it becomes very easy to just say the words, figuring God knows what you mean. He does. But do you?

Prayer is a conversation, a means of communication. So it stands to reason you must know what you're saying. Perhaps, once you've really taken a good look at the prayer, the words will have new meaning for you and will do the job of expressing your feelings. But if you can't figure out what the words hold for you, it stands to reason it's not a very good prayer for you to say. Better you should simply express your feelings in your own words.

There's also the fact that, if you just mouth the words, not really thinking of what you're saying, the words cease to be a prayer and sink to the level of mere syllables. We all know how we want people to pay attention to us when we talk to them; but isn't it true that we also want them to pay attention to us when they talk to us? If you're just rattling the words off by reflex, you're not exactly paying attention to the person you're talking to, are you?

And the problem of routine – what about that? Well, it's quite simple: you must remember that “routine” and “rut” are not synonymous. Sometimes in practice, however, they might as well be. So it's something you have to watch out for. A good prayer routine enhances your prayer life by organizing it and, to some extent, even guaranteeing that you have a prayer life. Prayer is like anything else: if you let it go 'til you have time, you may never pray. Whereas, if you have a definite time/place allotted to it, there's much more of a chance that you'll not only have time but will actually afford it the attention and concentration it deserves. If it's your special prayer time, you're less likely to plan other things for it.

But, again, routine should not become rut. It shouldn't be, “Oh, oh, noontime! The-angel-of-the-Lord-declared-unto-Mary ...” The purpose of a prayer routine is to allow you to concentrate and attend to prayer properly, not to give you special rattle-off-the-words cues during the day.

Finally, and perhaps the most important thing about prayer: it's got to suit you. You know you best. But whether the prayer is short or complex, said on your knees, your back, or your butt, God will listen. He's like any good parent: He loves to hear from His kids!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Celtic Blessing<sup>1</sup>

May the sense of something absent enlarge your soul.  
May your soul be as free as the ever-new wave of the sea.  
May you succumb to the danger of growth.  
May you live in the neighborhood of wonder.  
May you belong to love with the wildness of Dance.  
May you know that you are ever embraced in  
the kind circle of God.

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<sup>1</sup> John O'Donohue, Eternal Echoes, A Cliff Street Book, HarperPerennial, 1982, 50

# Franciscan Living

## FRANCISCAN JOY

By Francine Gikow, SFO, Staff Editor  
gikows@yahoo.com

*“Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others.”<sup>2</sup>*

“Franciscan Joy” is an elusive thing. We talk about it. Know when someone has it. Feel it and want it. But what is it really?

Normally, a joyful person is considered happy. But is happiness the same as joy? I think not. A person can be happy but not have joy. We might be happy when someone gives us a birthday party or we have fun doing something we like, but that is not joy. We are happy (or should be) when we have enough food on the table, meet our housing and clothing needs and have supportive and enriching relationships- that is not joy. In contrast, a person undergoing life challenging chemotherapy is not happy about their situation, but can be joyful at the same time. Happiness is contingent upon a person’s living situation. Joyfulness is not. Happiness is fleeting. Joyfulness is not.

In Francis’ story about Perfect Joy, his description surely would not be considered happiness, as Francis underwent various trials with physical suffering and humiliation. Francis answers the question of what Perfect Joy is with this response: “I tell you this: If I had patience and did not become upset, true joy, as well as true virtue and the salvation of my soul, would consist in this.”<sup>3</sup> How can that be? How can joy be found in suffering and what does Francis mean by saying “if he had patience and not become upset?”

Christ *does* come to us in suffering. He comes to us when we feel lost, forsaken and sinful...when we are open to his love. Just like the disciples were open to Him when they were locked in the upper room after the resurrection. Jesus came to them and said, “Peace be with you.”(John 20:19) The disciples were suffering at the time. They missed their friend. They felt lost and forsaken...rudderless. Then Jesus CAME! He came even though the room was locked, just like our hearts can be locked against Him at times. He came and looked at them with an immense love and said, “Peace be with you!”

Imagine the face of Jesus looking at you...knowing you in your most inmost thoughts. Loving you in spite of and because of, who you are;

Jesus looking at you with a love so immeasurable that our minds cannot understand it, but only try to accept it. Jesus’ love and peace stays with us and changes who we are and what we are.

Because we have the love of God, we have more patience when things do not go our way. Somehow, our wishes do not seem so important when we have God’s love burning in our hearts. Because of the love of God we do not become upset since we remain in God’s love. This is God’s peace.

Remember on the road to Emmaus when the disciples described their recognition of Jesus, when they said, “Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way...?” (Luke 24:32)

It is like that for us as well. Christ speaks to our hearts with His love for us. Our hearts burn within ourselves too when we recognize Christ and His love within us. He shares in our life while we share in His life. Joy is the result. His joy becomes our joy. His love becomes our love. Our suffering becomes joy-filled because we are with Christ and He is with us. Everything else pales in the comparison to His love. We find joy in suffering because of His love.

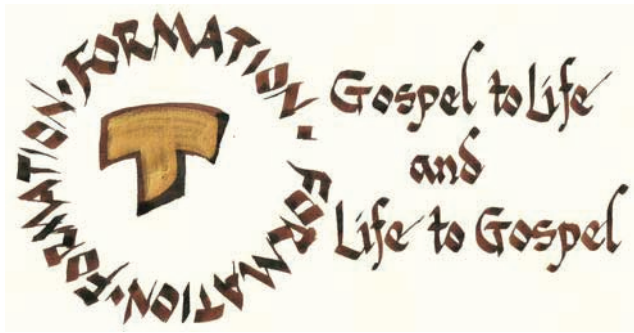
This is what Franciscans mean by “Perfect Joy!” It is far from masochism. It is about love. We are joyful, because we experience God’s love in our lives and share in His suffering and resurrection. His love and joy fill us so completely that they bubble over into joy shared with others. As St. Francis wrote directly to us in the Letter to the Faithful (1,5): “ *O happy and blessed are these men and women while they do such things and persevere in doing them, because the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon them and make Its home and dwelling place among them...*”

Not only do we have Jesus with us, but we are assured that the Spirit will “make Its home and dwelling place among (us).” The Spirit stays with us permanently as long as we cooperate with grace. We are filled more and more with Christ’s love and therefore His joy!

Joy is not only a fruit of God’s grace, but it is joined with peace, a feeling of contentment no matter what happens to us, for we are beloved by God. Joy can also be a decision, when we decide over and over again to remember Christ’s love and share it with others. As Secular Franciscans, we choose to be joy filled people because we are lovers of God and in this way we bring hope to others.

<sup>2</sup> Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, Chap. II, 19.

<sup>3</sup> All quotes from St. Francis taken from: *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, The Saint*. Ed. By R. Armstrong et al. New York: New City Press, 1999.



**“Forming the Formators – Part 2”  
the CIOFS Formation Project**

**By Bob “Fitz” Fitzimmons, SFO  
National Formation Chair  
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As we continue to move toward our first workshops (2011), “Forming the Formators” is the first part of the new plan for Initial Formation, I, again, want to share with you all the comments and thoughts of CIOFS, and the General Chapter/Council of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The topic of this Tau Formation segment is to give you all an understanding of the will of the General Chapter concerning formation for all who would become Secular Franciscans. The following excerpts are from the CIOFS “Forming the Formators” material:

**THE PROJECT FOR THE INITIAL  
FORMATION OF SECULAR FRANCISCANS**

The project approved by the Commission and by the Presidency was aimed at reaching the following objectives:

- To Prepare a **UNIFIED AND HOMOGENEOUS INITIAL FORMATION PROJECT** to be offered to, and be used by, the **OFS (SFO) Formators** in the whole world, covering all the **essential fundamental elements** which must characterize secular Franciscans to be recognized as such, wherever they are, by their “being” and their formation, and not so much because they simply wear a Tau or practice Franciscan devotions or frequent Franciscan Churches.
- To Form **CONTINENTAL or NATIONAL FORMATORS** who, in turn, will establish **similar INITIAL FORMATION programs for regional and/or local formators**, by implementing all the **necessary cultural adaptations**, without altering or betraying the spirit and the letter of the International program.

- To Develop the project by preparing a well organized **plan of studies and spiritual formation**, which should be codified into a manual and/or a series of studying and prayer aids.

**THE OBJECTIVE OF THE COURSES (OUR NATIONAL WORKSHOPS)** has been, and is, to shape up a well delineated program to achieve the three following goals:

1. Authentically live a true **LIFE OF FRATERNITY**
2. Deeply live a true **LIFE OF PERSONAL AND COMMON PRAYER**
3. Lead an intense **LIFE OF STUDY**

**LIFE OF FRATERNITY AND LIFE OF PRAYER**

**PRAYER** has to be an essential part of the program allowing communal prayer and individual spaces for meditation and contemplation.

The fundamental elements of the Course have to be lived and implemented by creating suitable spaces dedicated to individual, collective and liturgical prayer. By sharing experiences and living together during one whole week (or less according to the particular situations), the participants have a formidable opportunity to form a true, though temporary, Fraternity.

The course has to be an authentic **SCHOOL OF FRATERNITY**, and a true spirit of simplicity and openness in our mutual approach must characterize the Courses.

We have to learn how to transmit to one another a strongly **contagious** enthusiasm (a true *seraphic fire*) to pass this *fire of love, joy and belonging* on to the others when we return to our homes.

We have to approach formation with the understanding that formation is not only the learning of doctrinal subjects (although essential). We need to be formed in **essential values** that can be learned only by living them.

The **spirit of prayer and contemplation** cannot be learned from books.

The **living spirit of Fraternity** cannot be learned from books.

The **perfection of love** cannot be learned from books.

Study will help us learn about the “models.” It will offer all the essential background of formation, but the living experience is something else. And this “something else” will have to be strongly present in our courses.



## LIFE OF STUDY

Holiness is not a synonym of learning but a sharing into God's life and holiness, and *God gives to his beloved whatever he wants when they sleep* (Ps 127). In any case, while endeavoring unceasingly with all our strength to grow in prayer, contemplation and holiness, by accepting and using God's grace, we have a fundamental obligation to study, as art. 9 of the GG.CC. recites.

We should never forget that the Church expects us to fulfill our mission to be at the forefront of its action in the world.

We are *an instrument of the Church* and, because of this, we have to keep constantly abreast with its Magisterium and its breath.

It is important to re-underline that this [*initial phase*] is designed **as course for formators** and not for each and every Secular Franciscan in the world.

Formators will have to be specially prepared persons who, subsequently, will have to use their best judgment to adapt and to offer whatever their brothers and sisters, locally, need, **making sure they offer, at least, the absolutely essential rudiments** to become, be and be recognized as **true secular Franciscans**, throughout the world. \*\*\* END of CIOFS comments\*\*\*

It is in this spirit that the National Formation Commission along with the gracious assistance of some of our own formation directors, have worked to adapt the CIOFS materials for use here and to serve the needs of formation in the U.S. As a Nation, we have an abundance of formation materials at our disposal, yet formation at times still seems hit and miss, without a sense of what core elements are needed to understand our Franciscan and Secular tradition. This project moves us closer to being able to delineate those essential elements required for all of our formation programs and will also attempt to provide some of the training and background needed by our formation directors, so we might better assist our sisters and brothers to be "recognized as true Secular Franciscans."

*Pace - Bob Fitzsimmons SFO*

## AN ENVIRONMENTAL TIP FROM THE GREEN FRANCISCAN

By Sister Janet Corcoran, OSF

In 2007, approximately 130 million bicycles were produced throughout the world, which was about twice the 52 million cars manufactured. Bicycle production has noted an increase in the last six years. However, according to the latest United States Census figures from 2006, people in this country commute only one half of one percent by bike.

Due to the rising cost of gas, traveling by bicycle means saving money. For example, operating a car for a year is costly compared to using a bicycle. If approximately one out of ten commuters switched to walking or riding a bike, about 2 billion gallons of gas would be saved yearly.

A large percentage of gas usage occurs during commutes to the office/work when rush hour traffic is taking place, and the stopping, idling, and starting of the vehicle uses more fuel. When the environment is congested, i.e. as in rush hour traffic, it is often quicker to travel by bike when it is within a five-mile range, as usually one can travel on secondary roads and paths often arriving in less time. When reviewing one's weekly errands, consider the ones you can do by bike instead of by car. A bike trailer or a basket will encourage you to use the bike for chores as well as exercise.

Bicycling is a healthy activity, which is therapeutic for the body, mind, and spirit and is known to improve cardio-vascular health. Bicycling is a great fitness activity that can burn approximately 350 to 700 calories per hour.

Bicycling is also an environmentally friendly activity. For example, carbon dioxide emissions would be reduced by 25.4 million tons a year if one out of ten car commuters switched to bicycling or walking, therefore reducing air pollution and enhancing our air quality. In addition, bicycling reduces water pollution, as bikes do not drip transmission fluids, anti-freeze, brake fluids, etc. Bicycling is a healthy, environmentally friendly activity to consider in one's daily life. St. Francis, one of the first environmentalists, would applaud such an action.

# Classic Franciscan

By Julia Pearson, SFO  
Human Interest Editor



**Richard Morton, SFO**  
**National Minister, 1991-1997**

Richard's Psalm for Living:

"...grant me a generous heart, O, my Friend and Teacher, for I would give freely of my time and energy in your Name." from Psalms for Praying by Nan C. Merrill. Born and raised in the heartland of America in Gary, Indiana, the former National Minister of the Secular Franciscan Order, Richard Morton, carried the beliefs and flavor of his childhood throughout his life. Richard is the oldest of five children born to Clair and Blanche Morton. An enduring influence in his life was his father. Richard describes him as a peaceful, gentle parent who loved nature. He had a quiet steadiness that led to his baptism as a Roman Catholic on the Sunday before his death. Clair Morton was just 63 years old when Sister Death took him by the hand and led him into the next world.

While pursuing a degree in electrical engineering at Purdue University, Richard met his future wife, Karol, who was also one of five children. They married during their senior year on September 7, 1957. Upon graduating in 1958, he and Karol left Purdue for his first job in Long Branch, New Jersey at the US Army Signal Research Development Labs at Fort Monmouth. Everything they owned was packed in their trusty 1947 Chevrolet, with the ironing board stretching between them through to the back seat. Their son, Michael, was born in New Jersey.

Accepting a position with Honeywell in 1959, the Mortons loaded up the same 1947 Chevrolet and moved just 300 miles south of the Canadian border to Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, where they still make their home today. Their own brood of five children: Michael, Susan, William, Katherine, and Barbara, have increased the family with eight grandchildren who are aged from 4 to 25 years.

Richard and Karol were professed as Secular Franciscans 40 years ago on March 30, 1970 in St. Patrick's Church in Inver Grove Heights. Their fraternity - St. Thomas More Fraternity - was established at the same time. It was made up of three young couples and a young woman. Richard was the first minister of the fraternity. A year after his profession, he became Provincial Minister of the Immaculate Conception Province.

After retiring from Honeywell, Richard accepted nomination for National Minister and, subsequently, was elected (in 1991). He describes the richness of the experiences in the variety of leadership roles he has held in the Secular Franciscan Order. Standing out is a distinct memory of walking up to the registration table at the 1972 Quinquennial Congress held in Santa Clara, California, and being graciously and warmly welcomed by Anthony and Mary Mazotti.

Individuals are precious to Richard. He speaks of Brother Juniper, one of the simplest yet most generous followers of St. Francis. Happily reading a children's book, Brother Juniper, written by Diane Gibfried and illustrated by Meilo So, it is evident that Richard has a Juniper's lightness and heart. In the story, Brother Juniper gives away everything in the chapel when the Brothers are away, including his own clothes. Finding him standing naked in the empty shell of a building, the other Brothers chastise Juniper. But soon, the church is filled with children, a teacher, a baker - everyone who received something from Juniper returns to the church, bringing others with them. Recalling that Francis of Assisi said he wished for "a whole forest of Junipers," Richard Morton says that Brother Juniper is a model as we as Seculars start to rebuild our church.





### **New Book by Pam Zyromski, SFO**

Page Zyromski, professed as a Secular Franciscan since 1983, has a new book, *How to Pray with the Bible*, published by Paraclete Press. Page is currently Minister of Brother Jacopa Fraternity in Mentor, Ohio. She says she studied a lot of Latin and Greek to get her Master's in Classical Languages from St. Louis University, but it wasn't until seven years later that she "fell in love" with the Bible and started applying her education to the Scriptures. Only after her three children had flown the nest was she able to go back and study Hebrew with a Jewish rabbi in order to fulfill her dream of reading the Psalms in the original language. She has taught the Bible at just about every level, from designing Vocational Bible School programs for preschool and primary students, all the way to teaching "Introduction to the Bible at the college level. Her enthusiasm for the Bible also overflowed into her writing as a catechist and her job as Contributing Editor of *Catechist* magazine, a position she held for many years.

The 118-page book is in a conversational style, with reflection questions at the end of each chapter. Its format can easily be adapted to group Bible study, or used for individual spiritual growth. Page uses many quotes from the saints, whom she loves, equally St. Francis of Assisi whose, "Praise to Be Said at All Hours" is the climax of the book.

How to pray with the Bible is available at all major booksellers and at amazon.com. This is Page's 8<sup>th</sup> book; she is also author of over 600 published articles.

### **An Act of Gratitude**

A very old man went out one day onto the land beside his house, and began planting a tree. A young man walked by.

"What are you doing?" the young man asked.

"Planting a tree," the old man replied.

"But you will not see the fruit in your lifetime," the young man said.

"The fruit that I have enjoyed in my lifetime," the old man answered, "has been from trees that people before me planted. So to express my gratitude to them, I am planting trees to give fruit to those who come after me."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Van De Weyer, Robert (Compiler), *Celtic Parables*, Northstone, 1998, 59

### **The Irish Franciscans**

Last year, 2009, a new book titled *The Irish Franciscans, 1534-1990* was published by Four Courts Press in coincidence with the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Franciscan Order.

The book has been edited by Edel Bhreathnach, Joseph MacMahon and John McCafferty. It has been very warmly received in Ireland and Europe and has now arrived in our warehouse in America.

To mark the worldwide celebration of the Order's foundation, this volume examines all aspects of the Irish Franciscans and their impact in Ireland and on the Continent. It includes chronological accounts of their history from 1534 to 1990 and thematic studies on their legacy in historical writings, hagiography, catechism, philosophy, Irish literature, missionary work, art and architecture. The volume also covers the history of the Poor Clares and the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO) in Ireland. Particular attention is given to the history and the legacy of St. Anthony's College Louvain founded by the Irish Franciscans in 1607.

Contributors to the volume are: Patrick Conlan OFM, Bernadette Cunningham, Mary E. Daly, Ignatius Fennessy OFM, Raymond Gillespie, Malgorzata Krasnodebska-D'Aughton, Colm Lennon, Mary Ann Lyons, Micheál MacCraith OFM, Joseph MacMahon OFM, Michael O'Neill, Pádraig Ó Riain, Salvador Ryan and Martin Stone.

If you have any questions about this or any Four Courts Press title, please access our website: [www.fourcourtspress.ie](http://www.fourcourtspress.ie).

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### **The Ladies in Waiting Apostolate**

(Submitted by Luke Amato, SFO)

Don Stoeckle, SFO – Coordinator  
San Damiano Fraternity  
Sun City Center, Florida

This apostolate is a loving labor of prayer for women who want children either by conception or adoption.

As a Secular Franciscan for over 53 years, Don Stoeckle has been promulgating this program, storming heaven for successful pregnancies, safe deliveries and/or adoptions.

If you or someone you know needs such prayers, you may access the following website: [www.TheLadiesInWaitingApostolate.FaithWeb.com](http://www.TheLadiesInWaitingApostolate.FaithWeb.com)

# Poets are We

## Thoughtfully

Frances Misuraca (Wicks)  
Senior, St. Joseph Academy, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi  
National High School Poetry Assn. - 1957

Out of an open window  
Penetrates  
A dreamer's thoughtful glance.  
Dealing with future plans  
That could only happen by chance.  
Yet, while those unseeing eyes unfold  
Dreams that they want above all to hold,  
The rest of the world goes about unaware  
Of a silent longing, and a secret care

## The Master Artist

Mary Clare Potthast, sfo

Winter white, summer green,  
And many colors in between.  
A rainbow world is what I see,  
Its colors blended skillfully:  
Spring is done in pastel shades,  
Autumn shines in red and gold.  
The Master Artist is at work  
Making each new scene unfold,  
To please our eyes and lift our hearts,  
So let's give thanks when each day starts,  
For all the beauty that we see,  
God's great gift to you and me.

## Lady Poverty

Gary Simpson, sfo

Regarded by all  
As being without Prospects  
As lacking appeal  
She found an ardent suitor  
In the knight of Assisi

## Rosary

Dale Driscoll, sfo

Grace comes like a fresh spring breeze,  
A scent of lilacs fills my soul  
Rises to heaven as quick prayers do,  
Through and past all afflictions.  
I see our dear mother Mary  
Toward the end of earthly life.  
She is seated on a garden bench.  
Lilies-of-the-field in her old veined hands;  
As she ponders the mysteries of her life  
My fingers caress the worn wooden beads:  
Grace blossoms in the shadows of sadness.

## Take Your Time

Frances Wicks, sfo

I've had my time.  
You take yours!  
Enjoy, enjoy-  
Enjoy the gift!  
Take Time to laugh  
And love.  
Love and laugh.  
It goes by  
Pretty Quick!



## Tree Roots

Joseph J. Bonowski, sfo

The Tree,  
Its roots firmly bound  
Beneath the ground

Its limbs  
Hard and strong  
Burst to the sky  
To Thirst

But I  
With one foot in the sand  
Do vainly demand  
To fly

## Against the Grain

John Robert McCray, sfo

Francis ran naked toward the surrounding wood,  
Only stopping after he knew he stood  
One with Wonder, one with Good.

He'd gone farther than they thought he could,  
But not as far as he knew he would  
To stay lost in Wonder, lost in Good.

Always willing to be misunderstood,  
He only did what he was told he should,  
Following wonder, following Good,

Just do what God's word says to do,  
And the same thing can happen to you.  
And before long you won't mind  
For you, too, will have left the world behind  
Truly finding what's to gain  
By living against the grain.

"A poet can survive everything but a misprint" Oscar Wilde

## Spring

A. Emer Gearhart, sfo

The buds have come to rest upon the branches  
Swaying in a subtle breeze  
Winters barren wood  
Is touched with hues of dappled green.  
From open sky of solid blue  
The sun shines upon the scene  
Like early dew on a field of dry grass.  
Natures birthing new  
Innocent as a child's laugh.  
Seems 'tis all a lucid dream  
This season has found precious spring.

## A Prayer in Spring

Robert Frost

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;  
And give us not to think so far away  
As the uncertain harvest, keep us her  
All simply in the springing of the year.  
...For this is love and nothing else is love,  
The which is reserved for God above  
To sanctify to what far ends he will,  
But which it only needs that we fulfill.

## O Summer's Day

Emily Dickenson

The bee is not afraid of me,  
I know the butterfly,  
The pretty people in the woods  
Receive me cordially.  
The brooks laugh louder when I come,  
The breezes madder play.  
Wherefore, mine eyes, thy silver mists?  
Wherefore, O Summer's day?

# EXPLORING

## Things Franciscan



+ CNSA News & Views +

Lester Bach OFM Cap

### **Spiritual Assistant's Congress**

PSA's - RSA's - Local Spiritual Assistants

Sponsored by the  
Conference of National Spiritual Assistants  
CNSA

**DATE** - September 15-18, 2010

**PLACE** - *Our Lady of Peace Retreat*  
3600 Southwest 17th Ave  
Beaverton, OR 97006-5099  
503-649-7127

(Portland International Airport - PDX)

**COST** - \$275

Register now! Space is limited. The CNSA secretary is handling registrations and will include a sheet for your travel arrangements to facilitate getting to the Retreat Center. Questions? Contact the CNSA executive secretary:

Cecilia Maljan SFO  
1111 Freyburg St  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
(412) 431-4404  
cylmaljan@carthlink.net

Part of the program will include two non-friar spiritual assistants sharing their experiences as local spiritual assistants.

In a group session we will explore the *signs of the times* as we see them. What are they telling us? What is most needed for our role as SA's? What issues are raised by the *signs of the times* that confront SA's at this point in time? We hope to have good discussions so that we all share in developing issues that are important for our *vital reciprocity and life-giving union* with the SFO.

A collaborative effort will develop insights to prepare for our future service within the Franciscan Family. Common sharing, both of problems and possible solutions, will enable us to take concrete steps in our role as spiritual assistants at the various levels.

*We encourage the participation of the local spiritual assistants who are able to join us, as well as Provincial and Regional Spiritual assistants who are expected to attend.*

### **Mercy - Scripture / Franciscan sources**

Our belief in God's mercy is found in Scripture. We need not "plead" for God's mercy since our loving God always shows mercy. Franciscan tradition invites us to show mercy. Scripture calls us to practice mercy if we wish to imitate Jesus and the Trinity. Mercy is an obvious quality of the Trinity.

*How great is the Lord's mercy, and his forgiveness to those who turn to him! (Sirach 17:29)*

*Go and learn what this text means: "I require mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners." (MT 9:13)*

*In the tender compassion (mercy) of our God the dawn from on high will break upon us, to shine on those who live in darkness ... and to guide our feet into the way of peace. (LK 1:78-79)*

*But God is rich in mercy, and because of his great love for us, he brought us to life with Christ when we were dead because of our sins; it is by his grace that you are saved. (Ephesians 2:4-5)*

*Once you were not a people at all; but now you are God's people. Once you were outside his mercy; but now you are outside no longer. (1 Peter 2:10)*

*Keep yourselves in the love of God, and look forward to the day when the Lord Jesus Christ, in his mercy, will give eternal life. (Jude 1:21)*

The following writing by Francis proclaims the need for mercy in his letter to a minister of the Order. He calls all Franciscans to show mercy. His words resonate with Franciscans and invite us to show mercy which is part of our Franciscan heritage.

*... I wish to know in this way if you love the Lord and me, His servant and yours: that there is not a brother in the world who has sinned - however much he could have sinned - who, after he has looked into your eyes, would ever depart without*

*your mercy, if he is looking for mercy. And if he were not looking for mercy, you would ask him if he wants mercy. And if he would sin a thousand times before your eyes, love him more than me so that you may draw him to the Lord; and always be merciful with brothers such as these.*

*A Letter to a Minister*  
Francis of Assisi - The Saint - Page 97-98

Franciscans practice MERCY as part of our way of life. Scripture and the spirit of Francis call us to be merciful. No matter how difficult it may be, we show mercy as one way to bring people to know, love and follow Jesus' words and the spirit of Francis.

### Caring for life

By their vocation Franciscans seek ways and means to create an atmosphere where life is protected and supported from its conception to the time when Sister Death enters the room of our lives. No matter what point life is at, we are concerned that life is lived in a way that is human, humane and protected from violence of any kind. Franciscans support life by positive attitudes and perspectives. Life is God's special gift to us no matter what stage of life we are at.

This will require us to use our gifts and talents to enhance and protect human life at all its stages. Since we can't do everything, we may choose one or the other period of life as our special place of ministry. Simultaneously, we will find ourselves supporting others who dedicate themselves to minister to different stages of life. St. Paul gives us a motto: *Whatever happens, let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ ...* (Philippians 1:27)

This openness to the wide needs of the human person is our Franciscan way of implementing the Vatican II document: *Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern world*. Here is a part of the text approved by the Pope and the gathered Bishops that shows loving concern for life at all its stages.

*The varieties of crime (against life) are numerous: all offenses against life itself, such as murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia, and willful suicide; all violations of the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, physical and mental torture, undue psychological pressures; all offenses against human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children, degrading*

*working conditions where people are treated as mere tools for profit rather than free and responsible persons; all these and the like are criminal; they poison civilization; and they debase the perpetrators more than the victims and militate against the honor of the creator.*

*Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*  
*Gaudium et Spes - Vatican II - Paragraph 27*

The crimes listed here sound like sound-bites on the daily news. Our world sometimes respects greed more than life; or profit more than justice; or ignores evil more than finding ways to diminish evil. Life is threatened in many ways. Franciscans seek ways to change that situation without creating new enemies.

As Franciscans we will deal with anything that diminishes or destroys life. Since our human limitations do not allow us to be involved in all the ministries seeking to protect life, we will choose areas that fit our God-given gifts. Good discernment will help us decide where to minister.

At the same time we will support people dedicated to protecting life at other levels. This is the healthy *both/and* Franciscan approach to life. Dedicated *Both* to the area we choose *and* supporting others who serve at different stages of human life. Franciscans find this to be a normal result of their Trinitarian spirituality - trying to love as the Trinity loves - unconditionally!

Thus we can maintain a loving relationship within our Franciscan family as well as relating to people who are not Franciscans. Our ability to help and support one another illustrates the practical implementation of a loving spirit. It is one of the ways of evangelization where example speaks as loudly as words. Hopefully we will become *seraphic lovers!*

In the face of present-day challenges, we can be misled in our enthusiasm if prayer is absent from our lives. In dealing with social issues it is easy to forget how God has called Franciscans to "be" in our ministries. We bring our ideas, ideals and dedication to our loving God. In personal prayer and prayerful discernment we learn to express a Franciscan spirit as we deal with specific issues related to human life.

*As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation "be the soul" of all they are and do!*

SFO Rule #8



## REFLECTIONS ON MY OWN DIALOGUE WITH HARE KRISHNAS

By Ed Shirley, SFO, Chair  
elssfo@hotmail

As I type this, I am getting ready to leave for Washington, DC, where I will take part in the annual Vaishnava (Hindu)-Christian dialogue group that is partly sponsored by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. My history with this group goes back several years, when I was invited to give a paper. This is a small, by-invitation group that has built up a history together, and has grown into a very special community: we truly care for each other, and pray for each other's needs.

The community consists of scholars, pastors, and people involved in campus ministry and social ministries. The Christians are Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran and other. The Hindus are Vaishnavas, that is, they believe in God is personal, (their name for God is Vishnu), who loves the world and comes to earth in human form. The most famous of these avatars, or incarnations, is Krishna. One line of Vaishnavas worships Krishna as the Supreme form of God. Among this group are the Hare Krishnas.

The Hare Krishnas have come a long way since they began in this country in Manhattan, and were seen in every major airport in the country. Like the early Franciscans, they took their message to the street and relied on the contributions. Like the early Franciscans, they were often ridiculed, and even attacked. The group I meet with every year are devotees who want to get back in touch with their intellectual tradition, rather like SFO's who are re-discovering Bonaventure and Duns Scotus. One of them, a man with a PhD in philosophy and a delightful sense of humor, is their equivalent of a cardinal in the Curia.

Each year, one Vaishnava and one Christian give related papers, and then we discuss the issues raised. We have discussed many topics over the years: attitudes toward other religions, attitudes toward atheism, secularism and consumerism. The year I gave my paper, the focus was why God would become human to teach us how to be true disciples. We rejoice in our similarities, we celebrate our differences.

All of this makes me remember my first encounters with the Hare Krishnas. I had visited their temple in St. Louis, and when they appeared on the campus of the University of Missouri in Columbia, I invited them to stay in my dorm room (breaking many school rules, by the way). I still remember one fellow in the dorm saying, "There was a bald guy in a bathrobe, sitting in the stairway, saying 'Harry Reasoner, Harry Reasoner,' over and over." I always enjoyed discussions with my visitors. I remember talking about the similarities between chanting Hare Krishna on beads and praying the Rosary (their understanding of chanting the Name of Krishna, by the way, is very similar to Louis de Montfort's teaching about "The Angelic Salutation.") One of my visitors explained how they believed that true teachers could be traced from disciple to teacher until you got back to Krishna himself: "This is what Catholics believe about Peter and the pope," he said. He explained that when they ask Krishna to bless their food, Krishna dwells in it, and we consume his energies: "That's the Catholic idea of Communion," he said. In one conversation, a man following a Hindu path reminded me of the Catholic ideas of Apostolic Succession and Real Presence.

I've since had many visits with Krishna devotees, some official, some on the street. I am always impressed with their simplicity and sincerity. They are really trying to live "the Vedic life." It reminds me of Francis simply wanting to live the Gospel. They continually read and reflect on their main Scripture, the Bhagavad Gita, going, as it were, from Gita to life and from life to Gita. One local Hare Krishna said that their goal was, "in the words of my Catholic friends," to recognize the sacramentality of daily life. Do we agree on everything? Of course not. Do we learn from and inspire each other? You betcha.

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## ***Singing our Theme - “Celebrate Youth”***

By Elaine and Jan Parker

We are excited to have already heard from some fraternities how they are living out this year’s theme of “Celebrate Youth”. In just six months when we gather again as a National Fraternity we will acknowledge and celebrate ALL the ways our fraternities took this theme to heart – in fact we would like to sing about it! To make this happen, we will need to hear from you.

By September 1<sup>st</sup> we ask that each local fraternity submit to their Regional Minister a few sentences summarizing their response to this year’s theme. With the help of some SFO troubadours we hope these sentences can be put into song (or at least compiled in a little book). This “theme song” will be sung with pride at our NAFRA gathering in October.

### **Why a theme?**

Choosing a theme for this year is something that everyone at our last NAFRA gathering supported. The idea behind a theme is this:

- A theme is an issue of importance, not that other issues are not important or that this is “the” most important issue, but a theme is chosen for a reason.
- A theme unites local fraternities across the country as we focus on a common idea.
- A theme excites and motivates as it encourages us towards a specific goal.
- A theme is an ongoing blessing as it is recurrent – it is there in our thoughts and actions “off and on” throughout the year.
- A theme provides us something “concrete” to celebrate.

So far this year our theme is like the first few notes of a beautiful musical piece. The first notes have been played and it is up to each fraternity to add notes until, measure by measure, the song is completed. We await “your measure” so that we will be able to hear the entire song this coming October.

### **Ideas to “Celebrate Youth”**

As a National Fraternity, we have responded by donating to the Franciscan Mission Service thus sponsoring Nora Pfeiffer who is serving in Bolivia. In this issue of the TAU you can read how St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in St. Louis reached out to students on a service trip. In both of these outreach endeavors please note that youth were made aware of the Secular Franciscan Order and what we are about. This is so important! In our work with youth we need to plant those seeds of “awareness of the SFO” and let the Holy Spirit take it from there!

How is your fraternity responding to this year’s theme? Still searching for an idea of how to “Celebrate Youth”? In addition to the suggestions on the FYYA website, consider the following:

- Make an appointment for several members of your fraternity to talk with a parish Youth Minister about how to support the youth in that parish.
- Give financial support to a youth for a retreat or service trip, and then ask that they come and talk at your next SFO gathering.
- Host a “Feast of St. Francis” coloring contest or give a peace award.
- Chaperone a youth event, or work side-by-side with youth on a service project and share with them about your SFO vocation.
- For your ongoing formation read and discuss Articles 96 and 97 of our SFO Constitutions that deal with Youth.

Let’s all jump on the bandwagon so that come this October we will be able to sing how we “celebrated youth” in 2010. We would not expect new Youth Groups to be formed by that time, although we never rule out miracles, but we do trust that each local fraternity will report on how they have responded to our theme. So let our song be sweet and let our song be strong, for our future is to be found in our Youth!

NATIONAL FRANCISCAN YOUTH  
YOUNG/ADULT COUNCIL  
[www.franciscanyouthusa.com](http://www.franciscanyouthusa.com)  
[franciscanyouthusa@hotmail.com](mailto:franciscanyouthusa@hotmail.com)  
Facebook – YouFra America

# HUMOR PAGE

By Dolores Cullen, SFO

*Give me a sense of humor, Lord,  
Give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some humor out of life,  
And pass it on to other folk.*

## TIME AND TIME AGAIN

Every calendar's days are numbered.

The trouble with being punctual is that there is nobody there to appreciate it.

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to ice skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

TOMORROW: One of the greatest labor-saving devices of today.

He who hesitates is probably right.

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

I used to work in technical support for a 24/7 call center. One day I got a call from an individual who asked what hours the call center was open. I told him, "The number you dialed is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week." He responded, "Is that Eastern or Pacific time?" Wanting to end the call quickly, I said, "Uh, Pacific."

Never put off until tomorrow what you can avoid altogether.

Life is short but a smile takes barely a second.

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. -- George Burns

How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

On a Church's Billboard: "7 days without God makes one weak."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.

Every morning is the dawn of a new error.

Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.

How does direct-pay change that comparison? Frightening!

Time heals almost everything. Give time time.

## WORDS WOMEN USE - FIVE MINUTES

If she is getting dressed, this is half an hour, but five minutes is only five minutes if you have just been given 5 more minutes to watch the game before helping around the house.

By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.

## REMOTE CONTROL (ri-moht kon-troh) n.

Female....A device for changing from one TV channel to another.

Male....A device for scanning through all 375 channels every 5 minutes.

Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.

A woodpecker can peck up to 500 times per minute or 8 times per second. (Now THAT'S using your head!)

The doctor gave a man six months to live. The man couldn't pay his bill, so the doctor gave him another six months.

# The Promoter

William Wicks, SFO  
NAFRA Historian

When you ponder the word “Promoter,” what comes to mind? One thought could be of the famous Don King, the boxing promoter with his famous hair-do, or perhaps a promoter of a rock band concert – an elephant act barker at a circus, or a football player’s agent, a la Jerry McGuire.

But, *did you know*, that the Promoter was a highly regarded position within the Third Order of St. Francis during the mid-decades of the twentieth century?

Yes, as you suspect, a Promoter in the ranks of the Third Order did, in fact, promote the Third Order. But that was not the extent of his/her ministry. At the 1962 Federated Congress (Quinquennial Congress), held in Detroit, Michigan, Janet Davis moderated a workshop on Promoting Tertiariism. She defined the Promoter System as twofold: (1) the effort to make effective and fruitful the apostolic work of the fraternity, to keep members faithful to their vocations and (2), to interest others of the faithful outside the fraternity in the life and work of the Third Order, to recruit new members.

Marie Amore, SFO, provides for us more detail with her article titled *What is a Promoter?* published in the February 1965 edition of The Poverello, the St. Bonaventure (of Detroit) fraternity newsletter. Marie wrote: “It has been said that the fraternity is the body, the Council its head, and the promoters are its hands and feet...The fraternity is divided into districts, or areas, [recall that some fraternities had as many as 2000 members]. Each promoter has a list of names, addresses and phone numbers of the professed tertiaries in his own parish and a few nearby parishes. These people are to consider the promoter as a personal representative of the Fraternity. The promoter calls them for rosaries for the dead. He will call if a member has been absent without an excuse from two months meetings. He will inquire about illness, or to see if transportation or some fraternity help is needed. He will call his people if some important event necessitates a phone message. In time, his people should feel free to call him for information concerning the Third Order.”

In the July 1973 edition of the Franciscan Herald and Forum, Mark Beckford offers lessons on diplomatic interfacing with the local pastor regarding promoting the Third Order in his parish. Mr. Beckford suggests that the Promoter (Captain of a Promotion team)

should make an appointment with the pastor and leave a copy of the Rule and other promotional material with him, and should remind the pastor that Third Order mothers and daughters will help mold their children to become good citizens and good parishioners. He should ask the pastor if he can leave pamphlets in the church book rack, pass out pamphlets after Mass, permit a homily on the Way of Life during Mass, permit advertising in the church bulletin, speak to the various church organizations, etc.

And the Promoter does, in fact, “recruit” prospective members. In an unsigned paper, dated 1957, found in the SFO archives at St. Bonaventure, the following advice is given: “Don’t, just right off, ask a prospect to join the Third Order. First tell him about St. Francis – Did you know that St. Francis built the first Christmas Creche? Next time you see him, talk again about St. Francis and give him a pamphlet to read in his own time. After a while, invite him to a meeting, and about four days before the meeting, write him a reminder note.”

I am sure there are promoters in fraternities today, not in an official capacity, but there are people who invite others to meetings. And, we do have the 1-800 FRANCIS information, and referral, number, answered by none other than Marie Amore. And we do have a website. But having a Promoter, as an official position in each fraternity, seems to me, an idea whose time has come - again.

## A Summer Seminar for SFOs

Endorsed by the National Executive Council of the SFO  
Presenters:

**Fr. Joseph Nangle, OFM and  
Pat Brandwein-Ball, SFO**

Thursday evening, **June 24, 2010** – Sunday lunch, **June 27, 2010**  
**St. Francis University**  
**Loretto, PA**

**Registration limited to 100 participants!**  
**Absolutely no registrations accepted after**  
**June 12, 2010!**

**Contact person for registering:**  
**Cecilia Maljan, SFO, 1111 Freyburg Street,**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1211**

**Questions? Contact Diane Rombouts, St. Francis**  
**University’s Institute of Contemporary Franciscan Life,**  
**(814) 472-3219**  
**E-mail icfl@francis.edu**



## Working With Youth

Cathy Maley, SFO, Secretary  
St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity  
Oakville, Missouri

In early spring, a group of students from Padua High School in Cleveland, Ohio, journeyed with their chaperone to St. Louis to assist the Friars Minor in their ministry with the Franciscan Connection. They were also assisted by two young Vincentian Lay Volunteers.

The "Connection" ministers to low-income individuals/families in sprucing up their homes/apartments. The students painted, spackled walls, and cleaned. Their exuberance in sacrificial love is truly inspiring! The St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity provided dinner and dessert for them. Brother Donald, OFM, shared a local news video report about the Poor Clares, who live in our area. The SFO's also shared the meaning of their vocation with the visitors. The Church of the future looks bright in the hands of the young, dedicated to meeting challenges with their faith and witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus in the world.

### **Please continue to pray for Haiti and the victims of the Earthquake.**

As of Tuesday, Mar. 30, 2010, \$15,907 has been donated. Thank you for your generosity. Donations may be sent to Dennis Ross, SFO, National Treasurer. Make checks payable to NAFRA and note **For Haiti Relief** on the comment line.

**MAIL CHECK to:**  
Dennis Ross, SFO  
8933 Trailwood Court  
Mentor, Ohio 44060-2131



## Franciscan Family Apostolate

Submitted by Patricia Nealon, SFO

The Franciscan Family Apostolate was founded by Alan Ouimet, SFO, as response of the Secular Franciscan Order (S.F.O.) to the plight of the poor in the Third World. Following its founder, Saint Francis of Assisi, the poor Christ is found in the faces and lives of the poor and oppressed of the world. The Franciscan Family Apostolate's mission is to encourage a witness to the Gospel life preached by Jesus – the care and concern for the stranger in need regardless of race, color, religion or country of origin.

In 1987 the Franciscan Family Apostolate became an independent 501(c)3 charity upon receipt of its tax exempt status from the IRS with the following stated goals:

1. To alleviate poverty, provide financial support and assistance to needy individuals and families in the Third World through outreach programs and related activities;
2. To develop and implement similar outreach programs in the United States;
3. Lastly, to develop and implement educational programs in Third World countries and in the United States to provide occupational training.

The Franciscan Family Apostolate presently assists over 900 destitute families in the district of Alleppey, Kerala, South India with monthly food subsidies, housing, medical attention and self-development programs. For more information please look at the web site [www.openhearts.org](http://www.openhearts.org).

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The true lover is the one  
who on your final day  
opens a thousand doors

Rumi





Your Franciscan Action Network Representatives

(L – R) Ken Beattie, Francesca Wigal (TSSF),  
Dan Mulholland, Carolyn Townes, Stephanie Somane

**Regional Roundup**  
(Continued)

**Our Lady of Angels Region**

Submitted by Marie Palazzone, SFO, Fraternity Minister

St. John Vianney Fraternity celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on August 30, 2009 with a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Bonaventure Church, Patterson, N.J. The principal celebrant was Fr. Richard Trezza, O.F.M. Following the liturgy, a reception was held at the Paris Inn. Guests included members of the First and Third Orders...and extended friends and families of St. John Vianney's fraternity.

The fraternity prayerfully acknowledged the late Fr. Felisian A. Foy, OFM, who served as Spiritual Assistant for 42 years and our current Spiritual Assistant Fr. Christian Camadella, OFM and those Seculars, living and deceased, who have guided and inspired us through the years.

**Reception of Candidates**



(L – R): Elaine Rocca, Paula Mutter, David Liguori, Isabel Kerwin,  
Charlene Berg, Pina Bartman, Marie Palazzone, Minister

On Friday evening, October 16, 2009, St. John Vianney/St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity received six candidates in the Rite of Admission. Fr. Dave Sison, St. Anthony Church, a Secular Franciscan, was the celebrant at the Eucharist. Assisting at the Eucharistic Celebration were Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Christian Camadella, OFM and Fr. Raphael Zwolenkiewicz, OFM. Conv.

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**Franciscan Prayer by Ilio Delio, O.S.F.**

“Franciscan prayer is dynamic because it is about the participation in the mystical Body of Christ. Prayer in this tradition is decisively incarnational; it is centered on the person of Jesus Christ.

“...Franciscan prayer is contemplative and cosmic. It is a type of prayer that impels one to find God in the vast cosmos of the universe. Because of the Incarnation, the Word made flesh, all creation is holy; all of creation is the sacrament of God.

“...Franciscan prayer is evangelizing. It is an awakening to the Good News of Jesus Christ and to the love of God poured out for us in Christ.

“...Franciscan prayer is not an escape from the world but an entrance into it. We become conscious in prayer of how much the world is with us and we are in the world...The otherness of God's love revealed in Christ created a space for Francis for the otherness of the leper to enter. In this way, Francis became open to the otherness of the leper as the experience of self-transcendence.”<sup>1</sup>

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**Coffee aboard River Aria ship in Amsterdam**

(L – R) Anne Treymuth, OFS, from Amsterdam, Diane Halal, SFO, from California, Mariette Fleur OFS, International Councilor from the Netherlands, and Betty Chipman, SFO from Arizona. Diane and Betty were enjoying a river cruise through Belgium and Holland.

<sup>1</sup> Delio, Ilio, *Franciscan Prayer*, St. Anthony Messenger Press, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2004

**You know you're a Secular Franciscan when:**

- you notice an unmistakable lack in desire to acquire more stuff
- peacemaking becomes incredibly attractive to you
- your eyes fill up when you hear about a trip to Assisi
- you want to dress (and LIVE) more and more simply
- Christmas is for you the greatest feast day
- you take off work on October 4
- you laugh loudly and often when you get together with other Franciscans
- you hug people a lot, especially other Franciscans
- all your gatherings are noted for having too much and wonderful food
- you follow the Franciscan Saint of the Day religiously
- the term “fair share” not only means something to you, you try to give more than your fair share to the common fund
- you read the TAU-USA from cover to cover
- you've read several books by Lester Bach, OFM Cap, and look forward to him writing more
- “Little Red Book” means “Holy Rule” to you and not something by Chairman Mao
- you don't have to dust off your Tau every month to wear it to the monthly meeting, because you wear it every day everywhere
- you like all Saint Francis statues, even the ones with the birds
- you have or want to have a Francis-in-a-birdbath
- you could open up your own Franciscan religious goods store with all the Franciscan memorabilia you have
- you no longer want to be buried in a “shroud” because it's inappropriate for a secular person
- your rosaries have seven decades
- you can sing “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” without ever looking at the hymnal
- you recycle everything – I mean EVERYTHING
- you hear a Francis or Clare story and think, “This would be good for ongoing formation.”
- you know what CNSA stands for, as well as CIOFS and NAFRA
- you can define “the Q” and “NEC”
- you can distinguish an OFM habit from a Capuchin one
- your profession date is more important to you than your birthday
- your Liturgy of the Hours goes everywhere with you
- you receive the Eucharist and it's the high point of your day
- you support all life issues and not just one
- \*(and one zinger!)
- who is on the regional or national executive council and what they do is a complete mystery to you!

*Compiled by Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR - National Spiritual Assistant to the SFO*

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It is appropriate, at the end of this issue, to acknowledge the work of Elizabeth Allen, SFO, who proof read each TAU-USA, from the first page to this last page. Elizabeth worked closely with Frances; each article was sent to E as an e-mail attachment, and returned corrected prior to submitting the proofed TAU to the printer.

It is also appropriate to acknowledge the good will relationship that Frances had with publisher Dave Barbo who, over the years, has worked hard to produce a fine publication. Since Dave is retired, this work has been handed over to his former assistant, Linda (*Smokey Valley Printing*), who continues with the same diligence as Dave. Also to be acknowledged is the quality work, and affable cooperation, of *Valley Offset Printing* of Wichita, Kansas; they printed a publication that could rival the *New Yorker*.

Acknowledgement goes to the artists, especially Betty Misuraca, and most recently Ted Muta, Logo designers, Kathy Taormina and Fr. Franklin Fong, O.F.M., and photographers, Frances and Bill Wicks, and to all the photographers and writers who sent pictures and words for such topics as Regional Roundup, Poetry and Humor and the inspired writing of the National Ministers, book reporters, the commissions and committees and various national fraternity ministries. Special thanks must also go to Bob Herbelin for maintaining the database that is used to produce the 15,000 subscriber mailing addresses. Thanks go to Marjo Gray, former subscription coordinator, and present coordinator, Randy Heinz, and to Dan Mulholland who posts the TAU on our NAFRA website, and also sorts the articles by topics.

Thanks to all – Frances loved working with you.

William Wicks, SFO, speaking for the TAU-USA staff

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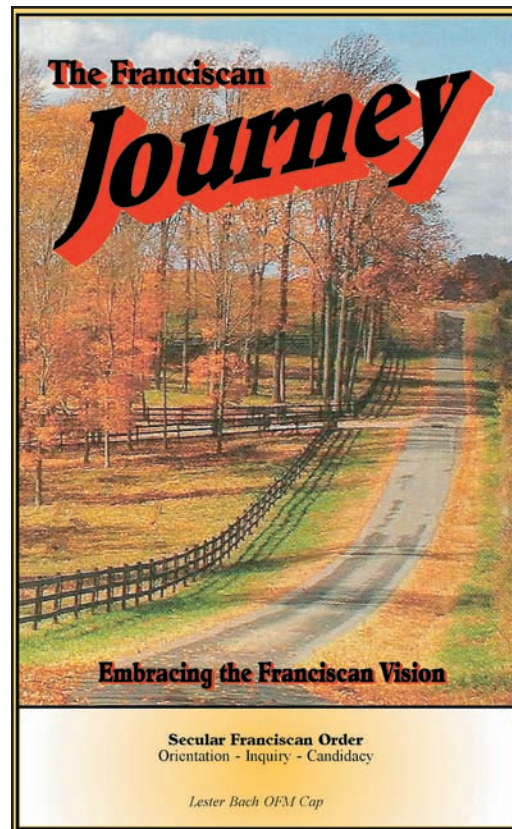
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