

20th Quinquennial Congress OFS-USA



Planning Committee

Back Row: Steve Roszhart, Mary Bittner, Kathy Taormina,
Donna Hollis, Br. Bob Brady, Claudia Kauzlarich

Front Row: Susan Simeone (Chair), Jan Parker, Tim Taormina,
Cathy Roszhart (Co-Chair)



ST. THOMAS MORE REGIONAL FAMILY



WARMLY welcomes you
to SUNNY Arizona

Let's celebrate our Franciscan 'JUBILEE'!

*It's a DRY heat...
no JOKE!*



Franciscan Jubilee

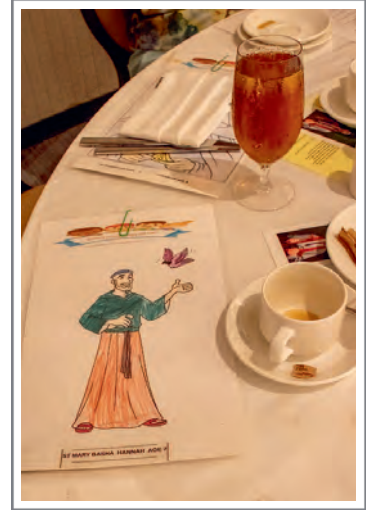
Celebrate & renew our Franciscan calling
in the spirit of conversion



3-7 August 2022, Phoenix, AZ

20TH QUINQUENNIAL CONGRESS OFS-USA

STUDENT PLACEMATS



*Jesus welcomed the children,
and the children welcomed
Franciscans to the 2022 Quinquennial.*

Before the first salad was served at the first dinner of the Quinquennial, Franciscans were nourished by the students from the Catholic schools in the Phoenix Diocese. On the table, greeting each attendee, was a laminated placemat depicting Francis, Clare, or one of their followers and decorated by one of 1,500 students.

All Catholic schools in the diocese responded to an invitation to create placemats for the event. Betty Holler, OFS, of the Peace Fraternity in Phoenix, led the project. She explained that, "By doing it, we were given the opportunity to talk to the students about saints Francis and Clare. It was fun. We made a lot of road trips, and appreciated the cooperation of the teachers."

30 different placemat designs depicted a variety of Franciscan themes including: St. Francis calming the wolf at Gubbio, Clare turning away the Saracens, Francis receiving the Stigmata, and many others.

Once all the placemats were finished and collected, Betty laminated them so attendees could take them home. At times she had five laminators running simultaneously.

While working on the project, the first through eight grade students would ask questions like what color should we make Francis and Clair's clothes? Betty would tell them that we usually think of Francis dressed in a brown tattered robe. Ultimately, the students used their own imagination when coloring the placemats.

Some students were fascinated to learn that Francis's original name was John, or Juan in Spanish, and that his father renamed him after returning from a trip to France.

On each placemat was the following note: "Your placemats were designed by one of 1,500 kids who participated in making this evening a little more special. Please feel free to save yours as a special gift. All the Catholic schools in the dioceses of Phoenix were invited to spend time with a Secular Franciscan, who taught us about St. Francis and St. Clare and helped with our placemats." Betty loved the opportunity to work with students and to share the stories of Francis and Clare.

Keynote speaker Lori Hinker, OFS, praised Betty for personally reaching out to the local schools with overwhelming results. She encouraged other fraternities to make it part of their mission to reach out to young people.

For other fraternities who might want to try to the project as a way of spreading the stories of Francis and Clare, Betty suggests:

- Locate the Catholic schools in your diocese.
- Send letters or emails to the principals.
- Follow up with a phone call.
- Find coloring pages of Francis and Clare online at teacher websites or on Etsy.
- Schedule a time with the schools to work with the children on the placemats.
- Arrive ready to tell stories about Francis and Clare.
- Schedule a dinner or event to use the placemats, either at the school, church, or your fraternities.



A JUBILEE QUINQUENNIAL WELCOME

What happens when you get 600 Franciscans in the same room for dinner the first night of a Quinquennial? Their national minister breaks out in song and a celebratory atmosphere permeates the room. Jan Parker, OFS, who is known for her parodies, did not disappoint at the opening session of the Q in the ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Phoenix. She created her own lyrics to the tune of “My Favorite Things” and to “Celebrate Good Time” to introduce all the groups who were in attendance and welcome everyone. Accompanying herself on guitar, Jan encouraged audience participation.

The following lyrics were provided to the audience so that everyone could sing along.

Welcoming Song for the 2022 Quinquennial Congress

“Quinquennial Things”

To the tune of “My Favorite Things”



God will renew us and give us new wings
These are the blessings Quinquennials bring

Here you'll meet people from so many places
See lots of smiles on so many faces
In Little Fraternities you'll meet new friends
The Q is a place where the joy never ends
Wonderful speakers have come to address us
What you will share with us, surely will bless us
These are the blessings Quinquennials bring -
Our Jubilee Q is a wonderful thing!

Sisters and brothers, we're all here together
You came to Phoenix in spite of the weather!
Makes me so happy I just want to sing
A Jubilee Q is a wonderful thing!

So welcome to everyone! Let's get things started
Sisters and brothers and Franciscan hearted
So glad you're right here and not on a screen!
Pick up your song sheet and let us all sing!*

*Interlude - This is an audience participation song
so pick up your song sheet and please sing along*

It's Jubilee time and our theme is conversion
We here together on this great excursion



They stand then ask Sisters and Friars to stand

Friars and Sisters, we thank you for coming
You help us keep our fraternities humming
Spiritual Assistants you get a hurray
A special shout out to our CNSA!

Interlude – ask Tibor to stand



We have a great leader, and his name is Tibor
He's met many Franciscans and here he will see
more

Thank you, dear brother, for all that you do
We are so glad that you came to this Q
We have 30 Regions, yes 30 you heard right
I'd list them all, but we'd be here til midnight
Regional Ministers and Councilors too

Stand up and we'll thank you for all that you do

Applause etc.

What a great dinner yes what a great menu,
God bless the staff who are here in this venue
Let's share the love of God with all we meet
Franciscan joy in the halls and the street

May God be with us as we grow in virtue
One thing I know, He will never desert you
Let us find peace and the love that God brings
Here at the Q may we find all these things

So many blessings are sure to inspire
God's Holy Spirit will set us on fire
We'll find such grace as we celebrate Mass
These days may end but God's love will not pass

On a dark night, when your hope sinks,
And you're feeling sad
Remember these blessed Quinquennial things
And then you'll rejoice ---- and be glad!

Celebrate Good Times!

(To the tune of the song by the same name.)

Celebrate good times, come on! (Let's celebrate)
Celebrate good times, come on! (Let's celebrate)

There's a party goin' on right here, a celebration
of our one hundred years
We've got our good friends, and our laughter too
– We gonna celebrate this JUBILEE Q !

Come on now – Celebration! Let's all celebrate
and have a good time
Celebration! We gonna celebrate and have a good
time

We're finally all together! THE GOSPEL LIFE –
That's our treasure!
Everyone around the world – Come on! – It's a
celebration!

Celebrate our God, come on! – It's a celebration
Celebrate our God, come on! – Let's celebrate

Praise him every morning and night – He is the
way. He is the life.
Praise him every morning and night – He is the
way. He is the life

Praise Him for his goodness and might – He is the
truth – He is the light
Praise Him for his goodness and might – He is the
truth – He is the light

Celebrate good times, come on! (Let's celebrate)
Celebrate good times, come on! (It's a
celebration!)
Celebrate good times, **Come On!**

Celebrate!



INNOVATION AND A LOT OF HARD WORK BROUGHT A MORE INCLUSIVE DIMENSION TO THE 2022 QUINQUENNIAL

The newly formed Accessibility Committee accommodated the needs of more than 200 Franciscans.

The Accessibility Committee's job list included providing large-print program booklets, information on renting wheelchairs and scooters, locating a place for service animals to relieve themselves outside, and staffing a wheelchair brigade to help transport people who were unable to walk from the Sheraton Hotel to the Mass at St. Mary's Basilica. Sign language translators made the keynote speeches accessible to the hearing impaired. Volunteers were relied upon to move chairs back and forth multiple times.



The Accessibility Committee is one of the Order's newest committees, co-chaired by Janice Benton, OFS and Susan Tabor, OFS. The goals of the committee are:

- * To ensure accessibility for attendees of OFS events, such as the 2022 Quinquennial.
- * To identify and make available OFS resources in accessible formats.
- * To raise awareness by developing tools to educate and support national committees, regions, and fraternities in recognizing the dignity and gifts of each person, and to take ownership of creating access within their area of responsibility.

The Quinquennial represented its first major undertaking and was well worth the effort and appreciated, according to attendees.

"The Q was an awesome, awesome experience for me. And our committee was fabulous to work with," said Susan Tabor, OFS-USA Accessibility Committee co-chair.

Susan went on to report: "All in all, we served a third of the attendees, including those with requests for dietary accommodations."

"Prior to the Q, we called everyone who had registered a special need request to make sure we understood what was being requested and to



determine whether there were additional needs. We also made sure we had all the sign language interpreters in place and that there were materials available in alternative formats. We were really busy beforehand, but when we arrived at the Q, even though we were still busy, it was different, because we were able to rein in extra help where needed."

"The members of the Q Committee were great to work with and very resourceful. For example, they helped procure essential items through reputable, durable medical equipment vendors. They also worked at getting liturgical information ahead of time so

it could be shared with the sign language interpreter, and they were responsible for having the morning prayer text copied in large print and in Braille.

"Thanks to a team of volunteers from fraternities in the Phoenix area, the attendees who were unable to walk from the Sheraton Hotel to St. Mary's Basilica were transported by wheelchairs. The volunteers made multiple trips in the 106-degree heat."

"The team was so eager and helpful. We couldn't have asked for better assistance. Special thanks to Pat Nikolaisen, who coordinated the local volunteers," said Janice.

The Accessibility Committee had a table at the Quinquennial to help people. They wore badges showing a Tau cross with several access symbols on it. They also displayed a variety of resources, including the Rule in large print and the Rule and Ritual in Braille. A future plan is to continue to prepare formation materials and essential documents of the Order in Braille, large print, and audio and to make them available online for free download.

Fraternities are encouraged to contact the committee for advice on how to assist their members with accessibility needs.



HAND-TIED FLEECE BLANKET PROJECT

The service-oriented action of Franciscans was in evidence Saturday, Aug. 6, at the Quinquennial when attendees arrived for the service project. Led by the Franciscan Young Adults (YouFra), members made hand-tied fleece blankets for those in shelters and along the border. Fraternity members brought scissors and Blizzard fleece to the Quinquennial to create the blankets, while others who could not attend donated money to purchase the materials.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Keynote talks by a friar, a bishop and five Secular Franciscans inspired those in the audience to renew their calls to conversion in daily life and to revitalization of the church. The work of Pope Francis was cited as a model of living in solidarity with all our brothers and sisters, as well as evangelizing our Franciscan way of life in the 21st century.

Day 1

David B. Couturier, OFM Cap.

"Called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world: Secular Franciscans as a Community of Care and Moral Transformation"

To alleviate what Pope Francis labeled a "globalization of indifference," Fr. David B. Couturier, OFM Cap., called upon Secular Franciscans to build a more fraternal world in the opening keynote at the Quinquennial. "In all that you do, you must develop the bonds and connections of being a brother and sister to everyone in the world," he said. He called upon Franciscans to make a difference in the lives of the poor and vulnerable.

Fr. Couturier told a story about Pope. Pope Francis encouraged Catholics to get close to others and "look at the person in the eyes. Do not observe with detachment, but approach, bend down, touch with your own hand. Touching with our hands humanizes us," Pope Francis said.

Fr. Couturier said that when the Pope hears confessions, he asks the penitents if they give to the poor. "When the person answers that he or she gives to charity, he said he likes to follow up with the question, 'when you give alms, do you touch the hand of the person asking? Do you look them in the eyes?'"

He said our culture has led us to do otherwise. "We have inherited the dark legacy of racism and white



supremacy that has leaked into every American system and created subtle biases in our hearts, minds, and actions. We have been trained in a politics of competition instead of a politics of caring." Instead of being lulled into a sense of this is "just the way things are," Secular Franciscans must act for change.

"As Franciscans, there is so much we can do and must do. We have a call, a vocation, and a divine charge to build a fraternal world," Fr. Courtier

said. A call to the Secular Franciscan life is a call to make a difference in the quality of life for everyone. "The Gospel imperative 'on earth as it is in heaven' gives you and me a more earthly charge for the promotion of peace, justice, and the care of creation."

While Francis and Clare experienced the violent and greedy world of their youth, they left a legacy of transformation Franciscans can bring to the world. "Our task is to make every encounter meaningful by humility, generosity, realism, and patience. We need to help the world transition from its market-driven obsessions with profit and power and take on the challenge of caring encounters," Fr. Courtier said.



Day 2

Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.

**“Rebuilding the Church in the Spirit of St. Francis:
Secular Franciscans in the Age of Pope Francis.”**

Pilgrim. Poor. Brother. Simplicity. Joyfulness. Enthusiasm. Humility. Authenticity. “I bet you could add several more to the list,” said Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.

These traits reflect St. Francis of Assisi, as well as the actions of Pope Francis. “Pope Francis has drawn on his namesake to provide a path of renewal for the church. We know it’s not going to be an overnight renewal,” Bishop Stowe said. Pope Francis was clear from the beginning that his goal was providing gospel simplicity and claiming mercy. “He wanted a poor church for the poor. Does that sound familiar?”

“Most of us in the Franciscan family can recognize the points of connection between our founder and our current leader.” Pope Francis has brought the spirit of St. Francis alive in the church, not only by his example but also by his magisterial teachings. “Pope Francis does have an agenda in the best sense of the word,” Bishop Stowe said.

He encouraged Franciscans to follow in the footsteps of our leaders. “Let everything you say and do convey mercy, and make sure it balances with preaching peace everywhere.” Our vocation is more than talking. He noted that Pope Francis has mastered the value of gestures. Whether people are listening to his words or not, what they see is a gospel witness by his actions, just as in the life of St. Francis.

“Living the gospel is more important than talking about it. To live in fraternity and witness gospel



love was far more important than evangelizing to Francis,” Bishop Stowe said. Our mission is to help people feel the nearness of God and extend our reach to those on the fringes of society. Pope Francis encourages us to reach out to three circles of people: those who are practicing their baptismal ministry in church; those who are baptized but not attending church; and those who do not know Christ or have intentionally rejected him.

“Each of us can find them in our own families, and we can find our mission among them. There is a lot of mission that can take place among those already in the pews, but it can’t be limited to them,” Bishop Stowe said. In this sense, he said, no Franciscan can be exempt from being a missionary. “Mission brings us to life. Ask yourself, do your fraternities engage in those three circles, or are you limited to just active members of the church?”

Bishop Stowe also referred to Pope Francis’s appeal to eliminating the globalization of indifference. “To counter this, the Pope proposes a revolution of tenderness that is found in the gospel, in the example of Francis of Assisi and as a crucial component to our vocation.”



Day 3

Doug and Marion Clorey, OFS; Tim and Kathy Taormina, OFS; Lori Hinker, OFS



Continuing with the spirited theme of the Quinquennial, "JUBILEE! Rejoice in the Choice!," five Secular Franciscans concluded the keynotes with a call to live our vocation.

Speaking in the final keynote were Doug and Marion Clorey, OFS, of Prince Edward Island, Canada, and Tim and Kathy Taormina, OFS, and Lori Hinker, OFS, of Apple Valley, Minn.



Doug Clorey, OFS, opened the talk by reminding the audience that although the Rule has changed over the years, its specific focus remains the same now as it was 800 years ago—observing the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the manner of St. Francis. "It is this foundation on which we go forward to build communities of caring and trusting encounter," he said.

All spoke of the importance of the call to conversion that exists in the order.

Marion Clorey, OFS, emphasized the Franciscan themes of fraternity, simplicity, family and reconciliation, prayer, and peace. While all these are equally important, she said, fraternity drew her to the Order. "Reading Francis' story, I felt a connection to him. His declaration 'the Lord sent me brothers,' as his way of describing the beginnings of fraternity resonated with me," she said.



While a life of simplicity calls us to detach from material goods, it means more, especially considering Pope Francis's *Laudato Si*. "The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are inextricably linked. In more recent times, our local fraternity's JPIC team has been challenging us to live more simply and to promote justice initiatives as suggested in Article 15."

Lori Hinker, OFS, reminded Franciscans that Francis and Clare were young adults when they began their orders and that we need to reach out



and encourage the youth and young adults among us. “In the United States, young adults are those young people from all cultural communities and abilities

between ages 18 and 39 who are single or married, with or without children, divorced or widowed, and in college, working, unemployed, incarcerated or in the military. These young adults are indeed adults and are impacting the church and society today,” Lori read from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

She said the enthusiasm of young people is contagious and reminiscent of the Franciscan call. “They ‘get it’ without too much explanation. They want to get their hands dirty and serve those in need. Remind you of anyone? St. Francis and St. Clare.”

She called on Franciscans to live out their vocations through the sacraments, their witness and personal invitation. By frequenting the sacraments, we remind ourselves that Christ is the center of our lives. The sacrament of Reconciliation also reminds us that we are not perfect.

Sharing our faith journey with family and friends, the young and old, is a way to witness, she said. While we are witnessing, we also can extend invitations to family and friends to attend our Franciscan gatherings. Lori became a Franciscan after an invitation from her parents, Tim and Kathy Taormina, OFS, who also spoke in the keynote.

Kathy Taormina, OFS, talked about the model of Francis leading others to God.

“As Francis lived his life and brothers gathered around him, common people were also attracted to his way of life. Were they already in the penitential movement of the



day? Possibly. Or maybe this was the first time they heard someone who looked like them, and probably dressed worse than they did, preach about a God who loved them just because he chose to do so.” He provided a strong example to follow on the pathway to Christ, including his love for the Eucharist, fervent prayer life, love of creation, life of penance and the ability to let go.

As God sent Francis into the world when it needed him, because of chaos and division of classes, He sends Franciscans to do the same, said Tim Taormina, OFS.

“As the Swiss mystic Father Zundel once said, ‘We carry in ourselves a treasure capable of changing the whole universe.’ Of course, he was speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ, but does that quote not also reflect the vocation the Holy Spirit has given us and the profession we have attested to?”



Tim believes that the pandemic and the flexibility to communicate at times via Zoom is a sign of the flexibility of the Order. “No challenge can stop us from

being a viable order.” “Francis said, ‘He who works with his hands, and his head, and his heart is an artist.’ Let us be artists of awareness and communication.”

SAINT MARY'S BASILICA

Phoenix, Arizona

St. Mary's Basilica, named the Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, has been the Franciscan presence in the city of Phoenix for 130 years. Dedicated in 1881, the church became a Franciscan parish in 1896 and was the only Catholic parish in Phoenix until 1924. In 1985, Pope John Paul II proclaimed the church as the 32nd basilica in the United States. Pope John Paul II visited the basilica in 1987 where, after praying inside the church, he then spoke from the outside balcony to the large crowd gathered in the street below.



Secular Franciscan fraternities began meeting at St. Mary's Basilica in 1889. The first fraternity was a Spanish speaking fraternity, then in 1920 an English speaking fraternity began gathering at the basilica.

During this Jubilee Quinquennial, 600 Franciscan brothers and sisters were able to walk, or were shuttled in wheelchairs, the short one block trip from the hotel to the church to celebrate the daily Mass.

