



* INFORM

* INSPIRE

* CHALLENGE

OUR MISSION IS TO SHARE THE VISION

* 100TH Anniversary Issue *

While working on the last issue of the *TAU-USA*, we realized that this will be an anniversary issue — #100. Through the years, teams of Franciscan brothers and sisters have worked together making each issue a vital communication link to all members of the Secular Franciscan Order, USA.

The *TAU-USA* is a quarterly publication of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order of the United States. It serves as a vital communication link between the National Fraternity Leadership and all professed and aspiring Secular Franciscans throughout the United States. Each article in the publication, while sharing the Secular Franciscan charism and vision, is intended to inform, inspire, and challenge. Many of the articles of the *TAU-USA* are excellent resources for ongoing formation.

Each issue is the result the teamwork of Secular Franciscans from around the country. Many of the articles are written by members of the National Executive Council and the various committees and commissions. Articles are regularly submitted by the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA), the four spiritual assistants, one from

each friar obedience (Order of Friars Minor, OFM Capuchin, OFM Conventual, and Third Order Regular), who provide assistance to the National Fraternity. For many years, Fr. Lester Bach was a regular contributor. Occasionally, articles are also submitted by Secular Franciscans from the various fraternities around the country. The production staff includes copy editing, layout, proofing, translation and layout in Spanish and Korean, and the posting of an electronic version on the national website. The management of the National Database is also part of the production process; it is the source of the accurate and updated mailing list for more than 13,400 names. All work is done by volunteers from the Secular Franciscans family. The printing and mailing of the English and Spanish issues are handled by Valley Offset Printing and Smoky Valley Printing in Kansas.

History of the National Newsletter

by Bill Wicks, OFS

Look in Volume III, pages 148-156. It has the history of the TAU-USA and lists the editors up to 2007. The first national newsletter was published by Fr. Max Poppy, OFM, in 1936. Refer to pages 237-238 of Volume I of our history.

The publication of the national newsletter was resumed in 1991, after a hiatus of 20 years. It was and is published quarterly. Elizabeth Ryder, SFO, was the editor, and James David Lynch, SFO, was the National Minister at that time. It should be noted that during the above-mentioned hiatus, much of the news of the Order was published in the *Franciscan Herald and Forum*; the *Herald* ceased publishing in 1987.

With each editor, the newsletter showed improvement, some of which had to do with the improvements in word processing software, some with the change of the size and quality of printed

paper and the number of pages. Each editor gifted us with her/his unique creativity.

The Naming of the National Newsletter

In the summer of 1995, a survey was taken of the subscribers to select a name for the national newsletter. There were more 100 entries. The name selected by the Executive Council, *TAU-USA*, was submitted by Ralph Schlueter, SFO, former newsletter editor for St. John the Baptist Province and Holy Trinity Region. As a prize, Ralph was awarded a copy of the Liturgy of the Hours. The newsletter name was first used in the Winter 1996 edition.

ISSUE #100

TAU-USA EDITORS OVER THE YEARS



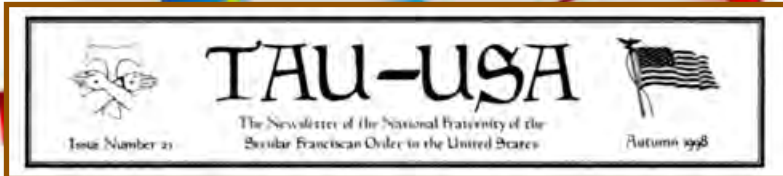
2012 - Current
Jim & Cindy Wesley



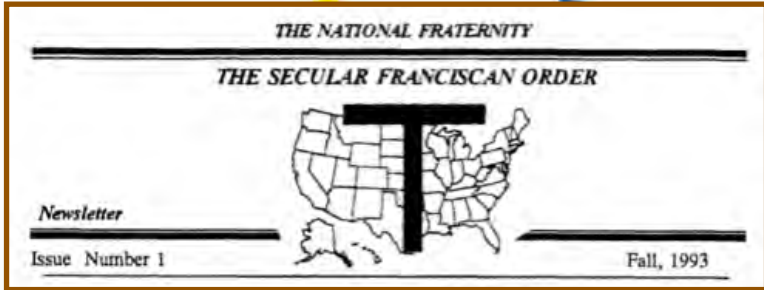
2010
Anna Geraci



2003
Frances Wicks



1998
Tony & Daria
Outhwaite



1993
Patti Normile

1991
Elizabeth Ryder




1989
Gloria Shriver

THANK YOU TO OUR EDITORS AND MANY CONTRIBUTORS!



TAU-USA Editorial Staff Meeting 2003, Frances Wicks, Editor - Center

**THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY
of
THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**



Newsletter Summer, 1991

MARY AND THE EUCHARIST
*James David Lynch, SFO
National Minister*

Very close are the links that unite our Blessed Lady to the Holy Eucharist. We need God, and our hearts naturally go in search of him. The pagans of old and of our time, even the most primitive, worship a god or gods and are constantly making for themselves images of their false gods. God granted us Christians the grace and the opportunity of satisfying our need of God by means of the mystery of the Incarnation, and later by means of the Holy Eucharist.

The Son of God came down from heaven and dwelt here on this very earth. He dwelt here amongst us just as one of us. We could see him, know him, speak to him, touch him, and love him as any other friend or companion. But a day was to come when he would die and pass from this world.

Before that day came, he arranged for a continued Incarnation. The Holy Eucharist was the means he devised. He would remain with us until the end of time, not now under the appearance of a child of man, but under the outward appearance of bread. He is really with us, and we with him. We can speak to him and love him and become inti-

mately united to him. Food, by assimilation, becomes one with the eater; so, Christ in the Eucharist becomes one with us. The Holy Eucharist is a continued Incarnation. It is the application of the Incarnation to each of us. This is how God satisfied the craving we have for him.

God indeed has given us the gift of the Incarnation. Did he not give it to us through Mary? And this second gift of the continued Incarnation is given to us also through Mary. Mary is still giving and presenting her Child to the world as she gave and presented him to the shepherds and magi. Let us thank Mary for the gift of Jesus in our tabernacles.

O Mary, help me to live as a faithful disciple of Jesus for the building up of Christian society and the joy of the Catholic Church. I greet you, mother, morning and evening; I pray to you as I go upon my way; from you I hope for the inspiration and encouragement that will enable me to fulfill the sacred promises of my earthly vocation; give glory to God and win eternal salvation. O Mary! Like you in Bethlehem and on Golgotha, I too wish to stay always close to Jesus. He is the eternal King of all ages and all peoples.
— Pope John XXIII

1991 Edition

TAU-USA
The Newsletter of the National Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order in the United States
Issue Number 33 Winter 2001


Will The Dust Ever Settle?
William Wicks, SFO, National Minister

After the vivid and tragic events of September 11, one image that returns to my mind over and over again is that of the dust-covered humanity groping their way through fallout from the crushed twin towers. I can still picture in my mind their apparently featureless faces, clouded with dust, marching away from Ground Zero, stepping over the debris, towards life. It is an image of hope. They had made it, they were walking to life. They could go home to their families, thankful that they had survived. But, the question remains; will they ever be the same? Will we ever be the same? Will we ever be the same? I will try to answer the question for myself, and for all of us. For all of us, I can say that suddenly we feel vulnerable. A paradigm shift has occurred in our sense of well-being. We are no longer separated geographically from political terror that was, up to that time, being perpetrated elsewhere in the world. So, how have I changed?

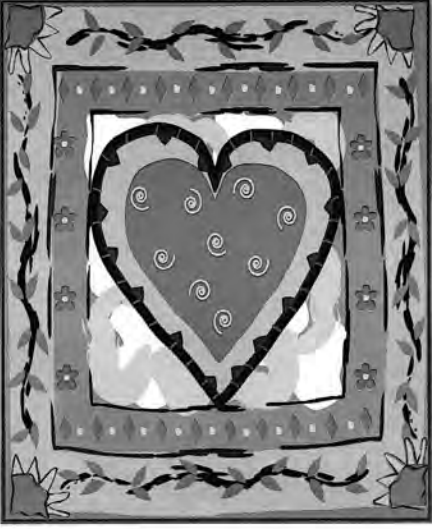
There is now a sense of urgency in my living of the Gospel that I never felt before. I want to be more understanding of other beliefs. I have learned that I must daily thank God for this gift of life. The "spiritual dust" fallout from the September 11 tragedy is still driving over me and filtering through my soul. I was thrust more deeply into the Paschal mystery, and not by my own choice. I cannot escape that feeling. I know that I feel closer to all of you, and that some things that were once important to me, no longer are. For a month, my American flag hung outside my house, just like all the other houses on my block. My "Tau" flag is being displayed more often. I have attended Mass more frequently. I feel the need to be more connected with people and with God. I need the presence of others now more than ever before - anyway that I can get it over the phone, via e-mail, face to face. My dust-covered soul seems to be seeking a way to escape, as were those walking and running away from Ground Zero - looking for life. I ask myself: is there now a Ground Zero here in my heart? Perhaps I will know when the dust settles, if it ever does. Is it a bad thing if it never does? And is it a bad thing if Ground Zero never leaves my soul? Perhaps it was there all the while, and just revealed itself on September 11.

Eventually, members of Saint Thomas More Secular Franciscan Fraternity, to which she belonged, and her many other friends, conceded that she had perished along with some 315 members of the firm. A liturgical minister at Saint Francis Church, Card had hunched and directed the Saint Francis Crisis Creativity Project. She guided many of its activities, including exhibits in the gallery set up in the former hairy lobby on 31st Street. "She can't be replaced," said Ann McGearty, whose paintings were recently exhibited in the gallery. Our sister was washed clean to Baptism, and nourished with the body and blood of the Lord in the Eucharist. As a Secular Franciscan, she was quoted once clearly with the Lord, and with us, through the observance of our way of life. As she strove to follow this Rule of Life, may the Lord now take her to Himself and grant her a place among His saints in glory.
— from the Secular Franciscan Wake Service

2001 Edition

 **TAU-USA**

Newsletter of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States
Issue Number Forty-five ~ Winter 2004



**Our hearts
are ready
and
waiting.
Come,
Lord
Jesus,
and
have a
Happy
Birthday
with
us!**

2004 Edition

TAU-USA
PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY OF THE
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER IN THE UNITED STATES
News letter

2009—2012
NATIONAL FRATERNITY
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

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Elaine Hedtke, SFO
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Arturo Villarreal, SFO
Councillor

Anne Mulqueen, SFO
International Councillor

Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap
CNSA President-in-Turn

Dear brothers and sisters in St. Francis,

Get ready dear readers, this special formation issue of the TAU-USA is filled with such exciting, entertaining and educational articles that it will be hard to put down once you start reading!

First and foremost of course, are the many articles written about the "For Up to Now" (FUN) formation manual. This issue captures the essence of the manual and presents it from every point of view. We hear from the members of the National Formation Commission, and from ministers and formation directors who were good enough to share their experience and expertise. We hear from several regions who have held their first presentations to "Forming the Formators" workshops; we hear from regional ministers who share their thoughts and concerns and learn of their future plans for implementing the manual.

As you read the articles, it is clear that FUN is not just for the newcomers to our beloved order, it also serves as a rejuvenating shot in the arm for the rest of us. I must admit that I am filled with renewed pride in being a Secular Franciscan, and in seeing the incredible dedication and love in the creation and presentation of this wonderful manual. There are indeed exciting times for our order. Our National Formation Commission has clearly shown what she thinks to do, but they haven't stopped there. Turn to page 40, you'll find that they are welcoming invitations from the regions, to attend workshops, give presentations and answer questions "on the spot." They are so invested in FUN that they are willing to give more of their time and efforts while asking only for room and board.

It is now our turn: let us begin—together. **Amén**

**CELEBRATING THE 8th CENTENARY OF
THE CONSECRATION OF ST. CLARE**
April 16, 2011—August 11, 2012

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SEE PAGE 11**

2011 Edition