

Up to Now

Newsletter of the St. Margaret of Cortona Region of the Secular Franciscan Order

Covering the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia,
and portions of West Virginia and Pennsylvania



Fr. Philipus Philippus, OFM/Cap

Volume 20, Issue 4

Let us begin again, for up to now we have done nothing.

May 2017

Beyond the Region

CIOFS FAMILY COMMISSION ANNOUNCES ANNUAL THEME 2017

The Family Commission of CIOFS has announced that the theme for 2017 is “Caring of Frailties: Mercy and Discernment.”

The focus will be on the faithful who find themselves in complicated situations. Special attention will be paid to the children, the elderly, the sick, those who have no family, and others who find themselves in fragile situations.

The theme for 2017 is meant as an orientation: Each fraternity must evaluate and reflect on it according to its own needs. The commission requests that initiatives taken by the various fraternities as a result of their consideration be communicated to the CIOFS Secretariat for the Family Commission before October 2017.

The outline of the proposal for application of the theme within fraternities can be found on page 12.

NOMINATIONS FOR JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION AWARD NOW OPEN

Each year, the JPIC Committee honors an individual who is doing exemplary work in the areas of peace, social justice and the care of God’s creation.



Nominations open only to members of the worldwide Franciscan Family: First Order, Second Order, Religious Order Sisters, Secular Franciscan, or any member of the Ecumenical Franciscan Family, whether clergy or lay.

A nomination form can be found on page 14. Nominations should be sent to Carolyn Townes, OFS, at ctownes26@hotmail.com. The deadline for nominations is July 15, 2017.

ST. FRANCIS UNIVERSITY SUMMER SEMINAR FOR SECULAR FRANCISCANS.

Every year for the last seven years, St. Francis University in Loretto, Penn., has offered a summer seminar geared

especially for Secular Franciscans.

This is an opportunity to stretch our understanding of Franciscan spirituality, but it’s also a way to come in contact with brothers and sisters from around the country -- a great way to develop our sense that we’re part of a much larger group.

The seminar runs from July 6 to July 9, and this year’s topic is Multiculturalism & Diversity: Who Is My Neighbor?

The facilitators are Mary Stronach, OFS. She has held many JPIC and formation positions, and works as a multicultural interpreter for an organization that serves refugees and immigrant from throughout the world.

The other OFS facilitator is Carolyn D. Townes, OFS, who works as a loss to life mindset strategist, supporting women who have experienced grief and loss as they move to a new life. She is the national Animator for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation and is on the board of the Franciscan Action Network.

The workshop brochure can be found on page 15, and you can learn more about the workshop at <https://sites.google.com/francis.edu/ofsummerseminar>

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Regional Minister's Message



Francis and Mary

I'm writing to you on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. It's a very special feast day this year because 100 years ago this month three shepherd children saw the famous Marian apparition at a cave in Fatima, Portugal. Pope Francis is visiting the site today.

Saint Francis held a close affection and profound respect for Mary. In our Rule, we learn:

The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.

We also learn from the *Exhortation of St. Francis to the Brothers and Sisters in Penance* (also part of our Rule) that "We are mothers, when we carry him in our heart and body through divine love and a pure and sincere conscience; we give birth to him through a holy life which must give light with others by example."

In effect, we are called to be Mary, and to "give birth" to Jesus by living a holy life, sharing the light of Christ to others by how we live our own lives.

But how can we relate to a historical figure like Mary? So much has been written about her, so many images and descriptions, so many different reflections on what it means to be a woman and a mother through the centuries. My favorite comes from Blessed Pope Paul VI. In his apostolic letter, *Marialis Cultus*, Pope Paul teaches us that Mary "is held up as an example for the way in which, in her own particular life, she fully and responsibly accepted God's will, because she heard the Word of God and acted on it, and because charity and a spirit of service were the driving force of her actions. She is worthy of imitation because she was the first and most perfect of Christ's disciples."

The Pope wrote that Mary is "truly our sister, who

as a poor and humble woman fully shared our lot."

During the month of May, we may want to remember the two Marian prayers written by St. Francis:

Hail, O Lady, Holy Queen, Mary, holy Mother of God,
Who are the Virgin made Church,
chosen by the most Holy Father in heaven
whom he consecrated with His most holy
beloved Son and with the Holy Spirit the
Paraclete,
in whom there was and is all fullness of grace
and every good.

Hail, His Palace! Hail, His Tabernacle!
Hail, His Dwelling! Hail, His Robe!
Hail, His Servant! Hail, His Mother!

And Hail, all You holy virtues which are poured
into the hearts of the faithful
through the grace and enlightenment of the
Holy Spirit,
that from being unbelievers, You may make them
faithful to God.

(A Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

And the antiphon to his Office of the Passion:

Holy Virgin Mary, among the women born into
the world,
there is no one like you.
Daughter and servant of the most high and
supreme King
and of the Father in heaven,
Mother of our most Holy Lord Jesus Christ,
Spouse of the Holy Spirit,
pray for us with St. Michael the Archangel,
all the powers of heaven and all the saints
at the side of your most holy beloved Son, our
Lord and Teacher.

Patrick Martin
Regional Minister



<https://catholicismpure.wordpress.com/2012/05/13/i-am-of-heaven-the-first-fatima-apparition/>

Regional Formation Director's Message

Dear Brothers & Sisters! A blessed Easter to one and all! He has risen! Truly, He has risen!

On April 1, we held our 8th Annual Day of Reflection for our Inquirers, Candidates, and newly professed at the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City. The theme was "Growing and Changing with Christ and St. Francis." Approximately 65 people were in attendance. Through the use of talks and PowerPoint presentations, we learned and reflected on how we should be growing spiritually in the same manner that we grow physically.

Together, we discussed the need for God's grace in order to become spiritually mature. Growth in Christ comes from the sacraments, spiritual reading, meditation, penance, and performing corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It also comes through fellowship in our own fraternities, parishes, and communities. Growth in the Holy Spirit comes from the reception of the Holy Eucharist and in spending quiet time with God, especially in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

During the first talk, I mentioned two philosophies I believe to be true. They are: "Whatever you feed grows," and "You become what you are around." I introduced these statements into our group sharing by comparing the growth of our body with the growth of our souls. I also mentioned the importance of making valuable use of our time by spending it in prayer and with the proper people and in the appropriate places.

As a child, if you do not feed your body, you will cease to grow physically and perhaps even die. In the same manner, if you do not feed your soul, you will cease to grow spiritually, and you will also risk the possibility of a far greater loss, that of spending eternal life with God.

Lack of God's grace and the omission of spiritual works will keep us from maturing into spiritual perfection, and they will also put us at risk for becoming lukewarm and eventually falling into a far worse state of deprivation. Jesus warns against this in Matthew 5:13.

You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

My brothers and sisters, salt should make us thirsty for the living springs of water that Christ offered the woman at the well. If we are to be the salt of the earth, we should also be helping others to thirst for the truth of the Gospel message. St. Francis and Clare worked so diligently to bring about. The more time we spend with Jesus, the more we will become like the One whom we should imitate.

In October, each fraternity formation director will have another opportunity to grow spiritually, so that they can feed others. The Region will be holding our 2nd annual Formation Director Workshop at Loyola Retreat House

in Faulkner, MD, from October 6-8. Formation directors, please mark your calendars. The cost is \$260. The registration form is on page 4.

The workshop will be covering the topic of "On-Going" Formation, beginning first with formation within ourselves and then learning ways to branch out to help others become better formed as Secular Franciscans. Conversion is a lifelong process; therefore, we should be constantly "on-going" in our commitment to serve God and neighbor.

In our last issue of UTN, I talked about the need for discernment to determine one's call to the OFS. I would like to follow up by mentioning the need for individual commitment to fraternal life, as well as the importance of those in formation attending the monthly gatherings. Article 19 of the National Statutes states:

- All persons in initial formation, in addition to attending their formation sessions, must participate in the meetings of the Local Fraternity, as this is an indispensable presupposition for initiation into community prayer and into fraternity life [cf. General Constitutions, article #40.3].

Therefore, I am urging all formation directors to please make sure that those in formation class are attending the monthly meetings.

In closing, I would like to once again leave you with a short story from the "Sense of the Divine." This reading is from *The Legend of the Three Companions* of St. Francis.

During the first few days that the brothers were staying in Rome with Cardinal John of Saint Paul, they so edified him with their holy words and example, that, seeing what he heard about them to shine in deed, he commended himself humbly and devoutly to their prayers. He even asked them, as a special grace, to be considered one of their brothers. Then asking Blessed Francis the reason why he came and hearing from him their entire proposal and intention, he offered to be their procurator of the Curia.

That Cardinal then went to the Curia and told the Lord Pope Innocent III, 'I found a most perfect man, who wishes to live according to the form of the holy gospel, and to observe evangelical perfection in all things. I believe that the Lord wills, through him, to reform the faith of the holy church throughout the world.' Hearing this, the Lord Pope was greatly amazed and had the Cardinal bring blessed Francis to him.

My brothers and sisters, let us shine as the examples that God has called us to be!

*Fraternally, your sister in Christ,
Victoria Spalding, OFS*



Formation Directors Weekend

October 6-8, 2017

Loyola Retreat House on the Potomac

9270 Loyola Retreat Road

Faulkner, Maryland 20632-0009

(301) 392-0800

Communicating Christ to Others in the Spirit of Sts. Francis & Clare

REGISTRATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Submit form with deposit no later than **September 15, 2017. No registration will be taken after September 15. No registration will be taken at the door.**
2. Please type or print all information clearly. This form can be filled in in Acrobat Reader.
3. Only one participant per registration form.
4. **NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of \$50.00 must accompany this form.**
5. Make your check payable to **ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGION** and mail this form with payment to:

Peter Noyes, ofs
2917 Shepperton Terrace
Phone: 301-384-8424 tty
email: pnoyesofs@yahoo.com

Cost: \$260 per person. Includes all meals from dinner on Friday night until lunch on Sunday, as well as all materials.

Rooms are single with twin bed, desk, and toilet w/sink. Showers are communal.

Yes! I plan to attend the Formation Directors Weekend

Name _____

Fraternity _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Email _____

Phone _____



**Directions to the
Loyola Retreat House
on the Potomac**

St. Margaret of Cortona Region 2017 Annual Retreat

APRIL 28-30 2017 Rev. Bernard Tickerhoof, T.O.R.

Dear Fr. Bernie,

You have opened our eyes to see what we can be,
and how we will grow spiritually.
Everything we do in the course of the day
has power in action and in what we say.

We are in process, and when we understand this,
it is a path to God and one of his greatest gifts.
Spirituality is a metafore and the Bible has them too,
with stories, songs and poems revealing God's
truths.

When we experience our life lived in faith,
things happen to make us aware of each day.
In our hearts, Scripture speaks to us physically,
and connects us to everyone we see.

Your teachings were blessed with the stories you told,
when looking in our pasts, some of ours are old.
But, if you told them today the message still would comply,
and we would view them with much different eyes.

We are committed to love our God with our whole heart,
soul and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves,
and to stay connected all the time.

You have filled us with so much holy wisdom so that we
can all change
into his special child, and show honor in his name.
We are all brothers and sisters and cooperate in God's
love, to make
our relationships more lasting with God's mystery
from above.

We are moving through our own process as we step out
in faith,
with God's hand upon us we are being carefully
shaped.

What we were yesterday we are not the same today,
by experience we've learned to see
God in a different way

God's grace is around us and flowing all the time,
and he is waiting patiently for our response.
He never leaves us, he'll be back until we find the time,
to leave our busy lives and give him our hearts and
minds.

When transformation comes we will know and we will come
alive,
our life will change forever with God always by our side.
The choice between trust and fear is a decision we must
make,
it will give us strength when we are connected and
we cooperate.

Since the water fall is life giving, it is a source of power,
here we stand with cup in hand to fill it every hour.
God's love is like the water, in reality, it is so much more,
as we break-free and surrender he opens every
door.

We will keep your recipe handy and never hesitate,
so that the reign of God outpours as we walk in faith
The gems you have shared with us are precious to our ears.
We thank you for the many stories to help us keep
God near.

You will be remembered and thought of every day,
and we will keep you connected in our hearts each
time we pray.

*Bettie Onorato, OFS
Little Flower Fraternity*



Photos by Bob Traube

Around the Region

RECEIVED AS CANDIDATES

Marie Ciaci, OFS, Sacred Heart of Jesus Fraternity, Warrenton, Va.
Deb Gelbaugh, OFS, St. Thomas More Fraternity, Harrisburg, Penn.
Christopher Halecky, OFS, St. Thomas More Fraternity, Harrisburg, Penn.
Tammy Halecky, OFS, St. Thomas More Fraternity, Harrisburg, Penn.
Ian Langella, OFS, St. Thomas More Fraternity, Harrisburg, Penn.

NEWLY PROFESSED

Karen Coulson, OFS, Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity, Williamsburg, Va.
Peg Crews, OFS, Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity, Williamsburg, Va.
Maria Fuentes-Sherman, OFS, Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity, Williamsburg, Va.
Donna Kendall, OFS, Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity, Williamsburg, Va.
Eileen Murray, OFS, Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity, Williamsburg, Va.



San Camillo Fraternity. Minister, Otto Perez, OFS; Formation Director, Esther Reyes, OFS; Treasurer, Gerardo Palacios, OFS; Vice Minister, Sandra Perez, OFS; Secretary, Carlos Velasquez, OFS; Witness to Elections, Tom McGrath, OFS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED

San Camillo Fraternity, Silver Spring, Md.

Minister: Ottoniel Perez, OFS
Vice Minister: Sandra Perez, OFS
Secretary: Carlos Velasquez, OFS
Treasurer: Gerardo Palacios, OFS
Formation Director: Esther Reyes, OFS



Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity. Front Row: Maria Fuentes-Sherman, OFS, Karen Coulson-Rutherford, OFS, Peg Crews, OFS, Donna Kendall, OFS, Eileen Murray, OFS. Back Row: Ken Holt, OFS, Terry Carlino, OFS, Bea Sanford, OFS; Sr. Agnes Narcho, Carol Murphy, OFS, Ed Gerhard, OFS.



St. Francis of Assisi Triangle. Vice Minister, Claire Hoagland; OFS, Minister, John Carlson, OFS; Secretary, Margy Carlson, OFS; Councilor, Anissia Monserrate, OFS; Treasurer, Anibal Monserrate, OFS; Formation Director, Gary Burton, OFS; Councilor, Mary Lou Coffman, OFS (not shown)

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Triangle, Va.

Minister: John Carlson, OFS
Vice Minister, Claire Hoagland, OFS
Secretary: Margie Carlson, OFS
Treasurer: Anibal Monserrate, OFS
Formation Director: Gary Burton, OFS
Councilor: Anissia Monserrate, OFS
Councilor: Mary Lou Coffman, OFS

LOSSES IN THE FAMILY

Marianne Hughes, OFS, December 19, 1930 – February 28, 2017. She was a member of Mount St. Sepulchre Fraternity and of USCCB.

Microwave when possible. They use even less energy than toaster ovens (and way less than conventional ovens), plus you might be surprised by the range of meals (and desserts!) that can be made in a microwave.

FMS Honors University Founders

The evening of May 5 marked a milestone event for Franciscan Mission Service. On that date, the organization held its annual World Care Benefit, a celebration of our mission, our volunteers, and the larger Franciscan community. The 2017 Annual Anselm Moons, OFM, Award went to three individuals for their outstanding contributions to the Universidad Académica Campesina in Carmen Pampa, Bolivia. Creating a video celebrating the awardees—Sr. Damon Nolan, Sr. Jean Morrissey, and Sr. Chris Cullen—was a two-month journey of faith for me, one that culminated that night in meeting my “Tres Mujeres Valientes,” three strong women.

A bust of Sister Damon, co-founder of the university, is featured prominently on campus. This should give some indication of the central and revered place the three sisters have among students, staff, and members of the rural community that, before the school’s inception, offered no professional opportunities to young people. I expected to find ample documentation of how Sisters Damon, Chris, and Jean had shaped university and the more than 600 graduates who have studied agronomy, veterinary science, nursing, education, and ecotourism.

Photos of my subjects proved surprisingly elusive, however. I spent many hours poring through FMS photo archives and asking Carmen Pampa contacts for images depicting these women in their administrative, educational, and pastoral ministries. Each photo providing a missing piece of their story was a treasure, and for these I should thank former FMS missionaries Lee Lechtenberg and Nate Mortenson, Hugh Smeltekop of the Carmen Pampa Fund, and current missionaries Aubrey Kimble and Maggie Van Roekel.

At some point I began to relate my documentary struggles with the larger story of women religious. Their efforts have given us model academic institutions like Carmen Pampa, as well as hospitals and charities that tend to the marginalized the world over, but the sisters could receive more recognition. Maybe it’s that they have followed in Christ’s example so well that their leadership has not drawn attention to itself. Everyone loved these women, but it was hard to pin down these three individuals I had never met and a location I had never visited.

Ultimately, stitching together footage second by second provided a welcome focus. Here, too, I connected with Church history. I labored with my editing software in Washington, D.C., thinking of craftspeople through the ages laying mosaics and illuminating manuscripts as a form of prayer.

Finally, I met the sisters across the stage as they accepted their awards. They evoked the distinct paths that led them to Bolivia and the joy they found in their ministries. “What the heck, on to Carmen Pampa,” is how Sister Damon began her more than 20-year quest to give rural youth choices

beyond returning to their parents’ way of life. Sr. Jean described herself as shy, but she was inspired by Sister Damon’s example to dedicate 12 years to Carmen Pampa, what she called “the most fulfilling and challenging years of my 50+ years as a missionary Franciscan sister and a teacher.” Sister Chris confided that she was only expecting “a small supper” waiting for her in Washington. She then told her large, appreciative audience about how she managed a little sisterly miracle of turning a few pilfered bricks into a basketball court with enough Franciscan joy for all the students.

Sitting in the audience, I recalled a story Hugh Smeltekop told me about Sister Damon’s early years leading the university. A student returned to home late one night after going out drinking with friends, only to find none other than Sister Damon sitting on the dormitory bed. The student was startled to realize that she was not just attending a boarding school. Instead, the people at Carmen Pampa really cared for her as a person, enough for the director to wait up to impress those high expectations. By the time she graduated, the woman learned that these high hopes were based on a real trust in her ability to become someone capable of transforming others’ lives. Today, she has a master’s degree and plans to give back to the Carmen Pampa community.

Retracing the sisters’ steps for my video helped me understand how they could transform students’ lives one by one with their presence. Sisters Damon, Jean, and Chris performed countless small but powerful gestures like these in their ministry at the university. The two months that went into making *Tres Mujeres Valientes* taught me the importance of patient effort for a worthy goal, much as the sisters dedicated to the university at Carmen Pampa for decades.

— Kim Puchir, *Communications and Development Manager, Franciscan Mission Service*



Above: 2017 Anselm Moons, OFM. Award recipients Sr. Damon Nolan, MFIC, Sr. Jean Morrissey, MFIC, and Sr. Chris Cullen, MFIC

Right: Bust of Sister Damon Nolan on Carmen Pampa campus.



Photo Credit: Sr. Pauline Robinson

What Are We Reading?

IMAGINATIVE RETELLING OF FRANCIS'S STORY PAINTS WARM PORTRAIT OF POVERELLO

St. Francis of Assisi: Passion, Poverty, and the Man Who Transformed the Catholic Church by Bret Thoman, OFS. TAN Books, Charlotte, N.C., 2016; hardcover, 256 pages.

At a retreat last May in the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region, Father Steve Gross, OFM Conv., said that we “need to know the real flesh-and-blood Francis” by reading what Francis said and wrote.

In *St. Francis of Assisi*, Bret Thoman, OFS, has presented us with just such a living, intimate portrait.

Director of St. Francis Pilgrimages and a member of Immaculate Conception Fraternity in Jonesboro, Ga., Bret based his book on Francis's words and those of his early biographers found in such texts as the three-volume *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*.

Thoman has incorporated his imagination seamlessly into what we know from those original sources. As I read, I found that I was journeying with Francis and I felt closer to him than I had in some other Francis biographies I've read.

I experienced Francis's hopes, dreams, doubts, longings — someone not so different from me (at least at the outset). Francis shows us that we all have the opportunity to grow in holiness and our love of God. — if we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. He had to grow in his vocation, just as we do. It wasn't any easier for him than it is for us.

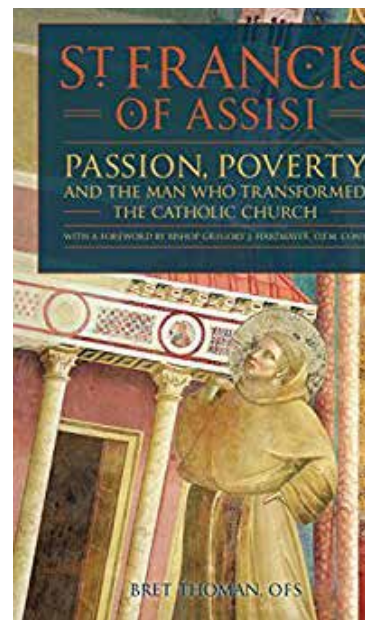
Francis listened constantly in prayer and in all he saw around him, including what he found in hermitages and other remote locations. God and Francis, nature and Francis, were present to each other:

“During the cold months, the heat of the fire warmed his body and his inner being; he always kept the embers lit as long as possible. How he rejoiced on those first spring days when the power of the Mediterranean sun warmed the land on which he often lay. During the hot summer months, the coolness of the caves refreshed his body....

“As Francis descended into the barrenness of the caves in solitude and silence, he felt like he was entering something much bigger than himself. It was almost as if he were descending into the womb of the earth where he felt God comforting, nurturing, and protecting him. In the caves, he was filled with a powerful—almost overwhelming—sense of God's power, goodness, and love” (146).

I like the way Bret tells us about life in Assisi by including Francis in events, such as what happened to someone with leprosy. Francis loathed and avoided lepers, as did

most people, but leprosy infected rich and poor, so one or more of Francis's friends might have contracted the disease. Describing how lepers were expelled from Assisi, Bret imagines the tender-hearted Francis joining the procession taking a friend into his exile and living death.



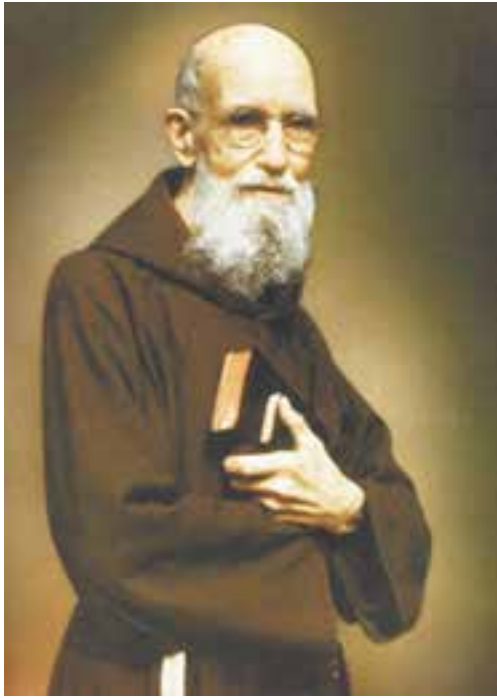
Of course, no biography of Francis would be complete without the wolf of Gubbio. Bret tells the story of the wolf by having Francis recall that incident as he is captured by the Saracens.

Be sure to read the interesting footnotes, which provide much additional information and background; as in the footnote on the wolf: “It can be considered an allegory for Franciscan peacemaking. However, the bones of an actual wolf are still preserved today in a church near Gubbio. They are believed to be the same wolf that Francis tamed” (172).

Being so close to Francis, I felt that he had become my friend. That must be why the account of his death had me close to tears. The book contains eight pages of Bret's color photos of locations important in Francis's life. There is also an excellent index. This biography is a wonderful way to get to know Francis on a deeper level and to journey with him.

*By Joanita M. Nellenbach, OFS
Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region
from the Spring TAU Newsletter
Used with permission*





We Have a New Franciscan Blessed

FATHER SOLANUS CASEY, OFM CAP

November 25, 1870 – July 31, 1957

Fr. Solanus Casey was born in Wisconsin. He became a Capuchin friar in 1898 and was ordained in 1904.

After serving 20 years in various New York positions, he was reassigned to the St. Bonaventure Priory in Detroit, Mich. There he cared for the sick, poor, and downtrodden, and counselled many who came to him for advice and support.

In 1929 he became a founder of Detroit's Capuchin Soup Kitchen, which distributed sandwiches and coffee to the unemployed. The kitchen still exists today.

During his life, he was believed to be the source of many miracles, and people come to his tomb seeking miracles in their lives.

Pope Francis announced his beatification on May 4. If he is named a saint, he could be the first American-born male saint.

Mark Your Calendar



July 6-July 9, 2017 – Summer Seminar for Secular Franciscans. St. Francis University, Loretto, Penn. (See registration form on [page 19.](#))

July 15, 2017 – Deadline for JPIC Nominations. (See nomination form on [page 7.](#))

October 6-8, 2016 – Formation Directors Weekend. Loyola Retreat House, Faulkner, Md. (See registration form on [page 4.](#))



Websites of Interest

Is God Dead? Propositions offered by science showing that the universe could not exist without a creator.

<https://www.prageru.com/courses/religionphilosophy/does-science-argue-or-against-god>

After 146 years, Ringling Brothers folds its tent
<http://aleteia.org/blogs/deacon-greg-kandra/after-146-years-ringling-brothers-folds-its-tent/>

New documentary shows impact the Divine Mercy devotion has on people's lives
<http://aleteia.org/2017/02/24/new-documentary-shows-impact-the-divine-mercy-devotion-has-on-peoples-lives/>

St. Francis + Pope Francis
<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/st-francis-pope-francis/>

Thank you, Margie Petrizza

A documentary created by the Notre Dame Under Caesar's Sword Project about the persecution of Christians in the world today.
<http://ucs.nd.edu/film/>

As we continue in the holy Easter Season, you may be interested to learn about famous converts in the last century.

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/50-catholic-converts-notable-new-church-members-over-the-last-century>

Year of Consecrated Life: beautiful statement on formators

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccsclife/anno-vita-consacrata/messaggio-congresso_12aprile2015_en.htm

Ten Saints and Future Saints Who Were Born in America

<http://epicpew.com/10-holy-people-born-in-america/>



"Monk at Computer" from the Centre for the History of the Book, University of Edinburgh

Franciscan Saints, Blesseds and Feasts

(Click on the name to go to a Web link.)

MAY

- 16 [St. Margaret of Cortona](#), penitent, Third Order Secular, d. 1297, Plenary Indulgence possible (renewal of engagements of the Third Order Secular)
 - [St. Theophilus of Corte](#), Priest, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1740
 - 17 [St. Paschal of Baylon](#), lay brother, First Order, d. 1592
 - 18 [St. Felix de Cantalice](#), lay brother, Capuchin, d. 1587
 - 19 [St. Marie-Bernard Butler](#), Virgin, Third Order Regular, d. 1924
 - [St. Crispin of Viterbo](#), lay brother, Capuchin religious, d. 1750
 - [St. Theophilus of Corte](#), Priest, First Order, d. 1740
 - 19 [St. Yves](#), Priest, Third Order Secular, d. 1303
 - 20 [St. Bernardine of Siena](#), Priest, First Order, d. 1444
 - 21 [Bl. Franz Jägerstätter](#), martyr, Third Order Secular, d. 1943
 - 22 [St. Joaquina Vedruna](#), Virgin, was a tertiary before founding religious Institute, d. 1854
 - 23 [Bl. Gerard of Villamagna](#), Confessor, Third Order Secular, d. 1242
 - 24 [Bl. John of Prado](#), Priest, First Order, martyr. d. 1631
Dedication of the Basilica in Assisi, 1253
 - 26 [St. Mariane of Jesus Parades](#), Virgin, Third Order Secular, d. 1645
 - 27 [Bl. Gerard of Lunel](#), Confessor, Third Order Secular, d. 1270
 - 30 [St. Joan of Arc](#), Virgin, Third Order Secular, d. 1431
[King Saint Fernando III](#), Confessor, Third Order Secular, d. 1252
 - 31 [St. Camilla Battista of Varano](#), Virgin, Founder, Second Order, d. 1524
- ### JUNE
- 1 [Bl. John Pelingotto](#), Confessor, Third Order Secular, d. 1304
 - 2 [St. Felix of Nicosia](#), Capuchin Lay Brother, d. 1787
 - 3 [Bl. Andrew of Spello](#), Priest, First Order, d. 1254
 - 4 [St. Francois Caracciolo](#), Priest, was a tertiary before founding another religious Institute, d. 1608
 - 5 [Bl. Pacific of Cerano](#), Priest, First Order, d. 1482
 - 6 [Bl. Lawrence of Villamagna](#), Priest, First Order, d. 1535
 - 7 [Bl. Humiliana Cerchi](#), Virgin, Third Order Secular, d. 1246
 - 8 [Bl. Nicholas of Gèsturi](#), Capuchin lay brother, d. 1958
 - 12 [Bl. Florida Cevoli](#), virgin, II Ord.
[Bl. Jolenta](#), religious, II Ord.
[108 Polish Martyrs](#): Bl. Antoninus Bajewski, priest, and companions, martyrs (Pius Bartosik, Innocent Guz, Achille Puchala, Herman Stepien, priests; Timothy Troianowski, Boniface Zukowski, religious), I Ord.
 - 13 [St. Anthony of Padua](#), priest, doctor, First Order, d. 1231 Plenary Indulgence for codbearers
 - 15 [St. Vincenta Gerosa](#), a tertiary before founding another religious Institute, d. 1847
 - 16 [Bl. Anizet Koplín](#), priest, and companions, martyrs of Poland (Henry Krzystofik, Florian Stêpniak, Fidelis Chojnacki, Symforiam Ducki), I Ord.
[Bl. Guy \(Guido\) Vignotelli](#), priest, First Order, d. 1245
[Bl. Marie-Therese Scherer](#), Virgin, Third Order Regular, d. 1888
 - 17 [St. Albert Chmielowski](#), religious, Third Order, founder, d. 1916
[Bl. Peter Gambacorti](#), Confessor, Third Order Secular, d. 1435
 - 18 [Bl. Guy of Cortona](#), Priest, First Order, d. 1250
 - 20 [Bl. Micheline de Pesaro](#), Third Order Secular, d. 1356
 - 21 [Bl. Herman Stapien](#), Priest, Conventual, martyr 1943 (Polish Martyrs)
 - 22 [St. Thomas More](#), Martyr, Third Order Secular, d. 1535
 - 23 [St. Joseph Cafasso](#), Priest, Third Order Secular, d. 1860
 - 24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist
 - 25 [Bl. Bienvenu de Gubbio](#), lay brother, First Order, d. 1232
[Bl. Jutta of Thuringia](#), Third Order Secular, d. 1264

- 26 **Bl. Andrew Hyacinth Longhin**, bishop, First Order, d. 1936
Bl. Frederick Jassoone, Priest, First Order, d. 1916
- 27 Bl. Marguerite Baey, Virgin, Third Order Secular, d. 1879
- 28 **St. Barthelemie Capitanio**, Virgin, was a tertiary before founding another religious Institute, d. 1833
- 30 **Bl. Raymond Lull**, Martyr, Third Order Secular, d. 1315

JULY

- 1 Feast of the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Bl. Ignace Falzon, Confessor, Third Order Secular, d. 1865
St. Junipero Serra, priest, First Order, d. 1784
- 3 **Bl. Marie Anne Fontcuberta**, Virgin, founder, Third-Order Regular, d. 1886
- 4 **St. Elizabeth of Portugal**, queen, Third Order Secular, d. 1336
- 7 Bl. Davanzato, bishop, Third Order Secular, d. 1295
Bl. Oddino Barrotti, Priest, Third Order Secular, d. 1400
- 8 **Bl. Gregory Grassi**, bishop, and companions, martyrs, I Ord.
- 9 **St. Nicholas Pick**, priest, and companions, martyrs, First and Third Order, d. 1572
St. Veronica Giuliani, Virgin, Capuchin religious, d. 1727
120 Martyrs of China, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order and Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1900
- 10 **11 Martyrs of Damas**, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1860
- 11 **11 Martyrs of Holland**, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1572
- 12 **Sts. John Jones and John Wall**, priests, martyrs, First Order, d. 1679
Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin, Third Order Secular (parents of St. Therese of Lisieux)
- 13 **Bl. Angeline of Marciano**, Third-Order Regular, d. 1435
- 15 **St. Bonaventure**, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, religious of the Franciscan 1st Order, d. 1274
- 16 **Canonization of St. Francis**, Canonized 16 July 1228 by Pope Gregory IX

- St. Francis Solano**, priest, First Order, d. 1610
St. Marie-Madeleine Postel, Virgin, founder, Third-Order Regular, d. 1846
- 18 **St. Simon of Lipnica**, Priest, First Order, d. 1482
St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest, was a tertiary before founding another religious Institute, d. 1614
- 21 **St. Lawrence of Brindisi**, Priest, Capuchin, Doctor of the Church, d. 1619
- 23 **St. Bridget of Sweden**, widow, Third Order, d. 1373
- 24 **St. Cunequnda**, religious, Second Order, d. 1292
Bl. Louise of Savoy, Virgin, Second Order, d. 1503
Bl. Modestino of Jesus and Mary, priest, First Order, d. 1864
Bl. Antoine Lucci, Bishop, Conventual, d. 1752
- 27 **Bl. Mary Magdalene of Martinengo**, virgin, Second Order, d. 1737
- 28 **Bl. Mary Teresa Kowalska**, Virgin, Capuchin Poor Clares, martyr, d. 1941
Bl. Mattia Nazarei, virgin, Second Order, d. 1320
- 30 **St. Leopold de Castelnovo**, Priest, Capuchin religious, d. 1942

AUGUST

- 2 **Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula**
- 3 **Bl. Frederic Janssoone**, priest, I Ord.
- 4 **St. John Vianney**, priest, Third Order Secular, d. 1859
- 5 Bl. Marie-Francoise de Jesus, Virgin, Third-Order Regular, d. 1904
- 7 **Bls. Agathangelus and Cassian**, Capuchin priests and martyrs, d. 1638
- 8 **Holy Father Dominic**, priest, founder, Order of Preachers, d. 1221
- 9 **Bl. John of La Verna**, priest, First Order, d. 1322
- 11 **St. Clare of Assisi**, virgin, founder of the Poor Clares, d. 1253
- 13 **Bl. Mark of Aviano**, Bl. Mark of Aviano, priest, First Order, d. 1699.
- 14 **St. Maximilian Kolbe**, priest, Conventual, martyr, d. 1941
- 16 **Bl. Francis Chici of Pesaro**, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1350
- 17 **St. Roch of Montpellier**, Third Order Secular, d. 1327

ANNUAL THEME 2017

“CARING OF FRAILTIES: MERCY AND DISCERNMENT”

FAMILY COMMISSION: Silvia Diana, Jenny Harrington, Fr Francis Dor OFM Cap.

Translation: Mary Stronach OFS



Our General Constitutions say:

In the fraternity:

- ***the spirituality of the family and of marriage and the Christian attitude towards family problems should be a theme for dialogue and for the sharing of experiences;***
- ***they should share the important moments of the family life of their Franciscan brothers and sisters and they should give fraternal attention to those - single, widows, single parents, separated, divorced - who are living difficult situations; [...] art. 24,2.***

WORK PROPOSAL:

We have conceived a work dynamics made up of three parts: SEE, JUDGE AND ACT.

1. Questions to share in fraternity... (see)

- a. What situations of frailty do our families experience today?
- b. How can we assist in these situations?
- c. How are we involved in the pastoral initiatives of our local church in support of the family.

2. Enlightening ourselves in fraternity... Material for reflection. (judge)

- a. The faithful who find themselves in complicated situations
- b. The children.
- c. The elderly.
- d. Those Without a Family
- e. Those in poverty

a. The faithful who find themselves in complicated situations:

Accompanying, discerning and integrating weakness:

- Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation AMORIS LAETITIA 291-292.

The discernment of “irregular” situations:

- Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation AMORIS LAETITIA 29.

The divorced who have entered a new unión:

- Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation AMORIS LÆTITIA 298.

The logic of the integration of the baptized and civilly remarried :

- Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation AMORIS LÆTITIA 299.

The great variety of situations does not allow for a new general norm of canonical nature:

- Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation AMORIS LÆTITIA 300,301.

The logic of mercy...

- Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation AMORIS LÆTITIA 312.

b. The children:

- Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation AMORIS LÆTITIA 51.

c. The elderly:

- Apostolic Exhortation FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO 27
- Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation AMORIS LÆTITIA 191,193.

d.Those Without a Family:

- Apostolic Exhortation FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO 85

e.Those in poverty:

- POPE FRANCIS- GENERAL AUDIENCE Wednesday, 3 June 2015.

3. Committing ourselves in the fraternity ...(Act)

- a. After having been enlightened by the teachings of the Church and our sharing, ¿what attitude can we change in the presence of these situations of frailty?
- b. ¿May brothers and sisters in irregular situations participate in our fraternity? (Interpretation practice of art. 53.5 of the General Constitutions Circ. 35/02-08)
- c. What concrete contribution can we make to the pastoral initiative of our Church and community?

Nomination Form for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Award

The United States Secular Franciscan Order established the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Award to recognize those Franciscans who are dedicated to promoting peace, social justice and care for creation by the testimony of their human lives. Through their courageous initiatives, they work to animate compassion and nonviolence in the world.

If you know someone from the Franciscan Family in your community or in the world who promotes peace in a significant way, please think about nominating him or her for the JPIC Award.

- Name of Nominee _____
- Nominee is which branch of the Franciscan Family?
 - Friar / Province: _____
 - Poor Clare / Congregation: _____
 - Religious Sister / Congregation: _____
 - Secular / Region: _____
 - Ecumenical Clergy: _____
 - Ecumenical Lay: _____
- Why are you nominating this person for the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Award? (250 words)

- What are some of the works, projects, and/or notable characteristics about this person that exemplifies his/her peace efforts? (250 words)

- How may we contact the nominee?
 - Phone _____
 - Email _____
 - Street Address _____



Endorsed by the National Executive Council of the Secular Franciscan Order - USA

“Multiculturalism and Diversity: Who is My Neighbor?” – Presenters



Mary Stronach, OFS - Multiculturalism has been at the center of Mary’s life, vocation and vision. As a foreign language teacher at the high school and college levels in Spanish, Italian, French and Latin, she has addressed diversity and how to work with people from different backgrounds. She has presented on multiculturalism and cultural competency in her role as Outreach Coordinator for an interpreting/translation organization call the Multicultural Association of Medical/Legal Interpreters. The organization serves refugees and immigrants from dozens of regions of the world – from Myanmar to Mexico.

Mary has been a Secular Franciscan since 2003 and has served at all levels. On the local and regional fraternity levels, she has been Formation Director and Commission Chair. On the national level, she and her husband, Bob, have been Public Relations Chairpersons since 2003. More recently, Mary was elected International Councilor. Mary has also served as translator/interpreter for the Presidency of the OFS in Rome, Italy.

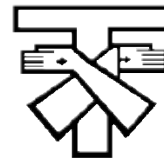
Carolyn D. Townes, OFS is a spiritual life and leadership coach and a loss to life mindset strategist, where she uses faith-based principles to provide spiritual and emotional wellness to women moving from the pain of grief and loss to a new life of purpose and peace. Her passion and mission is to help them go from a place of tragedy and trauma to a place of peace and joy.

Since professing in 2000, Carolyn has served in leadership roles in the Secular Franciscan Order, including local fraternity minister and regional secretary. She is currently the Animator for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) on the regional and national levels and serving on the International JPIC Commission. She is also an Action Commissioner and board member for the Franciscan Action Network.





8th Summer Seminar for Secular Franciscans July 6-9, 2017



Endorsed by the National Executive Council of the Secular Franciscan Order - USA

Tentative Schedule

Thursday - July 6, 2017

- 12:00-4:30 PM – Registration (*Christian Hall*)
- 5:00 PM – Dinner (*Torvian Dining Hall*)
- 6:30 PM – Opening prayer (*DiSepio*)
- 7:00 PM – **Session 1: Multiculturalism 101**
- 8:30 PM – Social (*Christian Hall*)

Friday – July 7, 2017

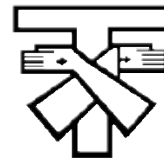
- 8:00 AM – Breakfast (*Torvian*)
- 9:15 AM – Morning prayer (*DiSepio*)
- 9:30 AM – **Session 2: Definitions - What is Multiculturalism and Cultural Competence?**
- 11:30 AM – Break
- 12:00 noon – Lunch (*Torvian*)
- 2:00 PM – **Session 3: Our Church – Diversity and Conflict in the Bible and in our Church**
- 3:30 PM – Break
- 4:00 PM – Mass (*Immaculate Conception Chapel*)
- 5:00 PM – Dinner (*Torvian*)
- 6:30 PM – Evening prayer (*DiSepio*)
- 7:00 PM – **Session 4: Our Nation – Historical and Present Situation**
- 8:30 PM – Social (*Christian Hall*)

Saturday – July 8, 2017

- 8:00 AM – Breakfast (*Torvian*)
- 9:15 AM – Morning prayer (*DiSepio*)
- 9:30 AM – **Session 5: A Global Perspective on Multiculturalism**
- 11:30 AM – Break
- 12:00 noon – Lunch (*Torvian*)
- 2:00 PM – **Session 6: Our Order in the USA- The Reality of Multiculturalism**
- 3:30 PM – Break
- 4:00 PM – Mass: Sunday liturgy (*Immaculate Conception Chapel*)
- 5:00 PM – Dinner (*Torvian*)
- 6:30 PM – Evening prayer (*DiSepio*)
- 7:00 PM – **Session 7: Who has the Power?**
- 8:30 PM – Social (*Christian Hall*)

Sunday - July 9, 2017

- 8:00 AM – Breakfast (*Torvian*)
- 9:15 AM – Morning prayer (*DiSepio*)
- 9:30 AM – **Session 8: What is our Mission and Action Plan?**
- 12:00 noon – Lunch and Departure



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Driving Directions to St. Francis University

From Northwestern Pennsylvania: Take **I-79 to Rt. 422 East** to Ebensburg. In town, turn left at the traffic light onto High Street. Continue straight at next light. Turn left on to Manor Road. Saint Francis University is six miles on the right.

From Cleveland (Ohio area): Take **Ohio Turnpike East to I-80 East**. Take **I-680 South to Route 422 East** (approximately 120 miles) to Ebensburg. In town, turn left at the traffic light onto High Street. Continue straight at next light. Turn left on to Manor Road. Follow this road for six miles to the Saint Francis University entrance on right.

From Southwestern PA and Southeast Ohio: Take **Route 22 East** from Pittsburgh to second Ebensburg exit (Ebensburg/Loretto exit). Bear right at end of exit ramp. Proceed straight (crossing over Route 22). Turn right at the first light on to Manor Road. Follow this road for six miles to the Saint Francis University entrance on right.

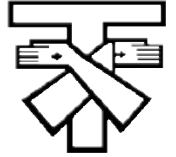
From Northeastern PA/Central New Jersey: Take **I-80 South to I-80 West to Exit 161** (Bellefonte). Take **US99/Rt. 220 South** approximately 50 miles to Altoona. Take **Rt. 22 West** to Lilly/Portage Exit. Turn right onto **Rt. 53 North**. Continue on Rt. 53 North approximately two miles to traffic light (Sheetz on left). Turn left at light and continue beneath railroad overpass. 200 yards beyond overpass, bear right at Saint Francis University sign onto St. Joseph Street. Take this road four miles to Loretto. At Village Cross monument on traffic circle, bear left. Saint Francis University entrance is 200 yards on left.

From Southeastern PA, Baltimore, MD, and Washington, D.C.: Take **PA Turnpike (I-76) West to Bedford Exit 146 (220 North/I-99 North)**. Turn left after toll booth. At top of hill, turn left onto **US99/Rt. 220 North** to Altoona. Travel approximately 30 miles to Rt. 22 West. Continue from Altoona -- previous paragraph.

If you are programming your GPS, set it to:
117 Evergreen Drive, Loretto, PA 15940



8th Summer Seminar for Secular Franciscans July 6-9, 2017



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General Information

- Room check-in is 3 PM, July 6th.
- Check out time is 12 noon, July 9th.
- Sorry, no early arrivals or late stays.
- All rooms have a bathroom; linens and towels are provided.
- If you need a hair dryer, bathrobe, umbrella, iron, or other amenity, please bring those with you.
- We cannot accommodate special room requests other than handicapped access.
- Commuter registration does not include room or board – meals are paid at the door at the dining hall.
- Shuttle service is provided to/from residence hall, dining hall, and conference center for all attendees.

Air Transportation Information:

Please note: No transportation to/from airports is provided by the Seminar. We recommend flying into one of the following options and driving to campus.

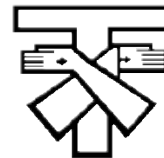
- Johnstown Regional - JST (25 mi.)
- Altoona-Blair County – AOO (30 mi.)
- University Park (State College, PA) – UNV (73 mi.)
- Pittsburgh International - PIT (100 mi.)

Other questions?

Contact Fr. Joe Lehman, TOR, (814) 472-3054 (daytime) or e-mail jlehman@francis.edu








8th Summer Seminar for Secular Franciscans July 6-9, 2017



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“Multiculturalism and Diversity: Who is My Neighbor?”

-  **RESIDENT** registration fee includes residence hall room and all meals
-  **COMMUTER** registration fee does not include room or meals
-  **Payment must accompany this form** and is **NON-REFUNDABLE**
-  **Register before June 1st** to receive a \$25 discount on the RESIDENT registration fee
-  **Absolutely no registrations accepted after Monday, June 19th**

REGISTRATION LIMITED TO 100 PARTICIPANTS

First Name _____ **Last Name** _____

Fraternity _____ **Region** _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Home Phone _____ **Cell Phone** _____ **Email** _____

RESIDENT (ON CAMPUS) REGISTRATION - Accommodations in Christian Hall

- Single Room \$290** /After June 1, 2017 registration is **\$315** per person = \$ _____
LIMITED NUMBER OF SINGLE ROOMS AVAILABLE
- Double Room \$230** /After June 1, 2017 registration is **\$255** per person = \$ _____
- I will be rooming with _____
- I will need a roommate – match me up if you can

OR:

- COMMUTER REGISTRATION** – (NO ROOM OR MEALS) @ **\$70** per person = \$ _____

To pay by check: Make check payable to **Saint Francis University**. Please mail your check and this registration form to: **Mission Integration Office, Saint Francis University, P.O. Box 600, Loretto, PA 15940-0600**

OR:

To pay by Credit or Debit Card: Online registration: <https://my.francis.edu/sfubus/ICFL/ICFLseminar.asp>

Questions? Contact Fr. Joe Lehman, TOR, (814) 472-3054 (daytime) or e-mail jlehman@francis.edu