

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. Philippus Philippus, OFM/Cap

Volume 17, Issue 4

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

May 2014

Annual Inquirers' and Candidates' Day of Reflection

On April 5, the St. Margaret of Cortona Region celebrated the fifth annual inquirers' and candidates' Day of Reflection at the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City, Md. More than 50 prospective and professed Franciscan family members attended as participants and staff.

Brother Kip Ledger, OFM Cap, led the morning session by presenting the many aspects of Franciscan spirituality and how we view the world through our Franciscan imagination. He touched upon topics such as the three kinds of prayer — active, meditative and contemplative. He also spoke of our personal and individual relationships with God, a God/self/other kind of love; our Order as “the Penitents of Assisi”; our peaceful effect upon the world; and creation and Francis as the patron saint of ecology and of the animals. He also brought out the humility of the Incarnation, the divinity of the Crucifixion, the glory of the Resurrection and our final union with God.

In addition to these teachings, Brother Kip explained the Franciscan Model of Evangelical Mission, perhaps the one area that Francis was most passionate about and that was the main drive behind his apostolic ministry. Here, Brother Kip referred Francis as a “person of desire” who, by a process of conversion, contemplation, mystical experience and deeper level of commitment, fulfilled the evangelical mission God had called him to do. Prayer leads us to resolution, which leads us to action, which, in turn, leads us to a deeper love and then back to prayer.

Mike's presentation in the afternoon took what Brother Kip brought out and applied it to the participants of the day. He started off by reflecting on how all of us may have been first attracted to Francis—how his appeal led to our call and discernment in the OFS. Then he reflected on the many “God moments” in the life of Francis, especially those of conversion and contemplation such as God speaking to him through the San Damiano cross,



All photos by John Clem, Mt. Laverna Fraternity, Charlottesville, Va.

Father Michael Heine O.F.M., Conv., director of the Shrine of St. Anthony greets attendees at the St. Margaret of Cortona Region fifth annual Day of Reflection for inquirers and candidates.

the encounter with the leper, and his encounters with creation. Mike expanded Brother Kip's introduction of “person of desire” earlier that day and explained more specifically what Francis did to merit this title.

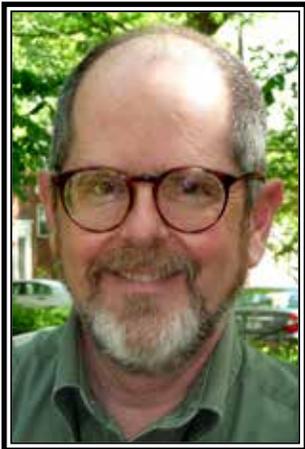
Mike also picked up on Brother Kip's presentation of the Franciscan Model of Evangelical Mission and explained it as a cyclic process of conversion: We use meditative

(see Day of Reflection on page 4)

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Regional Minister's Message



A FRATERNITY OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

My Dear Sisters and
Brothers,

On June 8, we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began their evangelical mission. Like our forebears, all the baptized are called "to make disciples of all nations."

Whew! That's quite a job our Lord has laid on us! Some are called to serve as missionaries (see Franciscan Mission Service www.franciscanmissionservice.org), but what about the rest of us? While we all should pray and support our Franciscan lay missionaries, how can our fraternities participate in this "new evangelization"?

Last fall's synod of bishops on the New Evangelization identified evangelization as a regular activity of the church, a lifelong process directed at practicing Catholics, and an outreach to baptized Catholics who have become distant from the faith. How can a Franciscan fraternity participate in this "new" evangelization?

As a guide, let's turn to "Evangelii Gaudium - The Joy of the Gospel" - the exhortation of Pope Francis, written in response to the synod.

Our "Franciscan-hearted" Pontiff has given us a beautiful, accessible and rich guide to the New Evangelization. All the faithful should read it cover to cover. After "mining" this mother-lode of spirituality, I offer eight nuggets for your consideration, contemplation and guidance:

- ◇ ...[A]n evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral! (paragraph 10)
- ◇ Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone. Instead of seeming to impose new obligations, they should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty and who invite others to a delicious banquet. It is not by proselytizing that the Church grows, but "by attraction." (15)
- ◇ The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel. (114)

- ◇ All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. (120)
- ◇ This message has to be shared humbly as a testimony on the part of one who is always willing to learn, in the awareness that the message is so rich and so deep that it always exceeds our grasp. (128)
- ◇ Rather than experts in dire predictions, dour judges bent on rooting out every threat and deviation, we should appear as joyful messengers of challenging proposals, guardians of the goodness and beauty that shine forth in a life of fidelity to the Gospel. (168)
- ◇ It is true that in our dealings with the world, we are told to give reasons for our hope, but not as an enemy who critiques and condemns. We are told quite clearly: "do so with gentleness and reverence" (1 Pet 3:15) and "if possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all" (Rom 12:18). We are also told to overcome "evil with good" (Rom 12:21) and to "work for the good of all" (Gal 6:10). Far from trying to appear better than others, we should "in humility count others better" than ourselves (Phil 2:3). (271)
- ◇ If we are to share our lives with others and generously give of ourselves, we also have to realize that every person is worthy of our giving. Not for their physical appearance, their abilities, their language, their way of thinking, or for any satisfaction we might receive, but rather because they are God's handiwork, his creation. God created that person in his image, and he or she reflects something of God's glory. Every human being is the object of God's infinite tenderness, and he himself is present in their lives. Jesus offered his precious blood on the cross for that person. Appearances notwithstanding, every person is immensely holy and deserves our love. Consequently, if I can help at least one person to have a better life, that already justifies the offering of my life.

This is but a small sample of the riches to be found in the Joy of the Gospel. Please consider using the Holy Father's exhortation for your ongoing formation.

In the peace and joy of Francis and Clare,
Patrick Martin, OFS
St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Minister

Regional Formation Director's Message

Hi, once again, to all of my Franciscan colleagues and a happy almost here summertime to all!

The regional formation team and youth/young adult sub-committee continues to make "baby step" progress in its quest to make our Order more attractive to and accommodating in the discernment process for our young people. Here are some of our ongoing efforts:

Jeanie McLees continues her involvement with the young adult programs in her area of Virginia Beach. She currently has a young adult group she meets with on a regular basis at the school where she works. She also continues to volunteer with programs involving young adults at Wesleyan College. One involved a night of fasting with proceeds going to local homeless shelters. She is also involved with the young adult programs at a local parish church in Williamsburg and hopes to introduce them to the Franciscan way of life in the near future. She also participates with the young adults of her school in the Youth and Community Action Team, which does activities in support of a safe, healthy and drug-free environment in the Virginia Beach area.

Harry Ford is still working with a proposal to start a Franciscan Earth Corps with students at nearby Hood College. As it is close to the end of the school year, this may be on hold until the startup of the next school year in the fall. As for me, I am hopefully considering starting a YouFra fraternity in my area of east Baltimore and surrounding vicinity in the future. I ask for your prayers for the success of this endeavor.

As other efforts and proposals for young adults begin to materialize, I will certainly keep you informed. As you have been, continue to keep the efforts of the youth/young adult sub-committee and the increase of the calling of the young people into our order in your deepest prayers.

The Fifth Annual Inquirers' and Candidates' Day Of Recollection, held on April 5 at the Shrine Of St. Anthony of Ellicott City, was a great and uplifting success and experience for all who were there. As one of the facilitators this time, I thank all who were a part of it in any way or shape. Look for my article on this event on the first page of this issue.

The regional formation team and youth/young adult subcommittee will visit your fraternity to talk about any topic of formation, the FUN manual, or how to organize or sponsor a YouFra fraternity or Franciscan Earth Corps. If there are at least five prospective young adults of age 18 to roughly 35 years of age who are thinking of or inquiring about a Franciscan way of life, in your estimation, why not invite them to your gathering and have us give them and your fraternity members a presentation. The presentation is about one hour long. This is part of our continuing efforts to involve our young people in the workings of our Franciscan Family.

Be sure to also look for the second of the articles I am writing on Franciscan Youth and Young Adults on page 6. I welcome any comments or questions.

Mike Huether, OFS
Regional Formation Director



Franciscan Mission Service

RENAMED PROGRAM GROWS FRANCISCAN LEADERS FOR NONPROFITS

At Franciscan Mission Service we rejoice in the many ways in which we can engage young adults in the Franciscan charism and train them to be compassionate servant leaders. While for almost 25 years our flagship program has been long-term overseas mission, we have been offering an opportunity for service right here in Washington, D.C., since 2009.

What started as an internship program in our administrative office grew into the "Domestic Volunteer Program," in which young lay Catholics give 13 months of their time in the areas of communications, fundraising, office management and program support. In exchange, they are given housing, health insurance, mentorship and a stipend.



Associates in the Nonprofit Leadership Program. Back row: Michael Carlson and Jason Bach. Front row: Sarah Hoffeditz and Chanda Ikachana.

(see "FMS" on page 6.)

(Day of Reflection, continued from page 1)

and contemplative prayer to communicate with God; and this inspires us to apostolic action, taking on many ministries of service. When we see the resulting good, we are encouraged, motivated, and prompted to love Him all the more. This keeps us in communication with Him by our continued prayer, leading us to more action and so on. The mission, no different from that of Francis or Jesus themselves, is a lifelong quest. With the help of the Holy Spirit, this develops us into the Franciscan we really want to be and are called to be. Mike brought his talk to a conclusion by touching



Regional Minister Patrick Martin, OFS, welcomes participants.



Mike Huether, OFS, Regional Formation Director, applies Franciscan spirituality to our daily lives.

Brother Kip Ledger, OFM Cap, discusses Franciscan spirituality.

upon the many, unlimited ways in our ordinary lives as we as Seculars can do and go to bring this mission to the world. We can do this by promoting reconciliation, advocating for the marginalized, addressing spiritual and material poverty, promoting respect for life and for creation, evangelizing and animating our young people, and catechizing the uneducated, among other spiritual supports. In short, if there is a spiritual deficiency of any sort, a secular Franciscan can and should be found.

The Sixth Annual event will be held at the Shrine on April 18, 2015. As Easter next year will be on April 5, the Day of Reflection will be moved to the third Saturday of April. Mark your calendars now!

*Mike Huether, OFS
Regional Formation Director*

Mark Your Calendar



St. Francis University

July 10-14, 2014 — 6th OFS Summer Seminar, Spiritual Assistance, (open to all professed, inquirers and candidates) Saint Francis University, Loretto, Penn. (See information beginning on page 10.)

Simplify your life as much as possible. Only keep belongings that you use and enjoy on a regular basis. By making the effort to reduce what you own, you will naturally purchase less and create less waste in the future.

Around the Region



San Camillo Fraternity celebrates its first election. Front row from the left: Sandra Perez (candidate), Ottoniel Perez ofs (minister), Maria Andrade ofs (treasurer), Amable Mejia ofs (vice-minister), Reina Velasquez (inquier), Esther Reyes ofs (director of formation), Idalia Herrera (inquier), Evelyn and John (guests). Back row from left: Gerardo Palacios (secretary), Fr. Erick Lopez ofm (spiritual assistant), Carlos Velasquez (candidate), Melida Fuentes ofs.

NEWLY PROFESSED

Donna Evans, OFS, Immaculata Fraternity, Frederickburg, Va.
LeeAnne Rinker, OFS, Immaculata Fraternity, Frederickburg, Va.
Edward Semeia, OFS, Immaculata Fraternity, Frederickburg, Va.



St. Francis of Assisi Triangle's newly elected council. From Left, Fr. Frank Critch, OFM, John Carlson, OFS, Laura Britto, OFS, Margy Carlson, OFS, Pat Zechman, OFS, Jeanne Carter, OFS, Marcy Grattan, OFS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED

San Camilo Fraternity, Silver Spring, Md.
Minister: Ottoniel Perez, OFS
Vice Minister: Amable Mejia, OFS
Secretary: Gerardo Palacios, OFS
Treasurer: Maria Victoria (Vicki) Andrade, OFS
Formation Director: Esther Reyes, OFS
St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Dumfries, Va.

Minister: John Carlson, OFS
Vice Minister: Laura Britto, OFS
Recording Secretary: Margy Carlson, OFS
Treasurer: Vacant
Formation Minister: Marci Grattan, OFS
Counselor 1 (Infirmarian): Jeanne Carter
Counselor 2 (Corresponding Secretary): Pat Zechman
Spiritual Assistant: Fr. Frank Critch, OFM

AWARD RECEIVED

Cathy Polkowski, OFS, St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity, Baltimore, Md. On November 4, 2014, Cathy received an Annual Governors' Service Award for her volunteer work at the Franciscan Center. In 2012, Cathy helped in a variety of ways including distributing 7,005 grocery bags, helping 846 individuals and families restore their gas and electricity, and preventing 296 individuals and families from being evicted. In total, Cathy volunteered more than 1,000 hours in 2012.



Cathy Polkowski with Franciscan Center Volunteer and In-Kind Donation Coordinator Donté Taylor.

LOSSES IN THE FAMILY



Nancy Lee Focht, OFS, Mary Our Queen Fraternity, professed October 21, 2012, July 13, 1928-March 7, 2014. Nancy was active in St. Clare "Living Water" prayer group. She was a very enthusiastic candidate and carried that into her short time as a member. Nancy was always smiling and enjoyed sharing the gospel message. She had interesting insight when she taught at one of the gatherings.

Joan Leckinger, OFS, June 27, 1932-March 4, 2014, St. Conrad Annapolis Fraternity. Joan had a four-year battle with cancer, and at one time served as minister.



Raymond J. Sweeney, OFS, August 11, 1928-April 7, 2014. Raymond was professed in 1983, and was a member of St. Thomas More Fraternity in Arlington. He was a docent at the Franciscan Monastery and helped sponsor an emigrant Vietnamese family.



Melvina Thompson, OFS, St. Francis, D.C., Fraternity, February 25, 2014.

("FMS" from page 3.)

Those who come to serve with us are interested in breaking into the nonprofit sector or potentially working for the Church someday. This unique program is another wonderful opportunity for FMS to prepare the next generation of compassionate servant leaders. In addition to exposing them to the daily workings of small nonprofits and helping them gain work experience, we provide them intentional community and foster in them Franciscan values. They live simply in intentional community with other young adults at our Casa San Salvador mission house in northeast Washington, sharing in meals and prayer. They are also able to sit in on classes taught during the fall mission formation.

Ever responsive to the needs of young adults, we have continued to tweak the program over the years. In 2012, we added a weekly afternoon of volunteering with marginalized populations in Washington so participants can engage directly in the ministry of presence. Whether it is volunteering at a soup kitchen, nursing home or after-school program, the service opportunity helps inform the young person's professional development and spiritual growth.

"The program and all its components has made me grow in my relationship with God and every living creature. When surrounded by different amazing and remarkable individuals, you can't help but follow suit," said Rachel Roa, who served as development associate. "Working for an organization where you can directly see your impact and the product of hard-work is a blessing not many get. The program has made me realize many things in the months I was there and truly changed my outlook on life for many years to come."

Franciscan Youth and Young Adults



This is the second in a series of articles on Franciscan Youth and Young Adults. We continue with the excerpt from "A Vision of Franciscan Youth in the United States" by Riobart (Rob) Breen, OFS, chairman of the National Franciscan Youth/Young Adult Commission:

The requirements for the Regional Fraternities to achieve success in building emerging YouFra fraternities are:

- 1) Establish a national YouFra vision and goals through a collaborative national YouFra commission;
- 2) Facilitate national networking and communication with regional and local OFS Franciscan Youth Chairs and with YouFra members and leaders as they emerge;
- 3) Initiate a communications and outreach project to connect with young adults who are interested in forming YouFra fraternities;

To further the professional and spiritual development of our volunteers, we are now adding to our program weekly trainings and leadership development, formal spiritual direction with trained professionals and mentors in the nonprofit sector. With this also comes a new name: the Nonprofit Leadership Program. We hope the re-brand will help more clearly convey the purpose of this opportunity we have been growing and molding over the past five years.

We are proud of our alumni who take their experiences and go on to serve with heart and skill in other nonprofits. More than half have stayed in the Washington metro area. Former staff writer Susan Zagar, for instance, now serves as a tutor coordinator for the Literacy Council of Montgomery County.

"My year with Franciscan Mission Service gave me a chance to learn about new cultures, overseas ministries and the inspiring lifelong work of the missionaries," said Zagar. "I hope to be able to carry out lifelong mission alongside the U.S.-born and immigrant adult learners I work with now."

How can you get involved in training these young servant leaders? Make a donation of \$350 – the monthly stipend of an associate. If you are a leader in a nonprofit and would like to mentor one of our young adults, please contact me at kim@franciscanmissionservice.org.

We currently have several spots open in our program, so please share our Web site with a young adult you know: www.franciscanmissionservice.org/nonprofit_leadership.

By Kim Smolik, Executive Director

- 4) Develop new YouFra materials and curriculum for formation and servant leadership training;
- 5) Develop initial draft guidelines for YouFra fraternities;
- 6) Disseminate successful models for YouFra fraternities;
- 7) Host annual regional gatherings for YouFra and OFS;
- 8) Train Secular Franciscans who have the gifts and vocation to work with YouFra as animators;
- 9) Facilitate a new generation of YouFra leaders to eventually take over responsibility for building the basic infrastructure (remembering "more charism," less structure) to foster a perpetual, viable and dynamic YouFra movement throughout the United States.

(see "Youth" on page 7)

("Youth" from page 6.)

The hope is that within the decade, there will be a national movement and network of YouFra members embracing the gospel life, giving life to the Franciscan charism and organizing themselves well enough that the movement maintains its staying power to continue to mobilize each succeeding generation of young adults the Holy Spirit calls forth.

In the immediate future, the YouFra focus will be on young adults (age 18 to approximately 30) rather than "youth"(under 18 years), although support can be provided to regional councils that have local fraternities wishing to engage in work with young people under 18 who collaborate with their diocese and parish. At this time in the Catholic Church, it is not wise or logically and financially feasible to develop the capacity of Secular Franciscan Order to engage in safe and effective ministry with minors..

In the next article, we will elaborate on the reasons for the strategic focus on the young adult age group. I would also like to add that just recently the National Youth/Young Adult Commission sent out its "Draft Strategic Plan for Franciscan Youth in the United States" to the regions. This plan is drafted from the results submitted by the 70 participants, including myself as one of two representing our region, in the Franciscan Summer Confab of last summer. You will be hearing about this plan in the coming months.

Mike Huether, OFS

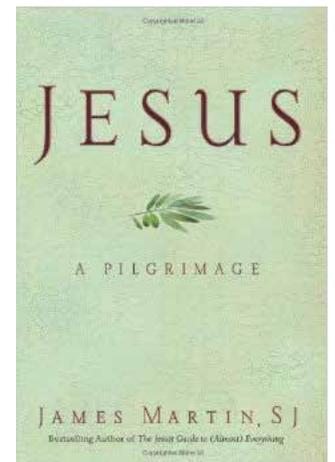


What Are We Reading?

Jesus: A Pilgrimage, James Martin, SJ, HarperOne (March 11, 2014), ISBN 978-006202437, 544 pp., \$27.99

We say it and think it: From Gospel to Life and from Life to Gospel. Following in the footsteps of Francis we are following in the footsteps of Jesus. James Martin's latest book *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* provides an opportunity to follow Jesus through Scripture, reflection and prayer while "visiting" the places where Christ lived and traveled.

Martin's book on Jesus was written after his two week pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where he visited places from Jesus' birth, life, miracle stories, passion, death and resurrection. Having never visited the Holy Land, I felt at many times while reading the book that I was there in mind and spirit. Martin's excellent description of his pilgrimage and the vivid depiction of the places he visited are enhanced by his reference to Biblical scholarship, personal reflection and discussion of the original Greek meaning of certain phrases.



When I first saw the book, I must admit I was a little intimidated by its length, yet when I finished the book I wanted more. Martin is an excellent writer who can make scholarly work simple to understand for the average reader. Each chapter ends with a Gospel passage that refers to the place visited in the chapter. After reading the commentary about the passage, the physical description of the place and Martin's prayerful reflection it was very easy to enter into the Scripture passage and imagine yourself there in the time of Jesus. I approached reading this book by reading a chapter a day and reflecting on the Scripture passage and know I will keep this book on the shelf and return to it often.

In many places, Martin challenges the reader as he did while reflecting on the parable we commonly know as the Parable of the Prodigal Son. "Sometimes our inability to accept another's good fortune comes from denigrating our own lives. We focus not on what we already have, but on what another person seemingly has" (Martin, p. 218).

It is hard to select a favorite location or gospel story, since the entire book is well written, but I particularly liked the visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the three Resurrection stories he includes. You can sense the emotions and understanding Martin had as he touched the rock in the tomb where Jesus laid and rose from. Besides learning a lot about Biblical archeology, I came away with renewed understanding and appreciation of the Gospels and several "aha" moments as I learned new insights into Scripture. The book includes an extensive bibliography of sources that can lead to further study.

— Laura Britto, OFS
St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity
Triangle, Va.

Our National Visitation

26. *To promote fidelity to the charism as well as observance of the rule and to receive greater support in the life of the fraternity, the minister or president, with the consent of the council, should take care to ask for a regular pastoral visit by the competent religious superiors as well as for a fraternal visit from those of the higher fraternities, according to the norm of the constitutions.*

The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

On December 6–7, 2013, the National Fraternity (NAFRA) conducted a pastoral and fraternal visitation to St. Margaret of Cortona region during our annual regional chapter, at St. Francis of Assisi parish in Triangle, Virginia. We were blessed to have Elaine Hedtke, OFS, National Vice Minister, and Fr. Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap., National Spiritual Assistant, with us to conduct the visitation.

Similar to the regional visitations to one of our 34 fraternities, there were forms to fill out beforehand, a meeting on Friday night with the Regional Executive Council, a review of documents, minutes and financial documents, and on Saturday, our visitors joined us for the annual chapter. Twenty-eight of the 34 fraternities were present and voting during the chapter.

In their report, the visitors wrote:

Overall, many positive aspects of how you are all focused on being brother and sister to each other [were] noted. Additionally, you expressed a mutuality of understanding which translates into you all being on the “same page.” There are issues, of course (no family is without them), but we saw a real commitment by the Regional Executive Council, the Local Fraternity Ministers, and all in fraternity to work on them...to quote your words, “We Won’t Give Up On Each Other!”

The visitors made several recommendations:

- 1) With 34 fraternities and 1 emerging group, you have a very large number which demands a great deal of time and attention from your Regional Executive Council. We encourage you to give consideration to identifying and appointing another member to your REC for the MD/PA area Councilor position. Additionally, if you have a viable candidate for assignment as FYA coordinator you could strengthen that activity...Don’t “use-up” your REC by overloading them with too many responsibilities. Not only they; but the arenas they service will be the “losers” over time.
- 2) Some questions arise regarding the budgeting process. Be sure to document all expenses associated with the cost of doing business for the region. Expense forms should document all expenditures — those for which reimbursement is being requested and those which the individual member wishes to be considered a donation. These include mileage, toll fees, meals in transit, lodging, stipends, postage, paper, ink, etc.,

etc., etc. You cannot know what your income needs to be if you don’t have a true, accurate understanding of your expenses.

- 3) Give serious consideration to extending the time frame for your annual Chapter. Some of your members are “already of the mind.” Honestly, there was not enough time to effectively accomplish all the tasks that should be associated with a thorough visitation.
- 4) Assure that those appointed or assigned to positions of responsibility are both willing and able to perform those reasonably assigned responsibilities.
- 5) We applaud your provision of a sign translator for those members of your local fraternity [that] is a deaf community. As the possibility was a result of a grant/donation, you need to consider how you will be able to continue the service.

At its February 2014, meeting the Regional Executive Council reviewed the recommendations and discussed ways to implement them. Future articles in Up To Now will address progress made. However, as a first step, the Council looked at what it will take to “extend the time frame of your annual Chapter.” Most of the 30 regions in the United States have chapters that run throughout a weekend. In order to do this in St. Margaret of Cortona region, the annual calendar of events will need to be modified so events are better distributed throughout the year.

As beginning steps:

- The next regional chapter will be in November 2014 and will run from Friday evening through Mass on Sunday morning. Many have expressed concern that the chapter has been in December, just as the Christmas season is getting busy, so November, right after October’s national chapter, seems like a better time. Locations are being contacted and a budget drawn up. An email to the ministers will be sent out as soon as these details are known.
- The fall retreat will be moved to the spring, so the retreat will not be just one month before the chapter. The next retreat will be in the spring of 2015; the location and presenter will be announced in the August Up To Now.
- The schedule for regional elections has not changed. The elections will be in March 2015, but a representative from NAFRA must preside at the election, and a location must be reserved, so an exact date cannot be announced yet. However, at the regional chapter in November, we will look at adding a fourth elected area councilor, as recommended by the visitors.

The Council is grateful for the prayers and presence of our visitors and welcomes their recommendations. We will report to the region as we address the remaining recommendations.

Franciscan Saints, Blesseds and Feasts

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

MAY

- 16 [St. Margaret of Cortona](#), III Ord.
- 17 [St. Paschal Baylon](#), religious, I Ord.
- 18 [St. Felix of Cantalice](#), religious, I Ord.
- 19 [St. Crispin of Viterbo](#), religious, I Ord.
[St. Theophilus of Corte](#), priest, I Ord.
- 20 [St. Bernardine of Siena](#), priest, I Ord.
- 21 [Bl. Franz Jägerstätter](#), martyr, III Ord.
- 24 [Dedication of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi](#)
- 28 [St. Mariana of Jesus de Paredes](#), virgin, III Ord.
- 30 [St. Ferdinand](#), king, III Ord.
[St. Camilla Battista of Varano](#), OSC

JUNE

- 2 [St. Felix of Nicosia](#), religious, I Ord.
- 8 [Bl. Nicholas of Gèsturi](#), religious, I Ord.
- 12 [Bl. Florida Cevoli](#), virgin, II Ord.
[Bl. Jolenta](#), religious, II Ord.
[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, I Ord.
- 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, I Ord.

- 17 [St. Albert Chmielowski](#), religious, III Ord., founder
- 22 [St. Thomas More](#), martyr, III Ord.
- 23 [St. Joseph Cafasso](#), priest, III Ord.
- 25 [Bl. Jutta of Thuringia](#), widow, III Ord.



St. Thomas More

- 26 [Bl. Andrew Hyacinth Longhin](#), bishop, I Ord.
- 30 [Bl. Raymond Lull](#), martyr, III Ord.

JULY

- 1 [Bl. Junipero Serra](#), priest, I Ord.

- 4 [St. Elizabeth of Portugal](#), queen, III Ord.
- 7 [Bl. Davanzato](#), bishop, III Ord.,
- 8 [Bl. Gregory Grassi](#), bishop, and companions, martyrs, I Ord.
- 9 [St. Nicholas Pick](#), priest, and companions, martyrs, I and III Ord.
- 10 [St. Veronica Giuliani](#), virgin, II Ord.
- 12 [Sts. John Jones and John Wall](#), priests, martyrs, I Ord.
- 13 [Bl. Angeline of Marisciano](#), religious, III Ord.
- 15 [St. Bonaventure](#), bishop, doctor, I Ord.
- 16 [Canonization of St. Francis](#), Canonized 16 July 1228 by Pope Gregory IX
[St. Francis Solano](#), priest, I Ord.
Outside of the U.S., he is celebrated on July 14
- 18 [St. Simon of Lipnica](#), religious, I Ord.
- 21 [St. Lawrence of Brindisi](#), priest, doctor, I Ord.
- 23 [Bl. Cunegunda](#), religious, II Ord.
[St. Bridget of Sweden](#), widow, III Ord.
- 24 [Bl. Louise of Savoy](#), widow, II Ord.
[Bl. Modestino of Jesus and Mary, religious, I Ord.](#)
[Bl. Antonio Lucci, bishop, I Ord.](#)
- 27 [Bl. Mary Magdalene of Martinengo](#), virgin, II Ord.
- 28 [Bl. Mary Teresa Kowalska](#), virgin, martyr of Poland, II Ord.
[Bl. Mattia Nazarei](#), virgin, II Ord.

AUGUST

- 2 [Our Lady of the Angels at the Portiuncula](#)
- 3 [Bl. Frederic Janssoone](#), priest, I Ord.
- 4 [St. John Vianney](#), priest, III Ord.
- 7 [Bls. Agathangelus and Cassian](#), priests and martyrs, I Ord.
- 8 [Holy Father Dominic](#), priest, founder, Order of Preachers
- 9 [Bl. John of La Verna](#), priest, I Ord.
- 11 [St. Clare of Assisi](#), virgin, II Ord.
- 13 [Bl. Mark of Aviano](#), priest, I Ord.
- 14 [St. Maximilian Kolbe](#), priest, I Ord.
- 17 [St. Roch](#), III Ord.



6th Summer Seminar For Secular Franciscans

*Endorsed by the National Executive Council
of the Secular Franciscan Order – USA*

July 10, 2014 – July 13, 2014

Spiritual Assistance

with

Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR – *President-in-Turn, Conference of National Spiritual Assistants; Regional Spiritual Assistant, Five Franciscan Martyrs; Facilitator, Region's Spiritual Assistant Training Program*

Sylvia Paoli, OFS – *Facilitator of St. Francis Region's Spiritual Assistant and Formators Training Program; Minister, St. Francis Region; local Spiritual Assistant*

Anne Mulqueen, OFS – *Spiritual Assistant to the National Formation Commission; Facilitator, St. Margaret of Cortona Region's Spiritual Assistant Training Program; local Spiritual Assistant*

Cyl Maljan-Herbelin, OFS – *Executive Secretary, Conference of National Spiritual Assistants; Chair, NAFRA's Spiritual Assistance Development Task Force; Member, National Executive Council; Student, St. Francis Region's Spiritual Assistant and Formators Training Program*

Fr. Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap – *Member, Conference of National Spiritual Assistants; Provincial Spiritual Assistant for St. Mary Province; Regional Spiritual Assistant for Father Solaneus Casey Region and Tau Region; Facilitator of both regions' Spiritual Assistant Training Programs*

Faye Martin, OFS – *Facilitator, Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region's Spiritual Assistant Training Program; local Spiritual Assistant*

At the March 2013 meeting of the National Executive Council (NEC) of the Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, Cecilia Maljan-Herbelin, OFS, was appointed to serve as Chair of the newly formed *Spiritual Assistance Development Task Force (SADTF)*. This Task Force identified two key concerns:

1. Educate the general membership about Spiritual Assistance – what it is, who is responsible for it, and the purpose and role of the Spiritual Assistant within each fraternity.
2. Recognizing the need for some kind of standardization for training “suitable and well-qualified” secular spiritual assistants, identify the key elements of successful Spiritual Assistant training programs which can be used in all types of programs (correspondence, combination, class-only).

The 2014 Summer Seminar is our response to addressing these two concerns. Because these are two distinct issues, each with different audiences, there will be two separate “tracks” as well as some quality joint time:

Track A is for *all seculars*, including those currently enrolled in spiritual assistant training programs, *as well as friar or sister spiritual assistants* – anyone wanting to understand Spiritual Assistance and the role of the Spiritual Assistant in all levels of fraternity. Those in formation (inquirers and candidates) will also benefit from this track. Facilitators for this track will be **Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR; Anne Mulqueen, OFS; and Cecilia Maljan-Herbelin, OFS.**

Track B is **restricted** only to those **directly** involved in the design, planning, and implementation of a regional training program for spiritual assistants. This track will identify the “best practices” of various styles of training programs across the country and develop some general guidelines, in accordance with the “*Formation Program for Spiritual Assistants*” by our International Conference of General Spiritual and Pastoral Assistants to the OFS. Facilitators for this track will be **Sylvia Paoli, OFS; Fr. Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap.; and Faye Martin, OFS.**

The seminar will begin with a general overview for everyone, along with the daily joining of both groups for general review and discussion, as well as a joint closing session.

6th Secular Franciscan Seminar
Spiritual Assistance
July 10, 2014 – July 13, 2014

Tentative Schedule

Thursday- July 10, 2014

- Afternoon – Registration (*Christian Hall*)
- 5:00 PM – Dinner (*Torvian Dining Hall*)
- 7:00 PM – Evening prayer (*DiSepio 213-14*)
- 7:15 PM – **Session 1: LEADERS** – Cecilia Maljan-Herbelin, OFS and Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR
Introductions of presenters; Overview of general goals for the weekend; History and background on the need for programs on spiritual assistance; Information on spiritual assistant training programs across the country and the increasing need for Secular Spiritual Assistants
- 8:30 PM – Social (*Christian Hall*)

Friday – July 11, 2014

- 8:00 AM – Breakfast (*Torvian*)
- 9:15 AM – Morning prayer (*DiSepio 213-14*)
- 9:45 AM – **Session 2-A: Basic Spiritual Assistance** (*DiSepio 213-14*)
Session 2-B: Spiritual Assistance Training Programs (*DiSepio 201*)
- 11:35 AM – Break
- 12:00 noon – Mass (*Immaculate Conception Chapel*)
- 12:30 PM – Lunch (*Torvian*)
- 2:00 PM – **Session 3-A: Basic Spiritual Assistance** (*DiSepio 213-14*)
Session 3-B: Spiritual Assistance Training Programs (*DiSepio 201*)
- 5:00 PM – Dinner (*Torvian*)
- 7:00 PM – Evening prayer (*DiSepio 213-14*)
- 7:15 PM – **Session 4: Daily wrap-up with summary reports from Sessions 2-A & B and Sessions 3-A & B and open forum**
- 8:30 PM – Social (*Christian Hall*)

Saturday – July 12, 2014

- 8:00 AM – Breakfast (*Torvian*)
- 9:15 AM – Morning prayer (*DiSepio 213-14*)
- 9:45 AM – **Session 5-A: Basic Spiritual Assistance** (*DiSepio 213-14*)
Session 5-B: Spiritual Assistance Training Programs (*DiSepio 201*)
- 11:35 AM – Break
- 12:00 noon – Lunch (*Torvian*)
- 2:00 PM – **Session 6-A: Basic Spiritual Assistance** (*DiSepio 213-14*)
Session 6-B: Spiritual Assistance Training Programs (*DiSepio 201*)
- 5:00 PM – Dinner (*Torvian*)
- 7:00 PM – Evening prayer (*DiSepio 213-14*)
- 7:15 PM – **Session 7: Daily wrap-up with summary reports from Session 5-A & B and Session 6-A & B and open forum**
- 8:30 PM – Social (*Christian Hall*)

Sunday, July 13, 2014

- 8:00 AM – Continental breakfast (*DiSepio*)
- 8:30 AM – Morning prayer (*DiSepio 213-14*)
- 8:45 AM – **Session 8: Closing remarks and conclusions – *Where do we go from here?***
- 10:00 AM – Mass (*Immaculate Conception Chapel*)
- 11:00 AM – Brunch (*Torvian*) and Departures

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



About the Summer Seminar for Secular Franciscans at St. Francis University, in Loretto, PA

The Summer Seminars began in 2008 as the result of the desire of University President, Fr. Gabriel Zeis, TOR, to offer something special for Secular Franciscans at the University. The plan was to offer a seminar in each of the four years between the “Quinquennial” National Congresses held every five years. Topics and speakers are chosen with the cooperation of the National Executive Council. The Seminar is endorsed and strongly encouraged by the National Executive Council of the Secular Franciscan Order, USA.

The first two seminars were organized by Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR. Currently the seminars are sponsored by the University’s Institute for Contemporary Franciscan Life, assisted by a Planning Committee composed of local TORs and Secular Franciscans.

The first seminar in 2008 was on *“Development of Lay Leadership in the Secular Franciscan Order”* with Fr. Bernard Tickerhoof, TOR and Anne Mulqueen, OFS as presenters. The 2009 Summer Seminar, *Franciscan Spirituality for Secular Franciscans*, featured Vinal Van Benthem, OFS, and Bob “Fitz” Fitzsimmons, OFS. Pat Brandwein-Ball, OFS and Fr. Joseph Nangle, OFM presented *Peace and Justice for Secular Franciscans* in 2010. The 2011 Seminar focused on *“Aspects of Fraternity”* with Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap and Mary Bittner, OFS. Each of the seminars was well received with an average of 75 OFS members from across the country in attendance.



6th Secular Franciscan Seminar

Endorsed by the National Executive Council of the OFS

Spiritual Assistance

July 10, 2014 – July 13, 2014

Saint Francis University, Loretto, PA

Important Instructions:

1. Registration Fee includes registration, air-conditioned residence hall room, shuttle to/from residence hall, and all meals **LIMITED NUMBER OF SINGLE ROOMS AVAILABLE**
2. Payment is NON-REFUNDABLE
3. *Register before June 1st to receive a \$25 discount*
4. No registrations accepted after June 20th

REGISTRATION LIMITED TO 100 PARTICIPANTS

<u>Title</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>
<u>Fraternity</u>	<u>Region</u>	
<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u> <u>Zip</u>
<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>Work/Cell Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>

Please indicate which track you will attend:

- Track A (anyone)
- Track B (restricted)

Accommodations - Christian Hall

- Single Room **\$270** /After June 1, 2014 registration is **\$295** per person = \$ _____
- Double Room **\$220** /After June 1, 2014 registration is **\$245** per person = \$ _____
- I will be rooming with _____
- I will need a roommate – match me up if you can

To pay by check:

Make check payable to **Saint Francis University** and mail along with a printed copy of *this* registration form to: **ICFL/Saint Francis University, #7 Francis Hall, Loretto, PA 15940**

or

To pay by Credit or Debit Card:

Complete the registration form found on this link: <https://my.francis.edu/sfubus/ICFL/ICFLseminar.asp>

Questions? Contact Diane Rombouts, St. Francis University's Institute for Contemporary Franciscan Life (814) 472-3219 (daytime) or e-mail icfl@francis.edu