



Our Lady of Indiana

Regional Fraternity - Secular Franciscan Order

April 2015

Volume 2, Issue No. 1

NAFRA Theme for 2015: "Be the joyful face of Christ to All"

Inside this issue:

UNITY DAY Reminder	2
From our Vice Minister, David Dieringer OFS	3
From Sr. Agnes Marie, OFS	4
News and Views from Around OLI	5
From Formation Director, Bill Jannausch, OFS	6
How To Know If You're a Real Franciscan	7
Franciscan Enrichment	8
Regional Calendar	9

Our Regional Prayer — a Gift from St. Francis

Holy Virgin Mary, among all women born into the world, there is none like you. Daughter and Handmaid of the Most

High, sovereign King, the heavenly Father, Mother of our most holy Lord Jesus Christ, Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

Pray for us with St. Michael the archangel and with all the powers of the heavens and with all the saints together with your most holy beloved Son, Lord and teacher.

A Message from our Regional Minister: Kathleen White, OFS



I have had the great joy of making Fraternal Visitations to our local fraternities on and off for twenty years. In my opinion it is one of the absolute best parts of serving on the Regional Executive Council! I have never walked into a room of strangers! I am embraced by brothers and sisters, and I feel loved! (Though I wonder, sometimes, if I am still loved after the report has been sent back to the fraternity!)

Visitations are such a joy filled time! We observe the fraternity in action and see what you do and how you do it. We look at your fraternity records and we make suggestions and also learn a thing or two ourselves. It is an obligation that I, as Regional Minister, take very seriously. I truly want to know how I, personally, or how any member of the

Regional Executive Council can help you, assist you, guide you, correct you, listen to you, and serve you better.

Just as each of the local fraternities are required (as noted in our Rule, General Constitutions, and National Statutes) to request a Fraternal and a Pastoral Visitation and an election presider every three years, our Regional Fraternity must do the same. Each fraternity is visited by the next higher council. Our Regional Fraternity Pastoral and Fraternal Visitation is scheduled for June 12, 13, & 14 this year at University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne. As of this writing the scheduled visitors are National Minister Deacon Tom Bello OFS and Conference of National Spiritual Assis-

(Con't on page 2)

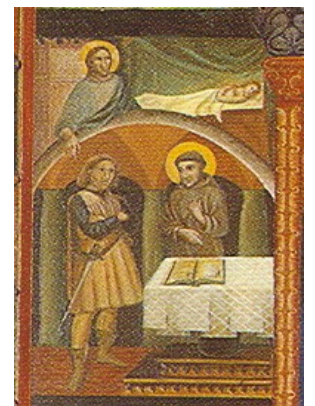
What We Have Promised to Live . . .

"The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Francis of Assisi who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people.

Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy

Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly.

Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to gospel (Chapter TWO: The Way of Life, Article 4)".



REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Kathleen White, OFS : Minister

David Dieringer, OFS: Vice-Minister

Ruthi Carrillo, OFS: Secretary

Sharon Roberts, OFS: Treasurer

Bill Jannausch, OFS Formation Director

Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OFS :
Regional Spiritual Assistant

Bill Duffy, OFS, Linda Grady, OFS, Maria
Garrido Merida, OFS : Councilors



Con't from page 1

tants President-in-Turn Br. Bob Brady OFM. The Regional Executive Council will meet with the visitors on Friday afternoon and evening, the local fraternity ministers and spiritual assistants on Saturday, and the wrap up will be Sunday morning again with the Regional Executive Council. I so look forward to these visits, having experienced six in the last 20 years. It is a wonderful time of looking inward and seeing how we as an Executive Council, can and do serve the local fraternities. Just as we examine books and records at the local level, Tom and Br. Bob will be looking over our record keeping at the regional level. We are working hard to make sure all our reports and minutes are up to date and that our calendar shows what we do offer the local fraternities in the way of

counsel and formation.

One document that I will be very pleased to present to the NaFra visitors in June is our history. As of this writing all but four fraternities have submitted a history of their local fraternity. What exciting reading! Did you know that at one time Sacred Heart Fraternity in Indianapolis had 700 active members? Did you know that People of Peace Fraternity in Indianapolis was once home to John Michael Talbot?

And did you know that your own fraternity is also well known for having a very special member? It is YOU!



Don't forget to add the following date to your calendars:

UNITY DAY

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church

Kokomo, IN

August 8, 2015

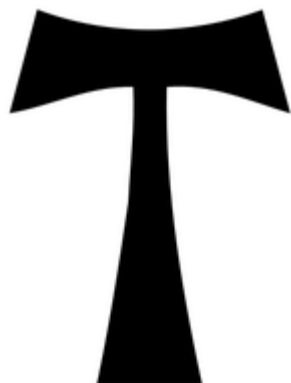
Mass / Formation / Fraternity / Regional Resources



Thoughts from our Regional Vice-Minister, Dave Dieringer, OFS



OUR FRANCISCAN SYMBOL...



THE TAU

In 1988, my formation director, Richard Thomas, O.F.S. instilled in me a great gift: his love for the TAU. (On my profession day, he gifted me with his most treasured book called “The TAU”!) It is my intent to share his gift to me, his love, with you.

I am sure that we all know that Saint Francis had a passionate love for the TAU symbol. But do we know why? For Saint Francis, the TAU was the symbol of salvation! It was the symbol of the victory of Christ over evil. He would list numerous scripture passages where, either written or implied, the TAU symbol, (like the cross or the serpent) was life-giving or life-saving! A few are listed for your reference and reflection:

Ezekiel 9:4, Genesis 6:14-15, Genesis 14:14, Genesis 45:22, Judges 7:4-18, Nehemiah 7:66, Mark 14:4-5, John 12:5, Revelation 7:2, Revelation 9:4, Revelation 14:1-17.

Francis first heard of the TAU at the Fourth Lateran Council from Innocent III. Innocent had preached that the letter, the TAU, represented the

cross and was the same symbol of penance and salvation which the Lord entrusted to Ezekiel.

Francis’ reaction was to take Innocent’s discourse as a personal message. Innocent had shared “mercy will be granted to those who bear the TAU, a mark of a life of penance and renewal in Christ”. So, Francis wanted to sign himself with the TAU, and his brothers along with him. The TAU became the sign of the Order’s mission to the church. The TAU flavored his entire spirituality. Francis embraced the cross and salvation of the TAU; the penance of the TAU; the evangelical conversion of the TAU; and the sacramental and Eucharistic life of the TAU! (“To live in penance and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ”!)

Francis, who realized that the Fourth Lateran Council was called for the purpose of starting a new crusade, thus made the TAU a joyful sign of the Cross! In fact, after preaching the TAU message, he reproduced it, even in his flesh through the stigmata. He knew and radiated the joy of the Cross, the TAU. The TAU message was not just contemplation. It moved from thoughts into deeds. Remember Saint Francis’ conversion story of him kissing the leper? It was a TAU experience! (“The Lord Himself brought me among them, and I cared for them with all my heart.”)

Historically, Saint Francis would regularly sing a 12th century Latin hymn: “Marked with the TAU, the sign of life, he thus proves that he wants to be servant of the Cruci-

fied”. “est quoque TAU vivifico Insignitus signaculo / Prodensper hoc quod proprius / Sir Crucifixi servulus.”

I believe that if Saint Francis lived in today’s age, he would probably sing a contemporary hymn, and sing it with this whole heart:

“Your foreheads are marked with sacred signs:

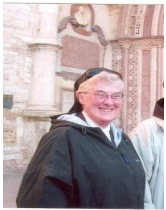
The words of Jesus and of victory!”

Are our foreheads marked?

Are we courageous enough to wear the symbol of our salvation?

Are you going to wear your TAU today?





Reflections from our Spiritual Assistant,
Sr. Agnes Marie, OSF

“Go Rebuild my Church . . . ”

I’ve always been fascinated by this photo which I took on my first visit to Assisi which was a mere two years after the devastating earthquake of 1997. Building cranes had replaced the “national bird of Italy” as thousands of workers were working endless hours to restore the most famous and beautiful of Italian cities. So many of the basilicas connected with St. Francis and St. Clare were still held together by large steel braces to keep them from tottering into massive piles of stone. Many shops were still shuttered and considered unsafe for use and the people of Assisi were heroically living in the Spoleto valley in the Italian equivalent of FEMA trailers because their homes were close to collapsing. God bless them!

The streets were lined with piles of stone like the ones in this photo awaiting the time when workmen would completely rebuild, strengthen, and bring Assisi to a renewed sense of beauty and strength, not only for the Franciscan family, but the millions of other visitors who come each year to this very special place to pray and be filled with the spirits

of Francis and Clare.

But it wasn’t just a matter of “putting everything back where it was” like some restorationists, mortally afraid of change, would have done. It was a very deliberate plan of carefully rebuilding the streets, infrastructure, basilicas, chapels, homes . . . in short, recasting everything in the city up from its ancient foundations. All in an attempt to strengthen Assisi against the next onslaught from its location on a very active geologic fault system running up and down the entire Italian peninsula.

This process was much like what was asked of St. Francis when the crucifix of San Damiano bade him “Rebuild my Church, as you see, is falling into ruin”. For him, like for modern day Assisi, after a simple attempt to rebuild local shrines around the city, Francis came to understand — the first reconstruction was Francis Bernadone, son



of Pietro and Pica Bernadone. And it would be from the ground up — a total reconstruction of values in terms of a literal living out of Gospel values — no way of going back to the way it used to be when he was a frivolous troubadour dancing through the streets of Assisi with his raucous buddies.

It’s the same call to which we Franciscans are called: a total “rebuilding” (a.k.a. “conversion”) of our values as we follow Jesus by living out the Gospel in our daily lives and relationships, each of us becoming a *living stone* for the rebuilding up of the Church. Or as St. Peter writes, “. . . set yourselves close to him, so that you, too, may be *living stones* making a spiritual house to offer spiritual sacrifices made acceptable to

God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2: 5)”.

News and Views from Around Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity . . .

OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT FRATERNITY in Indianapolis has cordially welcomed Lou Ellen and Don Markovitch to their fraternity (April 2015).

Sr. Veronica Lopez, OSF, was also welcomed as their new spiritual assistant by Fr. John Sullivan, OFM from Sacred Heart Province to which OLBS is bonded.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES FRATERNITY in Cedar Lake is gathering baby clothing and diapers for their annual Pro-Life Baby Shower in May (April 2015).

The members of Our Lady of Lourdes were also treated in February to a wonderful day of Reflection with Fr. Kim Studwell, OFM who spoke on the "Joy of the Gospel" (March 2015).

ST. ROSE OF VITERBO FRATERNITY in Terre Haute published an interesting fact in their newsletter: namely, "In Panama, 100 endangered species of orchids were planted and maintained to prevent their extinction in honor of Earth Day."

St. Rose Fraternity is also rejoicing with gratitude at the appointment of Friar Martin Day, OFM Conv as their Spiritual Assistant (March 2015) by the Assumption Province.

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY in Indianapolis is working on a bilingual Transitus service that can be used in October.

HOLY FAMILY FRATERNITY and ST. CHARLES FRATERNITY in Fort Wayne were treated to a Day of Reflection at Brookside Manor at the University of St. Francis on April 18, 2015. The topic was "God's Extravagant Love" (March-April 2015). Brothers and sisters from other fraternities joined them for this special day of prayer and reflection.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRATERNITY in Mishawaka has accepted the invitation to prepare and serve breakfast to the homeless in the South Bend area on the fourth Sunday of every month at Our Lady of the Road, a shelter for homeless persons. Attendance at each breakfast averages about 100 persons depending on the weather and temperatures outside.

Members were also treated to a Day of Reflection by Fr. Alex, OFM Conv. who shared some powerful meditations on "Franciscan Conversion".

In January, five persons began their Franciscan journey by acceptance into the Inquiry Process.

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY in St. John held at "Call Out" on Sunday, April 12, 2015, on their parish ministry Sunday. They were overjoyed that about 40 persons expressed interest in the Secular Franciscan way of life. Next step: an evening describing the process and the commitment to the OFS Gospel life.

Members of St. Mary of the Angels also spent a weekend of reflection at St. Francis Convent and in between prayer reflections learned how to unload a crammed full 4 x 4 pickup full of bread and stuff it in a garden shed to be used as fodder for the deer, turkeys and other animals on the convent grounds. St. Francis would have loved this happy crowd of bread-tossers. Sorry we don't have a picture of this unique occasion!



CHAPTER OF MATS FOR OUR LADY OF INDIANA REGIONAL FRATERNITY:

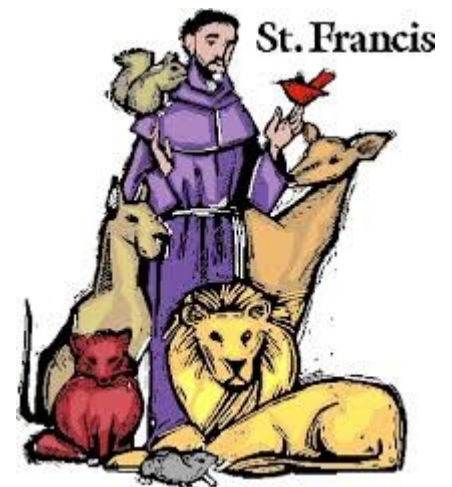
Here are some interesting statistics given to us by Kathleen White, OFS, our Regional Minister
There are fifteen (15) fraternities bonded

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God (Mt 5:9). They are truly peacemakers who are able to preserve their peace of mind and heart for love of our Lord Jesus Christ, despite all that they suffer in this world. (Admonitions XV)".

to five (5) Franciscan friar Provinces. As of December 31, 2014, we had:

- 279 Active Professed
- 44 Excused
- 71 Lapsed
- 42 Candidates
- 24 Inquirers
- 13 Professed in 2014
- 12 Deceased in 2014

All of our fraternities are struggling to attract new members and Kathleen suggested that we make an effort to call back those who have lapsed as well as being creative in attracting new vocations.



Featuring a Reflection by Bill Jannausch, OFS, Regional Formation Director

A man of no faith said one time, when told that we Catholics believe that Our Lord Jesus Christ is present in the Host that we receive, " I don't believe that, but if I did I would approach Him to receive Him prostrate." Do we take His real presence for granted through familiarity? Should we too feel the need to fall prostrate before Almighty God, hidden in the Host as a continued sign of His humility? We as human beings can do what no Angel can do, and that is to receive Our Lord's Body and Blood. We have the opportunity and the duty to prepare ourselves as a temple for the Trinity, and what an awesome duty it is.

Let us reflect on this; we are to be temples of the Holy Trinity and let us receive Him worthily and with awe and gratitude for this gift of Divine Love.

Those words place us in the context of St. Francis' words in his "Letter to the Entire Order": "Kissing your feet . . . with all that love of which I am capable, I implore all of you . . . to show all possible reverence and honor to the most holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in Whom that which is in heaven and on earth has been brought to peace and reconciled to almighty God. (FA:ED, Vol. 1, p. 117)"

"We should not want to be in charge of others; we are to be servants, and should be subject to every human creature for God's sake (1 Peter 2:13). On all those who do this and endure to the last, the Spirit of God will rest (Isaiah 11:2); he will make his dwelling in them and there he will stay, and they will be children of your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:45) whose work they do. (Letter to all the Faithful)".



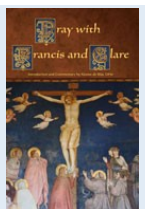
A Special Feast for all Franciscans: the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ



Quality Reading Matter to Consider



"Pray with Francis and Clare"



"The Tau"

"St Elizabeth of Hungary: A Story of Twenty-Four Years"



All three publications can be purchased from
TAU PUBLISHING: 4727 N. 12th Street Phoenix, AZ 85014

602.625.6183 or online at www.taupublishing.com

or check Regional Resources at Unity Day.

Franciscan Enrichment Possibilities: Study Days



From
Our Lady of Indiana
Region,

Sister Death has wel-
comed home . . .

Unless it has not been brought
to our attention, none
of our OFS brothers and
sisters have been called Home
to our Heavenly Father by
Sister Death.
If that is not the case,
please let us know and
we will correct that in our
next edition.

If you still would be interested in
joining us, please contact Sr. Ag-
nes Marie, OSF, to register so
that sufficient materials may be
prepared:

Email: agnes.marie.regan@gmail.com

Telephone: 574-259-5427



Fr. Giles, OFM Conv. Speaking
to Study Day I participants in
Kokomo

Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fra-
ternity continues to offer all our
brothers and sisters an opportuni-
ty for enriching and deepening
their understanding of the Francis-
can calling and charism.

Originally the basic purpose of
these Study Days was and re-
mains to provide additional spir-
itual enrichment possibilities for
the training of Spiritual Assistants
for those fraternities in Our Lady
of Indiana Regional Fraternity who
are without an SA. However, it
was soon recognized that the pre-
senter and topics for these ses-
sions would be of value for each
and every brother and sister of
our regional fraternity.

Following is a brief description of
the four remaining Regional Study
Days as they presently look, sub-
ject, of course, to God's plan(s)
for all of us:

STUDY DAY II: April 25, 2015:

Topic: "Fraternity and
St. Francis" and
"Penitence and Con-
version". Presenter:
Fr. Maurice Richard,
OFM, Conv.



After lunch our very own Bill Fink,
OFS, will reflect on
some words that are
essential in our Fran-
ciscan vocation,
"Order, Secular, Fran-
ciscan, Rule: What do
they REALLY mean?
And How Do They Challenge Us?"



Module Two in the
afternoon will be a
presentation by David
Wright, OFS, from St.
Anthony Fraternity in



Muncie focusing on the
"Franciscan Reverence for the Gift
of Creation"

STUDY DAY III: July 11, 2015

Topic: "The Vocation,
Charism, and Mission of
Secular Franciscans" and
"Forming Franciscans in
the Spirit of St. Francis".
Our presenter will be Fr.
Jerome Wolbert, OFM,
Provincial Spiritual Assistant of As-
sumption Province.



STUDY DAY IV: October 24, 2015

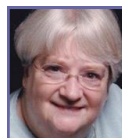
Morning Topic I: "The
Role and Responsibilities
of an SA". Presenters
are our very own broth-
ers, Dave Dieringer,
OFS, and Bill Jannausch,
OFS. *This session only for poten-
tial SAs.*



Morning Topic II: "Getting to
Know our Brother Bona-
venture". Presenter is
Sr. Felicity Dorsett, OSF,
Faculty of the University
of St. Francis in Fort
Wayne.



Afternoon: Topic: "Pathway to
Profession: A Beginning
but a Way of Life for All
of Us" as presented by
our Regional Minister,
Kathleen White, OFS.



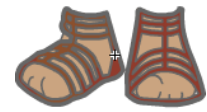
STUDY DAY V: January 23, 2016

Topic: "Franciscan Prayer: the
Heart and Soul of Our Franciscan
Vocation". Our very
own brother Rev. Mr.
Bill Gallagher, OFS.
Deacon of Sacred Heart
Parish, Notre Dame, IN.





How to know if you're REALLY a Secular Franciscan



- ◆ You notice an unmistakable lack in desire to acquire more stuff.
- ◆ Peacemaking becomes incredibly attractive to you.
- ◆ Your eyes fill up when you hear about a trip to Assisi.



- ◆ You want to dress (and LIVE) more and more simply.
- ◆ Christmas is for you the greatest feast.
- ◆ You take off work on October 4th.
- ◆ You laugh loudly and often when you get together with other Franciscans.
- ◆ You hug people a lot, especially other Franciscans.
- ◆ All your gatherings are noted for having too much wonderful food.
- ◆ You follow the “Franciscan Saint of the Day” religiously.
- ◆ The term “fair share” not only means something to you, you try to give more than your fair share to help others.

- ◆ You read the TAU-USA from cover to cover.
- ◆ You've read several books by Lester Bach, OFM Cap, and look forward to him writing more.
- ◆ “Little Red Book” means “Holy Rule” to you and not something by Chairman Mao.
- ◆ You don't have to dust off your TAU every month to wear it to the monthly meeting, because you wear it everyday everywhere.
- ◆ You like all Saint Francis statues, even the ones with the birds.



- ◆ You could open your own Franciscan religious goods store with all the Franciscan memorabilia you have.
- ◆ You no longer want to be buried in a “shroud” because it's inappropriate for a secular person.
- ◆ Your rosaries have seven decades.



- ◆ You can sing “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” without looking at

the hymnal.

- ◆ You recycle everything — I mean EVERYTHING.



- ◆ You hear a Francis or Clare story and think, “This would be good for ongoing formation.”
- ◆ You know what CNSA stands for, as well as CIOFS and NAFRA.
- ◆ You can distinguish an OFM habit from a Capuchin one.
- ◆ You receive the Eucharist and it's the high point of your day.



- ◆ You support all life issues and not just one.
- ◆ You know who is on the regional or national council and what they do is a complete mystery to you!

Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity—Secular Franciscan Order



Dates to Remember

To join OUR LADY OF INDIANA list-serv send a blank email to:

OLI-Region-subscribe@yahoo.com

You'll be happy you did. See you there!

Also, "Like" on Facebook



Walking in the footsteps of Saint Francis and St. Clare of Assisi as Secular Franciscans.

April 25, 2015: SA Formation / Enrichment at St. Joan of Arc in Kokomo

June 12-14, 2015: Triennial Regional Visitation at the University of St. Francis in Ft. Wayne by Tom Bello, OFS, National Minister and Bob Brady, OFM, President of the CNSA. All local fraternity ministers and all local Spiritual Assistants are called to attend on Saturday, June 13.

July 11, 2015: SA Formation / Enrichment at St. Joan of Arc in Kokomo: Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM, will be our Presenter; Topic: "The Vocation, Charism, and Mission of SFO" and "Forming Franciscans in the Spirit of St. Francis"

August 8, 2015: Unity Day at St. Joan of Arc in Kokomo. Mass at 10:00 a.m.

September 12, 2015: Fall Formation Workshop. St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo. All members of local fraternity formation teams are called to attend.

October 10, 2015: Regional Executive Council at St. Joan of Arc in Kokomo

October 24, 2014: Regional Study Day 4 at St. Joan of Arc. Presenters include: Bill Jannausch, OFS and David Dieringer OFS, giving a presentation and guidance to those in the Spiritual Assistant Track; Sr. Felicity Dorsett, OSF, of the University of St. Francis speaking to the rest of us about "Our Brother Bonaventure"; and Kathleen White, OFS, who will lead our afternoon reflections on the "Spirituality of Profession".

November 14, 2015: Chapter of Mats. All local fraternity ministers are called to attend.

January 23, 2015: A whole day to spend time praying and reflecting on the nature and beauty of "Our Franciscan Prayer Heritage" by Rev. Mr. Bill Gallagher, OFS.

Poetic Words from one of our favorite Franciscan Brothers, Murray Bodo, OFM



five Tau-shaped stamens in

the Passion Flower's center

Divinity's rose window

Copyright 2012, Murray Bodo, OFM. All rights reserved.
Quoted from "Something Like Jasmine" published by Tau Publishing, LLC, 472 North 12th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014.
Used with permission.

A Message from our Holy Father



Submitted by John Szczepanski, OFS

The Lord give you peace my dear brothers and sisters. The link will take you to the Full Text of the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy written by Pope Francis, Servant of the Servants of God. The first sentence reads, "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy".

As professed secular Franciscans we are followers of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. Therefore, we share in the face of the Father's mercy. May we be witnesses of the Mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ in our lives and in the name of the Lord.

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html