



# Our Lady of Indiana

## Regional Fraternity — Secular Franciscan Order

October 2015

Volume 2, Issue 3

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

### Inside this issue:

- From our Regional Minister: Elections **1-2**
- A message from Our Vice-Minister: Retreat **3**
- From our Spiritual Assistant: "TURN THE STUFF OFF!" **4**
- Peace and Integrity of Creation: Words from Jack Hill, OFS **5**
- News and Views from Around the Region **6**
- Memories of Unity Day 2015 **7**
- Study Day IV: SAS and St. Bonaventure **8**
- Deceased and Prayer Intentions **8**
- Calendar and Words from Pope Francis **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



Soon we will be accepting nominations for the offices of Minister, Vice Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, Formation Director and Councilors for the April 2016 Regional Fraternity Chapter of Elections.

Often asked is what do these Regional Fraternity officers do? I will list some of the duties, but I am sure that I will have missed some as well, so please excuse the error. First and foremost is – we SERVE the members of the Regional Fraternity, and we serve each other as we do the day to day business of the region. As emails and texts fly back and forth – the first question usually is – how can I serve you today?

As Minister, I am ultimately responsible for the Regional Fraternity, but the entire executive council is consulted on 98% of all regional matters. As Minister, I am called to attend the annual 5 day NaFra Chapter held each October. Just as local ministers have a vote on regional mat-

ters, regional ministers have a vote on national matters. I am responsible for the annual report submitted to NaFra, and held to a strict timeline. I chair the Executive Council meetings, though that can (and should) be rotated amongst members. I call for the Chapters in spring and fall, and I chair those meetings as well.

The Vice Minister's most important job is to pray for the health of the Minister! And we have a prayer warrior in our VM Dave Dieringer! When I was undergoing critical surgery on my spine, he was praying for me to recover, and I was very aware of his prayers! His duties also include filling in for me if I were not able to attend the NaFra Chapter, and chairing any Executive Council meetings that I could not attend. He has also chosen to coordinate the triennial Regional Retreat.

The Secretary's duties include calling

Con't on page 2

### What We Have Promised to Live . . .

They have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by profession. Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.

Called like St. Francis to rebuild the Church and inspired by his example, let them devote themselves energetically to living in full communion with the pope, bishops, and priests, fostering an open and trusting dialog of apostolic effectiveness and creativity.

(Rule Chapter 1: Article 6)



**REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Kathleen White, OFS : Regional Minister

David Dieringer, OFS: Regional Vice-Minister

Ruthi Carrillo, OFS: Regional Secretary

Sharon Roberts, OFS: Regional Treasurer

Bill Jannausch, OFS :  
Regional Formation Director

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

Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF  
Regional Spiritual Assistant



the roll and taking minutes at Chapter meetings, taking minutes at all meetings of the Regional Executive Council, timely distribution of those minutes, and other duties as asked and is able.

The Treasurer keeps the financial records of the Regional Fraternity, collecting the Fair Share from local fraternities, suggesting the annual budget (which is voted upon at the spring Chapter of Mats), and reimbursing officers for approved and valid expenses.

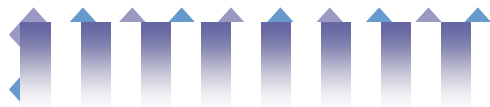
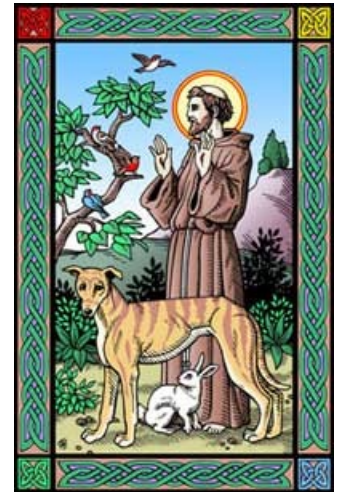
The Formation Director is responsible for ongoing formation at Executive Council meetings, Chapters, the spring and fall Formation Workshops, and Unity Day. This officer is available to all local fraternities who may have formation questions or concerns.

The Councilors are valuable members of the Executive Council, and they serve willingly when asked and if they are able.

All members of the Regional Executive Council are qualified to preside at local elections and to make fraternal visitations.

A call will go out in October for nominations for these offices. Please look at your fraternity (and look in the mirror!) to see whom you think would be qualified and willing to serve the Regional Fraternity for the next three years. Nominees will be contacted to either accept or decline the nomination. Refer to the General Constitutions Article 62-64 and National Statutes Articles 21-26 for more information. Please note that one cannot serve as minister of both their local fraternity and the Regional Fraternity.

Speaking for myself, it has been a great joy to serve the Regional Fraternity in various capacities and I thank God for this privilege and this blessing in my life.



“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 (Admonition XV).”

OCTOBER 4

Solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi





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



During the last week of July my co-worker had a complete rupture of his Achilles tendon. We work a 24 hour a day schedule, so I was told that I could anticipate a bunch of overtime for the next few months. I work in heat treating, so the thought of spending my summer in the sauna didn't exactly excite me! However, work is work!

If you recall, a few newsletters back I wrote about the value of retreats in our lives. I went on retreat whenever I needed one! This past week I had a retreat that I will remember for a long time. I experienced intimate conversation with our father Francis. We discussed how I could be a better Franciscan. He gave me many, many, many suggestions!

How, you ask, could I be on a retreat while I put in 60 to 75 hour workweeks? I spent a couple of hours on retreat in my man cave. All too often, people believe that the only way to be on retreat is to go somewhere. NO, AN INTIMATE RETREAT CAN HAPPEN ANY WHERE, EVEN IN YOUR LIVING ROOM! Let's look at what is a retreat.

A retreat refreshes and revitalizes, gives the opportunity for more time spent in prayer and contemplation, and rekindles and deepens one's relationship with God. One may take this opportunity to more clearly hear God's call and to seek God's healing grace and thereby attain a degree of spiritual renewal. The purpose of a spiritual retreat, as an addi-

tion to daily spiritual activities, is to temporarily leave behind the usual distractions we all face. This should be long enough to allow relaxation and for an inner change to occur: the ongoing conversion of heart that is critical to deepening faith. The Catholic Encyclopedia describes the necessity of such retreats: "In the fever and agitation of modern life, the need of meditation and spiritual repose impresses itself on Christian souls who desire to reflect on their eternal destiny, and direct their life in this world towards God."

(Institute for Traditional Medicine)

The Mass serves as a fundamental model of retreat, though on a smaller time scale. We leave the world to enter the church (which is the deserted place compared to the busy surroundings) for prayer, contemplation, hearing the Word, lifting up our hearts to the Lord, and receiving the spiritual nourishment of the Eucharist. We are dismissed from the Mass to go out and serve, having replenished our spiritual reserves. In addition to the Mass, there are brief respites from the burdens of daily life we may experience in praying the rosary, spending an hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, reading Scripture, sitting in meditation and contemplation, or enjoying God's creation by walking a nature trail. When one thinks of going on a retreat, this is to be done

for the purpose of pursuing the same basic respite but more sustained and profoundly invigorating: an extended and focused spiritual endeavor, whether for a day, a weekend, or a week.

(Institute for Traditional Medicine)

We, as Franciscans, are asked to participate in retreats. We should have a pre-profession retreat, so we can discern our vocation. I invite you today to consider post-profession retreats to discern, again, your vocation! (Even if you take an hour or two to do it!)

**ENLIVEN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE  
AND YOUR VOCATION!**

Dave





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

### Hearing God's Voice: TURN THE STUFF OFF!

The Basilica of St. Francis and the Basilica of St. Clare lie just about on opposite sides of the Commune of Assisi. All day long one can observe hundreds if not thousands of pilgrims from all over the globe processing up the hill and into the silent crypt where the human remains of St. Francis lie. There they pay their homage to that beloved Saint who is respected by all peoples and all cultures. Frequently, pilgrims are reminded "silenzio" to maintain the silence needed for prayerful reflection as they file in and out hoping for an encounter with the Holy.

It is no less so up the hill and across town at the Basilica of St. Clare where the remains of St. Clare rest eternally, and pilgrims pray before the San Damiano Crucifix, meditate in the beautifully frescoed chapel and walk in and out of the silent nooks and crannies of that beautiful monument dedicated to Clare. And, yes, pilgrims are often in need of the "silenzio" reminder there as well.

Yet, I'm sure the same aura of silence fills all the shrines, churches, chapels, and sites of holiness encounter with God in this loveliest of cities: the Carceri, San Damiano, St. Mary of the Angels, San Stefano, San Rufino, and all the other places

where God encountered St. Francis and all those across 800 years who have visited them seeking an encounter with the Holy One. Indeed, the places where one stands — the city of Assisi IS holy ground, but unless both the ears and the heart are silent — one hears only more of soul-numbing noises and can never hear the "sounds of silence" spoken by God to Francis, Clare, and their holy companions.

After our traditional silent walk in the woods of the Carceri on Mount Subasio, one lovely pilgrim lady sidled up to my ear and whispered, "That was the first time in my life I ever heard my own heart". Better late than never, but why wait so long to hear His voice?

One might ask, why is silence such an important topic for reflection? Just think of it: our daily lives are filled to overflowing with canned music, telephones ringing endless jingles in every conceivable place, elevator music, commercials blasting to get our attention to buy, buy, buy, and endless mindless shallow chatter that drones on and on in our everyday lives, human voices clamoring ever louder and louder hoping to be heard, radios in neighboring cars thumping so loud your own vehicle shakes. You all know what I'm talking about.

Noise even pursues us in our churches with endless verses of



*The woods at the Carceri on Mt. Subasio where we take our traditional silent walk seeing Leo's cave and the Cross in the woods*

hymns, "travel music", homilies and readings, and a host of other "holy noises". Or as one person observed recently, "I wish everyone would be quiet so we can pray." A significant observation that makes one wonder that, if we make enough noise, "holy" or otherwise, can we avoid hearing God's voice trying to get our attention? Some folks think they're not praying unless they're doing the talking and God is doing the listening.

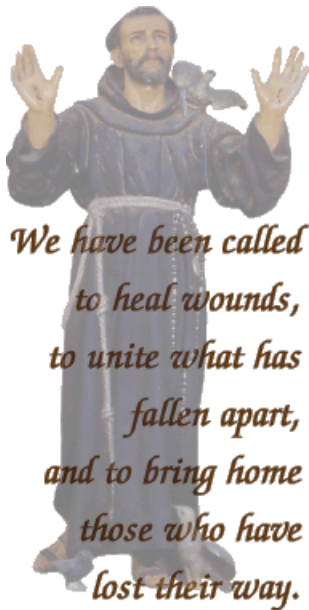
Seriously, folks????

Perhaps we all need to spend some prayerful, thoughtful time reflecting on the awesome words we read in I Kings 19: 11-12: "Then [Elijah] was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before Yahweh.' For at that moment Yahweh was going by. A mighty hurricane split the mountains and shattered the rocks before Yahweh. But Yahweh was not in the hurricane. And after the hurricane, an earthquake. But Yahweh was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake, fire. But Yahweh was not in the fire. And after the



fire, a light murmuring sound. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak . . .”

I'd like to suggest that each of us spend some quality time finding a HOLY place somewhere in our noise-ridden environs to enter WITHOUT cell phones, think pads, ear pods, laptops, etc. A place to FAST from noise. A place where it's possible to hear birds chirp, distant dogs barking, the buzz of the locusts, the wind rustling through the trees and most importantly, God trying to speak to us in the depths of our hearts. He has a message for each of us and He wishes to speak. Are you listening? Is your heart?



*We have been called  
to heal wounds,  
to unite what has  
fallen apart,  
and to bring home  
those who have  
lost their way.*  
— St. Francis of Assisi

## Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation



*This month's reflection is from David Wright, OFS, from St. Anthony Fraternity in Muncie, who along with Jack Hill, OFS, of People of Peace Fraternity in Indianapolis have accepted the call to minister to Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity as our Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation Co-Animators.*

As Franciscans, we are called to live a simple life. And by choosing to live a simpler life, we are caring for creation whether we realize it or not. We end up using less electricity, gas, and oil. Fewer disposable containers go into landfills. Fewer agricultural chemicals are washed into rivers and aquifers. Don't confuse a simple life with a convenient life, though; in fact, it often can be a very inconvenient life. But it is a life that is more intentional, often less costly, slower, healthier, and better for creation, all at the same time. Simple living is getting rid of the television and the microwave. Raising your own vegetables, eggs, and meat. Building a "green" home with cash. Limiting trips to the store, and rarely if ever eating at restaurants. Freedom from attachments, owning one car or maybe no car. Eliminating debt so you feel the freedom to follow the next step of God's calling.

There is also a sense of slowness that is involved in simple living; the long processes. The slowness of waiting six months for a coat of plaster to cure on the straw-bale walls. The slowness of waiting three months for a tomato to grow and ripen. The slowness of soaking shell beans overnight then simmering them two hours instead of getting them from a can. The slowness of cooking a meal instead of eating fast food. The slowness of walking a couple miles to work instead of driving. I don't always find myself meditating during these long processes, but they do offer a sense of the sacred – the respect for creation that comes from being less wasteful with toxic building materials, disposable packaging, refrigera-

Ministers for Our Lady of Indiana "Peace, Justice, and Integrity of Creation" David Wright, OFS, and Jack Hill, OFS



tion and transportation fuels. At first, these long processes might test our patience, but if you choose to embrace it and meditate on it, you might also discover the presence of God. What is particularly interesting to me is that choosing a simple lifestyle is also a form of solidarity with the poor; it ties the "J" (Justice) and the "IC" (Integrity of Creation) from JPIC together. I have a friend who is on welfare due to a medical condition, and over the years he has complained less and less about how bad he's got it because he knows that I choose to live a simple life; that I raise a garden and livestock, that we cook most of our meals, and that we built our house ourselves. He's comfortable around me because of my lifestyle. When I visited Haiti a few years ago, I felt right at home, and felt like I shared so much in common with our brothers and sisters there. I didn't fear them or pity them – I just loved them and worked alongside them because my lifestyle was already so close to theirs. What are some simple lifestyles that you admire, either from history or from modern times? What aspects of these simple lifestyles can you adopt this week and continue throughout your life?



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

### FR. KEVIN QUEALLY, TOR:

In our April newsletter we published a lovely list of the qualities of a Secular Franciscan — one which I'm sure gave everyone a lovely examination.

At that time, we did not know that credit should be given to a wonderful member of the Franciscan family — namely, Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR, who was the author of that thought-provoking list. Thanks to Father for all his efforts on behalf of the Secular Franciscan family and we hereby give him all the credit that is his due.

Actually, I am somewhat happy we missed that little tad of credit, so you could see that wonderfully, contagious smile of Fr. Kevin.



**PEREGRINOS DE LA PAZ:** Sr. Agnes Marie and Ruthie Carrillo spend a lovely afternoon with the Peregrinos de la Paz Fraternity in Indianapolis on July 25 for Pastoral Visitation. Besides the business at hand, we enjoyed the banter back and forth between

Spanish and English. Greetings to all from the brothers and sisters from the Circle City.

Kathleen presided at their election on August 22nd. Elected to serve were these brothers and sisters: Minister Oscar Rodriguez, Vice Minister Rodolfo Penalzoza-Ferrer, Secretary Sofia Salamanca, Treasurer Carmen Medina, and Formation Director Maria C. Garrido. Prayerful support to all!



### JPIC REPRESENTATIVES

Jack Hill, OFS, and David Wright, OFS, have accepted the call to minister as the Regional JPIC co-

animators. At our Unity Day, they presented a thought-provoking video and promised all of us they would be offering other insights and challenges — especially in the light of Pope



Francis's Encyclical "Laudato Si'".

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES and ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS :** On Sunday, August 16, 2015, several members of our fraternity attended the Secular Franciscan picnic at the Krilich Farm. The gathering began with Mass, concelebrated by Bishop Donald Hying and our own Father Ed. It was a beautiful day with lots of food to share, and it was great to meet members of other OFS fraternities. Bishop Donald thanked all Franciscan Seculars for all they do for the Church. We look forward to Bishop Donald celebrating Mass with us again next year. Those attending from Lourdes fraternity were: Nancy Fagen, Mary Jo Biscan, Marian Paskash, and Barbara Pelozza.

**SACRED HEART FRATERNITY** in Indianapolis has organized a book club to study "Looking to St. Francis" by John Behrea and Joseph Stoutzenberger. The three other fraternities in the Circle City area have been invited to join in the discussion. The four fraternities are also making arrangements for celebrating a common, bi-lingual "Transitus" service this year to be held at Sacred Heart Parish.

Several fraternities have celebrated the "Rite Of Permanent Commitment to the Gospel Life": **ST. BONIFACE** in Lafayette has welcomed Cheri Irons, OFS, and **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** in Mishawaka has welcomed Peg Salkay, OFS, Julie Scalise, OFS, and Amy Porter, OFS. **ST. CHARLES FRATERNITY** is looking forward to the same blessing sometime later in September.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to everyone in all our fraternities who have made Profession and/or moved into Candidacy or Inquiry during the summer months. Our fraternal prayers will follow along with you as you continue your Franciscan journey.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRATERNITY** of Mishawaka is planning a day pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Passion in St. John, Indiana, on October 11, 2015. All Secular Franciscans are welcome to join us for a sack lunch at 12:00 on the patio and for the Way of the Cross afterwards. Let us know if you will join us so we can inform the folks at the Shrine of how many Franciscans are planning to attend.

### POOR CLARES: Mother Miriam

**writes:** The past months of caring for Sister Bernadette have been a privilege and joy for the Community. She remained alert until the last two days. In fact, up until Thursday July 23, the first thing she wanted each morning was her hearing aides so she could remain 'connected'. From July 21-23 she insistently and with greater longing repeated many ejaculations until she was hoarse. *Heart of Christ... Hope in You!... Come, Lord Jesus... Jesus, Mary, Joseph... Jesus, I trust in You.* I once told her, "Sister Bernadette, you have been opening the door for visitors all your life. When Jesus knocks, open the door!" The next day she kept repeating *Open!... Door!... Open!... Door!* Just seeing her mouth move in constant prayer was a powerful example for all of us.



On Saturday, July 25, Sister Bernadette opened the door to the Divine Bridegroom who came for her at 6:00 p.m., the time of the Angelus.

She was surrounded by the love and prayers of her Sisters as well as our immense gratitude for her generosity and courage in being among those who began our Poor Clare Community in Kokomo in 1959.





## Memories of Unity Day — 2015



**Unity Day**  
**Collection for the Poor Clares**  
**totaled \$2,809.00!**  
**Thank you for your**  
**generosity toward our sisters!**



"All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one . . . We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace."  
 (LAUDATO SI', 3246)

### A Thought-Provoking Reflection on Lepers from Kathy Dominguez, OFS, of Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity

What do you find "bitter" to look at, to pray for, to love as Christ loves us? I, as many of us do, find it easy to judge, point that finger and blame others for their circumstances. Who do we refuse? Who do we "upbraid"? Sometimes, if we are never in the situation, we can righteously say we don't refuse anyone. Perhaps then we need to go to where the lepers are, clean their ulcers as we discover our own. It is easy to "look at their houses from two miles away", to keep a distance instead of serving their needs. Do you keep a distance from those in need?

Do you move out of your comfort zone, get off your horse, and kiss the lonely, isolated of our world?

St. Francis "became first a practitioner before he became a teacher". Our actions teach the Gospel to those we meet. What actions? Our service to lepers in our lives, for aren't we all lepers? Some with sores exposed and others with sores deep within — sinners all!. As we continue to search for God's presence in our lives, remember to look for Him where you find lepers. Clean out the sores and find your God.



## Franciscan Enrichment Possibilities: Study Day IV

Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity continues to offer all our brothers and sisters an opportunity for enriching and deepening their understanding of the Franciscan calling and charism.

Originally the basic purpose of these Study Days was and remains to provide additional spiritual enrichment possibilities for the training of Spiritual Assistants for those fraternities in Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity who are without a Spiritual Assistant. However, it was soon recognized that the presenters and topics for these sessions would be of value for each and every brother and sister of Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity.

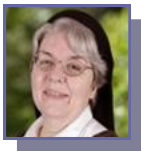
Following is a brief description of the two remaining Regional Study Days as they presently look, subject, of course, to God's plan.

STUDY DAY IV: October 24, 2015

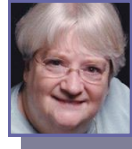
Morning Topic I: "The Role and Responsibilities of an SA". Presenters are our very own brothers, Dave Dieringer, OFS, and Bill Jannausch, OFS. *This session is only for potential SAs.*



Morning Topic II: "Getting to Know our Brother Bonaventure". 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.



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

Email: [agnes.marie.regan@gmail.com](mailto:agnes.marie.regan@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 574-259-5427



From  
Our Lady of Indiana  
Regional Fraternity,

Sister Death has  
welcomed home . . .

Katherine Mahler Ries OFS,  
Larry McGervey, OFS,  
Louise F. Halsmer, OFS, and  
Mary C. Craigmile, OFS

Let us also remember our brothers  
and sisters who have asked for  
prayer for healing:

Tom Bello, OFS,  
National Minister  
Joe and Jan Stetzel, OFS  
Peg Salkay, OFS  
Elizabeth Topasz, OFS  
Ruthie Carrillo, OFS  
Carol Ceyler, OFS  
Jean Magnant, OFS  
Elaine Stiner, OFS  
Bill Booher, OFS  
Rose Anderson, OFS

For all of our brothers and sisters  
who are in special need of prayer  
and for all the intentions of those  
in our Regional Fraternity;

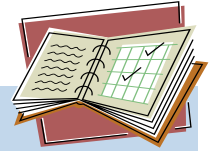
For all the intentions of our Holy  
Father, Pope Francis;

We pray to the Lord.





# Our Lady of Indiana Secular Franciscan Regional Fraternity



## Dates to Remember

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

[OLI-Region-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:OLI-Region-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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

Also, LIKE us on  
**Facebook**

Your growing Regional Newsletter Staff — more or less:

Mary Andrews, OFS

John Cheeseman, OFS

Mary Mitchell, OFS

Sr. Agnes Marie, OSF

Who else's name should be here? **Yours?**

October 3, 2015: Celebration of the Transitus in our various fraternities.

October 4, 2015: Solemnity of Our Holy Father St. Francis of Assisi

October 10, 2015: 10:00 AM Regional Executive Council at St. Joan of Arc in Kokomo.

October 24, 2015: 10:00 AM 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: 10:00 AM Fall Chapter of Mats: All Fraternity Ministers, Vice Ministers or Delegate

January 23, 2016: 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. You may wish to prayerfully read or re-read Ilia Delio's outstanding book, "Franciscan Prayer" in preparation for this day.

February 13, 2016: 10:00 AM REC Council at St. Joan of Arc in Kokomo

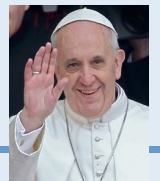
March 12, 2016: 10:00 AM Formation Workshop, open to all members of your fraternity's formation team.

April 9, 2016: 10:00 AM Chapter of Mats and Regional Elections — All Fraternity Ministers, Vice Ministers or Delegate



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

## A Message from our Holy Father, Pope Francis



"For Christians, believing in one God who is Trinitarian communion suggests that the Trinity has left its mark on all creation. Saint Bonaventure went so far as to say that human beings, before sin, were able to see how each creature "testifies that God is three". The reflection of the Trinity was there to be recognized in nature "when that book was open to man and our eyes had not yet become darkened" The Franciscan saint teaches us that *each creature bears in itself a specifically Trinitarian structure*, so real that it could be readily contemplated if only the human gaze were not so partial, dark and fragile. In this way, he points out to us the challenge of trying to read reality in a Trinitarian key."

(Laudato Si', #239)."