



Our Lady of Indiana

Regional Fraternity — Secular Franciscan Order

March 2016

Volume 3, Issue 1

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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.

NAFRA Theme for 2016 - Bring God's Love to All



A Message from our Regional Minister: Kathleen White, OFS



I have been thinking a lot lately about the wisdom and the power and the guidance and the will of the Holy Spirit. This has been brought to light recently in preparation for the coming Regional Fraternity Chapter of Elections. Many were called forth... few responded. Neither you nor I nor any other person has control over the election results. Only the Holy Spirit does. When we are willing to surrender to His will, we can take a step back and begin to see the big picture.

Where does the Spirit want to take the Regional Fraternity for the next three years? How does His influence determine our direction? Saying "yes" to His call is one part of what we do as nominees who have prayed and listened and responded. The openness of the voting body to listen to the Spirit when casting their votes is the 2nd part. The Chapter of Elections is being held the afternoon of April 9. We will be blessed with the graceful presence of our National Minister, Jan Parker, as president.

The Regional Executive Council worked hard at their last council meeting to put together a list of goals and dreams and suggestions for the newly elected council.

This is not meant to be a "to do" list for them, but a way to pass along a kind of road map as to where we were, where we are, and where we hope to go. They may choose another road, and are certainly free to do so. Every servant leader on the outgoing Executive Council is available to help them along the way. We hope this can be a model for the local fraternities, for outgoing councils to be available to their new councils as elections come along and councils change.

The Regional Executive Council also recently put together a document of Best Practices that will be distributed to the local ministers at Chapter. This document answers many questions regarding the day to day guidance of the local fraternity. We hope that these items are just reminders to councils, who likely already know what to do in certain situations, but perhaps it will also be enlightening to councils as well.

Finally, as this term of office comes to a close, I personally want to thank the incredible members of the outgoing Executive Council. What a wonderful group of loving people, always open to service and

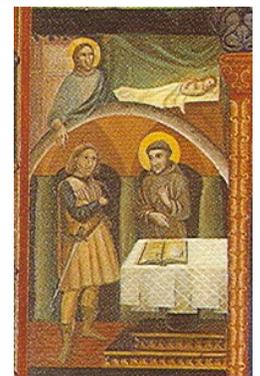
What We Have Promised to Live . . .

"As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation be the souls of all they are and do.

Let them participate in the sacramental life of the Church, above all the Eucharist. Let them join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mystery of the life of Christ.

The Virgin Mary, humble

servant of the Lord, was open to His every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently (RULE, Art 8-9)."



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

Jack Hill, OFS, and David Wright, OFS
Regional JPIC Contacts

Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF
Regional Spiritual Assistant



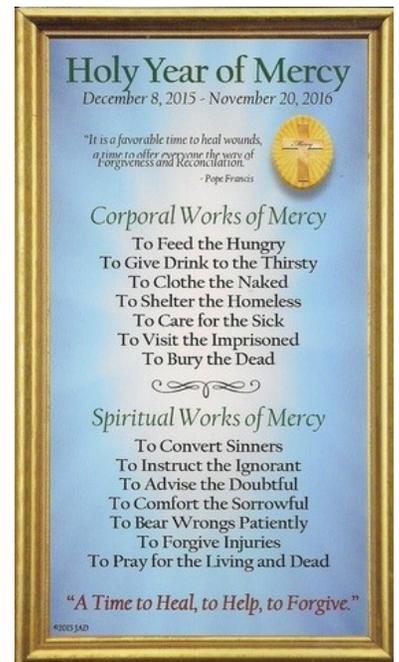
to leadership and to growth. I have been truly blessed these past three years.

And sadly, we likely soon will say goodbye to our past National Minister, Deacon Tom Bello. Tom has been placed in hospice, with a short prognosis. I first met Tom about 18 years ago. What a delight! And this past National Chapter (October 2015) was bittersweet for us all as Tom said goodbye – but with such encouragement to all of us... especially in sharing his chosen funeral Scripture reading with us – *"Rejoice in the Lord, always.*



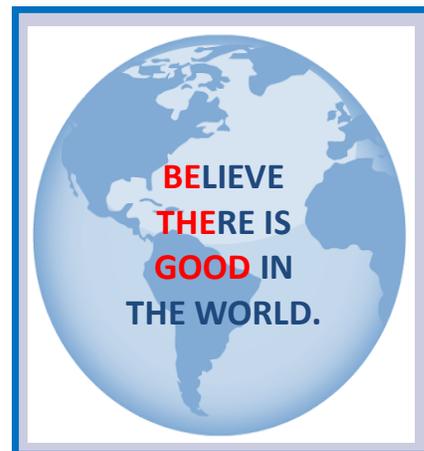
I shall say it again, rejoice!" Many of you have responded so generously with your gifts of Spiritual Bouquets for Tom. Thank you! The list has been sent to him, and his family will share it with him. I know he will smile.

I especially remember one gathering at the All Commissions Conference in Denver, years ago. My husband and I walked into a very crowded registration area, and Tom, from across the room, yells, "Dave White! I love your wife!" My husband very quietly looked at me and asked, "Is there anything we need to talk about?" and I responded, "No. It's just Tom's way." I will miss him dearly. The Secular Franciscans will have a very strong advocate in Heaven, for sure. *"Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Death, from whose embrace no mortal can escape."* Canticle – Francis of Assisi



Jubilee Year of Mercy: 2016

The Four Holy Doors: pass through to see WHO is waiting for you !



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



"Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjacks' wares. The sacraments, the forgiveness of sin, and the consolations of religion are thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the Church's inexhaustible treasury, from which she showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing. Since the cost was infinite, the possibilities of using and spending it are infinite. What would grace be if it were not cheap?... Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate. Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him. Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock.

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly be-

cause it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

My dear brothers and sisters, The above statements from the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer reflects his thoughts on grace and the church. Dietrich proved himself by dying for his faith at the hands of the Nazis at the end of World War II. I believe that the same thought process can be said about being a Franciscan. Are you a cheap Franciscan? Profession as a Secular Franciscan demands our repentance and discipleship, and we must embrace the cross, and encounter Christ. Without these attributes, we cheapen our commitment!

Let's look at the first statement of our profession!

I, N.N., by the grace of God, renew my baptismal promises and consecrate myself to the service of His Kingdom.

- ◆ Baptism produces a consecration
- ◆ Baptism configures a per-

son to the Paschal mystery of Christ ... dying and rising

- ◆ Baptism makes one a living member of the Church
- ◆ Profession gives the grace to help one live out this promise

Consecrate means to dedicate, to reserve something, to destine a person for God and His exclusive service.

In Profession, a person places him/herself into the hands of God enabling Him to take hold of them.

The person no longer belongs to him or herself but is at God's total disposal.

The professed becomes God's property.

We, as Franciscans, need to make our profession, REAL and VALUABLE! When we recite our profession, as we should do daily, realize it comes with a cost. Embrace that cost. Sell everything you own to buy that treasure! Do not be a cheap Franciscan!



Receive a daily email with the Gospel of the day and reflection:

<http://www.regnumchristi.org/en/daily-meditation/>

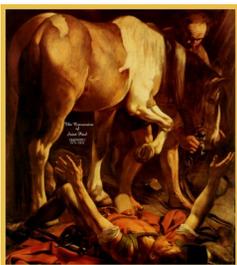


Resisting Conversion???

Don't Ride a Horse

Lent is always an appropriate time to meditate on conversion, although it's also built into our spirituality as Third Order Franciscans.

As I was reflecting on the readings for the "Conversion of St. Paul" recently, it was easy to imagine the great Saul of Tarsus being knocked off his high horse, being thrown to the ground with a stunned, unbelieving look of bewilderment on his face. Suddenly, I was struck by the recollection that a certain Francesco di Bernardone of Assisi had a similar rude awakening as he rode his beautiful richly adorned stallion in the beautiful Spoleto valley near Assisi. For both men, the horses on which they rode were symbols of the power and prestige they *imagined* they possessed: Paul because of the zest with which he persecuted Christians, Francis because he was the envy of all the young men of Assisi and the surrounding area.



Both Paul and Francis are known for their extensive journeys in the mid East and Mediterranean world. But for each of them, the longest, hardest "trip" was from the saddles of their powerful steeds to their backsides on the hard, stony patch of *terra firma* on which each landed so unceremoniously — both blinded for a time about

what this event meant in God's good plans. For Paul it took three days for the scales to fall from his eyes, and for Francis — how many years before he fully understood what this event meant?

In both cases, it wasn't until both Paul and Francis had to look upward (toward the Heavens) instead of downward (at themselves) that God was able by His eternal designs and grace to "re-program" them into fitting instruments for the proclamation and promulgation of His Gospel.

I suspect it's not much different for each of us when God challenges us to move to the next level of our relationship with Him. Unexpectedly, we find ourselves looking upward beyond our "horses" of comfort and self satisfaction and saying to Him, "Huh?". In case you haven't noticed, God is not beyond using surprises to knock us on our backsides, literally or figuratively, to get our attention when it strays. Only then can He in his ever present Providence lead us to where He can use our faltering human efforts to bring love, mercy, and the joy of discipleship to those around us, in a culture drowning in selfish, self-centered, "it's all about me" narcissism".

St. Paul's transformation, as well as that of the other apostles and disciples, brought the Gospel to the whole world; the transformation of St. Francis and his early friar brothers restored the Gos-



pel life to a world that had grown cold as it strayed further and further from the imitation of Jesus in that same Gospel. Is there a message here in the 21st Century for us Franciscans?

Thus, the great question might be stated thus: how can we allow God to *gently ease* (not knock!) us off of any *high-horsed* complacency to being messengers of Gospel values to our world? How can we cease resisting conversion to a deeper relationship with our God "who leapt down from the heavens" to become Incarnate for us" and who gave us the command to "go forth and preach to all nations."

It surely will not be as dramatic as the *get-knocked-off-your-horse* routines God used with St. Paul and St. Francis, but it is surely no less necessary. The world is, without doubt, in need of that compelling evangelical witness. Let us get up off our backsides now, look upward to the same Jesus Paul and Francis served, and become better instruments bringing the "Gospel to life, and life to the Gospel."

News and Views from Around Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity

St. Boniface Fraternity: welcomed Virginia Anson, OFS, to their fraternity from St. Mary's Fraternity in Waterloo, Iowa.

Congratulations and Many Blessings

to two of our regional Secular Franciscan sisters for joyously receiving the gift of longevity: Deloris Jockerst, OFS from St. Charles Fraternity in Fort Wayne, reached her 102nd birthday on January 29, 2016. And the same kudos to Jean Magnant, OFS of Sacred Heart Fraternity in Indianapolis who just celebrated her 100th birthday. Jean will also be celebrating her 66th year as a Secular Franciscan in September.



St. Charles Fraternity in Fort Wayne is asking you to join them in prayer for the daughter of Donna Carteau, OFS, who is seriously ill.

St. Charles Fraternity is also celebrating their 80th anniversary as a Fraternity on May 14, 2016.

Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity, St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity, and Little Portion Fraternity were inspired on February 20 with reflections by Fr. Ed Tlucek, OFM, on the letter of Pope Francis, "Laudato Si".

Immaculate Conception Fraternity in Mishawaka, hosted the Conventual Friars, the OFM friars, and the Sisters of St. Francis on February 6, 2016, for a bug free, mosquito free, heat free, threat-of-rain free indoor picnic. The gathering started with a prayerful celebration of the Mass in the Convent Chapel followed by homemade soups, breads, and desserts and fraternal comradery in the Auditorium.



Feast of Our Lady of the Angels (Portiuncula) and Anniversary of the Portiuncula Indulgence

August 1216 –2016

When St. Francis had his conversion, he set about repairing three chapels. The third was popularly called the *Portiuncula* or the "Little Portion," dedicated to St. Mary of the Angels. The chapel and the land belongs to the Benedictines. The friars came to live at the Little Portion in early 1211. It became the "motherhouse" of the Franciscans. This is where St. Clare came to the friars to make her vows during the night following Palm Sunday in 1212 and where Sister Death came to Francis on Oct. 3, 1226. The Benedictines wanted to give Francis the church but in order to remain faithful to Lady Poverty, Francis rented it from them with the

annual compensation of a basket of fish from the Tescio river — a rent which is continued to be paid until this very day. It is now enclosed in a basilica at Assisi.

St. Francis of Assisi persuaded Pope Honorius III to grant a plenary indulgence to all those who visited the Portiuncula on August 2 and confessed their sins. This indulgence has been extended to all churches, especially those held by Franciscans, throughout the world. **This year, 2016, marks the 800th anniversary of the Portiuncula indulgence.**

On August 2, the Feast of St. Mary of the Angels, the Portiuncula Indulgence can be gained in any Franciscan church or chapel under the usual conditions for gaining an indulgence: communion, confession, prayer for the Holy Father, and firm purpose of avoiding sin.



*Misericordes
Sicut Pater*

Merciful like the
Father

Why do we color eggs at Eastertime? Some thoughts . . .

MARY MAGDALENE AND THE RED EGG

In several legends, Mary Magdalene is a key player in the creation of the egg-dyeing tradition. One version involves Mary Magdalene's trip to Jesus' tomb three days after his crucifixion. She carried a basket of cooked eggs to share with the other women who would be mourning at the tomb. When she arrived to find the stone rolled away from the entrance and the tomb empty, the eggs in her basket turned a brilliant shade of red.



Another legend tells of Mary Magdalene going to speak to the Roman Emperor Tiberius after Jesus rose from the dead. She greeted the emperor by saying "Christ is risen." Tiberius replied, "Christ has no more risen than that egg is red," gesturing to an egg that was, depending on the version of the legend, on his table or held by Mary herself. As soon as the emperor said this—you guessed it—the egg turned red.

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS, AND THE RED EGG

Some Eastern European legends credit not Mary Magdalene, but Jesus' mother Mary, as the source of the egg-dyeing tradition.

Mary was present at her son's crucifixion on Good Friday and, according to these legends, she brought eggs with her. In one version, blood from Jesus' wounds drops on the eggs, coloring them red. Another version of the legend tells of Mary weeping, begging the soldiers at the cross to be less cruel to her son.

She gives these soldiers eggs and, as her tears fall on them, they are spotted with brilliant color.

This post originally appeared in 2013 and was written by Kaitlin Boettcher. More information and other possible origins of colored eggs may be found at: www.mentalfloss.com



From
Our Lady of Indiana
Regional Fraternity,

Sister Death has welcomed:

St. Charles Fraternity

Diana Maldeney, OFS (Dec. 2015)
Edna L. Poitras, OFS (Jan, 2016)

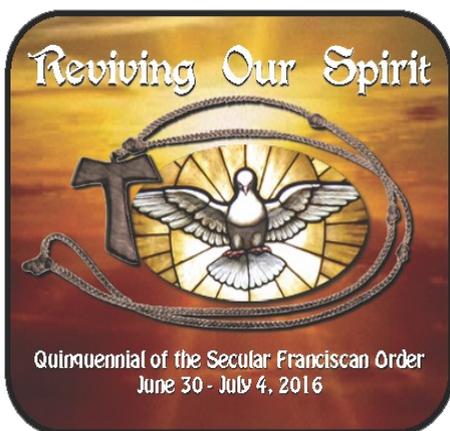
Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity
Gladys Horvath, OFS (Feb. 2016)

Immaculate Conception
Fraternity

Bernadette Osowski, OFS
(March, 2016)

Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity
Grace Ragonese, OFS
(March, 2016)

The Quinquennial 2016: St. Louis, Missouri



Revive your spirit! Register for the 2016 Quinquennial. Nicknamed the "Q", the congress is for Secular Franciscans, the wider Franciscan Family, and Franciscan-hearted companions. It takes place June 30-July 4 at Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. Keynote presenter is **Friar Dan Horan, OFM**, a young priest who has already become a prolific author and sought-after speaker.



Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity—Secular Franciscan Order



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OLI-Region-subscribe@yahoo.com

You'll be happy you did.

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?**

Dates to Remember

April 9, 2016: Chapter of Mats and Regional Elections: all Ministers or their Delegate required to attend

April 16, 2016: Traditional Day for all Franciscans to Renew their Vows

June 11, 2016: Regional Executive Council meets in Kokomo

June 30—July 4, 2016: Quinquennial — St. Louis, Missouri: Theme: "Reviving Our Spirit"



July 9, 2016: Candidates Day Away: St. Francis Convent, Mishawaka: Open to all candidates and local formation directors (and their teams). All sessions will be held in the Auditorium. Further information TBA.

August 2, 2016: Feast of Our Lady of the Angles (Portiuncula) 800th Anniversary of the Portiuncula Indulgence.

August 13, 2016: Unity Day at St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo: open to all Indiana Franciscans

September 10, 2016: Fall Formation Workshop: Open to local Formation Teams

October 8, 2016: Regional Executive Council

November 1—6, 2016: NaFra Chapter—Orlando, FL: Regional Minister attends

November 12, 2016: Fall Chapter of Mats: all local Ministers or their Delegate required to attend

November 20, 2016: The "Jubilee Year of Mercy" ends with today's Solemnity of Christ the King.



Walking in the footsteps of
Saint Francis and Saint Clare of
Assisi as Secular Franciscans,
from the Gospel to Life and
from Life to the Gospel.

A Message from our Holy Father, Pope Francis



GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE

"Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. The Father, "rich in mercy" (*Eph 2:4*), after having revealed his name to Moses as "a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (*Ex 34:6*), has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. In the "fullness of time" (*Gal 4:4*), when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father (cf. *Jn 14:9*). Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person, reveals the mercy of God." (*Misericordie Vultus, #1*)