



Our Lady of Indiana

Regional Fraternity — Secular Franciscan Order

"From the Gospel to life; from life to the Gospel"

June 2016

Volume 3, Issue 2

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

Inside this issue:

Message from Regional Minister	1-2
Our New Regional Council	3
Spiritual Assistant: Book	4
News and Views	5
"Francis on Facebook"	6
Calendar of Events	7
Words for Pope Francis	7

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.

Amen

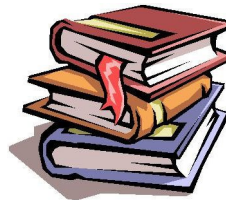


A Message from our Regional Minister: Kathleen White, OFS



The Comfort of Books

As I sit here at my desk and look around, there are books on the shelves above my head. There are books stacked to my left on the pile of papers (when the cat jumps up on the desk she often causes an avalanche). There are books on the short shelf between the desk and the pie safe. There are books on top of the pie safe. Over my right shoulder there are books on the hutch. If I turn around there are books in a barrister bookcase and also stacked several high all along the top of the bookcase, all of which are Franciscan. If I go to my chair in the living room and move my knitting aside, there are several books within arm's reach. And two Kindles. There are coffee table books as well: Swans, Elephants, The Vatican, Golfing, and, of course, the Cubs. As I walk up the stairs to my bedroom on the landing there is a bookcase filled, and overflowing, with books: Bibles and study guides, RCIA reference material, spiritual reading —



which is not specifically Franciscan.

Many of my books have ribbon bookmarks, which I carefully glue into each new acquisition. If it's got a ribbon, it is ready to be read! No folding down the page corner in my books! No paper bookmarks, either.

I remember being in high school (in Chicago) and often going downtown to Marshall Field's on a Saturday, and taking the elevator to an upper floor. When the doors opened the entire floor was books. I would gasp each time, always thinking, "Where do I start?" Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, Thoreau's *Walden Pond*, Gibran's *The Prophet*?

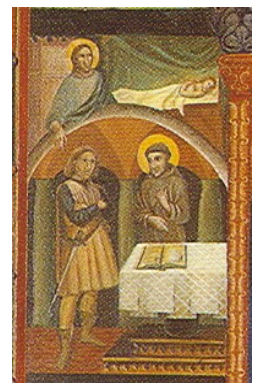
Shopping at the local Goodwill, as is my habit each half-price day, I regularly go to the book section. There are always treasures there. Each visit I buy all the books on pregnancy and childbirth and donate them to Birthright, again and

(Continued on page 2)

What We Have Promised to Live . . .

"Trusting the Father, Christ chooses for Himself and His mother a poor and humble life, even though He valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children.

Thus, in the spirit of the Beatitudes, and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for passion and power (Rule, Article 13)".



REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Kathleen White, OFS : Regional Minister

Barb Braley, OFS: Regional Vice–Minister

Sharon Roberts, OFS: Regional Secretary

Lisa Cook, OFS: Regional Treasurer

Dave Dieringer, OFS :
Regional Formation Director

Linda Grady, OFS, Sharon Marmalejo, OFS,
and Richard Cain, OFS Regional Councilors

Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF,
Regional Spiritual Assistant

~T~

Jack Hill, OFS and David Wright, OFS
Regional JPIC Co-Chairs



National Minister, Jan Parker, OFS; Secretary, Sharon Roberts, OFS; Councilor, Sharon Marmalejo, OFS; Regional Minister, Kathleen White, OFS; Councilor, Linda Grady, OFS; Formation Director, David Dieringer, OFS; Vice-Minister, Barb Braley, OFS; Councilor, Rick Cain, OFS; Treasurer, Lisa Cook, OFS; Spiritual Assistant, Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF

again. They are most grateful!

My best friend and I exchange books as gifts. We often read the same book at the same time and discuss it. We enjoy the same type of reading, but also introduce each other to the unknown.

Like *Belle in Beauty and the Beast*, like the young Jewish woman Yentl, books are a great comfort to me. Actually, an obsession. Most recently I have discovered the sheer joy in finding hard to locate/out of print books online.

I scored several winners lately, and was very excited when the package (s) arrived. My most recent purchase was for one penny, with \$3.99 postage. Not bad for a book with a \$16.95 price tag!

I love seeing (mostly older) parishioners at Mass with old, worn, comfortable missals. I am sure there is a treasure of holy cards within. Each funeral attended, each ordination, each first Mass. Clippings of a favorite prayer. Maybe even a holy card earned as a prize during catechism class decades ago. Our breviaries are the same way. Treasures of memories within the front and back cover.

I visited a fraternity recently and they had a library that was a gold mine of books on all things Franciscan. No member could say they don't have

anything to read! I was envious but also so very happy for that fraternity. In my own fraternity we have lost quite a few of our members to Sister Death. In most instances the family has very graciously given the fraternity books that once belonged to our member. We survivors choose from the stack. Several of my books have come to me in this way. They are cherished possessions.

But then, I don't think this hoarding of books and continual buying of books is very Franciscan of me. I don't lend them out. I don't give them away (as, often, my friend does). I mistakenly think that if I own the book, the knowledge within will somehow come to me by osmosis. When I excitedly announce that I have acquired a new book, my friend often asks, "Yes, but have you read it?" My answer is ever so often "Not yet." My intentions are to read them all. I am looking forward to retirement in the fall. There will be more time for reading... but also time to increase my prayers for the grace of detachment.

"No man can be called friendless who has God and the companionship of good books."

~Elizabeth Barrett Browning

"The Rule requires Secular Franciscans to approach people with gentleness, care, and compassion – recognizing in them the image of God. We recognize our personal need for radical conversion and seek it with a willing spirit. By our lives we show how it looks to live a kingdom/gospel life. It must be attractive rather than boring; inviting rather than separating; welcoming instead of excluding; forgiving rather than vengeful; prayerful rather than domineering; with a passion for justice rather than allowing injustice to grow; seeking ways of peace rather than planning for war and violence; developing a spirit of community rather than individualism; recognizing a need for God rather than arrogant independence; finding hope and guidance in the Bible rather than dependence merely on human knowledge. (Lester Bach, OFM)."

"Getting to know you" . . . our new Council

Congratulations to all the members of the newly elected Regional Executive Council for our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity! The Holy Spirit has called you forth to minister to your brothers and sisters in Indiana in a spirit of Franciscan love and care. May His presence continue to guide you for your willingness to serve!

KATHLEEN WHITE, OFS, was re-elected to serve as Regional Minister, after serving in various capacities in Queen of All Saints Fraternity, Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity, as well as various ministries for the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, and is also presently engaged in the Spiritual Assistant Formation Program with Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM. Her resume is awesome and beyond impressive and we thank Kathleen for her willingness to serve the Church and the Franciscan family in so many ways. What a gift you are!

BARB BRALEY, OFS, was elected to serve Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity as Vice-Minister. Barb has served St. Charles Fraternity in Fort Wayne as Formation Director and is presently engaged in the Spiritual Assistant Formation Program with Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap. She brings a large assortment of experiences to the table and everyone will benefit from her skills.

LISA COOK, OFS, has accepted the ministry of Treasurer for Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity and she brings her experiences as a Deposit Operations Clerk and various ministries of her parish, St. Mary's in Crown Point, as well as various civic organizations such as the Crown Point Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and Girl Scout Leader.

SHARON ROBERTS, OFS, is a happy return face to the Regional Council as she served the Regional Fraternity as Treasurer for nine years with great exactitude with her penchant for detail. Now Sharon will minister to the Regional Fraternity as its Secretary. Sharon's experience as a librarian has surely honed her skills for accuracy and detail and we have all been the beneficiaries of those skills.

DAVE DIERINGER, OFS, also returns to the Regional Council with a plethora of regional fraternity experience. During this term, Dave will serve as Formation Director. Dave's experiences and ministries outside of regional responsibilities in the civic community as well as his parish community serves as a model for everyone seeking the meaning of "life to the Gospel and the Gospel to life".



National Minister and Presider, Jan Parker, OFS; Secretary, Sharon Roberts, OFS; Councilor, Sharon Marmalejo, OFS; Regional Minister, Kathleen White, OFS; Councilor, Linda Grady, OFS; Formation Director, David Dieringer, OFS; Vice-Minister, Barb Braley, OFS; Councilor, Rick Cain, OFS; Treasurer, Lisa Cook, OFS; Spiritual Assistant, Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF.

RICH CAIN, OFS, joins the Regional Executive Council as a representative of the Central fraternities of the state and brings with him the experience of Vice-minister and also Formation Director of his fraternity as well as leadership responsibilities in his home parish of St. Mary's in Angola. His eagerness to serve is commendable and we'll all look forward to working with Rich for the furthering of the mission of Secular Franciscans in northern Indiana.

SHARON MARMALEJO, OFS, elected as Northwest Councilor, has served as the Minister of Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity in Cedar Lake as well as in various ministries of her parish church and the Diocese of Gary. Sharon has also served her fraternity as its Formation Director and she is ready to "jump into" some new experiences of ministry on the regional level.

LINDA GRADY, OFS, has served Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity as Councilor and her own fraternity of Lady Clare as Formation Director. Linda is also active in her parish community and the Kokomo community in various civic organizations. She and the Lady Clare Fraternity are always and in every circumstance models of Franciscan warmth and hospitality - whether for REC meetings, Unity Day, Formation Workshops or whenever guests stand at their doorstep. Linda represents the Northeast fraternities of Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity.



“Summer time and the livin’ is easy . . .”

A suggestion for a good book: only thing needed is a shady spot, a cold lemonade, some lovely music and a heart ready to hear God’s voice.

“Finding a Treasure in a Field”

The spiritual journey shared by Gerard Straub in his first book, “Sun and Moon Over Assisi” was mesmerizing! It was honest, forthright, and bluntly open about his fall from grace and his “refounding” by the grace of God when he visited Assisi some twenty years ago. I found myself wishing the book would never end as he chronicled his conversion from atheism to the Catholic Faith and on to becoming a dedicated Franciscan. Gerard’s second book, “The Loneliness and Longing of St. Francis” is likewise worth a prayerful reading as the author learned from life itself how to “go from the Gospel to life, and life to the Gospel (OFS Rule, Article 4)”.

With wonderful perception Straub writes: “Even the most ordinary moments of the day are charged with mystical possibilities. To see the mystical in the ordinary, we need to pause often during the day and be attentive to what is really happening all around us and inside us . . . St. Francis of Assisi was one of the many mystics who reached a place of wholeness that enable him to see God in all things (Gerard Straub, The Loneliness and Longing of Saint Francis, 23rd Publications, New London, CT, ©2014, p. 174-175)”.

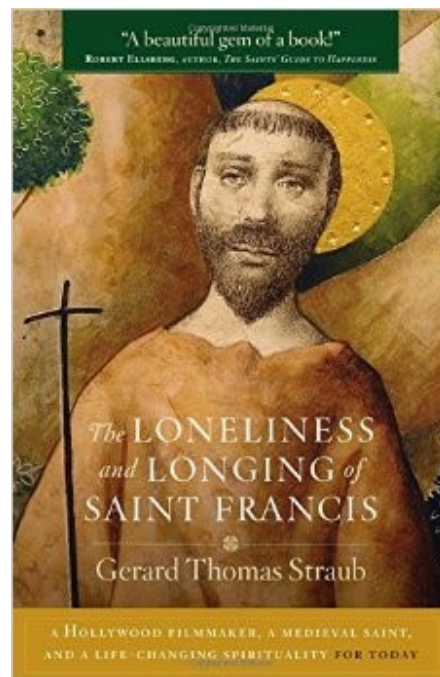
After Straub followed the call to become a Secular Franciscan, he continued using his prize-winning, filmmaking skills to bring the story of the poorest persons on the planet to the awareness of those capable of reaching out to assist them. Like St. Francis, he found in the dirty, scarred “lepers” of the world the

face of Jesus! Thus his reflections about where he has found the Lord in the “poorest of the poor”, the marginalized, the needy, and seemingly forsaken persons ring so true for those called to live in the midst of the world’s chaos and desperation. He gives his readers a blueprint for ever deepening conversion.

Amidst the beauty of the story, one of the most helpful things about this journal, is the author’s willingness to share his own spiritual struggles as he walks the path of daily conversion. There isn’t any claim to “having arrived”, but only an honest sharing of how challenging conversion can be in our everyday lives as we move forward and sometimes backward on our journey. For all of us still trying to figure out what our professed commitment to conversion as a Franciscan, means, this book is a *must*. The practical suggestions offered by the author from his own life experiences are a treasure and it offers the reader some very positive guidelines to his or her own path to continuing conversion.

This is not a book you would want to read quickly, but rather slowly, prayerfully, reflectively savoring the depth of Straub’s spiritual journey and message. Sometimes just a few carefully savored paragraphs are all one needs to reconnect with the “one thing necessary” . . . or is that, the only ONE who is necessary! The book is a treasure in the field!

A final sharing of sampling Straub’s words read as follows: “God is here in this moment, waiting with open and outstretched arms, waiting to embrace and caress you with endless love. Kiss this moment, for in it is perfect joy and all good. Love is the symphony of life. It needs to be practiced and played every day. God is the composer, Christ is the conductor, and we are the performers (Op. cit., p. 286)”.



This lovely book can be purchased at the following website:

www.amazon.com



News and Views from Around Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY:

Bill Booher, OFS, Minister, thanks everyone for their prayers after his surgery as he's recovering with "total success" and the doctor's prognosis for him is very good.

COME AND SEE: Little Portion Fraternity and Lady Clare Fraternity have both hosted a "Come and See" session in their parishes to invite others who might be interested in following a call to the Secular Franciscan Order.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

FRATERNITY launched their "Francisville" outreach program alongside serving breakfast once a month for the guests at Our Lady of the Road. More information to follow in a future edition. The Fraternity has also just received word from the national office of "Bridges of Hope" that they have been approved as a "mentoring center" for at-risk women. Twenty two of the brothers and sisters will participate in a training program to be taught the skills of mentoring.

ST. BONIFACE FRATERNITY

has joyfully and warmly welcomed two new Inquirers, Father Mark Walter and Susan Sullivan. Let us keep them in prayer as they discern their call to the Franciscan life. Tim Klink has been accepted into Candidacy. Congratulations to all!

The **REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL** gathered on May 7, 2016, for their first Council meeting. It was a lovely time of "getting to know you" and starting to learn the basics of regional responsibilities.



*Misericordes
Sicut Pater*

Merciful like the
Father



LADY CLARE

FRATERNITY joined the Poor Clares in Kokomo for the First Profession of **Sr. Maria Theresia** and helped provide some of the refreshments, assistance with parking, and

their always warm hospitality for the reception afterward.

May 14, 2016, **ST. CHARLES FRATERNITY** in Fort Wayne gave joyful celebration and commemoration of their 80th Anniversary as a Secular Franciscan Fraternity. Mass,



This beautiful register graced the Table of Memories at St. Charles Fraternity's 80th Anniversary celebration. It contains the names, dates of Profession, etc. of everyone who has ever been a member of the Fraternity since its founding

celebrated by Fr. William Kummer, OFS, was celebrated at St. Peter's Church in Fort Wayne and was followed by a pot luck luncheon in the parish center.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

FRATERNITY in Cedar Lake held their annual "Baby Shower" in June. Their collection includes disposable diapers, new or lightly used baby

clothes and baby necessities. Surely the ladies receiving these articles are grateful for these items.

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY in Indianapolis has a new outreach — sending birthday cards to the residents of the Meridian Street Nursing and Convalescent Center. They are also planning a general party for the residents at the facility on Sunday, July 10. Enjoy the party and spread your warm Franciscan joy!

ST. ANTHONY FRATERNITY: It is our pleasure to introduce John Kindt, St. Anthony Fraternity's newest professed member. John made his permanent profession on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 during the afternoon Mass at St. Mary Catholic Church.



John, wife Kathy, grandchildren Isabella and Dylan with celebrant Fr. Andrew Dudzinski.

SOMETHING NEW AND HELPFUL:

If you haven't checked it out yet, try the following to find connections to all things Franciscan:

<http://www.digitalfranciscans.com>

The goal of this site is to gather together, in one place, links to as many Franciscan websites and online resources as possible. This is one to bookmark for future reference.

Reflections from our Formation Director; Dave Dieringer, OFS

Would Francis be on Facebook?

(this article is NOT attack on social media, nor on those who use it!)

For years, friends and associates badgered me to join Facebook. They said it would help me connect with old friends and school mates and stay connected with current friends. I had thought that it would take way too much time and effort. Finally after four years, I signed up. Within hours, I was invited to join a "secret" group of old Army buddies (some of which I had not seen or heard from in forty years). But at the same time, I see that some people use and abuse the media (I really don't need to know that an Army buddy is having a hotdog for supper). I do find Facebook as a useful tool to communicate with others in today's world. But... would Francis be on Facebook?

Could you imagine the stories Francis would share? Could you imagine how many likes he would get? COULD YOU

IMAGINE HOW MANY FRIEND REQUESTS HE WOULD HAVE? How would he ever have time to pray; communicate with our God? I think he would retreat to the caves just to escape from the social media.

We, like Francis, need to realize that the only "friend" we need in our social network is Jesus, the Messiah. Everyone and everything is included with that "friend"! We will not need a tablet or computer or phone to be connected. Just go into the streets and neighborhood and ask those you meet to be your friend. I believe Francis did that regularly. I also believe, like Francis, we will encounter Jesus through them as friends! Try it!



From
Our Lady of Indiana
Regional Fraternity

Sister Death has welcomed:

Former National Minister
Rev. Mr. Tom Bello, OFS

Holy Family Fraternity
Gil Holmon, OFS
Daughter of Donna Carteaux, OFS

Our Lady of Lourdes
Gladys Horvath, OFS
Grace Ragonese, OFS

Eternal rest grant to all our departed Franciscan brothers, sisters and family members. May Sister Death hold them close to the heart of Jesus.

The Quinquennial 2016: St. Louis, Missouri

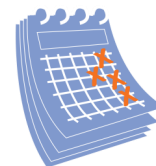


Reviving our spirit! 2016 Quinquennial. Nicknamed the "Q", the congress is for Secular Franciscans, the wider Franciscan family, and Franciscan-hearted companions. It takes place June 30-July 4 at Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. Keynote presenter is **Friar Dan Horan, OFM**,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

Next issue: Reports from those who attended.



Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity—Secular Franciscan Order



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

OLI-Region-subscribe@yahoo.com

Regional news, announcements, formation.

Dates to Remember



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. All sessions will be held in the Auditorium. Additional information has been sent to each local formation director.

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

August 11, 2016: Feast of St. Clare, Foundress of the Second Order

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 Team members

October 3- 4, 2016: Transitus and Feast of our Holy Father St. Francis.

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 attend

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



St Francis of Assisi likes this!

Also, like us 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?**

A Message from our Holy Father, Pope Francis



"For Christians Jesus is the way, and the journey of life is part cross and part resurrection. But on the way there are those who freeze like "spiritual mummies", who are stubborn and go astray, who spend their life spinning their wheels, mesmerized by worldly beauty. During Mass at Santa Marta on Tuesday, the Pope warned against these attitudes and expressly invited an examination of conscience in order to verify our personal experience of faith.

The day's passage from the Gospel of John (14:5-14), Francis explained, "is part of Jesus' lengthy discourse at the Last Supper, his farewell speech: he is bidding farewell before going to his passion". He tells the Apostles: "I will not leave you orphans; I will not leave you alone; I will go to prepare a place for you". Moreover, the Pope pointed out, in the "two verses before this passage that we have listened to", we read: "you know the way where I am going", and Thomas responds: "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?". This is where the day's passage begins, with Jesus saying to Thomas: "I am the way". This is "the response to the anguish, the sorrow, the sadness of the disciples over Jesus' farewell: they do not understand very well, and thus they are sad". This is why Jesus says to Thomas: "I am the way".

Jesus' expression, Francis stated, "makes us think about Christian life", which "is a journey: with Baptism we begin to walk, and walk and walk". One might say that Christian life "is a journey, and the correct way is Jesus". Thus he said precisely, "I am the way". Therefore, "in order to walk correctly in Christian life, Jesus is the way".

From a daily homily given by Pope Francis at Casa Santa Marta