



Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity

Secular Franciscan Order

Website: <http://olirf-ofs.org/>

December 2018

Volume 5, Issue 4



“See Christ, Be Christ, Share the Vision!”

A Message from our Regional Minister: Kathleen White, OFS



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The Lord give you peace! It’s that time of year when the word PEACE is used as decorations for Christmas and the New Year. Wall hangings and ornaments and mantel displays are an example. Francis taught that the greeting – *The Lord give you peace!* – be used by the friars as they entered villages and homes. We should do the same. Peace in the family is stressed often. Healing of memories, avoiding arguments, married love, the raising of children and grandchildren, all call for Peace? What brings us to peace in our lives? The presence of the Lord? Friendship? A good day on the job? A restful night of sleep? Let us teach peace as part of our Advent preparation for the Second Coming, and as part of our conversion for the new year.

We are preparing for the 2019 Elective Chapter planned for 4/13/19. As is true in the local fraternities, Regional Fraternities also hold a triennial election. You are asked to prayerfully consider two things – nominating yourself or another for an office on the Regional Executive Council (Minister, Vice Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, Formation Director, Northeast Councilor, Northwest Councilor, Central Councilor).

We are called to service by our profession, our promise to follow the Rule, by what is written in our Essential Documents, and by our Catholicity. We are called by the Scriptures. **Romans 12:7-8** says: *if it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is giving, let him give generously; if it is leading, let him lead with diligence; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*

Scripture also tells us that we are many parts, but all one body. The eye is not the hand. The foot is not the ear. But all are necessary. So it is with leadership. The call is to use the gifts we have for the (re)building of the Kingdom, of which our Regional Fraternity is a part. Look around you. Who in your fraternity has gifts and talents that the Regional Fraternity can benefit from? Better yet – look in the mirror! What have you received along your journey that you can give back through servant leadership?

Con’t on page 2

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.

What We Have Promised to Live . . .

CONSTITUTION: Article 2

1. “The vocation to the SFO is a specific vocation that gives form to the life and apostolic activity of its members. Therefore, those who are bound by a perpetual commitment to another religious family or institute of consecrated life cannot belong to the SFO.

2. The SFO is open to the faithful of every state of life. The following may belong to it: the lay men and women, and the secular clergy (deacons, priest, bishops).”



Pope Honorius hands the Rule to St. Francis
Depiction by Domenico Ghirlandaio

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Kathleen White, OFS : Regional Minister
 Barb Braley, OFS: Regional Vice–Minister
 Sharon Roberts: OFS: Regional Secretary
 Vacant : Regional Treasurer
 Dave Dieringer, OFS : Regional Formation Director
 Regional Councilors: Linda Grady, OFS,
 Sharon Marmalejo, OFS, and Richard Cain, OFS
 Regional Spiritual Assistant:
 Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF:

JPIC: Jack Hill, OFS,



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

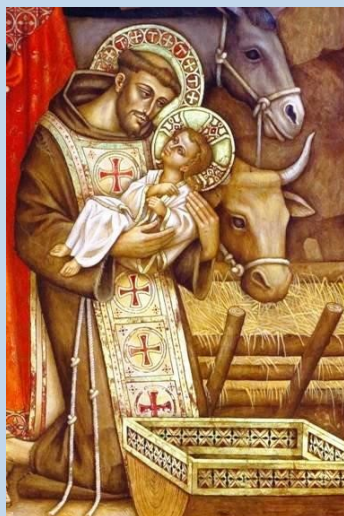
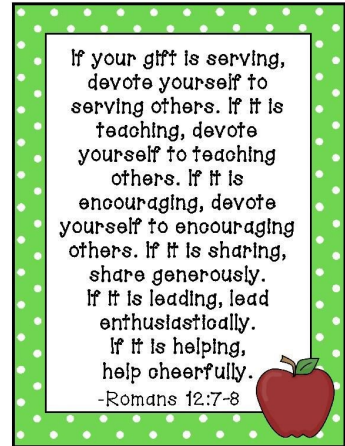
Con't from page 1

We have heard it said by several past members of the Regional Executive Council that serving a term or more on the REC was a great learning experience and benefited them in their local fraternity as well. None of us has all the answers – but the collective wisdom that we have when we come together is truly inspired by the Holy Spirit and by Francis himself. Come share the joy!

To nominate yourself or another professed member, send an email to kdwofs@comcast.net with the name and contact information of the person you are nominating. Specify which office(s) you are nominating them for. Each nominee will be contacted and asked if they accept or decline the nomination(s). Each member of the Regional Executive Council (except the Spiritual Assistant in financial matters or in elections) and each local fraternity minister is a voting member of the Regional Council and will be sent the slate with the nominees’ résumés so that they can make an informed choice when they vote in April.

I also want to thank you for your prayers during my recent recovery from knee replacement

surgery. I have learned the true meaning of “offer it up” as taught by the sisters so many years ago!



“Finally, the day of joy has drawn near, the time of exultation has come. As they could, the men and women of that with exultant hearts prepare candles and torches to light up that night whose shining star has enlightened every day and year . . . the night is lit up like day. . .

the holy man of God stands before the manger, filled with heartfelt sighs . . . Often he uses the expression “Jesus” or “babe from Bethlehem” . . . Now [the babe] is awakened and pressed on their loving memory by his own grace through his holy servant Francis

(FA:ED, Vol. 1, p. 255-256).”

Pilgrims Reflect on their Journey

The following two reflections were sent by two of our Pilgrims from Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity who were gifted with time in Assisi in October, 2019.

For the last few weeks I've been gently reflecting on the images and memories from our 10 day pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. I still remember how it felt to have the warm Umbrian sun surround me as I padded along the cobblestone streets far above the mist covered valley below. I cannot forget, too, the experience of watching Paulo fit our taxi through impossible spaces on the narrow streets of the city!



One image I keep returning to is that of the live doves nestled in the arms of the statue of St. Francis by the rose garden at St. Mary of the Angels Basilica. We, too, in a sense were "nestled" in the arms of Assisi itself, birthplace to Francis, Clare, as well as the Franciscan Order.

Assisi is a city which has endured the test of time, made forever holy by the saints' lives. For over 800 years, people have flocked to this "City of Peace". Spending time in the sacred places of San Damiano, San Rufino, Our Lady of the Angels, San Ciara, the Portiuncula, Basilica of San Francesco one cannot help but encounter God's divine presence. It is the same God who touched Francis' heart; and the same God who touched my heart while I was there. Many insights continue to emerge from my time spent in Assisi.

I've become a more joyful person; and I've accepted the invitation to love deeply again. As I returned to work, I've discovered my work is to serve the "lepers" of this society: the poor and the homeless, the mentally ill. When co-workers comment that I'm different than before I left, it's my chance to tell

them: "I'm in love with Jesus!"

In Christ's love,
Andrea Martin

T T T T T T T T

A spiritual pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi was an experience that sounded like a wonderful adventure.

Following in the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare far exceeded my expectations.



We celebrated Mass every day, spent time in the very places where Francis and Clare lived, prayed, cared for sick and the poor. The deep love they both shared for the poor and to serve Christ, is and always will be an inspiration.

I especially loved celebrating Mass in Greccio, Italy where Francis had the first live manger of when Christ was born. Mass inside the Portiuncula at St. Mary of the Angels will always be a most special memory for me.

Celebrating Mass in another country is a very spiritual experience. No matter where we attend Mass anywhere in the world, we are home. It is so comforting to know we are all one by our shared love and faith in Christ.

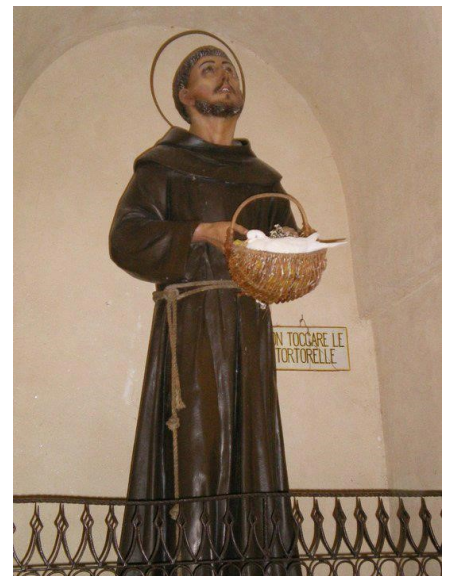
The love Francis had for nature and every living thing shines through in Assisi still today. There was beauty everywhere we turned. The deep faith and love of Christ spills over into every part of the lives of those who have gone before us. Beauty in art, sculptures, history, nature and frescos on most buildings. They all tell a story of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Saints who followed Him.

There was something very special about spending time with pilgrims who share the same enthusiasm for

St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. Praying, eating and celebrating Mass every day with these wonderful people was truly my privilege. May our love and faith continue to grow as we serve Christ, by following the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare. May God continue to bless you.

Peace Always,
Patti Webster

Our pilgrim family carried a Book of Prayer Intentions wherever we went, so that everyone's intentions were prayed for during Morning and Evening Prayer as well as Mass at every sanctuary we visited.



GLORY
TO
GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST!

A New Perspective

Linda Grady, OFS
Regional Counselor

In October, while Sr. Agnes Marie had a group of pilgrims in Assisi, I was in the Holy Land on pilgrimage. I have never had such an experience! The countryside was unlike anything I'd ever seen, with rolling hills of desert, fencing to keep out the Palestinians, unfinished buildings (to avoid paying taxes).

What pilgrimage would be complete without lots of walking, uphill, downhill, up and down stairs? And there was heat - lots of it! At the Church of the Nativity and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the lines were very long, and in the latter we were literally packed in like sardines. I think if I had passed out I wouldn't have fallen! Patience was the virtue of the day. All these factors made it a penitential trip, as well.

And oh, so many holy sites to visit! We were on the go from early morning until supertime, nearly every day. We saw all the mysteries of the Rosary (except for the Coronation of our Lady, of course!), and I will never pray the Rosary the same old way again. It is powerful to relive being in the place of each mystery, and with the aid of a special edition of *Magnificat* magazine for pilgrims to the Holy Land, to meditate more deeply on its meaning.

I am anticipating the holy seasons and feasts with more eagerness, as the Scriptures come to life in the readings. With Christmas being the first since our return, Advent and the Christmas season will be very special.



Entrance to the Cave of the Nativity

There have been many graces given, as well. I had the privilege of making the pilgrimage with some of my family, and have seen them grow in their faith. For example, my sister-in-law has decided that she needs to go to Adoration and read more "Catholic stuff." My sister is looking into the OFS as a vocation. :-) And I will be able to identify more with the crucified Christ, after walking where He walked, setting foot in the very places He preached, ate, suffered, died and was buried.

Although it was hot, and some of the sites were so incredibly packed, making for hours-long lines, it was all worth it and I'm ready to go again. If you ever get the opportunity to go, and you are physically able, please go; it will change your life.



Site of the Nativity



Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem



From Stars to "Christ the Morning Star"

The Incarnation of Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us, was without doubt God's greatest gift which descended into our world in the middle of the night when the world lay in darkness, silence, and stillness. With that Gift — nothing can compare!

But it was also not the last time our gift-giving God surprised us, specifically me, in the dark hours of night. Yes, it happens if only we have eyes to see!

One night recently at exactly 11:04 p.m. one gift followed the other. Finally, I had to convince myself that this was the time for sleep . . . But how can you let so much of God's beauty go!

The meaning of the digits on the clock are significant as they were the address at which I live and grew up as a child. Now, twice a day when the articles appear on a clock, watch, or other time piece, it has become my personal custom to pray for my parents, grand-parents, aunts and



uncles, and all the members of my family down to the great nieces and nephews with which I have been blest. Our Father in Heaven most certainly holds in His eternal hands the deceased loved ones, but the living ones, I pray, are the benefactors of His provident care as they live their present day lives wherever they are.



But that evening, God's surprises were not at an end. Curiosity about the night sky won out and as I opened my window, the gorgeous constellations of Orion, Canis Major, Canis Minor were sparkling brilliantly against a crisp, moonless, black sky. I felt breathless and unable to move!

However, the next surprise from God in the middle of the night was nearby. A soft rustling sound below my window caused me to look down upon seven beautiful does grazing their way across the lawn toward the hanging bird feeder filled to overflowing with grain.

There we were: the brilliant stars filling the immensity of God's universe betraying His presence which cannot be contained, and below where the gentlest of His creatures grazing peacefully and contentedly from the bounty of His hand.

It took awhile before I became aware of the crisp, cold night air coming in through the open window, but somehow it re-

ally didn't seem to matter when the Giver of all good gifts was generously bestowing them at a time and place least expected.

And that's not the only GIFT that occurred in the middle of that night. The beautiful prayer from the Divine Office for Christmas Morning came to mind. It reads as follows: *"Almighty God and Father of light, a child is born for us and a son is given to us. Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now your Church is filled with wonder at the nearness of her God . . ."*

From the stars of night to "Christ the Morning Star" whose praises we sing in exultation at Easter! Night skies and stars — have so much to tell us!

"Stars of heaven, bless the Lord . . . all you creatures bless the Lord . . . Venite adoremus"



May each of you and yours be filled to overflowing with the joy, love, peace, and goodness of the "Star" who leapt down to be "God with us", Emmanuel! And may you allow His light to shine through you to everyone whose lives you touch!

News and Views from around the Region: both new and old

Twenty wonderful pilgrims from **OUR LADY OF INDIANA REGIONAL FRATERNITY** were blest to be on pilgrimage from October 8—18, 2018. Folks were from the following fraternities: St. Mary of the Angels, People of Peace, St. Charles, St. Anthony, and Immaculate Conception. The happy family of pilgrims visited all five Papal Basilicas, had an audience with Pope



Francis, visited and celebrated Mass at Greccio, La Verna, and all the significant Franciscan holy places in Assisi.

They were accompanied by Fr. Bob Showers, OFM Conv and Sr. Agnes Marie, OSF, who shared their insights about the history and significance of each site which included: Greccio, La Verna, the Carceri, Basilicas of St. Clare and St. Francis, San Rufino, San Francesco Piccolino, Chiesa Nuova, Santa Maria Maggiore, St. Mary of the Angels and the Portiuncula, San Damiano, La Maddalena, and Rivo Torto.

Check out the following website for a wonderful BLOG with beautiful pictures by Fr. Bob Showers, OFM Conv who was our Friar / Pilgrim companion:

<https://www.stanthonyangola.com/our-blog/archives/10-2018>

ST. CHARLES FRATERNITY participated in "Healthy Cities Adults Coat Dive" in October and distributed about

450 coats to the poor and homeless that visited the Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic. They also distributed socks, hats, gloves, and scarves. Also, a carload of children's coats went to the Peerless Cleaners to be ready for distribution to Ft. Wayne school children.

ST. BONIFACE FRATERNITY helped the joyful occasion with a bingo game for a local senior facility. Many members of the fraternity helped to gather and donate prizes for the game. They are also looking forward to the Profession of Karen Sullivan and Fr. Mark Walter on January 19th, 2019.

LADY CLARE FRATERNITY and **ST. BONIFACE FRATERNITY** have welcomed the members of **QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS FRATERNITY** which recently deactivated due to insufficient members. Congratulations to Kathleen White OFS, Dave White OFS, Kathy Engle OFS, Phil Clouser OFS and other members of Queen of All Saints for the difficult and painful decision. **LADY CLARE** and **ST. BONIFACE FRATERNITIES** are graced and blest to have you share your experience and love for your Franciscan vocation.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES FRATERNITY welcomed two new Candidates, Maria Farfan and Claudia Ortiz, on October 17, 2018. Congratulations to Our Lady of Lourdes and to Claudia and Maria.

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY will be caroling at the Meridian Street Nursing and Convalescent Center on December 28 and will help the residents enjoy cider and pumpkin pie.

They will also bring foodstuffs to donate to the Sacred Heart Friars Food Pantry.

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS in St. John, IN, welcomed five brothers and sisters into Candidacy on December 16, 2018. Congratulations to the fraternity and to each of those taking this significant step forward into the Franciscan family.

BLESSINGS TO OUR REGIONAL MINISTER, Kathleen White OFS, who is recuperating wonderfully from her second total knee replacement — not an easy task before, during, and after the procedure. We're proud of you!



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

many of the intentions of our brothers and sisters both here in Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity but throughout the Franciscan family. So many are in need of prayer at this time for many reasons — health, work, return to the faith of family members, death in the family, etc.



From **JACK HILL, OFS,**
Regional Justice, Peace, and
Integrity of Creation Liaison

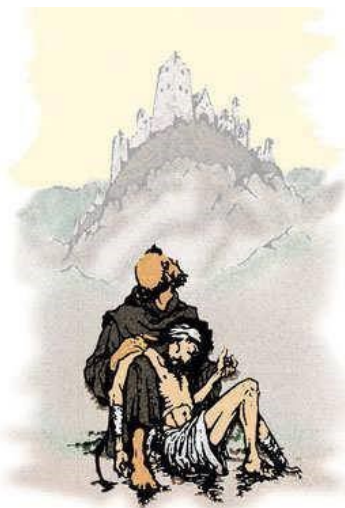


What images or notions come to mind with the word PEACE? A baby sleeping? Prayers for a family when their loved one who has died may rest in peace? The novel War and Peace? The greeting "Peace be with you!". Queen of Peace? Or, especially toward the end of the year, "Peace on earth and good will to ____!"

Secular Franciscans are guided by our Rule article 19 which includes the following:

"Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.

Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others."



The P in our JPIC has been associated with Franciscans from the beginning. In 2018, our *Handbook for Animators of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation* was revised.

You can search secularfranciscansusa.org/jpic/ to open a copy under "resources". It is available for all of us, not just those in leadership.

Working for peace happens at an individual, local level all the way to a group, international level. We start by removing the hate around and within us. This quote stuck out at a recent Presidential funeral: "Hatred corrodes the container it is carried in." We hear from Vatican II that "Christians should cooperate, willingly and wholeheartedly, in building an international order based on genuine respect for legitimate freedom and on a brotherhood of universal friendship."

"BEING PEACE" (handbook,p.22), states that Francis and Clare greeted the people of Assisi with Pace e Bene! Peace and Good!

What are some peace principles? There is minimal space to name them here, with hope to cover them later: PRAYER, EMPATHY, ACTIVE LISTENING, COMPASSION, and EVANGELICAL LOVE. Perhaps the "Active Listening" trait attributed to a former President deserves mention at this time.



Sister Death has
called home . . .

"Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father (RULE, Article 19)."

QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS

Teri Sommer, OFS, 21 years

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Maddona Robbins, OFS, 37 years

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Fred Kagel, OFS, 34 years

Tom Pilot, OFS, 10 years

PEOPLE OF PEACE

Kay Loidolt, OFS

All our departed brothers, sisters, relatives and friends. May they rest in the loving hands of our Heavenly Father.



Silent Night



Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

Silent night! holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.



Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity



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

OLI-Region-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Also like us on Facebook

"We, the Secular Franciscans of Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity, are called by virtue of Baptism and Confirmation to holiness. We are committed by our Profession to living the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in our time according to the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi for the rebuilding of the Church.

With the help of Mary our Advocate, Protectress, and Patroness, we will foster prayer, vital fraternities, and communication. We will provide direction, support and resources to local fraternities for understanding and implementing the Rule, the General Constitutions, and the National Statutes of the Secular Franciscan Order, and our Regional Fraternity Guidelines."

2019 Dates to Remember

January: No scheduled events

February 9: Regional Executive Council: Kokomo

March 9: Formation Team: Kokomo

April 13: Chapter of Mats and Chapter of Election: Kokomo

June 8: Regional Executive Council: TBD by newly elected REC

July: No scheduled events

August 3: Unity Day: St. Joan of Arc: Kokomo

September 14: Candidates Day Away—location TBD

October 12: Regional Executive Council: TBD by newly elected REC

November 9: Chapter of Mats: TBD by newly elected REC

December: No scheduled events



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Sheraton Grand Hotel

Phoenix, AZ

August 18—22, 2021



FR. DAN HORAN, OFM

Author: *Dating God; The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton; The Last Words of Jesus; Francis of Assisi and the Future of Faith*

February 26, 2019

Purdue University Catholic Campus Ministry, West Lafayette

Public Lecture

(No details were found at <https://www.boilercatholics.org>)