



Our Lady of Indiana

Regional Fraternity—Secular Franciscan Order

July 2015

Volume 2, Issue 2

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

Inside this issue:

A Message from our Regional Minister 1-2

The Role of a Spiritual Assistant 3

Lester Bach, OFM 3
Cap: 65 Years as a Friar

Silence: Hearing Ones Heart for the First Time 4

News and Views from Around our Region 5

800th Anniversary of Pardon of Assisi 5

From Matthew Perry, OFM 6

Enrichment: Study Day III 7

Calendar 8

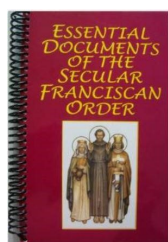
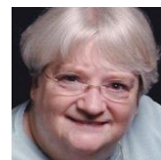
Our Regional Prayer — a Gift from St. Francis

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



How essential are the Essential Documents? Short answer: very. Long answer: Each fraternity council member should have a complete set of the Essential Documents of the Secular Franciscan Order: The Rule, the General Constitutions, the National Statutes, and the Regional Guidelines. Each member of the fraternity should be familiar with, if not own, copies as well. Why, you ask. Good question.

The Rule — this is what we profess to follow. "I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its rule of life." We cannot promise to observe what we don't know. Each person at any/all stages of formation should be exposed to, read, come to understand, and eventually follow the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order. The Little Red Rule Book is famil-

iar to/carried by many Secular Franciscans. Often fraternities read and reflect on a certain article of the Rule at each gathering. The daily posting on the Regional fraternity email list offers an article of the Rule, General Constitutions, National Statutes, Admonitions of St. Francis, in rotation.

Each evening's examination of conscience should include asking ourselves — have I lived the Rule this day?

General Constitutions — This document has so many answers to questions we do not yet even know we have. It is the how, the who, the what, the why, and the why not of fraternity life. If your fraternity council has a question about ANYTHING — this is the first place they should look. When we require an election every three years — it is not something we have arbitrarily made up... Articles 76 to 84 explain. Visitations — Articles 92 to 95.

I was at a gathering of formation direc-

What We Have Promised to Live . . .

"Secular Franciscans, nothing bodily of the Most therefore, should seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the Church, and in liturgical activity. The faith of St. Francis, who often said, "I see nothing bodily of the Most High Son of God in this world except His most holy body and blood," should be the inspiration and pattern of their Eucharistic life (RULE, Chapter Two: The Way of Life, # 5)".



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 DirectorSr. Agnes Marie Regan, OFS :Regional
Spiritual AssistantBill Duffy, OFS, Linda Grady, OFS, Maria
Garrido Merida, OFS : Regional Councilors

tors many years ago and we were discussing parts of the General Constitutions. One Formation Director made the statement that these documents were not for us. I vehemently refuted what this person said and spent a lot of time and effort to try to undo the damage done in that moment.

National Statutes – Understand that each nation that has Secular Franciscans has their own set of National Statutes, setting their own minimum age for profession (Art 19.3b), the distinctive sign of the order (Art 16), and other regulations. Each nation's Statutes had to be approved by the International Fraternity Council (CIOFS) and any additions or corrections must also be approved by the next higher council. Again, an *essential document*.

Regional Guidelines – At the time of Regionalization each newly forming regional fraternity was encouraged to write guidelines (Statutes would have to be approved by the next higher fraternity council, whereas guidelines are approved by that entity's council). Our original Guidelines, approved by the full Council at the time, were 14 pages long. After we lived with those for a few years, we re-read them and removed anything that was already spelled out in the General Constitutions and National Statutes. Our Guidelines are now only 4 pages, and we will be proposing 2 new Articles for the approval of the full Council at Mats in November.

The Ritual – This book is used for prayers for every council and fraternity gathering, every election

and visitation, for the Rites of Welcoming and Admission, and for the Rite of Profession. Every member of the fraternity should own a Ritual.

Statutes of the International Fraternity and Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the Secular Franciscan Order are also part of the Essential Documents. Interesting reading! But please familiarize yourself with the above mentioned documents first!

The National Fraternity published a book that has these documents (minus each regional fraternity's guidelines) - it is for sale as listed in the back of each issue of TAU-USA (or at Unity Day). Or you can do what many people do – download these documents and keep everything in a three-ring binder. Either way – we each have the responsibility to know of these documents, use these documents, and most essentially – live these governing documents if we are to be fully informed members of the Secular Franciscan Order.



Don't forget to add this date
to your calendars:



UNITY DAY

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church

Kokomo, IN

August 8, 2015

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



My dear sisters and brothers,

For the past few months, we have been hearing about the efforts of the Regional Council preparing for and establishing a venue to properly train our fellow brothers and sisters to be Spiritual Assistants. I have been asked on numerous occasions, "What does a Spiritual Assistant do?"

A Spiritual Assistant is one who serves a Secular Franciscan Fraternity as a member of that fraternity's council and who is specially charged with maintaining the "vital reciprocity" between the OFS, the 1st Order/TOR, and the Church. A Spiritual Assistant to the OFS links both the Church and the Franciscan First Order/TOR to the OFS. Spiritual assistants are responsible for fulfilling the mandate of the Church to assure the OFS's relationship to the Church and for maintaining the Franciscan family connections between the OFS and the First Order (O.F.M., O.F.M. Conventuals, O.F.M. Capuchins)/TOR (Third Order Regular). Spiritual Assistants participate in the *altius moderamen*, i.e., the 1st Order/TOR's responsibility to guarantee the OFS's fidelity to the Franciscan charism, communion with the Church and a life-giving union within the Franciscan family. The First Order/TOR major superiors or their delegated General/Provincial Spiritual Assistants appoint Spiritual Assistants to various levels of the OFS. Spiritual Assistants need knowledge and experience to enable them to give appropriate and competent spiritual assistance to local, regional,

national and international councils.

The principal task of the assistant is to communicate Franciscan spirituality and to co-operate in the initial and continuing formation of the brothers and sisters of a fraternity. (*Gen'l. Constitutions, Art.90.1*) *The Spiritual Assistant is to be a witness of Franciscan spirituality and of the fraternal affection of the religious towards the Secular Franciscans and to be a bond of communion between the First Order/TOR and the SFO. (Statutes for Spiritual & Pastoral Assistance to the SFO, Art. 12.2.)*

A Spiritual Assistant is not a director of fraternity life. Rather, the Spiritual Assistant participates as an equal member of a council, assists in the ongoing formation of the council, and participates in the discussions and decisions of the coun-

cil. The local SA also assists with the initial formation provided to those who are preparing to come into the Order.

A Spiritual Assistant can be a member of the 1st Order/TOR, of the 2nd Order (Poor Clares), or of one of the orders of sisters who follow the TOR rule, or a trained Secular Franciscan, or a diocesan or other priest or deacon.

As the vocations of the 1st Order/TOR are declining, we MUST insure that our Spiritual Assistants are ***suitably prepared and trained!*** *It is not a task for the faint hearted! Through the years, we have had great examples of brothers and sisters providing outstanding spiritual assistance. PRAY, that in the upcoming years, we can continue that tradition!*

Your servant and HIS, Dave



Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity

sends heartfelt greetings, blessings, and the assurance of prayer to our Franciscan brother



Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap

as he celebrates his Diamond Jubilee (65 years) as a Capuchin Friar.

What a gift you have been to the whole Franciscan Family
and to the Secular Franciscan Family in particular!



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

Since childhood, one of my favorite Gospel stories is that of Jesus sleeping in the back of Peter's boat while the wind, sea, and sky were raging around them. The disciples came, woke him, and said, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" Jesus said to them, "Why are you terrified. O you of little faith". We all know what Jesus did next! But that was not the end of their lack of faith and hope. Years later, the Evangelist Mark ends his Gospel with the words, "And look, I am with you always: yes, to the end of time". After all that they had witnessed didn't the disciples "get it?"

Our contemporary world, a small boat on the sometimes turbulent sea of the Universe, is without doubt being tossed, turned, blown, and assaulted from every side ethically, morally, and in every way possible. The ever present assaults of a Godless media and society bombard us day in and day out. Surely all of us are crying out, "Lord, save us!"



But to the disciples credit and despite Jesus' chiding them for their lack of faith, they did know exactly which one of their seafaring shipmates had a life-saving solution for them. Jesus, of course!

As Franciscans, to whom shall we go? And what is our stance to be? The words of St. Francis and the writings of Thomas of Celano provide several hints that can color our peace and joy so that nothing can disturb our inmost thoughts and being.

At the end of his life, Francis' sojourn at La Verna and the searing marks of Jesus burned in his flesh was also the venue for him composing "The Praise of God" — one of the most beautiful and poetic of his works. Prayed carefully, one notes that there is one virtue for which Francis praises God twice. In both lines 4 and 5 he writes, "You are our hope!" He does not repeat any of the other qualities which he ascribes to God (Cf. FA:ED, I, p. 109). Just the virtue of hope!

Not many months from the time at La Verna, when he was nearing death suffering both physically, spiritually, and in so many other ways, he wrote "The Canti-



This fresco by Giotto can be seen above the entrance to St. Peter's Basilica — if one turns around and looks up above the entrance

cle of the Creatures" — one of the world's most beloved and spiritually exhilarating literary compositions. Remember, he was suffering from blindness, what some suggest may have been a form of leprosy, he had been deposed by his own brothers as the head of his fraternity, and the secular world around him — well, it wasn't in any better condition than ours! The seven capital sins were practiced with gusto in that Godless world just as they are in ours.

But instead of cursing the darkness and falling into despair, depression, despondency and to cursing the craziness around him, Francis wrote two of the world's most sublime praises of our God. He surely had internalized to the *nth* degree the reasons for joy that he wrote in his "Earlier Exhortation to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance", namely: We are

Con't on page 5



Con't from page 4

"spouses", "brothers, "mothers", we have a "great Father in heaven", we have "such a beautiful and wonderful Spouse", and we "have such a Brother and such a Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ" (FA;ED, I, p. 42.) Who could be unhappy after praying those thoughts into the deepest crevasses of his soul and spirit?

In addition, in one the fragments of his writings from an earlier period in his life, Francis said, "And let them be careful that they do not show themselves outwardly as sad and depressed hypocrites, but let them show themselves as rejoicing in the Lord and fittingly grateful (FA;ED, I, p. 93-94). And in Compline from "The Office of the Passion" he wrote, 'My heart shall rejoice in your salvation; I will sing to the Lord Who gives me good things (FA;ED, I, p. 154).

All this to say, Francis, despite his own illnesses and the evils around him, was a man of complete trust in God and a radiant source of joy to those around him. Jesus was his delight and his joy!

Let us fast forward to the present: all the world is delighted by the joyful presence of our Holy Father Pope Francis, who radiates joy — despite what he knows so well of

the worlds illnesses. In one of his General Audiences on Wednesday, October 20, 2013, he said, "Let us go forward on this journey trust, with joy". His predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, reminded us in his encyclical "God is Love", "Faith tells us that God his given his Son for our sakes and gives us the victorious certainty that it is really true: God is love! It thus transforms our impatience and our doubts into the sure hope that God holds the world in his hand and that, as the dramatic imagery of the end of the Book of Revelation points out, in spite of all darkness he ultimately triumphs in glory ("God is Love", 39)".

For us Franciscans it has been our promise to live the Gospel with the "joy that no one can take from us" as Jesus promised; it is our heritage to spread the joy taught by our Holy Father St. Francis by his life and in his darkest moments; and it is task to witness to the whole world, side by side, with our Holy Father Francis to the joy which Jesus is for each of us.

We are not Pollyannas. ro-



mantic idealists, or cockeyed optimists anymore than Jesus, Francis of Assisi, or Pope Francis. But we do believe that Jesus is Lord! So the next time we're tempted to hurl negative epithets at the world, we would do well to pray the following prayer:

Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out Your holy and true command.

That "holy and true command" can only be borne witness to successfully by a joy filled messenger who knows to the core of his or her being that "Jesus is Lord".

No sad sacks or crepe hangers need apply!



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

ST. BONIFACE FRATERNITY of Lafayette:

The occasion of a Pastoral Visit to St. Boniface Fraternity in Lafayette

on May 3, 2015 was a joyous occasion for all. What a happy Franciscan family!



ST. CHARLES FRATERNITY of Fort Wayne:

is rejoicing with four of our brothers and sisters who are celebrating SPECIAL Profession Anniversaries this year: Barbara Guevara (50 years), Deloris Jockerst (78 years), Charles Lothamer (50 years), and Eileen Firestone (68 years). Congratulations from all of us in Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRATERNITY of Mishawaka prepares and serves breakfast to the folks at "Our Lady of the Road" shelter in South Bend on the fourth Sunday of the Month. Guests usually number about 100 persons ready for a home cooked, warm meal.

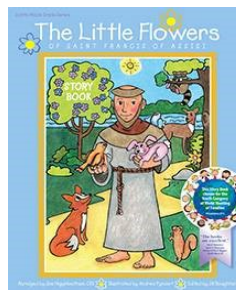
They will also joyfully celebrate the Profession of Peg Salkay, OFS, Julie Scalise, OFS, and Amy Porter, OFS, on July 18, 2015.

HOLY FAMILY FRATERNITY of Fort Wayne has a talented group of Candidates who have formed the 'PAX et BONUM' choir. This happy group provided music for Morning Prayer during our Triennial Visit at the University of St. Francis on June 13, 2015, and will enhance our liturgical celebrations during Unity Day in Ko-

komo on August 8. We're all grateful for their willingness to share their talents and beautiful voices to lead us and support us in prayer. It was St. Augustine who said, "The one who sings, prays twice". Thank you, dear brothers and sisters!

PRAYERS NEEDED: For Tom Bello, OFS, National Minister, who is having health difficulties. Also, for all our brothers and sisters throughout Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity who are suffering in any way, in need of work, having family difficulties, etc.

CONGRATULATIONS to Joe Higginbotham, OFS, of Immaculate Conception Fraternity in Mishawaka. The Commission for the Family has purchased 4,000 copies of Joe's storybook based on the "Little Flowers of St. Francis" for distribution in Baltimore during Pope Francis's visit. An added feather in Joe's cap: Scholastic Magazine has requested 10,000 copies for sale through their auspices in schools throughout the USA. What a Franciscan evangelizer! **YOU GO, BROTHER!**



In the Footsteps of the Apostles in Rome
and of Francis and Clare In Assisi

Pilgrimage: October 10—20, 2016

Year of Celebration of the "Pardon of Assisi"

Fr. James Kendzierski, OFM

Sr. Agnes Marie, Regan, OSF

More information to come soon!

The Ministers General of the 1st Order and the TOR Friars have issued a letter in view of the upcoming 8th centenary of the Pardon of Assisi(2016) and the 5th centenary of Pope Leo X's "Bull of Union" (2017). They are proposing a Synod of the Franciscan Families as part of a four-year itinerary (2015-18) for those anniversaries. Each year will include an international event in Assisi.



Painting in the Portiuncula in Assisi depicting the "Pardon of Assisi" by Prete Ilario.

"The future of our Franciscan lives must be grounded in a permanent, living encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the first and permanently essential element of our Franciscan identity. It is this encounter that provides us with vision, courage and a capacity to reach out beyond ourselves, opening our lives to our brothers in fraternity."

- General Minister Michael A. Perry,
OFM Report to the General Chapter
Assisi, 2015.

A Challenging Reflection by Fr. Michael Perry, OFM, Minister General

Creating a Tsunami . . .

"The future of our Franciscan religious vocation hangs in the balance. We must once again confront the threat of further reduction and potential extinction unless and until we **renew our total and unequivocal commitment to follow the Lord Jesus,** and allow this to take control and direct all of our subsequent choices and actions. **We can no longer stand with 'one foot in' our religious commitment, while leaving the other foot dangling outside,** probing the horizons of our contemporary disjointed world and cultures for seemingly better opportunities. **We are at a tipping point in the life of the Order when we must make a choice to live totally for God,** to embrace fully our evangelical vocation, living in joy and with courage, and engaging all of our energies so as to mutually embrace and assist one another in this fantastic but difficult Franciscan adventure."

- General Minister Michael A. Perry, OFM Report to the General Chapter, Assisi, May, 2015, at Our Lady of the Angels -



Fr. Matthew Perry, OFM, and Bishop Sorrentino at OFM General Chapter



Friars kissing the Gospel book in the hands of Matthew Perry, OFM, Minister General



Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR, and Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity Executive Council

The Triennial Visitation of Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity was held from June 12—14, 2015, at the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne, by Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR, representing Tom Bello, OFS, who was taken ill at the last moment. Though missing Tom, we were all delighted by the powerful messages given to us by Fr. Kevin, especially his deep love for his own call to be Franciscan. Coupled with Fr. Kevin's wonderful sense of humor, we were all delighted at the time we spent together.

Besides a plethora of inspirational messages, Fr. Kevin led us in a worthwhile reflection on the positive attributes of each of our fraternities as well as those areas in need of "upgrading".

St. Francis' "Office of the Passion" for Morning Prayer, the Divine Office for Evening Prayer, and the celebration of Mass were the prayerful supports of our fraternal time together where everyone's needs in Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity were brought before the Lord.

Franciscan Enrichment Possibilities: Study Days

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 an SA. 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 regional fraternity.

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

STUDY DAY III: July 11, 2015

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



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,

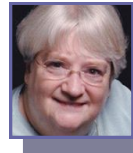


OFS. *This session only for potential SAs.*

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.

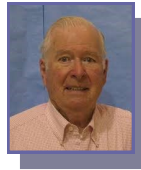


Afternoon: Topic: "Pathway to Profession: A Beginning but a Way of Life for All of Us" as presented by our Regional Minister, Kathleen White, OFS.



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

Telephone: 574-259-5427



From
Our Lady of Indiana
Regional Fraternity,

Sister Death has
welcomed home...

Mother of Tibor Kauser, OFS
Minister General SFO

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY
Shaun Michelle Murphy, OFS
(April 2, 2015)



Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity



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

OLI-Region-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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

Also, like us on
Facebook

Your growing Regional News-
letter 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?**

2015-16 Dates to Remember

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

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

September 12: Fall Formation Team Workshop, St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo

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

October 13-18: National Elective Chapter, New Jersey (Regional Minister or delegate attends)

October 24: Regional Study Day 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: Fall Chapter of Mats—St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo

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.



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

A Message from our Holy Father, Pope Francis



Dear brothers [and sisters], continue to go into this cloister [the whole world], which is the whole world, driven by Christ's love, as St. Francis invites you to do when he says 'I counsel, warn and exhort my friars in the Lord Jesus Christ, that when they go about through the world, they are not to quarrel nor contend in words, nor are they to judge others, but they are to be meek, peaceable and modest, meek and humble, speaking uprightly to all, as is fitting. ... Into whatever house they may enter, first let them say: 'Peace to this house', and it is lawful to eat any of the foods which are placed before them'. This last thing is good!"