



# Our Lady of Indiana

Regional Fraternity—Secular Franciscan Order

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

December 2016

Volume 3, Issue 4

NAFRA Theme for 2017: O breath of God, unite us in action



## A Message from our Regional Minister: Kathleen White, OFS



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As Franciscans, we are an Incarnational people. We appreciate the beauty of nature and acknowledge God as Creator, and we embrace the blessings associated with Brother Sun, Sister Moon (most recently – Sister Super Moon), Brother Wind, Sister Water, Brother Fire, Sister Earth.

Each year we celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus at Christmas, but during Advent we pray for and anticipate the second coming. While the story of Mary and Joseph and Jesus, the angels, the shepherds, and the wise men comes alive to us in Christmas carols and hymns, we could just simply sing "Happy Birthday, dear Jesus, happy birthday to You!" The real importance of the season is our readiness for His coming again. A dearly loved lady from our fraternity would frequently comment, "I'm ready!" When she died, I couldn't help but smile, because for years she had said those words again and again and again. She said it. She lived it.

that we experience Him in Eucharist, the Word, the presence of the priest, and in each other. How can we prepare to receive Him worthily? What reading habits have we cultivated – daily Scripture, the Gospel of the day, Psalms as expressed in Morning and Evening Prayer? How respectful are we of our priests? Francis once said that if he encountered an Angel of God and a priest along the road, he would bow to the priest – as only he can call forth the Spirit and change bread into the Body and wine into the Blood of Christ. And in what ways do we recognize and acknowledge Jesus in others? Family members? Friends? Strangers? Is there even a morsel of bitterness or hate in our hearts for those who annoy us? Those who hold different views? Those who believe differently than we do? And those who do us harm? Jesus came to save them and us equally.

*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.

Are we ready for His arrival? We know

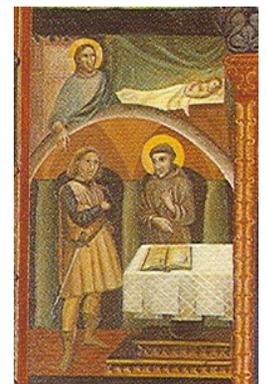
### What We Have Promised to Live . . .

Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone "who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes of a man himself, let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of ser-

vice.

Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.

**(Rule, Article 14)**



**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

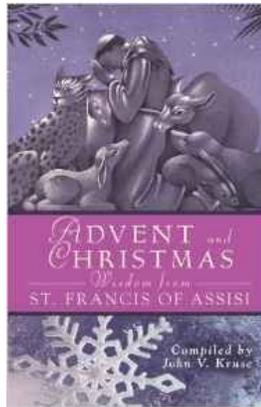
Jack Hill, OFS, JPIC Chair



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

I have a wonderful book titled *Advent and Christmas Wisdom from St. Francis of Assisi* (compiled by John V. Kruse – Liguori Publications). Each year I take this book from the shelf and daily read the words of Francis, Scripture, and the prayer. There is also an action challenge. This little gem is helpful for me to someday be able to also proclaim, "I'm ready!"



"Hark!" The herald angels sing.  
Glory to our newborn King!

Peace on earth and  
goodwill to all!

"I will thank you, Lord, among the  
peoples, among the nations I will  
praise you  
For your love reaches to the heavens  
and your truth to the skies.  
O God, arise above the heavens; may  
your glory shine on earth! "  
—Psalm 57



The newly elected Council of Little Portion Fraternity in Valparaiso  
[Back row] Dave Dieringer, OFS, Minister; Bill Jannausch, OFS, Formation; Alan Sutliff, OFS, Councilor; Dan Lawson, OFS, Vice–Minister; [Front row] Lisa Cook, OFS, Treasurer; Christi Sutliff, OFS, Secretary; Andrea Carberry, OFS, Councilor

From our Regional Formation Director,  
David Dieringer, OFS

Sharing some

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Words of Wisdom

A number of years ago, we had a member of our fraternity who lived in a nursing home. As she had grown older, she along with her family, decided that she needed the additional care which that facility provided. She did like it there! Though, she was not a ward of the state, the cost of the care she received used ALL her retirement income.

Our fraternity had many charitable individuals who would make a point to pick her up for our community gatherings. She had that spirit that lightened up the room when she came into it. And that spirit was infectious to all those near her. She was a joy to be around.

However, when the common fund was being collected, her demeanor soured because she had no income to share. And that troubled her! One day, in passing, I asked if her facility received the newspaper. She responded, that in fact it did. I inquired if she could clip coupons out of their newspapers to help other "needy" people? (Baby formula and diapers for Birthright, etc.) She replied that she was sure that it could and would work! I stated that that service would be her free-will offering.

You would have thought I gave her the KEYS to the KINGDOM! She could now contribute to the common fund. Perhaps not the way everyone else did, but in her own way. The only way she could. It gave her purpose!

I think, all too often, we think of the common fund as "dues to belong to the club". I invite you to consider it, (the common fund collection) as a means to

contribute to and support YOUR community. If you can only contribute coupons from the newspaper, great! But if you can contribute enough to offset those who can't contribute cash for whatever reason, ALL THE BETTER!



The common fund is the means that the community provides for the life of the fraternity, its worship, the fraternity's apostolate, and its charities. (see article 25 of our Rule!) It is not what you give, but how you give and how it helps your community that is important!

Please, remember that when that common fund basket or bag is passed around, you're providing for the life of your community!

Your servant, and HIS,  
Dave



The following reflection (as published in their regional newsletter) was give by Fr. Michael Judge, OFM, for Lady Poverty Region at their election chapter:

"Our natural tendency is to stay warm, and safe, and pure in the love and praise of God, rather than get in messy involvement with people.

(From the PEANUTS comic strip:

Linus: "I love humanity

(fraternity); its people (the members) I cant stand"). Like St. Peter,

we can be passionate about faith, and ardently profess our love for

Jesus, and mean it. But we are invited by Jesus to a deeper, more

demanding love: an unconditional, self-sacrificing love. Loving Jesus

isn't enough. Jesus insists that doing the hard work of caring and

tending the fraternity demand that we share in the joys and pain of

others. Actively being involved: listening compassionately, being

emotionally present. Jesus lived His mission of love. He shared it with

us: "Follow me." The final song in

*Les Miserables*, "To love another person is to see the face of God."



## Sister Death takes our brother home

Fr. John Sullivan, OFM



Father John Sullivan, OFM, our beloved past Regional Spiritual Assistant, was embraced by Sister Death on November 7, 2016. He was 84 years old and has served for many years as the Provincial Spiritual Assistant for Sacred Heart Province. Father John has always been ultra-conscientious in fulfilling his responsibilities for the Secular Franciscan Order. His visitation reports were always prompt and insightful. The formation materials he has developed over the years are widely utilized by fraternities throughout the United States. Our former National Minister, the late Deacon Tom Bello, OFS, referred to Father John as "a true national treasure".

May Father John rest eternally in the peaceful presence of the Lord and St. Francis!

"... He gave Himself for us ..."

"At last, the site of the manger was consecrated as a temple to the Lord. In honor of the most blessed father Francis, an altar was constructed over the manger, and a church was dedicated.



This was done so that where animals once ate the fodder of the hay, there humans henceforth for healing of body and soul would eat the flesh of the immaculate and spotless lamb, our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us with supreme and indescribable love, who lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit as God, eternally glorious forever and ever. Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia. (FA:ED, Vol. 1, p. 2. Life of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano, 57)."

## Secular Franciscan Communities

by Fr. Larry Janezic, OFM

In Indianapolis, I work with two Secular Franciscan Fraternities, Sacred Heart and Peregrinos de la Paz. The Sacred Heart Fraternity is one of the oldest in the county, established in 1877. Peregrinos de la Paz is one of the youngest, established about three years ago. A basic characteristic of both fraternities is the overwhelming interest in faith life development. The members of the fraternity demonstrate an incessant interest in developing their relationship with God. They experience the challenge of sharing and working it out in the context of fraternal life. They both try to give a public witness of their Franciscan vocation. They do this individually and as a group.

The Sacred Heart Fraternity reaches out to the sick and the elderly. Peregrinos de La Paz demonstrates their love for the Church through liturgical ministries. One per month, the members of the fraternity provide for various liturgical ministries at the parish of St. Patrick. Both fraternities take the ongoing formation seriously. The Sacred Heart Fraternity is presently concentrating on deepening their appreciation of the Rule for Secular Franciscans. Peregrinos de la Paz are studying aspects of Franciscan lay leadership.



Last October 3rd both fraternities collaborated with the other two fraternities in the Indianapolis area for Transitus, a Franciscan devotion ritually remembering the passing of Saint Francis from this life to God. It was a bilingual prayer and a fine experience of mutual appreciate and good will. Paz y bien!



From our Northwest Regional Councilor

Sharon Marmalejo, OFS

"When the brothers go through the world, let them take nothing for the journey, neither knapsack, nor purse, nor bread, nor money, nor walking stick.



Whatever house they enter, let them first say: Peace to this house. They may eat and drink what is placed before them as long as they stay in that house. Whoever takes their cloak, let them not withhold their tunic. Let them give to all who ask of them and whoever takes what is theirs, let them not seek to take it back (Saint Francis of Assisi, The Earlier Rule, (XIV: How the Brothers Should Go Through The World). Some passages taken from Scripture.

So many people have made getting THINGS the focus of the season. The whole spirit of Christmas is lost. All one has to do is open up the paper, watch TV advertisements, or shop the Mall to be bombarded with Christmas specials for gift giving to make someone happy. In the frenzy of holiday shopping wondering what we can buy for a friend or loved one who has it all, maybe it might be a better idea to let that special person know how much he or she means to you in a card or letter. As Franciscans, we should follow the example of Francis, that the less we have, the less we have to worry about and keep the focus on what is really important, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

From our Brothers and Sisters of St. Anthony Fraternity,

Muncie: Sharon Roberts, OFS

St. Anthony Fraternity, Muncie, had a rare and unexpected opportunity to meet and spend time with Friar J. A. Wayne Hellmann, OFM Conv. Fr. Hellmann's name may be familiar to you as one of the co-editors (with Regis Armstrong, OFM Cap., and William Short, OFM) of the three-volume publication, *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*.



Currently Professor of Historical Theology at St. Louis University, Fr. Hellmann has Indiana connections. He grew up in Terre Haute and joined the Conventual friars of Our Lady of Consolation Province at Mt. St. Francis, Indiana. It also happens that his cousin, Fr. David Hellmann, is pastor of St. Lawrence parish in Muncie. When Fr. Dave needed coverage for weekend masses during his vacation last July, Fr. Wayne answered his cousin's call. Fr. Dave then asked if we Secular Franciscans would take Fr. Wayne out to dinner while he was in Muncie since he would be a stranger in town. "He's really a pretty well-known scholar among Franciscans," Fr. Dave said offhandedly.

Needless to say, for members of St. Anthony Fraternity it was a pleasure and a privilege to meet Fr. Wayne. We attended the Saturday evening Mass he celebrated and then took him to a local restaurant where we made sure to take a picture for our archives. Fr. Wayne Hellmann is seen in the white shirt surrounded by (l-r) St. Anthony Fraternity members Bill Fink, Jake Marhoefer, John Kindt and Dolores Shaw.



Manger scene from our brothers and sisters of Little Portion Fraternity in Valparaiso



## Doors: What's the Big Deal?



We walk through them multiple times a day — some of them repeatedly and without really noticing or thinking much

about them. They take us into and out of places over and over again. So why make a BIG deal about doors?



When making arrangement for our recent pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi, our travel coordinator looked at me as if I had lost my mind when I told him that being able to walk through all five of the Holy Doors of the five Papal Basilicas was a non-negotiable part of our pilgrimage.

So I found myself explaining to this very good Christian man the avid Catholic's perspective on "Holy Doors", "Jubilee Years", and "Papal Basilicas", "indulgences" and why I wouldn't budge on this issue for my pilgrimage companions.

Visiting St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, St. Peters, and the Basilica of St. Francis is always something special. But the privilege of being able to enter through each of their Holy Doors in the Jubilee Year of Mercy made each entry into these holy places all the more special. It can only happen every 15—25 years and this was our gifted chance.

Joining with the other thousands of pilgrims winding their way to-

ward these entry ways into the holy spaces of the basilicas was in itself a mini-pilgrimage of prayer and faith. And as each of us entered, we paused momentarily to place our hands on the door and kiss the door — one which would again be soon sealed until the next declared Holy Year.

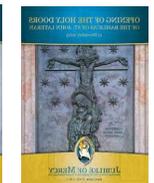
Each of us knew that we were being offered a great grace by the Church. Along with Confession, Communion and Prayer for the Holy Father, we were being offered the grace of Plenary Indulgence either for ourselves or for someone else.

But just for walking through a door?

The doors, of course, were only symbols of the Lord Jesus, who said to us, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. Whoever comes to me . . ." It was to Jesus, the Lord of the House, that we were walking. It was He, dwelling in these beautiful places of worship, who was there to offer us, not only the grace of pilgrimage, but the grace of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

I've often been asked if I ever get tired of taking pilgrims to Rome and Assisi. Never in a thousand years! Each time, God offers all of us something special — those wonderful surprises of His presence and His grace that catch us and overwhelm us. On this pilgrimage being able to access the five Holy Doors of the Papal Basilicas during this Jubilee Year was the highpoint for me — although, being a pilgrim at all the Franciscan holy places in As-

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sisi and La Verna were also graces beyond measure as they always are. That, too, is a non-negotiable . . . and God always comes through for me and my pilgrim companions! May He be praised! So be it! Amen!



## Message from Pope Francis at the Portiuncula, August, 2016



Sister Death has called  
home to their Heavenly  
homeland . . .

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today I would like, before all else, to recall the words that, according to an ancient tradition, Saint Francis spoke in this very place, in the presence of all the townsfolk and bishops: *"I want to send you all to heaven!"* What finer thing could the Poor Man of Assisi ask for, if not the gift of salvation, eternal life and unending joy, that Jesus won for us by his death and resurrection?

Besides, what is heaven if not the mystery of love that eternally unites us to God, to contemplate him forever? The Church has always professed this by expressing her belief in the *communion of saints*. We are never alone in living the faith; we do so in the company of all the saints and of our loved ones who practiced the faith with joyful simplicity and bore witness to it by their lives. There is a bond, unseen but not for that reason any less real, which makes us, by baptism, "one body" moved by "one Spirit" (cf. *Ephesians* 4:4).

When Saint Francis asked Pope Honorius III to grant an indulgence to all who visited the *Portiuncula*, he was perhaps thinking of Jesus' words to the disciples: "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (*John* 14:2-3)

. . . . . the pardon of which Saint Francis made himself a "channel" here at the *Porziuncula* continues to



"bring forth heaven" even after eight centuries. In this Holy Year of Mercy, it becomes ever clearer that the path of forgiveness can truly renew the Church and the world. To offer today's world the witness of mercy is a task from which none of us can feel exempted.

The world needs forgiveness; too many people are caught up in resentment and harbor hatred, because they are incapable of forgiving. They ruin their own lives and the lives of those around them rather than finding the joy of serenity and peace. Let us ask Saint Francis to intercede for us, so that we may always be humble signs of forgiveness and channels of mercy.

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

### SACRED HEART PROVINCE OFM

Fr. John Sullivan, OFM

### St. Boniface Fraternity

Eileen Hilt, OFS

John Roach

Louise Halsmer, OFS

Mary Craigmile, OFS

### Our Lady of Lourdes

Gladys Horvath, OFS

Grace Ragonese, OFS

### Little Portion

Betty Withers, OFS

### People of Peace

Gary Ziegler, OFS



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

**SUMMER PICNIC:** A great time was had by the northwest region at an awesome picnic on July 17, 2016. Bishop Hying of the Diocese of Gary celebrated Mass with reps from Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Mary of the Angels, St. Anthony in Muncie, Little Portion, Immaculate Conception.

**"THE "Q"":** Everyone who attended the "Q" is still raving about the spirit of fraternal love and care that permeated the week spent in St. Louis. Now, everyone is looking forward to the next "Q" with enthusiasm with all the joy and excitement still left over from this one. What an experience!

**A RUMOR IS AFOOT:** the grapevine has it that there will be a "Mini-Q" right here in Our Lady of Indiana Secular Franciscan Region in the very near future. Hmm???? What could that mean???



**ST. BONIFACE FRATERNITY:** Sr. Ruth Luthman, OFS, Spiritual Assistant for St. Boniface has been transferred to Chicago Heights, IL. We thank Sr. Ruth for her service to St. Boniface and her presence with us at Regional gatherings and we ask God's blessings as she takes up her new assignment.

**FR. SERGIUS WROBLEWSKI, OFM:** Father has retired to the following address: Queen of Peace Friary, 2281 Browns Drive. Burlington, WI 53105. Tel: 262-763-3241. We thank Fr. Sergius for all that he shared with us so many times and so many ways from his Franciscan heart. He's been special to us here in the northern half of Indiana for many, many years.

**A MEMORABLE THOUGHT FROM KATHY DOMINGUEZ OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES FRATERNITY:** "We all have time, talents and treasures, albeit they are not all the same or do we have them at the same time. Pray about living the Gospel and your talents. How can you use the time our Lord has given you" What treasures have you and do you keep them under a bush?"

**ST. BONIFACE FRATERNITY** in Lafayette celebrated the Profession of Holly Jacobson on November 19, 2016, at the 4:30 Mass in St. Boniface Church. They also welcomed Karen Sullivan and Fr. Mark Walter into Inquiry. Congratulations to all and may you always find joy in following in the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRATERNITY** in Mishawaka celebrate the Profession of fourteen Candidates on November 19, 2016. Bishop Kevin Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend was the celebrant at this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

**SACRED HEART FRATERNITY** in Indianapolis is planning to go Christmas Caroling at the Meridian Street Nursing and Convalescent Center on December 18.

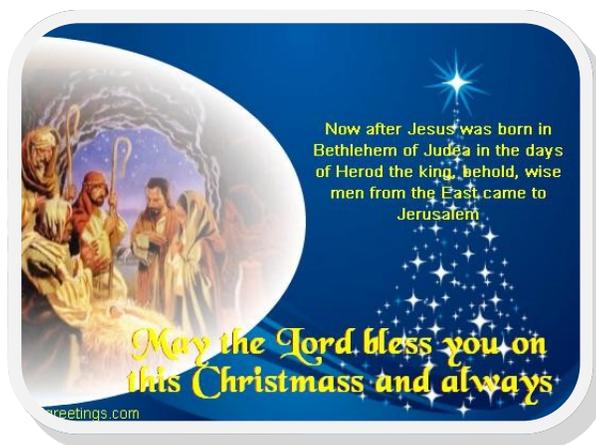
**PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI:** though it originated here in Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity, we were joined by other Franciscans from South Carolina, Tole-

do, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. All twenty eight pilgrims were filled with joy especially at the holy places in Rome, Assisi, and La Verna.

**ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY** in St. John, Indiana, is planning a month's worth of vocation promotion with bulletin announcements, visual invitations on the board in the narthex of the church as well as a "Come and See" mock orientation session on the last Sunday of the Month. The new Orientation class will begin formally in early February.



**QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS FRATERNITY** in Logansport held its annual Blessing of Animals on October 2nd. This event is happily attended by dogs, cats, birds, horses, and their caregivers. It is a joyful celebration each year.





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

OLI-Region-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



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

February, 11, 2017: Regional Executive Council

April 8, 2017: Spring Chapter of Mates

June 10, 2017: Regional Executive Council

**June 13, 2017: Feast of St. Anthony**

July 15, 2017: Candidates Day Away

**August 2, 2017: Feast of Our Lady of the Angels Portiuncula**

August 8, 2017: Unity Day in Kokomo

**August 11, 2017: Feast of St. Clare**

**September 17, 2017: Feast of the Stigmata of Our Holy Father St. Francis**

**October 3, 2017: Celebration of Transitus in Honor of the Passing of St. Francis**

**October 4, 2017: Celebration of the Feast of St. Francis**

October 14, 2017: Fall Chapter of Mates

November 10—12, 2017: Regional Retreat

**November 17, 2017: Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Patroness of the Third Order**



## HAVE YOU INVITED SOMEONE LATELY?

If not, why not?

The most successful method of vocation recruitment is the personal invitation that each brother and sister can give to someone interested in the Franciscan life style. Each of us should ask the question: when was the last time I invited someone to “come and see” the pearl of great price that I have found following in the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare?

Posters are lovely, inserts are informative, bulletin blurbs help — but the personal invitation each one can offer to someone is the key. And if I haven’t invited someone recently, why not?