

Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity



Secular Franciscan Order



New website: http://olirf-ofs.org/ June 2017 Volume 4, Issue 2

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

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Our Regional Prayer a Gift from St. Francis

Holy Virgin Mary, among all women born into the world, there is none like you. Daughter and Handmaid of the Most High, sovereign King, the heavenly Father, Mother of our most holy Lord Jesus Christ, Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

Pray for us with St. Michael the archangel and with all the powers of the heavens and with all the saints together with your most holy beloved Son, Lord and teacher.

A Message from our Regional Minister: Kathleen White, OFS

Editor's note: This edition's message from our Regional Minister is a VERY practical reflection for all of us on our living out of Franciscan simplicity and poverty. Thanks, Kathleen, for a very "right-between-the eyes" reminder.

We have been living in chaos for several weeks, with several more expected. New

flooring in the dining room and new carpet in the living room (after 40 years!!) has the house in turmoil. As we emptied a hutch, a pie safe, a buffet, a very large oak desk, and two bookcases, boxed everything up, and stacked all the dining room furniture in the living room, detachment hit me hard! My stuff! Where's that book I was reading? Where is a ream of computer paper (the computer and printer are currently on a folding table)? I need a red pen! The

bank deposit is currently... where? The tote bag with my husband's OFS meeting supplies (Ritual/Breviary, etc.) is packed so deep into and under other things that it is impossible to retrieve for a while. Chaos.

These physical and material inconveniences have brought me to a realization that the spiritual can and often does parallel our

we step back from the chaos and the clutter and the things that are stacked in our lives and focus – on God, on faith, on prayer, on family, on our own inner wellbeing? What tools can we use? (Where's my red pen?) Do we even need tools to just stop the madness and take time to sit quietly with our Lord, speak to Him in

praise and adoration, and then to listen to what He has to say? I am not at my best during chaos. I take comfort in my stuff, and when my stuff is not where I can easily access it, I am sad and grumpy and disorientated and very out-of-sorts. Again, how's my prayer life? Am I mirroring the chaos or am I taking this time of dishevel to re-

The good news is that when the chaos comes to an end and we are putting things back together, it is going to be the perfect time to catalog all my books by title and author, and all my CDs by artist. Perhaps that can bring calm to the chaos.

flect and renew?

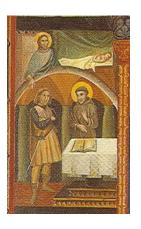
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What We Have Promised to Live . . .

"Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which "bear the imprint of the Most High," and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.

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." (RULE, Articles 18 – 19)



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ST. CLARE'S KITCHEN

Here are some photos of the re-opening of St. Clare's Kitchen after being closed for five months for the renovation of facilities at Holy Name Church, Cedar Lake, IN, in April.

That's Sharon Marmalejo stirring the green beans!

Pictures from Rose Anderson, OFS,

Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity, Cedar Lake, IN

OPERATION BLESSING BAG

At the May 20 Community Meeting of Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity, Cedar Lake, IN, the members packaged all the personal care items/toiletries that were collected over the last few months for our Operation Blessing Bag Project. In all, 30 gallon-size storage bags were filled. They were delivered to The St. Clare Clinic in Crown Point on May 22. The staff there were very grateful and happy to receive them, and said the bags would be shelved for distribution that day. Bernadine Barrett, OFS, who chaired the project, said that it was modeled after the Blessing Bags assembled at the Quinquennial gathering last year.



Queen of All
Saints Fraternity
in Logansport
sharing with
David Dieringer,
OFS, Regional
Formation



Director, holding Fraternal Visitation on May 13, 2017. Photo taken by Kathleen White, OFS



A Reflection from **BARB BRALEY** OFS, Regional Vice-Minister



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In my most recent class, we studied the spiritualties of four saints, including St. Francis and St. Dominic. One option we were given for our exam was to write a homily. I decided to submit it for this newsletter since the Memorial of St. Dominic is coming up in August, and the Franciscans and Dominicans have been friends for nearly 800 years.

In Dominican spirituality, there are four pillars. One of these pillars is the "shift in perspective." It is very close to the Franciscan concept of penance. What are we trying to see — or more accurately — **who** are we trying to see? We are trying to see God and turn our lives to him: the shift in perspective becomes our "life of joyful penance" (Vocation Petition for Tuesday evening).

Gospel: John 11:1-44 (The Raising of Lazarus)

It is no mistake that this Gospel story falls during Lent. Many homilies show how it prefigures the death and resurrection of Jesus — and rightly so. However, there is something very human in this story that should speak to us as well. I find five sets of words to be so vitally important, even beyond Lent. They are: "Master, the one you love is ill" (vs. 3); "Lord, if you had been here" (vss. 21 & 32); "I am the resurrection and the life"; followed by, "Do you believe this" (vs. 25); and "Lazarus, come out!" (vs. 43.

Martha and Mary, Lazarus' sisters, sent word to Jesus that he was ill. Why would they do that unless they hoped that Jesus would come? This is reminiscent of the cry we hear each year during Advent: Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus! Why would we say it unless we hope for him to come? We hope that he will come because we, like Lazarus, are in some way asleep in ways that keep us from the full life that Jesus offers us, but Jesus keeps saying, "I will go

to awaken him or her."

When we are aware that Jesus has come to us, the temptation is to respond like both Martha and Mary do, each in turn, "Lord, if you had been here!"

"If only." How often we say these words! It has been said that the word "if" is the biggest word in the English language, even though it only has two letters.

Last year, for example, on the Sunday my father died, I received a text from my sister as the 8 AM Mass was starting that our dad had been taken to the hospital about an hour before that. Mind you, I'm the organist for that Mass and I had a religious ed class to teach right after Mass. Three hours later, my daughter, my younger son and I hit the road. An hour away from Cincinnati, my sister texted me to say that we should go to Mom and Dad's apartment. I knew then that Dad had died. During that hour, I kept saying, "If only she had called me sooner, I could have been there." If only...

Returning to Martha and Mary, the truth is that Jesus *is* here with us. The question is: why do we fail to see him? The answer is: our perspective is wrong.

Catherine of Siena, the great Dominican mystic, wrote of Jesus as a bridge (The Dialogue). This bridge is the way to eternal life. Below the bridge is the river where people drown in the ways that keep them from seeing Jesus the bridge. We want to see, but we are so reluctant to climb out of the river, which can be likened to Lazarus' tomb, and into the life of Christ, the bridge. It requires us to shift our perspective from the river tomb to the life bridge. The old ways, even though harmful, are familiar. Change is frightening to us. We don't like it.

"I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you," says Martha

(vs. 22). She knows that Jesus always looks to God and God answers with his blessings. What greater blessing is there than life itself? Even in the face of death, she still hopes. but Jesus shows her that what she hopes for isn't enough. She is looking to the end of time, but Jesus shows her that she can look much closer. I am the Resurrection and the Life! Look at me. Then comes the important question: "Do you believe this?" (vs. 26). This is where Martha and we — either accept or reject Jesus' vision: eternal life starts here and now. This is why Catherine calls the Church the hostelry on the journey across the bridge: it feeds us the Body and Blood to sustain us. Is this not a great and wondrous blessing for us on the way?

Finally, Jesus is confronted with the reality of Lazarus' physical death at the tomb. He orders the stone rolled away, in spite of the stench. He reminds her that she has said that she believes that her brother will be raised to life. Jesus then thanks God for restoring the life of Lazarus, even before it actually happens, so that all of the others who have come to the tomb may also see God's glory and come to believe. "Lazarus, come out!" (vs. 43). When Lazarus comes out of the tomb still all wrapped in the burial cloths, Jesus tells them to unbind him and let him go. What a beautiful prefiguring of the binding and loosing in the Sacrament of Reconciliation! When we bind ourselves in the bands of sin, we can ask the Church to loose them so we may continue across the bridge.

Lord, come to us. We want to see you.

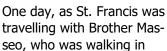
If only you had been here... When we fail to see you, restore our vision of you.

I am the resurrection and the life. Yes, Lord, we believe.

Come out! Unbind us, Lord, and release us from the death of sin.

Amen.

Our Franciscan G.P.S. Device - Sr. Agnes Marie, Regional Spiritual Assistant



front, they arrived at a spot where three roads met, one leading to Florence, one to Siena, and one to Arezzo, and Brother Masseo asked of St Francis which road they should take. "The one which God wills," answered St. Francis. Said brother Masseo: "And how are we to know the will of God?" "By the sign I will show you," answered St. Francis; "I order you, by the merit of holy obedience, on the spot where now you art, to turn round and round, as children do in play, and not to stop or rest until I tell you." On this Brother Masseo began to turn round and round, until his head became dizzy, as is wont to happen from such turning, and he fell down several times. But, as St. Francis did not bid him to stop, he went on, out of obedience, until at last St. Francis said: "Stand still, and move not; but tell me towards which of the three roads are you turned?" "Towards that which leads to Siena," answered Brother Masseo. "That is the road," said St. Francis, "which it pleases God that we should take."

Francis' method of determining God's will and designs for us might be a little too complex to be practical! And folks would start to wonder why you're jumping out of your vehicle to spin around at intersections!

But Francis' words still ring out and ring true, "This is the way God wants us to go!". Indeed, as Franciscans of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Orders, we have all publically professed that we know exactly "the way God wants us to go". Each of us has proclaimed verbally and vocally before the whole Church and the Franciscan Order that we wish and promise "to observe the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Francis of Assisi . . ." who made Christ the inspiration and center of his life to God

and people (**RULE**, Chap. 2, Article 4) ."

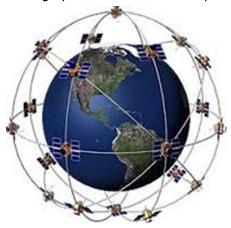
While driving our motorized vehicles, we've all learned to keep our eyes fixed on the road. From experience we've learned that roads can take us in bizarre directions and sometimes unwanted directions very quickly. Keeping focused is vital to our safety and that of our companion motorists.



Likewise, we hone our spiritual driving skills by "keeping our eyes fixed, as did Francis and

Clare, on Jesus (Hebrews 12: 2)."

By following the Gospel life given to us by Jesus in the pages of Sacred Scripture, the certainty we have about our direction is more accurate than a Google search or GPS device—unless that means "God Positioning System" — a.k.a. the Gospel



of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The WAY God will show is the ONE who said, "I am the way . . ." And there is no need to spin ourselves silly until we fall down. God's word is always living and active in the pages of the Gospels we have promised to live and we can rest assured that we will safely arrive at our destination.



"The Secular Franciscan, committed to following the example and the teachings of Christ, must personally and assiduously study the Gospel and Sacred Scripture. The fraternity and its leaders should foster love for the word of the Gospel and help the brothers and sisters to know and understand it as it is proclaimed by the Church with the assistant of the Spirit (Constitutions — article 9.2)."

Franciscan GPS

Gospel

Positioning

System





Looking at Sin — in Multiple Ways

Dave Dieringer, OFS, Regional Formation Director

Ever heard of the seven deadly sins? Of course you have! Every Catholic who has had any formational instruction has seen the list.

That list is:

Pride is excessive belief in one's own abilities, which interferes with the individual's recognition of the grace of God. It has been called the sin from which all others arise. Pride is also known as Vanity

Envy is the desire for others' traits, status, abilities, or situation.

<u>Gluttony</u> is an inordinate desire to consume more than that which one requires.

Lust is an inordinate craving for the pleasures of the body. Anger is manifested in the individual who spurns love and opts instead for fury. It is also known as Wrath.

<u>Greed</u> is the desire for material wealth or gain, ignoring the realm of the spiritual. It is also called Avarice or Covetousness.

<u>Sloth</u> is the avoidance of physical or spiritual work.

This past month, while reading the "Little White Book" from the Diocese of Saginaw, I heard of the list of the seven social sins. Have you heard of them? Me neither! They were composed by Bishop Gianfranco Girotti, OFM Conv., then the regent of the Apostolic Penitentiary at the Vatican. (The Apostolic Penitentiary is chiefly a tribunal of mercy, responsible for issues relating to the forgiveness of sins in the Catholic Church.)

That list includes:

"Bioethical" violations such as birth control
"Morally dubious" experiments such as stem cell research Drug abuse
Polluting the environment
Contributing to widening divide between rich and poor Excessive wealth
Creating poverty

We have always heard that sin has social implications, whether it be

with our God or our brothers and sisters or our environment. (See our Rule!) I invite you to pray on these sins in our lives. I also invite you to study on the implications of these sins in your life and that of your community. Do not be afraid to engage with others.

Note: Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, in 1925 also noted a list of social sins.

That list is:

Wealth without work.
Pleasure without conscience.
Knowledge without character.
Commerce without morality.
Science without humanity.
Religion without sacrifice.
Politics without principle.





Inter-fraternity Gatherings

The **FOUR FRATERNITIES** of the Indianapolis area are having their first annual "Family Picnic" on Saturday, June 17, from 11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. in Indianapolis. Everyone is welcome to join the fraternal sharing. Call anyone of the ministers in Indy for more information and directions to the picnic site.

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS in St. John is having its regional picnic with Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity and Little Portion Fraternity at Paul Krillich's home on July 16. Bishop Hying of the Gary Diocese will be celebrant at the Mass preceding the picnic. Everyone from Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity is welcome to join the festivities. Let Paul know you are coming and to get directions to his lovely home, site of the gathering. Call (219)365-5217.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRATERNITY from Mishawaka and HOLY FAMILY FRATERNITY from Fort Wayne Brothers and sisters are meeting at Lake Webster on July 22, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. for a two hour cruise on the DIXIE QUEEN. Family members and friends are welcome to join this happy group of sailing Franciscans. The Dixie Queen has been chartered just for us and "sailors" will be treated to accordion music by Bill Schmitt, OFS and a history of this unique lake. If you wish to join us, please let Susie Solloway, OFS (863)532-9321 of Holy Family Fraternity or Sue Daly, OFS ((574) 633-4826) of Immaculate Conception Fraternity know. We are limited to 140 passengers plus 10 who can stand.



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

ST.BONIFACE FRATERNITY: in March they celebrated some notable Profession anniversaries: Betty Price, OFS, 40 years: Arlene Godman, OFS, 38 years; Connie Lu, OFS, 38 years; Robert Goodman, OFS, 36 years. Congratulations to everyone of you for your exemplary living of the Franciscan vocation!

The fraternity also celebrated the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Fr. Mark Walter and Karen Sullivan on May 7 at their monthly gathering.

They also treated the residents of Tippecanoe Villa to a Bingo game on May 20th. Members assisted residents with visual and hearing difficulties with the dynamics of the game. Afterwards, fraternity members enjoyed lunch together at a local restaurant.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES FRATER- NITY held two "Call Outs", one at St. Mary's in Griffith and one at St. Joseph's in Dyer. They are grateful that several persons have come forth who are interested in starting Orientation in May. Prayers are requested for their

perseverance in the Franciscan way of

LADY CLARE FRATERNITY— Some members helped serve a meal that St. Patrick Parish in Kokomo held April 29 as a fund raiser to assist the Poor Clares in purchasing 3 acres of land and a privacy fence on the north and west sides of their property.

During the month of May they welcomed three interested persons to Orientation.

Lady Clare Fraternity also celebrated the Permanent Profession to the Franciscan Gospel life on May 12, at the Monastery of the Poor Clare's.



Newly professed are Sena Creppy, OFS, Robert Creppy, OFS, and Kath Svec, OFS.

A beautiful picture of the Profession service shows the presence of the Poor Clare Sisters who participated in the Ritual and joyful celebration.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRATERNITY has been approved by the national board of "Bridge of Hope" to mentor a woman-at-risk from "Hannah's House" in Mishawaka. The woman assigned is a 23 year old mother with an 11 month old little boy. The nine mentors from the Fraternity have undergone a detailed program of formation by Bridge of Hope representatives to acquire the skills needed to assist this woman during her time in the program.

Thanks and God bless to Alysson Braatrz, OFS, and Judy Doolin, OFS, from **OUR LADY OF LOURDES FRATERNITY** in Cedar Lake, who hosted the fraternity and a busload of friends from the Mishawaka area at the Shrine of Christ's Passion in St. John on May 21 for a memorable Way of the Cross.

LITTLE PORTION FRATERNITY

and all of us offer congratulations to Alan Sutlifff, OSF, of LITTLE PORTION who graduated on May 23, 2017, from the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program of the Diocese of

Gary, a prerequisite for the Diaconate Program. Alan is pictured here with Bishop Donald Hying giving his blessing.



SACRED HEART FRATERNITY

has issued a welcome to new Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Justin Belitz, OFM. Father is a nationally and internationally known author, retreat master, speaker and lecturer. The fraternity is grateful and feels fortunate to have Father as their Spiritual guide.

HOLY FAMILY FRATERNITY in

Fort Wayne had elections on Sunday, June 4. Following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the following persons were called forth to serve: Minister - Susan Solloway, OFS; Vice Minister - Trish Bugajski, OFS; Secretary - Vicki Jacobs,

OFS; Treasurer - Donna Carteaux. OFS; Formation Director— Rosemary Travis, OFS;



Apostolate Councilor - Jon Cooper, OFS; Youth Apostolate Councilor -Elaine Cooper, OFS. Congratulations to all and be assured of our Fraternal prayer.

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ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS in

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OUR BROTHER, ST. ANTHONY

Pictures and statues of St. Anthony often portray him holding a lily. This beautiful flower has long been regarded in Christian



art as a symbol of integrity of life. In many parts of the world, lilies are in bloom in the middle of June when the feast of St. An-

thony is observed.

This custom is associated with an unusual event that took place on Corsica during the French Revolution. Franciscans on the island had been forced to leave, but people continued to honor St. Anthony as the friars had taught them. On his feast, bouquets of lilies were placed at the Saint's shrine in the deserted church. Many months later, the lilies were found still fresh and white. Permission to bless lilies in honor of St. Anthony was given by Pope Leo XIII. "St. Anthony's Oil" is obtained by pressing the lilies blessed by a priest.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE GARDEN IN SPRINGTIME

By Joy McCullough, OFS Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity

Have you noticed the sweet, silent, creep of spring? I guess I'm thinking of the *clematis* saying, "First they sleep, then they creep, then they lamp!" Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday arrived with dogwoods, redbuds, and crab apples bursting into bloom, and snowing petals! To add to this show of color are lilacs, daffodils, tulips and hyacinths, nodding their heads, in seas of yellow, red, pink and purple! Fragrance fills the air with its sweetness. I stand still and take in the beauty. I never get tired of

blooming beauty. I work in a greenhouse and I am a flower grower and am surrounded by flowers every day; yet I am always surprised by something new and beautiful blooming forth, beckoning me to stop and smell the roses! My work raises my heart to God!

Let's think about gardens. John 19: 41-42: "Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by."

Curious! The tomb was in a garden. Actually, it all began in a garden. "The Lord planted a garden in Eden, in the east," Adam and Eve lived in the garden happily until the Fall. There was another garden Jesus entered with his disciples, the Garden of Olives, Gethsemane. Sorrow was planted in this garden, birth, life, death, burial and resurrection, all in a garden! A beginning and an end. We experience our fall and restoration in a garden. How glorious! Garden to Garden! Our own broken lives restored by Jesus' Resurrection.

So get a kneeling pad, a garden trowel, some seeds and plants, and go kneel in your garden have a good "one on one" with God, your Father. He is waiting. Pull some weeds while you are at it!

Wisdom from the Greenhouse

This is our happy place! You can bury a lot of troubles, digging in the dirt. Plant something and watch it grow. Gardeners know all the dirt. Faith plants seeds, love makes it grow. Life is a garden, dig it!





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)

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Patricia J. Silliman, OFS 6.15.2016

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION **FRATERNITY**

Lucy Wargo, OFS, on 5.25.17

ST. BONIFACE FRATERNITY

Basil Bausch, OFS on 5.19.17

NATIONAL FRATERNITY

Patrick Mendes, OFS Former National Minister

6.4.2017



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let the Perpetual Light shine upon them.

Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity



Receive a daily inspirational Franciscan email, as well as periodic Regional Fraternity news and prayer requests. To join OUR LADY OF INDIANA list-serve send a blank email to:

OLI-Region-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



Your Regional Newsletter Staff

John Cheeseman, OFS

Mary Mitchell, OFS

Sr. Agnes Marie, OSF

Regional Councilors

Dates to Remember

June 10, 2017: Regional Executive Council, St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo

June 13, 2017: Feast of St. Anthony, Priest, Doctor of the Church

July 8, 2017: Candidates Day Away: Hosted by Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity in Cedar Lake

July 15, 2017: Feast of St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

July 16, 2017: Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Francis of Assisi

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

August 12, 2017: Regional 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: Regional Executive Council, St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo

November 11, 2017: Chapter of Mats, St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo

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

November 24, 2017: Commemoration of all the Deceased of the Seraphic Order November 29, 2017: All Saints of the Seraphic Order

From Jack Hill OFS, our JPIC Animator

I am coming off a wonderful weekend celebrating Pentecost. I didn't want to break from the fire of love I experienced. But, now, as happens in life, the fire has settled into embers. I have a few things to say about JPIC.

This summer I am scheduled to attend a national gathering where I will spend several days with other JPIC Animators in hopes of growing the work we do. I hope to share some things I learn for a brief time at Unity Day.

I know that there is interest in our Regional Fraternity in identifying individuals in each local fraternity who can animate the rest of us at this level. Please share with me at **jack_hill99@att.net** your thoughts about and interests in JPIC. I challenge all of us to embrace this ministry which is one of the important parts of Franciscan life.

Recently I had the pleasure of arranging for my parish to conduct an "Offering of Letters" on behalf of the hungry in our country and our world.

Working with some 28 Catholic and Christian churches in Central Indiana, along with an engaged retirement community, we collected what I understand to be around 2,000 letters to share with our Indiana Senators and Members of Congress. Their staffs were impressed with our messages as we talked with them about hunger. They all (in a bipartisan fashion) appeared receptive to continuing the essential support that enables our food ministries to work, and to recognize the emergency need for food in some parts of our world.

Over the next year, I anticipate sharing a variety of ways in which we can make our world a better place. God is counting on us. We can identify with the phrase "...for up until now we have done little or nothing...".

New website:

http://olirf-ofs.org/