



Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity



Secular Franciscan Order

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

September, 2017

Volume 4, Issue 3

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



I have been thinking a lot about the small things, the little things. I was recently hospitalized for 24 hours for cardiac observation. (All is well.) A simple thing like saying "Thank you" after a blood draw (every 4 hours) and when awakened throughout the night for vitals seemed to make a difference in those that were there to care for me.

A long time ago Sr. Agnes Marie had expressed her practice of taking a paper towel and wiping down the countertop when she finished washing her hands in a public restroom. I have been doing that ever since. A while back I was with our youngest daughter in a restroom in Indianapolis and I had started to do that. She said, "Mom, you don't work here. Why are you doing that?" I simply replied, "Sister said do it, and so I do." She did not understand, but the seed was planted.

Facing the physical challenges of aging, my husband and I are doing more and more little things for each other. That makes a big difference in our demeanors and our relationship. He forgets a word—I assist. I don't have the energy to wash up a skillet—he assists. No explanations are necessary—it's just a little thing.

The other morning at 7:30 when we pray Morning Prayer before 8:00 Mass, Father asked me to do the reading. I said, "Yes, thank you." He looked at me and raised an eyebrow and said, "No, thank you!" A little thing.

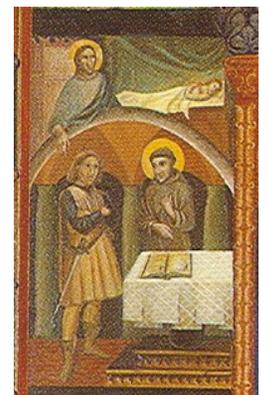
In late Spring when we were in the midst of the chaos of the new flooring in the dining room and the living room, I had mentioned to a friend that I simply loved warm tapioca pudding. It was mentioned in passing, while talking of baking pies. The next day she showed up with a warm bowl of pudding, and I wolfed it down as if I had-

What We Have Promised to Live . . .

"The Secular Franciscan Order is divided into fraternities of various levels — local, regional, national, and international. Each one has its own moral personality in the Church. These various fraternities are coordinated and united according to the norm of this rule and constitutions.

On various levels, each fra-

ternity is animated and guided by a council and minister who are elected . . . Their service lasts for a definite period, is marked by a ready and willing spirit and is a duty of responsibility to each member and to the community (RULE, Articles 20—21)."



REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Kathleen White, OFS : Regional Minister

Barb Bräley, OFS: Regional Vice-Minister

Sharon Roberts: OFS: Regional Secretary

Lisa Cook, OFS: Regional Treasurer

Dave Dieringer, OFS :
Regional Formation DirectorLinda Grady, OFS, Sharon Marmalejo, OFS,
and Richard Cain, OFS Regional CouncilorsSr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF:
Regional Spiritual Assistant

JPIC Animator: Jack Hill, OFS (appointed)



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

n't eaten in a week! It was a small thing—done with great love.

When I had fallen at Unity Day several came to my aid, but a cool drink of lemonade, unsolicited, was very comforting to me. A small thing.

So hold that door open for a stranger. Say “Hello” and “Good morning” and “God bless you”. Smile at a child. Wink at a friend. Pick up a piece of trash in the parking lot. Find something out of place? Put it where it belongs. Offer assistance whenever possible, and do so with a cheerful heart.

As Franciscans, as Catholic Christians, as human beings—let's be kind, caring, courteous, cheerful, and courageous. Let's choose love over any other option possible. Let's let go of “me” and embrace “we”.

Will you let me be your servant? Let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

These words are from **The Servant Song**, one that we sing at every Regional Fraternity gathering. Let's live the essence of these words—in our families, in our friendships, in our parish communities, and most especially in our fraternities.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow 'til we've seen this journey through.

We do not always know what people are experiencing. Is she suffering from chronic pain? Does he worry about the financial obligation of his child's college education? Is her job being phased out and she is not yet near retirement age? Is their son or daughter deployed and they haven't heard from them in a while? What little thing can we do for them? A very little thing to us may be a very big thing to them—a bowl of warm pudding and a smile.

Happiness was . . . having Jan Parker, OFS, National Minister, with us for Unity Day

Our annual Unity Day provided an opportunity to visit and share with our Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters from all over the state. Included was our newest fraternity, St. Michael the Archangel (Hicksville, OH), that requested and has been accepted into our regional fraternity. About 130 Seculars enjoyed the day which began with Mass, followed by a talk given by Sr. Anita Holzmer, OSF, on St. Clare and the Eucharist.

After lunch, everyone was delighted and



entertained by our National Minister, Jan Parker, OFS, who distributed song sheets for a sing-along. Jan is extremely talented and took popular songs changing the lyrics into everything Franciscan. Everyone had a great time signing along while she played the guitar. Needless to say, no one was “resting their eyes” after lunch!

Our annual Memorial service for our departed brothers and sisters concluded our day together.

Reading Recommendations from Barb Braley, OFS

Regional Vice-Minister

The topic of fraternity libraries came up recently. It got me thinking about guidelines that can be used to establish a new library or evaluate an existing one. Here is where I would start:

A Bible. I recommend the St. Joseph Edition of the New American Bible Revised Edition (NABRE) study edition, large print. It has many references including explanations of history, culture, and literary styles; maps; a brief concordance; a glossary; and much more. As St. Jerome said, “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church. Again, the large print edition. A basic explanation of Catholic doctrine that is written for anyone to understand. Helpful hint: for the first reading, take time to read it in little bits. I took three years!

The Sixteen Documents of Vatican II. There are two central documents, “Lumen Gentium” and “Gaudium et Spes,” EVERY Catholic should read “Lumen Gentium,” especially chapters 4 and 5. These chapters deal with the apostolate of the laity and the universal call to holiness. The other 14 documents are related to these two.

“Laudato Si,” encyclical by Pope Francis. This has been called the most Franciscan encyclical ever written.

You may have noticed that these suggestions aren't specifically Franciscan. You're right. That's because we are first Christians (hence the Bible), and then Catholic Christians (the Catechism and the Vatican II documents). Remember that Francis was well-versed in Scripture — look at the Prologue to our Rule — and adamant about being Catholic. Now on to the specifically Franciscan portion of the library.

St. Francis: The Early Documents (3 volume set). Vol. 1 includes all 29 of St. Francis' writings and Thomas of Celano's biography of St. Francis. If you really want to know Francis, read his own writings! Celano's bi-

ography was the first official biography of St. Francis, and is still the gold standard. St. Bonaventure's biography of St. Francis is in Vol. 2. It runs about \$140 for the set (new). A suggestion to acquire it: if a fraternity of 14 members would donate \$1 per member per month, there would be enough to buy the set in 10 months; \$2 per member per month would only require five months.

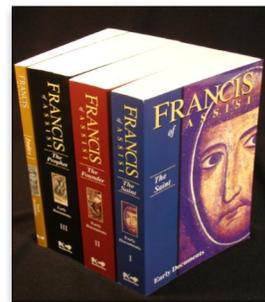
Clare: The Lady. This is a companion volume to the 3-volume set of St. Francis. Her four letters to St. Agnes of Prague are glorious reading, especially the second and third letters.

St. Bonaventure (Classics of Western Spirituality series). It has three of his most significant writings in one volume. “The Soul's Ascent into God” is great (readable!) Franciscan theology.

Franciscan Prayer, by Sr. Ilia Delio. A beautiful synthesis of Franciscan spirituality and intellectual tradition that aims to assist us in our journey of prayer, meditation, and contemplation. A good book to study as a fraternity. I know of two that already have and loved it.

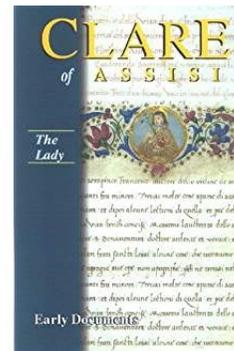
St. Francis of Assisi: Writer and Spiritual Master, by Thaddée Matura. A small book on Franciscan spirituality/theology. Don't freak out! It's totally understandable. There are questions for reflection at the end of each chapter. Thanks to Sister Anita for introducing me to it. It's still one of my favorites!

This is only the beginning of a good library. From the basics, what a fraternity adds to it will vary: encyclicals, books by or about saints (Franciscan or not), etc. Also, for established libraries, don't be afraid to clean them out once in a while. Outdated resources can and should be removed. However, items of historical significance, like a copy of the Leonine Rule, are fraternity relics, and should be kept as such. Finally, be selective — and tactful — when it comes to accepting donations from people who want to do-



nate books to the fraternity library from “Mother's estate” or the like. While we should be grateful for people remembering

us, we still have to store them. Space is an issue for most fraternities. The key is to have books/resources that people should read and want to read.



Happy reading and God Bless!



“What Francis so forcefully insists on in the final chapter of his earlier Rule comes to this: every Christ life is of necessity a life of penance, a life in *Metanoia*. But every “life of penance” begins from what God himself has bestowed upon and imparted to man in the Church through Christ. The true starting-point therefore of the life of penance lies not in man, but in the action of God . . . The Christian life of penance then consists in this one thing, that man yield himself to the work of salvation which God accomplishes through Christ in his Church (*Love's Reply*, Cajetan Esser, OFM, p. 8).”



One of my Favorite Times of Year:

September 17—October 4

In September of 1224, while at prayer on one of the most astounding landscapes on planet earth, St. Francis was visited by a Seraph who marked the body of Francis with the wounds of Jesus. At the beginning of his conversion at San Damiano, the crucifix spoke the words, "Go rebuild my church" to a young man searching for the meaning and direction of his life. Day by day, these words transformed the confused Francis' spirit, his words, his direction in life into an instrument which could be used as God willed.

Now, toward the end of his life, the same Spirit God in the form of a Seraph, approaches this holy man to transform even his flesh into the likeness of Jesus. After transforming the spirit of Francis, the Holy Visitor transforms even his flesh.

After describing the "vision of God as a . . . man, having six wings like a Seraph . . ." (FA:ED, p. 263), Thomas of Celano in a later passage, tells us what each of us must do to ". . . be able to reach these heights . . ." He is certainly not advocating that we pray for receiving the wounds of Christ, but he is giving a description of the virtues that come from following Francis' example of taking up the Cross of Jesus — as we did in Baptism and its renewal in our Profession as Franciscans.

The first three of the six wings which are to spread "over our heads", Thomas tells us, are the need to have (1) a pure intention and (2) upright conduct that we may please God unceasingly in all things. In this way God will know that we are on the right path and that our eyes, minds, and hearts are seemingly rightly directed. The feathers on these two wings are

the love of the all-merciful Father and fear of the Lord.

The second set of wings are, as Thomas tells us, for flying and they show (1) charity to our neighbors and they refresh the soul with the word of God, (2) and they nourish the body with material aid. The feathers on these wings assist us in providing for our neighbor the various corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Lastly, the third set of wings cover our bodies — oftentimes stripped of merit because of the sinfulness in our lives, but clothed again in innocence and contrition and confession. The feathers on this set of wings are from a hatred of sin and a longing for justice.

Celano concludes his reflection on the Seraph with these words about St. Francis: "Our blessed father Francis fulfilled all these things completely; he had both the image and the form of the Seraph and, remaining on the cross, he merited to fly away to the highest order of spirits. He was always upon his cross. . . (FA:ED, p. 283)."

So, my dear Franciscan brothers and sisters, the message of the Stigmata is not just a pious and very dramatic story about St. Francis. It has a very important message for us as we wind our ways through the process of conversion and penitence as Third Order Franciscans. When Jesus said "take up your Cross and follow me . . ." St. Francis, from San



Damiano to La Verna, learned what that meant. Let us follow in his holy footsteps.

During the days between September 17, the Stigmata of St. Francis, and October 4, the Solemnity of St. Francis, Cricket Aull, OFS, has compiled a prayerful set of reflections for a double-novena in preparation for the feast. It is entitled, "A Walk with St. Francis: 18 Days of Readings and Reflections". It is available from TAU Publications of Vesuvius Press and can be ordered online at their website at: www.taupublishing.com

Each day one is treated to a quotation from either Thomas of Celano or St. Bonaventure, a brief reflection, a quotation from Scripture and a short prayer — a beautiful way to prepare spiritually for the Feast of St. Francis. May its pages lead you to a deeper love for your Franciscan vocation to conversion!



Getting to Know You . . . A Brief History of St. Michael the Archangel, Hicksville, OH

By Robert M. Silliman, OFS

The Franciscan sisters at St. Mary's Grade School in Avilla, IN, told touching stories about saints and were filled with an inner joy and beauty that has lasted me a lifetime. After phoning various Franciscan facilities in 1993, no Third Order fraternities were located. Great news came in 1999 from Dean Smalley, a "Christ Renews His Parish" teammate. We learned that there was a Franciscan fraternity in Fort Wayne starting an Orientation at St. Jude's Grade School. My excited reply was, "I will be there!"

Steve Talbott, David Grimes, Dean Smalley and I car-pooled together starting with the third meeting on November 18, 1999. We were admitted to the Secular Franciscan Order on May 25, 2000 and made our final Profession at the University of St. Francis Chapel on July 22, 2001. During our car pooling meetings, we talked about issues facing the Church and about starting our own fraternity in Hicksville, Ohio. We let St. Charles Fraternity know our intentions during our formation and they approved.

There was an ad in the Toledo Diocesan newspaper for "Tau Tours". I contacted this Franciscan lady who directed me to "Jerry" who put me in touch with Marcella Bina, Minister of the Maximillian Kolbe Regional Fraternity, who wrote me a letter on June 27, 2000. The letter gave information on starting a new fraternity, which was shared with the other three in the car pool. Joan LeRoy and Joan Myers of Auburn, Indiana, also in our Formation class, became aware of our wanting to start a fraternity and they expressed interest.

St. Charles Fraternity, which met at the University of St. Francis, was large as it had more than eighty members. We learned much about its operation and I attended meetings of the Council and familiarized myself with the OFS Constitutions and Rule. The four of us took part and served the fraternity at meetings such as

conducting an Old Testament bible time line for the fraternity. It was an all day event.

We were told by David that, when he took Communion to Gilbert Ortiz, that Betty, his wife, asked us to come pray the rosary with him. We went every week and when he passed away, we prayed with the family. Soon we had other similar requests from families of other terminally ill patients and we sometimes went to hospitals in the middle of the night to pray with families. This became our group ministry.

In the Summer of 2002, we decided it was time to start our fraternity in Hicksville. Steve Talbott began contacting our Ohio regional fraternity for specifics about getting started. He chaired the first meeting at St. Michael's Rectory on August 11, 2002, and I made a motion to name our newly forming fraternity "St. Michael the Archangel". Nominations were held for five officers at the August 25th meeting. Elected were Steve Talbott, Minister; Dean Smalley, Vice-Minister; Joan LeRoy, Treasurer and myself, Secretary. Director of Formation, David Grimes, was elected at the October 20 meeting. We transferred to "Queen of Angels", our sponsoring fraternity, in Lima, Ohio on November 26, 2002. Fifteen people attended the first Orientation class on January 22, 2003.

We were greatly saddened by the death of Candidate Joe Wessler on April 16, 2003. Tim Husted and Patricia Silliman, two others of our group from St. Charles Fraternity, transferred to Queen of Angels and to our group on August 28. Seven of the fifteen in our initial Orientation class were admitted to the Secular Franciscan Order on February 22, 2004. We presently have fourteen members (This brief "History" was published by Robert Silliman, OFS, on June 19, 2004).

Below is a picture of the Council of St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity newly elected on May 21, 2017. We welcome them and all their brothers and sisters to Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity.

Sr. Agnes Marie, OSF, Regional Spiritual Assistant, traveled with Sr. Anita Holzmer, OSF, the Spiritual Assistant of St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity, to meet our newest fraternity, to conduct a Pastoral Visit,



From Left to right: Councilors: Toby Stark and Tim Husted; Formation Director: Beth Herman; Secretary: Judy Johnson; Treasurer: Becky Kimpel; Vice-Minister: Christopher Bercau; Minister: Jean Wonderly

and to meet our new Franciscan brothers and sisters.

On Sunday, July 9, 2017 Kathleen White, OFS, Regional Minister, Barb Braley, OFS, Regional Vice Minister, and Rich Cain, OFS, Regional Councilor traveled to Hicksville, OH, for a Fraternal Visit and a time of "getting to know you".

St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity was officially welcomed into Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity at Unity Day, August 12, 2017.



A little look at our brothers and sisters in Terre Haute, St. Rose of Viterbo Fraternity

St. Rose of Viterbo Fraternity lies on the western border of Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity. We are the ones blest with their presence in our Franciscan family. Here is a brief introduction to them.

Greetings from St. Rose of Viterbo Fraternity,

By way of an introduction I'd like to tell you a bit of our history first. St. Rose is the westernmost fraternity in Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity. We've been affiliated with St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute since the 1870s. But all things come and go; and the Fraternity faded away during the 1960s. Then through the grace of God, St. Francis, Fr. Martin Day our pastor at the time, and Bill Fink, OFS, from Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity, we were resurrected in 1998 and reinstated as a fraternity in the Regional Fraternity in 2001.



St. Rose of Viterbo Fraternity honored its "Founding Mothers" in 2012 at a festive reception, celebrating their dedication and service totaling more than 100 years as Secular Franciscans. These OFSs were instrumental in gaining reinstatement for the fraternity in 2001 following a hiatus that began in the 1960s.



St. Rose of Viterbo Fraternity with Friar Savio Manavalan, OFM, Conv., associate pastor of St. Joseph University Parish, following Mass on the Feast of St. Francis, 2015. Front row from the left: Sandy Cline, Carmen Montanez, Mary Jane Coker, Friar Savio, Judy Barad, Tillie Kulinski, Linda Patrick, Donna Doti. Back Row: Carlos Montanez, Antonietta Antonio, and Martha Dowell.

Currently we have fourteen Professed members and one Candidate getting ready for Profession in January. Carlos Montanez is our Minister; we meet on the third Sunday of the month after the 11:30 Mass in the Gregorian Room.

As Secular Franciscans we are called to serve all of God's people and 'Bring the Gospel to life and life to the Gospel'. We have a pancake breakfast once a month, a diaper ministry, a prison ministry, and we have just started collecting small toiletries to offer our guests at the pancake breakfast to take with them if needed.

For Formation, the Professed are studying the Rule and the video series 'The Saint and the Pope: What the Spirituality of Two Men Named Francis Can Teach Us about Christian Living' by

Fr. Daniel Horan, O.F.M. (It's excellent!). Our Candidate is studying 'Fully Mature with the Fullness of Christ' 3rd Edition, by Benet A. Fonck, O.F.M.

Peace to All, from Linda Patrick OFS and St. Rose of Viterbo Fraternity



The Church expects from the Secular Franciscan Order, one and only, a great service in the cause of the Kingdom of God in the world today ... the Church expects from you, Secular Franciscans, a courageous and consistent testimony of Christian and Franciscan life, leaning towards the construction of a more fraternal and Gospel world for the realization of the Kingdom of God."

St. Pope John Paul II

2002 OFS General Chapter



"Let us follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ . . ."



Dave Dieringer, OFS, Regional Formation Director

RELATIONSHIPS

A few weeks ago, I attended a National Fraternity Formation Workshop. Among a whole slew of topics, including adult learning procedures, we were taught about the value of relationships. The relationships between each other, the relationship between the formator and the candidates and the relationships we have with our God. In fact, I believe that was the key component of the workshop. RELATIONSHIPS! "How do we relate to one another and how do we relate to God."

Throughout Sacred Scripture, there are stories of how God seeks out and develops relationships with His people. His covenant with Abram is an example of the development of the special relationship of the Jewish people and Himself. The Old Testament prophets regularly worked on getting the Jewish people back into relationship with their God.

Jesus, the son of God, wished to deepen that relationship. When told that His mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to Him, He pointed to the disciples, (and us) and said "here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." He, Jesus, takes relationship to a whole new level. We are now related in "blood".

Our father Saint Francis stated it even clearer. "They are the sons of the heavenly Father (cf. Mt

5:45), whose works they do, and they are the spouses, brothers, and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ (cf. Mt 12:50).

We are spouses, when by the Holy Spirit the faithful soul is united with our Lord Jesus Christ; we are brothers to him when we fulfill "the will of the Father who is in heaven" (Mt 12:50).

We are mothers, when we carry him in our heart and body (cf. 1 Cor 6:20) through divine love and a pure and sincere conscience; we give birth to him through a holy life which must give life to others by example (cf. Mt 5:16)."

We are CALLED by our profession to the deepest of relationships to our God. An agape relationship! A LOVE RELATIONSHIP! Our example continues to be Jesus. We need to look to Him as the model. Our father Saint Francis wrote: "Every day He humbles Himself just as He did when from His heavenly throne into the Virgin's womb; every day He comes to us and lets us see Him in lowliness, when He descends from the bosom of the Father into the hands of the priest at the altar." He humbled Himself to be in relationship with us. We need to do likewise with our brothers and sisters.

Let us work on relationships with each other and our God.

Dave



When you are forgotten or neglected and you don't hurt with the insult, but your heart is happy—that is dying to self.

When your advice is disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart, and take it all in patient, loving silence—that is dying to self.

When you lovingly and patiently bear disorder, irregularity, tardiness, and annoyance...and endure it as Jesus endured it—that is dying to self.

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation or record your own good works, or itch for praise after an accomplishment, when you can truly love to be unknown—that is dying to self.

When you can see your brother or sister prosper and can honestly rejoice with him, and feel no envy even though your needs are greater—that is dying to self.

When you are content with any food, any offering, any raiment, any climate, or any society—that is dying to self.

When you can take correction, when you can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, with no rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart—that is dying to self.

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

ST. ANTHONY FRATERNITY:

Stephanie Dunn, OFS, made her permanent profession on June 13, St. Anthony of Padua's feast day, at a mass in St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Muncie. The picture is of Stephanie (left) and Regional Councilor Linda Grady who was present for the profession. St. Anthony Fraternity is delighted to welcome Stephanie to our Franciscan family.



INTER-FRATERNITY PICNIC IN INDY:

From all reports, the first annual Franciscan family picnic for the four Indianapolis fraternities was a huge success. On June 17, 2017, a very animated group shared their



Franciscan joy and all their special recipes in a lovely park setting.



Now everyone is looking forward to

the next such gathering in the summer of 2018. "How good it is where brethren dwell as one . . ." so the psalmist tell us.



A MOMENT OF PURE FAMILY JOY FROM KATIE HERENDEEN, OFS:

Megan: Aiden, you have to learn to tuck in your shirt.

Aiden: I want to dress like Captain Hook.

M: You know you have to tuck for school.

A: We are going to church Mom.

That is what you get when Grandpa lets them eat potato chips for breakfast

because the cookies were gone.

Ahhh. Sunday mornings in the House of Herendeen!



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL FRATERNITY:

We are so THANKFUL to have Franciscans so close. I and everyone who attended Unity Day enjoyed being with you for our first time. The Mass was so special and what a wonderful homily. You made us feel so welcome and a part of the Regional Fraternity. God's blessing to you! I'm looking forward to meeting all the ministers in OLR at my first Chapter meeting.

God's peace and all good from Jean Wonderly, OFS, Minister of St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity, Hicksville, OH.

And from another of our new sisters comes the following: I really enjoyed Unity Day, and meeting people, loving the way Jesus taught. There was so much JOY in that room, plus the wonderful Mass we had. The food was super also. I'm also glad that we are part of OLI.

God bless, Carol Schaefer, OFS, St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity

(Editor's note: see picture of Fraternity on page 3 of this newsletter with a brief history of their fraternity.)

BLESSED SACRAMENT FRATERNITY:

Sr. Veronica, OSF, Spiritual Assistant of Blessed Sacrament Fraternity in Indianapolis brought five guests, who have expressed interest in the Secular Franciscan Order, to Unity Day. What a lovely and thoughtful way to introduce folks to the joyful Franciscan spirit!



The Candidates from **ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY** and **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRATERNITY** met in Mishawaka on Saturday, August 19, 2017, for a day of prayer and reflection in preparation for their Professions. The morning hours were spent viewing and discussing Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM's "Profession and the Secular Franciscan." After a tasty luncheon of soup, bread, and desserts, the group looked at the Spirituality and Theology of the Rite of Profession from the SFO Ritual book. St. Mary of the Angels has seven Candidates making Profession at 7:00 p.m. on October 4, 2017, in St. John Church, St. John Indiana. Five Candidates will make Profession from Immaculate Conception Fraternity in the convent chapel of St. Francis Convent in Mishawaka on September 16, 2017.

The **Four Fraternities in Indianapolis** are beginning preparations for their annual inter-community and bi-lingual celebration of the Transitus on October 3 at 7:00 pm. All in the Indianapolis area are invited to attend the service at Sacred Heart Church.

"Let all the brothers [and sisters] preach by their deeds" (Rule of 1221, FA:ED, p. 75)

A beautiful thought worth sharing from Kathy Dominguez, OFS, of Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity

"Giving, praying and answering God's call to serve is not a one time thing. It is constant, in God's time, not ours. As we marvel at God's blessings in our lives, remember those who struggle to see those blessings. Some of us, blessed fraternity members of Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity, struggle with keeping a positive outlook and believing in God's blessings. We are with you, sisters and brothers. We all have our days that the sky looks extraordinarily bleak, but we as faithful Franciscans, turn our heads from the clouds and plow forward. Looking up, we see God's rays of light through the clouds. Look up - see those rays of sunlight! Give and think of others, and God will think of you."



"Blessed are the peacemakers . . ." wisdom from Linda Grady, OFS, Regional Councilor, Northeast

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God (Mt 5:9)."

And from St. Francis:

"Those people are truly peacemakers who, regardless of what they suffer in the world, preserve peace of spirit and body out of love for our Lord Jesus Christ (Admonition 15)."

We are all called to be peacemakers, as Christ stated in the Sermon on the Mount. As Franciscans, we are called to do all good things "out of love for our Lord Jesus Christ." St. Francis lived his life this way and encourages us to do as well.

How do we preserve this peace of spirit and body? We begin all things with the sign of the cross, that is, through prayer. Time alone to be with our God. To be still in the silence and know that He is God. To adore Him in the Blessed Sacra



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. BONIFACE FRATERNITY

Kris Swank, OFS 8/1/17



ment. To read the Gospel and live it. To be gentle to all creatures. To promote peace in our families and in the world by our example. If we truly do these acts out of love for God and our Lord Jesus Christ, we will find peace in spirit and body, and find that our corner of the world has a little more peace, as well.



Interested in Joining other Franciscans
on a Pilgrimage to Assisi ????

October 8—18, 2018

Price and more information available soon

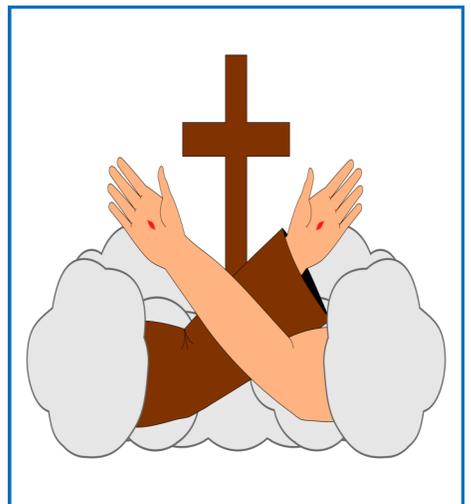
Get your name on the tentative pilgrim list

Sr. Agnes Marie, OSF

agnes.marie.regan@gmail.com

574.259.5427

One Franciscan friar, one Diocesan priest plus fourteen other pilgrims already registered



Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity—Secular Franciscan Order



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

OLI-Region-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



Your Regional Newsletter Staff

John Cheeseman, OFS

Mary Mitchell, OFS

Sr. Agnes Marie, OSF

Regional Counselors

Dates to Remember

2017

Sep 17: Feast of the Stigmata of Our Holy Father St. Francis

Oct 3: Transitus in Honor of the Passing of St. Francis

Oct 4: Celebration of the Feast of St. Francis

Oct 14: Regional Executive Council

Nov 11: Fall Chapter of Mats

Nov 17: St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Patroness of the Third Order

Nov 24: Commemoration of all the Deceased of the Seraphic Order

Nov 29: All Saints of the Seraphic Order

2018 — **Tentative**

Feb 10: Regional Executive Council

Mar 10: Spring Formation Directors Workshop

Apr 14: Spring Chapter of Mats

Jun 8-10: Regional Pastoral/Fraternal Visitation

Jul 14: Annual Candidates Day Away

Aug 11: Unity Day

Sep 8: Fall Formation Directors Workshop

Oct 13: Regional Executive Council

Nov 10: Fall Chapter of Mats