



Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity

Secular Franciscan Order

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

March 2019

Volume 6, Issue 1

"See Christ, Be Christ, Share the Vision!"

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



The Lord give you peace! This has been a hard column to write. In fact, I have put it off - I'm sure - to the exasperation of our newsletter editor! Why so difficult? Because this is my last column as an elected member of the Regional Executive Council. I have served in some capacity for twenty-four years, and it has been a joy, a blessing, and a source of grace. But there are new and exciting things in the future for the (soon to be) newly elected Regional Executive Council and the Regional Fraternity as a whole. The Chapter of Elections will be held April 13 and I ask you to remember the process in prayer.

The greatest joys over the years have been when new fraternities form - and the greatest sadness is when fraternities become deactivated due to lack of leadership and declining member numbers. Personally, my own fraternity, established in 1989, deactivated this past Fall. The remaining members have transferred into a nearby welcoming fraternity. It was a sad, painful experience for us, as we have been together for a long time.

Formation has always been my first love, and we have worked hard to establish workshops for both Formation Teams (in the Spring) and Candidates (in the Fall). This also includes Unity Day, which is something we felt strongly about since the beginning of regionalization. The informative presentations and the availability of formation materials over the years has been a source of joy and pride. Again, it can only improve with the newly elected council and their fresh ideas.

Lent is upon us - shall we talk about prayer, fasting, and alms giving? I am sure you will be hearing about that in your parishes. Remem-

ber - Francis celebrated three Lents a year - can we even celebrate one properly? I hear people talking about social media fasts and dessert fasts and electronic fasts and the like. I especially enjoy hearing people talk about what they will be **doing** for Lent, rather than what they will be giving up. I am looking forward to another go around of two books - Matthew Kelly's *Rediscover Lent* and John Kruse's *Lent and Easter Wisdom from St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi*.

It has been my privilege to serve you. Thank you for the honor. You have blessed me in ways unimaginable.



There isn't space enough or words enough to thank Kathleen White and Dave Dieringer for their selfless service to Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity and to the entire Secular Franciscan Order. May God's generous blessings on them do what we cannot begin to do.

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What We Have Promised to Live . . .

CONSTITUTIONS: Article 3

1. The secular state characterizes the spirituality and the apostolic life of those belonging to the OFS.
2. Their secularity, with respect to vocation and to apostolic life, expresses itself by "... building up the Kingdom of God by their presence in their life-situations and temporal activities ... inspired by the gospel options of St.

Francis of Assisi. Committing themselves to continue his mission with the other components of the Franciscan Family.

3. The vocation to the OFS is a vocation to live the Gospel in fraternal communion. For this purpose the members of the OFS gather in ecclesial communities which are called fraternities."

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Kathleen White, OFS : Regional Minister

Barb Braley, OFS: Regional Vice-Minister

Sharon Roberts, OFS: Regional Secretary

Lisa Cook, OFS: former Regional Treasurer

Dave Dieringer, OFS :

Regional Formation Director

Regional Councilors: Linda Grady, OFS,

Sharon Marmalejo, OFS, and Richard Cain, OFS

Regional Spiritual Assistant:

Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF:

JPIC: Jack Hill, OFS



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

A Reflection for Lent from St. Francis's "Letter to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance"

But all those men and women who are not doing penance and do not receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and live in vices and sin and yield to evil concupiscence and to the wicked desires of the flesh, and do not observe what they have promised to the Lord, and are slaves to the world, in their bodies, by carnal desires and the anxieties and cares of this life (cf. Jn 8:41).

These are blind, because they do not see the true light, our Lord Jesus Christ; they do not have spiritual wisdom because they do not have the Son of God who is the true wisdom of the Father. Concerning them, it is said, "Their skill was swallowed up" (Ps 107:27) and "cursed are those who turn away from your commands" (Ps 119:21). They see and acknowledge; they know and do bad things and knowingly destroy their own souls.

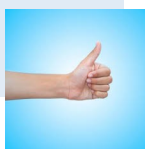
All those into whose hands this letter shall have come we ask in the charity that is God (cf. 1 Jn 4:17) to accept kindly and with divine love the fragrant words of our Lord Jesus Christ quoted above. And let those who do not know how to read have them read to them.



And may they keep them in their mind and carry them out, in a holy manner to the end, because they are "spirit and life" (Jn 6:64)."

Prologue to the "Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order"

Getting it Right



It's amazing to think how one single man who was inspired to live an entirely different life from the one he had known, has inspired so many people to follow in his footsteps. Even after 800+ years, people of all backgrounds are still influenced by Francis' way of life. Because he chose to say yes to God's call, his actions established an Order that has spread throughout the world doing so many good and positive actions. Because we too have chosen to say yes to God's call as a Secular Franciscan, the challenges we encounter in to-

day's world are many and sometimes complex. But it also affords us many joys because of our vocation. St. Francis inspired us to live out the Gospel life, and the forming of our spiritual life should never end. Our Franciscan vocation is affirmed by living out the Rule of our Order which we professed, and our gratitude for the gift of our vocation should reflect some of the words taken from the testament of St. Clare: *"We must consider the wonderful gifts that God has showered upon us, especially those He has seen fit to develop in us through his beloved servant, our blessed father Francis, not only after our conversion*

but while we had been living in the vanities of the world. The Lord has called us to this way of life, and we must be a mirror and example to those whom we come in daily contact." St. Clare got it right, and as we continue our Franciscan journey in this life, may we get it right too.

Sharon Marmalejo, OFS

Northwest Councilor



From a Letter to the Third Order from the Poor Clares

"In 1215, Pope Innocent III called the Fourth Lateran Council because he saw an impoverished Church and the necessity of an urgent reform. He invoked the prophet Ezekiel, the messenger of God's pardon for all those signed with the TAU, and he invited all Christians to accept the TAU as a sign of the urgent spiritual renewal needed in the Church.

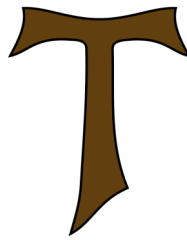
"The TAU," said Pope Innocent, "is the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, a symbol of the humility in which the Gospel was founded and the proper sign for the sons of poverty. The TAU has exactly the same form as the Cross to which Christ was nailed. It is only through the sign of the Cross and the mortification of the flesh that people will obtain mercy and accept the life of the Crucified."

It had been nine years since Francis had chosen the evangelical life and he had never seen so clearly before what his mode of life ought to be as when he heard the Pope's declaration. He was elated and therefore made the TAU his own coat of arms and the emblem of his Order. He selected it as the symbol of his

vocation and his love for the Person of Christ. With it he marked the places where he lived and the letters that he wrote and he wanted his friars to use it.

Today the TAU with its foundations in the Old Testament can be a sign and a reminder to all of what the Church expects of us as Christians. For every Franciscan there is a tremendous emphasis to be part of the inheritance left us by St. Francis in that symbol. It ought to signify the pledge engraved in our hearts to follow the Crucified in a totally dedicated evangelical life."

Thank you and God bless you, dear Poor Clare Sisters, for such a beautiful reminder.



April 16



Renewal of Vows for all Members of the Franciscan Order

Anniversary of Profession of
St. Francis in 1209

"... I promise to live the Gospel of
Our Lord Jesus Christ ..."

Franciscan Trivia

- In what year was St. Francis born? _____
- How many chapters are in the Third Order Secular Rule? _____
- In which basilica can you visit the Portiuncula? _____
- Who is the Minister General of the Secular Third Order? _____
- Where did St. Francis hear the words, "Go rebuild my church"? _____
- What does "Rivo Torto" mean? _____
- What was Francis's mother's name? _____
- Who was Francis's first companion? _____
- In which church is the baptismal font where St. Francis and St. Clare were baptized located? _____
- The present Pauline Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order was approved when? _____
- Where did St. Francis reenact the Christmas story? _____
- Where was Francis taken prisoner as a young man? _____

Answers on page 7

Reflection from Barb Braley OFS, Vice-Minister OLI

The letters of St. Clare to St. Agnes of Prague contain some of the most beautiful theology ever written. I am especially partial to the second and third letters.

In the second letter, Clare writes, "Most noble Queen, **gaze, consider, contemplate** desiring to **imitate** your Spouse, [Who] though more beautiful than the children of men became, for your salvation, the lowest of men, was despised, struck, scourged untold times throughout His entire body, and then died amid the suffering of the Cross" (bold mine) (Clare of Assisi: The Lady, page 49).

Then, in the third letter, she writes, "Place your mind before the **mirror of eternity!** Place your soul in the brilliance of glory! Place your heart in the figure of the divine substance and, **through contemplation, transform your entire being into the image of the Godhead Itself,** so that you may feel what friends feel in tasting the hidden sweetness that, from the beginning, God Himself has reserved for His lovers (bold mine) (ibid, page 51).

First of all, these two passages are best when they are read together. They really form one thought.

Second, a look at the bolded words in the second letter is in order. To gaze is to look at something intently, deeply. In this case, we are gazing upon Christ Crucified. For Clare, this would have meant the San Damiano crucifix. Yes, THE San Damiano crucifix. The **gaze** is not just a quick glance or at the artistic details, but to really SEE Christ Crucified. To **consider** the Crucified Christ means to think deeply about what the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus is really all about: the depth of his love, the mercy of God, the salvation of us all. To **contemplate** is to enter into one's inner temple where we encounter the living God personally. This is a profound experience that cannot be described or explained because it is intensely personal. However, it is NOT sitting there doing nothing. It is a letting go of our own agendas and letting God have his way with us. (It is one of the least understood and, I would dare to say, the least practiced articles of



our Rule. See article 8). Finally, to **imitate** Christ isn't merely duplication of his actions. True imitation is to conform our hearts, minds, and wills to Christ, like St. Paul admonishes us in Philippians 2:5-11.

So, to combine the bolded words and phrases, we read something like this: Gaze into the mirror of eternity, consider Christ, contemplate, and imitate Him through the transformation of your entire being into the image of the Godhead itself, that is Christ. In other words, what we should see in the mirror of eternity is the face of Christ and our own faces become one image: Christ. Is that not what it means to be truly Christian: Christ in the world? St. Teresa of Avila, the great Carmelite mystic and Doctor of the Church, said, in essence, "Christ has no eyes but ours, no hands or feet but ours."

Our great challenge, therefore, is to be Christ in, with, and for the world. St. Francis and St. Clare did this, and we have professed (or hopefully will profess one day) to follow in their footsteps, which were following in Christ's footsteps.

Pax et Bonum!

T T

NATIONAL PRIORITIY 2019– 2021

Fraternity Life

1. Deepening our Franciscan Vocation
2. Growing in Fraternal Communion
3. Cultivating Universal Kinship

Questions to discuss with your brothers and sisters:

- How can we implement these goals in our local community?
- How can we motivate those who do not feel connected to fraternity?
- How can we reach out to others?



Lent on an Island . . . with Snakes????

For us pilgrims, it was a pleasant ride on a sun-shine-filled morning as we crossed the narrow waterway from a dock near Perugia to Isola Maggiore. This island, in the center of Lago Trasimeno, is the one which *The Little Flowers of St. Francis* tells us was the place of silence, solitude and prayer on which St. Francis spent one Lent. His only "baggage" for the journey — a small jug of water and two loaves of bread! At the end of his Lenten journey, Francis had only eaten part of one of the small loaves as he didn't want to appear better than Jesus who had fasted for forty days and nights.



For us modern day pilgrims, with the reading of that account and a blessing for the day, we were sent out to spend the day with only God as our companion, in prayer, solitude and reflection. Each of us was handed a small bag with two loaves of bread, a bottle of water and given the entire island as a place to explore and to find a suitable place to commune with our God.

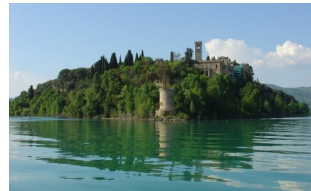
None of us could have moved more than a few steps away when the quiet was punctuated by a fearful scream. There draped across the pathway, was an island resident: a 12 to 14 inch snake. At said point, I was finished with this romantic day-on-an-island-imitating St. Francis and was ready to swim back to the mainland! However, our pilgrimage leaders assured us these were a non-poisonous garden-variety of "critters" and so, still not too reassured, we all disappeared in various directions carefully

watching where we placed our feet.

My path took me past a very old abandoned turret-like structure and up a hill where I came upon a very large, very old, windowless, doorless building which I proceeded to explore. Inside was a large room with a baby grand piano covered with dust, a room that probably had served as a chapel, and other pieces of dust-covered and decaying items of furniture. There was so much to explore, but better sense and the wish to do what I came to the island for took over and I left. Later, I learned the building, built at the time of Napoleon, had served as a Franciscan friary, a home for a large family after the Friars left, and then abandoned.



But, ah! Finally I settled at a lovely spot overlooking the lake and allowed the beauty of that setting to sense what assuredly Francis had experienced in this lovely spot in the middle of a gorgeous lake: the presence of the One who created all of it and Who was the only companion Francis whose company he enjoyed during his forty day Lenten journey. Yes, indeed, He was still here once I settled on a comfortable big rock and listened. First, to the waves slapping up against the shoreline, and, secondly, to His still small voice deep within speaking as only He can.



This year, I won't be blest with spending Lent on Isola Maggiore or any other island, and I suspect that none of you will be so blest either. But I hope that somehow in the midst of the unstoppable, crazy madness of our never quiet, never still world it will be possible to find small islands of stillness, silence, and beauty where God's spirit can touch our hearts as surely it touched the heart of Francis.

As a Spiritual Assistant, one of the best gifts I can give to our brothers and sisters is to encourage them also to find "islands" of silence, stillness, and solitude for communing with our God in prayer. Lent and prayer, as Pope Francis has recently written, is not about words and adding more prayers, but it is in coming to never deeper personal relationship with our God in stillness where an ever deeper personal relationship with Him can grow and deepen.

Where are the islands in our world? It may be our sunporch, the den, our parish church, a quiet hillside, a place by a running stream, the inside of our car (without the radio on), the kitchen table early in the morning with a hot cup of coffee while the rest of the house still sleeps, etc. etc. But find an "island" we must if our prayer is to have depth and if it is to be a personal encounter with God who is also waiting to be with us.

And we may find "snakes" along the path: that is, all the distractions within us and around us that block our paths from going forward. They may also be all the huge "turrets", that mountain of things we have to get done that keep us from slowing down and just BEING with our God. They may be all the responsibilities and tasks imposed upon us by our ever-restless world. But identify them, we must and we must help our charges to do the same. If we are to be the "rebuilders" we must follow in the footsteps of our Holy Father Francis and "come away to a quiet place" where we can once more hear His voice calling to "come rebuild my Church" which, sadly, seems to be just as much in need of rebuilding now as in the time of our Holy Father St. Francis.

Con't on page 6

Some Thoughts for our Lenten Journey:

Lessons from Puff

*The following reflection is from Tina Popiela, OFS, Formation Director of **OUR LADY OF LOURDES FRATERNITY:***

As we face another Lenten season, we are confronted with the dreaded list of resolutions — giving up candy, going to Mass, serving at the soup kitchen, etc. This year I would like to suggest that we think about the following. Although those goals are important, we should also look at our relationship with God. Most of us have often told God that we give our life over to Him, but do we really mean it. Are there areas of our life that we want to keep to ourselves?



Consider a chapter of the "Parable of Puff." As you may know, Puff is my cat. He came to us as a tiny foundling from the means stress of Griffith. All of 15 ounces and about four weeks old, he was using a pie tin as a littler box. Frightened and unsure, he retreated to the back of the carrier and could not be coaxed out. We tilted the carrier and called to him, but he only went further back. Finally when all else failed, I put some food in a dish and put it just outside the carrier. Slowly and tentatively, he came to the food. Once outside, he began to explore and became quite excited with his new surroundings.

Puff would have been quite happy to stay in the carrier. It

seemed familiar and safe. However he would have missed out on the opportunity for a loving forever home. Many times we do the same thing. We put up barriers around ourselves. We want to stay inside our carriers where we feel safe and familiar. But God calls us to come out, but He does not force us. He also gives us food so that we may do his work. He wants to show us new opportunities. Jesus tells us not to put our light under a basket.

We can also take an example from St. Francis. He was set to be a knight, to take over the family business and probably make a good marriage. But God was calling to him, telling him to break out from those restraints. Finally, he threw off his armor and put down his weapons. Then before everyone, he took off everything that held him back from answering God's call.

So we too must break out of the walls we have put around ourselves and come out of our "carriers". Think about what holds you back: fear, shyness, unworthiness, insecurity? Go ahead, make a Lenten resolution to try something new!

So what happened to Puff? He is now five years old and weights 15 pounds, a sweet and fluffy cat bringing joy in my life.

"Let us begin", brothers and sisters, "for up to now we've done nothing."

Con't from page 5

And we need to brush away the dustiness and brokenness inside our "structures" — personal, communal, and fraternal. Spiritual cobwebs and dust are best removed with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and some serious acts of self denial and penance. But the silence, stillness, and solitude of daily prayer especially during the privileged time of Lent is the cement, the glue, that will hold the project together for the Church, for the Franciscan Order, and for each of us individually. "To the praise of Jesus Christ and the little poor man Francis. Amen (as the writer, Thomas of Celano, of the "Little Flowers" concludes)."

Please treat yourself, and perhaps your brothers and sisters, to re-reading the story of Francis's Lent on Isola Maggiore. It may be found in "The Little Flowers of St. Francis", FA:ED, Vol. 3, pp. 578-579.



News and Views from Around our Region

ST. BONIFACE FRATERNITY:



On Sunday, January 27, 2019, Fr. Mark Walter OFS, and Karen Sullivan, OFS, made their Permanent Profession of the Gospel Life in the presence of St. Boniface Fraternity, Carolyn Pruitt, OFS, Minister and Fr. Tim Alkire, pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Lafayette. Our fraternal prayers and congratulations go with Fr. Mark and Karen.

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY is experiencing a delightful dilemma: in their recent newsletter, the following announcement appeared: "Because the Lord has blest us with more people interested in St. Francis, we have outgrown our current meeting place in the Sacred Heart Friary. Beginning with our January 27th meeting, we will be gathering at Good Shepherd Catholic Church". Congratulations to you and may the spirits of St. Francis and St. Clare and the Holy Spirit guide you in forming these interested good people.

Linda Grady, OFS, Formation Director of **LADY CLARE FRATERNITY** shared this beautiful thought: "Seems like yesterday we were worried about whether our computers would survive midnight at the turn of the century, and now we are nearly two decades into the 3rd millennium! But no matter how quickly the years go by, or how much things change in our lives, we can take comfort in knowing that our God is timeless, unchangeable, and holds all of this — and us, in the palm of His hand."

Several fraternities are looking ahead to celebrating the Profession of Candidates:

St. Charles Fraternity on May 19, 2019: Barb Cain, OFS, Su Homan, OFS, and Deb Davis, OFS.

Immaculate Conception on June 15, 2019: John Hurley, OFS, Joan Keller, OFS, and Amivi Gbologan, OFS.

Let us praise and thank God for the gift of vocation to the Franciscan family that He has given to these good people. "He is Good, all Good, supreme Good!"

Let us know if your fraternity is also celebrating the Professions of brothers and sisters soon.

UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS OF THE OFS:

National Formation Initiatives Workshop, which will take place April 4—7, 2019 in Latham, New York. This is a follow-up to the meeting held last August in Kansas City. Please check the present issue of TAU (pp.13-14) for further information.

Our Life-Giving Union: Discernment and Discussion to be held at the Mercy Center in St. Louis, MO, from August 26—29, 2019.

IMPORTANT REGIONAL MEETING: "Unity Day" in Kokomo on August 3, 2019, for all members of the Secular Franciscan Order of Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity. **PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!**

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRATERNITY invites you to join them in concluding their "60th Anniversary of Founding" by joining them for a ride on the Dixie Queen at Lake Webster, IN, on Saturday, June 22, 2019. The approximate two hour ride will be followed by a pot-luck picnic in the nearby pavilion by the lake. Hot popcorn available on the boat as we sail

and hear the fascinating history of the area. Cost of ride: \$7.00! Cost of picnic: pot luck! Cost of fraternity . . . can't be calculated!



IMPORTANT PRAYER REQUEST: Please remember in your prayers to the Holy Spirit for guidance on April 13, 2019, for the Regional Election Chapter to be held at St. Joan of Arc Church in Kokomo. May the Spirit be present on both the electors and those chosen by the Holy Spirit to guide Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity for the next three years.



Answers to Franciscan Trivia

1. 1182±; 2. Three; 3. St. Mary of the Angeles; 4. Tibor Kausar, OFS; 5. San Damiano; 6. "Twisted River"; 7. Pica Bernadone; 8. Bernardo da Quintavalle; 9. San Rufino; 10. June 24, 1978; 11. Greccio; 12. Collestrada.

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

My JPIC piece in the December 2018 OLIRF Newsletter covered aspects of PEACE found in the 2018 version of the Animators Handbook. Two PEACE Principles don't get as much attention in our world, and, in fact, in our fraternity: Empathy and Active Listening.

Empathy involves understanding or feeling what another person is experiencing. As the Handbook explains, it involves putting yourself in the shoes of another. This capacity to imagine yourself in their place must be practiced and developed, especially when experiences vary so much.

Ask yourself if you are wholly present with the other and what they are experiencing. Can this happen if you are not communicating and collaborating, or if you are disposed to prepare and point to the ANSWER before you know what the QUESTION is?

Active Listening is closely related to Empathy, I believe. Both concepts relate to how we handle emotions that humans have. The Handbook indicates:

From Dave Dieringer, OFS,
Regional Formation Director

THE CAUSE...

What would you do for a cause you believe in? Donate money? Put in volunteer hours? Travel to distance locations for your cause? Protest in front of television cameras for the whole world to see you? Go to jail? Die?



"When we hear, we hear with just the ears. When we listen, we listen with the whole body – ears, eyes, heart, posture, mind – open and empty. Many people wrongly assume that listening is a passive process of being silent while another person speaks. We may even believe that we are good listeners, but what we are often doing is listening selectively, making judgments about what is being said, thinking of ways to end the conversation or redirect the conversation in ways more pleasing to ourselves."

Let's not get ahead of the process. Choose an appropriate time and place. Agree to NOT use "trigger words". Give undivided attention and pick up body language. Seek shared meaning, not total agreement.

Empathy and Active Listening, as the Handbook concludes in the Peace Prayer, calls us to understand, then to be understood.



Die for a cause? What a ridiculous idea! No one does that anymore. BUT our father Francis did go to extraordinary lengths to fulfill his cause. The cause that God entrusted to Francis, was made known to him gradually, and often in mysterious ways. When Francis was in Puglia on a military mission, he heard the voice of God telling him to return to Assisi and he would be told what to do. He returned to Assisi at once. He was thought to be a coward. Yet, God directed him through an an



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)."

For all deceased members of the three Franciscan Orders. May they be found in the Holy presence of the Lord with St. Francis, St. Clare, and all the saints.

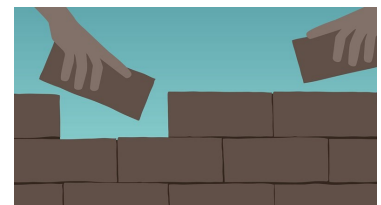
cient icon of Christ, the crucified, to rebuild the church. The SAME directions we, as followers of Francis and the Crucified, have today! We ARE called to rebuild the church from within, which is in the hearts and minds of the people of God. We are called to listen to the voice of grace and then follow those promptings of the Holy Spirit to do untold good for our church and His people.

So, my dear sisters and brothers; my question to you is: to what extreme are you willing to do for the cause? We need to be willing to do all it takes to rebuild the church. Francis did!

Dave

Regional Formation Director

Peace and all good!



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



Also like/follow on us Facebook

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

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

2019 Dates to Remember

January: No scheduled events

February 9: Regional Executive Council: Kokomo

March 9: Formation Directors: Kokomo

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

June 8: Regional Executive Council: TBD

July: No scheduled events

August 3: Unity Day: St. Joan of Arc: Kokomo: EVERYONE invited to this annual celebration of Franciscan Fraternity

September 14: Candidates Day Away: TBD

October 12: Regional Executive Council: TBD

November 9: Chapter of "Mats": TBD

December: No scheduled events

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A Lenten Message from Our Holy Father, Pope Francis



The Pope's Lenten message was released on Tuesday during a press conference at the Holy See Press Office. The theme chosen this year is *"For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God"* (Rom 8:19)

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, *6 March*, and will conclude on Holy Saturday, *20 April*, the day before Easter. "Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus' Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them".

This is one of the key passages of Pope Francis' Lenten Message for 2019. Reflecting on a verse from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, the Pope highlights how the season before Easter must be a time to "welcome Christ's victory over sin and death into our lives", and attract "its transforming power to all of creation"

Q



uinquennial

Sheraton Grand Hotel
Phoenix, AZ
August 18—22, 2021