



Our Lady of Indiana

Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity

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

June 2019

Volume 6, Issue 2

"See Christ, Be Christ, Share the Vision"

Our Regional Prayer

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.

The Challenge of Beginnings . . .

May the Lord give you peace!

It's always an interesting thing to have a change in leadership. We know what we have done, but what will we do now? What will change? How much will change? Will we like/approve of these changes?

We recently discussed this very thing at the Regional Executive Council meeting. Change is hard sometimes, but necessary for continued growth.

I was reminded of when I was a student pastor (before I became a Catholic, of course) and my District Superintendent came to celebrate Communion in the three churches where I was appointed. On the drive to the first church that morning, we were talking about going to a new place and he gave me some advice that I have never forgotten. In essence, it was that when you go into a new church and see a dead dog lying under the front pew, before you move it, first check to see whose it is and how

long it's been there. In other words, don't turn everything upside down.

We start with a vision. What do we want our Regional Fraternity to become? How does this relate to the local fraternities? Going the other direction, how does it relate to the National and International fraternities?

I'm going to start with the new National priority for the next three years: fraternity life. The three areas of focus will be 1) deepening our Franciscan vocation; 2) growing in fraternal communion; and, 3) cultivating universal kinship. The role of formation in deepening our vocation can never be underestimated. We have a very gifted Regional Formation Director in Tim Short, and he already has some ideas in mind. Some of these ideas relate to communion between the local fraternities and the regional fraternity. We will need to

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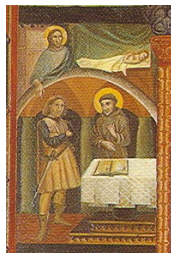


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Every Secular Franciscan in Our Lady of Indiana Region may submit an article or picture to share with your brothers and sisters.

What We Have Promised to Live . . .



"Gaining inspiration from the example and the writings of Francis and, above all, filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit, each day the brothers and sisters faithfully live the great gift which Christ has given:

the revelation of the Father. They should bear witness to this faith before all:

— in their family life;

- in their work;
- in their joys and sufferings
- in their associations with all men and women, brothers and sisters of the same Father;
- in the presence and participation in the life of society;
- in their fraternal relationships with all creatures."

General Constitution,
Art. 12, #1



REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Barb Braley, OFS : Regional Minister
 Cyndi Pilot OFS: Regional Vice-Minister
 Sharon Roberts, OFS: Regional Secretary
 Susan Knight, OFS: Regional Treasurer
 Tim Short, OFS : Regional Formation Director

Regional Councilors: Linda Grady, OFS,
 Richard Cain, OFS, Erin Gigli, OFS

JPIC: Jack Hill, OFS,
 Regional Spiritual Assistants:
 Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF
 Kathleen White, OFS

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explore the possibilities regarding universal kinship.

Also, 2021 will mark the 8th centenary of the Rule of 1221. This Rule, or Way of Life, changed so much in Francis' day, and the Franciscan family of today are its inheritors. How has it changed over the ensuing 800 years? How can we look more deeply into our Rule – and our Constitutions – as OUR way of penance?

I am looking forward to serving in our regional fraternity over the next three years.

Pax et Bonum!

Barb
 Regional Minister

You are holy, Lord, the only God,
 and Your deeds are wonderful.
 You are strong.
 You are great.
 You are the Most High.
 You are Almighty.
 You, Holy Father are King of heaven and earth.
 You are Three and One, Lord God, all Good.
 You are Good, all Good, supreme Good, Lord God, living and true.
 You are love. You are wisdom.
 You are humility. You are endurance.
 You are rest. You are peace.
 You are joy and gladness.
 You are justice and moderation.
 You are all our riches, and You suffice for us.
 You are beauty.
 You are gentleness.
 You are our protector.
 You are our guardian and defender.
 You are our courage. You are our haven and our hope.
 You are our faith, our great consolation. — St. Francis

Would we be Happy to see Jesus Right Now?

At a recent Regional Executive Council meeting, our brand new Regional Formation Director, Tim Short, OFS, was reflecting on the gospel reading from John 21:3-7, where, when the apostles realized it was Jesus standing on the shore, Peter was so excited to see the Lord, he jumped into the water at once and swam to shore to greet Jesus.

It caused me to think about how excited my two dogs are every time my wife or I return home after any amount of time. They are so happy that they wag their whole

bodies almost to the point of falling down. I think this is the way Peter must have felt when he saw the Lord on shore. He was overcome with happiness and an urgent need to be with Jesus. It makes me wonder how I would react if I suddenly saw Jesus somewhere on the street, or walk into the room I am in, or anywhere else. Would I be overcome with happiness, and run to greet our Lord and Savior? OR, would I be ashamed and embarrassed, perhaps hiding myself from him, because I am not worthy to be in his presence, because I am such a sinner?

Although we are all sinners, and we know that our Holy Father, and our Lord Jesus, will always accept us through repentance, time after time, it may be difficult to look them face

to face knowing they know our innermost thoughts and actions.

So, let us live our lives as we ought to, in the light, not the darkness, and as if we might meet our Lord Jesus Christ in person at any time. Because you never know, we might. Will we hide in shame, or will we hold our heads high, and run to greet him happily and unembarrassed. I hope I react as my beloved dogs do, wagging their tails and bodies out of sheer joy and happiness that we are home. And we will indeed be home someday.

Rich Cain, OFS
 Regional Councilor



Franciscan Parables from Puff . . and sometimes Squeaky

Christine Popiela, OFS, is the Formation Minister for Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity in Cedar Lake.

I recall a verse from the Old Testament where the people ask, "Where is the will of God. Is it in the heavens or over the sea? Who will go and get it for us? But the answer is very simple. Here it is right in front of you. God is not distant or unreachable. All our relationships and interactions are founded on God. And so I present some parables for our everyday lives from my two cats, Puff and Squeaky. I thought it would be nice to have a sweet picture of Puff lying peacefully at the feet of St. Francis. You see this a lot in pictures and statues of Francis with various animals. Although it is rare to see one with Francis and a cat.



Well so much for my sweet picture! I'm sure we have all heard Sinatra sing "I Did It My Way." I think this is the national anthem of cats. As you can see, they have a mind of their own. This also seems to be a virtue in our culture. The independent one who breaks the rules is always the hero in many of our movies.

Adam and Eve wanted it their way. You know how that worked out. Rebekah liked Jacob better, so they cheated Esau out of his birthright. Jacob was exiled and Esau married some Hittite girl. Rebekah never saw Jacob again. The Pharaoh resisted God's command

and was plagued for the rest of his life. Every time the Israelites fell away from the Covenant, they got trounced. Even Francis started out doing it his way. God said, "Rebuild my church." Ok, so he grabbed some stones to repair the church. Soon Francis realized that there was more to this than the physical act of rebuilding a building. Francis only made sense of his life when he gave up his will and gave his life to doing God's will.

So we must ask ourselves, when have we become stubborn and insisted on doing things our way? When have we resisted what God wants from us? Are we truly faithful to our rule and our faith, or do we like to tweak things a bit to fit what we want?

Have we challenged God? As Jesus hung on the cross, one of the crucified cries out, "If you are the Son of God, save yourself and us!" This is a challenge for God to prove Himself. How do you feel when you pray, but things don't turn out the way you want? Our fraternity recently experienced this. Our sister Rose's cancer came back. We all prayed for her recovery, but God called her home on Easter Sunday. Accepting God's will is not always easy.

Puff has asthma. This season seems to be a difficult one for asthma sufferers. Puff was having a difficult time and his medicine was not helping much. We decided to take him to the vet to be sure there wasn't an infection as well. First, try stuffing a 15 pound Maine Coon into the carrier. Then

listen to him yowl all the way to the office. Finally, I kind of sit on him because he fights me when I try to get him to use the inhaler. This is not what he wants. He would rather hide behind the couch. He doesn't realize that what we are doing is helping him.

Do we resist fitting ourselves into God's will? Many times we not want to go where He is taking us. Do we complain and lose heart when we don't get our way? Can we use suffering or disappointment as a means to grow in faith, or do we pout and hide behind the couch? We may not like the medicine, but we will not get better without it. Has God ever 'sat' on you to get you to hold still? God knows what is best for us. He sees the big picture. He takes us where we need to go. He gives us what we need.

"True strength is not found in being stubborn or arrogant. It is found in allowing the Holy Spirit to dwell in one's heart so that one might be open to the Spirit's promptings. It is the Spirit who frees us from our selfishness, for the Spirit reminds us that God is supposed to be the center of who we are and what we do." (Rev. Jude Winkler, OFM)



The Question is not, "What's in Your Pocket? But, "Where are your Franciscan Feet?"



In a recent meditation, we reflected on one of the Giotto frescoes in the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi. The dream of Pope Innocent III shows St. Francis firmly holding up the crumbling Lateran Basilica on his shoulder.

The meaning is quite clear: Innocent was being shown that Francis was the one chosen to help confront the evils of the day by his belief in the Church and his fidelity to its teachings. Giotto chose to show this steadfastness of faith by painting Francis' feet planted firmly within the corner structure of the edifice.



Pope Innocent surely knew, as did Francis, that the multiplicity of evils both in the Church and in the society around them were pernicious, evil, satanic and were eroding the very holiness of the Church. This sinfulness was also eroding the faith of the people and their belief in the Church. Sadly, some were choosing to walk away. But Thomas of Celano writes this about Francis:

"[Francis] put the faith of the Holy Roman Church above and beyond all things, preserving, honoring and following it, since the salvation of all who would be saved was found in it alone." ("The Life of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano", FA:ED, Vol. 1, p. 238)

Having received the commission of Jesus at San Damiano, "Go rebuild my Church," St. Francis chose to accept the challenge, not just of stone upon stone in the chapels he reconstructed, but above all of the conversion he personally needed, and secondly, of being of service to the Holy Father and the Church for the conversion needed there. No running away for him. Only the acceptance, as did St. Paul, of taking up the Cross and "preaching the word in season and out of season (2 Tim 4:2)."

As Franciscans, the same call from Jesus to "rebuild my Church" should be reverberating in our spiritual ears as it is our

call as it was his. The needs of the Church, our Mother in Faith, are no less critical today than during the 12th—13th centuries. The Church is just as much in need, not only of our prayer, our fidelity, and our willingness to remain faithful to our gift of Faith, but also our willingness to "rebuild" by whatever means we hold within our hands — prayer, sacrifice, evangelization, the example of faith and hope, etc. Indeed what has occurred has been heinously evil and painful for victims, but for all who love and treasure their Faith. Yes, we're all wounded from the evil inflicted upon the Church, but our holiness ("conversion") can be the only medicine to cure what has gone so catastrophically wrong.

Retreating into a re-construction of the Church's past ritually and/or linguistically, or a futuristic construction of a Church made to our own liking and choosing ("cafeteria style") are not acceptable solutions for a Franciscan. We are sometimes grieved and saddened by those who select one or the other of these modalities because of their discontent or woundedness, for they are also making a painful choice to abandon their fraternal bondedness to the Franciscan Order — something which, like their Baptismal promises, they professed before the Church and the Order. These words from the Constitution of the SFO, are painful for brothers and sisters left behind :

"The brother or sister who publicly rejects the faith, or defects from ecclesiastical communion . . . by the fact itself ceases to be a member of the Order (Constitution, Article 58:3)."

The sinfulness of others cannot be an excuse for our choices and directions. As Catholics and Franciscans, we have an ecclesial history, from the very beginning by murder of the Holy Innocents up to the present day of carnage by ISIS, of the saints and martyrs who chose death rather than be separated from Christ and the Church. The Franciscan martyrs of Morocco were instrumental in the vocation of St. Anthony to the Franciscan Order and our history is filled with brothers and sisters who remained faithful



despite the evils of their respective times, the 12th century or ours.

Please check out that fresco one more time: clearly Francis' feet are firmly within the foundation of the Church, but his eyes are looking upward. This is where our eyes need to be focused! On Jesus!

"Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection. For the sake of the joy which lay ahead of him, he endured the cross . . . then you will not lose heart and come to grief. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of bloodshed (Hebrews 12: 2—4)."

And, hopefully and prayerfully, Celano's words about Francis could be said about us, namely:

"The first work that blessed Francis undertook, after he had gained his freedom from the hands of his carnally-minded father, was to build a house of God. He did not try to build a new one, but he repaired on old one, restored an ancient one. He did not tear out the foundation, but he built upon it, always reserving to reserving to Christ his prerogative, although unaware of it, *for no one can lay another foundation, but that which has been laid, which is Christ Jesus.*" (FA:ED, Vol. 1, p. 196).

Hopefully Celano's words about Francis could be said of us, namely:

"[YOUR NAME] put the faith of the Holy Roman Church above and beyond all things, preserving, honoring and following it, since the salvation of all who would be saved was found in it alone." ("The Life of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano", FA:ED, Vol. 1, p. 238)."

So the question is not "What's in your pocket? But, "Where are your Franciscan feet?"



PEOPLE OF PEACE:

It was a year ago September but the point is still the same.

People of Peace Fraternity welcomed Mr. Eyas Raddad and Ms. Amreen Vora from Masjid Al-Fajr Mosque which is located just a couple of blocks from where we meet at Marian University to a meeting where they explained the Islamic perspective on social justice. It was interesting to see the similarities with the Catholic perspective and the seriousness with which their faithful support these efforts. They seemed genuinely pleased that we were interested and our members asked many questions.

In addition, when our Muslim neighbors and our Jewish neighbors were subjected to vandalism over the last couple of years, we have sent letters of support from our group. Jack Hill, the JPIC Chairman for OLIRF and our Formation Director has personally attended services regarding these confrontations to express our condolences.

We co-sponsored a screening of the movie "The Sultan and the Saint" at Marian University which was well-attended by community members and showed a whole new perspective on St. Francis' meeting with the Sultan. There is much we can learn from one another

Also from PEOPLE OF PEACE:

The lady in the wheelchair is Liz Stanton who recently received the Spirit of the Service Award from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.



lis. She is entering our new Inquiry class as soon as her recent heart attack recovery is complete. She is wonderful in her aid to the poor of our community. A few of the People of Peace attended the award banquet to lend our support. Pictured are: our secretary, Mary Shepherd, John Evans from our formation class, Jack Hill, our Formation Director, Liz and myself.

In other news, People of Peace will be meeting today with Sacred Heart Fraternity for Mass and profession of their two new members. It should be a lovely occasion. We hope to invite them soon to the profession our two new members! (Please keep Sr. Norma Rocklage in your prayers as she is at Oldenburg recovering from very serious abdominal surgery.

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE

On Sunday, June 9, 2019, the People of Peace Fraternity welcomed Sr. Norma back to their Gathering. She is their Spiritual Assistant and was sorely missed during her absence and recovery to health. What a delight and joy it was to have her back with her SFO Family.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRATERNITY: a reflection by Karen Gunter, OFS:

The day after my arrival in Tanzania I went to see the school we built. I knew we had a new Head Master so I was anxious to meet him. While I was sitting with him he looked at my TAU and said "I am a Franciscan too.". I was so pleased that he spoke up because I knew the school would be in good hands. I presented him with a new rosary which he gladly accepted.

Two days later we went to visit a little church that was being built near the convent. There were two priests in charge of building the church and I had several hundred rosaries for them. Shortly after arriving the younger priest looked at my TAU and said, "I am a Franciscan too". Once again that comfortable feeling came over me.

When we were getting ready to come home we went on a short safari. Just before starting we stopped for a bathroom break and as I was walking back to my truck a young man was leaning on his truck and when he saw my TAU he said "I am a Franciscan too".

I was half way around the world and had the absolute assurance I was always among friends!

News and Views from Around the Region, con't

ST. BONIFACE FRATERNITY

held a bingo game for the residents at Tippecanoe Villa on May 18th to assist residents with their cards. Afterwards, they shared a fraternal lunch at a nearby restaurant.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION'S



Lilia Barriga, OFS, and friends at St. Margaret's House in South Bend preparing a

meal for their residents. Lilia is sporting a big hat. She and this team serve those coming for respite care every Thursday.

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL FRATERNITY:

Celebrated the Profession of Elizabeth Mendez on April 7, 2019. She has been a wonderful example of what a Franciscan should be and we all love her as our sister in St. Francis.



Pictured from left to right: Father Moore, Elizabeth Mendez, OFS, Father Dan (Parish Priest), Sister Anita Holzmer OSF (Spiritual Assistant) Beth Herman, OFS (Formation Director), and Jean Wonderly, OFS (Minister).

PEOPLE OF

PEACE: John Evans, OFS, of People of Peace Fraternity sends his gratitude for those who have contributed eyeglasses for the needy in Honduras. They will be used for the parish members of *San Francesco de Asis*. Getting them to the those who need them will be difficult at the present time because of the demonstrations at the airport in Tegucigalpa, road blockages, and riots, but those supporting this mission are praying for peace and compassion and a return to civic order.

You can help this project by bringing glasses, sunglasses, reading glasses, etc. to Unity Day and John will be delighted to accept them for the folks in Honduras. He will have a box for collecting them.

Here is a listing of the types of eye-wear that can be used:

1. **Reading glasses (+1.00, +1.25, +1.50, +1.75 and +2.00 strengths especially).**
2. Sunglasses (prevent cataract development).
3. Eye drops (moisturizing, lubricating for redness relief). We have found the best price at Dollar Tree. These are only \$1 each (glasses or drops).
4. Prescription glasses (if not broken or badly scratched).



SACRED HEART FRATERNITY:

celebrated a Mass of Profession at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, May 5, 2019, and welcomed Lois Irwin, OFS, and Lloyd Louks, OFS, who made their permanent Profession. They were joined by a lovely contingent of brothers and sisters from People of Peace Fraternity for the celebration. Sacred Heart Fraternity also welcomed Margaret Gross and Esther Mupompa into Inquiry.

ST. CHARLES FRATERNITY:

On May 19, the St. Charles fraternity celebrated the permanent professions of Sue Hohman, Deb Davis, and Barb Cain at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Angola. Fr. Bob Showers, OFM Conv, was the celebrant and ecclesial witness and St. Charles Minister Katie Herendeen, OFS, received their professions. Pictured are, from left, Sue Hohman, OFS, Deb Davis, OFS, and Barb Cain, OFS.



News and Views from Around the Region, con't

ST. ANTHONY FRATERNITY:

At its May 22 gathering, St. Anthony Fraternity, Muncie, celebrated the Rite of Admission for the four people shown in the photograph, all proudly wearing their Taus (r. to l.): Carole Byrd, Donna Reed, Mary Rowlett, and Vincent Sirback. Minister Bill Fink, OFS, appears on the far left. With these four, St. Anthony Fraternity now has six candidates in various stages of initial formation.



Also, the fraternity is offering a new cycle of weekly "Franciscan Enrichment" programs during the summer months (Thursdays, June 6 – August 25), featuring the recorded lecture series by Br. Bill Short, OFM, entitled "Francis of Assisi: A New Way of Being Christian." These optional sessions are intended primarily for those of our people in initial formation who were not around on previous occasions when the series was presented, but all fraternity members and guests are welcome to attend. For ongoing formation at monthly gatherings, the fraternity will begin a discussion of the book *Clare of Assisi: A Heart Full of Love*, by Ilia Delio, OSF.

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS welcomed three persons into the Inquiry phase of Formation on Sunday, June 16, 2019, and are looking forward to the Profession of several persons in the Fall of the year. There are also several persons who are anxious to take their first steps in the Orientation Process.



Pictured are: Carol Bakker; Mike O'Donnell; Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF; Graciela Lemus; Ken Gembala. Not pictured are Sheila Lachcik and Francis Hussey also members of the Inquiry Class.



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).

PEOPLE OF PEACE FRATERNITY

Caryl Ziegler, OFS

Zeta Rosner, OFS

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.



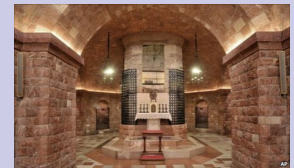
ASSISI PILGRIMAGE 2020

May 18—28, 2020

Details are available at the following website:

<https://www.catholicpilgrimoffice.com/franciscanpilgrimage>

If you wish to be placed on the "more information, please" list, please email or phone Sr. Agnes Marie, OSF (agnes.marie.regan@gmail.com). We already have a tentative list of forty pilgrims, including two Sisters and two Friars, but would love to add **YOUR** name! God is good!



Our Lady of Indiana Secular Franciscan Regional Fraternity



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

OLI-Region-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Also check us out on 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."

Dates to Remember

July: No scheduled events

August 3: Unity Day: St. Joan of Arc: Kokomo: EVERY SECULAR FRANCISCAN IN OUR LADY OF INDIANA REGION is invited to this annual celebration of Franciscan Fraternity. Speaker for the day: Fr. Robert Showers, OFM Conv, Pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Angola.

October 12: Regional Executive Council: Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Huntington

November 9: Chapter of Mats: Kokomo

December: No scheduled events

Please note: other events will be scheduled by the newly elected Regional Council.

August 18—22, 2021: "Q" Sheraton Grand Hotel, Phoenix AZ. Start saving your pennies . . .



Don't you wish "Somebody up there" would love Indiana?



"Somebody up there must love me."

www.brotherjuniper.com

Dear God, are you listening?

The following quotation from our Holy Father, Pope Francis was submitted by Jean Wonderly, OFS from St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity:



"We have prayed for peace in words inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, who was so greatly in love with God the Creator and Father of all. A love that he showed with similar passion and deep respect for the beauty of creation and for all those whom he encountered on his pilgrim way. A love that changed his way of seeing things and helped him to realize that in everyone there is 'a clicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and one, we are infinitely loved.' (Evangelii Gaudium, 6).