



# Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity



## Secular Franciscan Order

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

June 2020

Volume 7, Issue 2

*"Journey Together in Love and Compassion"*

*"That All May be One . . ."*

### 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.

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May the Lord give you peace!

I am writing this column on May 4. This is always a difficult and emotional date for me, and even more so this year. Allow me to share it with you.

As some of you may know, I'm a transplanted "Buckeye." Yes, that means I'm a die-hard OSU fan when it comes to football. (Notre Dame, too. I'm an alumna.) It also means that I have a great love for the state and its history – both the good and the bad.

There was a particularly bad day 50 years ago today. Four students were killed and 10 others wounded when the Ohio National Guard opened fire into an anti-war demonstration at Kent State University. To this day, I recall vividly how stunned I was when I heard it on the news just before supper that evening. My reaction to this event was very different from my dad's, but we mirrored something that was much bigger than the two of us.

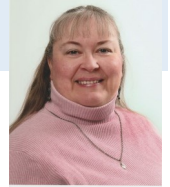
When I watched a retrospective of this event yesterday on TV, one of the points raised that, as a nation, we were quite

polarized. This polarization tended to be along generational lines. My dad's reaction was that they got what they deserved for being anti-American. (He supported the war in Vietnam in order to stop the spread of Communism.) My reaction was that we had just declared war on ourselves! "When was that war declared," I argued. Being that I was just shy of 11 years old, Dad kind of dismissed my argument because I was a kid who didn't understand. I wasn't the only one, though. This argument was going on in a lot of places.

Fast forward to today. We are still polarized as a nation, but more along political lines: arch-conservative right vs. arch-liberal left, with both sides pushing the lines further and further to the extreme.

Let me say that I'm not promoting a political stand here. I'm just an observer, and this is what I see.

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

"The Franciscan family, as one among many spiritual families raised up by the Holy Spirit in the Church, unites all members of the people of God — laity, religious, and priests — who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi.

In various ways and forms BUT IN LIFE-GIVING UNION WITH EACH OTHER, they intend to make present the charism of their common Seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church (**RULE:** Chapter 1:1)."





## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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 Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF  
 Kathleen White, OFS

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As I reflected on these two things yesterday, especially in these days of social distancing, article 14 of our Rule hit home. We are to be people who are meant to be TO-GETHER. We are to BUILD a "fraternal and evangelical world." We, as Secular Franciscan

Catholic Christians, are really counter-cultural, just as those anti-war demonstrators were 50 years ago. We accomplish this "in the Christian spirit of SERVICE."

Polarization is always destructive. We are not together; we separate ourselves. It does not build; it tears down. It does not serve anything or anyone except those

who use it for their own purposes; it does not serve the needs or the good of others.

Let us be counter-cultural in the best sense. This is what God calls us to be. This is how we imitate Christ, who said, "And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one."

So here's a final question for you as we consider the true meaning of fraternity: Do we belong to four fraternities, or do we really belong to one fraternity with four different manifestations of it?

Pax et Bonum!

\* John 17:21

That they all may be one; as  
 You, Father, are in Me, and I in  
 you, that they also may be one  
 in Us: that the world may  
 believe that You have sent Me.

*"O lord, make this  
 Lenten season  
 different from the  
 other ones. Let me  
 find you again.  
 Amen."*

—Henri Nouwen

Do you think God heard this prayer?



Sister Death has called to our  
 Heavenly Home . . .

*May all our Franciscan Brothers  
 and Sisters, who have passed to  
 our Heavenly Father's hands,  
 rest in peace!*

. . .

## SACRED HEART FRATERNITY



Jean Magnant, OFS (Professed on September 18, 1950 —70 years as a Secular Franciscan)

## Prayer of Pope Francis for Mary's Intercession During the Present Pandemic



"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God."

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes toward us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew.

Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health. Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.





## "Messengers of perfect joy . . . (Rule, Article 19 "

Sister Agnes Marie, as the editor of our newsletter, sent us this month's column by our Minister Barb and asked us to each consider the word "Unity" and pen our own reflections related to it. As I read Barb's column, a different word came to mind for me, "Peace." But that's ok, because the two words are readily linked.

I know this because I experience peace most completely when I am unified as closely as possible to Christ. The most peaceful moments in my life happen on those mornings when I manage to spend some time in undistracted, productive prayer. Whether it's at home with my icon wall, or in a church or chapel, or a stolen moment spent gazing at a picture of Christ Crucified on my phone in the midst of an otherwise hectic day, it is via near proximity to Jesus that I acquire a sense of peacefulness that nothing else compares to.

One of my favorite places to experience this sense of peace is a fraternity meeting. This happens most often in the midst of a small group ongoing formation discussion. All of a sudden, as I observe my sisters and brothers and the genuine affection they have for each other, I find myself feeling a little separated and I know that Jesus is amongst us. That is inevitably followed by a peacefulness that I am reluctant to leave behind in order to re-engage in the conversation.

Barb wrote, "Jesus prayed that we might be "brought to perfection as one." We are not meant to be unified, one to another, on our self-defined terms. Instead, we are meant to be Spiritually joined with each other in and through Jesus. He is the peaceful beck and call that brings us together. He is the serene substance that we meet within. He is the glue that calmly binds us, to answer Barb's question, into one single unified fraternity that strives to exude peace and harmony in every corner of the world in opposition to the polarization evident both in the Vietnam era and now.

The Rule itself defines the primacy of this link between peace and unity. Article 19 says, *"mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony....."*

Peace! Unity! Harmony! Fraternity! This is what the entire Franciscan movement stands for. It is something that was sorely needed in the world fifty years ago, and it is something that is just as sorely needed today.

And if, by some miracle, we were able to bring peace and unity to just one little slice of the world beyond our fraternity meetings, what would the result be? To find out, just



keep reading article 19:

*"Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others."*

If we are spreading peace, we are also, by definition, spreading joy. Think about it. When you are deep in prayer, and you find that the peace of Christ has settled upon you, what is the next emotion that you experience? It's joy, isn't it? Knowing that you are in the peace of Christ leads to a spontaneous outbreak of joy, does it not?

And when you experience that peace and joy, how can you not want to bring it to others so that they can experience the same thing?

How can you not want to unify your little slice of the world in the peace and joy of the Risen Christ in this Easter time?

*Be sure to visit: <https://ofsongoing.com/>*



“ . . . A more fraternal and evangelical world. . . ”

The older I get, the more I recall some of the wonderful adages my dear, dear mother used to say. One of her favorites was, “Charity starts at home.” The following statement from the RULE stuck me as one encouraging unity in our fraternal families:

*“Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively (**RULE** Article 14).”*

Since February, due to the Covid-19 virus, our local fraternities have been unable to enjoy the company of our brothers and sisters and all those welcome and joyful hugs and high fives which are a part of these gatherings. More than a few of you have expressed your wish that “normality” could return and that our very Franciscan times of being together could resume. It is highly probable that more months will pass before that is possible.

Perhaps you have spent time cleaning out and organizing closets and drawers, painting both inside and outside your home, sewing masks for health care responders, reading that towering stack of books near your favorite chair, painting and writing, etc. etc. etc.

Here’s the question: how have you continued to “build a more fraternal world . . .” in the locale around you? Have you reached out with a telephone call to other members of your fraternity — especially the sick and homebound? Or just started at the top of the list and worked your way through just to keep in contact with your brothers and sisters?

The quarantine that has been placed upon us, has surely give us the qual-

ity time to share and support the members of our Franciscan families.

Yesterday (May 4, 2020) two of our local fraternity members “made my day.” They phoned with an offer to stop by the convent, bring me a tall cool smoothie from Mc Donald’s and a promise to maintain “social distance.” As tempting as seeing them, even from a “social distance” was, enjoying a nice smoothie, I had to say, “No!” That “no” came from the respect and care I owe the sisters of my Community who are aged and many of whom have respiratory issues.

But, the three of us chatted up a storm as we caught up on each others lives. Yes, the two of them “made my day”. And fraternity was deepened as we assured each other of “elbow bumps” until a fraternity gathering is again possible.

So what is my message here: please do consider calling your fraternity members just to share life and brighten their day. Those who live alone would love to hear the sound of your voice and know that they have not been forgotten. This is a scary time for everyone, and this is everyone’s opportunity to “build a more fraternal world” — charity starting at home right within our local fraternities.

I would like to share a bit of history from **SACRED HEART FRATERNITY** in Indianapolis.

“This is not the first time Sacred Heart Fraternity has experienced a pandemic. According to their historical records, during the Spanish Flu pandemic, the fraternity did not meet from November 1918 until September 1919. Unfortunately, the records do not show what members did during that time (April, 2020,



Sacred Heart Newsletter. See note on page 7 from Fraternity Minister).”

We have not reached that point in persevering yet, but hopefully, history will look back on what **WE** did during this time — namely, kept the bonds of fraternal love alive by our care and contact with and for each other.



“I come to you, Lord, for protection; never let me be defeated. You are a righteous God; save me, I pray! Hear me! Save me now! Be my refuge to protect me; my defense to save me. You are my refuge and defense; guide me and lead me as you have promised. Keep me safe from the trap that has been set for me; shelter me from danger. I place myself in your care. You will save me, Lord; you are a faithful God.”  
(Psalm 31)



## "The Lentiest Lent I have ever Lented "

We have all experienced a much different Lent than we ever have. I have dubbed it the "Lentiest Lent I have ever Lented".

We gave up much more than we had planned – most especially, Eucharist. How we are longing to receive Him again! When we do, don't be surprised if tears flow. It's OK. We are pining for Our Lord, and He has pined for us, I'm sure.

During the Easter Vigil I was especially struck by the Renewal of Baptismal Promises. Do you renounce Satan? **I do.** And all his works? **I do.** And all his empty promises? **I do.** Do you believe in God, the Father almighty (parts of the Creed continue). We reply, **I do.** I was thinking of our Profession,

where we say **I, [name], by the grace of God, renew my baptismal promises and consecrate myself to the service of His kingdom.** Let us each recall our Baptismal promises, and our Profession promise. Recall it, renew it, and live it.

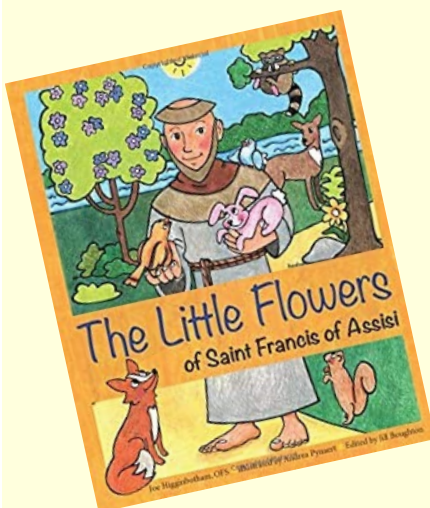
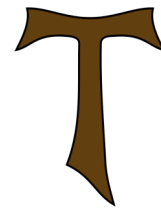
There is a challenge here that I have mentioned before. Research the dates of your Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation, along with your Profession. Mark those dates on your calendar and transfer those dates each new year. Note them in your Ritual, and your breviary. Earlier in May I celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my First Communion and the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my Confirmation.

Fortunately, I was able to

'attend' Mass via our parish's live streamed daily Mass. These dates are special to each of us and should be remembered. And if you know your sibling's and/or friend's Profession and Sacramental dates, acknowledge them as well. It is one of many ways we are united to Jesus and to each other.

"Have a nice day" has been replaced by "Be Safe." My prayer for you is that you stay safe during the pandemic, and continue to remain cautious even if your county has lifted restrictions.

Peace and all good,  
Kathleen  
RSA



St. Francis said, "Jesus wants you to love him most of all."

Children will be delighted by this wonderfully illustrated book. Each of the twenty-four short stories tells of an event in the beloved saint's life. Along the way, children will learn about virtue, the Faith, and love of God and neighbor. Each story includes a prayer written for children, asking God to help them imitate St. Francis and grow in their own faith.

If you teach in children's Religious Education Programs, you need to check this out: Joe Higginbotham: 574.514.0395 or [joehigg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joehigg@sbcglobal.net). It is also available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

## A Franciscan's View of Unity / Diversity



The question was posed as what does unity mean to a Franciscan. Today's society is far from unified. Was it always that way? I grew up in the 50's. It amazes me how different our society is today. Yes there has always been differences and prejudice. But one thing that stands out during that time is that we all had the same values. There was a sense of community. Now it seems that everything is all diversity, you do you. Why that happened I don't know. Maybe it was in response to that all important question, 'Why can't I wear white after Labor Day?'

Our society tells us to do our own thing, have it your way. Does this work for Franciscans? When the Pharisees accuse Jesus of being in league with the devil, he tells them that a house divided against itself cannot stand. Paul had a unity problem with the Corinthians when some in the early church aligned themselves with different teachers. He told them 'in the name of Jesus Christ, not to have factions among yourselves but all to be in agreement in what you profess; so that you are perfectly united in your beliefs and judgements.' The early church lived in community, they held all in

common. This show of unity drew many to join the church. Even the celebration of the mass is a community prayer and we are bonded in the Eucharist. Jesus prays at the Last Supper, "May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us."

As a Franciscan, what does unity mean? Why is it important? Because God Himself is unity, He is three persons in one. All our social structures are based on the relationship of Father, Son and Spirit. In the beginning God creates Adam and Eve and unites them in the bond of marriage. As the three are one, now "the two shall be one." Jesus uses the example of the unity of marriage to describe his relationship between himself and the Church. Why did Jesus use marriage to describe this relationship? Think about what makes a good marriage. Some say that opposites attract, that may work in physics, but not in marriage. I have observed that the best marriages occur when the partners have things in common. Sometimes people will use the term 'soulmate'. They have the same faith beliefs, the same values, background, and interests. They are on the same page. The

word *same* keeps coming up,

doesn't it. And so it should be with those of us who are Franciscan. We all follow the same rule, are people of penance and strive to live the gospel life in the example of Francis. This sameness gives us an understanding of each other. In our sameness we can encourage and support each other. We share similar experiences in our faith life and united in our service to others.

However, is there room for diversity? Where can that fit in? When I was teaching, one of my students said to me, it's just the same but it's different. That phrase might be best to relate to our fraternity. Paul uses the analogy of the body. He writes, 'If they were all one part, how could there be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one.' So it is with the Franciscans, we may be many parts, but we are all one body. In the game tug of war, it doesn't matter what you do, or how you do it, everyone has to pull together. There is power in unity.

Christine Popiela OFS

Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity

*Here is an interesting and thoughtful contribution by Brian Foust, OFS, Minister of Sacred Heart Fraternity in Indianapolis:*

The state is "opening back up" as the stay at home orders have expired. The governor has even sped up phase 3 of his reopening schedule by a few days. This Sunday the churches will be reopening with various safety and social distancing measures in place. There is a great deal of information and misinformation out there about the Coronavirus. Conspiracy theorists are having a hayday. Scammers and politicians are spewing out "facts" to further their own agendas. It's hard to know who to believe. Only the future history books will tell us if we have been foolish in opening too soon or by staying isolated for too long.

What have you been doing to fill your time and fulfill your Franciscan charism during this pandemic? It would be interesting to record our activities for future generations of Franciscans. Unfortunately we don't know what our brothers and sisters did during the Spanish Flu pandemic other than not meeting from November 1918 until September 1919.



## 20—30 Years Professed

03/24/91	Joanna Polanski	St Mary of the Angels
05/25/91	Doris Bermes	St Charles
11/09/91	Rosemary Travis	Holy Family
11/18/91	Mary Stewart S	St Boniface
01/26/92	Dcn Paul Krilich	St Mary of the Angels
10/03/92	Joy McCullough	Our Lady of Lourdes
11/22/92	Linda Grady	Lady Clare
10/04/93	Kris Biegel	Our Lady of Lourdes
10/13/93	Patricia Scott	Little Portion
03/20/94	Mary Mitchell	St Mary of the Angels
09/09/95	Yolanda Jimenez	Our Lady of Lourdes
09/09/95	Loretta Patton	Our Lady of Lourdes
09/17/95	Erin Gigli	Holy Family
11/26/95	Eugene Nagy	St Charles
04/21/96	Diane Losiniecki	Our Lady of Lourdes
06/15/96	Frank Vargo	Immaculate Conception
06/23/96	Carol Platter	St Charles
08/18/96	Paul Devitt	St Mary of the Angels
10/06/96	Margo Cain	People of Peace
10/06/96	Erika Gaal	People of Peace
03/16/97	Sue Wilson	St Charles
10/10/97	Bruce Popp	Little Portion
11/16/97	Marcyle Voigt	St Charles
02/09/98	William Manning III	People of Peace
06/20/98	Kathy Georgelas	Our Lady of Lourdes
09/19/99	Jackie Didier	St Charles
09/19/99	Barbara Kluz	St Charles
09/19/99	Jan Scher	St Charles
10/15/99	Diane Watson	Little Portion
12/19/99	Jane Needham	Holy Family
01/01/00	Dorothea Affini	St Mary of the Angels
06/17/00	Laura Mallozzi	Immaculate Conception
10/11/00	Barbara Peloza	Our Lady of Lourdes
11/16/00	Donna Doti S	St Rose of Viterbo
11/16/00	Linda Patrick	St Rose of Viterbo



We celebrate with our brothers and sisters, whose names are included here, the sincere effort they have made since their profession "to make present the charism of the common seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church" and to build 'a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the Kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively." Let us join with them in thanks giving to God for the call to Franciscan life and to an ongoing conversion of heart.

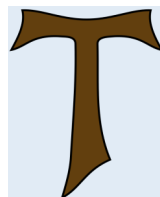
"[Francis] is without question an outstanding craftsman, for through his spreading message, the Church of Christ is being renewed in both sexes according to his form, rule and teaching, and there is victory for the triple army of those being saved (FA:ED, Vol. 1, p. 216, Celano)."



## 10—20 Years Professed

03/18/01	Victoria Foltz	Holy Family
03/18/01	Beth Freistroffer	Holy Family
04/07/01	Sharon Marmalejo	Our Lady of Lourdes
04/07/01	Angela Vargas	Our Lady of Lourdes
05/19/01	Cindy Gillis	Immaculate Conception
05/26/01	Wayne West	St Anthony
06/11/01	Bill Schmitt	Immaculate Conception
07/22/01	Flossie Banning	Immaculate Conception
07/22/01	David Grimes	St Michael Archangel
07/22/01	Joan Myers	St Michael Archangel
08/10/01	Dr. Martha Gilbert	St Mary of the Angels
10/23/01	Kathy Engle	Lady Clare
10/23/01	Phillip Clouser	St Boniface
04/20/02	Fr. David Hueimmer	Lady Clare
04/20/02	Margaret Kline	Lady Clare
04/20/02	Patrick Kline	Lady Clare
04/20/02	Lori Schwartz	Lady Clare
05/19/02	Carolyn Pruitt	St Boniface
10/01/02	Mary Jane Blankenship	People of Peace
10/13/02	Dorothy Bessler	People of Peace
11/15/02	Alexandra Cline	St Rose of Viterbo
11/15/02	Mary Jane Coker	St Rose of Viterbo
11/15/02	Martha Dowell	St Rose of Viterbo
11/16/02	Harry Verhiley	Immaculate Conception
11/16/02	Joanne Verhiley	Immaculate Conception
04/26/03	Ann Klimczak	Our Lady Lourdes
05/25/03	Brian Foust	Sacred Heart
05/25/03	Margaret Foust	Sacred Heart
05/25/03	Fred Kidwell	Sacred Heart
07/27/03	Nancy Steinhofner	St Charles
07/27/03	Joyce Wesner	Holy Family
07/27/03	Tim Husted	St Michael Archangel
10/04/03	Patricia Marchino	People of Peace
12/06/03	Mark Pacholke	Little Portion
12/06/03	John Szczepanski	Little Portion
02/06/04	Patricia Bellm	Immaculate Conception
06/19/04	Bill Gallagher	Immaculate Conception
06/19/04	John Witucki	Immaculate Conception
11/20/04	Kathy Dominguez	Our Lady Lourdes
12/04/04	Laura Ahlborn	Little Portion
02/13/05	Carlos Montanez	St Rose of Viterbo
08/28/05	Carol Schaefer	St Michael Archangel
08/28/05	Jean Wonderly	St Michael Archangel
10/04/05	Sharon Roberts	St Anthony
10/23/05	Barb Braley	St Charles
04/22/06	Linda Silverio	Our Lady of Lourdes
07/15/06	Irena Kozakiewicz	Immaculate Conception
10/01/06	Robert Golobish	People of Peace
12/02/06	Edward Leon	Little Portion
01/06/07	Lindsue Luster-Bartz	Immaculate Conception
03/19/07	Jim Fuchs	Immaculate Conception
04/20/07	Kathryn Clark	Lady Clare
04/28/07	Linda Chidalek	St Boniface
06/16/07	William Jannausch	Little Portion

07/14/07	Virginia Anson	St. Boniface
10/04/07	Holly Henderson	St Anthony
10/18/07	Rose Scofield	St Mary of Angels
10/20/07	Lynn Tabion	Our Lady of Lourdes
11/11/07	Katie Herendeen	St Charles
11/11/07	Vicki Marcellus Smith	St Charles
02/10/08	Kathy Harpel	Holy Family
05/11/08	Maria Cruz Garrido-Merida	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/11/08	Juan Martinez	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/11/08	Olga Martinez	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/11/08	Evangelina Morales	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/11/08	Dcn Oscar Morales	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/11/08	Mirta Pena	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/11/08	Rodolfo Penaloza	Peregrinos de la Paz
05/11/08	Dcn Emilio Ferrer Soto	Peregrinos de la Paz
07/13/08	Cyndi Pilot	Immaculate Conception
10/03/08	Mary Stickelmaier	People of Peace
11/16/08	Antionietta Antonio	St Rose of Viterbo
11/16/08	Carmen Montanez	St Rose of Viterbo
11/23/08	Hope Castillo	St Michael Archangel
11/23/08	Beth Herman	St Michael Archangel
05/03/09	Elaine Cooper	Holy Family
06/07/09	Caryl Ziegler	People of Peace
10/10/09	Diane Martin	Immaculate Conception
10/10/09	Dan Lawson	Little Portion
11/22/09	Arlene Lewis	St Charles
11/22/09	Carol Hahn	St Michael Archangel
01/09/10	Brenda Maloney	St Boniface
05/20/10	Christina Garrigus	St Rose of Viterbo
08/11/10	Dcn Ron Morrow	Lady Clare
10/03/10	Jane Bell	Sacred Heart
10/03/10	Helen Burke	People of Peace
10/03/10	John Hill	People of Peace
10/03/10	David Whaley	People of Peace
10/09/10	Mary Jane Chase	Immaculate Conception
10/09/10	Dorothea Flory	Immaculate Conception
10/09/10	Tim Martin	Immaculate Conception
10/09/10	Tim Short	Immaculate Conception
10/23/10	Peter Rupcich	Our Lady of Lourdes
10/23/10	Napoleon Tabion	Our Lady of Lourdes



Editor's Note: Next month we will continue looking at the Profession dates of all of our brothers and sisters in Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity. The gift of Profession is something precious to be recalled often, prayerfully, and with as much enthusiasm and joy as the first time.

## Franciscan Unity in Community: Thoughts from Ted Boczkowski, OFS

The elements that make up Franciscan Unity amongst the Orders were set forth by the Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity and approved on 4/13/2007 and are as follows:

**Baptism** – Our Franciscan Orders understand that our Franciscan unity springs from our shared relationship with God through Holy Baptism. The waters of our birth in the name of the Triune God signify our unity in one baptism by one God. This unity through baptism is the underpinning for our shared worship and witness as Franciscans.

**Vocation** – Our call to Franciscan vocation implies being conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ by means of the radical interior change that the Gospel defines as conversion – taking up our cross daily to follow Christ. Our particular vocation is to observe the Gospel by following the example of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi. As members of Franciscan orders, we pledge ourselves, with lifelong intent, to live out our Franciscan vocation in community with our brothers and sisters.

**Charism** – As Franciscans, we see in the life of St Francis of Assisi these gifts of the Holy Spirit: Poverty {humility}, love and joy. Through our Rules and through the individual and collective work of our Orders, we seek to manifest these gifts. In our unified emulation of Francis, we seek to express a life that witnesses to poverty, love and joy.

**Christ Centered** – Franciscan spirituality is Christocentric to the extent that Francis fell in love with Jesus. This love transformed Francis' life. All that Francis did was shaped by what he saw in the Incarnation, and in the ministry and Passion of Jesus.

Franciscan Spirituality is a way of life that is centered on the person of Jesus. Our unified mission as Franciscans is to make Jesus known to all – and to pray and work for the reconciliation of all creation.

**Prophetic Voice** – Fundamental to Franciscan spirituality is a commitment to strive for justice and peace among all people – and to affirm the inter-relationship and holiness of all creation. In a world torn asunder by conflict, divisions, intolerance and exploitation, our unified prophetic witness is an expression of God's light on a dark planet.

In our shared understanding of the spirit of Francis, we are called to courageous initiatives in the field of peacemaking and justice, to make definite choices in harmony with our faith whenever human dignity is attacked by any form of oppression, violence or indifference, and to protect and restore all of creation.

At the Fraternity level, the same basic tenets apply, but in a much more dynamic manner. We now add the human being, the human nature to the equation. We are united as a community of people with a like purpose, like interest, and like spirit and individual characteristics.

"Then make my joy complete by being likeminded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind (Philippians 2:2)."

We are sisters and brothers in union with the Holy Spirit called to follow Christ in the footsteps of St Francis but with varying types of footwear.

We all were created by God to love and laugh, cry and play and to give and share. We are all given a mission by God unique to our talents and it is up to us to discover and fulfill that mission.

Those called to follow the Franciscan life exhibit certain traits that are not learned (although learning is essential to grow as a Franciscan) but are inherent to their being and community unifying. Some examples of these traits are a sense of concern and compassion for others, service oriented, good listening skills, ready and able to deal with life issues, recognizing oneself as a sinner and in need of conversion, embracing a simple lifestyle, exhibiting communication skills and sense of humor, showing reverence for creation and courtesy and respect for others and a sense of justice, being counter-cultural. This list is not exhaustive but contains a good measure of a Franciscan. These traits are communally shared by all types of individuals from all forms of life in one organic life giving union with each other, with other fraternities and all Franciscan Orders.

Our unity was recognized by St John Paul II in his address to The Secular Franciscan Order November 22, 2002.

"The Church expects from the unique Franciscan Secular Order a great service to the cause of the Kingdom of God in the world today, She wants your Order to be a model of organic, structural and charismatic union at all levels, so as to present yourself to the world as a 'community of love' (OFS, Rule, art. 26). From you, Secular Franciscans, the Church awaits a courageous and consistent witness of Christian and Franciscan life that aims at building a more fraternal and evangelical world for the realization of the Kingdom of God."

## "Canticle of Creation: Praised be God's Name"

Reflection on the  
"Canticle of Creation"  
is shared with us by  
Virginia Anson, OFS,  
of St. Boniface Fra-  
ternity in Lafayette,  
IN



*To You alone, Most High  
Do I belong  
No mortal lips are worthy  
To pronounce Your Name*

"When I see Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and stars that You set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him?" Psalm 8:4-5

Yes, we do belong to God through Christ and His redemptive sacrifice and Resurrection. No, we are not worthy. We are amoebas compared to God. Nay, less than amoebas. Still, through the humility of God, through the infinitive love of God, we become His children. Can you imagine having the great God Who created the universe as your father?

"You made him little less than a god..." Psalm 8:6

Scripture was a significant source of inspiration for much of Francis' spirituality and writing, even in composing the Canticle. He was intent on praising God, of respectfully speaking His name to every creature, though he likely did not see himself as worthy.

"No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your name" reflects back to the Old Testament Jewish belief that no one was to pronounce the name of God—Yahweh. So great is God, so far above humanity, that His name should not even be mentioned by such unworthy creatures.

Yahweh—I AM WHO AM. God is being itself, so immense that neither He nor His name can be fully understood. God just IS, and we cannot comprehend IS.

Never was there a moment when He was not. God just IS. I AM.

Thus the Jewish people eventually forbade the very mention of God's name, with one exception. One day each year, the high priest was allowed to enter the sanctuary and utter the name Yahweh—I AM.

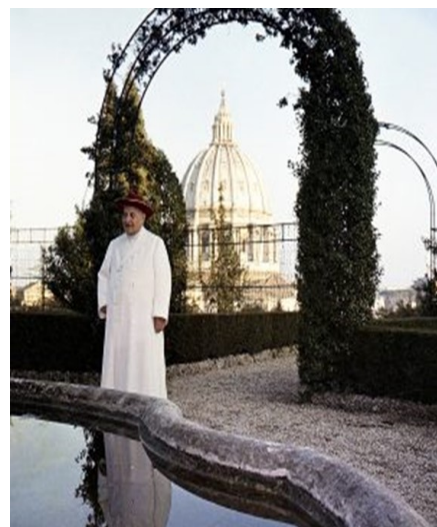
Francis, too, recognized the vast mote between the infinitely holy God and us miniscule, sinful humans. No, we are not worthy to even say the name of God. Yet God reaches down to our level as a supremely loving father and allows us to approach Him, to commune with Him, to say His name. Dare I say, even to hug Him.

We cannot fathom how infinitely profound is the name of God. Neither could Francis. That did not, however, prevent our seraphic father from proclaiming his praise of God. I can just hear Francis shouting, "How great is Your name, O Lord our God, throughout all the earth." Psalm 8:1

I can see and hear Francis, in his humility and joy, dancing and singing his intense love of God, his praises for his Creator. "It is good to sing praises to Your name, O Most High." Psalm 92:1

I am nothing without God. I am everything because of God. Let us join Francis, the saints, and the angels in Heaven in song and dance, praising Our loving God.

Blessed is His Holy Name.



Pope John XXIII was a member of the  
Secular Franciscan Order

### The Daily Decalogue of Pope John XXIII

Only for today, I will seek to live the lifelong day positively without wishing to solve the problems of my life all at once.

Only for today, I will take the greatest care of my appearance: I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behavior; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone except myself.

Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one.

Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.

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## Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity—Secular Franciscan Order



International Website:

[www.ciofs.org](http://www.ciofs.org)

National Website:

[www.secularfranciscansusa.org](http://www.secularfranciscansusa.org)

Regional Website:

[www.olirf-ofs.org](http://www.olirf-ofs.org)

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

[OLI-Region-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:OLI-Region-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Also follow us 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

June 13, 2020: Regional Executive Council: Virtual Meeting

June 13: St. Anthony of Padua

July 15: St. Bonaventure

**August 8, 2020: UNITY DAY for Our Lady of Indiana : CANCELLED due to the Corona Virus pandemic**

August 2: Our Lady of the Angels, Portiuncula

August 11: St. Clare of Assisi

September 17, 2020: Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis

October 10, 2020: Regional Executive Council, Huntington

October 3: Transitus of Our Holy Father St. Francis

October 4: Feast of Our Holy Father St. Francis

November 14, 2020: Fall Chapter of Mats, Kokomo

November 17, 2020: Feast of Str. Elizabeth of Hungary



August 18—22, 2021: Sheraton Grand Hotel, Phoenix AZ.  
Start saving your pennies . . . and red letter your calendars!

*100th Anniversary of First "Q" in 1920*  
*800th Anniversary of Rule of 1221*



Continued from page 11

Only for today, I will devote 10 minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.

Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.

Only for today, I will do at least one thing I do not like doing; and if my feelings are hurt, I will make sure that no one notices.

Only for today, I will make a plan for myself: I may not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.

Only for today, I will firmly believe, despite appearances, that the good Providence of God cares for me as no one else who exists in this world.