



Our Lady of Indiana

Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity



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

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Volume 8, Issue 4

"Live a Life Worthy of Your Call": National Theme 2021



Our Regional Prayer

Holy Virgin Mary, there is no one like you born in the world among women: 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.

I have a few statues of St. Francis that were given to me on various occasions, including my profession. Each of them has St. Francis with at least one bird. Two of the statues have a fawn standing beside the saint. One has the wolf of Gubbio instead of a fawn. The one statue is painted in pastel colors.

As I have continued on my Franciscan journey, I have come to realize that much of the representation we have of St. Francis evokes a common sentiment: adorable. St. Francis is an adorable saint because he was so kind to the animals and he loved nature so much. While I don't dispute that he was kind to animals and loved nature, I have come to question if this is the best we can do.

Please take this opportunity to re-read the *Canticle of the Creatures* – carefully. St. Francis uses wonderful adjectives: pure, precious, beautiful, robust, chaste, playful. It always invokes the response in me: I

want to be part of that! Guess what. I am!

St. Francis never forgets, however, that creation is a means, not an end unto itself. It is a means of revealing God to us: not just what God does, but what kind of God He is. He is pure, precious, beautiful, robust, chaste, playful. (I love the idea of a playful God!)

In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis picks up on the idea of nature as a book that reveals God to us in his "infinite beauty and goodness." (paragraph 12) In fact, he goes on to say that, "Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise." (ibid)

What does this "joyful mystery" mean?

In the theological sense, a mystery is something that we can comprehend,

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"Be praised, my Lord, through all that you have made . . ."



"If we approach nature and the environment without...openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously (#11)"

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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 Kathleen White, OFS

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but maybe only to a point. When we speak of the Holy Trinity, we must acknowledge that we can only understand in part. As finite beings trying to understand the Infinite, we can only ever understand in part. It's like an ant encountering someone's little toe. The ant can only see the toe, not the whole person it's attached to. The mystery of God is that God is a community of infinite love. Each Person of the Trinity is in deep intimate relationship to the other Persons. Creation, in turn, is intimately dependent on God, and each part of creation is intimately dependent upon every other part.

Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF, outlines Bonaventure's explanation of this. "Bonaventure reminds us that creation emanates from the mouth of God who speaks a Word of love. This Word transforms what is nothing into something that lovingly reflects the heart of God...The self-communicative love of the Father is literally God giving Godself away, but in such a way that marks the Trinity's dynamic, eternal life...Creation expresses the thoughts or ideas of God and therefore is a book by which we can know God...who is the purest of love within, creates not out of any need but out of desire to manifest something of the mystery of the divine truth, goodness and beauty outwardly, and to bring forth creatures capable of participating in the splendor of the divine life." (Care for Creation: a Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth, page 82)

How can we see this as anything but the origin of "universal kinship"? (Rule, article 19)

Therefore, here are a few questions for further reflection.

1) If we are to live in universal kinship, what does it mean to have "dominion" over creation, as

we read in Genesis 1: 26?

2) Pope Francis urges us to engage in a "new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet... which includes everyone." (LS, 14)

3) What steps can we take as individuals to engage in the care of creation? As fraternities?

4) What obstacles are there to caring for creation? What can we do about them?

5) What do you see happening that is trying to address environmental issues on a larger scale?

My suggestion/challenge to each person and each fraternity is that, if you haven't carefully and prayerfully, encountered *Laudato si*, that you use it for either personal or fraternal ongoing formation.

To close, I will repeat the earlier quote from *Laudato si*: "Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise."

EnJOY the mystery!

Peace and all good!

Your little sister,

Barb



"We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor (#49)."

"We require
a new
and universal
solidarity."



"Praise to
you, my
Lord",
Saint Francis
of Assisi used
to sing.



A CHRISTIAN PRAYER IN UNION WITH CREATION

By Pope Francis

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to
contemplate you in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess
power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care
for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.

Praise be to you! Amen.

From "Laudato si'" Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis, Vatican City, 2015.

"Praised be You, my Lord, with all your creatures . . ."



Today, I offer you a couple of very different scenarios!

SCENE ONE: outside my window the lush, green beauty of trees, flowers,

shrubs and various other forms of vegetation. Flitting in and out, birds of every color and shape — sparrows endlessly twittering, doves cooing, turkeys robins, finches, cardinals, etc. etc. St. Francis would surely be home in the peaceful, Edenic scene enjoying blue sky and glorious sunshine overhead.

SCENE TWO: endless bolts of lightning causing forest fires that are pluming mile-high billows of smoke seen as far away as Boston, temperatures in the Southwest establishing new record highs even in Death Valley, central Europe being swept away by record-setting floods, men, women, and children in India seeking respite by standing in rivers to find relief from the scorching temperatures and humidity, natives of colder climates in a quandary because their cultural sources of food are disappearing as climates become warmer and more inhospitable to their food supply.

SCENE THREE: Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, presenting us with his encyclical letter, "Laudato Si" reminding us of " . . . our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs (FA:ED, VOL.1, pp.113-114)."

Pope Francis writes: It is she who " . . . now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the good with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and master, entitled to plunder her at will . . . "

Pope Francis cited Blessed Pope Paul VI, who referred to our present situation as "a tragic consequence" of unchecked human activity . . . We all run the risk of destroying what God has so wonderfully created and deemed "good" and ourselves also becoming the victims of our blindness.

John Paul II, Francis' predecessor wrote that humankind needs to have a "global ecological *conversion*" and we need to recall that the world has been entrusted to our care and all that we use must proceed in line with God's original purpose for it.

Benedict XVI also proposed that structural causes of dysfunctions of economy and growth be recalibrated so that respect for the environment can be respected and restored since it has been so gravely damaged by our irresponsible behavior.

SCENE FOUR: our holy father, St. Francis at the end of his life suffering from all the physical illness which had been placed upon him, wrote the following — which makes one wonder if our present-day Popes have read some of Francis' final words: Francis wrote, "I wish to compose a new hymn about the Lord's creatures, of which we make daily use, without which we cannot live, and with which the human race greatly offends its Creator (FA:ED, Vol. 1, p. 113)."

What would our brother from Assisi say if he could see what our recent holy fathers have pictured for us? Would he weep for how we've abused the beautiful world created, as Colossians tells us, for His Son: "Through him, with him and for him were all things created" ?

SCENE FIVE: what is our responsibility as Franciscans toward this precious gift from our God and Father?

Pope Francis' final words, " At the conclusion of this lengthy reflection which has been both joyful and troubling, I propose that we offer two prayers. The first we can share with all who believe in a God who is the all-power Creator, while in the other we Christians ask for inspiration to take up the commitment to creation set before us by the Gospel of Jesus (Laudato Si', (246)"

We who are professed the Gospel as our Form of Life, surely can put our hands and hearts to the task of creating a more gentle way of living on our Mother Earth made "with Him, through Him, and for Him (Colossians)."

"Think! The heavens, even the highest heavens, belong to the LORD, your God, as well as the earth and everything on it (Deut 10)."



"Quoting Saint John Paul II: Christians in their turn "realize that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith" (#64)."

"When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society. This... has engendered immense inequality, injustice and acts of violence against the majority of humanity, since resources end up in the hands of the first comer or the most powerful: the winner takes all. Completely at odds with this model are the ideals of harmony, justice, fraternity and peace as proposed by Jesus (#82)."

"Francis then, Franciscans Now"



"Every creature in Heaven and on Earth and in the depths of the sea should give

God praise and glory and honor and blessings. He has borne so much for us and has done and will do so much good to us; He is our power and our strength, and He alone is good. He alone most high; he alone all-powerful, wonderful, and glorious; He alone is holy and worth of all praise and blessing for endless ages and ages. Amen (Second Letter of Francis to the Faithful, FA:ED, Vol. 1, p.49-50)."

"Most High, all powerful

And all good Lord,

All praise is Yours, all glory, all honor
And all blessings (Canticle of Creatures, FA:ED, Vol 1, p. 113)."

800 years ago, Father Francis followed an unusual, bizarre way of life. He followed the call of Our Dear Lord. He followed Our savior quite literally. His journey led to the three branches of our Franciscan family, through which his vision lives on. The legacy of God's work in him at the 800th Anniversary of our family.

The second letter of Francis to his flock of brothers links perfectly with his Canticle of Creatures, which

is amazing considering that the letter was written near the beginning of his ministry and the Canticle near his death. Over the course of his life after his conversion—his answering the call before the San Damiano cross—his focus seemingly never wavered, but remained fixed on the praise and glory of His Father in Heaven.

In his letter, Francis tells his brothers that all creation—from the depths of the sea to the heights of the sky to the universe itself—give glory, praise, honor, and blessing to its Creator. Note that both the letter and the Canticle use the exact same nouns in expressing how God is to be adored—the Canticle individualizing the praise that each owes and gives to Our Creator. Both writings—one near the alpha of his life in Christ and the other at the omega of his life on Earth—show that Francis was ever attuned to God.

Francis saw and loved God, in large part, in His creation. In the stars, the sun and moon, the forests, the birds, the wolf. All of creation in the sky and on Earth. He became aware that all of nature praises God through its very existence, by living exactly as God created it. He called for all praise to be given to God through all creation. In his Canticle and in his life, he preached, not just to humanity, but to the animals. How close Father Francis was to God in all that surrounded him.

Both the letter and the Canticle express Francis' awe of God, his true fear of Our Lord, his great desire to

perfectly imitate Our Savior. His evolution between the two writings is subtle, but unusually consistent and yet quite distinct. Once Francis truly found God and heard his calling, His Father was his all in all. Francis became a true, completely dedicated knight of God. He never turned back, but grew steadily to be as near an image of Christ as is humanly possible—Our Blessed Lady being God's perfect creation.

Yet what can we, Francis' children, take from his lessons in his letter and his canticle? Perhaps these questions will spark inciteful meditation.

How do I, as part of Francis' and Clare's family, use and protect the creation and humanity that God has put in my life?

What can I do today for God's creation, to become an imitator of Christ, that I have been neglecting perhaps because it takes me beyond my comfort level?

How can I do more? Be more prayerful? Spiritually adopt God's smallest creatures—especially the unborn in danger of abortion?

What is the Holy Spirit calling me to do in order to be a closer imitator of Jesus, my big Brother?

Yes, Francis is a very hard act to follow, if you will allow me a cliché. We are not called to be Francis. Only Francis could be Francis. You are called to be the you that God created you to be. Meditate with the Holy Spirit to find you.

Pax e Bonum

Reflection by Virginia Anson, OFS, from St. Boniface Fraternity in Lafayette.



"We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature (#139)."

He Makes Me Feel Like Dancing: The Rhythm of the Earth

A reflection by Ted Boczkowski, OFS, Minister of St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity in St. John, Indiana.

Part of the attraction for me to follow St. Francis, was his ability to engage his surroundings in childlike actions at a moment's notice. It was obvious to his Brothers and those around him that his actions, quite often, were not preconceived; but spur of the moment. Moments of joy and love would burst out from deep within. A typical moment would be his picking up two sticks and making a fiddling motion while dancing in rhythm with his surroundings and his God.

"

*"Dance then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance," said He,
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance," said He."*

"When I was in elementary school, I discovered two things about the same time. One was girls and the other, rock and roll. I also found that if you were a decent dancer; girls would like dancing with you. I would work to perfect my dance moves to rock and roll music in front of a mirror for hours at a time. Fortunately for me, I did "feel" the music; I had rhythm. But I had a bigger goal in mind.

Francis had this natural rhythm that was tuned into his environment and with all those he came into contact. He could "feel the music" of all that he encountered. This was possible because he "danced" with his Lord every moment of his life. This was also possible because he let the Lord lead.

I wanted to learn how to waltz because it meant getting closer to girls. My Godmother took on the task and she helped me develop my style. Not just a simple two step, side to side movement; but hesitations, change of directions and spinning and twirling. I was big time now. Not really, but it did get me a dance with Ms. Baines, the attractive, second grade teacher, at my eighth grade graduation. I was caught up in the artistry of two people moving as one. There was excitement and beauty in the flow across the floor. It was being attuned to the music and with each other at the same time. The more I danced the waltz, the more I felt not only the music or my partner, but the surroundings as well.

When I think of sensing the rhythm of the earth and the rhythm of life, I realize that there has to be a leader, just as there is in the waltz. That leader, if we are truly desirous of dancing with the best, is our Lord. We know St Francis danced with the Lord as his lead always. If I could envision a scenario where I would meet with and speak to the Lord after my passage. I would say," You know what I liked best about our relationship on earth, Lord. It was the way we danced. When I let You lead."

*"Dance then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance," said He,
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance," said He."*



"Along with the importance of little everyday gestures, social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a "culture of care" which permeates all of society. When we feel that God is calling us to intervene with others in these social dynamics, we should realize that this too is part of our spirituality, which is an exercise of charity and, as such, matures and sanctifies us (#231)."

Prophetic Creativity — In Action

On Sunday, July 18, 2022, the Catherine Griffin House was blest. Three residents from the area, formerly living in the Motel4Now program in South Bend were present as their now home was dedicated. The house is located in the shadows of Holy Cross Catholic Church in South Bend. Holy Cross was the home parish of Catherine Griffin who passed away from cancer last July. She had been very active in the “Our Lady of the Road” mission in the South Bend area which provide meals and other assistance to homeless persons.



Catherine’s husband Mike said of Catherine, “She didn’t see divisions between what goes on inside the church and what goes on in the neighborhood,”

The blessing and dedication was attended by members of Holy Cross Parish, members of the Immaculate Conception Secular Franciscan Order, and the three wonderful gentlemen now calling the Catherine Griffin House “HOME”



The site is also a locus for “Aiden’s Masterpiece” a service organization in memory of Aiden Short, a student at St. Joseph High School who dies in a tragic car accident three years ago. Tim Short, OFS, and Denise Short are using this setting to fulfill Aiden’s dream of reaching out to people who were on the margins”

It is also a home to the “Jesus Gallery” a non-denominational group from the area that gathers to the read the Gospels every day.

<https://www.wndu.com/2021/07/19/transitional-housing-dedicated-memories-catherine-griffin-aidan-short/>

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY

members give of themselves to ensure a hot meal is available for their friends living on the streets of Indianapolis.



Pictured here: Brian Foust, OFS, Minister, Kathy Saucedo, OFS, Lloyd Louks, OFS, and Margaret Foust, OFS. The photo was taken at the VF Post on July 27, 2021.



“The current global situation engenders a feeling of instability and uncertainty, which in turn becomes “a seedbed for collective selfishness.”

When people become self-centered and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person’s heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume (#204).”



"Praised be my Lord, through all Your Creatures . . ."

We are all familiar with St. Francis' love of the natural world. It's recorded that he would pick up worms off the path so they would not be trampled. Was he just being a nut case, or fanatic? Why would he do this? How was this connected with his striving to live the Gospel life? I grew up with the Baltimore Catechism. The first question told us that we must know God, then we could love Him and serve Him.

How can we 'know' someone we cannot physically relate too? Consider someone who inherited a piece of art from a distant relative. Wanting to know if it is worth anything, they take it to a dealer in fine art. The dealer looks it over carefully, then exclaims, "Why this is an original Monet. It can be worth thousands of dollars at auction!" The owners stand speechless, astounded at their good fortune. True to the dealers' words, the painting sold at a fantastic price. So how did the dealer know this? The painting might have been signed, but it could have been forged or just a reproduction. To the dealer the painting held a lot of information about the painter. It was the topic, style, brushstrokes, the paint used and other characteristics that were unique to Monet. For people knowledgeable in works of art, be it painting, music or sculpture, the works have in them the imprint of the artist. Francis saw the imprint of the Creator in the world around him. Too often people write God off as a stern and demanding God.

I was reading an article that claimed that in demanding that we love God, that makes God an egotist. Some protest organized religion. It has too many rules, they would rather just be 'spiritual'. I was never quite sure what that meant. So what is creation telling us about God? God is a God of great beauty. The world is awash with color, a golden red sunset, a field of wildflowers, orioles, cardinals

and blue jays at my feeder, the blue of the sky on a sunny day, the green grass after a storm, the list goes on. We could live in a black and white world, but color brings joy and peace. It helps the bees and other insects to land on the flowers, it can tell us if something is good to eat or has gone bad. There are colors that some animals and insects can see that we can't. The most beautiful of all is God Himself. God is a God of love. We can feel that love as we hold a tiny kitten, or watch the parents feed their hatch-



lings in the nest. I watched a program on Yellowstone. It showed the mother buffalo give birth and tend to her newborn. Later, they were crossing a river. The calf could not keep up and was swept away. The calf ended up alone on a small island in the river. If being alone, cold and hungry wasn't enough trouble, a wolf spotted the calf. The calf did its best to fight off the wolf but things didn't look good. Suddenly the wolf ran off, the mother had come looking for her calf.

The feeling of love is infused in all of us. We feel it, we crave it. Creation itself is an act of love. God is a God of power. God is no wimp. Feel the wind and the pelting rain of a storm. We have witnessed the terrible de-

struction of hurricanes, tornados, volcanoes, and earthquakes. Try as we might, we cannot contain or control the power of nature. God is an awesome God. Some would say that they would rather put their faith in science. But folks, who created the science? When I studied and taught science, I was really studying and teaching about God. Every day scientist are discovering complex and mind-blowing things out in vastness of space — from the greatest to the smallest. To the astonishment of scientists, they have discovered that there is a complex gear system that allows the flagella of a tiny, microscopic paramecium to move it through the water. It's often said that people feel small and insignificant when they look into the night sky or the vastness of a canyon. But these things of creation are just rock, gas, or water. They are lifeless. We have an immortal soul. We will outlive all these things.

We should look at creation with joy as Francis did. For all this awesomeness was created just for us. It was created in love. It was created to show us who God is and how much he loves us. It is a great gift that we should respect and care for. For this work of art is the imprint of God. *"Praised be my Lord with all Your creatures..."* --- Francis of Assisi

Reflection from Christine Popiela, OFS, of Our Lady of Lourdes Fraternity in Cedar Lake.



"A change in lifestyle could bring healthy pressure to bear on those who wield political, economic and social power.

This is what consumer movements accomplish by boycotting certain products. They prove successful in changing the way businesses operate, forcing them to consider their environmental footprint and their patterns of production... This shows us the great need for a sense of social responsibility on the part of consumers. "Purchasing is always a moral – and not simply economic – act." Today, in a word, "the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle" (#206)."

Professions in Indianapolis

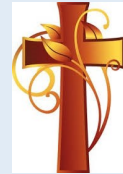
People of Peace and Sacred Heart Fraternities

made history on Sunday, June 11th 2021 with a first-ever joint Mass of Profession. Three priests, a deacon and a seminarian were all on the altar to celebrate the profession of Joe Doll, James "Nick" Martin, members of People of Peace Fraternity and Esther Mupompa, member of Sacred Heart Fraternity. Fr. Chris Wadelton from Columbus, Indiana, concelebrated with Sacred Heart's Spiritual Assistant Fr. Justin Belitz, OFM, and Fr. Barry Fischer, the Chaplain of Marian University, where the ceremony was held. Deacon Jim Kitchens, a recent transfer to People of Peace, kept the liturgy on track as readers, cantors, ministers, formation directors and candidates followed the meticulous script prepared by People of Peace Formation Director, Jack Hill. Sacred Heart Minister, Brian Foust, and People of Peace Minister, Helen Burke, collaborated with him, filling email boxes to overflowing. If one word could describe the occasion, that word would be "glorious."



From left to right: Nick Martin, Fr. Justin Belitz OFM, Esther Mupompa, Fr. Chris Wadelton and Joe Doll with the guest of honor, St. Francis, at the joint profession of People of Peace and Sacred Heart Fraternities.

The Profession was followed by a reception with nearly three dozen members and guests from both fraternities. All three priests attended and seemed to enjoy the occasion as much as we did. Cookies decorated with the Tau emblem were a big hit, as were numerous Franciscan-themed cards and gifts to mark the occasion for the newly professed. Joy shared was certainly doubled by this double celebration!



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!

LITTLE PORTION:
John Fredette, OFS



"[Concern for others and the natural environment attunes us to] the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us. If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society. An awareness of the gravity of today's cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits (#208-209)."

News and Views from Around the Region

OUR LADY OF LOURDES FRATERNITY (6.29.21): is sponsoring a retreat at Marytown,, Illinois, from Friday, October 8 to Sunday, October 10, 2012. Fr. Don Blaeser, OFM, will be the retreat director. If you're interested contact Sharon Marmalejo, OFS, for more details.

Our Lady of Lourdes will also be celebrating the professions of Deacon John Bacon, OSF, Christine Casiello, OFS, Maria Carmen Farfan, OFS, and Carol Hoffman, OFS. The blessing and prayer of all your brothers and sisters in Our Lady of Indiana Region go with you.

PEOPLE OF PEACE FRATERNITY (5.7.21): has announced that they welcomed Joe Doll, OFS, and Nick Martin, OFS, as their newest brothers on July 11, 2012. The celebration took place in Marian Hall at Marian University. They were joined by **SACRED HEART FRATERNITY** as they celebrated the Profession of Esther Mupompa, OFS, at the same Mass.

The brothers and sisters of **ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL FRATERNITY (July, 2021)** are actively involved with various forms of ministry during Sunday Masses such as Presenting the Gifts at Mass and Greeting parishioners as they arrive.

They were also treated at their July meeting with a presentation by Sr. Anita, OSF, based on Jan Parker's letter about "A Call to Prophetic Creativity" in preparation for studying the other documents recommended such as "Instrumentum Laboris", Pope Francis's "Fratelli tutti", and the 2020 Christmas letter from our General Ministers.

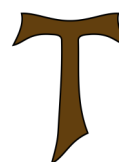
LADYL CLARE FRATERNITY: One of those initiatives OD O UE NEW council is to open an online meeting account to enable the fraternity to meet virtually when necessary. Thanks to a generous donation to the fraternity for this purpose, we now have a Zoom account which will allow for sessions greater than 40 minutes - the limit set by Zoom for free accounts. We will continue to have Friday Evening Prayer on Zoom at 6:30pm on all non-third Fridays (our monthly reunion day).



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRATERNITY received a warm welcome back to their home at St. Francis Convent. Because of the pandemic they held their gatherings for a few folks — a number which increased as vaccinations became available and pandemic protocols became less stringent. Their first meeting "back home again at St. Francis Convent" will be August 21, 2021. It will surely be a happy reunion for many and a genuine homecoming after having been on a forced pilgrimage for so many months.

ST. CHARLES FRATERNITY celebrated the Profession of Teri Queitsch, OFS, on Sunday, July 18, during the 10:30 AM Mass at St. John Bosco Church in Churubusco. The congratulations and assurance of prayer come from all members of our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity.

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY: FEEDING THE HOMELESS: We will once again be joining with Ernie Pyle VFW Post 1120 (1850 S East St) in their monthly activity of feeding the homeless in Indianapolis. On Tuesday July 27 we are invited to help prepare and distribute a meal to the homeless in downtown Indy. Food preparation begins around 2:00 and distribution will occur around 5:00. We have also been asked to begin collecting socks, underwear, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap etc. for distribution to the homeless



tion(#214)."

"[Great importance of the family,] political institutions and various social groups are also entrusted with helping to raise people's awareness. So too is the Church. All Christian communities have an important role to play in ecological educa-

"[The ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion... Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience (#217)."

News and Views from Around the Region, con't



On August 2, 2021, a joyful group of members of **Immaculate Conception Fraternity** in Mishawaka were joined by parishioners from Queen of Peace Parish to celebrate the Feast of St. Mary of the Angels. Fr. John Eze, pastor, was the celebrant of the Mass at the parish grotto and family garden



Praise God for Clare, our sister bright
Who dwells above in endless light,
A women's model for today,
Leader along Christ's footsteps' way.

Thank God for Clare who shines a ray
That teaches us the way to pray:
Yes, gaze, consider, contemplate
Lord Christ so we can imitate.

We honor Clare on this her feast,
That now and after time has ceased,
With her in heaven we'll adore
Our humble, poor, and loving Lord.

Sr. Felicity Dorsett, OSF

*May be sung on the tune of Old One Hundredth
(8888)*

Finding Beauty in the Ashes

An invitation to those in the Indianapolis area

Join others on Saturday, August 2021 at Christ the King Parish, from 8:30 am to noon for a powerful program with Mary Hilger. The morning will begin with Mass, followed by a light breakfast and presentation by Mary.

Mary is a speaker, artist, author, wife, mother and sister of John Evans, OFS. She talks about the love story between herself and her husband, Deacon John Hilger, their long awaited vacation to Amsterdam, and his sudden cardiac arrest aboard the cruise ship on their first day of the cruise.

Learn how their faith and trust in God and His angels orchestrated the gathering of their six daughters to Amsterdam, his hospitalization and ultimate death and getting the whole family back home to Indiana on one flight. She will be doing alive spiritual drawing during her presentation. This is a story of faith, trust and courage.

Register on the Christ The King website, www.ctk-indy.org. Scroll down to Find "Beauty in the Ashes" or call the parish office at 317-255-3666.

There is no charge for this event, but there will be a free will offering



ST. BONIFACE FRATERNITY will enjoy some fraternity on September 12 with a carry-in dinner at Karen Sullivan's home. They are also planning a retreat at St. Meinrad's Archabbey on October 15—17. Topic for the retreat is "Being Humble, Being Holy".

Our Lady of Indiana Secular Franciscan Regional Fraternity



International Website:

www.ciofs.org

National Website:

www.secularfranciscansusa.org

Regional Website:

www.olirf-ofs.org

To join OUR LADY OF INDIANA list-serve send a

blank email to:

OLI-Region-subscribe@googlegroups.com

Follow us on Facebook

Dates to Remember

October: 3— Transitus of Our Holy Father Francis
4 — Solemnity of Our Holy Father Francis

October: 9 — Regional Executive Council

November: 13 — Chapter of Mats
17 — St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Patroness of the Third Order Regular and Secular
24 — Commemoration of all Deceased of the Seraphic Order
29 — All Saints of the Seraphic Order

December: 25 — Solemnity of the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ

2022:

August 3—7, 2022: 20TH Quinquennial Congress, Phoenix, AZ
Theme: *To Celebrate and Renew our Franciscan Calling in the Spirit of Conversion*

"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."

Theme for 2021 GENERAL CHAPTER

"ANIMATE AND GUIDE with
SERVANT LEADERSHIP"

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to you

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,

for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those
who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.

Praise be to you! Amen. (Pope Francis in *Laudato si'*)