



Secular Franciscan Order

Juan de Padilla

Regional Newsletter

K A N S A S T M I S S O U R I T O K L A H O M A

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My dearest Franciscan brothers and sisters:

Peace be with you! As we know, there is no peace in the world, so it is up to each one of us to start a little “peace world” around us. Can we do it? YES, WE CAN (with the help of God!)

I had promised you at the beginning of November that I would provide you with some news about the 2014 NAFRA Chapter that was held in Dallas at the end of October. I will just provide you with the highlights and items that might be of interest to most peo-

ple. More details will probably appear in the next TAU-USA.

Miscellaneous

- An **OFS Disaster Relief Team** has been initiated and organized by Jim Flickinger OFS. Florida is the first state where a team is being organized. This includes non-OFS members.
- **Regional records** of up to 3 years should be available for review. However, records (especially originals) older than 3 years should be stored in a safe and

secure place.

- We have been requested by International to include **candidates** in the annual fair share. This is effective for the year of 2014. Candidates will also now receive the TAU-USA.
- Emphasize the local fraternity's **annual report** at the time of the Fair Share submission. The REC can then use the annual report to help with any upcoming local visitations.

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Regional Executive Council

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Fall Visitations & Elections

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Formation

- The National Formation Commission (led by the new NFC chairman Mary Ann Lenzi) is planning to try to provide formation workshops in central locations.
- One possible location is the Franciscan Prayer Center in Independence, MO.
- We should not forget the Ritual as part of the formation process.

Spiritual Assistance

- Is Jesus inviting us to become Secular Spiritual Assistants? [Jesus never invites us to failure!]
- Our region, as well as the other regions in the country, are reaching a crisis stage in regard to spiritual assistance. If you have been professed for at least 5 years, you are invited to pray and think about the possibility of becoming a Secular Spiritual Assistant. It definitely is part of the promise we made on the day of our profession: “I, by the grace of God, ... consecrate myself to the service of His Kingdom.”
- There is a strong possibility that a Secular Spiritual Assistant will soon be one of the members of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants.

Vocations

- Jeff Ramirez OFS is the National Vocations Chairman (email: ofsvocationscommittee@gmail.com). He would like to hear from SFO people throughout the country about ideas of promoting vocations.
- Some ideas he put forth to us: (1) have a script prepared and ask pastor to announce about the SFO; (2) think of looking for brothers and sisters who are lost; (3) use the Come and See video and flyer that are on the NAFRA website; (4) pray the National Vocations prayer.

- Our own Steve Bradshaw OFS from St. Anthony Fraternity in Wichita has for sale some auto window decals (\$1 each) and license plates (\$4 each) (Missouri residents can't use these because cars there need two official license plates).



International

- It might be interesting to search for a fraternity halfway around the world and connect and discover the similarities and differences. There are many suffering and lonely fraternities out there; perhaps letters of support and solidarity would help them.
- **China** has over 7,000 Secular Franciscans (100 fraternities). Unfortunately, much of their work is underground and there are no specifics about establishment of a National Fraternity there.
- International is financing schooling and water projects in **Haiti**.
- **Africa** has 28 percent of the international fraternities.

Miscellaneous

- We were reminded of the “Mile High Quinquennial—Franciscan Life at a New Height” to take place in Denver from July 1-6, 2016, at the Inverness Hotel in Englewood (south end of Denver).
- Consideration was given to increase the minimum number of people needed to establish a fraternity. Five is not sufficient to have an effective council. This decision will be left up to individual regional fraternities and should be stated in their regional guidelines.



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- We were told that Franciscan Resources still takes some orders. It is safest to email them FIRST before placing an order; if there is no response, do not place the order.

Budget Items

- Regions may request financial assistance for regional elections or visitations.
- National may again provide scholarships for the Quinquennial in 2016.
- The USCCB has just given a \$5,000 grant to the Franciscan Action Network.

The 2015 Chapter takes place from October 13-18 in Clifton, New Jersey. This is an Elections Chapter.

Peace and blessings to each of you!

Your sister and servant,
Alice Crews OFS

CIOFS General and Elective Chapter in Assisi, Italy



The OFS General Chapter which met in Assisi this November, approved eight goals for the coming years. Alice's letter explains the details and how each of us will be affected.

Communication, Formation, Presence in the World, Vocations, Franciscan Youth, Emerging Fraternities and the Family are the eight main goals or focal points for the International Council of the OFS for the coming years.

The task to identify specific ways to reach those goals and the final redaction of the document was entrusted to a specific commission and to the new Presidency, which will be publishing the document some time after the official conclusion of the General Chapter.

Our Prayers are with you, Brother Arturo



Many of you had an opportunity to meet Arturo Villarreal, the joyful fraternal visitor from NAFRA, this last September at the Magnificat Center in Wichita.

We recently learned of the recent death of his daughter, Natalie Romero, a wife and mother of four, one of whom was just three years old, who was killed in a car accident over the holidays. Please remember Arturo and his family in your prayers.



May the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Her...



Tibor Kauser of Hungary was elected Minister General for six years from 2014 to 2020 on the first ballot.

He becomes the fourth Minister General, succeeding Manuela Mattioli, Emanuela de Nunzio and Encarnación del Pozo.



THE FORMATION CORNER



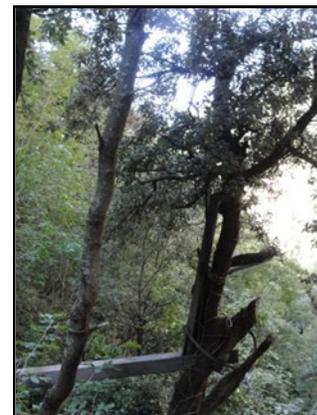
Janice Keeley
Formation Director
In the Sea of Galilee

These are the scenes from the pilgrimages that Mark and I took to Italy during September and October.



The Portiuncula (Little Portion) is preserved within the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, in the valley below Assisi. This is where St. Francis met with his friars and where he ultimately died. On the evening of the "Transitus," there was a large community celebration here.

On the Feast of St. Francis, we spent the day on Mt. La Verna, where St. Francis received his stigmata. This shows the side of the mountain where St. Francis sat in a hollowed out rock to pray and where Satan tried to throw him off the cliff. The rock where he was praying when he received the stigmata is preserved in a chapel.



This is one view of the Basilica of St. Francis. His tomb is within this church. We participated in mass in the chapel in front of his tomb. St. Clare's body can be viewed uncorrupt in her basilica where the original San Damiano crucifix also hangs. (No photos allowed.)



This is considered to be the most authentic portrait of St. Francis. His chronic, painful eye ailment caused constant tearing.

These are examples of some of the nature miracles we were told about: These two doves are descendants of doves that St. Francis bought from a young boy to save them from becoming soup. They eventually moved into this nest held by St. Francis. **Our guide himself has seen 9 generations. The tree once held the birds to which St. Francis preached. It has been struck by lightning several times and must be held up by iron and wood, but it has remained alive all these years. We also saw the rose bush into which St. Francis threw himself to avoid sinning. The rose bushes no longer have thorns and will grow no place, but in that garden.**



Members attending the NAFRA Visitation: Sean Bauer, Geri Rupp, Mary Mead, Regina Ozburn, Nancy Herbert (front row); Dee Hrankaj Sr. Doris Engeman OSF and Sr. Josephine Boyles OSF (second row)



Maria Epperson, Minister of Holy Eucharist Fraternity in Independence, MO leads the members in song and social activities.



NAME	FRATERNITY	CITY, STATE	DATE
Shirley McGhee OFS	Holy Eucharist	Independence, MO	Feb. 4, 2014
Lynda McCray OFS	Holy Eucharist	Independence, MO	Mar.19, 2014
Gene Rowe OFS	St. Stanislaus-St. Adalbert	Broken Arrow, OK	August 22, 2014
Paul Breitenstein	St. Elizabeth	Leawood, KS	October 21, 2014

(Please let Alice know of any deaths in your respective fraternities.)

NAFRA Visit Reinforces strengths & Suggests Goals for Continued Growth



Regional Formation Director, Janice Keeley leads outstanding formation activities for the gathering.



Brother Bob Brady OFM, NAFRA Pastoral Visitor, summarizes the findings of the NAFRA Visitors.

Sister Death

FALL ELECTIONS & VISITATIONS

St. Anthony's Fraternity Wichita, Kansas



Elections in St. Anthony Fraternity, Wichita, KS, November 2, 2014: (L-R) Larry Menestrina (vice minister); Dick Ruth (formation director); Chet Kirby (treasurer); Denise Richey (councilor); Chris Riggs (minister); Antonio Ramirez (councilor); Alice Crews (fraternal visitor); Sylvia Kerschen (secretary); Anne Marie Neuok (pastoral visitor delegated by Fr. Scully).

Brother Jacoba Fraternity Lawrence, Kansas



Elections in Brother Jacoba Fraternity, Lawrence, KS, October 12, 2014: (L-R): Bob Brill (minister); Gloria Creed-Dikeogu (secretary); Susan Tabor (councilor); Ruth Entwistle (treasurer); John Darnell (vice minister); Jean Finch (formation director). Pastoral visitor was Father Jeff Ernst OFM Cap, delegated by Fr. Scully).



St. Anthony Fraternity Apostolate: This is a photo of the \$1,300 check presentation to St. Jude Parish's food ministry, The Lord's Pantry, on December 20. Accepting the check was Helen Piper, the ministry's director, and pastor Fr. Daniel Vacca. The fraternity members pictured (Chris Riggs, Jim Kerschen, Antonio Ramirez, Chet Kirby, Dick Ruth, Larry and Julianna Menestrina) also enjoyed fellowship afterward by satiating their hunger at a local restaurant. The money will be used to buy food at a large discount from the Kansas Food Bank for the poor and hungry in north Wichita.



CALENDAR EVENTS 2015



January 10	REC Meeting @ 10 am	Lawrence, KS
June 26,27,28	Juan de Padilla Regional Retreat, Franciscan Prayer Center	Independence, MO
September 19	Regional Council Meeting	Wichita, KS