



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:

It is my wish and prayer that each of you has been enjoying this beautiful God-inspired summer weather! My favorite part has been the fluctuating temperatures—a week of VERY hot (summer) days and then that's followed by a week of cooler (spring/fall) days. I hope this has been true throughout our whole region. And, yes, we do still need more rain (please, God?).

Summer is usually the time for family reunions. I had the joyful experience of going to

a reunion of my family this summer over the July Fourth weekend in Nebraska.

However, sometimes, I think we forget about our **FRANCISCAN** family. Have your fraternities gotten together with other fraternities in the area? In the Kansas City Metro Area, by the time this newsletter is published, we will have had a picnic at the Franciscan Prayer Center. In all, seven fraternities had been invited: St. Maximilian Kolbe, Atchison, KS; Brother Jacoba, Lawrence, KS; Our Lady of Sorrows, Olathe, KS; St. Elizabeth, Leawood, KS; Holy Eucharist, Independence, MO; Queen of Angels, Blue Springs, MO; and St. Monica,

Kansas City, MO. I hope I can report that we had a good turnout, with representatives from each of these fraternities!

My fraternity, St. Elizabeth, took a whole day (on a Saturday) to drive to Junction City, KS (a 2½-hour drive one way) and spend a VERY delightful day with one of our active/excused members, Manny Pasquil. It just HAPPENED to be his 77th birthday!! Manny went “all out” to entertain us (by rights, we should have been entertaining him for his birthday!!). He had a very delicious meal prepared for us, and that was followed (continued on Page 2)



Regional Executive Council

Wichita Retreat	4-5	Spiritual Assistant	Fr. Michael Scully OFM Cap	913-856-2277	frmikescully@yahoo.com
God's Love—Portrayed in Art	5	Minister	Alice Crews	816-872-5123	alicerose_sfo@att.net
		Vice Minister	Sherry McAuliffe	913-681-6824	sherryt7@hotmail.com
Newly Forming Fraternity	6	Secretary	Dona Gibbons	816-224-3826	palau001@aol.com
		Treasurer	Claudia Kauzlarich	816-258-0793	claudiakauz.sfo@gmail.com
		Formation Director	Janice Keeley	918-456-9334	catholics2@hotmail.com
Summer Visitations & Elections	7	Councilor—Kansas	Mary Ackerly	785-691-7134	mackerlysfo@gmail.com
		Councilor — Missouri	Greg King	913-226-2353	gregking@gmail.com
		Councilor— Oklahoma	Deacon Mark Keeley	918-456-9334	catholics2@hotmail.com

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by interactive entertainment provided by a group of singers (Troubadours) that he has directed for several years. We met so many of his friends!! The afternoon ended too soon for all of us. And, to top it all off, this was the FIRST time any of us had ever met him face-to-face!



Here is a picture of those of us who were able to go: (L-R back) Jennifer Garrison, Linus Drouhard, Diane Drouhard, Manny Pasquil; (front) Kathy Ness, Evie Bear, and Alice Crews.

Do you have something planned to do with YOUR fraternity or a neighboring fraternity? There is still time!!

Peace and blessings to each of you!



Icon—Mary of the Sea

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for Us
Now and at the hour of our death*

One final word about the National Visitation to take place in Wichita on September 19-21—the Regional Executive Council members and the local ministers have received their instructions, so if you have any questions about this event, please ask your minister.

I do want to remind you that a part of this weekend (Saturday, September 20, 10 am) is the business meeting of the regional council which anyone is invited to observe only. Address: 3700 E. Lincoln, Wichita, KS.

I only ask that you let me know if you plan to come so that we can make sure we have enough room and enough food for lunch! Free will donation for food will be greatly appreciated.

Sister Death

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

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



THE FORMATION CORNER



Janice Keeley
Formation Director
In the Sea of Galilee

From the earliest days of the Franciscan Order, the followers of St. Francis have gathered on the anniversary of his death, October 3, to celebrate his **Transitus**, that is, St Francis' passing from earthly life into everlasting life. For those of us who have previously prayed the Transitus ritual, the ceremony has become a necessary annual event. Without the ritual, on the evening of October 3, something significant is missing. The ritual makes Francis' memory come alive. It intensifies our commitment to follow Christ in the way of the poor man of Assisi.

Our Fraternity, in Tahlequah, has gathered for the Transitus since we have been a forming fraternity. We will testify that the Spirit moves in that service. When we discussed the Transitus at the regional council meeting last week, it seemed that all the members of the council are accustomed to the ritual. There are many available forms of the ritual available on line, if you "Google" **Transitus of St. Francis**. There are usual readings that are typical. Dona Gibbons, our regional secretary, has a Transitus service that is used in the Kansas City area that includes costumes. Most Transitus services are not that elaborate. A Transitus service that we like was obtained from Franciscan Resources. You may order an economy pack of 10 booklets for \$15.85. At the service, it is also customary to pray evening prayer I for St. Francis' feast day, from the "Proper Offices of Franciscan Saints and Blesseds in the Liturgy of the Hours" (the Franciscan supplement to the Liturgy of the Hours) (Obtain from Franciscan Resources or from the bookstore of the Sisters of St. Francis in Independence).

A Transitus service can be prayed with or without an ordained minister present. We are just fortunate to have a deacon in our fraternity.

It seems that there are foods that are reminiscent of St. Francis' life and death. One website, Catholic Culture, says that "Jacoba, of the Frangipani family, a very devout woman and noted for her generosity, often gave lodging to the Poverello when he came to Rome. So impressed was he with the energy and the capability of his friend that he called her 'brother' Jacoba. She served him an almond sweetmeat, probably the only food he complimented in his life, called



frangipane cream or tart. She is said to have been on her way to visit him with a new habit, candles for his bier and some frangipane as he lay dying. Almond desserts are sometimes served as commemorative refreshment following a Transitus service.

Another custom, now observed frequently by Protestants, as well as Catholics, is the **blessing of pets** (or animals). The custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis' love for all creatures. As a minister prays, the pet and owner are gently sprinkled with holy water. In our fraternity, we use the blessing of animals as an outreach to our parish and our community. It shows Secular Franciscans in action. We have had dogs, cats, birds, hamsters and goats. If you plan an animal blessing, register it with www.americancatholic.org/petblessings.

This year, my husband and I are praying the Transitus in Assisi, Italy. I expect it to be the Secular Franciscan blessing of our lives. If anyone else is interested, and can make plans rather quickly, check out the pilgrimage at www.stfrancispilgrimages.com. I looked as I was writing this, and they still have 4 slots open. The group will be in Assisi 6 nights and Rome, 2 nights, leaving the U.S.A. September 30. We would love to have others from Juan de Padilla Region traveling with us.

The Regional Retreat by Susan Tabor



The 2014 Annual Retreat Group picture of the members of the Juan de Padilla Regional Fraternity held at Newman University in Wichita, KS.

Here are just a few of the takeaways from the wonderful and thought-provoking retreat presented by Father Mike Scully OFM Cap with the aid of the movie “Brother Sun, Sister Moon.”

Francis knew he needed the church. There are several pivotal turning points in Francis’ life which the movie portrays fairly well. First was his return from the war; he began to think about what had happened and what it meant for him. Francis’s mother was devout and taught Francis what she knew. Francis’ father was hard-driving, greedy/materialistic and was abusive to Francis and to the family in general. He ended up giving to his earthly father all that he’d given Francis and separated himself from his family,



Janice Keeley studies Antonio Ramirez’s latest social hour moves. Larry Menestrina, encourages Antonio from behind.

something which bothered Francis a lot, which the movie doesn’t really show. Then came the dream of building the church, founding and building his Order, the healing ministry that the early Franciscans had for lepers, which got Francis to confront his phobia of lepers and opened him up to learning to love them.

The church and the cross at San Damiano (depicting the Apostles on it) were close to his heart. This is where it became clear to him that

God really had a vision for Francis to rebuild the institutional Church as opposed to a church building. Francis devoutly studied the Gospels and founded his Order firmly on Gospel teaching and living. That study is how peace became an important foundation of the ministry of St. Francis.



Dee Hrankaj describes her email apostolate to members at the regional retreat

Francis and his brothers lived in radical poverty, in which people have and need nothing. Francis and his followers believed and taught that such detachment from the things of the world is what brings true joy to one’s life.

Francis was always reflecting on how to put God and others before himself. He would want us to examine ourselves: our ideals, our prejudices, our pain and our hopes and to use what we learn to help us grow in our faith; we can find examples of what we are dealing with in the Gospels.

In order to live a true witness of the Franciscan charisms, there are some things we must do. We must spend at least twelve minutes each day reading and journaling about the Gospels. We must be deeply nourished by our consistent participation in the Sacraments of the Church. We should always be learning more about the life and teaching of Saint Francis and the charism(s) of the Order.

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To stay mindful and focused on our lives as Secular Franciscans, it would be a very good idea to read our promises of profession every day as part of our Gospel study and prayer time. We must always be growing in our knowledge of the message of the Gospels and of our understanding of what it is to be Secular Franciscan. When we do this, we must take what we know out into the world with us so it can become a better place.



Members socialize in the commons area of Eck Hall.

To add to that, we are called to live the Franciscan ideal. Living the ideal as secular Franciscans makes us who we are and gives us the motivation and strength to live and bring the principles

of Franciscanism out into the world; living the ideal gives us the passion and compassion that it takes to live the Franciscan life in a manner that has the potential to make the world a better place.

We can strengthen ourselves and focus on the Franciscan journey by repeating/praying our words of profession each day. Doing so will provide for us the bread we need to be focused and to commit anew each day to the life we have chosen to live. Here are the words for our profession for our daily prayer:

“I, by the grace of God, renew my baptismal promises and consecrate myself to the service of his Kingdom. Therefore, in my secular state I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its rule of life. May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy father St. Francis, and the fraternal bonds of community always be my help, so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love. Amen.”

“God’s Love– Portrayed in ART”

This summer, Elizabeth Zeller OFS, President of the Contemporary Religious Arts Association, invited Secular Franciscans to exhibit their art and/or attend the showing of religious art at the Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City. The exhibit was titled “God’s Love—Portrayed In Art”.

At the opening reception, Abbot Barnabas Senecal OSB spoke about his experiences as a photographer and writer. Father Pachomius Maede OSB, an iconographer, spoke about the unique beauty of icons. Dr. Caroline Farey gave a lecture about Art and New Evangelization.

The Community of the Lamb participated with singing and guests from near and far shared in the celebration. Elizabeth said that this special exhibit was well received and inspiring to mind and soul.



Archbishop Joseph Naumann led the Vespers during the opening reception.



Sister Josephine , Spiritual Assistant and Alice Crews , Regional Minister, admire the art at the opening reception.

Besides the exhibit, the Contemporary Arts Association offered several workshops such as Medieval Illumination on real vellum, traditional materials, and gilding with Dr Tony Silvestri’s Iconography in Gothic style, egg tempera on paper with David Clayton, Sculpture; sculpting, introduction in building of armatures and mold making with Elizabeth Zeller.



The Beginnings of the St. Frances Cabrini Newly Forming Fraternity



Chris Hickman OFS got a teaching position at Seward County Community College/Area Technical School in Liberal, Kansas in July of 2011. He and his wife, Eva, moved from Colorado Springs for the new job. Chris left his spiritual home for the last 10+ years, St. Francis de Sales OFS fraternity, and moved to an area where the closest OFS fraternity is over 3 hours driving distance away. Chris transferred his Secular Franciscan membership to St. Joseph Fraternity in Hays, Kansas. He discussed the hope of starting a new fraternity with Rev. James Dieker, Fr. Felix Petrovsky OFM Cap, Geri Rupp OFS (Minister of St. Joseph), and Alice Crews OFS (Juan de Padilla Regional Minister.)



L-R: E.K. Madathil, Fr. Jim Dieker, Eva Hickman, Sr. Cecilia, Chris Hickman, Annie Madathil

Chris and Eva met Rev. James Dieker after becoming parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Liberal, Kansas. Fr. Jim went regularly to dinner with them and there was much conversation about Secular Franciscans.

In 2013, Eva decided to become a Secular Franciscan and set the ball in motion. Rev. James Dieker decided that was something he wanted to do too. Around the same time, one of Chris's students, Eappan (E.K.) Madathil, and his wife, Annie, who were also parishioners at St. Anthony, decided they would like to become Secular Franciscans too.



L-R: Geri Rupp, Jorge Vasquez, E.K. Madathil, Fr. Jim Dieker, Annie Madathil, Eva Hickman, Fr. Felix Petrovsky OFM Cap

Fr. Jim, Eva, Annie, E.K., Chris, Geri Rupp OFS, Rita Gabel, OFS, and Fr. Felix Petrovsky OFM Cap, all met at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City in November of 2013 for the Ceremony of Welcome.

In their first year, the group sponsored the soup dinner at the Stations of the Cross during Lent, and raised \$300 for the Franciscan Mission Service.

The newly forming group attended their pre-candidacy retreat at the convent of the Disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ (<http://dljc.org>) in Prayer Town, Texas. Sister Cecilia presented a talk on Franciscan Spirituality and Sister Stella was the Retreat Master.

In June of 2014, Fr. Jim, Eva, E.K., and Annie were given the Rite of Admission from Geri Rupp OFS (minister of St. Joseph), Jorge Vasquez OFS (formation director of St. Joseph), and Fr. Felix (Spiritual Assistant of St. Joseph) in Scott City, Kansas. We now have a Franciscan community in Liberal, Kansas!

We also have a website dedicated to High Plains Franciscans at www.ofshighplains.org

SUMMER VISITATIONS

Queen of the Angels Fraternity Blue Springs, Missouri



Pictured from the left are Dave and Virginia Forbes, Cathy Herndon, Monsignor Ralph Kaiser, Pat Durham and Dona Gibbons.

On April 30th, Queen of the Angels welcome regional visitors Alice Crews, Regional Minister and Father Mike Scully, Regional Spiritual Assistant.



Above, members gathered around the statue of St. Francis in the front of the Church of the Santa Fe in Buckner, MO. Left –right: Dave Forbes, Cathy Herndon, Monsignor Ralph Kaiser, Spiritual Assistant, Alice Crews, Fr. Mike Scully, Regional Spiritual Assistant, Virginia Forbes, and Pat Durham. (Not pictured: Helen Boos, Kathy Johnson and Dona Gibbons)



Your prayers are heard!
Please continue to pray for the health of
Father Mike Scully OFM Cap,
Regional Spiritual Assistant

Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity Atchison, Kansas



Elections Results - L-R back: Agnes Pouy, Annie Wiggs, Sister Josephine OSF (pastoral visitor), Sherry Lange (Vice Minister), Robert Pouy (Formation Director). Front: Roseann Mahieu (Secretary), Sean Bauer (Minister), Kay Mangimelli (Treasurer), Frank Carpinelli.



C A L E N D A R E V E N T S

September 19-21	National Visitation—Magnificat Center, Wichita, KS
October 21-26	NAFRA Chapter, Dallas, TX