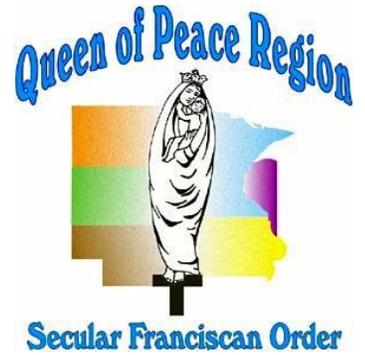


TRACINGS

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Minister's Quarterly Message

Fall 2015, Issue 14

Reading about St. Francis and Franciscans is nothing new. What *stays* with you is another thing. Most books rehash what we have learned in Formation with a new twist. The Franciscan book club run by Sr. Betty Berger, OSF (Spiritual Assistant to St. Crispin Fraternity in St. Paul, MN) is currently reading *Eager to Love* by Fr. Richard Rohr. We are about midway through the book and two things have *stayed* with me. First (on page xv), is that St. Francis has the longest single entry of any one person in the Library of Congress. I am guessing you could read a book about St. Francis *every day and not read them all*. On p. 82 Fr. Rohr notes that St. Francis:

- Uses the word *doing* rather than *understanding* at a ratio of 175 times to five
- *Heart* is used 42 times to one use of *mind*.
- *Love* is used 23 times as

opposed to 12 uses of *truth*.

- *Mercy* is used 26 times while *intellect* is used only once.

These notations remind us of what was important to St. Francis and if we are to imitate him, we need to remember what is really important.

Peace and all Good
Kim Pappas, OFS
Regional Minister

I'm Formation Director –So?

Have you been willing and able to accept the responsibility of Formation Director and then asked yourself: What do I know about adult learners?

We as professed secular Franciscans have committed ourselves to ongoing learning but may not fully realize what that may mean for us. We should ask, "So what? So what difference does the teaching of the Church, the teaching

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Servant Leadership Opportunity

Become the next Tracings Editor! Answer the call to service as a Franciscan! Share your gifts with everyone in the Region! Putting together a newsletter is as easy as pie. All you need is a computer, MS Word and you are in business. (A MAC may work better.) Just download the template of your choice and plug in pictures and data. Regional fraternity members provide the content. The editor is responsible for putting it together, not writing the whole thing! And you only need to do it four times a year! Don't say no to this one—it is a privilege to serve. Contact the acting editor if you feel called. gordonofs@gmail.com



of Francis and the message of the Gospel make to the way I live my life?" As the formation leader, one needs to facilitate time at our gatherings to connect with people and to pose interesting questions for small-group discussion. To lead effective discussion, one should have an energetic commitment to the topic, create a positive atmosphere, focus on the topic not on oneself, be prepared, provide a reading ahead of time so that all are familiar with the topic, prepare discussion questions, be positive when disagreeing, and share the responsibility. Adults learn through a variety of experiences so incorporate prayer, quiet reflection, conversation, service, music and stories. Lectures should include real-life experiences that help illustrate key points. A variety of approaches and tales of experience will aid the

adult learner.

A Formation Director and the fraternity council make a commitment of time and resources for ongoing formation. It takes a team to plan evaluate and lead the fraternity formation. Look to the liturgical year and the Franciscan feasts and memorials and prayer services to include in formation. Be creative through music, art, reflection and shared conversation. Schedule the study, communicate the schedule and follow it while being flexible when topics come up that need attention. Above all enjoy.

Look toward the summer and fall of 2016 and participate in the regional formation tool workshops scheduled for Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska. Watch the Regional Tracings for dates and location.

With New Eyes

Kathy Taormina, OFS

QOP Regional Spiritual Assistant
 In May, during our Regional Annual Meeting, Fr. Steve McMichael, OFM Conv., challenged my understanding of Saint Francis' Canticle of the Creatures. He made me delve below the surface of the beautiful poem sung by Francis to praise the Lord in all Creation. He dared me to see through Francis' eyes as Francis saw the heavens and earth as it already was in the presence of our Lord. To see how we, according to how we lived our lives on earth, would be included or excluded in the heavenly Kingdom of God. I was asked to see with new eyes.

Recently I read a commentary which spoke of John's Gospel in which Jesus drove out the animal sellers and the money-changers from the temple. Although Jesus made a whip out of cords, he most likely used it on the animals to get them out of the temple, not the people. Even with Jesus overturning the tables and spilling all the coins, it did not state that he did it with fury as we are so often led to believe within our imaginations. After this, the Jews asked him a question, 'asked', not 'yelled'. This new vision of Jesus walking through the temple moving out everyone with authority without fury gave new insight to me. With my eyes opened, I could see that Jesus cleared the temple of all other earthly sacrifices for soon he would become the one sacrifice for all time.

As a Spiritual Assistant, I am asked to see fraternities with 'pastoral eyes', meaning to look upon the brothers and sisters relationships within the context of the Trinity. My own eyes have been privileged to witness great sights in my short life, most recently the birth of my first grandchild, but it is when I look closer, deeper, and with the eyes of faith, that Christ reveals what he really wants me to see.

What has Christ been asking you to see?

Two Individuals Profess from St. Clare Fraternity

Two members of the St. Clare Fraternity, Omaha, NE, professed on Sunday, June 28, 2015: Michelle Hamouz, OFS and Linda McLaughlin, OFS. Their Profession was special for many reasons - they committed to living the Gospel life in the spirit of St. Francis and they are the first individuals to profess at the Omaha Poor Clares' Portiuncula Monastery completed in March 2015. Linda's son, Fr. Patrick McLaughlin, said the Profession mass with devotion and a touch of humor. The St. Clare Fraternity is happy to have Michelle and Linda as our newest members and companions. As St. Francis would say: "Praised be to you my Lord!" - submitted by Ann Reynek, OFS, Minister, St Clare Fraternity.



Pictured: Marlene Schuetz, OFS (Sponsor) and Linda McLaughlin, OFS; Sr. Theresina Santiago, OSC (Spiritual Assistant), Michelle Hamouz, OFS and Muriel Munchrath, OFS (Sponsor).



**Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation –
Called to Live and Share the Gospel**

When the hour of his death approached, Francis asked that all of the brothers living with him be called to his death bed and softening his departure with consoling words, he encouraged them with fatherly affection to love God. He spoke of patience and poverty and of being faithful to the Holy Roman Church, giving precedence to the Holy Gospels before all else. He then stretched his hands over the brothers in the form of a cross, a symbol that he loved so much, and gave his blessings to all followers, both present and absent, in the power and in the name of the Crucified. Then he added: “Remain, my sons, in the fear of the Lord and be with him always. And as temptations and trials beset you, blessed are those who persevere to the end in the life they have chosen. I am on my way to God and I commend you all to his favor.” (St. Bonaventure, Major Life)

The powerful passage from St. Bonaventure’s Major Life of Francis recounting the blessing Francis gave to his followers on his deathbed brings to mind Jesus’ tender farewell to his apostles shared in John 14. Jesus gathers together those who were closest to him on earth and blesses them and all who are to believe in him in the future, based on their witness. Because of the faithfulness of the apostles and the first followers of St. Francis and St. Clare, we too are blessed, as followers of Jesus in the footsteps of Francis and Clare. And it is up to us to share this call to live the Gospel with those who follow us.

Fraternities celebrate with great joy the profession of new members and are happy to share the journey of formation with inquirers and candidates. We welcome all visitors to our fraternity gatherings, inviting them to “come and see.” The first goal of JPIC is to “foster an atmosphere in fraternity, the privileged place, where with openness and trust, we may share with each other the manner in which our personal conversions are shaping our Franciscan lives.” The importance of fraternity gatherings, the formation of inquirers and candidates, and ongoing formation on the fraternity, regional and national levels cannot be overemphasized. It’s at these gatherings that we bring the fruit of our own prayer, reading, reflection, and ministry to share with others, not in a boastful manner but in humble recognition of the way God is calling, forming and using each of us.

We must ask ourselves, too, if those we encounter in our daily lives – our families, neighbors, fellow parishioners, co-workers - notice something different about us, because of our commitment to live as Franciscans. In both our words and

the quiet witness of our actions and attitudes, wherever we may be, we are called to live and share the Gospel. Our JPIC mission statement challenges us to “manifest the fruits of conversion in our lives, with special regard to the daily choices made in the area of justice, peacemaking and respect for all created things and people...bringing life to the Gospel and the Gospel to Life.”

We all help each other to “persevere to the end” in the life we have chosen. May we ourselves be a blessing to those we leave behind.

Mary Higgins, OSF

Apostolates - - - -

Share your apostolate initiatives with the Region. Many Fraternities have active and creative apostolates while others are struggling as to what to do. Your apostolate may serve to spur another fraternity to joyful, life-changing action. Please share your ideas with all of your Franciscan brothers and sisters. Send the editor an article with photo if possible.

**Secular Franciscan Order Queen of Peace Region
Donation Form**

I/We would like to make a tax deductible donation to the OFS Queen of Peace Regional Common Fund:

In honor of: _____
- or -

As a Memorial to: _____
My/Our check numbered _____ in the amount of _____ is included in this mailing.

My/Our Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

Please mail this form and your check to:
Treasurer, OFS Queen of Peace Region
22983 W. Martin Lake Drive, Stacy, MN 55079



UPCOMING EVENTS

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Queen of Peace Regional Fall Gathering

The 2015 Regional Fall Gathering, to be hosted by Saint Louis Fraternity, is scheduled for September 19th, 2015, at Assisi Heights in Rochester, MN from 8:30AM to 4:00PM. Sr. Ramona Miller is the Keynote speaker. Registration form attached to this emailing.

2015 All Iowa Retreat

San Damiano Fraternity, Marshalltown, IA will host the 2015 All Iowa Retreat on Sunday, September 27th, 2015 at the Tama County Nature Center, Otter Creek Lake Park, Tama, IA. Theme is "Called and Gifted" featuring speaker Deb Richards. 8:30AM to 3:00PM. Cost \$20.00.

NAFRA Chapter Meeting 2015

The 2015 NAFRA Chapter Meeting, to be hosted by Our Lady of the Angels Region, is scheduled for October 13 - 18, 2015, at the Holiday Inn in Clinton New Jersey.

The Quinquennial

NAFRA will hold the "Q" in St Louis, June 30 – July 3, 2016 at the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel. Rediscover the Franciscan Charisms and enjoy new growth and fruitfulness in your vocation. Share your joys and your insights as we look forward to future endeavors as a National Family.

Regional Formation Workshop

A Regional Formation Workshop is being planned for August 13, 2016 at Saint Bonaventure in Bloomington, MN. Mark your calendars for this important event. More information will be provided as planning continues.

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