

TRACINGS

ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS | www.queenofpeaceregion.org



Secular Franciscan Order

Spring 2017, Issue 20

Minister's Message – *Be Ready!*

By Kim Pappas, OFS, Regional Minister

The election is over. Thank God. Now is the time for us to come together – right? If the questions and comments that I am getting from the fraternities are any example, we have forgotten what it means to be "instruments of peace."

Now I know that Jesus picked his disciples from opposite ends (Matthew the tax collector – a Roman collaborator and Simon the Zealot – they wanted to overthrow the Romans). They came together. We need to learn from their example. Our fraternities are made up of people from all sides. God is not one party. We are to pray for our government leaders, regardless of party. We need to pray for government leaders to have wisdom (DIVINE, not human).

We do not want to turn off potential candidates because we have become an open forum for political discourse. We need to remember what unites us. We need to live the gospel values so that it doesn't become an empty (cam-

paigned/profession) promise. We need to remember that we have been entrusted with an 800 year history of Franciscanism. St. Francis was able to reconcile a bishop and a politician – no easy task then or today. We can model peace. It is this peace that will help ensure another 800 years of Franciscanism.

Peace be with you,

Kim Pappas, OFS

Call for Nominations

The Region will be having elections the first weekend in June 2017. All offices are up for election. We encourage you to nominate "well suited" professed Secular Franciscans. You can even nominate yourself! Send any nominations to Kim Pappas at: pappasfamily4@juno.com or call 763-585-8150.

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Sr. Nancy Resigns

Sr. Nancy Miller, OSF has resigned her position as Regional Spiritual Assistant. She will complete the current Spiritual Assistants class that ends in June 2017. Kathy Taormina, OFS will continue as our Regional Spiritual Assistant.

We wish to thank Sr. Nancy for her years of service to the Queen of Peace Region. She will remain as Spiritual Assistant for Holy Trinity Fraternity in Dubuque, IA.



The Theology of Profession Lived Within Fraternity

by Kathy Taormina, OFS, Regional Spiritual Assistant

“Secular Franciscans are committed to a fraternal communion of faith and love, nurtured by mutual prayer, reciprocal knowledge and awareness as well as regular presence. Frequent absence from fraternity gatherings does not support fraternal life. OFS profession gives fraternal life a place of preference in the life of professed Franciscans. Each member is “co-responsible” for the life of the fraternity. Professed members share their personal gifts in a way that builds fraternal life and contributes to the community of love. As adults the Holy Spirit calls us to support and flavor the community of love with a Franciscan spirit.”

These quotes are from the book *Franciscan Family Connections* by the OFS Con-

ference of Spiritual Assistants, 2011 edition. It is the source of our Region’s Spiritual Assistants Class. It speaks of commitment, absence from fraternity and our co-responsibilities as professed OFS.

As I travel around the region during Pastoral Visitations, the ultimate question from every fraternity is, “How do we attract new members?” After re-reading these quotes, maybe our question should be, “How do we keep our professed members active and involved in our fraternity?” Would an active, full of life and love fraternity attract new members?

We need to remember that with all the blessings and graces we receive from Profession, there are duties and obligations for each member to fulfil those Profession promises. Read our Rule, Articles 21-24.

Each fraternity will need to evaluate

their Initial Formation programs, their current and challenging On-Going Formation and the apostolates which share our Franciscan charism with the world. The following questions for discussion may help in opening the dialogue to true revitalization of our fraternities.

Questions for discussion:

- *Do I look forward to the fraternity gatherings? If not, why?
- *What does a “place of preference” mean to me?
- *Do I give my fraternity gathering a “place of preference” in my life?
- *Do I come to fraternity meetings but not attend any other OFS gatherings? Why?
- *How has my life changed or grown since my Profession?
- *Where do we go from this point?

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JPIC How YOU can make a difference

By Mary Higgins, OSF and Cynthia Gunsolly, OSF, Regional JPIC animators.

There is a good deal of polarization in our nation that can spill over into our families, work places, friendships and even fraternities if we're not careful. However, there are some things we can agree on as Secular Franciscans if we value our Franciscan vocation and our call to community. We can focus on what unites us and very carefully avoid having our differences in opinion damage relationships within our fraternities. We will weaken the Secular Franciscans and our witness to the world unless we make an effort to understand and respect one another.

Catholic Social Teaching is like a broad umbrella that challenges us to consider

a wide range of issues. Each one of us will form unique opinions and be attracted to different courses of action because of our life experiences. If we are to represent the full message of the Gospel and interpret its application in this time and place, we need people who will promote the full range of what our Church’s social teaching challenges us to do. It means addressing the right to life for the unborn child and the need to care for the earth. It means defending our religious freedoms and being sure that people have access to adequate nutrition, a good education, and health care. It means sheltering the homeless, encouraging the hopeless, welcoming the stranger, listening to the lonely. None of us has the time and energy to do it all. That’s why we need to sup-

port and listen to each other. We won’t all agree on how to approach every issue. That’s to be expected. But let’s agree to respectful dialogue.

Our first response must be prayer. We can pray, “Thy will be done. Here I am Lord. I come to do your will. What do you want ME to do?”

So pray for guidance and choose your action. God sees each one of us as a unique creation, with our own place in the world and a reason to be here. Find out how YOU can make a difference, whether it’s through political action or one on one with a neighbor, volunteering with a community or church group, or contributing financially to a good cause. If you’re already involved, good for you!

May our hope and our response to the call of the Gospel be active and enduring.

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A Lesson in Simplicity from Saint Francis

By Margie Florence, OFS, Regional Formation Director – *The first in a series to be continued*

Francis was confronted again and again with Christ's simple lifestyle. I asked at my profession to follow in Francis's footsteps. Who did Francis follow? Christ, Right! To live Francis's simplicity means to treat everything with which I am blessed as a true gift from God. Francis didn't view simplicity as a specialized discipline but as a garden from which all other virtues grow.

I have found that there is a difference between living simply and living simplicity. One is a **lifestyle** and the other

is **the lifestyle**. I want the later.

Recently, I spent some quiet time cleaning closets. I found things I forgot I owned – things not needed and things with tags still on. My life needed pruning. It was out of control. My surplus could supply another's needs.

I became a Secular Franciscan to simplify my life in all areas – not just materially but emotionally also. Materially is a good place to start. In the things I found I was reminded of relationships that could use some mending. I find that simplifying my life is a continuous process; If I am to live simply, distinguishing between wants and needs in all things is a daily process.

Prayer for Simplicity by William H. Sadlier

Lighten my load, Lord.
Help me to keep in balance the things I desire with those I truly need.
May I give generously to those whose needs for survival are far more pressing than my own.

Lighten my mind, Lord.
Help me to relinquish my opinions and judgments.
By widening my worldview, may I come to a greater appreciation of the diversity of your people.

Lighten my heart, Lord.
Help me to release the toxic emotions that constrict my love and limit my compassion.
Let gratitude, kindness, and a delight in life arise in me like the sweetest song.

In imitation of your devoted servant, Francis, may I come to embrace simplicity as a sacred way to live.

Amen.

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10/2014
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Secular Franciscan Order Queen of Peace Region Charitable Giving 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, made out to "QUEEN OF PEACE REGION."

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

Queen of Peace Regional Spring Gathering 2017

Regional Spring Gathering sponsored by Spiritus Sanctus Emerging Fraternity; Saturday, April 22, 2017, Franciscan Mother House, Little Falls, MN. Registration 8:30 to 9 AM. Program 9 AM. Guest speaker: Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM Conv. Topic: Franciscan Spirit of Thomas Merton. Registration information in flyer attached.

Annual Regional Spiritual Assistant Workshop – On Friday, June 2, 2017 concurrent with the Annual Council Meeting in Buffalo, MN, the Regional Spiritual Assistants will be meeting for an all-day workshop. Please place it on your calendars now, more information will be forthcoming. Should you have questions please contact Kathy Taormina, OSF, kathysfo@hotmail.com

Annual Regional Council Meeting and Chapter of Elections – 2-4 June 2017, Christ the King Retreat Center Buffalo, MN - All Fraternity Ministers or Vice-Ministers are required to attend this meeting. Delegates may be selected by the council to represent the fraternity if the Minister or Vice minister cannot attend. The delegate must present a letter from the Minister to the Regional Secretary to provide official confirmation of the delegation in writing.

The Region will cover room and board for Ministers or representatives. Other fraternity members, spouses, or family members are welcome to attend. They will be required to pay \$170.00 per person for a private room (2 nights) and four meals or \$150.00 per person for a shared room (2 nights) and four meals for the weekend. This is payable by cash or check, made out to Queen of Peace Region, before or upon arrival Friday evening.

This year, concurrent with the Annual Meeting, is the Regional Chapter of Elections. Please plan on attending so you may participate in the election of your servant leaders.

Registration form is attached to this Newsletter. It is in .pdf form and is fillable on your computer. By using Adobe Reader (free at <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>) you will be able to download the .pdf form, fill it out and return it by email without ever printing it. It is also on the web site under News/Events>2017 Annual Regional Meeting.

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