

Up to Now

Newsletter of the St. Margaret of Cortona Region of the Secular Franciscan Order

Covering the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia,
and portions of West Virginia and Pennsylvania



Volume 12, Issue 4

Let us begin again, for up to now we have done nothing.

May 2009

New Regional Council Elected

Presided over by National Minister Patrick Mendés, Ministers from around the region met from March 27 to March 29 to elect the new council.

In addition to the elections, a Pastoral Visitation and a Fraternal Visitation were conducted, and Dr. Tom Fame made a presentation on OLPH Haiti Project.

FRATERNAL VISITATION

The National Minister noted that visitations provide fraternal support and the link between the national and regional fraternities, offer counsel and consultation, and assure the fidelity of the charism. Every fraterniXty is unique, every region is unique. He asked how many fraternities have ministries and apostolates. Several fraternities related their ministries. Restructuring and revising the Rule—The Commissions structure can be kept intact. JPIC is a way of communicating with the Franciscan family using the same terminology

(See “Elections” on page 5.)



New officers of the Regional Executive Council: From left, Formation Director Michael Huether, sfo; MD/PAD Area Councillor Mary Simmons, sfo; Secretary Teri Egan, sfo; Minister Mary Thuman, sfo; Treasurer Patrick Martin, sfo; VW/WVA Area Councillor Mary Lou Coffman, sfo; Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR, National Spiritual Assistant; Metro DC Area Councillor Ann Corro, sfo; Vice Minister Claire Hoagland, sfo.



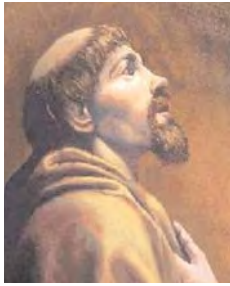
New officers of the Regional Executive Council are sworn in on March 28, in the chapel at the Priestfield Pastoral Center by National Minister Patrick Mendes, sfo.

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Minister's Message



Dear Franciscan Brothers and Sisters of St. Margaret of Cortona Region,

Blessings and All Good to each and every one of you!

As your new minister, I am looking forward to getting to know you and to be there for you. During the next three years, my goal is to come to your gatherings at least once. If my math is correct, that would be 10 visits per year to reach each fraternity.

I believe that our calling to the Secular Franciscan Order is as vital to our church and our world today as it was when our dear brother Francis walked the earth. Together, inspired by the lives of Francis and Clare, we can be the catalyst for the peace and justice our world needs today. By the time you receive this, Pentecost will be here. May the Holy Spirit to be our constant guide!

Let us begin again — for up to now we have done nothing

The Lord's Peace be with you,

Mary Thuman, sfo
Regional Minister



Franciscan Youth/Young Adult Commission of the Secular Franciscan Order - USA

Those of you who are interested in becoming more active in building a youth ministry will find many resources available on the FY/YA Commission Web site, found at <http://www.franciscanyouthusa.com/>.

The site provides background and downloads including a brochure, formation material and links to other helpful Web sites.

Notes from the Regional Formation Team

The new Regional Formation Team, chaired by Formation Minister Michael Huether, met on May 17, 2009, at the home of team advisor Ann Corro. The team members are Susan Burke, Mary Lou Coffman, Angela Gill, Jeanie McLees and Miguel Tirado.

Several items of interest to local fraternities were discussed:

- † Susan Burke has developed a very helpful Formation Manual compiled from various sources. Put together in one place these documents should prove to be invaluable to formation ministers. Copies were distributed to Ministers of the local Fraternities at the Regional Election. These should be made available to your formation ministers. If you have not received a copy, please contact one of the formation team members.
- † Members of the Regional Formation Team will be calling the Ministers of the local Fraternities to get contact information for each Formation Minister. We will then contact the Formation Ministers to introduce ourselves and to make ourselves available for any assistance necessary.
- † Team members would like to participate in local fraternity retreats, to establish our solidarity and visibility at the local level. We'll be asking about upcoming retreats, or you can contact us.

If you have questions or concerns about formation matters, you may also contact Michael or the team members. Team members can be reached at the following e-mail addresses:

Susan Burke, sfo
susansfo@embarqmail.com

Mary Lou Coffman, sfo
marylousfo@verizon.net

Angela Gill, sfo
agill3@verizon.net

Michael Huether, sfo
mhuether1@cavtel.net

Jeanie McLees, sfo
scottish.wench@cox.net

Miguel Tirado, sfo
ostuncalco.micky@yahoo.com

("Elections" from page 1)

in the United States. and has been adopted by NAFRA. Franciscan Action Network (FAN) is a separate organization and encompasses the entire Franciscan family in lobbying efforts to promote gospel living. Board member Tom Bello spoke about the difficulties of promoting policies such as right to life in the political arena.

New formation documents are going to be issued by the International Fraternity (CIOFS), and regional formation teams should replicate the national formation workshop on the local level. Resource materials are listed on the last page of the [Tau-USA](#) newsletter.

PASTORAL VISITATION

National Spiritual Assistant Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR, Loretto, Pa., said that the Pastoral Visitor is to encourage the regional fraternity to live the Franciscan charism and emphasize the bond with the First Order and TORs. The decline in spiritual assistants was noted.

Fr. Queally said that fraternities must ask again and again for spiritual assistance, but that each fraternity must try to find suitable spiritual assistants. Fr. Queally recommended the Franciscan Family Connections program to form lay

spiritual assistants. Interested parties must be approved by the region and provincial assistant for the mentoring program.

He talked about the Summer Seminar program at St. Francis University on Franciscan Spirituality to be held June 25-29 and quoted Article 30 of the General Constitutions that each member is co-responsible for the life of the fraternity.

O.L.P.H. HAITI PROGRAM

Dr. Tom Fame, Companions of Francis & Clare Fraternity, Rocky Mount, Va., gave a presentation on the O.L.P.H. Haiti Project, with which he has been involved since 1996. With moving testimony and beautiful slides, he described the education projects on which he has focused These include building three schools, setting up a lunch program, paying teachers. He is now turning to public health issues — a health clinic, clean water project, and solar panels for the schools and church.. He has written a book on his experiences in Haiti called The Lambi's Call. He will come to speak about his project to groups, and he seeks funds for ongoing projects there. More about the Haiti Project will be reported in the next issue of Up to Now.

Reported by Ann Corro, Outgoing Regional Secretary

Congratulations to . . .

members of the St. John the Beloved Fraternity in Alexandria, Va., who celebrated their 40th anniversary on April 18 — and a good time seems to have been had by all!



Refresh
Restore
Renew

Join your brothers and sisters at the annual St. Margaret of Cortona retreat at the beautiful Priestfield Pastoral Center.

You will be refreshed by the serenity of the peaceful mountain setting.

You will be restored by the spirit-stretching presentations and discussions.

You will renew your friendships in fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

Go to the registration form on page 5.



PRIESTFIELD PASTORAL CENTER

Regional Retreat Registration Information

Where : **Priestfield Pastoral Center**, 4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV 25430-3742

When: October 9-11 2009

Who: All Secular Franciscans. Including candidates, inquirers and spiritual assistants

REGISTRATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Submit form no later than August 31, 2009.
2. Please type or print all information clearly.
3. Only one participant per registration form.
4. NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of \$50.00 must accompany this form.
5. Make your check out to St. Margaret of Cortona Region and mail this form with payment to:

Carolyn Protin
 115 Starland Way
 Milford, DE 19963-5378
 Phone # 302 424-2441
 e-mail: ceprotin@att.net

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

Fraternity _____

Please check room requirement (please consider a roommate):

Rooms are designed for double occupancy for maximum attendees.

- A) Single occupancy room: \$176.00
- B) Double occupancy room: \$154.00
- C) Single occupancy cabin: \$210.00
- D) Double occupancy cabin: \$166.00
- E) Dormitory: \$132.00

Name of preferred roommate _____

Amount enclosed with this form \$ _____

JPIC Update from Rome

Pio Jackson OFM – director of the JPIC Office for the province – sends this update regarding his recent activities, especially his gathering in Rome for JPIC-related business

There is no need for me to go through a long and drawn-out explanation of why I am here in Rome and to put forth again the essence of our charism in justice, peace and integrity of creation.

So I will get to the point and just quote from a few of our recent documents.

Living and preaching the Gospel through works of reconciliation, peace, justice and care for creation is not one activity among others: parishes, schools, youth ministry care for the Secular Franciscans and religious women, missions, etc. Rather, it is an essential dimension of our vocation, like prayer, fraternity, minority and evangelization. JPIC is a way of life and mission; through it we are challenged by the great issues of humanity and committed to the cause of all people, that all might live with dignity. Thus, JPIC embraces all our life; it is a central axis which passes through all the dimensions of our religious and Franciscan life; prayer, fraternity, formation, economics, vows mission, etc. All friars, whatever their age or ministry are called to integrate these dimensions in a balanced way through the course of their lives.

From the *Guidelines for Animation 2009*, 3.1.1.

JPIC will continue to be emphasized as a transverse dimension (emphasis theirs) of our vocation and appears in all the chapters of the Constitutions particularly in IV and V. And

The General Chapter requests that courses dedicated to JPIC, in which special attention is paid to the topics of creation and non-violence be established at the Pontifical Antonianum of Rome and recommends that similar courses be given in all the Franciscan Institutes of Higher Education.

from the *Proposals of the General Chapter of 2003*, Section V.41 on Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

This year of 2009, twenty-three animators from across the globe have gathered to once again immerse ourselves into the heart of Franciscan living so we can better hear the cries of the poor and serve with humble, open and compassionate hearts. The latter part of the day is open to all who feel they can benefit from the Franciscan charism of

JPIC with about the same number coming from religious and other walks of life. The work here is long and intense and we see our greatest gift while we are here as ourselves to one another. Walking with vulnerability and humility, we minister to each with our presence and hopes and dreams. We do not see ourselves as experts but instruments of healing and hope. I have never ceased to be touched by the animators I have come across. Their lives tell the story of their commitment and their light shines through their wounds.

We are up for prayer around 6:00 a.m. and begin in our language groups between 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. The day starts with class around 9:00 a.m. on topics pertinent to JPIC, such as how we understand other religions and expressions of faith and how we do our work, and a methodology of proclamation, looking always to the signs of the times. After lunch, the sessions continue into the evening, interspersed with small breaks and group sharing. Sessions end about 7:00 p.m.

We are aware that we must be witness not only to others but to ourselves and our own Franciscan family as well. Everyone has asked what they can take back to their sisters and brothers, not only in their communities but their excluded, needy or poorest of the poor, and how they can better show this face of Francis to them.

I heard very little talk from any one about touring, etc. All were preoccupied with bringing in the Holy City of the Kingdom for all peoples and whatever time we had left was handled usually with a shrugged off attitude by someone with "well we'll see. . . I'm not really here to go around."



Above all we see ourselves as called to be disciples of Christ and Francis. Not to imitate, mind you. This distinction was made to us by one of the professors. We cannot try to superimpose 13th century Franciscan living into the 21st century modern world. We are called to witness and serve the Living God who is as fresh as the Spirit and whose finger writes in sign our redemptive history with grace and hope, where we are open to embrace them and proclaim them for the sake of all.

Peace, Pio

The JPIC Web site can be found at <http://www.franciscan.org/JPIC/default.asp>.

Franciscan Pilgrimage

Six men wearing the traditional Franciscan brown habits will be walking through our area in the next few weeks.

The Franciscan friars are from the St. Joseph Friary in Chicago and are on a pilgrimage leaving Roanoke, Va., on June 20 and planning to reach the Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington, D.C. by July 31.

Two of the friars are Franciscans priests and formation directors for the other four. The four have made initial vows as Franciscans and are currently working toward their final vows.

The four novices who are traveling are:

- † Bro. Richard Goodin, age 25, from Kentucky.
- † Bro. Roger Lopez, age 30, from Florida.
- † Bro. Cliff Hennings, age 24, from Texas.
- † Bro. Joshua van Cleef, age 24, from Michigan.

The pilgrimage experience is an option during the friars' formation program for those who wish to discover the more primitive life of our founder. It is being conducted with the approval of their Provincial, the Very Rev. Jeffrey Scheeler, OFM. As the friars walk, they will be praying and sharing their experience of Jesus Christ. They plan to make stops along the way to work for the food and shelter needed to continue.

The priests are offering to preside at Masses in any parishes they visit. They would be happy to pray with and for Catholics gathered at these parishes, as well as to

speak to youth and young adult groups in any of the parishes they visit. They would enjoy speaking to any group about peacemaking and hope to engage other young people in conversation about the important issues of our times, the longings of our human hearts, and the desire for peace throughout the world.

The planned itinerary is below. The phone number is for their cell phone, which will be checked regularly during their journey.

Itinerary	Approximate Date
Roanoke, VA	June 20
Lynchburg, VA	June 26
Charlottesville, VA	July 4
Appalachian Trail	July 11
Front Royale, VA	July 18
Arlington, VA	July 26
Washington, DC	July 29-30

The friars accompanying the novices on their pilgrimage are Fr. Mark Soehner, OFM, Guardian of St. Joseph Friary, and Fr. Ed Shea, OFM Formation Director.

Claire Hoagland, sfo, will be calling fraternity ministers to ask how fraternities can support this pilgrimage. The friars are interested in doing any “community service” that you know of. Please feel free to Claire to offer them hospitality or to ask for prayers.

Claire can be reached at ashhoagie@aol.com or 703-878-4664 if you can support these friars who are “walking in the way of Francis.”

What Are We Reading?

The Way of the Prisoner: Breaking the Chains of Self Through Centering Prayer and Centering Practice by Jens Soering. (Seattle: Lantern Press. 2003. Pp. 352.)

Centering Prayer is a modern adaptation of the ancient practice of contemplative prayer, a process of inner purification and an opening of the mind and heart to God. In this remarkable book, Jens Soering, an inmate in a Virginia prison, tells how Centering Prayer and its corollary, Centering Practice—contemplative prayer in action—enable him to survive the daily pain of prison life. Through a moving true story of personal redemption that shocks and inspires,

Soering shows how we can all transform our crosses, our prisons (literal or metaphorical), into the means of our salvation.

Not only does Soering discuss his prison experiences and his journey into Centering Prayer and Centering Practice, but he issues a challenge to each of us to engage in prison ministry and to work for reform of the justice system and the penal system.



Nominations Sought for NAFRA Peace Award

In 1950, the North American Federation of the Third Order of St. Francis, now the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order (NAFRA) instituted an annual peace award.

Nominations are now being accepted for the recipient of this year's award. Qualifications are that "[a] nominee should have made significant efforts in the generally defined area of Peace. Current activities would carry more weight than past activity; that is, a nominee exhibiting current Peace activity will have more weight over a nominee who displayed activity a few years ago. In order to prevent any scandal, the nominee should be of known good moral character.

As this is a National award, nominees who reside in the United States or U.S. Territories would have more weight than nominees from other parts of the world. Nominees need not be Franciscan or Catholic. Nominees should not be political, nor carry an agenda."

Past awards have been granted to:

1950 - Myron C. Taylor
 1951 - John Foster Dulles
 1952 - John W. McCormack
 1953 - John C. Wur
 1954 - Ralph Bunche
 1955 - *
 1956 - John R. Gariepy
 1957 - Most Rev. Richard J. Cushing
 1958 - Patrick McGrehan, Sr.
 1959 - Victor Andrew Belaunde
 1960 - J. Edgar Hoover
 1961 - George K. Huntor
 1962 - Mrs. Lester Auberlin
 1963 - Rev. Martin L. King
 1964 - Most Rev. John J. Wright
 1965 - Pope Paul VI
 1966 - Cardinal Wyszynski
 1967 - Bishop Fred Pierce Carson
 1968 - Robert F. Kennedy (post)
 1969 - Msgr. Robert Fox
 1970 - Bp. James Walsh MM
 1971 - *
 1972 - Jean Vanier
 1973 - *
 1974 - Mother Teresa of Calcutta
 1975 - Dom Helder Camara
 1976 - Abp. Joseph L. Bernadine

1977 - 1979 *
 1980 - Anwar Sadat
 1981 - 1985 *
 1986 - Pope John Paul II
 1987 - 1999 *
 2000 - James Flickinger, sfo
 2001 - Hal Sieber, sfo
 2002 - Ona Harris, sfo
 2003 - 2006 *
 2007 - Dr. Anthony Lazzara, sfo
 2008 - Marie Dennis, sfo

*No award granted.

As you can see, many of the recipients have been neither American, Catholic or Franciscan. However, since 2000, the NAFRA Peace Award has gone to an SFO residing in the United States.

A nomination should include the name of the possible recipient; reasons why this person should be considered; and the name of the person or group making the nomination. Nominations from Fraternities are preferred, but nominations from individuals will not be ignored.

Nominations may be submitted in hard copy or email to any of the members of the committee:

La Verna Regional Minister and former Chair of the Peace Award Committee Ken Beattie
beatiesfo@aol.com

St. Clare Regional Minister Jan Parker
jansfo@yahoo.com

Mother Cabrini Regional Minister Stephanie Sormane
stefsfo@sbcglobal.net

NAFRA Vice Minister Tom Bello
 1710 Chesterbrook Vale Ct.
 McLean, VA 22101-3244
tbellosfo@gmail.com

The deadline for nominations is July 1, 2009.



NAFRA Triennial Elections

October 24, 2009
Albuquerque, New Mexico

ALL Secular Franciscans are eligible to nominate a person for the NAFRA Executive Council.

TIMELINE:

- APRIL: Notice of Election published and Call for Nominations
- JUNE: Nominations close
- JULY: Nominations Committee contacts nominees, who accept or decline nomination
- AUGUST 15: Deadline for return of nomination forms returned from nominees
- AUGUST 22: Start nine-week novena for a Holy Spirit-led election
- AUGUST 29: Resumes of nominees sent to voting members of the Elective Chapter

PROCEDURE:

For the office of Minister, Vice Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, Councilor, and/or International Councilor, e-mail (preferred) OR snail mail the name, address and e-mail address to BOTH Kathleen White and Linda Grady. (Nominations are sent to both committee members to prevent a nomination from being lost. Committee members will continually cross reference nominations.)

Kathleen White, SFO
kdwsfo@verizon.net
612 Front St.
Logansport IN 46947

Linda Grady, SFO
lgradysfo@sbcglobal.net
6001 Harvard Drive
Kokomo IN 46902

DO NOT send nominations to the NAFRA-L list.
Nominations are confidential.

Congratulations to Our Newly Elected

Mary Our Queen Fraternity, Baltimore, Maryland

Minister: Mary V. Stepke, sfo
Vice Minister: George Snyder, sfo
Secretary: Joseph J. Mantegna, sfo
Treasurer: Shirley Sapp, sfo
Formation Director : Bill Lotz, sfo

St. Francis (Deaf) Fraternity, Silver Spring, Maryland

Minister: Peter Noyes, sfo
Vice Minister: Sally Mooney, sfo
Secretary: Eleanor Ward, sfo
Treasurer: Janet Noyes, sfo
Formation Director: Janice Benton, sfo

Little Flower Fraternity, Baltimore, Maryland

Minister: Albert Joseph Gigel, sfo
Vice Minister: Michael Andrew Huether, sfo
Secretary: Marguerite Lane, sfo
Treasurer: James P. Foxwell, sfo
Formation Director: Margaret Williams, sfo
Infirmarian: Coleen Betz, sfo

Around the Region

ORDAINED TO THE DIACONATE

Will Witherspoon, Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Ellicott City, Md., May 23, 2009

RECEIVED AS CANDIDATE

Bonita Cote, St. Clare Fraternity, Milford, Del., January 8, 2009

NEWLY PROFESSED

Carmelina Adinolfi, St. Joseph Fraternity, York, Pa., March 20, 2009

John Fay, St. Joseph Fraternity, York, Pa., March 20, 2009

Branch Hamm, Sacred Heart of Jesus Fraternity, Warrenton, Va. May 16, 2009.

Ramona Hrusa, Sacred Heart of Jesus Fraternity, Warrenton, Va. May 16, 2009.

LOSSES IN THE FAMILY

Mary Breski, St. Thomas More Fraternity, Harrisburg, Pa., Professed November 1975; died January 8, 2009

Franciscan Saints, Blesseds and Feasts

(click on the name to go to a Web link)

MAY



St. Margaret of Cortona

- 16 *St. Margaret of Cortona*
- 17 *St. Paschal Baylon*
- 18 *St. Felix of Cantalice*
- 20 *St. Bernadine of Siena*

- 24 *Dedication of Basilica of St. Francis*

- 28 *St. Mariana of Jesus De Paredes*

- 30 *Bl. Baptista Varano*

- 30 *St. Ferdinand, King*



The Basilica of St. Francis

JUNE



St. Thomas More

- 12 *Bl. Jolenta*
- 13 *St. Anthony of Padua*
- 22 *St. Thomas More*
- 30 *Bl. Raymond Lull*

JULY

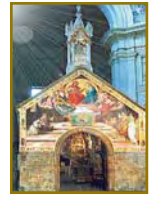
- 8 *St. Gregory Grassi*
- 9 *St. Nicholas Pick and Companions*
- 10 *St. Veronica Giuliani*
- 12 *Sts. John Jones and John Wall*
- 13 *Bl. Angeline of Marsciano*
- 14 *St. Francis Solano*
- 15 *St. Bonaventure*
- 21 *St. Lawrence of Brindisi*
- 23 *St. Cunegunda*
- 23 *St. Bridget of Sweden*
- 24 *Bl. Louise of Savoy*
- 27 *Bl. Mary Magdalene of Martinegro*



St. Bonaventure

AUGUST

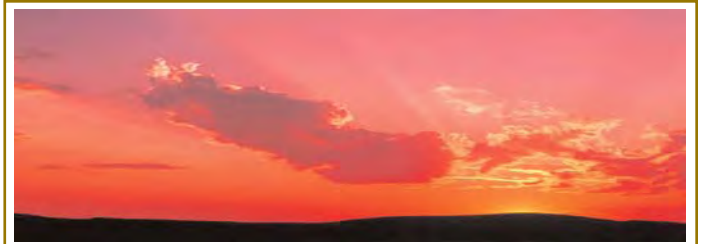
- 2 *Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula*
- 4 *St. John Baptist Mary Vianney*
- 7 *Bls. Agathangelus and Cassian*
- 8 *Holy Father Dominic*
- 11 *St. Clare of Assisi*
- 14 *St. Maximilian Kolbe*



Our Lady of Angels of the Portiuncula



St. Clare



Day of Reflection

The St. Margaret of Cortona Region held a day of reflection at St. Clement Church in Rosedale, Md., on Saturday, May 30. Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM, was the presenter.

The day began with Morning Prayer. Mass was offered at noon, followed by confessions after lunch.

The moning conference topic was "What are the Dynamics of Profession in the SFO?" The afternoon conference topic was "How Does Profession Determine Who You Are and the Choices You Make?"

The day concluded with shared reflection and prayer.

