



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

Minister's Message

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wichita Retreat Formation Fraternity News
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My dear Franciscan brothers and sisters:

I hope and pray that everyone is enjoying the benefits of summer—a time for family get-togethers, vacations, relaxation, and maybe reading a good book, or maybe just getting away from everything for a day or two (including computers and phones)!

Our region just had the privilege of having our annual retreat in Wichita and, for those of you who were able to attend, this was another way of enjoying the summer. See pictures in the following pages from that

retreat so professionally taken by Chris Riggs, minister of St. Anthony Fraternity in Wichita. And, by the way, in case our brothers and sisters in Wichita don't realize it, we once again appreciated this fraternity's valiant and successful efforts to make this a successful retreat.

On May 19, since Fr. Scully was away on vacation, Sister Josephine as his delegate and I performed a visitation at St. Joseph Fraternity in Hays, Kansas. I want to share with you some of the wonderful things that this fraternity is doing. Last October you

already heard from Geri Rupp, the minister, about their support of the Divine Mercy radio program in Hays (this program encourages former Catholics to rejoin our ranks). In addition, they now take turns administering Communion to 35 patients in the Good Shepherd Nursing Home on Sundays. They also pray the Rosary with the patients. In addition, through role-playing, they are preparing for home visitations of former Catholics to try to get them to "come back." Further in this newsletter, there are pictures of members of this group during our visitation.



Regional Executive Council

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Minister's message (continued from page 1)

Members of the NAFRA Chapter Planning Committee have been busy with various duties in prepar-



Steve Bradshaw of St. Anthony's Fraternity in Wichita distributes the beautiful name badges he made for the retreat.

ing for the October conference in Kansas City, Kansas. Those of us who attended the retreat were awed by the welcome bags made by Ann Marie Neuok. The articles from our various fraternities have been put in and the bags are safely stored away in my garage,



Jim, Neil and Sylvia Kerschen admire Our Lady of Sorrows' Poster designed by Mary Ackerly (top right).

ready for delivery to Savior Pastoral Center on October 13!

Larry Menestrina, with the help of Steve Bradshaw, is planning how will handle registrations from the regional ministers as they are sent in. Dona Gibbons brought the banner that she had designed and presented to a banner company. Linda Mayer collected the posters that have already been completed, which is the majority of them. We all enjoyed looking over the posters and commented how



Annual Regional Retreat Participants pose for a picture in St. John's Chapel at Newman University in Wichita, KS. - photo by Chris Riggs OFS, Minister, St. Anthony's fraternity.



Father Steve Gross OFM Conv. was the retreat director. The title of the retreat was, "Be Yourself, Everyone Else is Taken".

Diane Drouhard is working on plans for the potluck dinner on October 13 where our regional members will have the opportunity to meet the members of the National Executive Council and of some of the commissions.

Claudia Kauzlarich has been working on a T-shirt design that will be



offered for sale throughout the United States!!! You should have seen the results of her time in your email! These T-shirts are available for anyone until September 15 (with



Helen Boos, Kathy Hillen and Janice Keeley review the scrapbooks and posters that the fraternities brought to share at the retreat.

no shipping charges) and after that date (with shipping charges).

Those of you living in the Kansas City metro area can contact Claudia for pickup arrangements at any time.

Please pray for the success of our efforts in presenting this NAFRA Chapter, the first ever in our Juan de Padilla region! I hope we can make a good impression. God bless you all!

Pace et bene from your loving servant, Alice Crews OFS





THE FORMATION CORNER



Kenton Miller
Formation Director

My dear sisters and brothers,

It is with very mixed emotions that I tell you that this is the last 'Formation Corner' I will be writing. I have decided not to run for a third term as RFD (it would actually be two and three quarter terms as in my first term I was not elected, but rather was appointed to take over from Rhoda Easley because of medical issues shortly after her election as RFD). Further, I will not accept any other Regional Office in the October elections.

I have many reasons for this, both public and private; however, the most compelling public reason is that I still have two years to serve in my second term as a Local Minister and I feel that I have ignored the pressing needs of my fraternity during the period of my regional service. In my opinion, local service must take precedence over regional or national service (I have also resigned my position on the National Formation Commission). I am convinced that the local fraternity is the 'heart' of our Order and that one should only move to regional or national service upon successful completion of a significant period of service in one position or another on a Local Council. One should not be elected to a position at the regional or (God forbid!) the national level that one has not held at the local level. This was not the case for me and I think it was to the detriment of both my local fraternity and the Region. I was much too inexperienced to be very effective. I think this should be kept in mind when we elect a new RFD in October.

I will also share at least one of my private reasons for this decision. I

feel our local fraternities should be 'schools' for learning to live with each other in Franciscan and, consequently, Christian 'brotherhood' at a deeper level than is usually obtainable in normal parish life. Profession is decidedly NOT to be a demonstration that one is somehow some sort of 'über Catholic' unreservedly committed to the Magisterium of the Church.

It was the Pope who had a dream of the importance of Francis and not vice versa and, as we have recently seen, these things can change. Rather, we must be committed to the Franciscan ideals of brotherhood, 'non-appropriatio,' and preference for the poor. Of these three, it is perhaps brotherhood (intended in the gender-neutral sense) that is the MOST difficult.

In this I am reminded of a young Third Order Carmelite woman I knew. She was thrilled by the prospect of having been accepted into a cloister of Discalced Nuns because she would be living among more 'holy' people. Apparently she had never really read St Therese's autobiography. Although my experience is slim, I am told that it is living in community that is the real challenge of a consecrated life. It is not chastity, but obedience, and above all true charity to others that is the most difficult challenge facing a young monk or nun. In academia we say "the politics are so vicious because there is so little to lose." I'm sure it must be even truer in the cloister. In my last two terms as RFD I have seen that this is true with us, as well.

To my great surprise and great disappointment I have seen, at both the local and regional level, that we have failed to live in a true Spirit of Francis.

The examples are too numerous and too confidential to disclose, but I assure you they are real. Further, I personally have done nothing to change the situation.

I have not called out the Pharisees nor beaten the moneychangers from the Temple, not out of charity to my brothers and sisters, but out of complicity in the acts themselves.

So now I can no longer pretend to be an RFD. In the few years that I am likely to have remaining (I'm sixty-nine—and yes, I know that is young by our standards, however!), I feel I need to focus my thoughts and actions on the sisters and brothers to whom I made a commitment by Profession, the members of my fraternity—those to whom I pledged my eternal service.

I will, nonetheless, be forever grateful for the opportunities for learning that God gave me in serving the Region, and I thank you all for the patience and forbearance that you showed in tolerating such a foolish child in a position of leadership.

Peace and every blessing,

Kenton





Regional Coat of Arms

Submitted by Dona Gibbons OFS



This spring the format of the regional newsletter was changed. A copy of a Franciscan coat of arms was placed on the first page. However, the copy was not as clean as I would like and it needed to be made more defined. So I contacted Elizabeth Zeller of Holy Eucharist fraternity and asked if she could help me clean the newsletter heading up a bit. She agreed to help!

When I arrived at Elizabeth's home, it was a beautiful surprise. Not only did she have a sixteen foot buffalo standing in the middle of the room, but also the Virgin Mary and child sculpted from clay. It was magnificent.

Elizabeth happened to be painting a coat of arms for the new abbot of St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, KS. She explained the meaning of symbols on Abbot James' coat of arms. I was very impressed with its relation to scripture and history.

We began talking about the heading of the newsletter and how to clean up the image of the Franciscan coat of arms on the title page. Elizabeth then suggested that we might create a regional coat of arms. She explained that it could be an important historical symbol

that helps to unify the three states of the Juan de Padilla region.

We spoke to Alice Crews, regional minister, and consulted Sister Josephine who helped to research the requirements for a Franciscan coat of arms.

We worked together making several computer design mockups thinking about the states and scripture. After many hours and several days working together, we finally had a coat of arms we both agreed to show to the regional executive council. We agreed to present the coat of arms to the members at the Wichita retreat.

A little about the history of a coat of arms...they are used to cover, protect, and identify the wearer. Ancient Romans used insignias similar to a coat of arms on their shields as identifiers of military units. In the Middle Ages, a coat of arms was displayed on the front of their coat of cloth in European societies. Designs were unique to individual persons or families.

It is an 800-year-old tradition for Popes to have their own personal coat of arms, in addition to the symbols proper to the Apostolic See. Particularly during the Renaissance and the centuries that followed, it was customary to mark with the

coat of arms of the reigning Supreme Pontiff all his principal works. Papal coat of arms appear on buildings and in various publications, decrees and documents. Popes often used their family shield or composed their own with symbols indicating their philosophy or referring to past events or experiences, or even elements connected with specific Pontifical programs. At times, they even added a variant to a shield that they had adopted on becoming a bishop such as the coat of arms of Pope Francis.

Here is a brief explanation of the sections of the coat of arms for our region.

The Holy Spirit is at the center of the coat of arts. The Holy Spirit guides and enlightens the Church and the Franciscan Order.



Francis followed Our Lord's call to *Rebuild the Church*. Francis began the order that spread worldwide, and to-



day is spreading over the whole world as well. The globe symbolizes the worldwide spread of the Franciscan Order and that we

are a part of a worldwide community in Christ. Reminding us that what we can do can spread worldwide as well.



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The Juan de Padilla Region of the Secular Franciscan Order consists of Kansas, Oklahoma and a portion of northwest Missouri.

Kansas means 'people of the South Wind'. The background of this state is yellow representing the sun that nourishes the prairies, farmlands, and grain.



This state is represented by **Wheat**, a symbol of the **bread** of the Eucharist. The sunflower is the state flower and a major food crop.

Supporting scripture for **wheat, bread** and **Eucharist**:

Matthew 13:30 "Let both grow together until the harvest. At harvest time I will tell the reapers, First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned, but then gather the **wheat** into my barn."

Matthew 6:11 "Give us today our daily **bread**", and Matthew 26:26 [*The Lord's Supper*] While they were eating, Jesus took **bread**, and after giving thanks he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat, this is my body."

Missouri means 'people with the wooden canoes'.



The background of this state is green for the many pastures, farmland and vineyards nourished by the rivers.

This state is represented by **Grapes**, an emblem of Christ originating from Jesus' own words, "I am the **vine**

and you are the branches", John 15:5. It symbolizes the wine of the Eucharist.

Supporting scripture– **grapes** - Matthew 26:29 "I tell you, from now on I will not drink of this **fruit of the vine** until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

John 15:4 "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. Just as the branch cannot bear **fruit** by itself, unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me." And John 15:1 "I am the true **vine** and my Father is the gardener" . . . "He prunes every branch that bears **fruit** so that it will bear more fruit". The Blue Bird is the state bird. It symbolizes the sermon Francis preached to the birds.

Oklahoma means "red human". Oklahoma is also known for its red soil. The background of this state is a reddish color.



This state is represented by the **Buffalo**, often associated with the western frontier and Native Americans.

Oklahoma's other biblical symbol is the Rainbow. The **Rainbow** represents the Covenant God made with man. Scriptural references: Genesis 9:13 "I will place my **rainbow** in

the clouds, and it will become a guarantee of the **covenant** between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the **rainbow** appears in the clouds, then I will remember my **covenant** with you and with all living creatures of all kinds."



The Motto of the coat of arms is "**Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace**" from the Song of St. Francis. Though St. Francis did not actually say these words, his whole life was devoted to creating PEACE and Love with all men and creation.

The ribbon below the shield will read, "Juan de Padilla, Secular Franciscan Order".

The current computer image is a draft. Elizabeth will formally paint the coat of arms in September. It is our hope that the new regional coat of arms will represent the **unity** and **Franciscan spirituality** of our members through the unique **beauty of God's creation** in our three states.

CALENDAR EVENTS 2013	
October 12-20	Host NAFRA Chapter Meeting at Savior Pastoral Center, Kansas City, KS
October 26	Regional Chapter of Elections in Wichita, KS, 10 am

Fraternity News

Visitation at St. Joseph Fraternity, Hays, Kansas, May 19, 2013



Fr. Felix visits with Alice Crews, while Sr. Josephine visits with Catherine Wahlmeier who just celebrated 45 years as professed (1968/06/16); in the background is Geri Rupp, Minister

Mary Kay Schmidt had just celebrated her 52nd anniversary as professed (1961/05/14)



The whole group waiting for the gathering to begin



Sister Death



NAME	FRATERNITY	CITY, STATE	DATE
Joe Hoffman OFS	Holy Eucharist	Independence, MO	December 25, 2012
Irene Dinkel OFS	St. Francis	Victoria, KS (deactivated)	January 7, 2013
Felicia Miron OFS	St. Stanislaus-St Adalbert	Broken Arrow, OK	January 21, 2013
Hedy Allen OFS	St. Joseph	Hays, KS	January 29, 2013
Victor Vogliardo OFS	Holy Eucharist	Independence, MO	March 17, 2013
Richarda Werth OFS	St. Joseph	Hays, KS	Apr. 28, 2013
Sr. Mary Ellen OSF Spiritual Assistant	St. Monica's	Kansas City, MO	June 22, 2013

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

Elections at Little Portion Tahlequah, Oklahoma



Congratulations to the officers of the Little Portion Fraternity in Tahlequah, OK, elected on April 13, 2013. Shown above are (L-R) Mary Mead, Secretary; John Witosky, Treasurer; Marty Barnett, Vice Minister; Janice Keeley, Formation Director; Gerald Allen, Councilor; and Mark Keeley, Minister.