



K A N S A S T M I S S O U R I T O K L A H O M A

M I N I S T E R ' S M E S S A G E

Headlines

- Minister's Message
- Father Mike's Column
- Formation Corner
- Fraternity News

INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:Minister's
Message 1-3

Francis & You 4-5

Formation, Fraternity and Faith

Since becoming regional minister I have heard a lot about refocusing and improving the Formation of the Order - what is taught, how it is taught, and how to best inspire and support our members. We all know that it is only with a solid foundation in both our Catholic faith and our Franciscan Vocation can we expect to be able to grapple with the deep, hard questions that our current world throws our way. Nothing is more central to our formation as a Catholic, after our relationship with God, than our relationship with our neighbor. And what is more important to our Formation than to fully embrace fraternity.

To help me bring this message home to you, I thought I would share with you some wonderful words of inspiration I got from Fr. Francis Dor, OFM Cap. from Africa, who was our CIOFS Pastoral Visitor at the NAFRA Chapter last November. He spoke

to us several times over our nearly week stay, and each time his words were passionate and deep felt. In his final message to us he laid out what he felt was the key to sharing our Franciscanism with the world.

Fr. Francis also addressed our need to surrender to God's will. He said when we run into a problem in life, don't curse the darkness - **LIGHT A CANDLE!** Look to God for guidance. And when God calls you, answer with your whole heart. Don't fear you are not ready or not good enough. **God does not call the qualified; He qualifies those He calls.** Look at Moses. He could hardly find the words he needed to tell Pharaoh to release the Israelites. He had to bring Aaron along to do some of the talking. What about St. Peter? He was only a fisherman. How could he be the leader of God's church on earth? Why and how were imperfect men like these doing such important work? Because God called them, and they allowed God to work through them.

(continued on page 2)

Regional Executive Council

Formation Corner 6

Tools of the Trade 7-8

Fraternity News 9-12

Calendar 9

JPIC 13

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We must become instruments in the hands of God. So, relax. (He told us to relax over and over. Smile. Relax!) God loves us. He only has our best interests at heart. And, remember it's not about you. It's about allowing yourself to be used by God to create holiness. BE NOT AFRAID. How many times does Jesus tell us this in the gospels? Trust Him. Do not fear. Keep your eyes on Jesus always. And our fraternities should help us do just this. Surrounding ourselves with people who also trust God helps us find the way. And remember to listen to your brothers and sisters because the call of God may come in the voice of one of his messengers!



Such wise words that I continue to ponder. I feel it is essential in today's world that we get back to the roots of our Franciscan charism - simplicity, poverty, humility, obedience, and yes, real fraternity. It is so easy to get caught up in the business and busyness of running a fraternity that we may forget the real reason why we are coming together. Think back to your initial formation, before you were professed, when you devoured every word you could get your hands on about St. Francis and St. Clare. That's the fervor we need in our fraternities again. St. Francis never perceived his order as an organized, well-oiled machine, so why should we expect to be so all the time. He saw his brothers, and now us, as poor beggars - rag-tagged, earthy, dirty at times, but joyful and ever with our eyes on the Crucified Christ who gave all He had and was to save his people. We should be ever ready to imitate Him in all our actions - loving the unlovable, giving all we have to those in need even up to our last penny and our last breath, looking with great joy and thanksgiving at all that the Good and Gracious God has given us. This is the heart and soul of our vocation. Love, more love and yet again even more love.

So let us be careful not lay heavy burdens on our brothers and sisters. Let us always seek to find ways to help lighten each other's load. Let's see how we can work together to make all our burdens lighter. And although we are asked to correct each other so that we can convert our ways to align with God's will, be careful not to harshly criticize. We are to correct lovingly so that we help our brothers and sister to become perfect as our Holy Father is perfect. And before you start correcting, take a moment to ask. Ask if there is a problem. Ask if they want to talk. You'd be surprised what a loving gesture such as that can already change a hardened heart.

I am encouraging all of the REC and Commission chairpersons this year to think in terms of creating teams and not try to handle any job alone. Janice Keeley, our Regional Formation Director, is already hard at work assembling a vibrant team of devoted, loving people to serve as the Regional Formation Team. Chris Riggs, who has graciously consented to head this year's Regional Retreat in Wichita, is also ready to put together a team of people from all over Kansas. We all need a team, a fraternity. Francis trusted and believed in fraternity. None of us should feel we are out there alone. One person cannot do everything or solve all the problems. We need to surround ourselves with brothers and sister who can support us, help us and be our inspiration and our rock.

Our only job is to become the person God intended us to be. For all of us OSF's, He intends us to become just like his Son by following our Franciscan rule. He called us to that task. How do we do that? By submitting to His Good and Gracious Will by doing His bidding and to love Him with our whole being and soul, and love our neighbors as we would God. Francis shows us how - through fraternity.

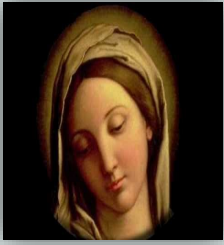
The next 20 years of our dear Juan de Padilla Region lays at our feet as a gift from God. A gift of renewal and a challenge of continuation of the building of our regional fraternity into a holy temple of the Lord, a place where all people, Franciscans and others alike, can find love and joy in faith that takes their breath away.

Pax et Bonum,

Judith, Regional Minister



Another thought...



*"By her
motherhood,
Mary shows
us that
humility
&
tenderness
are not
virtues of
the weak
but of
the strong,"*

*Pope Francis
January 1*



As I mentioned in my first Minister's Message last November, I feel that this year, and the next few to follow, must be a time of healing and peace. We have all gone through a lot, in the personal areas of our lives (loss of loved ones, struggles with physical problems, political election tension, and financial troubles) as well as in the Franciscan/Catholic ones (loss of dear fraternity members, continued distress over abuse in the Church, issues of unity in our fraternities, and moral issues that plague our world, and other questions such as over the FAN issues). It will take great trust in God to accept that we had to walk through those dark and muddy waters in order for us to become the holy, humble people God wants us to be. It is hard to remember that St. Francis saw difficult and dark times in his life. But keep before us how our Seraphic Father overcame even these by turning them over to God daily.

Besides trust in God, we also must humbly accept our own flaws that may have made these times worse than needed to be. We can be our own worse enemy at times. If we insist that our way is the only way, and forget to listen to the other with an open heart, we cause tension and division in our families, fraternities and parishes. We must learn to bow our heads, accept our errors, and then ask ourselves as well as God and others for forgiveness.

In view of our renewed hope in the new year, I offer you the following prayer. It was sent to me by Jim Disbrow, minister of St. Francis Fraternity in OKC, who agreed to let me share it. In his time of need he found this prayer to be his response to dark times.

God bless,
Judith Cronk, OFS

"God and Father in heaven, we come to you in Jesus' name. We experience renewal through your Holy Spirit, and yet we still construct walls that divide us, walls which hinder community and unity. We bring before you now the stones with which we erect our walls and pray for your forgiveness and healing. Forgive us for our lack of love, our hate and contempt, the sins of false accusation, discrimination, persecution, broken communion, intolerance, abuse of power, isolation and pride. Heal our Christian community, Lord." Amen.



We are pleased that Father Mike Scully, Regional Spiritual Assistant of the Juan de Padilla Region, agreed to write a regular column to further our formation as Franciscans. If you feel that this column is a good addition to the newsletter, please let him know.

“REPAIR MY CHURCH”--ENTHUSIASM

REFERENCES:

Omer Englebert, St. Francis of Assisi

In the spring of 1206, all that was there among the wheat fields sparsely set with olive trees was a ruinous chapel. Within, suspended over the altar, hung a mild and serene Byzantine crucifix. Although the church was no longer frequented, an indigent priest was still attached to it, living, no doubt, on alms and the suffrages of the faithful.

Now one day as Francis was passing, he entered the chapel. Kneeling before the wooden crucifix, he began to pray, when suddenly the figure of Christ, parting its painted lips, called him by name and said, “Francis, go repair My house, which is falling in ruins.

...Taking literally an order evidently applying to the Church of Christ itself, he at first thought that he was to restore the chapel of San Damiano.

[chapter 3]

M. Scott Peck, The Road Less Traveled

The more clearly we see the reality of the world, the better equipped we are to deal with the world. The less clearly we see the reality of the world—the more our minds are befuddled by falsehood, misperceptions and illusions—the less able we will be to determine correct courses of action and make wise decisions. Our view of reality is like a map with which to negotiate the terrain of life. If the map is true and accurate, we will generally know where we are, and if we have decided where we want to go, we will generally know how to get there. If the map is false and inaccurate, we generally will be lost....

The biggest problem of map-making is not that we have to start from scratch, but that if our maps are to be accurate we have to continually revise them.

[Section I, Discipline; Dedication to Reality]

Monsignor (now Cardinal) Timothy Dolan, Vocation Talk, May, 2001

Priests need to show the joy they have in their vocation, display a real thirst for souls and make known that they claim the spiritual as their domain, be courageous in the promotion of vocations, and show their passionate love for the Church.

Unhappy priests will not attract others to the priesthood. If we do not renew our joy, if we indeed consider our priesthood a chore, a burden, a drag, or a worry, if “it’s no longer fun,” I am afraid Andrew Greeley is right (“No wonder we have a shortage. Who wants to join a group of crabs?”)

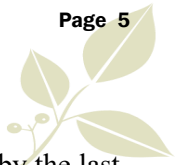
Lee Ann Womack, “I Hope You Dance”

And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance.

^^^^^^^^^^

There is the story that many of us have heard of the young boy who asks his Dad about the plaque in the back of his church. The Dad replies that it contains the names of the men and women who died in service. The boy replies, “Which one, the 9:30 or 11:00?” There are many services that lack enthusiasm. There are many people who lack enthusiasm. Francis of Assisi was not one of them. After he thought he knew what the Lord wanted, he enthusiastically set out to do something about it. A couple of things about enthusiasm have struck me over the years.

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First, its definition. Working with Student Councils whom we always wanted to be enthusiastic, we defined it by the last four letters: IASM—I am sold myself. The question that comes with that, of course, is “are we?” Are we sold about the importance of our roles as religious? Are we continually filled up with the presence of Jesus so that others see the overflow? Are we serious about our prayer, spiritual and theological reading, spiritual conferencing, quality time for reflection? Are we serious about being “counter-cultural”? Are we serious about our ministry, working at making ourselves better at what we are called to do?

Secondly, the opposite of enthusiasm is probably “complacency,” accepting “what is” without question or challenge. Most of you know that I really appreciate Scott Peck’s book The Road Less Traveled, and the concept that has been most helpful to me is the thought about our maps of reality. Recalling our spiritual and Franciscan foundation, we must continually revise the maps of the reality that we have created. We must allow ourselves to be personally challenged, perhaps constructively criticized by someone who knows us well.

Finally, enthusiasm must breed not only ideas, but action. Francis repaired the Lord’s house—he started some place. Once we understand that something must be done, then we have to do something practical—make resolutions that really can be carried out. We don’t have to have many resolutions, but there must be some proof that we are enthusiastic about our life.

Francis did not lack for enthusiasm. In fact, if he had a fault, it was probably being too enthusiastic. Franciscans that we are, we have a pretty good example to analyze.

- 1. What was it in Francis’ character that made him so enthusiastic?*
- 2. Using Scott Peck’s idea of map-making, what should be our principal guidelines for creating our maps of reality, and why?*
- 3. [A personal question] Do others see in us an “attitude of joy” for the Franciscan life?*
- 4. What are the best ways of showing joy in our fraternity?*
- 5. [A personal question] What are the one or two resolutions that I should make to be more enthusiastic about my Franciscan calling?*



Clare and Francis

March 4, 2017, EWTN will present the movie, “Clare and Francis” the story of two of the Catholic Church’s most beloved saints, who become linked in their quest for searching for

something higher than riches and social status. Many of you will remember Father Mike's presentation using this movie last autumn. Father Mike gave the movie directed by Fabrizio Costa a good review. All Franciscans will benefit from viewing this movie for free on EWTN!



THE FORMATION CORNER



Janice Kooly
Formation Director
In the Sea of Galilee

Happy 2017 to all of you! As you are making the inevitable “New Year’s Resolutions,” or should I say, “Resolutions for Daily Conversion,” here are some thoughts for you:

Although it is very difficult to find a spiritual director, especially one who is a priest, I now have a Franciscan Friar for my spiritual director. What I am going to share with you is what I learned from him at our first meeting. Therefore, I am speaking as a novice. However, the following will be very good advice for all of you to consider as you make your resolves for this new year:

- ♦ **FIRST**, plan to spend at least 12 minutes/day with the Gospels. My spiritual director says to read the Gospel for the coming Sunday. Read in the Lectio Divina manner, three times, preferably aloud, noting the words and phrases that stand out to you. Sit quietly with those words, let the Lord speak to your heart guiding you into ways these words may become alive in your life. By the time the following Sunday rolls around, you will have nearly memorized that portion of the Gospel.

You may also use reference materials during the week to deepen your understanding of the reading. One reference, that includes thought provoking questions, is written by our Regional Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Mike Scully, OFM, Cap: **Seed Sown, A Personal Journal for those Interested in Pursuing the Spiritual Life, Cycle A, Year of Matthew.** (Acquire that book directly from Fr. Scully.) I am also thoroughly appreciating the book Praying with St. Matthew’s Gospel, edited by Fr. Peter John Cameron, O.P., of Magnificat Magazine.

- ♦ **SECOND**, so that you will have some extra “fodder” to chew on, the spiritual director says that every Franciscan should always have a book about St. Francis that they are reading. Once again, he is not suggesting hurrying through a book, but rather reading 5 or so pages a day and letting it settle into your being. The first three books that he recommended are these:

1. Francis of Assisi: A New Biography; Augustine Thompson, O.P.
2. Francis: The Journey and the Dream; Fr. Murray Bodo, OFM
3. St. Francis of Assisi: A Biography; Fr. Omer Englebert

- ♦ **THIRD**, always do an Examination of your Conscience at bedtime daily. During this examen, consider your *actions*, your *words*, your *thoughts*, and your *motivation* for all that you did or thought. Consider even your good actions. What was the motivation behind what you did? Did you do it out of love or out of obligation, pride, coercion, duress, or selfishness, etc.? What were you thinking while you did the actions? Were you having irritated, derogatory or prideful thoughts? Then, think of what during the day gave you the biggest *blessing*. It may be something you did or something special coming into your life from another place or person.

As I said, I am a novice in receiving spiritual direction, but the above suggestions have been helpful to me, and I hope they will be to you. In lieu of a qualified spiritual director, most of us receive spiritual guidance by studying the Rule and by discussing our Franciscan sources in fraternity. Many of us have spiritual “guides” who are other lay faithful, whom we appreciate for their spirituality and from whom we learn and are informally guided. Some of us serve that role for others.

I pray God’s blessings upon your year.

All peace and all good with prayers for you all,

Janice OFS





Tools of the Trade – (Rule 14)

by Nancy Herbert OFS,
Minister, Our Lady of Sorrows, Olathe, KS

Each day offers many opportunities to be challenged by the Lord as multiple decisions need to be made to ensure the success of our work. Overcoming obstacles is a way of life. In following my secular Franciscan vocation, I am always reminded that the work my team performs, the laws we are required to uphold and implement and the decisions that need to be made must be made in conjunction with the more important requirement: to heed the call of Scripture to do to others as I would have them do unto me (Matthew 7:12) and on most days it feels almost impossible. Indeed, the road is narrow!

Yes, the largest obstacle faced daily resolves around people problems and I think we can all relate whether it be in our families, with friends, within our fraternities, within our churches or other areas where we have relationships. Over the years I have put a few tools in my toolbox to help me handle difficult situations and I would like to share some of them with you. If you have other tools not mentioned, please share them with me (nancyofs-!@yahoo.com) and with each other. St. Augustine says: “Nemo nisi per amicitiam cognoscitur” – “No one learns except by friendship.” St. Augustine regarded friendship as a “school of virtue” so let us all be friends and learn together.

Nancy's Three Top Tools

- ♦ Tool 1: Look for Eternal Truths and Refrain from Confusing My and Other's Truth from Eternal Truth (Rule 15)

“It is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life.” St. Francis

Often I find I have a stake in the situation that I need to remove ... removing the log out of my own eyes (Matthew 7:3-5). There are several stakes I ask myself, “Am I just trying to solve a problem to get it over with or is there a path forward to reconciliation?” “Am I just tired of the same old problem raising up its ugly head again?” With multiple solutions available for just one problem, am I making decisions where the Lord's eternal life has been giving the first seat at the table? Can we, in some small way, contribute to ‘laying up treasures in heaven where moth and rust cannot destroy and where thieves do not break in? (Matthew 6:20)’ (See Tool 3 for an example.)

- ♦ Tool 2: Am I listening for the logic or am I listening for truth? (Rule 10)

Logic, then, is not necessarily an instrument for finding truth; on the contrary, truth is necessarily an instrument for using logic – for using it, that is, for the discovery of further truth and for the profit of humanity. Briefly, you can only find truth with logic if you have already found truth without it. [G. K. Chesterton (*Daily News*, Feb 25, 1905)]

When I listen for the logic of what an employee is saying, I can confuse their logic for truth. I must go back to the roots of my Catholic faith, my secular Franciscan walk and Scripture to ensure I untangle any thoughts related solely to logic. This allows me to have the truth needed to make a better (and hopefully logical) decision. Many times, I say to my staff, “I will get back with you.” First, I think about the truth and the logic. Once understanding permeates through the situation, I get back with them. I also tell them what is behind my decision in secular words so the truthful principals can be communicated in my working situation. (See Tool 3 for example.)

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♦ Tool 3: Am I confusing accountability with blame? Whose fault is it anyway? (Rule 12)

In many situations between staff members, blame and accountability come in this uncomfortable, sometimes angry bundle wrapped in a package of self-righteousness. It is important to ask the right questions (to myself at least). What happened that is wrong? What circumstance caused this to occur? Was it intentional or not? For example, we were late on a project because one team member failed to communicate properly to the project quality review group. All of the hard work of the team seemed to have fallen into the pit by this one failure to communicate and then to be accountable for ensuring the quality review was complete. My staff was angry and blaming this member for not caring about the work, the team or anyone but them self. My staff also wanted me to go into the gutter with them ... to be on their side and to fix it immediately through strong discipline. It took several meetings with all individuals and eventually the team to show that the person who caused the angst did not know the impact of this lack of accountability but also that this action was not intentional. This member owned up to their own role but I also asked the other members to own up to their own role in the problem, as well. It took several weeks to mend this fence and it will happen again where blame and accountability are thrown into the vacuum of judgement. I am not convinced that they recognized that there was a moral dimension (eternal) to this issue but in the end, they were able to act morally.



Aren't we all grateful that God gave Adam and Eve another chance and even clothed them? Every day I am stymied by the many areas where the Lord has me working with him for solutions. Often, the solution is just my saying, "I am sorry" when making a bad decision and then moving forward to rectify it, if possible. For my part, I keep this quote of St. Francis close to me and I hope it will help you too!

*No one is to be called an enemy,
all are your benefactors, and no one does you harm.
You have no enemy except yourselves.*

- St. Francis of Assisi



Fraternity News

Holy Eucharist Celebrates Christmas with Festive Annual Gathering



Sister Josephine Boyles OSF, stands in front of an original drawing of Mary presented to her by professional artist, Donna Yeager OFS. Her husband Chris Yeager OFS stands next to Donna in the picture above. Donna presented all in attendance with a matted copy of her original drawing. Donna and Chris Yeager are members of the Holy Eucharist Fraternity.

After a big pot luck dinner, Stan Sikorski, formation director, jokes and plays the accordion as members sang Christmas carols. Carol Sikorski lead the Twelve Days of Christmas skit and games.

Sister Lucy OSF gave all members a flowers when they left. Members of St. Monica, Queen of the Angels and the Regional Executive Council were also present.



CALENDAR EVENTS 2016

DATE	EVENT	Location
February 18 2017	REC Meeting	Lawrence, KS
March 5, 2017	St. Francis Elections – 2 PM	Oklahoma City, OK
March 26, 2017	St. Elizabeth Visitation – 1:30 PM	Leawood, KS
May 20, 2017	REC Meeting	Lawrence, KS
June 9-11, 2017	Regional Annual Retreat	Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, KS
June 17, 2017	St. Maximilian Kolbe Visitation 2 PM	Atchison, KS
July 27-29, 2017	National JPIC Gathering	St. Louis, MO
August 12, 2017	REC Meeting	Lawrence, KS
August 17-19, 2017	National Formation Workshop	St. Louis, MO
October 2017	NAFRA Visitation to Juan de Padilla	TBA, Wichita, KS
October TBA	Brother Jacoba Elections 2 PM	Lawrence, KS
November TBA	St. Anthony Elections	Wichita, KS

Fraternity News

St Joseph, Hays, Kansas

Geri Rupp OFS, Regional Kansas Councilor



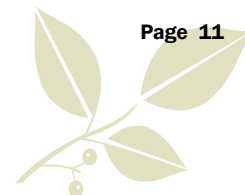
A typical meeting for the St. Joseph fraternity of Hays, Ks begins with prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament for thirty minutes. During this past year the fraternity, with their devotion to the Eucharist, have continued ministering to the elderly at the Good Samaritan home. With those members of the fraternity that can be present, they help with a weekly mass, rosary on Saturdays and communion to the residents on Sunday.

St. Joseph fraternity continues to be present to the Church community by their yearly fundraiser. Taking place during the parish Thanksgiving Dinner, tables of sacramentals are available for donations which in turn support the fraternities ministries for the

year. This past year donations went to the area catholic radio station KVDM, with an ad for OFS on air and the organization for campus college students, FOCUS.

Also, the St. Joseph fraternity in 2016 professed two new members, had an article in the Salina Diocese Catholic Register about their fraternity and added an evangelization event to the yearly schedule. That event for evangelization was a float of the Nativity entered for the city of Hays Frost Fest Parade. There were 350 plus Holy cards of the manger scene with the words, Jesus is the Reason for the Season, being handed to the children and the families along the parade route. On the float were young people in costume of the Holy Family, shepherds, and a sign giving St. Francis credit for the first living nativity. The St. Joseph fraternity along with their Franciscan family hope and pray for a peaceful 2017.





Fraternity News

Brother Jacoba, Lawrence, Kansas

Our last service project for 2016 was to provide and serve a meal for Family Promise on Tuesday, Dec 27. This was between Christmas and New Years and most of us were not available to pitch in. However, three of our fraternity members stepped up to do this shorthanded. We are very grateful to Gini Shoulberg, Jackie Monroe and Patti Lyon for filling the gap. It is comforting to know that the fraternity will function just fine whether the Minister is there or not.

Monica Olivera was very busy in the month of December delivering toys and coats to Native Americans. She and some friends of hers drove to Marty, SD to leave items at the Marty Indian School. They then went to the Potawatomie's in Kansas to deliver the same to a social services organization there. A large donation was mailed to the Navahos at Rock Point, AZ. This was distributed at two of the reservation schools. A gift was also made to the Methodist Indian Church here in Lawrence. These donations reached about 500 kids. Monica runs a foundation just to provide this sort of help for Native Americans. She is always looking for donations and help (hint, hint).

A new tradition of the Brother Jacoba fraternity is to designate the first meeting in January as our annual Christmas potluck dinner. With all the ado's of December we found it much more enjoyable to have this after the Christmas holidays. This year it was held at Connie and Dave Ehrlich's home on Jan 7. Part of the tradition is that we bring travel size personal care items to sort and box. We give these to the local Catholic Charities house in the St John the Evangelist parish. For "formation" we read the account of St. Francis' Christmas Eve Mass at Greccio as told by Thomas of Celano (first biography). This is where he improvised the first live manger scene. He preached on the humility of the poor Babe of Bethlehem. Thomas said that Francis bleated Bethlehem like a sheep. I truly believe that the Little Poverino did exactly that.

Saving the best for last, we used the potluck to administer the Rite of Admission into Candidacy for Gini Shoulberg and Connie Ehrlich, the same two who helped with the Family Promise meal and opened her home for our potluck. We are very blessed to have them join their journeys to ours. We trust that with the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit our best efforts to shepherd each other that they will make their professions early next year.



*Peace and good to all,
Bob Brill OFS, Minister*

St. Anthony, Wichita, Kansas



Sharon Meckenstock holds a check for \$1,131 donated Dec. 10 to the Lord's Pantry, a food ministry at St. Jude Parish in Wichita, by members of the St. Anthony Fraternity. Meckenstock said the donations would feed Pantry patrons for about a month. From left are Antonio Ramirez, Christopher Riggs, Chet Kirby, Brian Berkemper, Adam Nguyen, Tony Barba, and Larry Menestrina. The donation was the culmination of the fraternity's Christmas project.

Chris Riggs OFS, Minister



Fraternity News

St. Elizabeth, Leawood, Kansas Serving the Poor in the Year of Mercy



Members made and sold hotdogs during a music festival to raise funds for the work by the Sisters of The Poor of Jesus Christ. Back row: Diane & Linus Drouhard. Front row: Alice Crews & Deanna Perry



St. Elizabeth made a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Counsel Church the Diocesan Shrine to Divine Mercy in the diocese of Kansas City, - St. Joseph, Missouri. Members in front the Holy Doors are (left to right): Deanna Perry, Alice Crews, Regina Ozbun, Diane & Linus Drouhard.



Deanna Perry, Diane Drouhard, Alice Crews and Linus Drouhard (taking picture) join with other volunteers to make lunches for homeless in Kansas City, Kansas distributed by the Sisters of the Poor of Jesus Christ in Kansas City, KS.





JPIC Corner

Happy 2017, everyone! May this year be one of peace and joy for each of you!

As I write this, my prayer cat, Friar Lawrence, is purring in my arms and is helping me to type this column. And due to warmer temperatures, we have just escaped the wrath of a paralyzing ice storm here in northeast Kansas, getting by with less solid icing than our brothers and sisters in other parts of the region. Hopefully by the time you read this, the January ice storm will be a memory and you won't still be dealing with any negative effects from it.

In my last column, I asked each fraternity to choose a JPIC animator for their fraternity. I have heard from one fraternity, the St. Frances Cabrini emerging fraternity out in Liberal, Kansas! Thanks to them for inquiring!

If someone in your fraternity feels a call to be a JPIC animator and/or is chosen to become one, I will be happy to answer any questions anyone may have. You may email me at souljourner@sbcglobal.net or you may call me on my cell at 785-865-9949.

As fraternities choose JPIC animators, in addition to animating their fraternities concerning justice, peace and the integrity of Creation and its relationship to living out the secular Franciscan call, the animators will be part of the region's network of JPIC animators who will share information about JPIC-related activities in the fraternities and other useful information. The shared material and events will find their way into future columns, so that all of us can see what JPIC work is happening in our region.

As JPIC is animated in our own fraternities and as we see how it is animated in other fraternities, new ideas for learning about and carrying out JPIC will be generated and hopefully will serve to excite and motivate all of us!

The work of JPIC is guided by four pillars which will be familiar to all of us: spirituality, fraternity, formation and apostolate. I will examine each of these pillars individually in future columns. In the meantime, take some time to reflect on how each of these pillars might interface with JPIC. The points of intersection may be with something as concrete and personal as performing works of mercy to something as global as doing a study of the Pope's encyclical, *Laudato Si*, and following up with something specific to care for our environment.

One final note: the national JPIC Council is planning another JPIC gathering for this summer. It is scheduled for July 27-30 and will take place at the Renaissance Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. This hotel is the same hotel at which the Quinquennial took place last summer. They are giving us good hotel rates again; I'll know more the end of this month.

Anyone interested in learning more about JPIC is invited to come and spend time with other JPIC animators. I'll update you with more details in the next regional newsletters.

May God continue to bless you richly and give you peace!

By Susan Tabor, OFS,
Regional JPIC Animator and Member, National NAFRA JPIC Council

