



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

- Minister's Message
- Liturgy of the Hours
- Francis & You
- Wichita Summer Gathering
- Duns Scotus Grant

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M i n i s t e r ' s   M e s s a g e

Angels. My whole life has been riddled with angels. Do you notice this in your life too? Whenever I am in need or in distress, not knowing what to do or which way to turn, God sends me one of His messengers to bring me the answers I need. They appear out of nowhere, and they come in many disguises. They have pushed me, prodded me, and directed me so that I am always at the right place at the right time. They could take the form of my wonderful mother, who at 92 is still the greatest blessing to me on earth. They could be my Amway distributor back in Michigan, whom I used to regret her appearance at my door (she loved to talk and often took up my entire afternoon), but she always gave me the answer to a question I never asked her and one that moved me closer to God. I had to do many penances for my ill

thoughts of her. Or, it could be my parish priest who gives no-holds-barred sermons that "nail me to the wall and leave me hanging there to think about it." Yes, angels come in all sizes and shapes, colors and walks of life. But have no doubt, angels they are.

Since my profession in 2011, I have encountered even more angels than before in a form I have coined as our modern-day prophets, those who have brought the Word of God to life for me and moved me once again closer and closer to God. They challenge me, forcing me to look deeply into my life and face my faults and my weaknesses wrapped in the mercy of God. These are the Matthew Kelly's of Dynamic Catholic with his BEST LENT EVER series; Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC who wrote 33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY and CONSOLING



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THE HEART OF JESUS; Bishop Robert Baron who gave us the CATHOLOICISM series; or Fr. David Pivonka, TOR, who created THE WILD GOOSE series on the Holy Spirit; and/or any of the many parish priests and bishops who bring the word of God to us. All of these are God's angels sent to us so we hear the voice of God, follow His path and enter into a deep and profound relationship with Him.

On Good Friday, I was confronted by one such angel. I say confronted, because I have found that I sincerely appreciate those priests who do not baby us, but "tell us like it is." They are not harsh, but their message is not honey-coated either. So, on Good Friday, Rev. Msgr. Gier of Tulsa asked two questions.

Question #1 - "DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE ALL THIS?" Do you really believe that we matter so much to God that He would send His Son to earth so we could crucify Him for our sins so we would be redeemed? Spend much time deeply thinking about this. And while you are at it, do you ever wonder why Crucifixion? God could have snapped his fingers, and we could have been redeemed. Why such horrific suffering and death? Because God knows the fickleness of our humanity. God made His profound statement by crucifixion so we would not and could not forget it for one moment. If He made it too easy, or too glamorous, we could forget it, think little of it and even dismiss it. But Crucifixion? Standing at the foot of the cross, we have to look at it, and become acutely aware that we are unworthy of this sacrifice. So, it is by choice that I am at Mass. It is by choice that I remember and celebrate the sacrifice of My God.

Question #2 - "Have we even begun to realize how privileged we are to be included as believers?" God chooses believers. It is through His grace that we have the power to believe. It is by His love through the Spirit what we know Him and accept Him as our God. It is by being included as members of His Holy Body that we can be used to bring others to Him. So, pray in thanksgiving for such gifts as these.

And, yes, I constantly ask God to bless all His glorious angels in my life.

Pax et Bonum!

Judith Cronk, OFS, Regional Minister



*Do not forget the guardian angel  
Who is always with you  
And never leaves you,  
No matter what wrong thing  
You might do. ~ Padre Pio*



## Let Us Pray the Liturgy of the Hours



Fr. Scully, our Regional Spiritual Assistant, has been encouraging us this year to take up the practice of praying the Liturgy of Hours daily. For some of us who already practice this regularly, it may seem like an obvious part of our prayer life. But for those who have not been exposed to it much or find it difficult to learn to use, let me side with Fr. Scully in encouraging you to learn this beautiful, ancient and rich prayer.

I remembered that I first took up this wonderful practice back when I was in my Initial Formation. I was eager to follow all directives and suggestions that would move me as quickly as possible into the Franciscan way of life. So, during my Candidacy year, I was led to the Liturgy of Hours. In a wonderful book that I was using during my Initial Formation years, *THE RULE OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER, With Catechism and Instruction*, catechism by Fr. Cornelio Mot Ramos, OFM, translated by Fr. Felipe Maldonado, OFM and catechism by Capuchin Friars and Secular Franciscans of the Province of St. Mary, I found my first inspiration and direction to begin this practice.

When I was trying to re-locate this passage for to share with you, I found it in the chapter in the Instruction section on Prayer (p. 137). Actually, it was easy to find as it was marked with an exclamation point and a star. (In my reading/study notation that means "HURRAH! and EUREKA THIS IS IT!") It says:

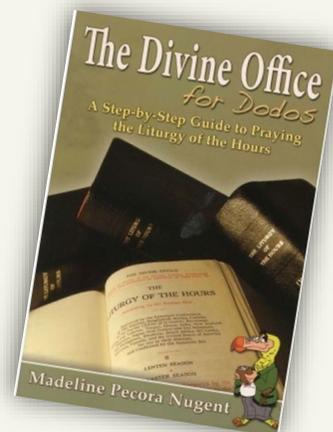
"Our personal prayer, however, flows from our unity with the entire Body of Christ, his Church - primarily in the Sacrifice of the Mass. In view of our profession before the Church, this unity is also expressed in our daily recitation of the Divine Office. Indeed, faithfulness to the Divine Office each day - an obligation of which St. Francis makes special mention in his *Testament* - can be considered a barometer of the sincerity of our Franciscan commitment."

Wow! I never even knew that lay people could say this prayer. I thought it was only for the religious in the Church. I know this statement is strong, but I also know that is why I took it seriously (ergo, my notations) and began that very day to secure my first copy of Christian Prayer.

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I was so excited when I my book arrived. Then, when I opened it, I realized that I had no idea how to use it. That's when I went hunting and found a book to teach me how to pray it. Seriously, don't laugh, it was called THE DIVINE OFFICE FOR DODOS: A Step-by-Step guide to Praying the Liturgy of the Hours by Madeline Pecora Nugent. I accepted the title as a sign that the author knew the difficulty of using the Divine Office and also that I might be able to understand someone with a sense of humor. Actually, Ms. Nugent had spent about 8 months at a monastery specifically to learn how to pray The Office along with all of its nuances and changes. This really is a book for those of us who have little or no idea of what we are doing.



It really is a step by step book, with lots of steps. But don't let that stop you. You move very slowly through it and at your own pace. Once I got the basics under my belt (it took a few months), and had been practicing it for a while, I had one of my sisters in our fraternity ask me how to do it. I decided, for the sake of her really learning this, I would create a simple "cheat sheet" from the instructions in the book that she could follow (Hey, I was a teacher for 25 years, I know what a cheat sheet is.). I still have that sheet. Even though it was created for the one volume Christian Prayer and not for the Shorter Christian Prayer that we will be using at all of our regional meetings and at the Annual Regional Gathering in Wichita this June, it explains all of the sections of the book and what they are used for, as well as the order of both Morning and Evening Prayer.

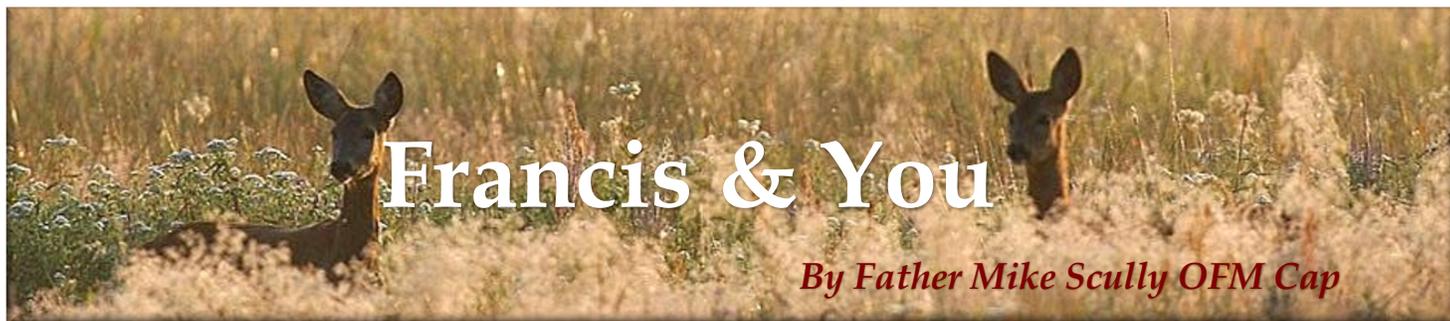
To make using Christian Prayer easier to use, the Church publishes a yearly guide that tells you exactly which pages you use everyday for every time of prayer. However, they currently are not publishing a guide for the Shorter Christian Prayer, but do not fear. I have a solution for that too. I have a good friend in our parish who is a monk with the Benedictine abbey in Missouri. He teaches the Liturgy of the Hours class every Sunday morning at our church in Stillwater. For the class, he prints out a weekly guide for the Shorter Christian Prayer which they use in the class. He has graciously agreed to allow me to send this guide out to anyone or everyone in our regional fraternity.

So, there it is. A no-excuse plan to starting on the road to learning the Liturgy of the Hours. If anyone wants a copy of the cheat sheet for the order of prayer and/or a copy of the weekly guide to use the Shorter Christian Prayer books, please contact me at [judyklynne@gmail.com](mailto:judyklynne@gmail.com).



God bless,

Judith Cronk, OFS



## “THAT IS WHAT I WANT”—THE GOSPEL, NOT AN EASY TASK

### REFERENCES:

#### **Omer Englebert, St. Francis of Assisi**

*It was while hearing Mass in the restored chapel [of Portiuncula] that Francis received the revelation of his true vocation. This event probably took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 1208, the feast of St. Matthias, while the priest was reading the Gospel passage in which Jesus maps out a rule of conduct for his apostles. “Go,” said the Savior, “and preach the message, ‘the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!’ ...Freely you have received, freely give...Do not keep gold, or silver, or money in your girdles, no wallet for your journey, nor two tunics, no sandals, nor staff”...[Francis] asked the priest to explain...Francis thrilled with happiness...and exclaimed enthusiastically: “That is what I want!”*

[chapter 4]

#### **David Knight, His Way**

*People...don’t usually ask the questions that would put their whole lives under the light of Christ. They tend to settle for the more obvious moral laws—as learned in the catechism during grade school, or as understood and interpreted by the people around them. Such people look upon the Ten Commandments as safe-channel markers. Anyone who has not crossed their clear and obvious line is on the right path out of harm’s way. They do not want to sail by a compass, such as the Scriptures or the example of Christ: they don’t look beyond their channel; and they don’t look up at the stars. They just want to be “kept in line” by the laws; they are not interested in orienting themselves toward a deeper understanding of the Lawgiver, so that the divine attitudes and values which inspired the law will become the very law, the interior compass of their own hearts. In other words, they want their consciences left alone.... “Religion” is a searchlight that shines on a rather narrow track; what goes on outside of that track is not illumined by religion at all.*

#### **Popular Poster**

*If it were a crime to be a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you.*

I have always appreciated David Knight’s challenges, both in his book His Way as well as his books written for religious men and women, Cloud By Day, Fire By Night. I’ve liked them because they challenge me to be better at what I am doing. Challenges were part of Francis of Assisi’s life. He accepted them, and he gave them to others.

The Gospel was the original challenge for Francis, and especially the words of Jesus in the Gospel to go and sell everything and follow him. Francis accepted those words as the compass of his life, no matter what way his life would unfold. It led him to a life that some considered impossible to live. Even Pope Innocent III found his original rule, one that included mainly Gospel quotes, too difficult. It took one of his Curial members to remind him, “If we reject this poor man’s request on such a pretext [that the Gospel was too austere to follow], would not this be to declare that the Gospel cannot be practiced, and so to blaspheme Christ, its Author?” Everyone realized the difficulty of the life that Francis proposed, a life that Francis insisted was nothing more than what Jesus told him to do.

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The Gospel remains a challenge for the modern Franciscan. We know what that Gospel entails. We read it every day; we make retreats; we pray words that remind us of what we promise. The question that should surround us is: do we mean it—really?

Because if we mean it, there will be evidence that we are Franciscans. We will spend significant amounts of time thinking about the Gospels, we will understand that we must be more of a contributing part to our friary-life, we won't be so negative about decisions that a majority want, we will want to discuss rather than condemn, to smile rather than ridicule, to reform ourselves rather than criticize the efforts of others.

The Franciscan life is not easy. Francis knew that because the Gospel that he accepted was not easy. If we take the Gospel as seriously as Francis did, we will ask ourselves some difficult questions, and probably change some things that we are doing right now.

1. *If Christian people would live by the light of Christ, as David Knight suggests, what would be the principal effect in our world?*
2. *David Knight criticizes that people are “not interested in orienting themselves toward a deeper understanding of the Lawgiver.” Do you believe that such a criticism can legitimately be made of Franciscans today? Yes or no and why?*
3. *What are the most demanding directives of the Gospel?*
4. *What do the people of our world expect of a Franciscan?*
5. *What is the most important challenge that our lives as Franciscans should give our world?*



Looking for an on-going formation lesson – use Father Mike’s “Francis & You” column printed quarterly in the regional newsletter! Questions are already here for you to engage your members in a great discussion of Franciscanism!



## Sister Death

NAME	FRATERNITY	CITY, STATE	DATE
Patricia Durham OFS	Queen of the Angels	Buckner, MO	February 2
Thomas Doyle OFS	Servants of Divine Mercy	Stillwater, OK	March 28, 2017
Melody Ramirez OFS	St. Elizabeth	Leawood, KS	March 30, 2017

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

Juan de Padilla Region  
Regional Secular Franciscan Gathering

Presents

**“What is Yours to Do?”**

with

**Father Jeff Ernst OFM Cap.**

Retreat Director

Be ready to hear the call to follow Francis’ example!

Jeff Ernst will review the mission of St. Francis and his challenge to you to live your vocation as a Secular Franciscan in today’s world.

Enjoy the peace of the Spiritual Life Center

Mass ~ Adoration ~ Confession

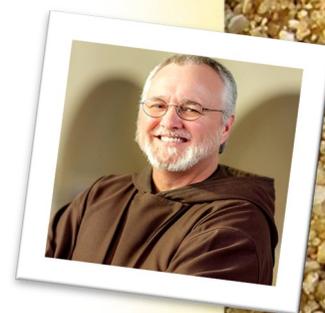
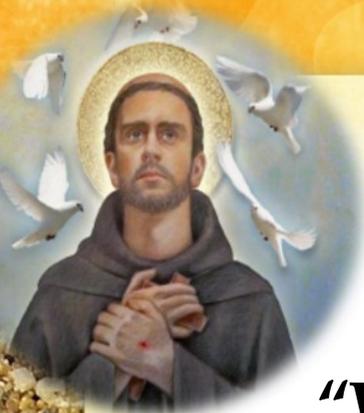


June 9-11, 2017

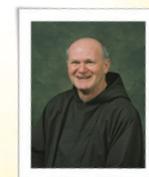
Spiritual Life Center

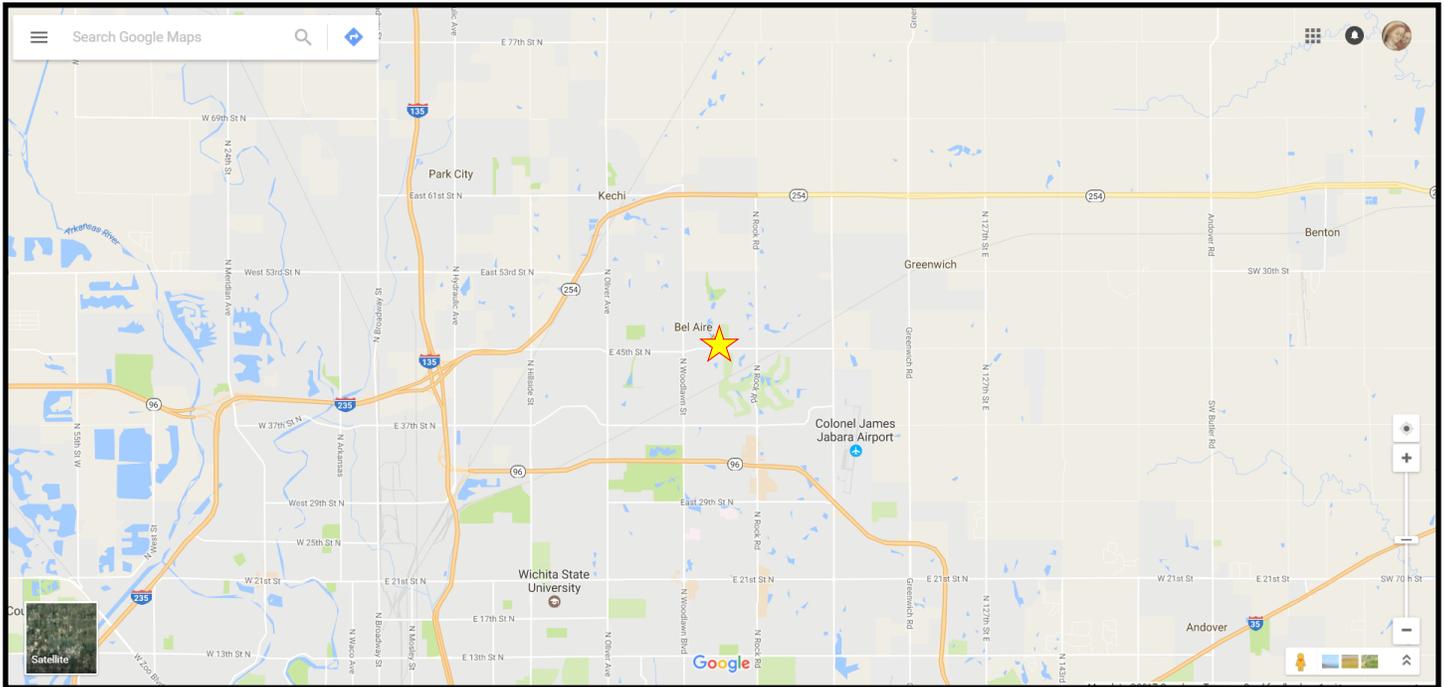
7100 E. 45th Street North

Wichita, KS



Learn about the new **Duns Scotus Grant** for Regional Formation Workshops from Regional Formation Director, Janice Keeley OFS and Regional Spiritual Assistant, Father Mike Scully OFM Cap.





## DIRECTIONS:

The Spiritual Life Center is located at 7100 E. 45th Street North in Bel Aire, KS. a suburb of Wichita. The Center is 1/2 mile east of the intersection of 45th Street North and Woodlawn.

### Coming from West of Wichita

Entering Wichita on Highway 54/Kellogg Avenue, take 1-235 North exit and continue for approximately 11 miles, take K-254 east exit for 1 mile, take Hillside/45th Street exit and continue east on 45th Street for 2 1/2 miles. The Center entrance will be on your left (north side of street).

### Coming from North of Wichita

Entering Wichita on I-135, take the K-254 east exit (Exit 11A) for 1 mile, take Hillside/45th Street exit and continue east on 45th Street for 2 1/2 miles. The Center entrance will be on your left (north side of street).

### Coming from South of Wichita

Entering Wichita off of the Kansas Turnpike, drive north on I-135 through Wichita for approximately 10 1/2 miles, take K-254 east exit for 1 mile, take Hillside/45th Street exit and continue east on 45th Street for 2 1/2 miles. The Center entrance will be on your left (north side of street).

### Coming from East of Wichita

Entering Wichita on Highway 54/Kellogg Avenue, take K-96 North exit for approximately 6 1/2 miles, exit at Rock Road and turn north (right) for 1 1/2 miles, turn left (west) on 45th Street North for 1/2 mile. The Center entrance will be on your right (north side of street).

OR entering on K-254, take the Woodlawn exit and drive south on Woodlawn for 2 miles to the stop sign at 45th and Woodlawn, turn left (east) on 45th Street for 1/2 mile. The Center entrance will be on your left (north side of street).



## THE FORMATION CORNER



Janice Keeley  
Formation Director  
In the Sea of Galilee

Have you heard? The Juan de Padilla Region has received a grant from the National Fraternity, out of the Duns Scotus Fund. The purpose of the Duns Scotus Fund is to help fraternities throughout the United States improve the initial formation and ongoing formation offered at the national, regional and local levels. The fund is aptly named after the Franciscan Friar who debated Thomas Aquinas and won. (Take time to read about that.)

These are the goals listed by the Regional Formation Committee for the next three years:

1. To assist local fraternities and individuals to grow spiritually in the Franciscan Charism.
2. To guide local fraternities in providing initial formation that is in conformity with Franciscan values.
3. To provide local fraternities with resources for ongoing formation.
4. To promote an understanding of the role of spiritual assistants and their role on the formation team.
5. To offer Saturday training programs on the local level in three areas of the region.
6. To encourage every professed member to realize that formation is every one's responsibility, either personally, as part of the formation team, or as a formation director.

**This year**, the Saturday, 6-hour sessions will focus on the life of St. Francis, the spirituality of St. Francis, and the importance of bringing our life to the Gospels and the Gospels to our life.

**The second year** will focus on 5 important virtues of a Franciscan: poverty, obedience, fraternity, chastity, penance/conversion.

**The third year's** focus will be the theology of the Incarnation, of Blessed John Duns Scotus and of St. Bonaventure. At each training session, methods, resources and materials will be provided and demonstrated to help us understand and share our Franciscanism with others.

We are planning for these training sessions to be held in Sapulpa, OK., Victoria, KS. and Independence, MO. You will hear much more about these sessions at the "Annual Regional Gathering" on June 9, 10 and 11.

Speaking of "**Annual Regional Gathering**," I have talked to some professed members who are having trouble with the title of the "Annual Retreat" being changed. The Regional Executive Council concluded that the usual expectation of many "retreat" attendees is that, besides being stretched to grow spiritually, we will have time to visit with other members from around the region. That is the basic meaning of a "gathering." As with any monthly gathering in your own fraternities, we will be having ongoing formation and social time, as well as being fed spiritually. When you study the agenda for the weekend, you will see that considerable time is being allotted for silence and prayer but also for connecting with other Franciscans. Fr. Jeff Ernst, OFM, Cap. is preparing to challenge us to be **Franciscan** in the true sense of the word. I know some of you are waiting to register. Believe me, this should be a wonderful weekend, as it always is, whether you name it a "retreat" or a "gathering." **Please register SOON.**

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Gathering.

All peace and all good with prayers for you all,

Janice OFS





# Fraternity News

## St. Elizabeth Visitation Leawood, KS



St. Elizabeth’s visitation was held on March 26. Seated in front are Judith Cronk, regional minister, Sr. Josephine Boyles OSF, pastoral visitor and Dona Gibbons, fraternal Visitor. Standing are Linus Drouhard, minister, Diane Drouhard, formation director, Jennifer Garrison, vice minister, Linda Mayer, secretary, Deanna Perry, candidate, Alice Crews, former regional minister, Nikki and Deacon Tyrone Gutierrez, candidates, Regina Ozbun, treasurer and Julie Oswald.

## St. Francis unites with St. Clare Elects New Council on March 5th



Newly elected council of St. Francis Fraternity in Oklahoma City are (l-r) Anna Alexander, formation director; Marti Jones, councilor; Susan Lee, treasurer & JPIC Rep.; Sue Swayngim, vice minister & Youfra Rep; Bill Full minister; and Kay Lynn Sullivan, secretary. Not pictured is Alice Palazzolo, councilor.



## Pope Francis Canonizes Jacinta & Francisco Marto As Franciscans Hold a Fatima Public Rosary Rally

Cathy Herndon of Queen of the Angels organized two Public Square Rosaries to pray for families, America and peace in the world. The first rosary was held during Lent. The second rosary was held on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima and many more people attended, including Monsignor Kaiser OFS, Queen of the Angels spiritual assistant, Alice Crews OFS, former regional minister, and her sister, Theresa. Three fraternities were represented and had a great time. Cathy has already signed up to hold the next public rosary on Saturday, October 14 in honor the 100th Anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima. Hope you can attend!

*“Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.”*





# Fraternity News

## Little Portion Fraternity in Tahlequah, OK Celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday and Prepares a Seder Meal for Parish



Each year, Little Portion Fraternity sponsors the Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration at Saint Brigid Church in Tahlequah, OK. This is Deacon Mark Keeley, OFS, leading the service.



Little Portion Fraternity and the Knights of Columbus in Tahlequah sponsored and served a traditional Passover meal to seventy parishioners of Saint Brigid Parish. Pictured are Paula Guinnip, candidate, and Janice Keeley OFS.



## Mother Frances Cabrini Continues to Grow in Liberal, KS



Attached is a photo of three newest professed members (January 28, 2017) in Dodge City. Professed are Martha Brown, Stanley Cordova and Madathil Scheurer (l-r). Of course, Fr. Jim Dieker OFS and Fr. Felix Petrovsky OFM Cap. are on the ends. Brenda Lager, minister and Troy Haas, vice minister represented St. Joseph Fraternity in Hays, KS. - by Chris Hickman OFS, minister

During the recent Mass, celebrated by Father Dieker, each member was asked three questions: "Do you wish to embrace the gospel way of life by following the example and words of St. Francis of Assisi, which is at the heart of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order? Do you wish to be faithful to this vocation and to practice the spirit of service proper to Secular Franciscans?" And, "Do you wish to bind yourself more closely to the Church and to work intently to rebuild the ecclesial community and fulfill its mission among all people?" Their response was the same that St. Francis gave immediately in response to the Gospel admonition, "Sell all you have and come follow me": "Yes, this is what I want." "We've come to be brothers and sisters," Father Dieker told the three new Franciscans. "As Franciscans, we become as brothers and sisters, and our father Francis is our father in spirit. We accept that spirit of Francis as we accept the Holy Spirit and share that spirit with one another." The fraternity chose Saint Frances Cabrini, the Italian Franciscan missionary to the United States and South America, as its patroness.

The program was initiated in the Diocese of Dodge City by Colorado Springs transplant Chris Hickman, who was disappointed to learn upon moving here that there were no third order Franciscans in the diocese. (The first order is the Franciscan Friars, and the second order is the Poor Clares, the cloistered nuns.) The closest third order Franciscans were in Hays. After several months' discernment, Hickman sought and was granted permission to begin a fraternity in Liberal. He would serve as formation director, and the regional fraternity of Juan de Padilla in Hays would be the sponsoring fraternity.

The Liberal fraternity is the only known fraternity of Secular Franciscans active in the Diocese of Dodge City. Assisting at the special Jan. 28 Mass was Father Felix Petrovsky, OFM, Cap., Spiritual Assistant to St. Joseph's Fraternity in Hays, KS. The celebration culminated three years of formation, which included monthly classes and retreats, and precedes a life of devotion to daily prayer and periodical gatherings with their local fraternity.

**Three Liberal, KS residents** have begun their journey in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi. Madathil Scheurer, Stanley Cordova, and Martha Brown made their professions to the Secular Franciscan Order at a special Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Jan. 28.

It was the second of such occasions in the diocese, the first taking place in January, 2016, when Eappan and Anna Madathil, Eva Hickman, and Father Jim Dieker made their professions. By making their profession, they became a member of the Franciscan "family", one among many spiritual families in the Church, uniting all members -- laity, religious, and priests -- who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi. As they embrace the spiritual side of St. Francis, they embark on lives devoted to prayers of St. Francis, while enjoying the fraternity of their new Franciscan secular order.

*"Bringing to the parish that spirituality as a fraternity was a real drawing card for me,"* Father Dieker said after he made his profession last year. "It's a fraternity of the laity." Dur-



# St. Joseph's Fraternity News

*By Geri Rupp, Kansas Councilor*

St. Joseph Fraternity in Hays Ks. spent a one day Lenten retreat with Fr. Robert Barron, DVD series on the 7 Deadly Sins.

The day began with mass, light meals and snacks, breaks for discussion and the day ended with Liturgy of the Hours. The Franciscans who participated in the retreat all agreed Bishop Barron's series was informative and gave helpful insight to battle these Seven Deadly sins.



In celebrating God's Mercy, the fraternity members were well represented at the Divine Mercy Prayer Service which takes place every year on the first Sunday after Easter. The Franciscans along with the catholic community, prayed a Chaplet of Divine Mercy and other prayers taken from St. Faustina's diary. The prayer service is sponsored by KVDM Catholic Radio which is an apostolate of St. Joseph Fraternity.



Lastly, St. Joseph's fraternity has been promoting Our Lady of Fatima's 100th anniversary. To accomplish this in the Heartland parishes, the story of Fatima was written in 10 installments and then placed in bulletins. Prayer cards with Our Lady's Peace plan, Fatima prayers, and consecration were placed in churches in and around Hays, along with posters promoting the anniversary and public rosary May 13th, 2017. A big thank you to the Franciscans, Catherine Wahlmeier and Joanne Wasinger for giving their "yes" to the Holy Spirit and all of our members for helping spread Our Lady's message of Peace.



## St. Anthony's Council Meeting Wichita, Kansas



St. Anthony Secular Franciscans met around a dining room table in a retreat area of the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita Saturday, Feb. 18. Eight brothers and sisters discussed the Franciscan general constitutions, in addition to a period of fellowship. The discussion was followed by Mass and lunch.  
~ Chris Riggs, minister

## Tools of the Trade

# Hope Springs Eternal (Rule 16)

by Nancy Herbert OFS, Minister of St Monica

Why do we continue to have hope when life is unfair? All of us have experienced since the day we were born until this very day not being adequately loved, adequately cared for or recognized. We know we have not been valued or honored in the ways we perceive we should have been. Some of us have been severely rejected and abused. Why does God allow us to suffer from the day we are born with the unfairness of this world? Why does God allow us to be abused and rejected? Why are we not spared life's unfairness? Why do we always have to work at forgiving the unfairness in our lives? Well, let's regroup and look at this from another perspective. Why are we given the gift of unfairness? What does this gift from the Lord really do for us?

First, let us remember our first three tools:

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

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

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

Secondly, let us add Tool 4: Praying that the Lord will continue to grow in us a portion of His heart for the Hope that Springs Eternal.

The Phrase, "Hope Springs Eternal" was written by one of our great Catholic poets, Alexander Pope. He was severely persecuted in England when the King of England threw out the Catholic faith and created his own Church. Tool 4 clearly shows us that our eyes must be on the Most Holy Trinity as our Trinity is the true source of hope, the source of eternal hope.

And Tool 4 is a most gracious gift from the Lord. The Lord graciously puts our hearts at unrest when our values do not rest with our Eternal Hope ... when we have no spring in our steps. Matthew 7 -14 tells us: "But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Yes, it is up to us to find it, to find the gate and walk on the narrow road that leads to life and we walk this walk daily. Rule 16 tells us about this walk most eloquently: "16. Let them esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community."

The first definition of 'work' in the dictionary is: **NOUN**—activity involving mental or physical effort done in order to achieve a purpose or result:

And yes, we must labor, toil, go through the slug and drudgery, exertion and effort to be able to receive and walk carefully with the Lord in this unfair world. Because in the walk is the fruit of receiving His love. These are the actions that need to take place daily to walk through the gate and down the narrow road to His heart. So why are we complaining (I ask myself this frequently )? If the Lord has chosen this gate, this narrow road, to walk in order to receive His love, let us joyfully embrace the struggle. Let us embrace this cross. Let us honor our rule ... esteeming our work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community where hope truly does spring eternal.

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And doesn't this great gift from the Lord .... this gift of unfairness that propels us with joy to let go of any grudges, to let go of stress and anxiousness and, where our hearts of stone are transformed (converted) into hearts of flesh as we walk down this narrow path with the Lord ... falling again in love with Him and His kingdom, renewed in His love, daily? Are we not ready to give the Lord our bone-deep tiredness that isn't cured by anything of this world: not a vacation, nor more sleep, nor more time with friends and family, nor by any entertainment? Can we not allow Him to heal our callouses where the cruelty of this world may have cut us and where resentment may have burned because of rejection and neglect?

I am reminded for God's question to St. Francis: Francis, "Would you rather follow the servant or would you rather follow the master? And St. Francis' life is a testimony of following The Master. Let us not drift into indifference as the same words spoken to St. Francis are also being spoken to us today.

Our Seraphic Father Francis says, ""There is no use in walking anywhere to preach if your walking isn't your preaching." Walking through the gate each day and down the narrow road is where our hope truly springs eternal.

*"Hope springs eternal in the human breast;  
Man never Is, but always To be blest.  
The soul, uneasy, and confin'd from home,  
Rests and expatiates in a life to come."*

Alexander Pope  
(An Essay on Man)



Mary seeks for those who approach her devoutly and with reverence, for such she loves, nourishes, and adopts as her children. ~ St. Bonaventure





## Financial Crisis for CIOFS



I was profoundly unprepared and shocked when I read the letter from our International Treasurer, concerning the dire financial situation of our International Council. If your minister hasn't yet shared this information with you, CIOFS informed all the National Fraternity Councils that the International Treasury is so low they fear not being able to make good on promises to worthy organizations nor even be able to hold the 2017 International Chapter this year due to financial shortages. We were also informed that many (I believe the number was 72 out of the 116 National Fraternities) have not paid their Fair Share this year and some are several years in arrears.

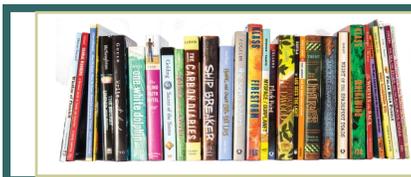
NAFRA made several inquiries to CIOFS concerning this matter and learned that the International Council was in the process of setting up payment schedules for the fraternities who are in arrears, but in truth many of the National Fraternities simply do not have the means to be able to pay their Fair Share.

Please, pray about this very serious situation. If any brother or sister, or even your entire fraternity, wishes to make a donation to our International Fraternity, you may either send the money directly to our National Treasurer, Jerry Rousseau, OFS, 82 Kim St, Blairsville, GA 30512-2345. Or, you can send it to our Regional Treasurer, Claudia Kauzlarich, 2007 Maverick Tri, Harrisonville, MO 64701, and we will send a regional donation to NAFRA. We will also be taking up a free will offering at our Annual Regional Gathering in Wichita, June 9-11, 2017, for this cause too.—*Judith Cronk, Regional Minister*



### CALENDAR EVENTS 2017

DATE	EVENT	Location
May 19, 2017	Regional Formation Committee	Lawrence, KS
May 20, 2017	REC Meeting	Lawrence, KS
May 21, 2017	Holy Family Visitation 2 pm	Holy Family Cathedral, Tulsa, OK
June 9-11, 2017	Regional Secular Franciscan Gathering	Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, KS
June 11, 2017	Regional Formation Committee	Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, KS
June 17, 2017	St. Maximilian Kolbe Visitation – 2 pm	Atchison, KS
July 22, 2017	Queen of the Angels Visitation – 10 am	Church of the Santa Fe, Buckner, MO
July 27-29, 2017	National JPIC Gathering	St. Louis, MO
August 17-19, 2017	National Formation Workshop	St. Louis, MO
August 25, 2017	Regional Formation Committee – 3pm	Lawrence, KS
August 26, 2017	REC Meeting	Lawrence, KS
September 9, 2017	Regional Chapter Meeting	St. Anthony's, Wichita, KS
September TBA	Kansas Regional Formation Workshop	Victoria, KS
September 26-October 1, 2017	NAFRA Chapter Meeting	Mount St. Francis, Indiana
October 7, 2017	KC Metro Area – Regional Formation Workshop	TBA
October 1, 2017	Brother Jacoba Elections 1:30 pm	St. John the Evangelist Church, Lawrence, KS
November 4, 2017	Oklahoma Regional Formation Workshop	Sapulpa, OK
November 5, 2017	St. Anthony's Elections	St. Anthony's Church, Wichita, KS

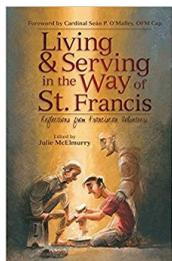


## Franciscan Book Review

By Susan Tabor OFS

**Living & Serving in the Way of St. Francis: Reflections from Franciscan Volunteers** (Paperback)  
Julie McElmurry (Editor), John Manders (Illustrator)

When I heard that this book had been read as a group by our OFS National Executive Council, I was impressed. And when I received the book, I was sold!



First of all, it looks like a quick read, and would be if you just sat down and read through it. But that's not how the book is intended to be used. The stories and illustrations are so poignant that it becomes clear to the reader that there's much more here than immediately meets the eye, and that the material needs to be sat with and prayed about.

This book contains stories from volunteers who have served in Franciscan volunteer programs and whose lives have been touched by their ministry experience. There are about forty of these stories, and each story is preceded by a quotation from the Testament of St. Francis and is followed by a reflection question or two, suitable for individual and/or group reflection. The book is also full of poignant illustrations and contains a foreword by Archbishop Sean O'Malley, OFM.Cap. of the Archdiocese of Boston.

Each of the stories is about a page long. I marveled over how much meaty material was contained in such short stories, some of which would be more suitably labeled as essays. I was also impressed with the quality of the reflection questions. I love questions that probe my spirit and that lovingly help me examine my motivation. I love questions that help me call forth and name things that have happened to me that I've not thought of for awhile but have needed to. And I love questions that help me to further develop/enrich my understanding of the Franciscan charism.

This would be a great little book for fraternities to use who don't like long reading assignments and yet want something substantial to enrich their formation. It would also be a rich formation resource for other fraternities who want to increase their understanding of Franciscan service. The nature of the questions will help you know and understand others in your fraternity better, thus also being a resource to help you and others better and more clearly identify and channel personal and spiritual gifts.

An added bonus is that this book is rated with Five Stars by Amazon. You'll need to order it from Franciscan Passages, the editor's ministry. The book costs ten bucks and the author has price brakes on bulk orders. I hope and pray that you will use and enjoy this little book!

Order from: [www.franciscanpassages.org](http://www.franciscanpassages.org)



## JPIC Corner

Greetings of Easter Joy and Peace, my brothers and sisters!

I have good news to share! As of this writing, three of our regional fraternities have chosen JPIC animators for their fraternities! They are:

Stanley Cordova from the Mother Cabrini Fraternity in Liberal, Kansas, Susan Lee from the St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in Oklahoma City and Tom Firme St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert Fraternity from Tahlequah, Oklahoma. And if my memory serves me correctly, Tom Firme has an essay in the book I reviewed elsewhere in this issue! Each of these people brings a treasure trove of experience and knowledge which will enrich our region as we learn more about and watch them live out the Franciscan charism.

Other fraternities, if you have chosen your JPIC animator please let me know. You can email me at [souljourner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:souljourner@sbcglobal.net) or you can call me at 785-865-9949. Our animators will form a JPIC network throughout the region, which will enable us to collaborate and to learn from one another as we develop and minister in our apostolates and in the world.

I want to share with you a fine resource for learning more about JPIC. The national JPIC Council has a website which is full of useful resources for learning more about JPIC. Here is how you can access this website. Go to: <https://sites.google.com/site/jpic4ofs/home>

It can also be accessed from Google: `jpic4ofs`

At our regional gathering in Wichita in June, our JPIC animators will be meeting to begin collaboration on building a network that will enable us to be useful resources for our fraternities and our region. Animators, I hope to see you there!

Last month, I mentioned that the same four pillars that guide our formation as Secular Franciscans are the same pillars that guide our work in JPIC: spirituality, fraternity, formation and apostolate. As I've reflected on these pillars, I never cease to be amazed at how naturally interdependent and supportive of collaboration they are!

For instance, if formation is removed from the picture, we have no knowledge base on which to draw in helping us to understand who we are as Franciscans. If spirituality is removed, we have no spiritual principles from which to form our identity as Franciscans. If fraternity is removed, we have nowhere to learn and pray concerning living out our lives as Secular Franciscans. And if apostolate is removed, we have no experiential vessel to draw from as we grow in the lived experience of living out Franciscanism in specific ministerial projects and in the world.

This interplay among the four pillars is, I believe, a gift to us. All of these pillars, if we are praying and listening and discerning along the way, lead us to living our lives in a way that is reflective of Jesus and Francis in our world.

By Susan Tabor OFS