



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

M i n i s t e r ' s M e s s a g e

- Minister's Message
- Francis & You
- Wichita Summer Gathering
- Duns Scotus Grant

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From Stumbling Blocks to Temples

As I was praying for inspiration for this month's message to you, I came across my notes from a sermon from last fall that struck me once again. Yes, I am the crazy lady who takes notes on sermons during Mass.

I got the idea from Matthew Kelly when he challenged people to take a notebook to Mass and write down one idea that came to you in prayer during Mass that you could do that week to make you a better version of yourself - more like the person God intended you to be. Well, I accepted the challenge. I just forgot the part about only one idea!

I am so much of a student and teacher, that I found myself taking copious notes throughout every sermon. I tried to stop, really, I did. But the notes I took seemed so important to my life. I

could re-read them all week long and gain such inspiration from each new reading. Also, I can remember the days when I would be talking with friends from church who would comment how good the sermon was that week, and honestly, I couldn't even remember anything about it. Well, I never let that happen again.

OK, the sermon. According to my notes, in the Gospel that day Jesus was walking around the temple in Jerusalem. Supposedly, the temple at that time was bigger than 4 of the biggest football stadiums in the world! Also, the temple was wrapped in gold so that the sun made it shine so brightly that it naturally attracted everyone for miles around.

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Regional Executive Council

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Then Jesus said to them, "All you see will be destroyed!" This wasn't good. Every prophet in the OT who spoke against the temple were killed., and so too will Jesus. How did this prediction strike the Jews? To get an idea, think how we viewed 9 - 11. To many, especially in New York City, it looked like the end of the world. That is how the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem sounded to Jews of His day.

Jesus already knows he is not a favorite among the temple Jews. Why does Jesus openly tell them that the work of their hands will be destroyed before them? It was to be a wake up call for the Jews. The Jews viewed themselves as a people set apart, and so they were. But they felt themselves so favored by God that they forgot to be the model of how the Sons of God were meant to be. They saw the temple they had built as God's seal of approval. But they put law above mercy, and personal honor and ego above service. Jesus was offering them another chance to turn to Him and rethink their lives. Another chance to realign their hearts with our Merciful God. But the temple fell.

So, what is your "temple?" Will it fall or is it set firmly on the rock of God's mercy and love? Is it still standing or has it fallen? When I first heard this sermon, I immediately thought of my own fraternity which we had just declared inactive due to loss of members. It never occurred to me that someday it would not be there. Did we take our vows of poverty or obedience too lightly? Were we truly serving those most in need? What is God asking us to resurrect from the ashes?

Like in the Gospel, I asked, what are we proclaiming daily as our priorities and values by the way we live? Do we live daily our Franciscan way of peace in word and deed even in tough situations, of simplicity in the purchases we make and the way we live, of poverty in denying ourselves, both physically and emotionally so that we can give joy to others? And what is my biggest stumbling block?

Bishop Robert Barron says, "Where you stumble, look for treasure." What? Yes, he says that where you are the very weakest and fall, look for God, because God uses mankind's weaknesses to bring about greatness. Just look at some of our greatest saints. St. Peter, an illiterate fisherman, who never seemed to be able to say the right thing in the Gospels. He became the greatest and most courageous of preachers. St. Faustina, an unlearned poor girl, who became the secretary of the Lord and wrote one of the most important books of inspiration of our time! And think of our own beloved St. Francis. Out of his failure as a knight came knowing the life God called him to live which changed the Church.

So, let's ask again, where are we the weakest? Look there to see what God wants from you. And look to your temples in your life. Will they stand or will they fall?



*Pax et Bonum,
Judith Cronk OFS
Regional Minister*



Wichita, KS – Keeper of the Plains is a 44 foot sculpture by Kiowa-Comanche artist, Blackbear Bosin. It sits at the confluence of the Arkansas and the Little Arkansas Rives in Wichita, KS. It is a remembrance of the tribes that lived in the area.



**FRANCISCAN
MISSION WAREHOUSE**

Secular Franciscan, Amy Scheitler Receives Award for FMW!

Amy Scheitler OFS, vice minister of the Holy Eucharist Fraternity in Independence, Missouri was awarded \$500 from the Fr. Ed Fitzpatrick Discipleship Award from the Newman Catholic Center in Iowa City, Iowa!

Amy donated the money to an apostolate close to her heart, the Franciscan Mission Warehouse in Independence, MO. Amy and her brothers and sisters in the metropolitan area have worked with Sr. Andrea Kantner to organize, sort and move materials at the warehouse.

The Franciscan Mission Warehouse exists to bring resources and lifesaving medical supplies to the places in the world where they are most needed. Their mission is to care for those who cannot

care for themselves and to deliver hope to families and communities that need it most. The Franciscan Mission Warehouse is part of the vast community of support that spreads goodwill and well-being across the world.

Local suppliers, like St. Luke's Heath Center and Children's Mercy Hospital, have medical equipment that is no longer used in their facilities and/or they have excess materials that they must dispose of or recycle. Much of this equipment is still in perfect working condition but is being replaced in favor of newer models of equipment. The medical facilities could destroy and dispose of the outdated equipment, but disposal costs can be extremely high. The Franciscan Mission Warehouse offers them a better, less expensive opportunity to get rid of their outdated equipment and help people around the world.

One of the most challenging aspects of the mission's work is finding the places where the materials will do the most good. With so many in need, the Mission strives to find areas of the globe that have specific needs matching what the warehouse can specifically supply. To do this, they work with global charity partners and other organizations sharing information and arranging for shipments to those in need worldwide. These partnerships are one of their greatest assets, expanding the Mission's opportunity to reach out and provide for more of those in need.

The Franciscan Mission Warehouse, located in Independence, MO is one of the two apostolates that Secular Franciscans of the Juan de Padilla Region supports with a yearly financial donation. The other apostolate that our region supports is the **Capuchin Mission in Papua, New Guinea**.

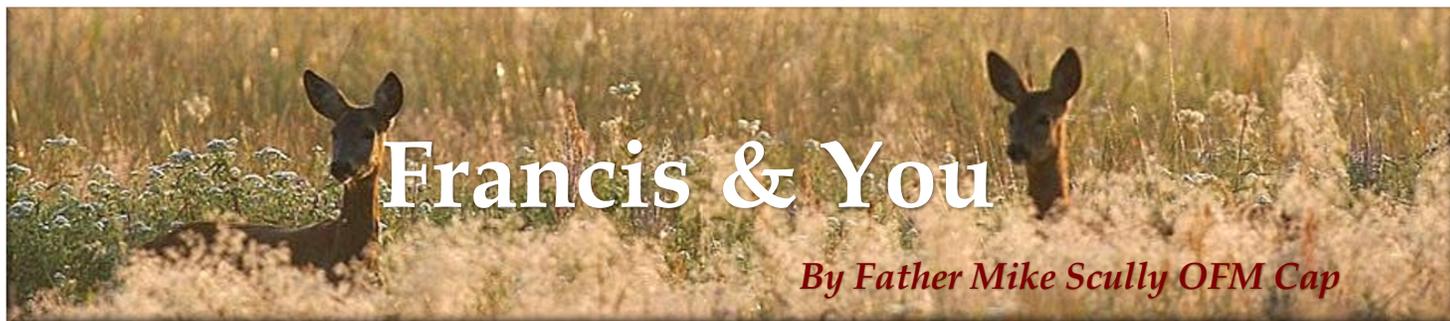


Sister Andrea Kantner OSF and Amy Scheitler OFS pose in front of items being sorted for the Franciscan Mission Ware-



Sister Andrea and Amy in the warehouse.





5 THE “TRUE FOUNDATION” OF FRANCIS’ ORDER—LADY POVERTY

REFERENCES:

Omer Englebert, St. Francis of Assisi

Of all ... virtues, poverty is the one that was to impart its originality to the Franciscan Order and constitute its “true foundation.”

Voluntarily poor one may be from philosophy or asceticism, for reasons of zeal, of charity, and others still. But Francis was poor from love. He made himself poor because his beloved Christ had been poor. He espoused Poverty because she had been “the inseparable companion of the Most High Son of God,” and because for twelve centuries she had wandered about forsaken.

In truth, it was a wonderful union. Never was a loved woman the object of a more chivalrous and loyal cult, of more impassioned and more charming homage. [chapter 6]

Jean-Marie Tillard, O.P., How To Live The Vows Today

The poverty of a religious is by no means a purely negative approach to be finalized by the desire for personal austerity (although that is important also!). Money that religious earn from their work or save in community and not used for their single life-style must be concretely transformed in some way into the service of the needy, especially in the struggle against all that oppresses the weak and the little ones or wounds the dignity of man. ... The vow of poverty is not the vow of saving.

Jesus, The Gospel of Matthew

The young man said to him, “All of these I have observed. What do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then, come, follow me.”

David Wann and John de Graef, Affluenza

Possession overload is the kind of problem where you have so many things you find your life is being taken up by maintaining and caring for things instead of people. Everything I own owns me. People feel sad and what do they do? They go to the mall, and they shop, and it makes them feel better, but only for a short time. ... Tragedy is wanting something badly, getting it and finding it empty. Addiction to stuff is not easily understood. The goal is to get back to a place of perceived power and carefree abandonment.

Poison, Something To Believe In

I drive by the homeless sleeping on a cold dark street, like bodies in an open grave, underneath the broken old neon sign that used to read “Jesus Saves.” A mile away live the rich folks, and I see how they’re living it up. While the poor, they eat from hand to mouth, the rich is drinkin’ from a golden cup. And it just makes me wonder: why so many lose, so few win. Give me something to believe in.



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Pardon the reference to a rock song, but this song (**Something To Believe In**, by Poison) has always moved me to deep thought in a number of areas. One of them: it is an old neon sign that no longer functions, reading “Jesus Saves.” And perhaps, the reason why Jesus is no longer saving is the desire among so many to be rich. No wonder so many are losing: we have nothing to believe in.

For Francis, of course, there *was* something to believe in. As Englebert and every other biographer of Francis point out, that something was Jesus Christ, and for Francis the avenue to salvation through Jesus—“Jesus saves”—was poverty. Francis and his first followers, and later, the first Capuchins, were poor, really poor. Convinced that God was everything in their lives, they wanted nothing else.

The religious leaders that have taken the time to try to talk to us about poverty have always had a very difficult time. Simply put, we cannot live a life of poverty as Francis and the early Capuchins did. We live in the twenty-first century, not the twelfth or sixteenth. We have to have cars, we have to have money, we have to have conveniences. One cannot minister in the world without them.

One of the things that has always bothered me in my ministry is that I cannot do anything “free.” I always get paid for it. I give of myself to someone in the parish who really needs what I have to give—I’m paid to do that. I teach someone, children and young people who really need me as a teacher—I’m paid to do that. I’m kind to someone in the hospital who really needs what I have to help them heal—I’m paid to do that. I give to the poor in the institution that I work in—I’m paid to do that. You get the point. Maybe everyone of us must adopt some minor mission, something good for humankind, and insure that we are *not* paid. Is that possible?

1. *If giving implies that I get nothing in return, am I truly giving to the poor around me?*
2. *Am I “saving” too much, in the form of clothes, personal money, personal possessions?*
3. *Ask a friend of yours: what is a “simple lifestyle”? And then apply the answer to yourself.*
4. *Am I truly distinguishing between the things I need and the things I want?*
5. *When was the last time I really “felt the pinch” of poverty? Should I be feeling it a little more?*
6. *Could I give away anything I have to someone else right now?*
7. *Do I have too much stuff? Should some of it be given away?*
8. *If someone would say, “Prove to me that you are poor,” how would I answer?*



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
Yvonne Werth OFS	St. Joseph	Hays, KS	April 5, 2017
Patricia O’Gara OFS	Holy Eucharist	Independence, MO	June 25, 2017

(Please let Judith know of any deaths in your respective fraternities and update your data base)

Come One, Come All



Blessed Duns Scotus OFM, 1266-1308 Theologian of the Immaculate Conception, Founder of the Scotus School of Scholastic Theology. Master of Oxford, Paris & Cologne

By now, most if not all of you have heard that our region was awarded a grant from the Duns Scotus Foundation to embark upon a three-year formation initiative.

For the next three years, we are being asked to save one day each year for some intensive Franciscan training that will give us what we need to keep each of us and our region abreast of critical Franciscan information, and assist in keeping us all on similar, if not the same, pages.

At our regional gathering in June, Father Mike Scully, OFM. Cap., our Regional Spiritual Assistant, and Janice Keeley, OFS, our Regional Formation Director described the initiative this way:

The days of training are designed to be days of renewal for us; renewal in our calling to be Secular Franciscans and renewal in our appreciation of our Franciscan charism. The days run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year they will be on October 7 at the Sisters of St. Francis in Independence, Missouri; on October 21, at the Capuchin Retreat Center in Victoria, Kansas and on November 4, at Sacred Heart Parish in Sapulpa, Oklahoma. During the mornings of each day Father Mike will speak about Franciscanism and in the afternoons, the formation team will give practical tips on using available OFS resources; provide ideas for continuing our formation for a lifetime and instruct us on praying in the manner of a Franciscan. Each workshop will be similar to each of the others. Therefore, if you attend

one, you have basically attended them all. You may, however, attend as often as you wish.

Themes will be:

Year One: Franciscan life, The lives of Francis and Clare, Franciscan spirituality, Understanding the Gospels and Understanding the role of Spiritual Assistants. Being responsible for our own and others' formation, Nurturing our Fraternities, Internalizing the culture of being Franciscan by using Franciscan resources and allowing the Holy Spirit room to work. Practicing Franciscan Prayer.

Year Two: Franciscan virtues of poverty, obedience, fraternity, chastity, penance/conversion, humility. Creating a vibrant Franciscan Fraternity, More intense study of prayer, Delving deeper into Franciscan Spirituality, Formation, Fraternity and Apostolate. Using scenarios to teach problem solving.

Year 3: Franciscan theology, especially as relating to the Incarnation and the works of Duns Scotus and Bonaventure. Meeting needs expressed by Regional Secular Franciscans.

Objectives of the three-year training are:

1. To further our understanding of Franciscanism and the Gospels.
2. To increase our appreciation for the Franciscan Third Order and what it means to be part of the Order.
3. To become well-acquainted with the lives of Francis and Clare.
4. To know and understand the discipline it takes to be a Secular Franciscan.
5. To know, understand and live Franciscan peace in community.

The goal here is to immerse us in Franciscanism; we need to know and understand Franciscanism so well that we naturally give ourselves over to living the Franciscan life. Come join us as we all grow in our desire, our craving, to live the Gospel life which was the lifeblood of the ministry of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi.

By Susan Tabor OFS

One last word . . .

Even though it has been 2 months since our Regional Gathering in Wichita, I have not yet lost the glow from being with all of you who attended, nor can I forget the people who helped to make all of this happen. Since this is our first newsletter since then, I would like to take a moment to publicly thank those to whom we owe much gratitude.

First of all I would like to thank all of you who came and shared your faith and your joy with us. It truly was a time of joy that could not have happened if not for those who shared themselves to the Gathering.

As always, we could not do without our REC organization team of Claudia Kauzlarich and Dona Gibbons, from our REC, who managed the registration, rooms, food details and more, along with Chris Riggs, minister of St. Anthony Fraternity who graciously offered his time and talent to function as the local organizer. He, along with the whole St. Anthony Fraternity were such wonderful hosts to the attendees. From manning the registration table, answering questions, helping with rooms and even an accordion serenade in the dining room. We couldn't have asked for a more joyful or fraternal assistance.

Then there was our Liturgical Team. The REC asked that one of the hosting state's fraternities volunteer to organize all of the Prayer Services and Liturgies for the Gathering. Our dear Brother Jacoba Fraternity immediately stepped forward to take charge. With Jean Finch, Susan Tabor and Bob Brill at the helm, they attended to all of the details for Morning and Evening Prayer, our Masses and our Rite of Remembrance. They picked music, found readers, leaders and musicians, and printed up our Prayer Booklets. I can't thank them enough for helping to make all of our prayer time together go so smoothly.

And at the Saturday Night Social, Maria Epperson and Dona Gibbons really outdid themselves. Music, videos, dancing and yellow paper plate "HAPPY" faces. It was great fun and a time to let our Franciscan joy shine.

And a very special thanks to our presenters beginning with our Gathering keynote presenter, Fr. Jeff Ernst, OFM Cap for sharing his historical knowledge and his inspiration throughout the weekend. To Janice Keely, our REC Formation Director, for our Formation and information on our upcoming Formation Workshops. To Fr. Scully for his inspiring talk on why we need more and more Formation.

I would also like to ask all of you for your prayers. Both our Juan de Padilla Region and our National Fraternity are busy preparing for our Annual Chapters, both which will take place in September. Annual Chapters are necessary to make sure that all ministers are fully informed as to the plan for the upcoming year, and to get input from all the fraternities as to issues that the Councils need to address. These are often very demanding times, especially the National Chapter which takes place over 6 days. There will be lots of information coming to you after each of these important times together.



Juan de Padilla 2017 Wichita Summer Gathering



Chris Riggs OFS , takes a photo of Juan de Padilla members

I ask that you please pray for the success of both of these Chapters, for safe travels for those attending, and for open minds and hearts to accept the tasks we are asked to undertake for the Order. May we always hear the voice of God during our discussions and information sessions and in doing his holy work.

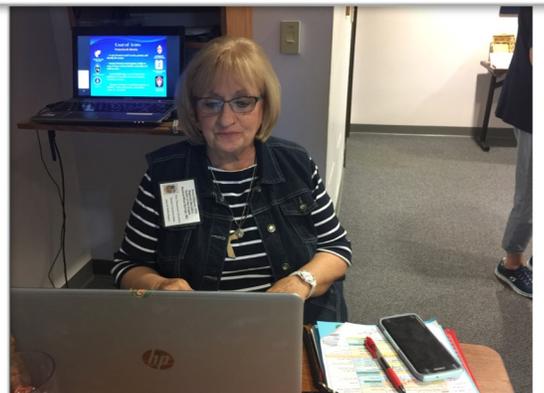
*Judith Cronk OFS
Regional Minister*



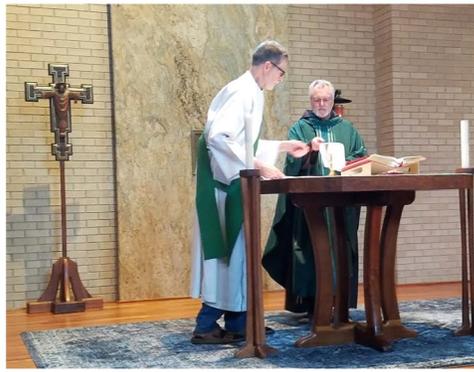
More pictures of the Summer Gathering are on the following pages

Wichita Summer Gathering











THE FORMATION CORNER



Janice Keeley
Formation Director
In the Sea of Galilee

Dona Gibbons, Regional Secretary, and I returned early this week from the National Formation Workshop. From Thursday to Sunday, we heard from the National Formation Team and worked together in teams and as a group to ingrain into ourselves what is meant by “formation” for our Order.



Janice Keeley OFS,
Regional Formation Director

There are so many phrases that we all have heard from the beginning of our initial formation. One phrase, “We are all responsible for our own formation.” Is a phrase that is SO important. We who are formation directors and spiritual assistants try our best to provide guidance and resources, but ultimately, how good a Franciscan we become, how deeply we accept our calling as a Franciscan, is up to us and how we respond to the call that is initially and continually given by the Holy Spirit.

Another phrase, “Information, Formation, Transformation” describes the goals of our formation process. It is the duty of the Formation TEAM to provide INFORMATION and FORMATION in initial formation that will start our inquirers on the path toward TRANSFORMATION. At all points along the path from discernment to our entry into the next life, the really true goal of our formation as Franciscans is that we will all be TRANSFORMED. The Article 7 of our Rule describes transformation as “that radical interior change that the Gospel itself calls ‘conversion.’”

A more-often-stressed phrase (from the Rule, article 4), “From Gospel to life and Life to the Gospel,” is similarly spoken in our profession statement. The Gospels, Holy Mother Church, the Rule, the Constitution, the Franciscan Saints...All are guides along our journey, hopefully, prayerfully, guided by the Holy Spirit to effect transformation in our lives.

The upcoming Franciscan Renewal Workshops, which are further described in another article in this newsletter, are being developed by your Regional Formation Team to assist each of us to transform our lives according to the Franciscan way. In these workshops, you will receive guidance as to what you can do in your fraternity and alone to guide your own formation. The workshops themselves should be food for your growth. MUCH work is going into these workshops. We have planned the workshops to be nearer to you than what our yearly retreats can be. I truly hope and pray that most of you will attend these workshops.



We are Franciscans for our lifetime. Our previous Regional Formation Director, Kenton Miller, OFS, himself a University professor, called our Franciscan calling a “master’s degree in Catholicism.” With our calling, more is expected of us. We get out of something, what we put into it. May the Holy Spirit guide us in this TRANSFORMATION.

All peace and all good with prayers for you all,

Janice OFS

Fraternity News

Holy Eucharist Profess New Members Independence, MO



Picture in row (l-r) : Stan McClatchey, Sister Josephine, Diana Stulz, Fr. Mike Scully OFM Cap; row 2: Betty McClatchey, Sally Yendrek (face hidden) Joanne Ferdig, Pat Micheletti, Kathy Hillen, Maria Epperson, Lisa Koehler (head peaking out); row 3: John Yendrek, Stan Sikorski.

Maximilian Kolbe Election Atchison, Kansas



From left to right: Francis Carpinelli OFS, Minister; Agnes Puoy, Vice Minister; Robert Puoy, Formation Direction; Roseanne Mahieu, Secretary; Kay Mangimelli, Treasurer.

Queen of the Angels Visitation Buckner, Missouri



Queen of the Angels Fraternity welcomed Sister Josephine Boyles OSF , Pastoral Visitor and Claudia Kauzlarich OSF, Fraternal Visitor on July 22, 2017 for their visitation. Pictured above, (l-r) Cathy Herndon, Sister Josephine, Helen Boos, Dona Gibbons, Virginia Forbes, Dave Forbes, Kathy Johnson, Jo Keller. In the back, Janice Cox and Mark Robertson.

FRANCISCANS

FOUNDER
St. Francis of Assisi

MOTTO
"Pax et bonum" (Peace and the good)

TYPE
Mendicant Religious Order

HABIT
Grey/Black (Conventual Franciscans)
Brown (Capuchins)

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Order of Friars Minor

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SPIRITUALITY

- Living the Gospel
- Following Jesus Christ
- Poverty
- Fraternity

COAT OF ARMS

NOTABLE SAINTS

St. Anthony of Padua
St. Bonaventure
St. Clare of Assisi
St. Pio of Pietrelcina
St. Maximilian Kolbe

Institutions or Congregations of the Catholic Church


 Tools of the Trade

Live Daily Silent Sermons – Rule 19 – Tool 5

by Nancy Herbert OFS, Minister of St Monica

A part of my secular work is to facilitate resolving conflict. By facilitating, I mean that the conflict needs to be resolved by the people involved and I just help them along the path to peace at best, obedience at minimum. Let me tell you about a recent situation.

A couple of weeks ago, one of my leads had a meltdown and wrote me an email saying I needed to solve this problem with one of his subordinates by immediately calling his team together and ‘laying down the law.’ So as the ‘boss’, in a crisis or very difficult situation, from his perspective it is up to me to fix it, to lay down the law and to make the problem go away. I don’t buy in to that perspective. Neither did our Seraphic Father Francis:

“The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today.”

So, later in the day I called and listened to his concerns and then said, “You know I will deal with it ... as soon as I can see a path forward. I want to meet with this person and see what’s going on.” In other words, my lead had to wait upon the Lord because that is the decision I made. But it wasn’t an inactive waiting on the Lord as the lead still had his work to do.

Later in the week, I met with the employee who appeared to be the cause of conflict and I asked what had happened. As we talked, I recognized that she had made decisions based on wisdom but had failed to communicate her plan to her team lead. I also said to her that it was a problem between the team lead and her and it was up to them to get their relationship back on track. And, in fact, once she saw that she had not communicated appropriately, she called the lead and apologized that day. From the team lead’s perspective, her behavior was first seen as a lack of respect for his authority when, in fact, it had been just human error as he later understood.

Can you see the ‘Silent Sermons’ in this situation? First, the lead had to wait upon the Lord. Secondly, the person that was seen as the source of the problem, repented (in a secular way). The lead saw that she had misperceived the situation from being a ‘lack of respect’ to a human error or miscommunication ... a gift of humility for the lead. The ‘boss’ (although a little irritated by the distraction) had to make a decision on whether to be self-serving to get rid of the problem fast or to take the longer path. All three of us had to have ears to hear ... we had to listen.

You can see that this little issue could have become a major issue with a few wrong turns and caused long term problems within my team. First, as ‘boss’, I could have just wanted to get the problem solved, called the employee and laid down the law. Problem solved ... false power revealed. No one would have waited on the Lord. The lead would have been satisfied that power worked but never understood the true problem and resentment of not being respected would have silently grown ... the enemy’s silent sermon. And just laying down the law would have not given each person the respect that was due them in resolving their difficulty. Please remember 1 Corinthians 4:5:

Continued from previous page

“Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.”

One would think that in our fraternity life, we would all quickly come to agreement and our reality would always be peace, love and brotherhood/sisterhood. We sometimes forget many key factors such as that as individual Secular Franciscans we see multiple concurrent realities. In fact, the Lord clearly tells us that we only know the truth in part and that we all need each other. Our Seraphic Father Francis led the way in helping us know how to walk with each other during times when our concurrent realities seem to clash. He is always speaking to our hearts showing us how to be Secular Franciscan Peacemakers!

Also, our Seraphic Father Francis lived his daily life giving silent sermons through his deeds. In Matthew 20: 25-28 Jesus shows us that how we serve by our deeds within all of our daily activities are first a matter of the heart. Let us all take heart in Jesus and our Seraphic Father Francis and let our deeds be the silent sermons for each and every of our day of our lives.

But Jesus called them to Himself and said,

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and *their* great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20: 25-28

Onward Franciscan Soldiers!

Nancy Herbert OFS



CALENDAR EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	Location
September 9, 2017	Regional Chapter Meeting	St. Anthony's, Wichita, KS
September 17, 2017	Stigmata of St. Francis	World wide
September 26-October 1, 2017	NAFRA Chapter Meeting	Mount St. Francis, Indiana
October 1, 2017	Brother Jacoba Elections 1:30 pm	St. John the Evangelist Church, Lawrence, KS
October 3 & 4, 2017	Transitus & Feast of St. Francis of Assisi	World-wide
October 7, 2017	KC Metro Area – Regional Formation Workshop	Franciscan Prayer Center, Independence, MO
October 21, 2017	Kansas Regional Formation Workshop	Capuchin Center Spiritual Life, Victoria, KS
November 4, 2017	Oklahoma Regional Formation Workshop	Sacred Heart Church, Sapulpa, OK
November 5, 2017	St. Anthony's Elections	St. Anthony's Church, Wichita, KS
November 11, 2017	Regional Formation Committee @ 1:30 pm	Tahlequah, OK
November 18, 2017	Regional Executive Council @ 10 am	Lawrence, KS
November 19, 2017	Holy Family Visitation	Holy Family Cathedral, Tulsa, OK

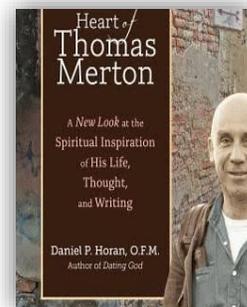


Franciscan Book Review

By Susan Tabor OFS

The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton: A New Look at the Spiritual Inspiration of His Life, Thought, and Writing By Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M.

"I was immersed again in two of the greatest influences on my own life and marveled at Horan's persuasive and comprehensive argument for why they are important to all of us today." --**Murray Bodo, O.F.M.**, Author of *Francis: The Journey and the Dream*



"This finely textured volume highlights Thomas Merton's intellectual and spiritual debt to the Franciscan tradition. Like the good householder of the Gospel, Daniel Horan draws forth old things and new" -- **Lawrence S. Cunningham**, University of Notre Dame

During the visit of Pope Francis to the U.S. 2 years ago, he identified 3 persons from U.S. history that he felt exemplified the goodness that nourishes us from our nation's history. One of those people was Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk who was a prolific teacher and writer in the mid-20th century. (No, it wasn't that long ago folks; it just sounds like it!)

For me, part of the beauty of this book was reading about the influences that Saint Francis of Assisi had on Merton's life before and after he became a Trappist. Francis of Assisi's love of peace and of Gospel-centered action were part of what inspired the development of Merton's theological continuum/process of prayer to action and action back to prayer.

You may remember that Father Dan Horan was a keynote speaker at the Quinquennial last summer. He was a dynamic speaker then and I found him to be a dynamic writer as well. For me, this book provided a lens through which I could follow the development of Thomas Merton's theology and thought process as his life developed.

Another bonus for me was that this book increased my appreciation of both Francis of Assisi and Thomas Merton. The work of both men was presented with a fresh approach for a new generation of Christians as well as for well-seasoned ones.

This book is available on Amazon, new or used.



JPIC Corner

First of all, I would like to welcome Cathy Herndon to our community of fraternity JPIC animators! She is JPIC animator for Queen of the Angels Fraternity in Buckner, Missouri.

On July 27-30, four persons from Juan De Padilla Region attended the national NAFRA JPIC gathering in St. Louis, Missouri. These gatherings usually take place every two years. Those attending from our region were Susan Lee, animator for St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in Oklahoma City, Kay Sullivan who is also from St. Francis of Assisi fraternity, Judy Carpenter who is a member of Holy Eucharist Fraternity in Independence, Missouri and myself. Twenty people attended from all over the country.

The theme was conflict resolution. We learned about engaging with conflict without escalating it or running from it. We must be good listeners. We must also understand how important that pause between stimulus and response is; that is the place where we can actively choose love or something else. Actively listen by asking questions and making sure you understand someone else's position. (Think of that phrase in the Peace Prayer attributed to St. Francis That asks us to pray to understand before being understood ourselves.) When boundary-setting is an issue, it needs to be done, and with love and compassion. Work on communication by Eric Law and on nonviolent communication by Marshall Rosenberg were recommended. There were a lot of treasures that came from this meeting. I'll share more gleanings in later issues of the newsletter.

Fraternity JPIC animators who were present at the regional gathering had a brief and productive meeting. We are looking at ways to best structure our ongoing communication in such a way that our animators will have what they need and can pass it along to their fraternities.

On December 18, a docudrama called The Sultan and the Saint will be shown on PBS. (Watch your local schedule for details.) We are encouraging fraternities around the country to watch the documentary, then to follow it up with a showing in your own communities. The viewings are followed by questions and discussion led by a person who is Christian and a person who is Muslim. The goal of these showings and discussions is to promote interfaith understanding and dialogue. For information and materials, go to:

<http://www.globalthinkinginc.com/OEF/Inventory.html>

Neil Dunnigan, an ecumenical Secular Franciscan from Oklahoma City has shared the above link with us. (Thank you, Neil!) Much organizing for an event in the Oklahoma City area has already taken place and he is sharing resources with us. You may have already seen a note about this docudrama if you receive email from the OFS Ecumenical and Interfaith Committee.

By Susan Tabor OFS, JPIC Animator

Juan De Padilla Region