



Secular Franciscan Order

Juan de Padilla

Regional Newsletter

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

- Minister's Message
- Regional Spiritual Assistant's Column
- Summer Gathering 2020

Inside this issue:

Minister's Message	1-2
Regional Gathering Summer Gathering	3-4
Regional Spiritual Assistant's Column	5-6
Fraternity News,	7-22
Formation Column	13-14
JPIC	20

Minister's Message

Franciscan Fraternity and Love

Well, here I am again. I guess you get to hear from me for another 3 years! That said, first of all I would like to say how humbled I am that you would chose me to serve you for another term. Even after the last three years when you witnessed all of my mistakes and deficiencies, that you would elect me once again, warts and all, is almost unfathomable to me. However, I promise to serve you and the Region with all the energy and knowledge and every grace given me by the Holy Spirit. But I remind you, I am but a small cog in the workings of our Region and our Order, and here's why.

As I have told the local ministers, and maybe you as well, again and again, the local fraternities are THE most important fraternities in the entire Order. That's right. You are even more important than the National or International fraternities! That is because it is at the local fraternity level where we attract and admit ALL of the members of the Order. Remember? Every single Secular Franciscan member was admitted and professed into the Order at the local fraternity level. And, if that is

true, and it is, then that means that all of our local councils and local ministers are THE most important councils and ministers in the entire Order. Think about that! This means that we need to be investing a lot more attention, training and energy into making sure that each and every member of every one of our now 14 local councils are the most informed and most devoted and maybe even the holiest of all of our members.

The National Executive Council (NEC) has realized this as well and has chosen to focus on the development and enrichment of fraternity life in our Order for the next 3 years. I feel as if we in the Juan de Padilla Region have had a jump start on this initiative as we started focusing on this a year ago Even International is looking at Fraternity and Fraternal Life as a major area of focus and concentration.

The REC is already looking at a few items that might be helpful in assisting the fraternities and councils such as training and retreats for new ministers and councils and Regional retreats for Candidates. These are only a beginning. What the REC really needs to know is what do you feel is missing or needed in your fraternity to help each and every member to become holier both in relationships within your fraternity and within the Order as a whole.

(continued on Page 2)

So, I ask all of you to make Fraternity Life a major part of your attention this coming year. Also, if you would please think about how the REC might help you and your fraternity to focus more deeply on Fraternal Life, please send me or your Area Councilor any ideas that you feel would really help you.

As we approach the anniversary of the most beautiful love story ever, when God gave to mankind the most glorious gift of His Beloved Son at Christmas, during this Advent let us consider renewing our promises we made at our profession, to give to God our humble and poor lives. Let us offer Him our holiness and our complete trust in His love and mercy as we struggle to be the best Franciscans we can be.

Revisiting, Rethinking and Revisions.

I also think it important to inform you that at our National Chapter in Texas last month, the NEC, the National Formation Team and the Council of National Spiritual Assistants announced a number of revisions that are currently underway.

The Formation Team is in the process of writing new Initial Formation books, one for Orientation and Inquiry and one for Candidacy with formator guides. They have consulted with Fr. Lester Bach and have agreed to eventually set FRANCISCAN JOURNEY aside in lieu of the new books. Also, the FUN Manual will become one of our many resource books. The Formation Team's intention is to put all required materials into one book so that there won't be a need to hunt out other necessary sources. Also, the Formation Team wants to focus in on those areas that are essential to our charism and our Rule. It will take two to three years for the books to be written, both of which will be in digital format and readily available to all who need it.

Also, the Council of National Spiritual Assistants are rewriting the Handbook for Spiritual Assistance. Again, there are a number of areas in the current book that are not as clearly written and easy to understand and follow, so the CNSA headed by President-in -turn, Fr. Christopher Panagopoulos, TOR, along with Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM and Brother Alexander Escalara, OFM Cap, will be working on this revision over the next year.

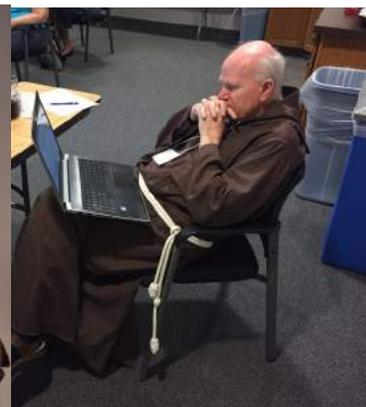
NEC has also announced revisions being made to our National Statutes. They have a long list of issues that need clarification, updating and study. As information on this continues to be available, I will keep you informed. The goal is to have the revisions completed to be voted on by the 2020 National Chapter in Detroit, Michigan.

Judith Cronk, Regional Minister



**"SEE CHRIST.
BE CHRIST.
SHARE THE VISION!"**





CHAPTER OF ELECTION

FALL 2019



Sunday Nov 17th KS Frater
 Spiritual food for the poor
 Go to Mass as frequently if possible
 Wear some thing Franciscan on the day
 Fast, prayer, almsgiving
 Light a votive candle
 Place notice in bulletin
 Fr. announce at Mass
 Invite parishioners to stay & pray
 Local Fraternity decide where to give to charity.





Juan de Padilla Summer Gathering

Perfect Joy

June 5-7, 2020

Spiritual Life Center, Wichita, KS



Father John Bamman OFM Conv.

Juan de Padilla Region is offering a powerful weekend in support of the National Secular Franciscan goal of **Creating Vibrant Fraternities** with a special presentation of "Perfect Joy" by Father John Bamman OFM Conv. His talk will address *Reconciliation / Forgiveness and / Healing in Fraternity*. We will learn about Finding Peace & Gratitude with the challenges of the world today.

More about Father Bamman....

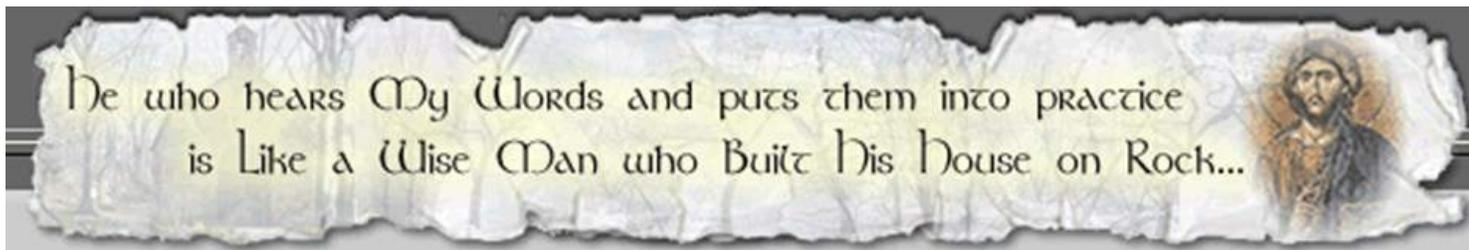
Friar John is a Conventual Franciscan priest who was ordained in 2009 at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation where he first met the friars as a teenager. Today he is the Vocation Director for the Province of Our Lady of Consolation (the Midwestern Province of the Conventual Franciscans) and strives to live the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ in imitation of St. Francis of Assisi. Born November 26, 1966 he draws from an eclectic background of previous jobs including: tree planter, camp counselor, tour bus driver in Alaska, ski patrol in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State, and park interpreter. Previous assignments during his Franciscan formation have been in San Antonio, TX; Mishawaka, IN; Washington D.C.; San Jose, Costa Rica; St Paul, MN; and Terre Haute, IN. He is currently stationed at Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, OH. In his free time Friar John enjoys bird watching, playing the guitar, downhill skiing, and hanging out with friends around a campfire telling stories. Come join the campfire camaraderie and he will share a story, or two! Discover more about the Conventual Franciscans at:

www.Franciscans.org

blogpage: www.FriarTruck.org

Registration Information
coming later.





From the Regional Spiritual Assistant

HANDLING DISSENSION—THE DECISION TO “BE NICE”

REFERENCES:

Thomas A. Harris, M.D. I’m OK—You’re OK

Now...we come to the central technique: using...language to analyze a transaction. The transaction consists of a stimulus by one person and a response by another, which response in turn becomes a new stimulus for the other person to respond to. The purpose of the analysis is to discover which part of each person—Parent, Adult or Child—is originating each stimulus and response.

Mother Teresa. Words to Love By...

Change your hearts...Unless we change our hearts we are not converted. Changing places is not the answer. Changing occupations is not the answer. The answer is to change our hearts. And how do we change? By praying. The most important thing to do to change my heart is confession. After confession, holy communion. And then I am full of peace.

The Gospel of Matthew, 5, 7

If you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift....Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, “Let me remove that splinter from your eye,” while the wooden beam is in your eye?

M. Scott Peck, M.D. The Different Drum

Life in community may touch upon something perhaps even deeper than joy. There are a few who repeatedly seek out brief experiences of community as if such episodes were some sort of “fix.” This is not to be decried. We all need “fixes” of joy in our lives. But what repeatedly draws me into community is something more. When I am with a group of human beings committed to hanging in there through both the agony and the joy of community, I have a dim sense that I am participating in a phenomenon for which there is only one word. I almost hesitate to use it. The word is “glory.”

Omer Englebort. St. Francis of Assisi, chapter 13

It is plain that toward the year 1219, ...the relations of the Little Poor Man with his followers were no longer the same. Up to this time, almost everyone had followed him as a venerated father and infallible oracle....In coming to the Chapter of 1219, ...ministers did not bring with them a definite reform slate, but they nonetheless made no effort to conceal their dissatisfaction and their own inclinations.

Her very young daughter was praying a long time at the side of her bed. The mother was patiently waiting. Finally, the mother wanted to get her to bed, and said impatiently, “Why is it taking you so long to say your prayers this evening?” The young girl innocently replied: “I was praying for all the bad people I know to be good, and all the good people I know to be nice.”

We are all good people. Really. Yes, we have faults, we have idiosyncrasies. But we are good. But we don’t all think the same way. Francis discovered the same thing with his Order a couple of years before his death. There was dissension, some of which was going to lead to real problems. It is interesting to study what Francis did with the dissension at that time of his life—he went to “convert the pagans.” Perhaps he simply did not want to deal with the dissension.

I’m not talking about dissent with hierarchy or authority here. And I do not think that we have serious dissension among us, at least, not nearly what our founder from Assisi dealt with, or what some other Secular Franciscans are dealing with. But there are disagreements, and there are people who have opinions about the ways things are done, or not done. And there are brothers and sisters who are quick to point out the very real faults of the situations that others are trying to work out. And there are some who discuss the idiosyncrasies of brothers and sisters in a way that is not so funny. Dissension—what I call “minor” dissension is something different from “constructive criticism.”

I may be all wet, but I believe that part of the problem with good people in a community like our group of Secular Franciscans is that at times we are simply not nice to each other. And that brings down the community a little notch, weakening the glue that keeps us together. Perhaps we need to take the 60’s thought of the simplistic I’m OK—You’re OK, and honestly analyze our transactions. Maybe we should discover the principles of “Fighting Fair” that the community of a married couple must adhere to. Maybe we should re-discover our prayer and see that people cannot have a close relationship with God and at the same time hurt someone else, no matter how small the hurt.

Scott Peck wrote about the ideal community in his book The Different Drum. He talks about the three stages that lead up to the final stage of community, namely, pseudo-community, chaos, and emptiness. As I read the book a couple of years ago, it struck me that we could too often fit into the first three stages and not the final stage. It is a great book of personal meditation for anyone in community, I believe.

We are a good community. If we would be more concerned about our words to each other, we could probably be even a little better.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1. Do you feel that we of our group of Secular Franciscans are listening well to each other? Yes or no and why?**
- 2. What are some elements of “community” that we as a group of Secular Franciscans could do better? What are some elements that we could do better in our individual fraternity?**
- 3. As you have studied Franciscan history, do you think Francis “handled” the dissension in his Order well? Yes or no and why?**
- 4. Give your own definition of community.**
- 5. [personal meditation] What are the ways that I am disrupting the community, and what can I do a little better?**





World Day of the Poor Around the Region

On November 9, St. Elizabeth Fraternity in Leawood, KS began a Novena to St. Elizabeth of Hungary, praying for the poor, the fraternity, and for those being called to the OFS. Here is the Novena:

Novena to St. Elizabeth of Hungary

Compassionate God, who in your Son Jesus Christ healed the sick, touched the hearts of the troubled, and sent disciples to announce the Good News, we offer this novena for vocations to the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order.

O God, You called St. Elizabeth of Hungary to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi. By her example of prayer, service, and mortification, others were called to serve and grow in holiness. By Your gift Saint Elizabeth of Hungary recognized and revered Christ in the poor; grant, through her intercession, that we may serve with unfailing charity our fraternity, the needy and afflicted. Help us to preach the Gospel by example to our family, friends, and community. Holy Spirit, guide the discernment of those you are calling to a vocation to St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, and guide the fraternity in charity as we nurture those being called to walk in the footsteps of St. Francis. Enable us to honor You by serving our fraternity brothers and sisters. Draw us all into the Eucharistic community of your Church, as a living Gospel, that we may be one in You. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. Say one Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be... St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Pray for us!



The St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity celebrated the World Day of the Poor weekend by donating food to the Poor of Jesus Christ Street Ministry. Members then assisted the Poor of Jesus Christ in making 200 sandwiches and 100 lunch bags that were later distributed to the homeless throughout Kansas City, Kansas and Missouri.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

On Sunday, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity celebrated the Feast Day of St. Elizabeth of Hungary and the World Day of the Poor attending Mass together. This was also the 135th anniversary of the inception of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity into the Secular Franciscan Order and the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas. Fr. Haganey, Cure of Ars Catholic Church, (Leawood, KS) gave a special recognition and prayer for the Fraternity and the Secular Franciscan Order at the Mass. Afterwards, fraternity members went out together to celebrate the St. Elizabeth Fraternity. Attached is a picture of some of us after Mass.





SECULAR FRANCISCANS FEED THE HUNGARY



Members of the St. Anthony Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order of Wichita donated \$1,000 to the St. Jude Food Pantry Saturday, Dec. 7. They raised the money throughout 2019 as part of an annual charitable project. Accepting the check with Father John Fogliasso, St. Jude's pastor, is Sharon Meckenstock, who oversees the pantry.



◆ **St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in Oklahoma City, OK** joined with Regional Minister, Judith Cronk in Stillwater to raise money for the poor with a bakery sale on the weekend of the World Day of the Poor, Saturday and Sunday, Nov, 16 and 17 at the St. Francis Xavier Church in Stillwater.

Three members of St. Francis, Minister Bill Full, Vice-Minister Sue Swayngim and Inquirer Richard Cronk, along with Judith Cronk, and Sue's friend, Debbie Osban from Norman, and Judith's friend, Dolores Willett, of Stillwater mixed, kneaded and baked for 3 days. They made nearly 60 loaves of

bread, both Purity (white) Bread and (W)Holy Grain Bread and 30 dozen cinnamon buns,; that's 60 pans.! But, all the work paid off. They sold every single item and people were asking for more. After expenses and thanks to generous donations as well as sales, in the end they donated \$937 to three Oklahoma organizations that serve the poor. *Judith Cronk, Regional Minister*



WORLD DAY OF THE POOR PROJECTS ACROSS THE REGION (Continued)



◆ **Brother Jacoba Fraternity, Lawrence, KS**—planned a collection of needed items for the poor and needy in their area to be gathered after each of their Masses at St. John the Evangelist Parish.

Along with the help of their pastor and Provincial Spiritual Assistant, Fr. John Cousins OFM Cap, they wrote articles for the church bulletin and a talk was given on Pope Francis' letter announcing the World Day of the poor. Parishioners were asked to bring nonperishable food items and personal care items to Mass. On Nov. 16 and 17, members of the fraternity manned the doors to the church and collected the items. They covered all 6 Masses that weekend. All the items were taken to the local Catholic Charities office.

◆ **Holy Eucharist, Independence, MO**—Our monthly gathering for Holy Eucharist fraternity was the week before the day of the poor. We joined the coat drive for Saint Charles Borromeo Church North of the river in Kansas City Missouri. We collected coats gloves scarves hats sleeping bags toiletries and blankets that filled one SUV and one car totally full. Those items were delivered that Sunday November 10th and during the following week at the camp for the homeless. That particular weekend Nov 10, the temperatures were down below 30 at night making it important that those items be delivered ASAP. Two of our members one a candidate and 1 professed are trusted enough by the homeless to be in contact with them. We recommended that people join the projects their own parishes on the day of the poor. We will collect canned goods at our Christmas gathering which is December 10th to provide food for the homeless.

Over the past few months SUVs full of donations have been delivered to the homeless. Holy Eucharist fraternity is just part of a much bigger project to help the homeless. - Cheryl O'Neil, OFS Holy Eucharist, Minister

- ◆ **Queen of the Angels, Buckner, MO**—Members support the Church of the Santa Fe in collecting food items, canned and packaged for the Community Food Bank of Buckner at each gathering. The fraternity also supports poor families and children at the only local school in Buckner with clothing, gifts and groceries. Candidate, Joseph Novak OFS, works three days a week at a food kitchen at St. Theresa north of the Missouri River.
- ◆ **St Joseph Fraternity, Hays, KS**—Our St Joseph fraternity met to lead the rosary at St Nicholas Church praying each decade for a section of the poor: financial, mental, emotional, spiritual, and health. We stayed for Mass together. A votive light was lit at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish and one will be lit at St Joseph's this week. Funds collected from the Thanksgiving Bazaar will be given to Mary's Meals. Brenda Lager, Minister



St Francis of Assisi, Oklahoma City, OK
Welcomes New Inquirers



Cindy Brothers Full, Bill Full & Richard Cronk (l-r)

HELIPING SOUTH DAKOTA FLOODED AREA FIRST NATION BROTHERS & SISTERS

Secular Franciscans from Brother Jacoba send assistance to flooded areas of First Nation brothers & sisters. Daniel Lonquist OFS shares pictures of his journey.

For more pictures go to: <https://vindata.blob.core.windows.net/pics/Pics.htm>



Our Lady of Sorrows—Olathe, KS, Election



Newly elected Council of Our Lady of Sorrows—Pictured (l-r) Minister— Genna Ferrell, Spiritual Assistant Fr. Barnabus Eichor OFM Cap., Formation Director, Norma Crevoiserat, Secretary—Rose DiTeresi, , Treasurer—Renee Schmit, Vice Minister— Charles Gurera and Councilor—Mike Crevoiserat.

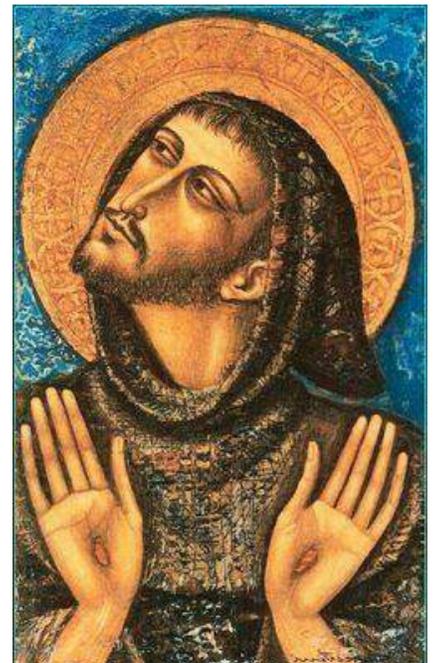
The Mystery of Conversion

By Genna Ferrell OFS, Minister, Our Lady of Sorrows Fraternity, Olathe, KS

As Secular Franciscans, we are called to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi, and continue in his work of building up the Church. It is daunting to follow a saint. He is St. Francis. No other saint is as well known, and loved by both Catholics and non-Catholics. “He is a saint. Who am I?” you might think. Who are you? Who was he?

How easy it is to look at the end of a journey, and forget the beginning. We have biographies and history to tell us the beginning. However, it is still possible to forget that he began as a normal human being with all of the faults and frailties common to us. Was he a saint at the beginning? No, yet it can linger in our minds the thought, “I’m not a saint.” Neither was he in the beginning.

We talk about conversion. How does Jesus continue to this day to take the ordinary, and transform it into extraordinary. He turns water into wine, and sinners into saints. It is mystery. Can we live within the mystery, and open ourselves to unknown possibilities? How do we do this? Love the Lord with all of your heart. Listen to interior movements of love and guidance. This is easier to say than to do. Yet, we have a God who desires to know us, and to be known by us. It may feel sometimes like a game of hide and seek. However, we are allowed and encouraged to be children of God. If we seek, He will find us.





T H E F O R M A T I O N C O R N E R

The National Formation Commission (NFC) created much excitement over the last two to three years as they focused upon getting feedback from formation directors, spiritual assistants, and ministers about the current formation program. (The two Visioning Workshops were part of the listening process and were guided by the Holy Spirit).

The National Formation Commission found that merely editing and reformatting, principally the FUN Manual, was not the only need expressed. Essential topics such as prayer, Scripture, our Catholic Faith as expressed in the Creed, Franciscan sources and chapters dedicated exclusively to the role the Rule and Constitutions play in our daily lives were not included in our current formation texts or manuals. Now, the NFC is ready to go further in sharing the outcomes of this process. Listed below are the highlights of this plan.

National Priorities for 2019-2021:

- Deeping our Franciscan Vocation
- Growing in Fraternal Communion
- Cultivating Universal Kinship

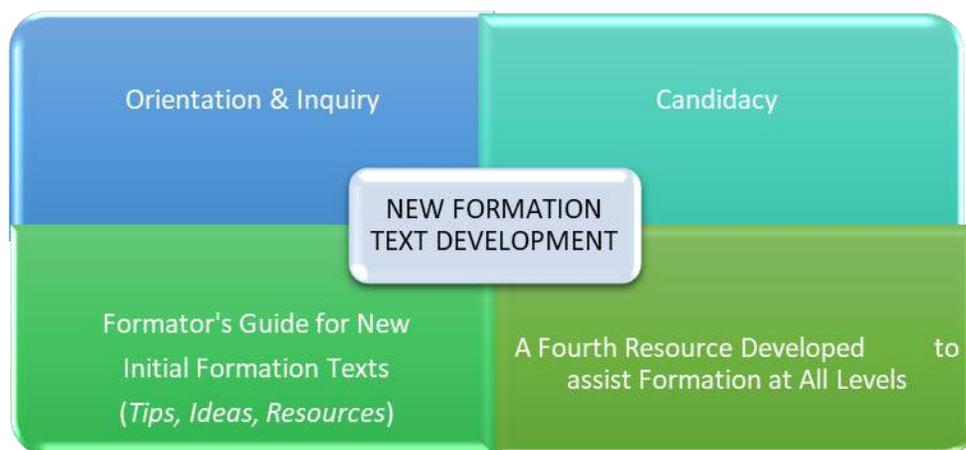
YEAR I:

FRATERNITY LIFE -concentrating on fostering vibrant fraternity life.

FORMATION, JPIC, COMMUNICATIONS AND SPIRITUAL ASSISTANCES

National Formation Commission:

Coming Formation Developments:



1. **TWO NEW TEXTS** - will be used by those in Initial Formation
2. **One text** will combine material for **Orientation & Inquiry**
3. **Second text** will include all the chapters necessary for **Candidacy**
Accompanying guide for the formator will correspond to each chapter in the participants' text – will contain tips & ideas for presenting the material & suggestions of other resources
4. A **Fourth Resource** will be developed to assist in formation at all levels.

The Juan de Padilla Formation Team met in November to discuss how to best serve each fraternity's formation needs, align the new NFC's formation plans for our future. There are more ideas that will be shared later. However, this was the focus of our first meeting:

Juan de Padilla Goal Setting for 2019

- Developing Stronger State Formation Teams via communication
 - Formation Fridays – national weekly updates
 - Calls/emails to all formation directors (in special cases, minister) – assist individual concerns
 - Newsletter and “Juan” email updates
- Focus upon Fraternity Life (National Goal support)
- Role of Spiritual Assistants – Recruitment of SAs
- Utilizing State Councilors in formation goals
 - Information to and from fraternities during Election/Visitation Visits will help the Regional Formation Committee to assess progress
- Summer Gatherings & Chapter Meetings –Add Formation Directors meeting to support, disseminate information and field questions – include Spiritual Assistants

The Regional Formation Committee hopes that members will be as excited about the National Formation Commission's new project. As we all know, good formation is the answer to many of our challenges and will bring strength and joy to the Order. This column will provide information and updates about the progress of the Regional Formation Committee as we work towards meeting our goals.

Peace & Blessings in the New Year,
Dona Gibbons OFS
Regional Formation Director



20th Quinquennial Congress : Phoenix Arizona August 18-22, 2021

CELEBRATE AND RENEW OUR FRANCISCAN CALLING IN THE SPIRIT OF CONVERSION

Renew your spirit as we Gather together to grow, learn and reflect upon our vocation as a Secular Franciscan. Interact with Brothers and Sisters from all three Orders. Among the Dynamic Presenters are:

- ◆ Father Couturier, OFM Cap, is the Dean of the School of Franciscan Studies at Saint Bonaventure University.
- ◆ Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv, our second keynote presenter, is from the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky. He is the third bishop of that diocese and was consecrated as bishop in 2015.

(If you are interested in helping now with the Q 2021 planning, or during the Q, please contact Susan Simeone, 602-315-1950 or sksimeone@cox.net.) For more information see: <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/2019/12/13/20th-quinquennial-congress-phoenix-arizona-august-18-22-2021/>





The Value of the Nativity Scene Continues —*Pope Francis*

The nativity scene is “like the living Gospel, rising up from the pages of sacred Scripture,” according to Pope Francis who issued a new Apostolic Letter on its importance on the First Sunday in Advent. He issued the letter at the Shrine of the Nativity in Greccio, Italy, where St. Francis of Assisi created the first Christmas creche in 1223.

Entitled “Admirabile Signum: On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene,” the letter highlights the value of continuing the tradition. More on Pope Francis letter can be found at: <http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/events/event.dir.html/content/vaticanevents/en/2019/12/1/greccio-presepe.html>



Region Officers & Commissions

Spiritual Assistant	Fr. Michael Scully OFM Cap	frmikescully@yahoo.com
Minister	Judith Cronk OFS	judykylne@gmail.com
Vice Minister	Bob Brill OFS	rvbrill51@gmail.com
Secretary	Kay Sullivan OFS	kay.sullivan54@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lynne Lonquist OFS	lonquistl@gmail.com
Formation Director	Dona Gibbons OFS	donagibbons2@gmail.com
Councilor—Kansas	Brenda Larger OFS	brendalarger2008@gmail.com
Councilor — KC Metro	Sylvia Ridge OFS	sylviaridge87@gmail.com
Councilor— Oklahoma	Janice Keeley OFS	jandmkeeleyofs@gmail.com
Regional Webmaster	Bart Ridge OFS	bart@jdpofs.org
Regional Database Manager	Claudia Kauzlarich OFS	claudiakauz.sfo@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Dona Gibbons OFS	donagibbons2@gmail.com
JPIC Animator	Susan Tabor OFS	souljourner@sbcglobal.net
FY/YA Animator	Sue Swayngim OFS	sswayngim@gmail.com
Interfaith Committee Chair	Bill Full OFS	billfull@cox.net



Franciscan Renewal Workshop

The 3rd Year of the region's National Formation Grant
Held at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Blue Springs, MO





Little Portion, Tahlequah, OK— Blessing of the Animals



Deacon Mark even went to the home of a parishioner to bless their chickens.



Deacon Mark blesses the two pet dogs of the parish priest as John Witosky OFS assists with the holy water.



Deacon Mark Keeley blesses the pets of parishioners of St. Brigit in Tahlequah, OK

Sister Death

NAME	FRATERNITY	CITY, STATE	DATE
Marie Easton OFS	Little Portion	Tahlequah, OK	February 21, 2019
Norma Karhoff OFS	Sacred Heart	Emporia, KS	March 30, 2019
Susan Marie Lee OFS	St. Francis of Assisi	Oklahoma City, OK	May 8, 2019
Jorge Vazquez OFS	St. Joseph	Hays, KS	September 24, 2019
Alice Kowalewski OFS	St. Stanislaus & St Adalbert	Broken Arrow, OK	October 29, 2019
Elizabeth Dietrich OFS	Holy Eucharist	Independence, MO	November 2, 2019
Gerald Allen OFS	Little Portion	Tahlequah, OK	November 11, 2019
Trini Velasquez OFS	Holy Eucharist	Independence, MO	November 21, 2019

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

Holy Eucharist Admits New Candidates in Independence, MO



July 14, 2019 Holy Eucharist Fraternity held a Rite of Admission for four individuals William Cowper, Andrea Gambelin, Kim Nguyen and Ron Smith. These individuals are being guided on their Franciscan Journey by Ellen Roberts, OFS and Cheryl O'Neil, OFS. Pictured above: William Cowper, Cheryl O'Neil OFS, Kim Nguyen, Sr. Josephine Boyles, OSF, Ellen Roberts OFS and Ron Smith.

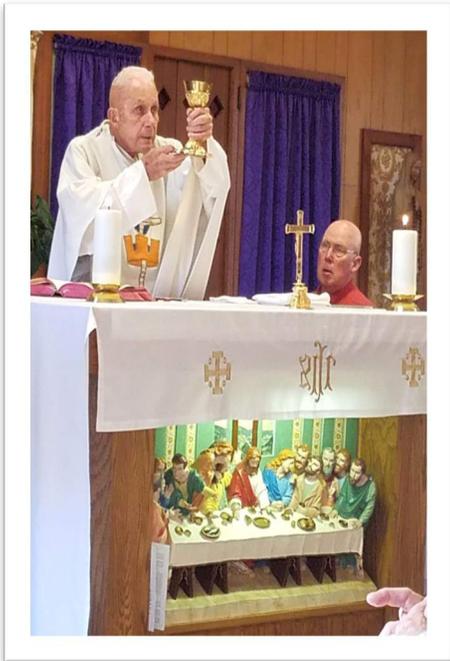
August 11, 2019 Feast of St. Clare. Secular Franciscans of the Holy Eucharist Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order held their election for a new Council of servant leaders. Father Michael Scully, OFM, Cap. Regional Spiritual Assistant and Judith Cronk, Regional Minister, Ecclesial Witnesses, conducted the elections in Bonaventure Hall at the Franciscan Prayer Center.

Guided by the Holy Spirit members elected Cheryl O'Neil, Minister; Betty McClatchey Vice Minister; Carol Sikorski, Secretary; Nancy Herbert, Treasurer; Donna Weathers, Formation Director; Kathy Hillen, Ellen Roberts and Stan Sikorski, Councilors. St. Clare, pray for us.





Queen of Angels Fraternity, Buckner, MO Professes Jean Kliebert OFS & Admits Two New Candidates



November 16, 2019—Monsignor Ralph Kaiser OFS, Pastor of the Church of the Santa Fe and Spiritual Assistant for Queen of the Angels Fraternity celebrates the Profession Mass for Jean Kliebert with the assistance of Altar Boy, Joseph Novak OFS. Candidate.



Jean Kliebert OFS holds her profession cake before a reception for the parish after the Profession Mass. The entire parish is always invited to “Come & See” after each new profession. A great way to recruit new members.



Front row (l-r) : Margaret Madsen OFS, Joe Novak OFS, Monsignor Kaiser OFS, Jo Keller OFS, Carol Allman OFS, Virginia Forbes OFS, Dona Gibbons OFS, Dave Forbes OFS. Back row (i-4): Bart Ridge OFS, Sylvia Ridge OFS, Kelli McSwain OFS, Kathy Johnson OFS, and Jean Kliebert OFS.



Joseph Novak OFS and Carol Allman OFS were admitted into the Order on August 16, 2019.



JPIC Corner

By Susan Tabor OFS

I'd like to share part of my annual report with you that I gave at the REC ministers' meeting and election in September. The role that Catholic social teaching plays in the life of our Order and the Church was thoroughly discussed at the visioning meeting for JPIC animators and other interested parties in August. As we grow in our understanding and practice of evangelization and discipleship, I think we'll be hearing more about this.

Change happens everywhere, in every day, in every time. It even happened in Jesus's time. Jesus himself WAS change. What happened when Jesus began his ministry? He turned traditional Jewish teaching on its head with story or parable, the performing of miracles and enlightened reframing of Jewish law and teaching.

And throughout the history of our Order, change has taken place to reflect theological enlightenment and a clearer rendering of our Rule, the most recent of which took place in 1978.

And so now it may be a good time to address the elephant in the room: Catholic social teaching. It has also been called the best-kept secret in the Catholic Church.

We have over 150 years of documents on Catholic social teaching from Popes, Vatican II, world synods of Bishops and national conferences of Bishops. Catholic social teaching has been attacked from the left and the right.

“Because the basic tenets of Catholic social teaching of love, justice and peace boldly challenge governments, corporations and societies, as well as rich and powerful people to fairly share their wealth and power with everyone—especially the poor, the vulnerable and Mother Earth—and because these teachings insist that war preparation and war-making must give way to peace-making and maintaining that peace, Catholic social teaching is, to put it mildly, a “tough sell.”—National Catholic Reporter; 4-16-2012.

In 1998, the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) published “Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions: Reflections of the U.S. Catholic Bishops.” This report declares:

“Author and activist Cornel West once said: “Justice is what love looks like in public.”

As Franciscans, we should continually be in the forefront of promoting justice “by the testimony of our human lives and our courageous initiatives.” (“OFS Rule, Article 15.) Our lives are not meant to be segmented out into our private lives and our public lives; our spiritual lives and our secular lives. We are all one body. And living as whole beings, we must love and be and serve the Lord in public life as well as in our private lives.

It is clear that in some educational programs Catholic social teaching (CST) is not really shared or not sufficiently integral and explicit. As a result, far too many Catholics do not understand that the social teaching of the Church is an essential part of Catholic faith. This poses a serious challenge for all Catholics, sense it weakens our capacity to be a Church that is true to the demands of the Gospel.”

Catholic social teaching is an invitation—an invitation to a relationship with God and with all of God's Creation—God's people and God's world. In order to have a happy relationship, you have to know the person or thing you want to be in relationship with. God has always desired a relationship with his people, but again, he wants us to return the favor, or privilege. Catholic social teaching is the expression of that relationship. It helps us have a just and right relationship with God and with God's Creation.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Catholic social teaching draws upon the wisdom of Scripture, the wisdom of tradition and the Magisterium and integrates the social, economic, political and cultural matters of our time. It begins from a perspective of faith. We address systems and policies as an expression of our faith. Catholic social teaching strives to foster a living faith that leads to loving action in the world today—a faith that does justice. It is the Church reflecting on its mission in the world today, helping us think about how we relate to the world around us and the challenges we face.

By Susan Tabor OFS, JPIC Animator



The Sacred Heart Fraternity, Emporia, welcomes Marina Zeller as a candidate. Back row, l-r Father Swamy, Dena Kamenski, Rebecca Cheek, Dorothy Krueger, Teresa Sturm, Louise Wright. Front row, l-r, Fran Hudson, Marina Zeller, Mary Lou Young.

Notes from Cheryl O'Neil OFS, Minister of Holy Eucharist....

++ There's a great website that's Franciscan with teachings on Franciscan spirituality—
<https://myfranciscan.org/following-francis-podcast-series/>

++ Franciscan friars of the Holy Land USA have a Gardens replica of the Holy Land in Washington DC.



C A L E N D A R E V E N T S 2 0 2 0

Date	Event	Location	Responsible Person (s)
February 9, 2020	St. Stanislaus & St. Adalbert—Visitation	Broken Arrow, OK	Frat: Cronk ; Pas: Sr. Gordis Guyer
March TBA 2020	St. Elizabeth—Visitation	Leawood, KS	Frat: Cronk; Pas: TBA
April/May TBA	St Frances Cabrini—Establishment Ceremony	Liberal, KS	Frat: Cronk; Pas: TBA
June 5-7, 2020	Regional Summer Gathering	Wichita, KS	All Invited Inc. young adults
June TBA 2020	St. Maximilian Kolbe—Elections	Atchison, KS	Frat: TBA; Pas: TBA
July 25, 2020	Queen of the Angels—Visitation	Buckner, MO	Frat: Cronk; Pas: TBA
August 20-23, 2020	Regional FD Summer Workshop	King House Retreat House, Belleview, IL	Regional Formation Director
September 12, 2020	Regional Chapter @ 9:30 am	Sacred Heart Church, Emporia, KS	Ministers, Spiritual Assistants
September 11-14, 2010	Franciscan Youth & Young Adult Animator Training	King's House Retreat Center, Belleview, IL	FYYA Animator
October TBA, 2020	Br. Jacoba—Elections	Lawrence, KS	Frat: TBA; Pas: TBA
November TBA 2020	St. Anthony—Elections	Wichita, KS	Frat: TBA; Pas: TBA
November TBA 2020	Holy Family—Visitation	Tulsa, OK	Frat: Cronk; Pas: TBA



Thought ... by Colleen M. Seaman, Candidate, Holy Eucharist

Old photographs bring the past to the present. Baby pictures, birthday parties, weddings, sacraments, family reunions, and vacations reminds us of our former self. The current pictures are different from our former self. We have aged and grown up, gotten married, had children, worked, went to sporting events that our children wanted to be apart of, and most important we have grown with God Almighty (at least I hope we did). As we age we see the world differently with each passing minute, hours, days, and years. The world around us has a different meaning then when we are five, sixteen or eighty. When we are five our world was full of toys, friends, and new adventures at school. When we are sixteen we are full new ideas and separate ourselves from our parent's generation. When we are eighty our lives are wining down from our busy and adventurous life. We value life differently at each stage in life. Now let's get back to the old pictures. If you are fifty years old looking back at the early years of your life would you be disappointed that were in the pictures. I am not writing about the image in the photographs; I am writing about the image in your heart, soul, spirit, and mind. Is it the same thing that was there in your early years? Has your image of life improved or gotten worse? The good thing about God Almighty is that we, the children, have chances in our lifetime to improve our relationship with the Holy Trinity and the Blessed Mother. Each minute of our lives can improve because God loves us and gives us multiple times to prove our love for Him and to be loved by Him. When our lives are called upon to go to the last stage of our mortal bodies let us look back and say, "I am a child of God and He has given me life." It is up to us how our lives looks like. Through the Holy Trinity and the Blessed Mother we can do anything to improve our lives and be ready for the next stage in life. Through God we can be a saint in our family, friends, and others. We are the role models that the pictures that have taken of us that are full of love, peace, joy, and happiness through the Holy Trinity and His Blessed Mother.