



## Conference of National Spiritual Assistants Holds Workshop in Prior Lake, MN



On Wednesday, June 18, the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA) invited Local Spiritual Assistants (LSA) and Regional Spiritual Assistants (RSA) to a workshop at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Prior Lake, MN. Queen of Peace had 13 LSAs in attendance, and both RSAs. We were joined by Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap., RSA from La Verna Region, and the 2 Secular SAs who will take his place in November.

Br. Bob Brady, OFM began the day with prayer followed by a presentation by Cy Herbelin, OFS, Secretary for the CNSA. She related the sobering statistics of today's OFS in the USA. We have 12,739

professed members (when I first served at the National level, we had 16,000 professed!) and 1,014 candidates. There are 641 fraternities, 27 Newly Forming Groups, and 36 Emerging Fraternities. Of those fraternities, 128 are without LSAs, and 2 Regions are without RSAs. In the Queen of Peace Region, we have 30 fraternities, 2 Newly Forming Groups, and 1 Emerging Fraternity, but only 20 LSAs.

Fr. Kevin Queally, T.O. R. presented on the role of the LSA and the RSA. We discussed what an SA is, and what an SA is not. The principal task of the SA is to communicate Franciscan Spirituality and to cooperate in initial and continuing formation of the

OFS. The SA is to learn, serve, and affirm. The SA is to empower the creative and service ideas which are already out there.

We broke out in small groups to share and discuss on how our role and vocation as an SA is alive in our lives and in our fraternities. We gathered together to share our answers and to get some new ideas. We learned that the SA needs to help the fraternity realize their baptism has empowered them to be Gospel people---to invite people to share how this is deepening their call to their Franciscan vocation.

The day ended with the celebration of Mass.

Kathy Taormina, OFS  
Regional Spiritual Assistant





## Formator – Who Me?

“And the Lord said, “Go.”

And I said, “Who, me?”

And He said, “Yes, you.”

And I said, “But I’m not ready yet. There’s something I have to do. And I can’t leave my friends. And you know there is no one to take my place.”

And He said, “You are stalling.” And again the Lord said, “Go.”

And I said, “But I don’t want to.”

And He said, “I didn’t ask if you wanted to; I **chose** you.”

And I said, “Look, I’m not that kind of a person to get involved in controversy. Besides, my family won’t like it. And what will my friends think?”

And He said, “Baloney!”

And yet a third time the Lord said, “Go.”

And He said, “Do you love me?”

And I said, “I’m scared people are going to laugh at me and cut me down; I can’t do it all by myself.”

And He said, “Where do you think I’ll be?”

And the Lord said to me, “Go.”

And I sighed, “O.K. Lord, send me. Where you lead I will follow.”

*Poem from St. Andrew’s Cross, Summer-Fall 2007 by Lois Renaberger, © The Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Ambridge, PA*

## Formator – Continued

We are all given talent. Each of us possesses a talent that is unique to us. God blesses each of us with something special only we can do for him. It is up to us to develop it. It is not to be hidden in a hole like the foolish servant did his master’s coin. Your talent is to be developed and shared with others. You can do it!

God did not call us to find fulfillment in the amount of work we do for Him, or the number of people who are part of the work; but to faithfully work for His sake. Serve for the JOY you will feel for serving others.

Margi Florence, OFS  
Regional Director of Formation

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## Franciscan Quote of the Day To reveal the presence of Christ August 31, 2014

Motivated by the power of the gospel, Secular Franciscans are called to unfold the living Christ and bring his message to all people regardless of age, race, creed, economic status, or the like. Especially worthy of consideration are the displaced persons and the unchurched and others in situations which make it difficult for them to appreciate what the Church is trying to do to reveal the presence of Christ and safeguard their God-given rights and dignity.

~ Benet A. Fonck, OFM, Editor, Called to Follow Christ

## REGIONAL FALL GATHERING

This year’s Gathering will feature Father Thomas Speier, OFM. We are excited for 27 September 2014. Place is St Olaf Parish Center, 3220 Monroe Street, Eau Claire, WI. Mail in your application now to attend this gala event; the early bird time has been extended and there will be a \$50.00 gift certificate for



gasoline given away to an early bird registrant!

Fr. Tom Speier is a member of the OFM Province of Franciscans in Cincinnati, Ohio. He founded the Franciscan Spiritual Direction Program in 1981. He has conducted sessions the world over. Fr. Tom also co-founded the *Franciscan Gathering* which brings the Franciscan family together in Tampa, Florida annually to explore facets of their spirituality.

Currently he ministers to the students of the University of Cincinnati. He spent the first half of his priestly life as professor and Director of Formation in his Order’s college seminaries and he served on the Midwest Inter-provincial novitiate team. Fr. Tom spent two years conducting retreats at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Cincinnati. He has organized renewal workshops for the Franciscan friars. During the last thirty years he has shared numerous retreats and missions with sisters, priests, and laity.

Fr. Tom holds two graduate degrees from St. Bonaventure University and the Franciscan Institute.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

### Minister

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### Regional Spiritual Assistants

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Kathy Taormina, OFS  
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### Fall Day of Reflection

On Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup> a Fall Day of Reflection will be held from 2 to 6 PM at the Franciscan Retreat and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake. Event sponsored by Our Lady of Consolation Fraternity.

### 2014 Regional Fall Gathering—"THE FRANCIS YOU DON'T KNOW"

The 2014 Regional Fall Gathering is sponsored by Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity. The meeting will be held 27 September 2014 at St Olaf Parish Center, 3220 Monroe Street, Eau Claire, WI. Registration form attached to this newsletter.

### Saint Mary Fraternity Profession

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of Saint Francis, Sue Printup will be professed at 11:00AM in Saint Mark's Church in Shakopee, MN. All are invited to support this gala event. Social will follow.

### All Iowa Retreat—Sunday, October 5, 2014, American Martyrs Retreat Center, Cedar Falls, IA - 8:30 AM—4:00 PM—Hosted by Saint Mary Fraternity

Sunday October 5, 2014 American Martyrs Retreat Center, Cedar Falls, IA 8:30 AM—4:00 PM Hosted by the Saint Mary Fraternity. All OSF are encouraged to participate. Specialized break-out sessions will include the elected positions of ministers/vice ministers, secretaries, treasurers, formation directors, councilors and non-elected positions of spiritual assistants, JPIC, newsletter, Infirmarian, prayer line, archivist/historian, hospitality committee, etc. Come and learn new skills.

### Friends of Francis Retreat, October 31-November 2, 2014

*Inflamed by the Fire of the Holy Spirit.* Fr. Steve McMichael, OFM Conv. Designed for the OSF. October 31<sup>st</sup> 7:30PM to November 1<sup>st</sup>, 12:30PM. \$160.00 per person. Pre-registration required, \$30.00 registration fee. Call 952-447-2182 or website: [www.FranciscanRetreats.net](http://www.FranciscanRetreats.net).

### Nebraska Chapter of Mats: Servant Leadership Workshop

August 2015 (exact date TBD). Hosted by St. Clare Fraternity. Location: New Cassel Retirement Center, 900 North 90th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.



## The Importance of the Franciscan Gathering

A gathering of the fraternity should occur at least once a month. The monthly gathering is important because it shows that you have dedicated yourself to the “Franciscan Way of Life” in community with your brothers and sisters. True Franciscanism requires sacrifices, at times, for the good of your fraternity and of the Franciscan Order. You have an obligation to schedule your times of serving other church obligations around the day of your regular Franciscan gathering.

Your Franciscan way of life begins in, is nurtured on, and blossoms out of your Franciscan gathering. This is your community life. Only for a good and acceptable reason should you skip a regular gathering. There are times, such as health problems and family responsibilities that you may have to skip a regular meeting of the fraternity. We all owe it to our God, St. Francis, and our brothers and sisters; your presence is NEEDED at the gathering.

<http://rhinoweb.org/the-franciscan-meeting>

### October 3 –

### Celebrating the TRANSITUS of Saint Francis of Assisi

At sunset on October 3, 1226, as Francis of Assisi lay dying, he no doubt reflected on the beauty, the joy and the suffering he experienced throughout his life. The early Franciscan writings tell us that his conversion to gospel living was spurred on by the call of Christ on the crucifix of San Damiano to rebuild God’s house, much in need of repair and the breath of new life.

Francis himself would describe his pivotal moment of conversion as the embrace of the sore-covered leper. The kiss that Francis gave this suffering member of the body of Christ would forever turn what was once repulsive for Francis into sweetness and joy.

When Francis of Assisi entered into eternal life, his successor as leader of the friars, Brother Elias, would proclaim to the friars that the very light had gone from their eyes, even as he recounted the awesome mystery of the wounds of Jesus imprinted in Francis’ flesh.

The beauty, the joy, and even the suffering of the call to gospel conversion continue in the vocations of all those who have been inspired by Francis of Assisi’s radical love of Jesus Christ and the Good News. On October 3, Franciscans throughout the world will commemorate the death, the *transitus*, the passing of Francis into eternity. But we do not do so because the light has gone from our eyes; we do so because the light continues to shine. It continues to shine in the hearts of all those who hear the call of the Good News to serve those who call out for the embrace of the compassion, the mercy and the love of Jesus Christ.

The celebration of the ‘Transitus of Francis’ is our call to do what is ours to do, as Francis did what was his to do in his lifetime. His light continues to shine through us in a world in need. We need to see what we can do for others, embrace the gifts God has bestowed on us and serve one another.

Kathy Taormina, OFS  
QOP Regional Spiritual Assistant

## TRACINGS

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