Ministers Message - A New Kind of Fool

By Hazel Martin, OFS Regional Minister

It is my understanding that Francis was passionate about following the life and teachings of Jesus. In the book Mirror of Perfection (68), Francis said, “God has called me by the way of simplicity and humility, and has in truth revealed this way for me and for all who are willing to trust and follow me. So I do not want you to quote any other Rule to me, whether that of St. Benedict, St. Augustine, or St. Bernard, or to recommend any other way or form of life except this way which God in His mercy has revealed and given to me. The Lord told me that He wished me to be a new kind of simpleton in this world, and He does not wish us to live by any other wisdom but this” (Omnibus of Sources, 1197).

In journeying through 2018, we will have opportunities to ‘be an occasion for others to encounter the Risen Christ’. As Secular Franciscans, may we be mindful of being a new kind of fool as we live the Spirit of St. Francis in the world.

Regional JPIC News

The Regional Executive Council is seeking a JPIC Animator (Coordinator) to serve from 2018-June 2020. Please contact your fraternity minister to read the ad.
What is a Spiritual Assistant
Kathy Taormina, OFS ~ QOP
Regional SA
January 4, 2018

As the first Regional Spiritual Assistant Class comes to a conclusion, and the next class opens up registration, I thought it was time to review all we know about serving as a Spiritual Assistant (SA) to a local fraternity. The SAs who have completed the regional class, made observations to fraternities, and completed six months of internship with a seasoned local SA are the most “suitable and well prepared” people who have ever served the Queen of Peace Region as servant leaders.

Many fraternities in the region have either been without a SA for too long of a time, or have always been served by a religious (friar or sister) SA. As a region we are called to expand our understanding and openness to the Secular Franciscan SAs (not lay SAs) who are now ready to serve our fraternities. As of this writing two of the new SAs have been officially appointed as local SAs and three more are ready to be appointed.

In this first installment of the 2018 Tracings newsletter, we will look into the “is” and “is not” of a Spiritual Assistant’s role in a fraternity.

A Spiritual Assistant:

- fosters communion with the Church and with the Franciscan Family through witness and sharing of Franciscan spirituality; to be a bond of communion between the First Order and the OFS. (2.3)

- by right is a voting member of the council and of the fraternity to which he/she gives assistance and collaborates with it in all activities. Only in economic matters and in elections at any level does he/she not enjoy the right to vote. (12.3)

- is to foster a deeper insight into Franciscan spirituality and to cooperate in the initial and continuing formation of the Secular Franciscans. (13.1)

- participates actively and votes in the discussions and decisions taken by the Council or by the fraternity. He/she is specifically responsible for the animation of liturgical celebrations and spiritual reflections during the meetings of the Council or of the fraternity. (13.3)

- is appointed by the competent major Superior, after consultation with the council of the fraternity concerned. (15.1)

- together with the Council of the fraternity, is responsible for the formation of the candidates and expresses his/her assessment of each of the candidates before profession. (24.1)

- together with the Minister, the Assistant discusses with the brothers or sisters in difficulty, who want to retire from the fraternity or who act in serious opposition to the Rule. (24.2)

(Taken from Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the Secular Franciscan Order.)

A Spiritual Assistant does not:

- fulfill an administrative role in the fraternity.
- have a final say-so in fraternity matters.
- act as a “lord” but a servant.
- act as the spokesperson for the fraternity.
- impose his/her opinions upon others.
- is not divorced from the life and activity of the fraternity.
- merely exercise a sacramental role in the fraternity.
Building a True Foundation
By Margie Florence, OFS, Regional Formation Director

Formation is shaping thoughts and feelings. It is working on building a strong true foundation.

Blue Print
The Door is Francis Our Serphic Father
The Foundation is the Franciscan Rule
The Walls are the Franciscan Readings
The Windows are the gospel to life and life to gospel

Our building is the Fraternity and ultimately the OFS which requires a strong foundation. Plan on obtaining tools for your formation tool kit at our workshop May 19, 2018 “Builders of Foundation” at Assisi Heights in Rochester, MN.

Further information of the workshop will be out soon.
Please watch the website for your further information.

Secular Franciscan Order Queen of Peace Region
Charitable Giving Form

I/We would like to make a tax deductible donation to the OFS Queen of Peace Regional Common Fund:

In honor of: ____________________________________________
- or -

As a Memorial to: ____________________________________________

My/Our check numbered _________ in the amount of ________________________ is included in this mailing, made out to “QUEEN OF PEACE REGION.”

My/Our Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

City/State/Zip: ____________________________________________

Please mail this form and your check to: Treasurer, OFS Queen of Peace Region
22983 W. Martin Lake Drive, Stacy, MN 55079
2017 Fall Gathering

The 2017 fall gathering was held at Saint Bonaventure church. Father Joseph P. Gillespie, O.P – from St Albert the Great church spoke at the fall gathering. There was a silent auction and a free will offering book sale. Here are some pictures of the event.

Mitzi and Janet were greeting everyone that entered.

Table of friendly franciscans

Father Gilespie speaking

More franciscans
Recent Professions

October 15, 2017 Permanent Profession to the Secular Franciscan Order: The Fraternity of St Leonard of Port Maurice is proud to profess four new members! From Left to Right: Stephen Pastic, Minister, Frederick Sutcliffe, OFS, Martha Rodriguez, OFS, Mark Moriarty, OFS and Faye Howell, OFS.
Regional News

St. John XXIII, OFS fraternity sponsoring the St. Junipero Serra NFG meeting

Regional Executive Council

Minister
Hazel Martin, OFS
yankeefan50@outlook.com

Vice Minister
Tim Taormina, OFS
tjetaormina@delta.com

Secretary
Mona Wolney, OFS
anomyenlowo7@gmail.com

Treasurer
Kathy Fraser, OFS
44frase@gmail.com

Formation Director
Margi Florence
margiflo32@gmail.com

MN, WI, ND, SD Council Member
Jo Lambert, OFS
lambert.jo09@yahoo.com

IA Council Member
Keith Gass, OFS
kgcorner2010@gmail.com

NE Council Member
Luis Alvarez, OFS
lalvarez62@yahoo.com

Regional Spiritual Assistant
Kathy Taormina, OFS
kathysfo@hotmail.com

Elections

St. Francis of Assisi, Little Falls, MN October 10, 2017 election
L-R: Janet Berendt, Charlotte VanRisseghem, Kathy Hoffman Tax, Susan Zenzen, Janice Rybanski, Minister.
Risen LORDsfo door
Francis rule Blessed
Mercy Church
Communion
Fraternity
Servant
Heart
Soul
Mind
Strength
Spirit simplicity humility
Formation
Gospel sacramental Faithful
Simpleton GOD
Foundation