

TRACINGS

ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS | www.queenofpeaceregion.org



Ministers Message - Gospel Living

By Hazel Martin, OFS Regional Minister

As brothers and sisters in Francis and Clare, we are companions on the journey through the remainder of the Easter Season and into Summer Ordinary Time. As the days go by, each of us will have numerous opportunities to be an occasion for others to encounter the Risen Christ. Others will be able see Christ in us through our words, our example and our attitudes.

Speaking of example, many people think that Francis said, "Preach the Gospel and use words if necessary." I think this 'saying' is attributed to Francis because he was so passionate about Jesus, about prayer and about putting into practice the words of the Gospel that he heard or read. But as Franciscans, we know that Francis didn't say that. Nor has anyone who studied Francis been able to find the above saying in his writings. We do know a couple of things in this regard, though, from the Rule of 1221 and from The Life

of Saint Francis by Thomas of Celano.

In the Rule of 1221 Chapter 17.3, Francis wrote, "All the brothers should preach by their deeds." Additionally, Celano tells us that Francis found it easier to do what is perfect than to talk about it; so he was constantly active in showing his zeal and dedication in deeds, not in words, because words do not do what is good, they only point to it. Thus, he remained undisturbed and happy, singing songs of joy in his heart to himself and to God."

Let us utilize this year (2018), the 40th anniversary of our Secular Franciscan Rule of Life, to focus more fully on living Gospel to Life and life to Gospel in our daily lives. Remember, each one of us may be the only New Testament that someone ever reads.

Peace and all good,
Hazel Martin, OFS

Spring 2018, Issue 23

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What is a Spiritual Assistant Part II

Kathy Taormina, OFS ~ QOP Regional SA

April 27, 2018

In Part I we learned what a Spiritual Assistant “is” and what they “are not”. In Part II we will learn about some of the specific duties of a Spiritual Assistant.

1. “The principal task of the assistant is to foster a deeper insight into Franciscan spirituality and to co-operate in the initial and continuing formation of the secular Franciscans” (13.1*)
2. “The assistant 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*)

In the first principal task, the Spiritual Assistant is charged with the ministry of deepening the fraternity’s spirituality. This can be accomplished by introducing various Franciscan forms of prayer and sharing insights on Franciscan books and topics and how they are to be lived in the fraternity and in the Secular’s life. The Spiritual Assistant ‘co-operates’ in Initial and On-Going Formation by being an active member of the fraternity’s Formation Team. Formation is not to be completed by the Spiritual Assistant, but is to be a joint effort with the Formation Director and with the fraternity council’s oversight.

For a Spiritual Assistant to be ‘specifically responsible’ for the animation of liturgical celebrations means just that. The Spiritual Assistant is responsible for this, but that does not mean he or she has to lead or dominate these activities within a fraternity. As a servant leader, the Spiritual Assistant should enlist participation from various fraternity members. This way of responsibility shares knowledge and ownership with all in fraternity. The Spiritual Assistant has to be aware of the Secular Franciscan Order’s Rites and prayers to be respectful to their adherence. Spiritual Assistants should also strive to provide Days of Recollection or Retreats as part of the animation of the fraternity.

*Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the Secular Franciscan Order – my emphasis.

Kathy Taormina, OFS
QOP Regional SA



We are a Vibrant Fraternity

Spring has finally arrived, the rains have come and there is new life everywhere. Do you have new energy too? Are you ready and eager to attend your monthly gathering or is it Ho Hum? If it's Ho Hum the time has come to consider a renewal of your Franciscan way of life. It is time to remember the commitment you made to a way of life. It is time to look at "This is what I want". This is what you professed. You learned in your initial formation that it is the responsibility of each sister and brother in the fraternity to do his or her part in keeping your fraternity vibrant. For example, let's relate this relationship to the remodeling of a house. What do you need- these are topics we will discuss at our Annual Gathering, Re-build My House which will give light to your relationship of renewal within your fraternal community.

Francis and his brothers and sisters came together to follow the gospel. The primary reason for the existence of fraternity is "salvation of souls" individually and collectively (domestic church). Do we pray together and support each other in prayer? Do we take pertinent information from the gospels that helps us achieve "that radical interior change the gospel calls 'conversion'? The daily necessity that helps you live gospel to life and life to gospel. (Secular Franciscan Rule 7) Do you witness the gospel to the world? Fraternal sharing requires us to serve each other. We need to be willing to share with each other, listen carefully to one another, accept those with different ideas, learn from each other, do not judge. Be courteous and strive to establish a community of love. (Secular Franciscan rule 22) Do you mean it when you hug your brother or sister? Francis, the person you ask to follow is all about love.

Keeping your fraternity vibrant is up to each one of us. What can we contribute that makes each one of us eager to attend a gathering? Pray together, Share together, live in Peace, and Love our Lord Jesus Christ, the one you follow because you follow in the footsteps of Francis.

Margi Florence, OFS Formation Director

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: _____

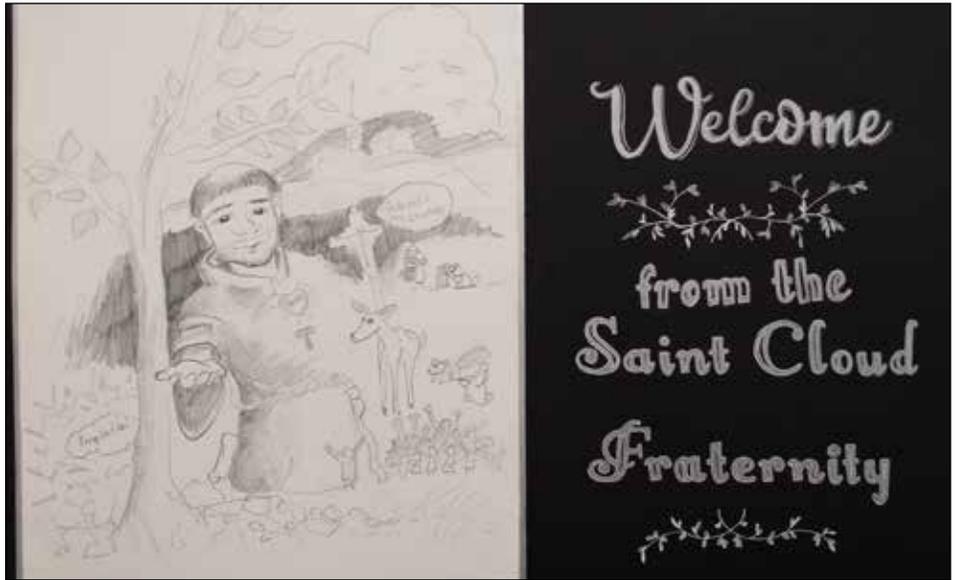
Address: _____

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

2018 Spring Gathering

James B. Flickinger, OFS
was the speaker.







2018 All Iowa Retreat Sunday, August 19, 2018

Presenter: Fr. Ed McKenzie, OFM

Provincial Spiritual Assistant of the
Sacred Heart Province

Presentation will be: **“The First Letter
to the Faithful, Our Preamble”**

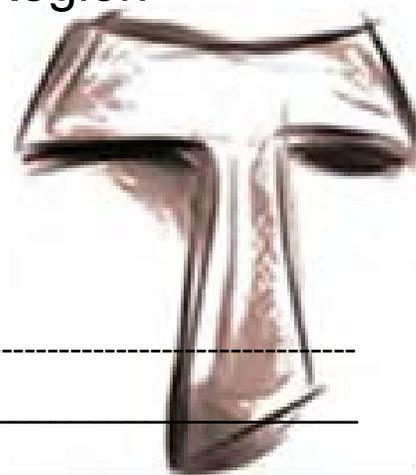


Location: St. Henry’s Church, 221 West Olive St, Marshalltown, IA

Preregistration: \$25.00 Ends July 31, 2018
Registration at the door the day of the Retreat: \$30.00

Open to all Secular Franciscans and guests, especially
those of the Queen of Peace Region

Choice Hotel: Comfort Inn 641-752-6000
Check in and Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m. Mass
Lunch will be provided
Retreat ends at 4:00 p.m.



-----Please Return-----

Name: _____ Guest: _____

If more than one guest please list names on back

Fraternity: _____

Contact information: Address: _____

or Phone: _____ or Email Address: _____

Send check of \$25.00 per person by July 31, 2018 to: **Shirley Delfs, OFS**
Make check out to San Damiano Fraternity **212 Center**
Amount enclosed: \$ _____ **Garwin, IA 50632**

Frior Ed McKenzie, OFM Bio

Ordained in 2011, but with the Friars since 2003, Fr. Ed has been, and is, involved in several ministries. Among them, parochial ministry in Ashland, Wisconsin with five parishes, he's a VA Chaplain, he provides several retreats a year for combat veterans, he's the Chairman of the Board for St. Francis Retirement Village in Crowley, Texas, and, of course, he's also Provincial Spiritual Assistant for Secular Franciscans in nine states with eleven regions representing about 1800 Secular Franciscans in 80 local fraternities. In addition to these duties, he also presently serves full time on the staff at St. Peter's in Chicago's Loop – serving the inner Loop with Mass, confessions and counseling. Sometimes he plays a banjo and makes bread! (but not that often, these days!)

Married and divorced with an annulment, he has two grown sons and one daughter-in-law. They fully support him in his ministry as a friar/priest. They are very close.

Fr. Ed was in Vietnam in 1969 and 1979 with a helicopter combat rescue unit.

He raised his family as a printer – managing several companies in the East and the Midwest.





Saint Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio

So several brave messengers were sent to find St. Francis and ask him for his help. They had the good fortune to find him at the house of Bernardo Quintivalle, his first follower. The messengers told him of the tragic attacks of the wolf and how the frightened people were almost in a state of siege. They thought Francis was the only one who would be able to help them. They begged the simple holy man to help and implored him to come with them right away.

Francis moved with compassion for them and their plight and wanted to do what he could to calm their fears. He told them that they could leave in the morning and they should eat and rest with his brothers that night. So after dinner, they prayed with St. Francis to seek the Lord as to how to solve the problem of the wolf. They slept with hope in their hearts.

One of the guards was a cousin to the mayor's wife. The mayor hated that wolf. The mayor hated that wolf. The mayor wanted Francis to strike the wolf down.

But Francis would not do that. He sought the Lord for wisdom. Let that be a lesson for us, When in doubt, consult the Lord about it!

So Francis managed to have a consultation with the wolf. The wolf was drawn to St. Francis because of his gentleness. Francis not only saved the wolf's life, but also saved the village of Gubbio.

Submitted by Mary Ann LeMay, OFS
St. Mary's Fraternity, Shakopee

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