

TRACINGS

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Ministers Message - Joy Can Be Catching

by Hazel Martin, OFS, Regional Minister

It is now Late Summer Ordinary Time on the Church's Liturgical Calendar. This period of time covers August through September 22, 2018 (the 1st day of fall). How can we tell it is Late Summer? One way is to look at creation. The vibrant green of trees, plants and grass during early summer now has faded somewhat and has tinges of yellow. Another way is to notice that people are taking last days of vacation before school starts and planning for fall programming in parishes is underway. Joy of activities experienced with our family and friends have filled our summer days up to this point and the excitement of upcoming events fills our hearts.

Three upcoming events in the near future to be celebrated in our Region are: The Companions of St. Francis Newly Forming Group, Des Moines, IA, will become an Emerging Fraternity; Father Solanus Casey Emerging Fraternity, Duluth, MN, will be Canonically Established; and Spiritus Sanctus Emerging Fraternity, Brainard, MN, will be Canonically Established.

The Mirror of Perfection, written by Brother Leo, paragraphs

96,95, tells us a bit about Francis' view of joy. Francis is to have said, "If at times temptation or despondence comes along to try me, and I see joy in my companions, then I immediately recover and let go of the temptation or depression. The joy I admire in others restores my own inward and outward joy. Since spiritual joy springs from the heart's innocence and the purity of incessant prayer, these are the two virtues we need to acquire and keep.

Then that joy that I long to see and feel in myself and in others, that inward and outward joy, will be an [instruction] to neighbor and a reproach to the Enemy. For sadness is his and those who follow him; rejoicing and always being happy in the Lord is ours." May each of you experience much joy as you continue to live out the Gospel in your everyday life.

(Through The Year with Francis of Assisi, by Murray Bodo, p. 154)

Summer 2018, Issue 24

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If you have anything to put in the Tracings. Please send it to Alan at alanweierofs@gmail.com
Thank you.

PRAY THEN DO! REVISING OUR APOSTOLATES

BUILDING A FRATERNAL AND EVANGELICAL WORLD

The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order calls Secular Franciscans to observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the centre of his life with God and people (Rule, Art. 4). Similar to the life of St. Francis himself, the life of Secular Franciscans tends to oscillate between developing an internal spiritual life while also developing an external life which reaches out to others with concrete actions. Secular Franciscans do not live their lives for themselves, but rather live it in an outwardly direction towards people in need. The OFS Rule is clear on this point. "Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively" (Rule, Art. 14). Individually and collectively, Secular Franciscans are to be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives (Rule, Art. 15). In this regard, initiatives that promote justice, peace-making and care of creation are central to living out the Franciscan charism. For this reason, fraternal life should include a specific focus on JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) and its works. However, while concrete actions in the area of justice, peace and integrity of creation are essential, developing an internal disposition through

prayer is also a prerequisite to any initiatives that are directed towards building a more fraternal and evangelical world. "As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do." (Rule, Art. 8).
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER (OFS) 2017 GENERAL CHAPTER
INSTRUMENTUM LABORIS

In what apostolates does your fraternity engage? Are they active, such as feeding the poor, working with the homeless or donating goods; or are they passive, such as writing checks to organizations or praying for changes in our world? Our baptismal promises and our vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order call us to do both!

"Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord."
Romans 12:11

Take a look at your fraternity's apostolates and collectively answer these questions:

1. Do all the members of the fraternity have a voice in choosing the apostolate?
2. Has the fraternity prayed for guidance on how to proceed with the apostolate?
3. Has the fraternity done research on the apostolate? Needs, finances, logistics?
4. Does the apostolate build up the members and serve to bond them closer in fraternity?

5. How does the apostolate serve the greater neighborhood, the Order, or the Church?

6. Is the apostolate life-giving to the members and to the apostolate?

7. Does the fraternity follow St. Francis' example of pray then do?

Let the apostolate be a voice and an action in the fraternity, in the Order, in the Church and in our world!!

Kathy Taormina, OFS
Regional Spiritual Assistant



Spiritual Nuggets of Thought

Brother and Sisters I want to share my first silent retreat with you. Great Silence helps one discover who God meant you to be, what God has been saying to you and you didn't hear.

A nugget is a piece of gold "in the raw". It must be melted down to show its treasure. A spiritual nugget needs the fires of your life to draw out the truth.

My first thought is I can only be me I can only be what God made me to be. No matter how I try I cannot be another I can only be me. It really doesn't matter what I am doing (so long it is not a sin) It is how I do something

that matters, In every moment, there is God I must do what I do in union with God. This is will be the nugget of my happiness.

My second thought was, when I interact with others in growth or fun, God moves through me, enriching the human bond. If I refuse to interact with others in this manner, I become a "knot" blocking the flow of God in the human community.

My third thought was the surest sign of spiritual health is to be found in my ability to take an interest in other people, to really listen to them, and to be willing to help them in whatever manner is appropriate. If my spirituality

does not produce this fruit, I am probably involved in some kind of a dilution. Therefore when I trust God's goodness. I am fed with his faithfulness that has to be enough for my joy.

Submitted by Margi Florence.
OFS

Regional 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

Fraternity Events - Profession



Tammy Keiter (left) and Linda Murphy (right) each made her Profession to the Franciscan Way of Life on June 10, 2018 at Holy Spirit Parish in Des Moines, IA. These two ladies are members of The Companions of St. Francis Newly Forming Group (NFG) that meets in Des Moines. The NFG is sponsored by Holy Trinity Fraternity that meets in Dubuque, IA. Presenting the symbols of Profession to the ladies is Margi Florence, OFS, Formation Director of the Newly Forming Group. Accepting Tammy's and Linda's Profession is Linzy Martin, OFS, Minister of Holy Trinity Fraternity. A reception followed in the parish hall.



Fraternity Events - Profession



On May 20, a beautiful spring day and appropriately the feast of Pentecost, Our Lady of Consolation fraternity celebrated the profession of Wendy Parks, OFS with a liturgy celebrated by Fr. Jim Van Dorn, OFM Conv. and the profession rite led by Minister Steve Schier and Formation Director Paula Spranger. With the words “This is what I want,” Wendy promised to live the Gospel, following Jesus in the footsteps of St. Francis. The fraternity received her with joy, and honored her with a reception following. Special guests included members of Wendy’s family and Catholic Worker friends, as well as regional formation director, Margie Florence, OFS. The profession took place at the Franciscan Retreat and Spirituality Center in Prior Lake, Minnesota, where the fraternity meets each month.



Fraternity Events - Profession

Waseca Fraternity elections from June 24, 2018



From Left to right is Sr Lois Espelding OFS, SA, Peggy Koan OFS, Secretary, Bonnie Johnson OSF, Vice Minister, Carol Tollefson OFS, Minister, Lisa Falenschek OFS, Councilor, Doreen White OFS, Treasurer, Par Yunker OFS, Formation Director, Gerri Cotner, OFS, Councilor.

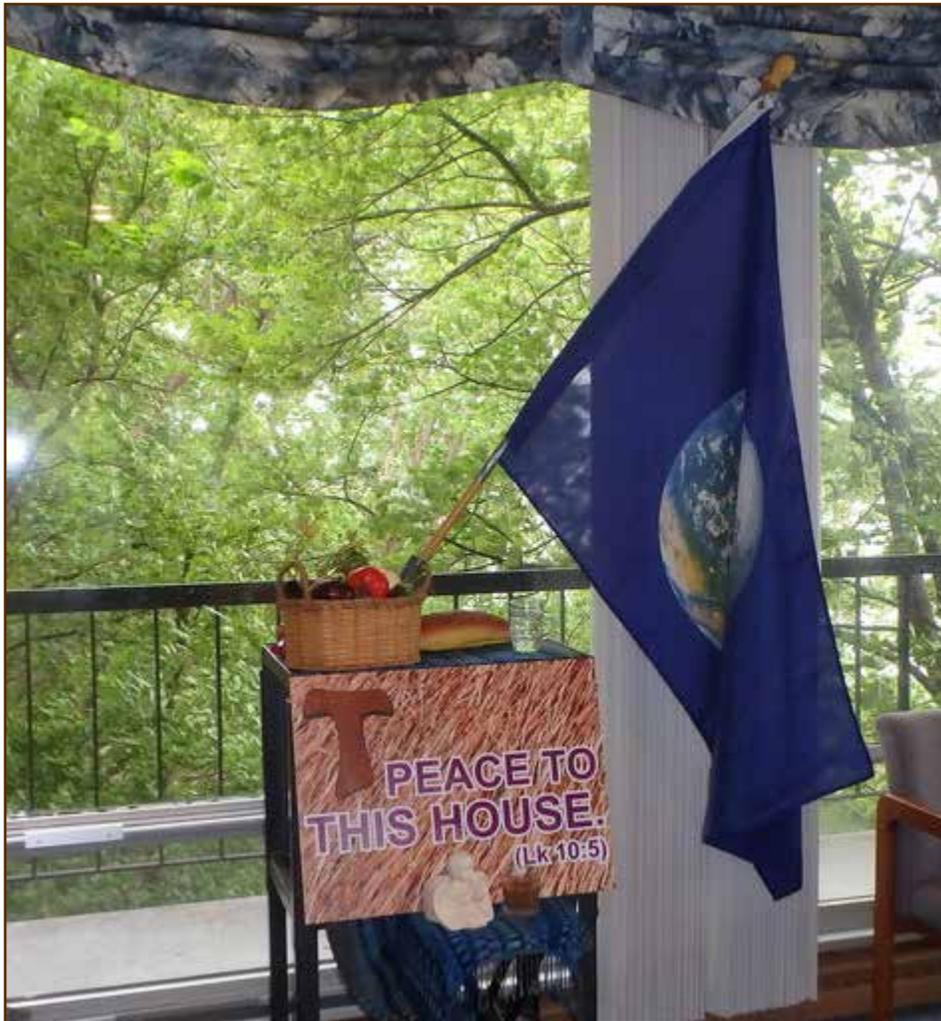


Fraternity Events - Rite of Admission



Anthony May is a Candidate in St. Mary's Fraternity, Waterloo, IA. His Rite of Admission took place on June 24, 2018 at American Martyrs Retreat House in Cedar Falls, IA. Standing next to Anthony is Barb Brown, OFS, Minister. Conducting the Rite is Kate Osterman, OFS, Formation Director.

2018 Regional Ministers Retreat



This years meetings theme was to rebuild our house. We also have a Regional Franciscan Youth & Young Adult- FY/YA Animator.





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