

TRACINGS

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Minister's Message

"The Miracle of the Hay"

by Hazel Martin, OFS, Regional Minister

The snow on the ground in my yard causes me to realize that the Christmas Season is soon approaching.

As Franciscans, we know the story of the first Christmas crib near the town of Greccio. Francis wanted to re-create the birth of Jesus on December 25, 1223 so that people would come to know the primitive conditions into which Jesus was born. He told a resident, named John, to prepare a place, which would contain a manger filled with hay and to bring to the place an ox and an ass. Many folks in the area attended this glorious re-enactment by Francis. Afterward, the people left with joy.

Now, I'd like to share a little known addition to this story that I found interesting.

"The hay that had been placed in the manger was kept, so that the Lord might save the beasts of burden and other animals through it as he multiplied his holy mercy. And in truth it so happened that many animals throughout the surrounding region that had various illnesses were freed from their illnesses after eating of this hay. Indeed, even women laboring for a long time in a difficult birth, were delivered safely when some of this hay was placed

upon them; and a large number of persons of both sexes of that place, suffering from various illnesses, obtained the health they sought.

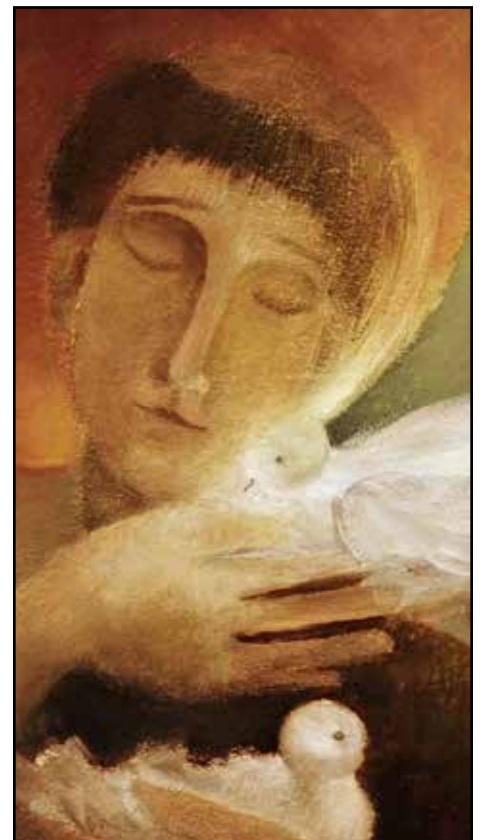
Later, the place on which the manger had stood was made sacred by a temple of the Lord, and an altar was built in honor of the most blessed father Francis over the manger and a church was built, so that where once the animals had eaten the hay, there in the future [mankind] would eat unto health of soul and body the flesh of the lamb without blemish and without spot, our Lord Jesus Christ, who in highest and ineffable love gave himself to us, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, eternally glorious, forever and ever. Amen. Alleluja, Alleluja" (Celano, First Life. 87, St. Francis of Assisi Omnibus of Sources).

I wish all my Franciscan brothers and sisters in this Region a blessed Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas Season.

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November 2019

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New Provincial Spiritual Assistants in our Region by Regional Spiritual Assistant Kathy Taormina, OFS

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by Regional Spiritual Assistant Kathy Taormina, OFS

Meet the New Provincial Spiritual Assistants who serve Queen of Peace Region fraternities:



Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Province
Bonded to: Tau Shalom Emerging Fraternity

Fr. Jerome also serves on the
CNSA (Conference of National Spiritual Assistants) to the OFS
Fr. John Elmer, OFM Conventual
Our Lady of Consolation Province
Bonded to: Our Lady of Consolation, St. John XXIII, OFS, St. John Paul II,
and St. Junipero Serra Newly Forming Group



Fr. John will be conducting the Pastoral Visitation of the St. John XXIII, OFS fraternity in March because I cannot conduct a Visitation to my own local fraternity.

So, what does all this mean for the local Spiritual Assistant and local fraternity?

“The purpose of spiritual assistance is to foster communion with the Church and with the Franciscan Family through witness and sharing of Franciscan spirituality, to cooperate in initial and on-going formation of secular Franciscans and to express the fraternal affection of the religious toward the OFS.”

Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the Secular Franciscan Order 2.3

“With respect to the fraternity they assist, anyone who serves as a Spiritual Assistant is subject to the same rights and restrictions as are Franciscan religious Spiritual Assistants.”

US National Statutes 18.3

As Spiritual Assistants, we are delegates of the Province who has appointed us to serve. We do not represent ourselves---we represent the First Order/TOR Order to which our local fraternity is bonded to. We are “the bridge”! We are the means of communion and “vital reciprocity” in the Franciscan family!

The hands-on application of this purpose is:

- To foster communion between the local fraternity and the Church
 - o Send your fraternity newsletter to the local Bishop or Vocations Office
- To foster communion between the local fraternity and the Franciscan Family
 - o Encourage participation with other fraternity and regional events
- To cooperate with the local Formation Director in both initial and on-going formation
 - o Cooperate not lead on your own
- To keep the lines of communication open between the local fraternity and the bonding Provincial Minister or his Provincial Spiritual Assistant (PSA)
 - o Send your fraternity newsletter to the PSA of which the fraternity is bonded
 - o If possible, invite your PSA to visit your fraternity or to speak at an event

Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation

By: Tammy Keiter, OFS

This past August, I had the opportunity to attend the National Gathering for JPIC Animators in St. Louis, MO. It was a wonderful weekend meeting with the National Executive Council and other Animators to talk about the work in the regions, challenges, and current JPIC structure. Together we began working on what God's vision is for the future of JPIC for the OFS in the USA. The following article was shared with Animators.

THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN RULE AND JPIC* IN A NUTSHELL

As Catholics, we are people of the Gospel. We are servants of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus invites us out of our comfort zone to help the needy, heal the sick, make peace in the world, and proclaim the Gospel. This is not easy work and Our Lord tells us we should be prepared to carry our cross.

We Franciscans have the additional responsibility to study the Gospel and live according to it (SFO Rule Article 4). We are called to encounter Christ in each other (Article 5), even and especially when the other person is not particularly likable. We do this because we are called to serve God, and that other person is our immediate encounter with God. Like Francis, we are called to rebuild Christ's church (Article 6).

To live this kind of life, we engage in continuous conversion (Article 7), rely heavily on personal prayer, participate frequently in the sacraments (Article 8), devote ourselves to Our Lady (Article 9), and live simply in the spirit of the Beatitudes (Article 11). We are called to fulfill our duties in life and witness to Christ, even in the face of difficulties and persecutions (Article 10).

To do so, we are called to love God and our fellow humans (Article 12), to accept all people as a gift of God and to live in solidarity with the needy (Article 13). We are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world (Article 14), to promote justice (Article 15), and to cultivate peace, fidelity and respect for life (Article 17).

Furthermore, we Franciscans are expected to resist the temptation of exploiting creation, and instead embrace the Franciscan concept of universal kinship (Article 18).

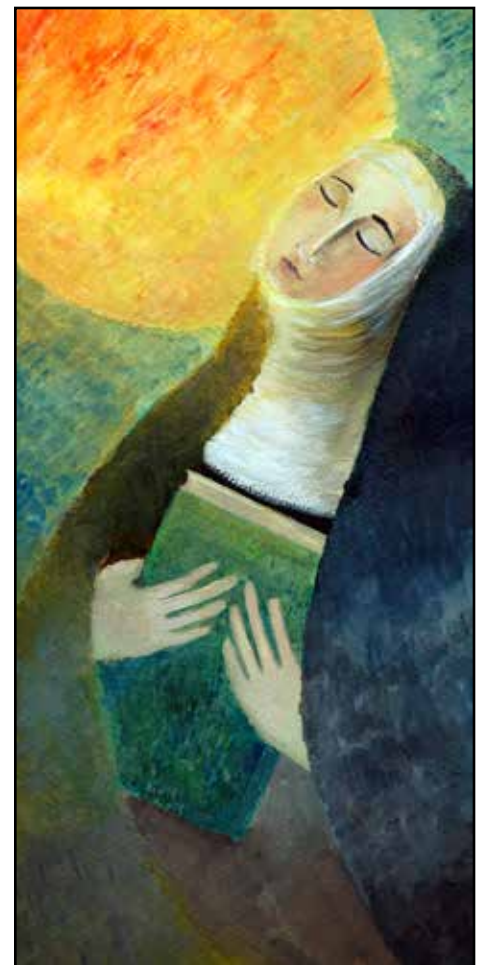
Thus, our entire Rule boils down to knowing and loving God, seeing and seeking God in others, being effective stewards of creation, and actively pursuing peace, unity and dialogue (Article 19).

Following in the footsteps of our father Francis, our approach to JPIC should be intentional and yet joyful. That is, we need to know and understand the needs of our community, and then determine which of our God-giv-

en talents we can utilize to work within that community to further God's kingdom (Article 16).

We need to educate ourselves before we can attempt to awaken the Gospel in others. We apply a light touch to our partners in dialogue, emphasizing common ground and solidarity with our fellow creatures of God. Finally, we should always remember that what we do is for the love of God. *Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Article written by: Gil Donahue, OFS; JPIC Animator, St. Margaret of Cortona Region; September 2019. Permission was granted from Gil to publish article in this newsletter.



BE PREPARED

“Be Prepared” is the motto of both the boy and girl scouts to serve.
Are Secular Franciscans prepared for service?

Be Prepared to ANSWER the Lord’s call, when you are asked to serve your brothers and sister in your local fraternity as well as the Queen of Peace Region. It means God has placed you where he wants you and at the time, he wants you. Answering God’s call will not take away any of your energy, vitality, or joy, in fact, doing the right thing will increase it. Do not be afraid of the happiness that is to be found in serving your brothers and sisters. God is with you.

What are you or for whom are you hoarding your energy, vitality, and joy? God freely blessed you with talent; therefore, be prepared to share it when called to be a servant leader. God’s blessings are to be used for others.

I pray that the God of joy and happiness will fill you with the desire to step out of your comfort zone and serve others for him.

Be Prepared!

Merritta Florence OFS - Regional Formation Formation Director



2020 VISITATION & ELECTION

FRATERNITY

Saint Cloud
Saint John XXIII, OFS
Saint Mary
Saint Thomas More
Saint Anthony of Padua - M
Little Portion
Saint Alphonsa
Holy Trinity
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Saint Francis of Assisi
Saint Louis
Father Solanus Casey
Our Lady of Consolation
Spiritus Sanctus
Frat. of Mary, Queen of Peace

Dates in bold are confirmed

SCHEDULE

CITY

St. Cloud MN
Bloomington MN
Cedar Falls IA
Inver Grove Heights MN
Minneapolis MN
Marshall MN
Coon Rapids MN
Dubuque IA
Grand Forks ND
Little Falls MN
Rochester MN
Duluth MN
Prior Lake MN
Brainerd MN
St. Paul MN

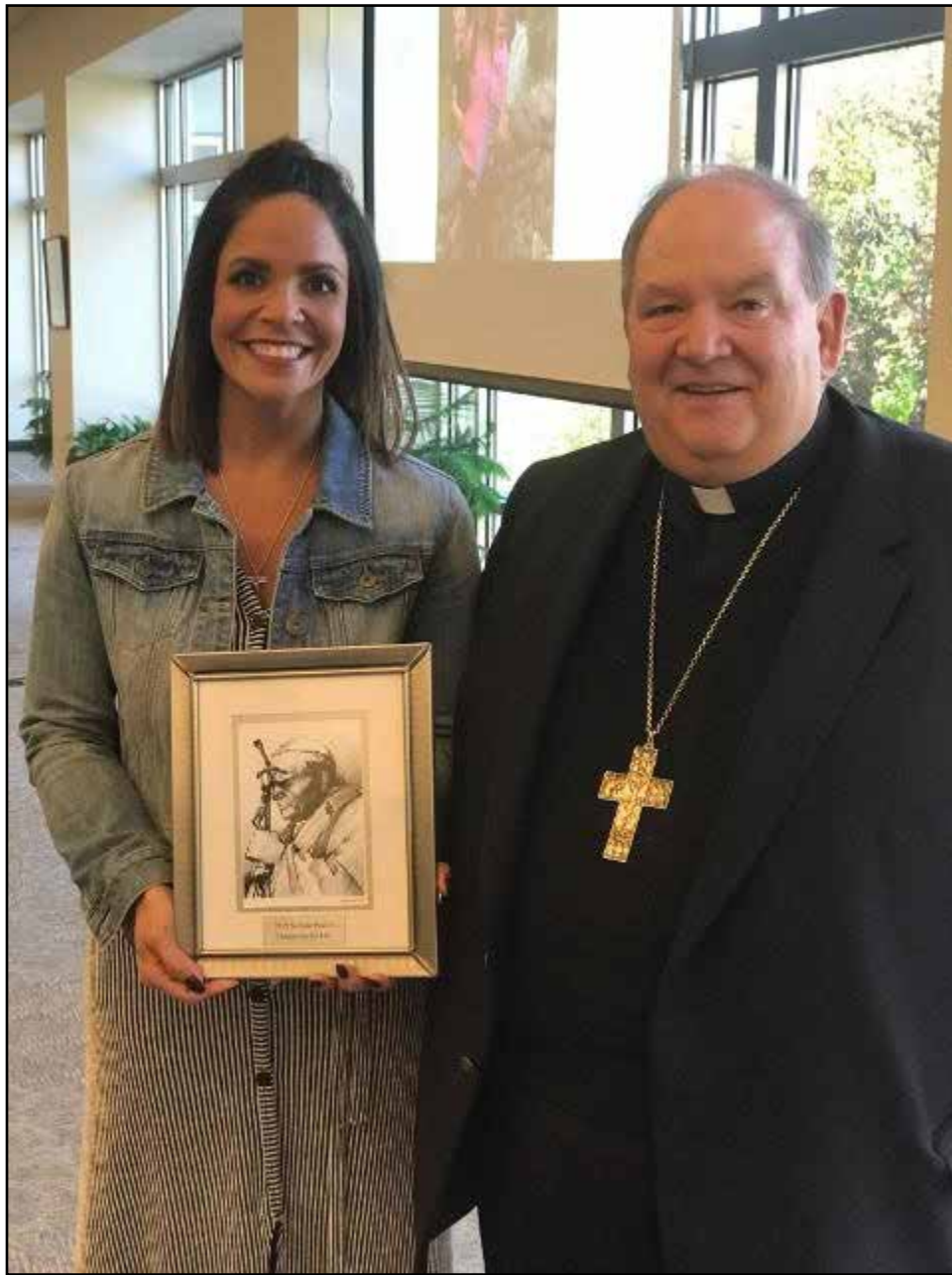
ELECTION

4/5/2020
4/14/2020
5/17/2020
9/13/2020
10/13/2020
10/15/2020

VISITATION

2/16/2020
3/8/2020
4/19/2020
5/17/2020
8/16/2020
9/21/2020
10/18/2020
10/22/2020
11/6/2020





Lori Hinker, OFS was awarded the 2019 St. John Paul II Champions for Life Award for Young Adults in the diocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis by Archbishop Bernard Hebda.

Professions and Elections

St. Clare Fraternity Profession

November 18, 2018

St. Clare Fraternity, Omaha, professed four individuals to the Franciscan Way of Life on Sunday, November 18, 2018 at the Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare. The newly professed are Trudy Lazure, OFS; Bernice Rinkol, OFS; Tom Schrad, OFS; and Randy Hulstein, OFS.



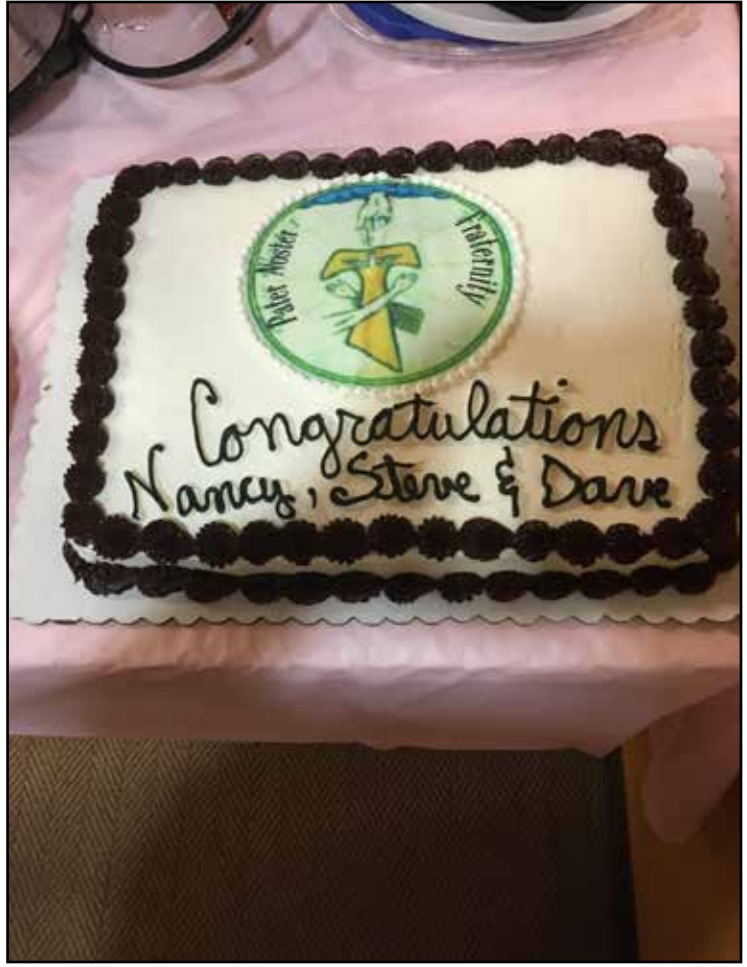
Left to Right: Jane Ludlow, OFS, Sponsor; Trudy Lazure, OFS, Bernice Rinkol, OFS; Larry Reynek, OFS, Formation Director; Fr. Frank Baumert, Celebrant; Tom Schrad, OFS; Shelly Gray, OFS, Sponsor; Ann Reynek, OFS Minister and Sponsor; Randy Hulstein, OFS.



On Sunday, August 18th, 2019, the Little Portion SFO in Marshall, MN, celebrated the permanent commitment of two new Secular Franciscans: Carrie Stiernagel of Marshall and Nancy Rebstock of Sanborn. Fr. Todd Petersen was the celebrant of the profession which was held at the Campus Religious Center of Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

Annette Rohlik, Formation Assistant, presented the symbols of the profession: a bible, a San Damiano Cross and a candle as reminders of the life they are called to live according to the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order. It is with great joy that Little Portion welcomes Carrie and Nancy into the Secular Franciscan family.





profession of David Garrett, OFS (in the suit), Nancy Yount, OFS and Steve Carlson, OFS. The profession was held on October 5, 2019, within the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Franciscan Monastery of St Clare in Omaha, NE. The Formation Director is Andrea Walther, OFS. Additionally, Richard Beal, OFS past Minister of Pater Noster Fraternity and Joseph Norman, OFS Vice Minister of Pater Noster Fraternity were the official witnesses of the professions.



Father Solanus Casey Fraternity's election was held on September 15, 2019 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Duluth, MN. The new Council, from left to right, is: Jane Barnes (Formation Director), Franz Hoefflerle (Minister), Barbara Barnett (Vice-Minister), Keith Langhorst (Treasurer), Darlene Joecks (Secretary)

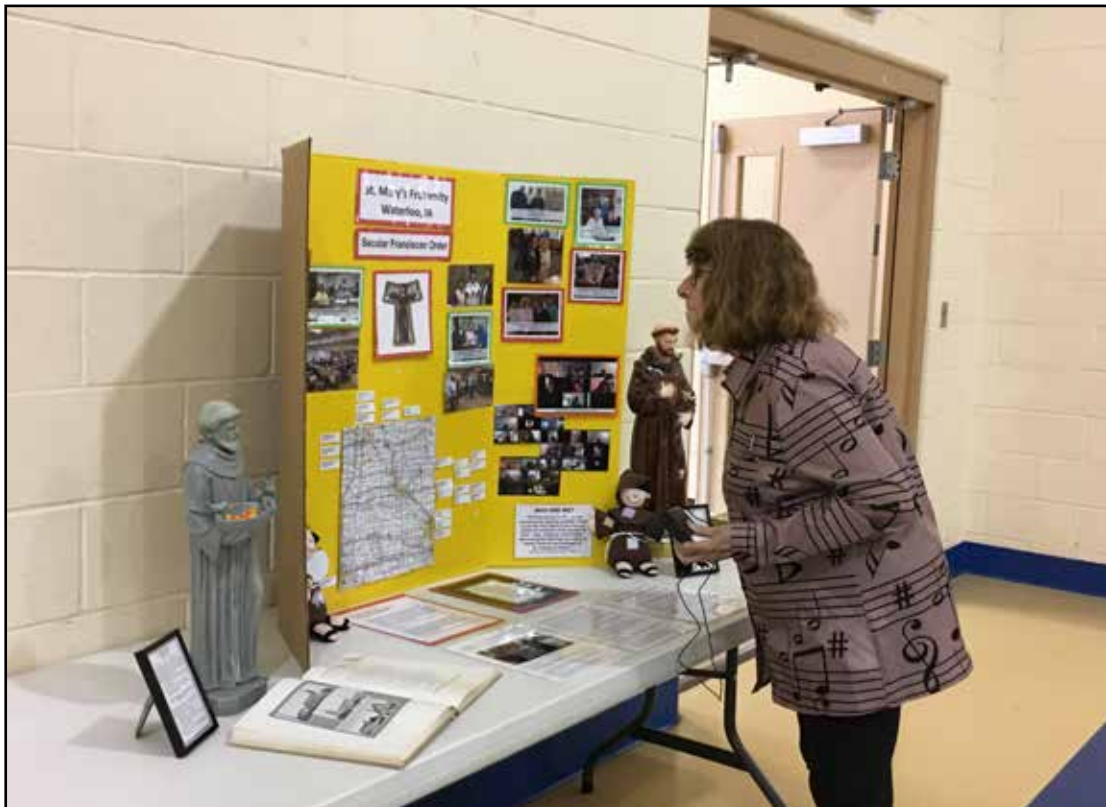


Spiritus Sanctus Fraternity Election Results on October 24, 2019.
 L-R Front Row: Pat Rickaby, Treasurer; Esther Reagan, Spiritual Assistant
 L-R Back Row: Jan Lothert, Secretary; Annie Knakmuhs, Vice-Minister; Margaret Schrader, Formation Director; Rose Clack, Minister.

All Iowa Retreat



St. Mary Fraternity, Waterloo, Iowa, hosted the 2019 All Iowa Retreat on October 6th at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Waterloo. Especially celebrated at this gathering was the Fraternity's 100th Anniversary. Such a Milestone!! It was a fabulous day of Franciscan formation and spirituality. Pictured from left to right: Front row: Francine Fosselman, Maria Rodgers, Barbara Brown (Minister), Julie Jung, Dolores Ortner, Dolores Marzen, Katie Williams, Katherine Osterman Second row: Melody Taninies (SA), Jim Roche, Linda Schrader, Therese Fosselman, Brenda Schmitt, Barb Sanders, Denise Jeffrey Third row: Tom Schoellen, Pat Schoellen, Larry Lavenz, Susan May, Tony May, Charles Heiderscheit Not pictured: Josephine Navarro



Barb Brown checking out the display board and documents highlighting their 100th Anniversary as a fraternity



Sr. Carole Freking, OSF and Sr. Michelle Balek, OSF who spoke on Engaging the Franciscan Charism: What it Means to be a Franciscan in This Time and Place



Katie Williams, OFS; Dolores Marzen, OFS; Shirley Seeley, OFS; Maria Rodgers, OFS and Brenda Schmidt, OFS.

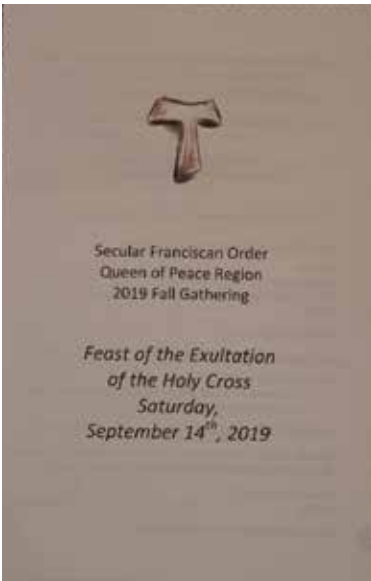
Fall Gathering 2019



Our Two Greeters doing registration.



Adoration and Benediction



Program and schedule.



crowd getting ready.



Relics on display.

The crowd at the fall gathering.



Fr. Seraphim Wirth, fbp Speaking



Free will offering book sale



We had a silent auction with some great items.

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

TRACINGS

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