

TRACINGS

ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS | www.queenofpeaceregion.org



Minister's Message

"Let Us Bless the Lord, the Living and True God"

by Hazel Martin, OFS Regional Minister

A heartfelt thank you to those who facilitated, presented and attended our Annual Regional Gathering in Buffalo, MN on the dates of May 31-June 2, 2019. I ate lunch with our two NAFRA Visitors after our meeting concluded, and then met with the Fraternal Visitor to give my input regarding our Region. It was evident to me that everyone's presence and commitment on that weekend left a positive impression on our NAFRA Visitors. As for me, I felt the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit the entire weekend. Let us all express praise to God for the success of this year's Regional Gathering.

Along with the title of this article, Francis wrote the following as a blessing/dismissal within his Office of Passion at the end of the designated Psalm for the day:
"Let us always give back to God; praise, glory, honor, blessing and every good. Amen. Amen.
So be it. So be it."

"These are the praises which Brother Leo says Francis wrote with his own hand on the front side of the parchment which contains Francis' blessing to brother Leo. The parchment is preserved in the Convento of the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.

You are holy, Lord,
God alone, who works marvels.
You are strong.
You are grand.
You are Most High.

You are the All-Powerful King,
You, Holy Father,
King of heaven and earth.
You are three and one,
Lord God of god.

You are the Good,
every good,
the highest good,
the Lord God, living and true.

You are love, charity.
You are wisdom.
You are humility.
You are patience.
You are beauty.
You are safety.
You are rest.
You are joy and gladness.
You are our hope.
You are our justice.
You are temperance.
You are all our treasure overflowing.

You are beauty.
You are meekness.
You are our protector.
You are our guardian and defender.

Spring/Summer 2019, Issue 27
July 2019

In This Issue

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Ministers Message | P.1 |
| Spiritual Assistance Class | P.2 |
| JPIC | P.3 |
| Professions | p.5 |
| Spring Gathering | P.7 |
| Ministers Retreat and more | P.9 |

You are strength.
You are refreshment.
You are our hope.
You are our faith.
You are our charity.
You are all our sweetness.
You are our eternal life, great and wonderous Lord,

God All-Powerful, merciful Savior."

Through the Year with Francis of Assisi, Murray Bodo, 119-121)

Thru the rest of this summer and beyond, I send to all my sisters and brothers in this Region the blessing attributed to St. Clare; "May the Lord be with you always and, wherever you are, may you be with Him always. Amen."
(Francis and Clare: The Complete Works, The Classics of Western Spirituality, 234, Paulist Press)

The New QOP Regional Spiritual Assistant Class Has Begun

Kathy Taormina, OFS

QOP Regional Spiritual Assistant

On May 31, 2019 before the opening of the Annual Regional Meeting, 19 Spiritual Assistants met during their annual workshop. This included the five people who have been accepted into the QOP Regional Spiritual Assistants Class of 2019-2022. We were blessed to have the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA) President-in-turn Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR speak during the afternoon on the importance of Catholic Social Teaching within and through the Secular Franciscan Order. I would like to especially thank Spiritual Assistants Sr. Lois Erpelding, OSF and Mary Kopelke, OFS for their contributions to the workshop.

The new class members are:

Deacon John DeStazio, OFS – Vice Minister of St. Louis fraternity in Rochester, MN

Rose Clack, OFS – Minister of Spiritus Sanctus fraternity in Brainerd, MN

Sr. Kathleen Kluthe, OSF – who is journeying with Pater Noster fraternity in Omaha, NE

Janice Rybaski, OFS – Minister of St. Francis of Assisi fraternity in Little Falls, MN

Alan Weier, OFS – Minister of St. Thomas More fraternity in Inver Grove Heights, MN

As you can see by their positions, they are currently serving the OFS as servant leaders and are being called to take on a new vocation as a Spiritual Assistant.

The primary role of a Spiritual Assistant is: “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 towards the SFO [OFS].” Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the Secular Franciscan Order Article 2.3

Pray for our Spiritual Assistant Class, your local Spiritual Assistant, and all Spiritual Assistants who serve the Secular Franciscan Order.



Integrity of Creation: Reweaving the Web of Life

By Tammy Keiter, OFS, Regional JPIC Animator Coordinator

God has given us the wonderful gift of creation and it's our responsibility to understand that we are all integrally and ecologically connected in a web of life. The web of life has been torn and is unraveling. Creation's integrity is under severe threat. Within this broken web our rich Christian traditions and scriptures provide a vision of the integrity of creation we seek to recover.

One of the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching is Care for God's Creation. We show our respect by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is just not an Earth Day slogan; it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored. (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops-UCCB)

The understanding of integrity which we offer to the ecumenical community has two key dimensions. The first is integrity as wholeness, interconnectedness, and interdependence. The second is accountability and moral responsibility. When we hold these two dimensions of integrity together, we realize that the integrity of creation is the framework within which we understand human dignity. The connection between human dignity and the integrity of creation is inseparable; the violation of one involves the violation of the

other.

Pope Francis calls for an 'ecological conversion' at personal and parish levels. He stresses the importance of change of heart and attitude in the ways and manner in which we use and treat creation and human beings, most especially the poor and marginalized. Such a change of heart and action will invariably lead to reconciliation between God and humanity, human to human, and the human community with the environment. And it will likewise guarantee a restoration that enables the continued existence of creation and a fulfilled life for humanity.

June 18th, 2019 marked the fourth anniversary of the release of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home. During the past four years, parishes, schools, colleges and universities, healthcare facilities, and religious communities have responded with faith, passion, and enormous creativity to the Pope's call to care for creation and care for the poor.

The Season of Creation is an annual celebration of prayer and action to protect creation. It is celebrated by Christians of all traditions, and the leaders of faith traditions have encouraged the faithful to participate.

The Season of Creation is celebrated annually by tens of thousands of Christians around the world. Local, volunteer event hosts on six continents organize

celebrations in their communities. These range from prayer services to litter clean-ups to advocacy actions.

The season begins September 1, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and runs through October 4, the Feast of St. Francis, who is the patron saint of ecology in many traditions. The theme of this year's celebration is "the web of life". Catholics are uniting with others in the Christian family to protect every creature in God's beautifully complex web of creation.

You'll find a wealth of resources for implementing *Laudato Si'* in your community, liturgical suggestions, advocacy ideas, and much more at SeasonOfCreation.org.

As Franciscans, we are called into a special relationship with all of God's creation. As Article 11 of our rules states: "Let the Secular Franciscan seek a proper spirit of detachment from all temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children." As stewards of creation, we are called to be on the forefront of fighting the needless exploitation of the earth and all creation.

Resources next page.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/commissions/faith-and-order/x-other-documents-from-conferences-and-meetings/theological-reflection-on-peace/affirming-human-dignity-rights-of-peoples-and-the-integrity-of-creation-rwanda-2004>

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/commissions/faith-and-order/x-other-documents-from-conferences-and-meetings/theological-reflection-on-peace/affirming-human-dignity-rights-of-peoples-and-the-integrity-of-creation-rwanda-2004>

https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1026&context=jst_dissertations



Profession

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.

Profession



**Robert Sanford, Joyce McKeveitt, Louise Heim professed 6.30.2019.
St. Junipero Serra Newly Forming Group sponsored by St. John XXIII,
OFS fraternity.**

Spring Gathering 2019 - Hosted by St. Anthony of Padua, Browns Valley, Our Lady of Consolation, Grand Forks ND and St. Francis, Little Falls, Fraternities.



Edith Foren ofs and Pearl Whelen ofs, greet spring gathering Secular Registrants.



Continental Breakfast and preparation for Gathering at Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, MN

Mona Wolney ofs,
Secretary, Queen of Peace
Region, Featured Speaker.
Topics: "What is Secular
Franciscan Living?"
& "Living as a Secular
Franciscan in a
Complicated World"

→





Mass Celebrated by Bishop Kellte, to commemorate the feast of St. Oscar Romero.



Items donated for auction

Ministers retreat/ Formation Seminar/ Spiritual Assistant Class 2019



There was a live auction this year. We even had a professional Auctioneer.



National Counciller Dennis Ross speaking.



Every Minister made a drawing of what thier fraternity is doing and when it's done it looks like a quilt.



It is nice to have some social time together.



Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR teaching a combined formation class for formators and Spiritual Assistants



group shot of everyone



REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Minister

Hazel Martin, OFS
yankeefan50@outlook.com

Vice Minister

Tim Taormina, OFS
tjtaormina@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

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