



Secular Franciscan Order Queen of Peace Regional Fraternity

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE REGIONAL FRATERNITY

4-5-6 JUNE 2021

Meeting convened Friday June 4 at 7:00 pm, with welcome from Fr Lon Konold, OMI of Christ the King Retreat Center, and Kim Pappas, Regional Minister. Evening prayer was followed by a social gathering.

Saturday, June 5. Meeting began at 9:00 am with opening remarks by Kim Pappas, OFS.

- Welcome and update from National – “get back into meeting as fraternities.” As a general rule, we should meet in person as possible, but people with concerns about meeting may use Zoom. Zoom should not be the default medium.
- COVID guidance – don’t ask members if they are vaccinated or not. It is not a requirement to be vaccinated. Talk to members individually in a pastoral manner to find out their concerns.
- An area of concern is where fraternities have no candidates or inquirers. Best way to reach potential members is by personal invitation. Consider asking Eucharistic Ministers, RCIA class, etc. If you need help, contact the REC.
- Our Franciscan meetings should be warm and inviting, not divisive. We discuss Franciscan things. At the next Formation workshop, we will discuss how to approach the tough issues.

Kathy T – introduced Fr Brad Milunski, OFM, Conv., our speaker (Biographical sketch attached)

Regional Business Portion of the meeting began at 2:30 pm

- Opening Prayer from the Ritual led by Kim Pappas, OFS
- Roll Call, Mary Seger, OFS. Twenty-seven voting members were present.
- State of the Region presented by Kim Pappas, OFS. See attached report.
 - We’re down in numbers

- For your fraternity's annual report to the Region, make a copy of your page in the database PRIOR to Jan 1. Kim needs your information by March 1 of each year for the Region's report to National. Cluster Councilors will contact fraternities to assist in gathering information
 - Spring and Fall gatherings will resume next year
 - Spring 2022 - Fr Solanus Casey Fraternity, and they will discuss co-sponsoring with St Junipero Serra Fraternity.
 - Fall 2022 – St Thomas More Fraternity
 - Spring 2023 – St Cloud Fraternity will co-sponsor with San Damiano Fraternity, Elk River
 - National Visitation will take place next year. Fraternities are expected to be present – be sure each fraternity sends a representative. If Minister is not able to attend, be sure the Vice Minister or another Delegate is lined up to attend.
 - Fraternity Councils: start “training” members of your fraternity to get people ready to step up to council positions. Ask for help with small things that can assist the elected members and give potential new council members a taste of what is involved.
 - In the National Statutes, members may be designated as having one of the following statuses:
 - Active - a member who attends meetings and is contributing
 - Active Excused – a member who is not attending meetings, for example, member in a nursing home
 - Lapsed – member who is neither present at meetings nor contributing
 - National has a new guideline for Canonical Establishment; it will be posted to the QoP website
 - Fraternities - Think about sponsoring other fraternities within a circle of your geographic area. Consult with other fraternities near you. Questions – contact Kim
- Vote on Amendment to Guidelines, presented by Tim Taormina, OFS.

Tim reviewed the proposed amendment (attached). Franz Hoefflerle, OFS moved to accept the amendment, Christopher Mathias, OFS seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no nays, and no abstentions. Motion was carried, and the amended Queen of Peace Regional Guidelines will be distributed to all fraternities and updated on the website.

REPORTS:

- Formation - Mona Wolney, OFS. See attached report.
 - Formation workshops in 2021 – 1. Documentation, and 2. Ongoing formation. Checklists and worksheets are available on the website. Two more workshops are coming this year. Next workshop is Aug 28
 - See Formation Friday entries on website. These come from NAFRA and are sent to all Formation Directors weekly

- Spiritual Assistant - Kathy Taormina, OFS. See attached report
 - Note on language: We “invite” new people to discover their vocation (we don’t “recruit”). We don’t have a “pipeline,” we have a “Formational Journey.” As we speak, semantics matter.
 - The following SAs have served our Region for the maximum allowable term:
 - Fr Jim Van Dorn has served Our Lady of Consolation Fraternity for 12 years
 - Sr Theresina Santiago, OSC has served St Clare Fraternity for 12 years
 - Sr Nancy Niedzielski, OSF has served San Damiano Fraternity MN for 12 years
 - Sr Mary Ann Schmeiding, OSF is retiring as SA for Pater Noster Fraternity
 - The following SAs have retired from service:
 - Sr Nancy Miller, OSF is retiring from Holy Trinity Fraternity
 - Sr. Mary Ann Capizzo, OSF is retiring from St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity
 - SA workshop this weekend – 3 members completed the class and have graduated; they will be commissioned at Mass this afternoon: Alan Weier, OFS, Rose Clack, OFS, Sr Kathleen Kluthe, OSF.
 - Note: The Spiritual Assistant’s role is to be a “witness of Franciscan spirituality and of the fraternal affection of the religious.” The SA must be Franciscan. Your fraternity SA should be on your formation team.
 - See the Website SA pages for much information
 - Book recommendation: [A Knight and A Lady](#), by Bret Thoman, OFS.

- Youth/Young Adult Commission - Lori Hinker, OFS. See attached report.
 - The Youth are like their own fraternity supported by the OFS. Through their vocation, if they are so inspired, they may take on the profession of the OFS and become members of our fraternities. They are not “baby Secular Franciscans” who will automatically become OFS members. See the website for information and resources. Now that parishes are opening up, fraternities should think about the conversations and relationships that might develop into a FY/YA ministry. Encourage younger members of our fraternities to come up with creative ideas for engagement with youth.

- JPIC - John Ott, OFS (see attached report)
 - John is our point of contact with our National animator (Carolyn Townes, OFS)
 - Point of contact with JPIC animators and ministers of local fraternities
 - Conduit of information between fraternities – spreading of best practices

- John is building a regional JPIC team – Mary Higgins, OFS is already a team member. Ministers, if there is someone in your fraternity who would be a good JPIC team member, please contact John.
 - Building website resources.
 - We are in the nomination period for the 2021 JPIC award – deadline is July 15
- Treasurers Report/Review Budget - Edith Foren, OFS
 - Budget was delayed due to software incompatibilities and should be available within a few weeks. It will be sent out by Edith Foren, OFS. Budget will need to be voted on by sending Kim your votes by email. Many thanks to Kathy Fraser, OFS for her diligence in rebuilding the financial data in the new software.
 - Our finances: We haven't spent much money due to Covid (no activities)
 - Total amount in checking account: \$29,625.73. Amount in CD: \$9,343.44
 - Some fraternities need to pay balance on Fair Share, due in July.

Tim moved to close the business meeting, Luis seconded, and all were in favor.

The business meeting concluded at 4:00 pm with prayer from the Ritual.

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ was celebrated with Fr. Brad Milunski presiding. During the Mass, our three new SAs were commissioned and welcomed by the Regional Fraternity. In the evening, the Memorial Service was held, remembering our sisters and brothers of the OFS, of the Provinces and of the Third Order sisters who have died during the past year.

Sunday, June 6. Morning prayer was celebrated, followed by a brief gathering and closing remarks. The 2021 Annual Regional Fraternity Meeting was concluded at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Seger, OFS

Queen of Peace Regional Secretary

ATTACHMENTS

1. Fr Brad Milunski, OFM, Conv. Biographical Sketch
2. Minister's Report
3. Proposed Amendment to the Queen of Peace Regional Guidelines
4. Formation Report
5. Spiritual Assistant's Report
6. Franciscan Youth and Young Adult Report
7. JPIC Report

Fr. Brad Milunski, OFM, Conv., Biography received from Kathy Taormina, OFS

- Fr. Brad is originally from Amsterdam, NY.
- Conventual Franciscan Friar from the Our Lady of the Angels Province, headquartered in Ellicott City, MD.
- He studied philosophy and Franciscan spirituality at St. Hyacinth College and Seminary in Granby, MA.
- Master of Divinity degree from the Washington Theological Union in Washington, DC. In 1989 he professed final vows and was ordained to the priesthood in 1993.
- He received a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture (S.S.L.) in 2000 from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, Italy.
- Fr Brad has served primarily in parish ministry, province administrations, and initial formation on the pre- and post-novitiate levels.
- On June 18, he will become the pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in Chicopee, MA.

- We met in 1988 in Winston-Salem, NC.
- In 1990 he told me I should check out the Secular Franciscans.
- The rest is history.

Regional Minister's Report 2021

There are 369 members, 41 candidates and 15 inquirers in 21 active fraternities, 2 emerging fraternities and 1 NFG.

These numbers are down considerably. I am often asked how to attract more members.

Personal invitation is the best. Where to begin to look:

- RCIA newly Catholic and on fire.
- Lectors
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Church volunteers

There is a Vocations Toolkit on our website: queenofpeaceregion.org

There have been a lot of updates to the website (Youth, JPIC, Formation, Spiritual Assistance) to name a few

We encourage frequent visitation. There are forms, Tracings, and updates. VISIT OUR WEBSITE

With the shutdowns, the National Fraternity has asked regions to encourage returning to fraternity life.

There may be a few that have to zoom, but we are about fraternity life and that means gathering as a fraternity.

It is best not to inquire as to whether someone has been vaccinated.

It is not a requirement for inviting someone or members attending meetings.

Fraternities need to remember why we exist. We are not political bodies or campaign staff.

We are brothers and sisters in St. FRANCIS. We are following the gospel and bringing it to life.

Divisiveness in a fraternity is the quickest way to lose members and potential members.

We are recognized as an order in the Catholic Church. Issues at odds with the Church or whether this candidate is better than that candidate should not be what the fraternity discusses.

What should be discussed are Franciscan spirituality, formation, our stories etc.

That is what brought us to the fraternity in the first place. Our Call To Be Secular Franciscans!

Queen of Peace Regional Guidelines – Proposed amendment

This proposed amendment will be voted on at the Annual Regional Meeting, June 4-5-6, 2021

The current wording in the Guidelines, Article 3 – Regional Fraternity Council, Item 7:

7. "(The Regional Fraternity Council) pays, from the common fund of the Regional Fraternity, the room and board for the Minister or one delegate from each local fraternity, the Regional Executive Council and other persons as the Regional Executive Council may decide, at the Annual Meeting of the Regional Fraternity Council."

The current language was thought to be ambiguous and did not take into account variances that could be encountered by some Ministers or Delegates who attend the Annual Regional Meeting.

The proposed new language is shown below with changes in red:

*7. pays, from the common fund of the Regional Fraternity, the room and board for the Minister or one **professed** delegate from each local fraternity, the Regional Executive Council and other persons as the Regional Executive Council may decide, at the Annual Meeting of the Regional Fraternity Council. **The Regional Executive Council must review and approve any deviations from stated attendance.***

Queen of Peace Region Formation Report: June-2021

On January 3rd, 2021 I announced the members of the Regional Formation Team.

- Cindy Gunsolly ofs, St Mary's Fraternity IA
- Sue Wolney ofs, St Anthony of Padua Fraternity Mpls MN
- Margaret Schrader ofs, Spiritus Sanctus Fraternity Brainerd MN

Each member represents one of the new Regional Clusters and has agreed to serve on the team for one year.

On Saturday February 27th, 2021, the new Regional Formation Team and the Regional SA, prepared and presented the first (ever) Queen of Peace Regional Zoom Formation Workshop intitled "Formation 101; Back to the Basics." The workshop was well attended by both Regional SA's, Formation Directors and Ministers. The session was recorded and all the documents and talking points are located on the Queen of Peace Website under the Formation tab, 2021 Workshops.

The second Regional Formation Workshop was held on Saturday May 22nd, 2021. The theme of the workshop was "On-Going Formation; "How Fraternities create, build and present good Ongoing Presentations. This workshop was also well attended and the small group discussions were lively. This workshop was recorded and the On-Going Formation documents, On-Going checklist, and talking points are located on the Queen of Peace Website under the Formation tab, 2021 Workshops.

The next Formation workshop is scheduled Saturday August 28th 9:30- 11:00 am. The theme of the workshop is: "How do Secular Franciscans discuss and communicate tough subjects."

The final 2021 Formation workshop is scheduled Saturday November 20th, 2021 9:30 – 11:00 am. The theme of this workshop is TBD.

Outside of these activities, I attend all Regional Council meetings, I share all communication from the National Fraternity Formation Team to the Region weekly. I answer Regional Formation questions and issues as they arise.

Respectfully,
Mona Wolney OFS,
Formation Director, Queen of Peace Region.

QUEEN of PEACE REGION

ANNUAL REGIONAL MEETING

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT (SA) REPORT

JUNE 5, 2021

BY THE NUMBERS:

6 – OSF (-2)	Franciscan Sisters of the 3 rd Order
6 – OFS	Secular Franciscans
2 – OFS	Secular Franciscans (mentoring – to be appointed)
1 – FBP	Franciscan Brother of Peace
2 – OFM Conv. (-1)	Friars of the 1 st Order
1 – OFM	Friars of the 1 st Order
1 – Diocesan Priest	Former QOP SA in Nebraska
1 – Diocesan Priest	Acting as an SA, investigating the SA role
5 – Fraternities	Without any Spiritual Assistants

1 OSF Sister retired, 1 OFS Sister & 1 OFM Conv. Friar reached their 12 years of service, all will receive certificates of service and gratitude.

1 OSF Sister and 1 diocesan Deacon are visiting fraternities to investigate SA responsibilities.

REGIONAL SA WORKSHOP & CLASS met on Friday, June 4, 2021, 10:00-4:00, Buffalo, MN. Discussed “Secular Franciscan Spirituality” by Br. Armando Cano, TOR, International SA. The class presented various topics and the local SAs were present as mentors. We discussed the importance of having Franciscan SAs, as their main responsibility is to ensure the fidelity of the fraternity to the Franciscan charism and to the Church.

REGIONAL SA CLASS will commission 3 on Saturday, June 5, 2021 during Mass at the Annual Regional Meeting. 1 is already assigned a mentorship and 1 is presently serving a fraternity as an SA.

QOP DIRECTORY has been updated with the Provincials or Provincial Spiritual Assistants and the dioceses where the Queen of Peace local fraternities reside.

QOP REGIONAL WEB SITE has the Spiritual Assistant page totally updated with information on SAs, SA Class information, prayers and devotions. *Check it out!*

<https://www.queenofpeaceregion.org/spiritual-assistance-1>

ATTENDED the National Spiritual Assistant Workshop, hosted by the CNSA, on April 6, 2021 via zoom.

PRESENTED during the QOP Regional Formation Workshops on February 27 and May 22, 2021 via zoom. Next two workshops are on August 28, 2021 and December 20, 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Taormina, OFS, QOP Regional SA



The Franciscan Youth/Young Adults (FYA) are formed by those young people who feel called by the Holy Spirit to deepen their own vocation to share the experience of the Christian life in fraternity in the light of the message of St. Francis of Assisi, deepening their own vocation within the context of the Secular Franciscan Order. The FYA has a specific organization, methods of formation and teaching methods adequate for the needs of the world of youth according to the existing realities in the various countries.

Since last July of 2020, I have been attending Animator Trainings via Zoom to increase my understanding, networking with other animators, and build my confidence for this vital ministry in our Secular Franciscan Order. We have continued to gather the second Monday of each month to continue our formation and discussions.

Some of the formation topics included:

- YouFra Stages of Formation
- "Listening"
- Steps to YouFra, and descriptions of ministers needed for YouFra
- Positive Youth Development
- "Sons and Daughters of the Light"
- The "whys and how tos" of offering multi-generational prayer experiences with youth and young adults.

Our national website FY/YA page: <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/franciscan-youth/>

I am working on updating our regional website to include important documents* that have been shared during the Animator Trainings, and to make sure they are easily accessible to each fraternity.

<https://queenofpeaceregion.org/youfra-2>

**Youth and Young Adult Fraternal Animator
Lori Hinker
March 24, 2021**

List of important documents*:

- 1 – Mission Statement**
- 2 – YouFra: A Way of Vocation**
- 3 – USA YouFra Stages of Formation**
- 4 – USCCB "Sons and Daughters of Light"**
- 5 – USA FY/YA National Statutes**
- 6 – Description of Local Fraternal Animator**
- 7 – CIOFS Guide for Fraternal Animation**
- 8 – Description of a Spiritual Assistant for YouFra**
- 9 – Description of a Regional Commission Chair**
- 10 – CIOFS Guide for Establishment**
- 11 – USA Application to Establish a YouFra**
- 12 – Incorporation of YouFra into the OFS**

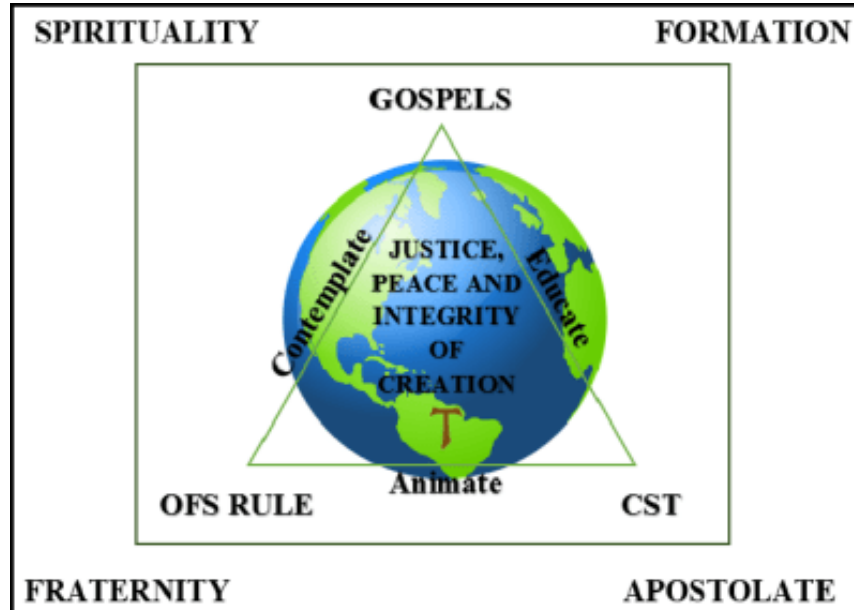
**QUEEN OF PEACE REGION - SECULAR FRANCISCAN
JUSTICE, PEACE and INTEGRITY of CREATION ANIMATOR MINISTRY**

“The focus of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation is to support the restoration of “right relationships”; with God, in oneself, between people and with creation. JPIC is about building a more just and harmonious world by making a preferential option for the most vulnerable in our societies, including the integrity and care for creation. JPIC is not just something we do, it is who we are. It is an attitude, a vision that influences what we do and how we minister. “The role of JPIC Animation is to remind us of the importance of living and promoting this dimension of the Gospel. The role of a JPIC Animator is to help each person and community or fraternity to identify his/her own particular way of living and promoting JPIC values.”

Friar Francisco O’Conaire, OFM, Executive Secretary of the Interreligious JPIC Commission

NAFRA JPIC Mission Statement:

The mission of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation is to assist the professed Secular Franciscans as they reflect on their relationship with God as manifested in the fruits of conversion in their lives. This with special regard to the daily choices made in the areas of justice, peacemaking and respect for all created things and people; as brothers and sisters of penance, bringing life to the Gospel and the Gospel to Life.¹



QUEEN OF PEACE REGION - SECULAR FRANCISCAN JUSTICE, PEACE and INTEGRITY of CREATION TEAM

The key to success for animating Secular Franciscans and furthering the culture of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation is team development. To achieve a “balanced and aggressive approach” to JPIC, the team should have enough people to address the entire range of JPIC issues and concerns. From a geographical perspective, the team must be comprised of sufficient members to represent each of the three clusters in the region (Southeast MN/Wisconsin, Northwest Minnesota, and Iowa/Nebraska) plus the Animator position. JPIC team members should have a specific passion for a certain part of the JPIC mission, have a desire to get more deeply involved, and be able to help lead efforts of their fellow Secular Franciscans, under the guidance of our Regional Council.

The Queen of Peace Regional Vision for the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Animation team is:

The Queen of Peace Regional Justice, Peace and Creation of Integrity Animation Team will be a cohesive party of professed Secular Franciscans from across the full spectrum of the Region. Team members should be of like mind, who through their life experiences, education, and service desires will blend to form an aggressive and balanced approach to the development of programs and activities. Their efforts will lead Order members to improved relationships with God through the application of fairness, harmony and respect for all life in service to others.

Queen of Peace Region JPIC Animator contact information:

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