



THE JOY OF FRANCIS

Secular Franciscan Order | St. Francis Region #52 | Southern California

Future Newsletters

Planned publication dates for *The Joy of Francis* are Feb 15th, May 15th, Aug 15th, and Nov. 15th. **Submission Deadlines** for information to be included must be received by Feb 1st, May 1st, Aug 1st, and Nov 1st. Local Ministers, as well as District Liaisons, are encouraged to submit information about their fraternity's activities. Information should be sent as a Word document to patriciadervish@yahoo.com

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Judith Mussatto, OFS, Regional Minister

All that you touch
You Change.

All that you Change
Changes you.

The only lasting truth
is Change.

God
is Change.

Octavia E. Butler (1947-2006).

Our region experienced Change on Saturday, January 13, 2018. We were privileged to have our National Minister, Jan Parker as Presider and National Conference of Spiritual Assistants President in Turn, Br. Alexander Escalera, OFM, Cap. as Church witness for an election process which took many twists and turns before arriving at our current eight elected members of your Regional Executive Council.

Please pray with us and for us as we begin our journey of getting to know each other and learning to work as a team of Servant Leaders.

PRAYER FOR A NEW COUNCIL

Gracious, Loving Lord and Father,

We bring to you this Council.

*We thank you for the gift of our
vocation*

to the Secular Franciscan Order.

*We thank you for our brothers and
sisters*

whom you have also called.

*Thank you for the example and
inspiration*

of Francis and Clare.

*Grant us a new vision and
understanding of our calling.*

*Prepare our hearts to hear your call
anew.*

*Enkindle in us a new spirit of
conversion and dedication.*

*Let your Holy Spirit be poured out
on us,*

so that together

*we may discern your heart
and become all that you want us to
be,*

*in order “to bring about a more
fraternal*

and evangelical world.”

We pray in Jesus name.

Amen

**CONFERENCE OF REGIONAL
SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS**

ON PRAYER

We know the general format of fraternity gatherings as given us by NAFRA, that is, Prayer, Ongoing Formation, Announcements, Social Time. In dividing up a two-hour period (which is adjustable for longer gatherings or those with no required ending time), the times suggested are: Prayer – up to 20 minutes, Ongoing Formation – a minimum of 1 hour, Announcements (brief business if absolutely necessary) – 5 to 10 minutes, Social Time – a minimum of 30 minutes. We also know that Ongoing Formation should really not have a mandatory “ending” time, as it tends to cut off discussion, which is where we really are formed and form one another.

I’ve noticed in attending many fraternity gatherings that the thing that seems to be getting slighted is the prayer time at the beginning. Too many communities are simply having one person or the group recite a pre-determined, printed prayer, and that is the prayer time. Given that we *must* be people of prayer if we are to successfully live the Gospel life, that is not adequate. When we have a guideline of up to 20 minutes of a two-hour meeting to be spent in prayer, we need to work on this. Before considering “how” to pray, we should remember what prayer is: communication between God and man.

As with any communication, one speaks, the other listens; then they reverse the roles. Thus, prayer is not recited prayers alone, because there is no communication there.

However, *be careful* that you don't expand your opening prayer simply for time's sake. That is equally inadequate. I have experienced some beautiful opening prayers over the years, led by people who were following our former international minister's advice to "be creative." Those prayers are the ones I remember, and you will too as you experience them. I remember one where the prayer leader had each member choose a smooth stone from the group she presented. Each member was to designate his/her stone as a symbol of a particular virtue or trait they wanted to focus on (example: deeper faith, patience, better communication with brothers and sisters, hope in "bad" situations, etc.) and then mediate on that "need" for 10-15 minutes, seeking God's help, praying for grace, followed by each member offering a one-line prayer on that "need." It was moving, memorable, and truly put the community into the proper mood and attitude for ongoing formation.

There are many types of prayers, plus many more that come from your own creativity, such as the example above. Common types of prayer are: *Lectio Divino*, recited prayers (that someone else has composed) with adequate time for silent prayer during or at the end,

meditation, centering prayer, contemplation, among the most common types. The last three names – meditation, centering prayer, and contemplation – are often used interchangeably, so don't worry about definitions. The point is to pray. More specifically, the point is to pray as a Franciscan prays: to so totally enter into a relationship with our Lord that we can one day say with St. Paul that it is no longer "I" who lives but Christ who lives in me. Let's work on it.

Sylvia Paoli, OFS President-in-Turn,
Conference of
Regional Spiritual Assistants

REPORT FROM THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (REC) MEETING

Saturday February 3, 2018

Present were: Minister: Judith Mussatto, OFS. Vice Minister: Frank Miller, OFS. Secretary: Caroline Yandell, OFS. Treasurer: John Lee, OFS, Formation Coordinator: Lucy Ibarra, OFS. Councilors: David York, OFS. Peter Song, OFS. Outgoing Treasurer: Ben Soriano, OFS. Fr. Stephen Gross, OFM, Conv. Excused: Councilor: Randy Rohrer, OFS. Regional Spiritual Assistant: Sylvia Paoli, OFS.

For Ongoing Formation we discussed two articles: *Care and Feeding of Fraternity Councils*, available on the NAFRA website and *The Responsibilities of the OFS Fraternity Council* by Benet A. Fonck OFM.

The following appointments or re-appointments were confirmed.

Online Calendar Coordinator: Peter Song.
Please send all dates, times and places
of your fraternity events to Peter. E-mail:
msongsfo@yahoo.com

For updates on Visits and Elections:
David York. E-mail:
york@onamission101.com

Database Manager: Bill Mussatto E-mail:
mussatto@acm.org

District Liaison for San Bernardino/
Riverside: Bill Mussatto.

Lucy Ibarra who was elected councilor in
January will be the Formation
Coordinator.

We will notify you by e-mail as the
additional appointments are
confirmations.

**This year we celebrate twenty-five
years as a Region. We will
commemorate this milestone during
our Regional Retreat. Serra Retreat
Center, Malibu, May 25 – 27, 2018. Be
part of the celebrations! Register for
the weekend retreat.**



FORMATION

WHO ME?

Thank you, my Brother, for hearing
the Holy Spirit speak to you, and
nominating me. Voted in as your new
Councilor, what does this mean to me? It
really does not matter what this means to
me but what it means to you my Brothers
and Sisters as you voted for me. I love to
listen to the “Servant Song” by Richard
Gillard:

*“Will you let me be your servant Let me
be as Christ to you. Pray that I might have
the grace to let you be my servant too.
We are pilgrims on the journey. We are
travelers on the road. We are here to help
each other Walk the mile and bear the
load. I will hold the Christ light for you. In
the night time of your fear I will hold my
hand out to you Speak the peace you
long to hear. I will weep when you are
weeping. When you laugh, I'll laugh with
you I will share your joy and sorrow, till
we've seen this journey through. Will you
let me be your servant? Let me be as
Christ to you. Pray that I might have the
grace to let you be my servant too.”*

Please continue to pray for me and
your new Council that we can be your
humble servants always listening to the
will of our Father with the grace of the
Holy Spirit and the intercession of our
precious St Francis.

In thanksgiving,
Lucy Ibarra, OFS



DISTRICT NEWS

Orange County 2017 Activity

Vietnamese Martyrs Emerging Community was approved for Canonical Establishment, now ratified by a vote at this chapter

Vietnamese Martyrs professed 3 new members

Vietnamese Martyrs hosted our Orange District Bonaventure workshop

San Juan Capistrano Fraternity hosted a day of recollection for the Feast of St. Junipero Serra with Fr. Steve Gross



St. Francis Korean Fraternity at Anaheim professed 5 new members, they were joined by St. Clare Korean Fraternity at Rowland Heights who professed 1 new member and San Diego Korean Fraternity who professed 3 new members, bringing the total professed to 9 altogether

The Korean fraternities had a pre-profession retreat

Our Lady of Guadalupe professed 2 new members and they were joined by Holy Spirit Fraternity who professed 1 new member and St. Maximillian Kolbe Fraternity who professed 1 new member bringing the total professed to 4 altogether

Peace, Trudy Weigel

Riverside San Bernardino District Report

Representatives of the three Fraternities in our district met during the Regional Chapter for our quarterly meeting. We agreed to a tentative calendar for the quarterly meetings and district events. Tentative plans were made for a Lenten Retreat and District Day Away. The usual District picnic will be held in August hosted by Holy Spirit Fraternity. Padre Pio Fraternity plans to profess two new Seculars on February 10th at Mission San Luis Rey.

On Jan 21st, Holy Spirit Fraternity, in collaboration with St. Margaret Mary Catholic Community in Chino, hosted members of the Almadeyya Muslim Community in a commemoration of St.

Francis' meeting with Sultan Malek al Kamil. This followed several months of planning. The evening included watching a short video on the meeting and a video presenting the charitable work performed by this branch of Islam. We also witnessed their call the prayer which was followed by Catholics praying a decade of the rosary. It is hoped that this will lead to further meeting and possibly joint charitable works. Secular Franciscans from other Fraternities and parishioners of St. Margaret Mary. The event was so well attended that additional tables needed to be added.



Respectfully submitted,
William Mussatto

San Diego District

My dear sisters and brothers,

There are some changes in San Diego after the election. Tuan Cao is no longer a member of the Regional council after 9 years of service. He will still be the San Diego district liaison.

The following from the San Diego district will serve on the Regional Council: **David York**, San Luis Rey, **Peter Song**, St. Diego, **Caroline Yandell**, Immaculate Conception, and **Jaechan (John) Lee**, St. Diego.

Caroline Yandell was the minister of the Immaculate Conception Fraternity. **Patricia Dervish**, Vice Minister, is now the Minister for the Immaculate Conception Fraternity until the Election in April.

Congratulations to all of you and best wishes for your new service to our Order.

Peace, Tuan Cao



PRESERVING AND EXTENDING OUR SECULAR FRANCISCAN WAY OF LIFE

Each of us can play an important role in preserving and extending our Secular Franciscan way of life, in our own fraternity, and at the regional level. This can be accomplished in many ways, including a bequest in our will.

Suggested beneficiaries:

Your FRATERNITY
Your REGION

Suggested wording for your bequests:

1. A BEQUEST FOR GENERAL PURPOSES:

"I give and bequeath the sum of \$_____ (or _____% of my disposable estate) to: (name and address of fraternity, or region).

2. A RESIDUARY BEQUEST OF INDEFINITE AMOUNT:

"After payment of expenses, debts and specific bequests, I direct that the residue of my estate be given to: (name and address) any part of my estate that other beneficiaries address).

are unable to receive because of death or other reasons."

THE ADDRESS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION IS:
276 E. Green St.

Claremont, CA 91711



AN INVITATION

Your editor of the Joy of Francis invites our Korean, Vietnamese and Spanish speaking fraternities to submit articles in their languages for inclusion in future editions of our newsletter. Please feel free to explore any Franciscan topic or to give us some news from your fraternity.

Your submissions will be gratefully received and I am certain will make our Beloved Saint smile.

Pictured below are members of the Regional Council. Your editor did not have pictures of David York or Lucy Ibarra, newly elected Councilors, but they are pictured in the group photograph. Many blessings on our new council.

Peace and All Good,
Patricia, Editor

JOY OF FRANCIS

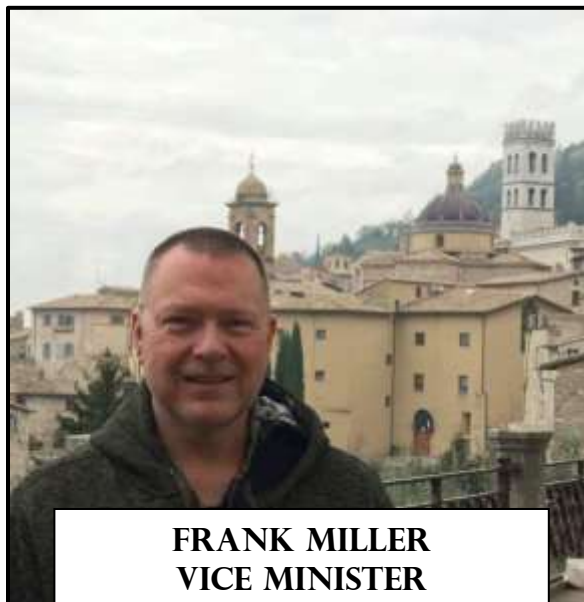
**REGIONAL
COUNCIL**



**JUDITH MUSSATTO
MINISTER**



**JAECHAN LEE
TREASURER**



**FRANK MILLER
VICE MINISTER**



**CAROLINE YANDELL
SECRETARY**



**RANDY ROHRER
COUNCILOR**



**PETER SONG
COUNCILOR**



**SYLVIA PAOLI
PRESIDENT-IN-TURN
CONFERENCE OF
REGIONAL SPIRITUAL
ASSISTANTS**



**FROM LEFT: JAN PARKER,
NATIONAL MINISTER, JAECHAN
LEE, TREASURER, DAVID YORK,
COUNCILOR, CAROLINE
YANDELL, SECRETARY, FRANK
MILLER, VICE MINISTER, JUDITH
MUSSATTO, MINISTER, LUCY
IBARRA, COUNCILOR**

PICTURES FROM CHAPTER JANUARY 12-14, 2018



Calendar

Date	Event
March	
4	Elections St. Francis (K)
9-11	REC planning weekend. Fullerton.
16-18	Religious Education Congress. Anaheim
April	
7	Regional Executive Council Meeting. Claremont.
8	Elections: Immaculate conception Fraternity. 1:30 San Diego
22	Pastoral Visit: Blessed Luchsius and Buonadonna. Los Angeles
May	
5	Elections: St. Louis the King. Santa Barbara
25-27	Regional Retreat: Serra Retreat Center. Malibu.
June	
3	Elections: St. Clare (V) Santa Ana
10	Fraternal Visit: St. Padre Pio Fraternity, Moreno Valley
23	Fraternal Visit: Immaculata, Riverside.

**2018 NATIONAL FRATERNITY THEME
 “RENEWED AND CONFIRMED:
 LIVE THE TREASURE!”**

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER RETREAT MAY 25 – 27, 2018



A Lover's Quarrel with the World: The Mission of the First Franciscans—and Ours

What was the "worldly" spirituality that characterized the early Franciscan movement. What aspects of the witness of Francis and his companions spoke so dramatically to the citizens of Italy—and beyond—as the friars pursued their evangelizing mission? What relationship to emerging political, economic and technological changes characterized the way in which the Franciscans communicated their convictions about Christian life? In other words, what was the principal means of attracting large segments of a society to a profound conversion of life that inspired both the messengers and those hearing their message? What does this history allow us to discern about our own times and tasks as messengers of the Good News?

RETREAT MASTER: SR. MARGARET CARNEY, OSF

Sr. Margaret Carney has been in leadership roles in various Franciscan and Catholic settings for five decades. She has worked with contemporary Franciscan scholars in the USA and beyond as an academic executive at St. Bonaventure University. She frequently contributed to the growth of the Third Order tradition as a teacher and resource expert. This included her membership on the team that revised the TOR Rule and Life approved by St. John Paul II in 1982. She was honored for her contributions to Catholic education with the Monika Hellwig Award of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in 2017 and the Pro Ecclesia et Pontefice Award from Pope Francis in 2016.

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Phone Number: _____ *Email: _____

Parish _____ City _____

Single Room (\$280) Double Room (\$220) Roommate Name: _____

DO YOU NEED A 1st FLOOR ROOM FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES? Please circle Y or N

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#: ____/____/____/____ Exp: ____/____ CVV # ____ Billing Zip Code ____

Please note a \$50 non-refundable deposit is required for registration. Checks can be made to Serra Retreat. Full balance is due 2 weeks prior to retreat. Specific rooms are not guaranteed. Check-in at 3pm on Friday

Help us go green: Please print email address clearly. Confirmations are sent via email.
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office@serraretreat.com