



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 **NEW!!!**

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Minister's Message by *Judith Mussatto, OFS*
- Notes on Chapter Formation
- Bequests
- Regional Spiritual Assistants
- District News: San Diego County
- District News: San Bernardino/Riverside
- District News: Los Angeles County
- Questions/Answers by *Judith Mussatto, OFS*



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Judith Mussatto, OFS, Regional Minister

Preparing to be Servant Leaders

"... Together with all the members, you now pledge yourselves to spend your efforts to make the fraternity a genuine ecclesial assembly and a living Franciscan community." Rite of Profession, page.22.

We pledged to spend our efforts to made the fraternity... "a living Franciscan community." During the Rite of Profession, we each responded on three occasion. "Yes, *this is what I want.*" Also during the Rite of Profession, we prayed for Divine Grace. I here personalize the prayer which you will find in Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order at page 23.

*O Lord our God
Your grace has led me your servant to live my
faith more fully
in the context of this world by my profession of
the gospel
according to the life and Rule of the Secular
Franciscan Order.
By the power of the Holy Spirit
may I give witness to the life
and teaching of your Son to all the world.
Grant that I may be continually united to Christ
through the gift of my life,
In order that the Church may be rebuilt and her
mission be fulfilled
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

The pledges and prayers in our Rite of Profession become reality for each of us in fraternity when we have leaders who guide and animate us. Two of the duties of the Regional Executive Council as found in the General Constitution of the Secular Franciscan Order Art. 62:2 are:

- e. to provide for the formation of those responsible for animation
- f. to offer to local fraternities activities which support their formative and operative needs

The Regional Executive Council's response to these mandates is to provide opportunities for workshops, seminars and more extensive weekend programs that prepare our members for Franciscan leadership. Preparation for Profession into the Secular Franciscan Order required time and commitment. Being a Secular Franciscan requires time and commitment. The preparation of Professed members who will guide and animate us requires time and commitment. We can make excuses like the would-be follower of Jesus recorded in Luke 10:59 "[Lord,] *let me go first and bury my father.*" Luke 10:61 "*I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home.*"

We can each come up with many reasons why we are not ready to animate and guide our brothers and sisters in fraternity. We will never be ready if we do not open ourselves to the workings of the Holy Spirit and take advantage of the opportunities presented to us.

Can we say with conviction "*O Lord our God your grace has led me your servant to live my faith more fully in the context of this world by my profession of the gospel according to the life and Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order*" when we do not take the time to prepare ourselves for the time when we may be called to animate and guide our brothers and sisters?

Your Sister in Christ
Judith

CHAPTER NOTES

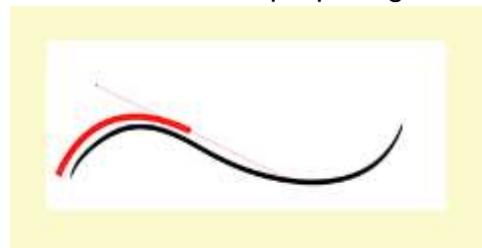
The Chapter, a Fraternal and Pastoral Visit, with the Regional Fraternity was held at Best Western Inn Suites, Ontario, CA from January 13 -15, 2017. The Visitors were Joan Geiger, OFS, National Councilor and Br. Alexander Escalera, OFM, Cap. President in Turn of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants.

Friday Evening: The fraternity ministers met to discuss what they wished to see in the region's newsletter *Joy of Francis* and on the region's website. They used large post-it sheets to 'brag' about your (fraternity) activities in 2016. The Regional Executive Council (REC) met with the Visitors.

Saturday: Morning prayer was a Remembrance for members of the three Orders. Joan led the group in Ongoing Formation. Members of the Regional Fraternity, Observers and Spiritual Assistants, minus the REC, met with the Visitors. Representatives of the Geographic Districts met to plan their district activities for 2017. Members of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Orders were present.

National and St. Francis Region Archivist, Sharon Deveaux, OFS, made a Power Point presentation on what fraternities need to archive.

The Region has initiated a status for members who are homebound or live a distance and are connected to but unable to attend the monthly gathering. Effective year ending 2017, those members will be considered "emeritus." They will continue to receive TAU-USA and will pay ½ of the Region fair share. At 2016 National Fraternity Chapter, the Region was given permission to formulate a document and pilot it on a trial basis. We are preparing the document.



Bob Herbelin, OFS and Cyl Maljan-Herbelin, OFS, who have relocated out of the Region, were recognized and roasted for their contributions to the Region over many years.



Sunday: Morning prayer was for Christian Unity. The Regional Fraternity approved a balanced budget for 2017. Five students from the last Spiritual Assistant/Formator Class received their Certificates of Completion. The Chapter concluded with Mass, celebrated by Fr. Stephen Gross, OFM, Conv.

FORMATION



Lucy Ibarra, OFS, Formation
Director

2017

One day Seminar on St. Bonaventure presented by Margie Rodrigues, OFS and Sylvia Paoli, OFS.

The classes on St Bonaventure to date have been scheduled as follows:

May: 20 – San Bernardino/Riverside
May 7 – San Diego
June: 10 – Orange District.

Addresses for the specific locations are available in the region's calendar at www.stfrancisregion.org

Los Angeles District please check for available space on one of those these dates:

March: 11, 18
April: 15, 30
April: 6, 21

and communicate that information to:
Frank Miller, OFS. Phone: 818-633-9322;
e-mail: frankmillerofs@gmail.com

Franciscan Leadership Program

The team is diligently working on details of the program. The goal of beginning the weekend format program in June remains and details on the cost and content of the program should be available soon.

The contact person for the Franciscan Leadership Program is Sylvia Paoli, OFS. Phone: 714-273-4078; e-mail: slpayr1213@gmail.com

Regional Retreat at Serra Retreat Center Malibu.

Date: MAY 26 – 28, 2017. (Friday - Sunday)

Topic: St. Clare of Assisi: Franciscan Woman, Leader, Healer and Friend.

Sr. Joanne Schatzlein, OSF will be the retreat master. Clicking on the following link <http://stfrancisregion.org/Home/2017-Serra-Retreat> for a flier and registration information.

REGIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS

CORRECTION: The date of the first week-end Leadership Training class is June 23 – 25, 2017, NOT April as was previously announced. Please make a note of it and let everyone know.

Eight spiritual assistants are currently working on the class Syllabus with the objective of having it available as soon as possible, but no later than sometime in May. Sorry – I can't give you a definite date. It is a massive job but we're working on it as hard as we can.

Because the week-end classes are limited in size (due to the capacity of the retreat center where the week-ends will be held), a different procedure is necessary in order to have a class in June, all of whom are totally committed to completing the entire program, which is estimated at this time to be a total of six week-ends. There is a maximum number the retreat center can hold, and they also have a minimum number required for a week-end. Therefore, we will not be able to say anyone can come who wishes, and have perhaps 35-40% drop out over time, as we have in the past. Here's the way the application process will work. An application with an accompanying list of instructions will be sent to each minister in the Region. After discussion and discernment by each fraternity's *entire* council, the council is asked to give the application to a fraternity member whom the entire council can recommend for the program. The application, when completed by the member, will be returned to his/her council, who will send it back to us (name and address for the return will be included with the original application and letter) with the council's letter of recommendation. An interview will be conducted

with each applying individual before acceptance into the class. There may be more than one recommended applicant from a fraternity, and we will take all that we can, with the limits of the center and the format of the classes in mind. We will try to have all six week-end dates available for you as soon as possible; we must first confirm them with the retreat center.

The Leadership Training program is for everyone who may someday be elected to a council, appointed to a local or regional fraternity position, or chosen to become a local spiritual assistant. It is not a change in the program that has been given in monthly classes for the last 12 years, but an addition, modification, and hopefully, improvement on that class content and presentation method. Please know that as we have visited fraternities around the region, we have been very gratified to see the great extent to which those who have previously attended the Spiritual Assistant/Formator program have helped improve formation in their fraternities. That improvement has been continuous and has resulted in a great upgrade in the quality of both initial and ongoing formation throughout the region. To that extent, you are doing exactly what the Order and the Church expects of us all, in better learning to live the Gospel life. Thank you and keep it up!

Your sister and servant,

Sylvia Paoli,
Regional Spiritual Assistant



DISTRICT NEWS

Los Angeles County: 30TH Anniversary St. Francis Fraternity



Address by Fr. Christopher Theil, OFS, Cap. At the 30 Anniversary Celebration Of the Saint Francis Fraternity

I am so grateful that we have a chance to thank God for the blessings we have received over the last 30 years. I also can't help but remember St Francis' Last Testament. He left his words with us as the gift that we inherited from Him. We can echo his own grateful words that the Lord has given us brothers and sisters. We are gifted with a Fraternity that can remind us of what is important, and what is not. A Fraternity that can inspire us, comfort and encourage us. A Fraternity that calls us to inspire, comfort and encourage others.

Among his last words was a call to renewal, "Let us begin again, for until now we have done nothing." Even in 1226 people could have argued with Francis, listing out the dozens of

things that they have done to change the lives of so many. But I suppose St Francis was afraid that looking back too much might tempt us to rest and feel justified like one of the Pharisees that Jesus warned us of. Perhaps there is a danger that we could be tempted to stop our own conversion, or our renewal of the Church, that is still falling into ruin.

I hope as we celebrate, we take the time to treasure those who were among us and are now with the Lord. We give thanks for having known so many who have shown us how to let the Lord into our hearts. We thank the Lord for the gift of our vocations, and humbly ask for the grace to be faithful to our call. We are confident that the Lord will work through us to help others discover their own vocations. We witness how the Church is renewed one soul at time, but that soul is never alone. God has been so good to us! Let us courageously share what we have received!

DISTRICT NEWS:

San Bernardino/Riverside District

Ministers from the three Fraternities in our district met at chapter setup the plans for various meetings throughout the year. This includes three district meetings of the ministers, vice ministers and formation directors. The status of those in initial formation was discussed. There will be a district retreat lead by Fr. Steve Gross, OFM, Conv. on March 11th at St Matthews parish in Corona beginning at 10:00 am.

On May 20th, Riverside San Bernardino District will host the Bonaventure Seminar at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Claremont CA. Breakfast will be provided but bring your own sack lunch and munchies to share.

San Diego County

All five fraternities in the District met at Chapter and planned events for the year. We will gather for a picnic in August, celebrate the Transitus in October, and gather at Immaculate Conception in November for a Thanksgiving celebration. We are looking forward to another year of our Franciscan life together.



PICTURES FROM CHAPTER



**Fraternal Visitor: Joan Geiger, OFS,
National Councilor and
Pastoral Visitor: Brother Alexander Escalera**



Our Minister: Judith Mussatto, OFS



**All Who Gathered
Chapter 2017**



You Are Very Special

In all the world, there is nobody like you. Since the beginning of time, there has never been another person like you. Nobody has your smile, your eyes, your hands, your hair.

*Nobody owns your voice, your handwriting,
Your unique way of communicating with others.*

You're Special.

Nobody can paint like you. Nobody has your taste for Food, music, dance or art. Nobody in the world sees Things as you do. In all time, there has never been anyone who laughs in exactly your way, and what makes you laugh or cry or think may have a totally different response in another.

So - You're Special

New
Question and Answers
(Q & A)

Is there a Minister's Manual and if yes can it be published on the website?

We do not have a Minister's Manual. However, we do have a *Council Resource Manual* which is available on the region's website. www.stfrancisregion.org. On the Home page click on **About St. Francis Region**. Scroll down the page. In the left column, towards the end of the page is [Council Resource Manual](#).

Is there a transfer Form when a member is moving in or out of a Fraternity?

Yes, and it is available on the region's website, under **Forms**.

Where can I get news and information about the global fraternity – National and International?

National: Newsletter Tau-USA, website, www.nafra-sfo.org
International: www.ciofs.org **New**. Newsletter: Vox Franciscana

Can you publish contact information for Regional Council?

In the past, fraternity ministers received by e-mail, a roster with contact information for the regional and local fraternity councils in St. Francis Region. An updated version, based on the information we receive from your marked-up rosters, will be sent to the ministers, so each fraternity will have at least one copy.

I have all these binders and papers that the fraternity has saved. What do we keep and what should we shred?

National and St. Francis Region Archivist Sharon Deveaux, OFS, has put together a power point presentation on what fraternity material we need to archive. She presented it at Chapter. You will find the power point presentation at www.stfrancisregion.org

Reminder to Fraternity Councils.

Your Annual Reports and Fair Share are due
no later than March 31st, 2017

BEQUESTS:

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:

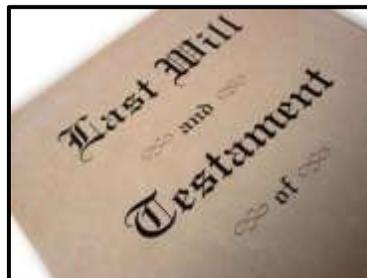
Your FRATERNITY  
Your REGION

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).
3. A CONTINGENT SPECIFIC BEQUEST:  
  
"I bequeath to (name and address) any part of my estate that other beneficiaries are unable to receive because of death or other reasons."

~~~~~  
THE ADDRESS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION IS:

276 E. Green St.
Claremont, CA 91711-5026



CALENDAR

February	Event
24 -26	Religious Education Congress. Convention Center. Anaheim
March	
3-5	Regional Executive Council Retreat and Planning Session
12	Pastoral Visit: St. Clare Fraternity (K). Westminster
April	
2	Pastoral Visit: St. Francis Fraternity (K). Los Angeles
2	Pastoral Visit: Immaculate Conception Fraternity. San Diego
22	Mass of Profession: 10:00 a.m. St. John Vianney Parish. Hacienda Heights.
23	Fraternal Visit: Blessed Luchesius and Bounadonna Fraternity. (K) Los Angeles
May	
6	Pastoral Visit: St. Louis the King Fraternity. Santa Barbara.
21	Elections: St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity. Los Angeles.

DVD of Regional Events are *now* available!!

Order Form

		Donation each set	# of Sets	Total
	2016 Regional Seminar: Multi-Culturalism Presenter: Dr. Patricia De Fretas Single DVD	\$5.00		
	2016 Regional Gathering: St. Francis and the Sultan Presenter: Rt. Rev. Alexie Smith Single DVD	\$5.00		
	2016 Regional Retreat: Franciscan Servant Leadership Presenter: Fr. Michael Higgins, TOR Two DVDs	\$10.00		
Total				

Send order to William R Mussatto
276 E. Green St
Claremont, CA 91711

Make check out to William R Mussatto and mail by March 12th.

Your Address: _____