

# Communio

That All May Be One

Newsletter of the  
Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region  
Secular Franciscan Order  
Spring 2007

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## Franciscan family commits to one voice for advocacy



My dear brothers and sisters,

I have just returned from representing the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region at a historic gathering of Franciscans in the United States. Following is my report of that gathering.

I ask all of you to share this message with as many people as possible.

The daily encounter with broken humanity and creation is a privileged place for Franciscans in the world.

Therefore, let us commit ourselves to prayer and action for the cause of peace and justice. Let us engage and pull each other together to answer the cry of the poor. Let us further pledge to follow a path of nonviolence and prayer as we make every effort to speak with “one voice.”

Thank you. “May the Lord grant you peace.”

Jerry Rousseau, SFO  
BSSF Region treasurer

How can we bring a more visible and effective Franciscan presence to the effort of repairing relationships to establish justice in the world?

More than 130 members of the Franciscan family met in Baltimore, Md., March 7–9, to discuss and discern that very question.

Participants were regional ministers, leaders, and representatives of the justice, peace, and integrity-of-creation commissions from 69 provinces, congregations, Secular Franciscan regions, and ecumenical partners (members of the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans, who serve as justice-and-peace animators) from throughout the United States. Rev. Dr. Frank Wade, who facilitated the meeting, is an Episcopal pastor.

In this meeting, Franciscan friars, sisters, seculars, and ecumenicals called for themselves

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## Minister's message

### Come follow me

"Rend Open Your Hearts" was the message of our parish Lenten mission in March.

It took us back to the reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel on Ash Wednesday, which gave us the message, "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God."

Father Philip Chircop, SJ, spoke about praying, fasting, and giving. He challenged us to pray without ceasing, to fast by emptying our lives, and to follow Jesus' words, "There is no greater love than this; to give you life to the people you love."

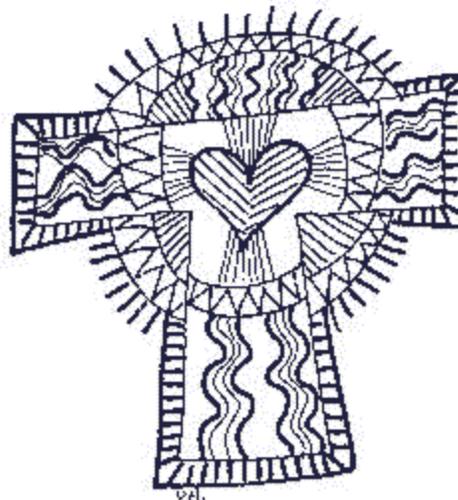
When we pray with an open heart and take away our daily distractions, God's message becomes clear.

The next step is the tough one. Saint Leo the Great said, "We must not be disobedient to the grace of God nor separate ourselves from that Good without which we are unable to be good. If we find anything impossible or extremely difficult in what we are commanded, we must not only look to our powers but have recourse to him who commands."

To give your life means to give your time, to share your gifts freely without regard to the cost. Our savior, Jesus, gave us the way and his life for our redemption. Can we not give him what he asks of our time?

Our region is growing and blessed by members with many gifts. During the visitations, I see many who give their time so freely but some who may be hesitant or uncertain of how they are called to serve.

Pray and listen to how you are invited. Serve on your local fraternity council, work together on your apostolate, serve on the regional council, and participate in local, regional, and national events. The regional elections will take place in August at the



ARG. Nominate someone or yourself to serve. Be open to the grace. Discover how to use your talents and not bury them.

This is a historic time: Franciscan religious and seculars have recently come together to discern how we can make a difference in our world. The move represents an unprecedented effort within the Franciscan family to combine resources on social justice and peace advocacy. The new "Franciscan Voice for Advocacy" will focus on peace-building, overcoming poverty, and caring for creation by bringing faith to political action.

Now for an update on the many things that have been happening.

In November, Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., our regional spiritual assistant, and I made fraternal and pastoral visitations in Western North Carolina: St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity, Hendersonville; St. Clare, Asheville; and St. Francis of the Living Waters, Franklin.

The visitation in Hendersonville coincided with our November Regional Executive Council-Commissions Gathering, so St. Francis of the Hills hosted a wonderful potluck supper for us the night before the REC-CG. During our visitation with that fraternity, Father Linus and I also presided at its council election. Welcome to

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Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, re-elected minister.

Father Linus and I were recently with Immaculate Conception Fraternity in Jonesboro, Ga., for a pastoral and fraternal visitation. Our oldest and our second largest fraternity, Immaculate Conception was established March 15, 1959, and is sponsoring two groups in Georgia: St. Monica in Duluth and Our Lady of the Holy Spirit in Conyers. Fraternity members greeted us warmly. I was privileged to spend time with our dear sister and vice minister, Cricket Aull.

Father Linus, Cricket, and I then made a visitation to St. Monica Newly Forming Group. After our review, the Regional Executive Council voted to grant St. Monica the status of emerging fraternity. Pray for them as they grow.

In February, Fr. Linus and I made pastoral visitations to Padre Pio Fraternity in Raleigh and the Fraternity of St. Clare in Winston-Salem. We learn of the many successes and few struggles in our vibrant Franciscan family. Both have newly elected councils just before and just after our visits. Welcome Nikki Hill, SFO, as minister of Padre Pio and Anne Modrow, SFO, as minister of the Fraternity of St. Clare.

The first Formation/Minister Workshop was a success. Thanks to Paula Zanker, SFO, our hardworking regional formation director. Next workshop is April 14 in Greenville, then Chattanooga, June 23. See calendar for scheduled visits.

Next Regional Executive Council and Commissions Gathering is scheduled for April 22 at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center near Asheville. Ridgecrest is also the site of our ARG this year.

May you have a joyful Easter.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him” (Romans 15:13).

Judy

**Editor's journal****Inventory time**

Now that we've got all those New Year's resolutions out of the way, how about a personal inventory?

If I've been professed for a while, am I as enthusiastic as I was the day I made that profession? More enthusiastic? If the answer to either question is "yes," what generates that enthusiasm? If the answer is "no," what happened?

Not yet professed? What do I most, and least, enjoy about the journey?

When you get right down to it, anyone can wear a tau (if you go to Assisi, for example, almost every gift shop in town has at least one rack of taus for sale). Anyone can see something to admire and imitate in Francis.

If we believe God is calling us to be Secular Franciscans, however, we follow Francis' footsteps in a particular way, by living our Rule.

Our region has summed up the Rule in the four pillars: fraternity, spirituality, formation, and apostolate. Although, he

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**JOURNAL, from page 3**

didn't call them that, it's not a stretch to see that Francis lived those four pillars:

- ❖ Francis lived *fraternity*. The Franciscan charism is community. In *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*, for instance, virtually every story shows Francis and one or more friars, or two or more friars in later years, working and being together.
- ❖ Francis lived *apostolate*, and his apostolates were with his fellow friars. One of the things that made Francis and his brother friars so radical is that they left the comfort of the walled city up on the hill (and it was the civic- and church-acceptable people who lived in the city) to go down to the plain (at that time mostly swamp) to minister to lepers and others who weren't welcome in "polite" society.
- ❖ Francis lived *spirituality*. It's been said that Francis didn't just pray—he *became* prayer. While most of us can't make five 40-day retreats every year, as Francis did, maybe we can spend more time in prayer, contemplation, and Scripture.

- ❖ Francis lived *formation*. He was a penitent, and penance means daily conversion. Am I regularly making some changes in my life to become more Franciscan?

Every year for about the last 25 years, Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, has put on the Bounty of Bethlehem, which includes a turkey-and-ham dinner with all the made-from-scratch trimmings. Some 2,500 people enjoy the bounty; anyone, regardless of their circumstances, can have a meal. The dinner is served in the Immaculata School gym, but diners can take theirs home if they don't want to eat at the school. Volunteers even deliver to the homebound.

Last year, two days before Christmas, members of my fraternity helped chop herbs for the dinner—a Christmas apostolate.

The day after Christmas, Randy Hair, one of our members who, with his family, is much involved in Bounty each year, sent me an e-mail. He wrote, in part, "It is most appropriate that you all chopped herbs—the fragrant seasoning of the meal. May we season everything with the fragrant love of Christ."

Joanita

### Congratulations to newly elected councils

Padre Pio Fraternity  
Raleigh, N.C.  
Dec. 8, 2006

Minister — Monica (Nikki) Hill, SFO  
Vice Minister — Ralph Benedetto, SFO  
Secretary — Patricia Pelletier, SFO  
Treasurer — Patty Bacher, SFO  
Formation Director — Jorge Del Valle, SFO

Councilor — Toni Brown, SFO  
Councilor — Vince McKone, SFO

Fraternity of St. Clare  
Winston-Salem, N.C.  
March 13, 2007

Minister — Anne Modrow, SFO  
Vice Minister — James Lindquist, SFO  
Secretary — David Weppner, SFO  
Treasurer — Sharon Jackson, SFO  
Formation Director — Mary Ellen  
Humphrey, SFO

Councilor — Maria Lindquist, SFO  
Councilor — Mary Miller, SFO  
Councilor — Leslie Wanchick, SFO  
Appointed apostolic coordinator:  
Betti Longinotti, SFO

**ADVOCACY, from page 1**

and the larger U.S. Franciscan family to “speak with one Franciscan voice in order to effect the transformation of national social policy.”

The gathering represented the largest U.S. Franciscan group ever assembled in the United States solely to discuss ways to be better advocates with persons who are poor, marginalized, or victims of injustice.

The meeting began with prayer, which was woven through all the proceedings. Following prayer, the participants interacted with three speakers to explore more deeply a Franciscan approach to advocacy.

Father Michael Perry, OFM, councilor for the OFM’s Sacred Heart Province, began the discussion by looking at the Franciscan charism and how it requires its followers to be engaged in the transformation of the world, or, to put it in a modern context, to be engaged in advocacy.

Next Sister Meg Guider, OSF, professor of missiology (the area of practical theology that deals with Christian missionary work) at Weston Jesuit School of Theology, explored the modern context of globalization and the reality of “American exceptionalism.”

French historian Alexis de Tocqueville first used the term “American exceptionalism” after a trip to the United States in the 1830s. According to Wikipedia, “American exceptionalism has been historically referred to as the perception that the United States differs qualitatively from other developed nations, because of its unique origins, national credo, historical evolution, or distinctive political and religious institutions.” At times, this has been used to justify an attitude of superiority to other nations.

To be most effective, Sister Guider said, our Franciscan advocacy work must boldly challenge both this assumption of superiority and how the United States interacts with the rest of the world.

Finally, Marie Dennis, SFO, director for the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, shared how religious communities have been and can continue to be effective shapers of public policy.

Each presenter was paired with a “Franciscan voice” who shared personal stories and realities. Brother Rodrigo Peret, OFM, Brazil; Mary Mwangi, SFO, Kenya; and Sister Sheila Kinsey, OSF, Wheaton, Ill., illustrated the three presentations with the experiences of those ministering with persons who are poor or marginalized. The “voices” were able to help make clear the connections between our experiences in the world and our rich Franciscan charism.

Building on the first day’s input, the meeting’s participants moved from why we

See **ADVOCACY**, page 6

**Vision Statement of the  
Franciscan Family**

Adopted March 9, 2007

We Franciscan brothers and sisters, Religious and Secular, from throughout the United States, gathered together in Baltimore, MD, to discern the possibility of a unified Franciscan Voice for justice.

With great concern for the dehumanizing issues in our society, we recognized trends contrary to our calling as followers of Christ. We see that we have the power to effectively advocate for the redistribution of resources, the responsible care for creation, and the healing of relationships within the Franciscan Family, the Church and society.

To these ends, we commit ourselves and call all members of the Family to speak with one Franciscan Voice to effect the transformation of national social policy. By walking with our brothers and sisters who are poor and marginalized, we intend to advocate for peace and to reaffirm the dignity of all creation.

**ADVOCACY, from page 5**

should have an organized Franciscan voice for advocacy to how we should establish it.

The group wrote a vision statement (see page 5) calling the Franciscan family to work together for social transformation.

From the vision statement, the participants then committed themselves to having further dialogue and finding the resources to establish a broad-based Franciscan Family Commission for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation, as well as a Center for Action based in Washington, DC.

These two structures will be launched in the next six to 12 months so that the Franciscan family in the United States will be able to effectively “walk with our brothers and sisters who are poor and marginalized ... to advocate for peace and to reaffirm the dignity of all creation.”

The meeting ended with the newly appointed steering committee “anointing” the assembly. Everyone came forward to be commissioned to work for the one-voice advocacy program. With this action, participants sealed in prayer the commitment they verbally made to one another to work together to establish structures that can bring the voice and spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare to a world that is crying out for transformation. T

**Spirituality day to focus on St. Elizabeth of Hungary**

By Cricket Aull, SFO

Immaculate Conception Fraternity  
Jonesboro, Ga.

How much do you know about St. Elizabeth of Hungary?

She was born the daughter of King Alexander II of Hungary in 1207, making 2007 the 800th anniversary of her birth. Because of this special anniversary, Franciscans all over the world are celebrating her life of love and service to God.

On April 14, St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church is joining in this anniversary celebration by hosting a Day of Franciscan Spirituality, beginning with 8:30 a.m. Mass.

The opening presentation will start at 9:30 in the adult-education room (108/110 on the lower level of the new education building.) Throughout the day, a variety of workshops will be offered.

A fascinating Franciscan family of saints and their deep devotion to God will inspire you. Learn more about St. Elizabeth, St. Francis, St. Clare, and others who dedicated their lives to this way of Gospel life.

Attend workshops on the Franciscan Order, Francis’ perfect joy, the Franciscan Crown rosary, the San Damiano Crucifix, and praying with a Franciscan saint. Visit our Franciscan “Hall of Fame” and get to know saints you may be unfamiliar with. Watch a film or two, or visit our craft room and make your own Franciscan memento to take home. Come for fellowship, information, inspiration, and fun.

A \$12 attendance fee covers your lunch and the materials you will receive. The day comes to a close at 4 p.m. as we gather for prayerful music. All workshops and presentations will take place in the new education building.

Call Cricket Aull, 770-631-8368, or Mary Mauldin, 770-478-0178, ext. 114, to register. Payment can be made at the door, but advance registration is requested. T





## BSSF Annual Gathering heads to the hills

By Judy Haupt, SFO  
Minister  
BSSF Region

Our Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region Annual Regional Gathering (ARG) has a new location: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, near Asheville, N.C.

**Mark the dates—Aug. 10-12.**

Moving to this new site is a wonderful confirmation of how the ARG is growing. In fact, this is our fifth site in just 12 years!

In 1995, 30 people attended our first ARG, held in Greenville, S.C. We moved to Maggie Valley in 1996.

From 1997 to 2001, the ARG convened at the Catholic Conference Center, near Hickory, N.C. With 92 attendees in 2001, we knew we'd outgrown that facility.

We moved to the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Charlotte, N.C., for the 2002 ARG. After five years, 2002–2006, we've exceeded the Wyndham's meeting-room capacity, with more than 180 registered to attend last year.

Now it's on the Ridgecrest.

Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, about 20 miles east of Asheville, tranquil

Ridgecrest's beautiful 1,300-acre campus climbs from valley to mountaintop. It offers guest lodging and meeting space for more than 2,000 people. Since its founding almost 100 years ago, Ridgecrest, a Christ-centered ministry, has welcomed millions of guests.

If all goes well this year, we may be able to stay for a while. We will ask for feedback, but I look forward to outgrowing a facility that holds 2,000.

Reservations will be made to BSSF instead of the facility. The meals are served buffet style and are priced to include all meals for the total event. Registration forms will be sent to ministers and leaders by May 1. Arrangements for those commuting will be included in the registration packet.

Room and meal prices are less than last year:

- Room rates, per room, per night, including tax and fees—single or double, \$71; triple, \$81; quad, \$91;
- Five meals, \$41.75 per person—Friday-night dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Sunday breakfast.

Alcohol, other than wine for Eucharist, is not allowed on the premises.

Please plan to attend the Annual Regional Gathering and encourage others to join us.

This year, 2007, we celebrate the eighth centenary of the birth of St. Elizabeth of Hungary. She is the patroness of the Third Order Regular and the Secular Franciscan Order. We plan to

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**ARG, from page 7**

focus our time together on St. Elizabeth's life and honor her in prayer.

Our annual gathering is a time of sharing and participating.

Two fraternities have offered to participate actively this year:

- St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity, Spartanburg, S.C., will coordinate the registration for the second year — Yea!
- St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity, Hendersonville, N.C., will lead the memorial service for the third year — You are great!

We'll ask the two fraternities named for St. Elizabeth of Hungary to consider preparing and leading us in the Saturday-evening prayer service or to prepare something.

Additional volunteers are sought for the special tasks of coordinating the adoration chapel and recognition of newly professed.

Please let me know if your fraternity or group would like to be a more active part of our time together.

Bring your fraternity banner, if you have one and, if not, consider making one.

I look forward to being with you. T

## Calendar

### 2007

April 14 .....Formation/Minister Workshop,  
Greenville, S.C.

April 14 .....Day of Franciscan Spirituality,  
Jonesboro, Ga. (see info, p. 6)

Secular Franciscan Retreat

"Loving In Community:

Two by Two"

Sept. 14–16, 2007

Host: Immaculate Conception

Fraternity

Everyone invited

Retreat Guide:

Father Noel Danielewicz,

OFM Conv.

Call or e-mail for reservations:

Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Monastery

2625 Hwy. 212 S.W.

Conyers, Ga. 30094-4044

770-760-0959

monastery@trappist.net

Check-in after 1 p.m. on Friday

Check-out after lunch on Sunday

Cost: \$120 (\$30 is due 60 days prior  
to the retreat to hold your room)

Questions/concerns, call:

Sheila Geist, SFO, 770-631-2890 or

joegeist@bellsouth.net

April 22 .....REC-CG, Ridgecrest, N.C.

May 20 .....Visitation: Charlotte, N.C.

May 21 .....Visitation: Hickory, N.C.

May 26–27 .....Visitation: Blairsville, Ga.

June 1–3 .....Fr. Linus: Area 1 Retreat,  
Monteagle, Tenn.

June 5–7 .....Visitations: Hilton Head Island,  
S.C.; St. Simons Island, Ga.

June 8–10 .....Visitations: Decatur, Ala.;  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

June 15–17 .....Visitations: Spartanburg, S.C.;  
Greenville, S.C.

June 23 .....Formation/Minister Workshop,  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

June 24 .....REC-CG: Chattanooga, Tenn.

July 3–8 .....Quinquennial: Radisson Hotel,  
Pittsburgh, Penn.

Aug. 10–12 .....ARG and regional elections  
Ridgecrest, N.C.

### 2008

October .....BSSF Region hosts NAFRA  
(week of 12th or 19th)

"I have rarely seen a woman more absorbed in contemplation. Religious men and women frequently saw her coming from private prayer with her face glowing with a marvelous radiance and rays of light flashing from her eyes like the rays of the sun."

—Conrad of Marburg,  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary's spiritual director

**REGIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT  
Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region**

As of 12-31-06

	Beginning of Year	At End of 1st Quarter	At End of 2nd Quarter	At End of 3rd Quarter	End of Year	
Cash balances at:						
Checking account.....	\$ 19,050.12	\$ 29,649.79	\$ 26,292.37	\$ 22,066.03	\$ 21,090.93	
Savings Account						
Other bank accounts						
Other Cash						
<b>Total Cash.....</b>	<b>\$ 19,050.12</b>	<b>\$ 29,649.79</b>	<b>26,292.37</b>	<b>22,066.03</b>	<b>21,090.93</b>	
<hr/>						
Income .....	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total	Budget
	1/1-3/31	4/1-6/30	7/1-9/30	10/1-12/31	This Year	
FSC.....	\$ 11,575.00	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 625.00	\$ 420.00	\$ 13,760.00	\$ 14,000.00
Other.....	310.00	447.00	796.07	130.00	1,683.07	
ARG Meals.....			8,520.29		8,520.29	8,520.29
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$ 11,885.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,587.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,941.36</b>	<b>\$ 550.00</b>	<b>\$ 23,963.36</b>	<b>\$ 22,520.29</b>
<hr/>						
Expenses:						
National Fraternity Fair Share.....		\$ 3,710.00			\$ 3,710.00	\$ 3,500.00
CIOFS support .....			350.00		350.00	350.00
Exec. Council-Commiss. Gatherings .....	1,285.33	766.91	453.92	470.12	2,976.28	5,100.00
ARG expenses .....			3,959.92	1,054.98	5,014.90	5,000.00
Annual National meeting .....			399.50		399.50	400.00
Charity + Anniv. Gift .....		20.00	81.00		101.00	400.00
Commissions.....		357.91	58.56		416.47	2,800.00
Communications .....		89.60	324.24		413.84	1,600.00
General Fund .....						1,000.00
ARG Meals.....			8,540.56		8,540.56	8,540.56
<b>Total expenses .....</b>	<b>\$ 1,285.33</b>	<b>\$ 4,944.42</b>	<b>\$ 14,167.70</b>	<b>\$ 1,525.10</b>	<b>\$ 21,922.55</b>	<b>\$ 28,690.56</b>
<hr/>						
Net Income or expense for the year .....	\$ 10,599.67	\$(3,357.42)	\$( 4,226.34)	\$( 975.10)	\$ 2,040.81	\$( 6,170.27)
<hr/>						
Cash balance at end:.....	\$ 29,649.79	\$ 26,292.37	\$ 22,066.03	\$ 21,090.93		
(Beginning "Total Cash" + "Total Income" - "Total Expenses")						

## The “Q” beckons SFOs

From the National Fraternity (NAFRA)

It’s a scenic river community.

In fact, it’s where three major rivers converge.

It’s also home to the Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates.

Yes, Pittsburgh, Penn., will host the 17th Quinquennial Congress. Held every five years, the congress will convene July 3 at the Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh Green Tree, 101 Radisson Drive, Pittsburgh, and run through July 8.

The “Q” Planning Committee had to change venues and relocate the congress from Steubenville, Ohio, to Pittsburgh to better accommodate the needs of the Secular Franciscan Order, reported John Sanborn, SFO, past national vice minister and “Q” chairperson.

“We are delighted with the Radisson Green Tree facility, which has a convention center and breakout meeting rooms, all in close proximity,” Sanborn said. “It will facilitate our featured presentations, the daily liturgies, and the three tracks that the congress will offer: the general sessions, the youth/young adult track, and the sessions for spiritual assistants. In addition, the meeting rooms and the hotel’s 465 guest rooms are equipped with complimentary high-speed internet access.”

The “Q” offers Franciscans of all stripes, and anyone with an interest in St. Francis of Assisi, the chance to share and explore the Franciscan charism. With a focus on celebrating cultural and ethnic differences, this year’s “Q” theme is “Many Cultures—Through Francis—In Christ.”

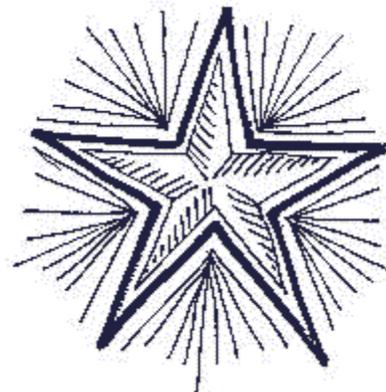
Highlighting the multicultural theme: Masses in Korean and Spanish, an Eastern rite Divine Liturgy, and an Indian Syro-Malabar rite Mass.

Three plenary sessions will feature the Rev. Eric Law, an Episcopal priest and missionary for congregation development in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. Father Law has been featured at conferences sponsored by Catholic dioceses and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

His books include *The Wolf Shall Dwell With the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community* and *The Word at the Crossings: Living the Good News in a Multicultural World*. He has served in a number of long-term multicultural ministry projects and has taught at theological seminaries in Chicago and San Antonio.

Other sessions and workshop topics include:

- “Caregiving and the Elderly,” by Patti Normile, SFO, former teacher, hospital teacher, and retreat director. Normile has written several books, including *To Live as Francis Lived: A Guide for Secular Franciscans*, which she co-authored with Father Leonard Foley, OFM, and Father Jovian Weigel, OFM. She is the author and teacher of “Caring with Faith,” a video series designed to train people for ministry to the sick and dying.
- “Spirituality in Today’s Secular World,” by Ed Shirley, SFO, professor of religious studies at St. Edward’s University in Texas and chairperson of NAFRA’s Ecumenical/Interfaith Committee.
- “Secular Franciscans and the Catechetical Ministry,” by Ron Pihokker, SFO, director of the Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., and chairman of the Religious Education Division of the National Catholic Education Association.
- “Francis, Divine Providence, and Our Secular Life,” by Javier Orozco, SFO, chaplain at DePaul University and newly elected vice minister of the Mother Cabrini Region.



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**Quinquennial, from page 10**

- Also, sessions for spiritual assistants and for youth and young adults ages 16–26.

Plans are for youth and young adults to participate in the first Franciscan Youth Congress to be held in the United States in more than 30 years. This track will include a collection of new tennis shoes and socks to be

donated to Footprints Ministry, a nonprofit organization that helps the underprivileged, begun by Rose Averill, SFO; as well as workshops on youth-to-youth leadership training, Franciscan ecology with an urban renewal restoration project, plus dances and other activities.

Spiritual assistant sessions will provide hands-on training and formation for religious and laypersons serving SFO fraternities as spiritual assistants.

The Quinquennial Congress is open to anyone who loves Francis of Assisi—his spirituality, his ability to think outside of the box, his dedication to church (despite its faults), his willingness to “embrace the lepers” of society, and his kinship with the world and its creatures, Sanborn said.

Situated just three miles from downtown Pittsburgh, the Radisson Green Tree offers complimentary airport transportation and free parking for guests.

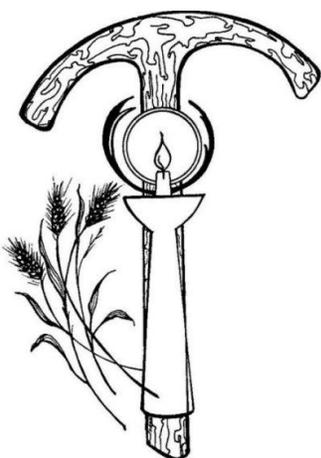
“They have given us a very favorable package,” said Patrick Mendés, SFO, national minister. “The dates remain the same and there will be a bit of savings over the previous venue. On behalf of the National Executive Council, I want to express our heartfelt thanks to (former national minister) Carol Gentile, who handled the highly successful negotiations with the hotel, and to the entire “Q” Planning Committee for their diligence and perseverance.”

Mendés encouraged all U.S. Secular Franciscans to consider attending the Quinquennial Congress and urged regional and local fraternities to send representatives.

**Quinquennial  
registration form  
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## Communio

is published four times a year for members of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region of the Secular Franciscan Order; 2007/2008 publication dates and deadlines for copy submission:



**Summer 2007** deadline, June 22

Publication date, June 29

**Fall 2007** deadline, September 28

Publication date, October 5

**Winter 2008** deadline, December 21, 2007

Publication date, December 28, 2007

**Spring 2008** deadline, March 21, 2008

Publication date, March 28, 2008

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Joanita M. Nellenbach, SFO, editor

**REGISTRATION FORM  
SFO: QUINQUENNIAL CONGRESS  
JULY 3–8, 2007**

**Opening Mass on Tuesday, July 3 at 7:00 pm  
Congress Concludes Sunday, July 8 at 1:00 pm**

**Important Instructions:**

1. Please **TYPE** or **PRINT** all information clearly.
2. Only one participant or married couple per registration form.
3. Payment must accompany this form and is **NON-REFUNDABLE**.
4. Make your check for registration and meals payable to **NAFRA**.
5. Mail this form with payment to: **Dennis W. Ross, NAFRA Treasurer,**  
8933 Trailwood Court, Mentor OH 44060-2131  
d\_ross@oh.rr.com
6. **Hotel reservations must be done separately by each person (see bottom of this form).**

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**PLEASE TYPE or PRINT CLEARLY**

<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name(s)</b>	<b>Last Name</b>			
<hr/>					
<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>Country</b>	
<hr/>					
<b>Home Phone</b>	<b>Work Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail Address</b>			

**Early Registration: # of people \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 110 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
**After May 10, 2007 the registration is \$ 150 per person.**

**Meal Plan: Tuesday Dinner through Sunday Breakfast**

**# of people \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 150 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**If received by May 10, 2007: TOTAL = \$ 260 per person**  
**If received AFTER May 10, 2007: TOTAL = \$ 300 per person**

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**Housing and the Congress are at: The Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh Green Tree**  
**101 Radisson Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205 Telephone: (412) 922-8400 www.radisson.com**  
**NAFRA has arranged for a discounted room rate of \$ 74.00 per night. Each room has twin double beds with 1 to 4 occupants possible. You should make your own room arrangements directly with the hotel prior to June 9 in order to get this reduced rate.**  
**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SHARING A ROOM AND NEED A ROOM MATE, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
**ELIZABETH ALLEN AT 619-427-4613 RATHER THEN THE HOTEL, PRIOR TO JUNE 1.**  
**The Hotel provides free shuttles to and from the Pittsburgh Airport.**