

Communio

That All May Be One

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

Spring 2009

Four pillars support our Franciscan life

The Four Pillars — Spirituality, Formation, Fraternity, and Apostolate — complement each other, effecting an approach to our Franciscan life that speaks of a thoughtful intention, informed awareness, and cooperative action.

We have our Rule. The General Constitutions and various statutes are the application of the Rule. The Four Pillars sum up the Rule — sum up our identity and way of life. Each pillar has its own qualities, but the qualities of each pillar are in all the other pillars, as well.

We were introduced to the Four Pillars at our Annual Regional Gathering (ARG) in 2004.

Region members developed the concept over a five-year period. Among those involved in formulating this approach were Audrey Binet, SFO, then-BSSF Region minister; Christine Washington, SFO, then-regional formation director; and Fr. Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., our regional spiritual assistant.

In a talk on “The Roles of Formation, Fraternity, and Apostolate in Our Franciscan Spirituality” during that ARG, Fr. Linus spoke of “the intent and purpose of the four pillars” as “the four basic elements that we see in our life.”

“These have been arrived at by the combined wisdom of those who have been in formation, those who are in formation, the ministers, the council,” Fr. Linus said. “What the minister, Audrey, and the vice minister and the councilors have seen in the course of these years; and what Audrey and I, by virtue of visitation, have been able to witness and to garner, to be able to put together and see.

“It’s not something that we just came up with and you know, because you’ve seen it in the visitation reports, it’s something we prayed about, we pondered, we reflected on, we’ve cultivated, we’ve refined and fine-tuned over the course of the years.”

That evening, ministers and leaders were given tea-light candles to take back to their fraternities. The candles’ colors represented the four pillars: “white for spirituality, green for growth and formation, blue for fraternity, and red for the fire of apostolate.”

Spirituality

Nurturing our Franciscan spirituality and its attending charism requires an ongoing dynamic attentiveness and application. Being attentive reflects the desire; pursuing the application

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The Four Pillars of Secular Franciscan Life

Spirituality



Formation



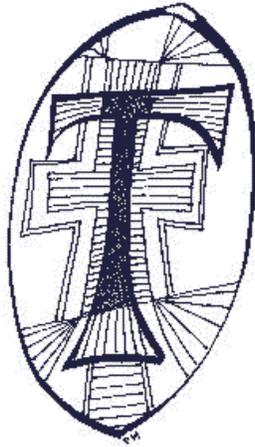
Fraternity



Apostolate



Minister's Message



Aroused by everything to divine love,
 He rejoiced in all the works of the Lord's hands
 And through their delightful display
 He rose into their life-giving reason and cause.
 In beautiful things he contuited Beauty itself
 And through the footprints impressed in things
 He followed his Beloved everywhere,
 Out of them all making for himself a ladder
 Through which he could climb up to lay hold of him
 Who is utterly desirable.

St. Bonaventure
The Major Legend of St. Francis

Welcome Spring!! New life, new beginning, new promise, new hope.

This has been a loooong and cold winter. Here in the South, we had the coldest winter in many years. Frost is usually rare, but it came many nights. The grass went brown and all was dormant.

Lent is a time of death to self but holds the promise of Easter as our spring of new life.

Today is the feast of St. Joseph, and when I went for my morning walk with the dog, the sky was blue, the grass was turning green again, and blossoms are blooming on the trees. What an awesome God who planned such wonders in our world.

In spring we plant new seeds in the ground, water them, and fertilize them to produce fruit and flowers. Sometimes my prayer life is dormant and needs to be awakened to experience the wonders of our loving God. It takes time and effort to cultivate and enliven my relationship with my Lord.

I plan to open the windows of my heart to let in the Spirit, to contemplate the joys of creation and cultivate the fruits of my Franciscan life — Spirituality, Formation, Fraternity, and Apostolate.

May the boundless love of our risen Lord fill your heart at this Easter time.

Peace and all good,
 Judy

Editor's Journal



Apostolates — ways we can reach out as a fraternity to help others and what we can do individually to take our Franciscan values into the world.

We were discussing that in ongoing formation during my fraternity's March meeting.

Others had shared what they were doing. Then Nancy Torres spoke up.

Nancy said she'd been in the checkout line in her usual grocery store. A Hispanic woman with just a couple items was ahead of her. She apparently didn't speak English and was trying to give the clerk some coupons. Maybe they were food stamps, maybe some other kind of coupons.

The clerk wouldn't take the coupons, just rolled her eyes at the other customers in line.

Nancy's husband is Venezuelan and they lived there for a year. She speaks enough Spanish

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“to be friendly,” she said, and well remembers what it was like to be a stranger in another society.

Her own cart nearly full, Nancy wheeled it out of line and found the store manager. She shopped there regularly, she told him, adding, “I will not shop anywhere where someone is being treated disrespectfully.”

“It wasn’t an idle threat,” she told me later. “I meant what I said.”

The manager asked for an explanation, and after Nancy gave him the details he went to the checkout line, asked the clerk to step away, and graciously waited on the woman himself.

In his book *Coming Home to Your True Self: Leaving the Emptiness of False Attractions*, Fr. Albert Haase, OFM, talks about paying attention:

The true self experiences, lives in and responds to the present moment. It is attentive to the divine Presence right here, right now, as it comes to us under the guise of a living person, some inanimate form of creation or an event. With childlike simplicity and spontaneity, the true self is dependent and has a relationship with thee (others) in the here and now as the sacred place of encounter with Thee (God) (p. 18).

Nancy, who made her profession in 2006, was wide-awake and fully alive to the injustice another was suffering.

“I think it’s mostly feeling what other people would feel,” she said. “It’s wonderful to be able to show a preference for the poor.”

Newly Elected Councils Congratulations

Fr. Solanus Casey Fraternity Morehead City, N.C. — Jan. 10

Minister: Norma Krajczar, SFO
Vice Minister: Pat Boni, SFO
Secretary: James Gaghan, SFO
Treasurer: Joan Davis, SFO
Formation Director: Sally Woelkers, SFO

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity Augusta, Ga. — Jan. 17

Minister: Dr. Charles Meyer Jr., SFO
Vice Minister: Dr. Kenneth Wessling, SFO
Secretary: Nora Wessling, SFO
Treasurer: T. Webb Bufford, SFO
Formation Director: Audrey Binet, SFO
Councilor: Martha Baumann, SFO
Councilor: Dr. Theresa Christie, SFO
Councilor: Gerard Ouellette, SFO

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity Fayetteville, N.C. Feb. 18

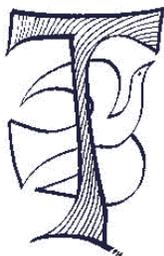
Minister: Raymond Miller, SFO
Vice Minister: Ethel Phillips, SFO
Secretary: Jeanette Cottone, SFO
Treasurer: John Reichart, SFO
Formation Director: John Reichart, SFO

Our Lady of Good Counsel Fraternity Greenville, S.C. — Feb. 21

Minister: Judy Bruce, SFO
Vice Minister: Valerie Baronkin, SFO
Secretary: Nanette M. Perron, SFO
Treasurer: Cynthia R. Gravely, SFO
Formation Director: John Bruce, SFO
Councilor: Deanna L. Mechensky, SFO

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reflects the fire.

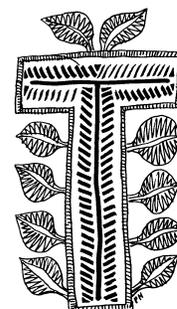


It is the spirit of God that we wish to nourish and make strong within us. This internal quest is realized through the external stimulus of prayer. Prayer, being the lifting of the heart and mind to God, establishes the direction in which we as a whole person are to go. If there is quality and sincerity in private prayer then it will be extended to communal prayer and there will be life-giving worship.

On the other hand, if there is rote recitation lacking spirit and vibrancy, then there is no prayer. Whatever prayer mode we engage — personal, communal, spontaneous, or formulary — all is to be done with a vibrancy and spirit that truly engages the Almighty.

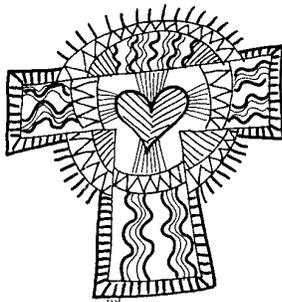
Formation

Formation is the vehicle whereby we learn to internalize and integrate Franciscan spirituality into every aspect of our Franciscan way of life. This includes our fraternity life and our good works or our apostolic life. Formation directs us to identify and use our time, our talent, and our resources. As a wise Secular Franciscan once said, “Formation doesn’t end until 10 minutes after we get into heaven!” It is a life-long process.



Fraternity

Each one has his or her idea of community life. However, as a Franciscan and within a Franciscan framework there is clarity as to what is community. It is to pray together, to learn, to serve, and to grow as members within a particular spirituality and lifestyle.



Living life in fraternity calls us to attend to the interpersonal aspects of our life together; to do things like speak the truth in love — i.e., in the love of Christ and the spirit of Francis and Clare. We are encouraged to dialogue and brainstorm regarding each one’s expectations, hopes, and vision for the fraternity.

We can sift among these pieces to find the common elements for the “good of the fraternity” rather than promoting our individual agendas.

Apostolate

Apostolic life for a Franciscan lies more in the cooperation, sharing, and participation than in the act of doing. Not to minimize acts of charity, but the Franciscan formula highlights the shared approach. So the preferred is that a community adopt an apostolic activity in which each member can participate with his or her brothers and sisters.

This visible activity to make a difference in the world will attract people to the fraternity and the Secular Franciscan Order. Others will see how you as a Franciscan community minister together. †



**Mark your calendars for Aug. 7–9
Annual Regional Gathering — Ridgecrest, N.C.
Details on page 6**

The NAFRA Triennial Election

is scheduled for October 24, 2009
at Albuquerque, New Mexico.

All Secular Franciscans are eligible to nominate someone
for the NAFRA Executive Council.

Timeline

APRIL — Notice of Election published; Call for Nominations.

JUNE — Nominations close.

JULY — Nominations Committee contacts nominees.
They accept or decline nomination.

AUGUST 15 — Deadline for nomination forms to be returned
from nominees.

AUGUST 22 — Start 9-week novena of prayer for Spirit-led election.

AUGUST 29 — Nominees' résumés sent to voting members
of the Elective Chapter

Procedure

For the office of Minister, Vice Minister, Secretary, Treasurer,
Councilor, and/or International Councilor
e-mail (preferred) **OR** snail mail

the nominee's name, address, and e-mail address
to BOTH Kathleen White and Linda Grady.

Nominations are sent to both committee members
to avoid a nomination being lost.

Committee members will continually cross-reference nominations.

Kathleen White, SFO (kdwsfo@verizon.net)
612 Front St.
Logansport In. 46947

Linda Grady, SFO (lgradysfo@sbcglobal.net)
6001 Harvard Drive
Kokomo In. 46902

DO NOT send nominations to the NAFRA-L list.
Nominations are **confidential**.



Annual Regional Gathering to celebrate Fraternity pillar

By Judy Haupt, SFO
BSSF Region minister

Fraternity and visitation will highlight this year's Annual Regional Gathering.

Set for Aug. 7–9, the ARG will be held in the same location as last year: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, near Asheville, N.C. The new walkway will be open, making it easier to walk to and from the dining room.

Presentations will focus on our Fraternity Pillar and will include small-group discussions. Each fraternity will make a three-minute statement about itself.

We will be honored to welcome Patrick Mendés (pronounced Mun-day), SFO, our national minister, who will be with us, making a visitation.

Each year fraternities have offered to participate in various activities. Thanks to the volunteers:

1. Registration will be handled by Channel of Peace Fraternity again. You are great.
2. Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Fraternity will coordinate our eucharistic-adoration chapel again. It is a special gift to all of us.
3. Immaculate Conception Fraternity will prepare the memorial service for our dear deceased members.

We still need a fraternity to prepare the recognition of newly professed and special anniversaries. Please step up to be an active part. Let me know by June 1 if you can help.

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

Good news. Price increased less than \$2 for the weekend.

Registration forms to ministers and leaders will be sent via e-mail by April 20.

Please return all four of your fraternity or group's registration forms to me in one mailing before July 9 (e-mail preferred, if possible). Attendees pay Ridgecrest when they check in.

Remember: Only sacramental wine for Mass is permitted at Ridgecrest. No other alcoholic beverages are allowed.

Our annual gathering is a special time of sharing and participating. Don't miss this community opportunity to share with your brothers and sisters.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cost Per Person includes TWO nights lodging and 5 or 4 meals:

- Option 1 — Room with two double bed; 5 buffet-style meals (Friday dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner; Sunday breakfast). One person in room, \$194; Two in room, \$121 each; Three, \$103 each; Four, \$94 each.
- Option 2 — Room with two double beds; 4 buffet-style meals (Friday dinner; Saturday any two; Sunday breakfast). One person in room, \$186; Two in room, \$113 each; Three, \$95 each; Four, \$86 each. **T**

Fraternity marks half-century anniversary

By Jan Pitts, SFO

Immaculate Conception Fraternity

Immaculate Conception Fraternity, Jonesboro, Ga., celebrated its jubilee on March 14.

We have been in continual operation since our canonical establishment in 1959 at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Atlanta, a place where our earliest professed members volunteered at the St. Francis Table.



To mark this anniversary, we celebrated a special Mass and luncheon at St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church in Jonesboro. We invited Fr. Michael Kolodziej, OFM Conv., provincial of St. Anthony of Padua Province to celebrate Mass. Fr. Gregory Hartmayer, OFM Conv.; Fr. Mark-Thomas Booth, OFM Conv.; Fr. Abelardo Huanca, OFM Conv.; and Fr. Linus De Santis, OFM Conv., concelebrated.

Bro. Nicholas Wolfla, OFM Conv., was also present, as were brothers and sisters from fraternities in and outside of Georgia. We are deeply grateful for the support of our First Order friars and fellow Secular Franciscans.

In his homily Fr. Michael reflected on our chosen Gospel reading: the story of the prodigal son. Fr. Michael likened Francis to the characters of the parable and challenged us to place ourselves in the Gospel as the father, the son, and the jealous brother.

Planning for our celebration began more than a year ago.

To honor this occasion, we received a papal blessing which was framed and displayed in the parish hall. The blessing states, "The Holy Father Benedict XVI cordially imparts the Apostolic Blessing to the Immaculate Conception Fraternity of Secular Franciscans of the Brothers and Sisters St. Francis Region in Jonesboro, Georgia on the occasion 50th Anniversary of its canonical establishment as a pledge of heavenly favours."

Great care was taken in creating a special Franciscan environment for our luncheon. Each of our 12 dining tables had a centerpiece reflecting a scene in Francis or Clare's life. A table was dedicated to memorialize our deceased brothers and sisters. Our decorations were a collaboration of contributed items from fraternity members and those scavenged, with permission, from around our Franciscan parish.

Members of the Mother Cabrini Circle donated their time to set up and serve our luncheon — Italian-themed, with a variety of salads and lasagna. We had several deserts, including, I'm afraid, a chocolate fountain. Yes, even in Lent.

Fr. Linus spoke at our luncheon and challenged us as penitents: not the sort of penitence that is inflicted through acts of self-mortification but the sort that is found in relationship with our brothers and sisters.

"We are in continuing conversion," he said.

Both Fr. Michael and Fr. Linus reminded us that we must continue to study and to learn.

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Larry Skrivan, SFO, the longest-tenured member of our fraternity, was invited to reflect on his Franciscan memories that date to childhood. His parents were both Secular Franciscans. Larry and his sister were raised in the Franciscan Youth and, as adults, became professed Secular Franciscans. His sister later discerned and followed a call to the Poor Clares.

Our luncheon concluded with the drawing of several door prizes. We are indeed thankful for all those who participated in our momentous occasion. T

Minister/Formation Director Workshops emphasize youth, communication, and conflict resolution

The first Minister/Formation Director Workshops this year attracted 35 Secular Franciscans from all five states in the BSSF Region.

Held Feb. 28 in Area 1, in Chattanooga, Tenn., the workshop's topics included Franciscan youth and young adults, communication tools, and breakout sessions for formation directors and ministers.

The next workshop is scheduled for April 25 in Area 3, in Apex, N.C., near Raleigh, N.C. The final workshop will be June 6 in Area 2, in Spartanburg, S.C. Cost of the workshop is \$14 per person and includes a continental breakfast and a lunch.

Although the workshops are primarily directed to formation directors and ministers, everyone, professed or not, is welcome to attend whichever workshop is most convenient. One of the best outcomes is networking with members of other fraternities and sharing ideas.

Chattanooga was typical of the workshop content. The day began with sessions for everyone. In the afternoon, there were separate breakouts for ministers and for formation directors. Those who were not ministers or formation directors attended whichever session they preferred.

In the morning, Timothy Taormina, SFO, Franciscan Youth/Young Adult Council member, spoke of the need for competent and thorough SFO formation if we truly wish to share the Franciscan charism with the youth of today.

"We don't lose our faith; we lose our attachment to the Church," Tim said of young adults.

He shared the importance of a well-prepared SFO fraternal animator to the youth.

"We need someone who understands what it means to be Franciscan," he said, explaining that a knowledgeable, open, and sharing SFO makes a good fraternal animator.

Even if they never become SFOs, youth need good SFO role models. Our youth who learn about Francis can then spread that knowledge into their communities. SFO formation must lead members to learn about Franciscan spirituality. They will then "have the mindset of Franciscanism," Tim said, and will be able to share that with a whole new generation.

Dale Anesi, SFO, BSSF Region vice minister and National Franciscan Youth/Young Adult fraternal animator, shared some of his personal examples of working with the youth around us.

"We do not need to begin youth fraternities to minister to youth," he said. "It only takes one person; someone who wants to spend the time with the youth can make a difference."

For more information on Franciscan Youth, especially "How To..." go to www.franciscanyouthusa.com.

Judy Haupt, SFO, BSSF Region minister, reminded everyone that effective communication requires RESPECT, and a good tool is "mutual invitation," with participants inviting each other to share, so that no one is left out of the discussion.

Faye Martin, SFO, BSSF Region formation director, spoke on conflict resolution.

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WORKSHOPS, from page 8

Conflict is normal and part of life in the Church and in the world and can begin with just two parties.

As Franciscans, we are called to be peacemakers. Conflict invites us to work with each other, coming together and seeking ways to root out causes of broken

peace and heal broken hearts.

“We grow from our differences rather than our similarities,” Faye said. “Conflict resolution is an opportunity to witness to the rest of the fraternity our love for God and our brothers and sisters” T



Spiritual Assistant Course update

By Joanita M. Nellenbach, SFO
Spiritual Assistant Course coordinator

We covered “The Ritual and Devotions” and “Church and Eucharist” in their March 14 session at St. Philip Benizi Church in Jonesboro, Ga.

Fr. Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., BSSF Region spiritual assistant, taught the class.

The class reviewed the Preface (pages 2–8) of the *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*, which states that SFOs are called to follow the “manner of Francis of Assisi” and to “live the gospel in fraternity by entering the Secular Franciscan Order.”

“I would encourage you that as spiritual assistants you take the fraternity through this preface,” he said. “It defines our parameters.”

While the *Ritual* allows for some additions to some of the rites, “We have to be careful how we augment,” Fr. Linus said. “It’s good to add pieces meaningful to the fraternity, but we don’t want to obscure the reason for the rite. ... The rite speaks to the moment, to what we’re doing in that particular thing.”

Practice before the rites so that everyone knows what to do.

It’s particularly important to note that the words of profession cannot be changed in any way. The person making profession must say:

“I, N.N., by the grace of God, renew my baptismal promises and consecrate myself to the service of his Kingdom. Therefore, in my secular state (or, when appropriate, “as a member of the diocesan clergy”) I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its rule of life. May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy father St. Francis, and the fraternal bonds of community always be my help, so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love” (“Rite of Profession,” *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*, pp. 23–24).

Regarding devotions, we discussed their importance in members’ lives.

An important determinant — a rule of thumb — in considering any devotion: “A good devotional life should bring us closer to Jesus and the Gospel. It should bring us to greater faithfulness to our Franciscan way of life. It should help us express our Franciscan spirit with greater clarity. It should make our Trinitarian spirituality obvious to all” (*Franciscan Family Connections*, pp. 88).

“When the members of your fraternity embrace a certain devotion,” Fr. Linus said, there

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needs to be a connection to our Franciscan way of life. Ask, ‘What about this devotion connects you to your Franciscan identity? What is the intent and purpose of that prayer? What do you gain from it?’ If all we do is say prayers, we’re shooting ourselves in the foot.”

Devotion to Mary is important, but she is more than the sweet picture presented in the old hymns.

“If we pursue that romantic image, we do Mary a disservice,” Fr. Linus said. “She is a woman of faith, of ‘yes,’ of perseverance, constancy, from the Incarnation to the crucifixion. Present Mary in a very solid, healthy, faith-filled manner.”

One of the most important prayers in and out of fraternity is the Liturgy of the Hours. It is powerful, it challenges, inspires, and comforts; and when said in fraternity is a way of inspiring each other.

“The fraternity provides a sacred space where many holy things happen,” Fr. Linus said. “It’s so reassuring and so supportive. We continue the journey together.”

For the chapter on “Church and Eucharist,” we discussed how the Church exists to be Christ in the world, and how Eucharist transforms us both personally and communally.

“Eucharist is sacrifice — not just for the sake of sacrifice but for forgiving, for reuniting,” Fr. Linus said.

He told us to soak up and be moved by the Gospel, to empty ourselves of self so that we can be filled with Christ.

“The day we’re not awed by what we read about all this,” Fr. Linus said, “is the day we should walk away.”

In prayer, he noted, “Know what you’re praying. Reflect on what you’re praying. Don’t just say the words. It’s not about what we’re going to do, it’s what God is going to do with us.”

The next session, date and meeting place to be determined, will cover SFO organizational structure, SFO activity in the world/leadership, and General reflections for local and regional spiritual assistants. **T**

**Born Into Eternal Life****Marilyn Dunphy, SFO****Fraternity of St. Francis, Hickory, N.C.**

Marilyn Dunphy, SFO, 85, was called home to heaven last Dec. 17. In February 2008 she suffered a stroke that left her paralyzed and speechless, but her eyes sparkled when fraternity members visited and told her about the latest fraternity happenings.

“Only the glow or shadow in her eyes could tell she understood what we were saying, or how sad she was that she could not respond with her own words,” said Ismini Frieser, SFO, fraternity minister.

Marilyn was a woman of deep faith, compassionate, generous, caring about others’ needs.

“With us she shared her love for the Gospel, her knowledge, her special gifts,” Ismini said. “The fraternity was close to her heart. Her love for God radiated around her, illuminating her surroundings with her deep spirituality.”

She served as formation director, devoting herself fervently to the spiritual formation of the fraternity’s candidates.

Marilyn was active in her church — an extraordinary minister of Communion and an apostolate coordinator — serving her parish whenever and wherever help was needed.

“We were blessed to have had her as a member of our fraternity,” Ismini said. “She is leaving us the beautiful example of a life dedicated to the way of Francis and Clare.” **T**

Regional Executive Council Recap

The Regional Executive Council (REC) met March 14–15 at St. Philip Benizi Church in Jonesboro, Ga.

Here are some of the items covered.

1. Approved 2008 actual expense/income report presented by Jerry Rousseau, BSSF Region treasurer.
2. Ratified vote to allow St. Clare of Assisi Emerging Community to be canonically established. Mass and ceremony are scheduled for May 1, 7 p.m., in St. Mary Help of Christians Church, Aiken, S.C.
3. Approved request for St. Stanislaus Fraternity in Wilmington, N.C., to change its name to St. Thomas More Fraternity (he was a Secular Franciscan).
4. Report of activities and updates on fraternities given by area councilors.
5. Reviewed list of annual reports received to date and plan to submit Region's Annual Report to NAFRA.
6. Reviewed calendar of planned and completed elections and visitations. Five elections completed. Fraternal and pastoral visitations made in five fraternities: St. Clare of Assisi Emerging Community, Aiken, S.C.; Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Fraternity, Burlington, N.C.; Franciscan Family of Greensboro, Greensboro, N.C.; Padre Pio Fraternity, Raleigh, N.C.; and St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Fayetteville, N.C.
7. Discussed plan to include all members of REC to make fraternal visitations and to expect minister of local fraternity to make the request.
8. Reviewed progress to update the BSSF Region formation manual. Faye Martin, regional formation director, working with Fr. Linus DeSantis, regional spiritual assistant; Audrey Binet and Madeline Rousseau, area councilors; Dale Anesi, regional vice minister; and Judy Haupt, regional minister. Revisions to be presented to REC before June meeting.
9. Discussed evaluations from Minister/Formation Director Workshop, held in Chattanooga on Feb. 28, and made revisions. Next workshops: Apex, N.C., April 25; Spartanburg, S.C., June 6.
10. Revised process to request Ed Campbell Scholarship for ARG.
11. Reviewed progress of spiritual assistant class; 13 members attending.
12. Determined theme of next ARG to be focused on Fraternity Pillar. All fraternities to be asked to share their activities. Small group sessions will be planned. Workshops for

Congratulations To

Marlene Dickshinski, SFO,
Channel of Peace
Fraternity,
on her 35th anniversary of
Profession
Dec. 16, 2008

Newly Professed Channel of Peace Fraternity Chattanooga, Tenn. Dec. 15, 2008

Horace Brown, SFO
Eileen Sands, SFO
Gerri Toeller, SFO

Franciscan Family of Greensboro Greensboro, N.C. January 2009

Gus Bellia, SFO
Mary Joan Bellia, SFO
Enid Dunning, SFO
Barbara Geiszler, SFO
Alice Gottschalk, SFO
Howard Kelly, SFO
Cosmas Robless, SFO
Shirley Robless, SFO
Kitty Rodgers, SFO
Mary Taylor, SFO

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council members will be offered.

13. Reviewed plan for BSSF Region visitation from NAFRA (National Fraternity) and CNSA (Conference of National Spiritual Assistants) at 2009 ARG.
14. Reviewed request for JPIC (Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation) and Y/YA (Youth/Young Adult) volunteers. Need to establish region teams.
15. Discussed needed revisions to BSSF Regional Guidelines for approval at ARG. Dale Anesi will coordinate. Send any suggestions to Dale.
16. Reviewed plan to present guidelines for preservation of records by archivist, Sara Nell Boggs, SFO, area councilor. Plan to have copies at ARG.
17. Decided on plan to review and update BSSF Web site. Dale Anesi will contact Dennis Mallon, our webmaster.

Next REC meeting June 6–7, Spartanburg, S.C.

Please send suggestions to serve on BSSF Region JPIC team and as Y/YA regional contacts.

The JPIC team will work together to plan the transition from commissions to JPIC and be the contact with National JPIC. The Y/YA regional council will also work together to explore ways to introduce youth and young adults to our Franciscan spirituality. T

Jean Baptiste Marie Vianney [who was a Secular Franciscan] was a remarkable nineteenth-century parish priest in the small town of Ars, France. When he first arrived in the town he took notice of a villager who never passed the church without entering it. In the morning when he went to work and in the evening on his way home, this man left his spade and his pickaxe at the church's door and entered in.

Noticing the man never prayed with rosary beads or a prayer book Vianney once asked him what he said to God during his long visits in the church. The man answered, "Oh, I don't say anything to God, Monsieur le Curé. I look at God and God looks at me."

Fr. Albert Haase, OFM Cap.
*Coming Home to Your True Self:
Leaving the Emptiness
of False Attractions*, pp. 88-89

Communio

is published four times a year.
2009/2010 publication dates and
deadlines for copy submission:

Summer 2009

Copy deadline, June 19
Publication date, June 25

Fall 2009

Copy deadline, Sept. 18
Publication date, Sept. 24

Winter 2010

Copy deadline, Dec. 21, 2009
Publication date, Dec. 30, 2009

Spring 2010

Copy deadline, March 19
Publication date, March 25

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Joanita M. Nellenbach, SFO,
Editor

**REGIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT
Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region
Final Report for 2008**

As of 02 April 09

	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.....	\$ 19,751.30	\$ 22,707.61	\$ 27,315.32	\$ 21,278.97		
Savings Account						
Other bank accounts						
Other Cash (SA course – incl in ckg)	(528.00)					
Total Cash.....	\$ 19,751.30	\$22,707.61	\$27,315.32	\$ 21,278.97	\$20,057.06	
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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.....	\$ 5,160.00	\$ 10,642.98	\$ 670.00	\$ 710.00	\$ 17,182.98	\$ 16,800.00
Ed Campbell Fund.....		130.00	374.18	100.00	604.18	600.00
Formation Workshops						
Stipends received/donations						500.00
General Fund reimbursements						500.00
NAFRA Chapter – day away & transport				3,192.00	3,192.00	
Total Income.....	\$ 5,160.00	\$ 10,772.98	\$ 1,044.18	\$ 4,002.00	\$ 20,979.16	\$ 18,400.00
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Expenses:						
National Fraternity Fair Share.....		\$ 4,300.00			\$ 4,300.00	\$ 4,200.00
Annual National Meeting			342.00		342.00	600.00
Annual Reg. Gather. (incl NAFRA visit)			3,758.58		3,758.58	3,300.00
REC-CG/Visitations.....	615.74	1,428.91	721.87	1,208.80	3,975.32	3,300.00
Commissions & Formation Workshops.....	420.99				420.99	4,100.00
Communication (Office & Postage).....	71.46	57.92	398.08	13.20	540.66	900.00
Spiritual Assists. (incl Course materials).....	595.50	353.44	1,000.00	594.23	2,543.17	1,000.00
Charity/Donations (incl. FAN)		25.00	430.00		455.00	500.00
International (CIOFS) Donation			430.00		430.00	500.00
NAFRA Chapter meeting – host region.....	500.00			3,407.68	3,907.68	
Total expenses	\$ 2,203.69	\$ 6,165.27	\$ 7,080.53	\$ 5,223.91	\$20,673.40	\$18,400.00
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Net Income or expense for the year	\$2,956.31	\$4,607.71	\$(6,036.35)	\$ (1,221.91)	\$ 305.76	
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Cash balance at end:.....	\$22,707.61	\$27,315.32	\$21,278.97	\$20,057.06		
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(Beginning "Total Cash"						
+ "Total Income" – "Total Expenses")						