

# Communio

That All May Be One

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

Winter 2012

## Franciscans celebrate Holy Name of Jesus each January

By Bret Thoman, SFO



Devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus developed greatly in the 14th century in Europe, even though it had been invoked by the faithful as far back as the third century A.D.

Great Franciscan saints, including St. Bernardine of Siena, St. James of the Marches, and St. John of Capistran, zealously promoted veneration of the name of Jesus.

These friars would inscribe the initials “IHS” — Latin for *Jesus Hominum Salvator* (Jesus, Savior of Mankind) — on pieces of paper. The friars would then

use the words to heal the sick, by touching the name of Jesus to people’s wounds and sick bodies. By doing this, they replaced superstitious devotion to pagan charms, or amulets, which people often wore around their necks.

The friars were also successful in convincing feuding noble families in the cities to take down the divisive symbols of their power affixed to their castles and fortresses, displaying instead the reconciling name of Jesus. Some buildings in Siena and Tuscany maintain the name to this day.

In the 16th century, the Holy Name of Jesus was introduced as a liturgical feast, while in 1530 Pope Clement VII permitted the Franciscans to celebrate the name of Jesus with its own proper Office. It is celebrated on Jan. 3.

*Bret Thoman, SFO, is a member of Immaculate Conception Fraternity in Jonesboro, Ga., and director of St. Francis Pilgrimages.*

### In This Issue

Editor’s Journal	2
REC Directory	2
Minister’s Message	3
Friar Receives Peace Award	4
Formation Director	5
Pilgrimage Announcement	6
Writing Franciscan	7
Letter from Minister General	8
New Councils	10
On-the-Road Workshop Agenda	11
Workshop Registration Form	13
Newly Professed	14
Lenten Retreat Announcement	14
Born into Eternal Life	14
Visitation/Election Schedule	15

## The Four Pillars of Secular Franciscan Life

Spirituality



Formation



Fraternity



Apostolate



**Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis  
Regional Executive Council Directory**

**Minister: Jerry Rousseau, SFO**

**Vice Minister: Frank Massey, SFO**

**Secretary: Christine Washington, SFO**

**Treasurer: Greg Savold, SFO**

**Formation Director: Faye Martin, SFO**

**Spiritual Assistant:  
Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv.**

**Area 1 Councilors**

**Willie Guadalupe, SFO; John Knippel, SFO**

**AL:** Bessemer, Decatur;

**GA:** Athens, Blairsville, Conyers, Duluth,  
Jonesboro; **NC:** Franklin;

**TN:** Chattanooga, Knoxville, Nashville

**Area 2 Councilors**

**Sara Nell Boggs, SFO; Charles A. Meyer Jr., SFO**

**GA:** Augusta, St. Simons Island;

**NC:** Asheville, Charlotte, Hendersonville, Newton;

**SC:** Aiken, Charleston, Columbia, Greenville,  
Hilton Head Island, Spartanburg

**Area 3 Councilors**

**Jane Sullivan, SFO; Paula Zanker, SFO**

**NC:** Burlington, Elizabeth City, Fayetteville,  
Greensboro, Morehead City, Raleigh, Wilmington,  
Winston Salem; **SC:** Garden City

**Appointed Positions:**

**Archivist: Sara Nell Boggs, SFO**

**Communio Editor  
Joanita M. Nellenbach, SFO**

**Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Coordinator  
Vacant**

**Youth/Young Adult Fraternal Animator  
Vacant**

**Prayer Ministry (online prayer requests)  
Vacant**

Fraternity prayer coordinators  
submit prayer requests

**Editor's Journal**

Scene from the movie "Clare and Francis": Clara, as she's called in the film, visits Francesco at the leper camp to tell him she wants to follow his way of life.

"Why?" he asks.

"To give myself to the Lord, as a bride gives herself to a groom."

"The Lord is a jealous husband, Clara," Francesco replies. "He will give you everything, but he expects you to do the same."

Makes me think of the statement, "Vocation demands our entire life," in our *BSSF Regional Formators' Guidelines for Orientation and Initial Formation* (p. 84).

You'll read a lot in this issue about formation. Jerry Rousseau speaks of it in his special report on the National Fraternity Chapter.

In her introduction to the letter from our minister general, Anne Mulqueen writes that while formation isn't addressed individually, it resonates throughout the letter: "all is formation," she says.

Faye Martin's Formation Director's column is eloquent about *For Up to Now (FUN)*, our new national formation manual.

I was one of the spiritual assistants who attended the *FUN* workshop last September. Wow! This is so much deeper than I ever imagined.

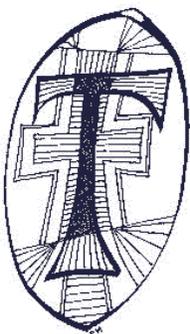
"We are on the threshold of a new era of Formation in our country," Father Richard Trezza, OFM, spiritual

assistant to the National Formation Commission, writes in the spring 2011 *TAU-USA*.

I agree. This is an exciting time to be a Secular Franciscan.

*Joanita M. Nellenbach, SFO, is Communio editor. She is a member of St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity in Hendersonville, N.C., and spiritual assistant to Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Fraternity in Blairsville, Ga.*





## A Special Message: Regional Minister's report to the Region from the National Gathering of the SFO

The following comments are taken from various presentations made to the approximately 75 members and invited guests gathered for the annual gathering of the National Fraternity (NAFRA) at the St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista, Calif., Oct. 25–30.

The theme of this NAFRA chapter was “Witnessing the Gospel Life Courageously in the World.”

Deacon Tom Bello, SFO, national minister, spoke of fraternal life as the foundation of our charism — our gift to the Church. The essential gospel quality of life is to be found in fraternal community. He referred to a new brochure on visitations that has been published and asked the ministers to focus on the sacredness of the visitations. “A visitation,” Tom said, “should be the equivalent of a Thanksgiving dinner.” The fraternity chapter is a feast. Where two or more are gathered, Christ is present. It should be celebrated in an attitude of conversion. All personal interests and power must be excluded. God must be at the center. Let us recognize the primacy of the Spirit. The Lord has called us as visitors — it is his project, not ours.

As regional minister, this was the second gathering that I have attended. The sense of belonging to a worldwide Order is very, very prevalent during these events. We share a tremendous bond and love with one another. I am humbled to represent you at this annual NAFRA gathering, and I look with anticipation to next year's gathering in Denver, Colo.

I pray that you will take time to reflect on what I am about to share with you and that in some way the fire that is within each of us will blaze with the Franciscan charism we share through our Profession in the SFO.

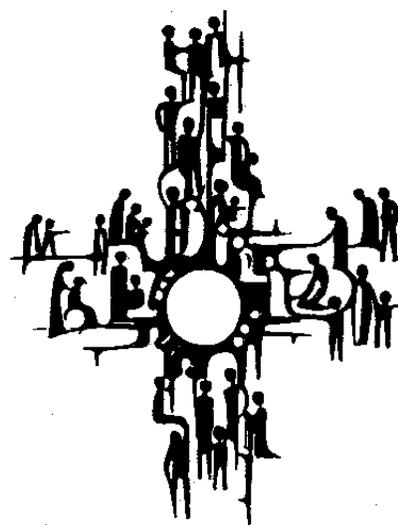
### From the National Minister's report to the Order

- **First priority — FRATERNITY:** Perhaps no aspect of the Secular Franciscan life should be of more concern to those called to leadership than the vitality of the fraternity, be it local, regional, national, or international. *Business* is not the primary concern of a fraternal gathering. Actually, Fraternity is your primary business; and I wish to remind you that the four purposes of a fraternal gathering are — in this order — prayer, formation, fraternal sharing, and only as much business as is necessary.

Because the essential element of *vital Secular Franciscan fraternities* is the spiritual, leadership must never sacrifice the spiritual to the business of the fraternity; vital fraternities must nourish a vital prayer life for all the members. Thus, every Secular Franciscan fraternity deserves *capable and well prepared persons* (General Constitutions, Article 88.1) as spiritual assistants.

If spirituality is the initial and essential element of fraternity, then that spirituality and love of the Lord must be witnessed out in the world, not put under the bushel basket of the fraternity gathering. We are to be a *community of love* (SFO Rule, Art. 22) to all the

See Regional Minister's Special Message, page 16



## Friar receives Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Award

Father Louie Vitale, OFM, known for protests against war and torture and for advocacy for the poor, is the recipient of the U.S. Secular Franciscan Order's Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Award. The award was presented at the Order's national chapter at St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista, Calif., in October.

Formerly known as the Peace Award, it was "renamed this year to capture the significant efforts in the areas of justice, peace, and the integrity of creation," said award chairman Kent Ferris, SFO, who also heads the order's Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) commission: "Our Franciscan Rule reminds us of our responsibility to 'individually and collectively be in the forefront of promoting justice by the testimony of our lives.' The JPIC Award allows us to recognize those who have modeled such courageous efforts."

Letters of nomination, Ferris noted, spoke not only of the issues Father Louie has focused on, such as nuclear disarmament, School of the Americas watch, and torture; but also on his personal lived experience.

"Father Louie is the ultimate model for us on our journey of following in the footsteps of Sts. Francis and Clare," Ferris quoted one letter. "Father Louie," said another, "sees each and every person as part of the integrity of creation and a gift from our loving God as a path towards humbled holiness."

Now 79, Father Louie resides at St. Elizabeth Church in Oakland, Calif., is an Air Force veteran who became a Franciscan friar. He cofounded the Nevada Desert Experience, a movement to end nuclear testing; and Pace e Bene, an organization that aims to transform lives through education and nonviolent action for social change. Father Louie travels extensively throughout the United States, speaking on nonviolence, the moral dimensions of torture and drone warfare, and living as a peacemaker.

He holds a doctorate in sociology and has taught classes at colleges and universities throughout the Western states. He has served as provincial of the Franciscan Friars' Santa Barbara Province and for more than a decade was pastor of St. Boniface Church in a low-income neighborhood in San Francisco, where he opened the church's doors to the homeless so they could sleep in the pews during the day.

Father Louie has engaged in civil disobedience for some four decades in pursuit of peace and justice. He has been arrested an estimated 300 times for standing up against war, nuclear weapons, drones, and the training of Latin American soldiers at what was formerly called the U.S. Army's School of the Americas. (See page 15 for excerpts from his prison letters.) The Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Award comes with a St. Francis statue and a \$2,000 prize.

In 2007 the award was revived after a lapse of several years.

Dr. Tony Lazzara, an American physician and Secular Franciscan who operates a clinic and shelter for ailing children in Peru, received the 2007 award. The 2008 award honored Marie Dennis, a Secular Franciscan who directs the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns and who is immersed in advocating on behalf of people marginalized by society, poverty, abuse, war, violence, and human trafficking. In 2009, the award went to Don Ryder, a Secular Franciscan from Wisconsin who helped save the Maasai people in Kenya from disease and drought by drilling water wells. Last year it honored Brother David Buer, OFM, for his work with the homeless and marginalized in Tucson and Las Vegas. Other prior recipients include the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mother Teresa of Calcutta. **T**





## FUN on the road to Renewal

By Faye Martin, SFO

Our BSSF Regional Executive Council continues to find ways to make sure our Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis (BSSF) Regional Formation Program is our highest priority. This past September our BSSF Regional FUN Core Group — Jerry Rousseau, SFO; Madeline Rousseau, SFO; Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv.; and I — presented three topics from the *For Up to Now: Foundational Topics for Initial Formation* Manual to the members of the BSSF Regional Executive Council (REC) and SFO commissioned spiritual assistants.

The purpose of that workshop was to begin using our new formation tool, the *FUN* Manual, with the BSSF REC members and the SFO commissioned spiritual assistants. The BSSF area councilors will be able to continue to maintain their quality of formation assistance to the BSSF REC Formation Commission and to the fraternities and groups in his [her] Area. An additional role for our spiritual assistants is to begin assisting the BSSF Regional Formation Director with the BSSF Regional “on the road” Formation Workshops.

The *FUN* Manual is well laid out, easily understood, topics have a spiritual layering, and more importantly it is sacramental in nature. Peering through our Franciscan lens, it points us to God. Like me, you may find that we have been called to be more than we could have ever imagined and humbled by our calling. *With God all things are possible.*

Since the *FUN* manual is new to everyone, we recommend that topics from the *FUN* manual be used in ongoing formation. Before fraternal sharing begins, set aside time to **gaze, consider, contemplate**, as you desire to **imitate Him**, in the manner of St. Francis. Topics are also excellent when used for a communal day of reflection or for retreats.

Our SFO vocation is our gift to the Church and those in our midst. Unique to our BSSF Region are The Four Pillars, which cluster the SFO Rule into four pillars: Spirituality, Formation, Fraternity, and (Fraternity) Apostolate. Being unfaithful to any article of our Rule/The Four Pillars is to squander the graces that each of us and our fraternities receive when we are Professed. Not only does our fraternity suffer, but our Order as well. Using the *FUN* Manual, the trained formators, who are knowledgeable, passionate, faithful, and engaged in the SFO, enkindle our form of life in those in initial formation. We must always seek to conform how we live to what we Profess.

*If this Formation Manual comes from God through you, then it will bear fruit. If this manual is mere words without the Word, then please don't bother to try to breathe life into this document. You don't have the power* (Deacon Tom Bello, SFO, national minister (*FUN* Manual)).

Each fraternity represented at the BSSF Regional “on the road” Formation Workshops will be given one copy of the *FUN* Manual, support CD, and the information to order your fraternity's *FUN* Manuals. Since the cost for the manual and CD is \$12.75, plus shipping, we are encouraging everyone to buy the set.

It is now time for the local councils to make formation the number one priority in his [her] fraternity. It begins with attending one of the BSSF “on the road” Formation Workshops. Those who attend the BSSF Formation Workshop become the *FUN* CORE Group for his [her] fraternity/group. You are asked to return and replicate the workshop to everyone in your fraternity and begin including the documents in the *FUN* Manual in your initial formation program.

Everyone is invited, but we are especially encouraging every fraternity minister, formation director, and spiritual assistant to attend the Workshop. On page 11 you will find the **agenda** and

on page 13 you will find the **registration form** for the 2012 BSSF “on the road” Formation Workshops.

*Faye Martin, SFO, is regional formation director for the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region; she is a member of Channel of Peace Fraternity in Chattanooga, Tenn.*

## Rome and Assisi Immersion Pilgrimage

Accompanied by Bret Thoman, SFO

and

Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv.

Sept. 30–Oct. 9, 2012

Rome

Basilicas of St. Peter’s, St. Paul’s, and St. John Lateran,  
ancient sites

Assisi

Transitus & Feast of St. Francis;  
All places in and around Assisi  
associated with the lives of Sts. Francis and Clare

Day Trips from Assisi to  
Mount LaVerna and hidden places in the Marches of Ancona  
like San Severino and Camerino  
(where we’ll learn about the  
newest Franciscan saint, Camilla Battista da Varano) in the Marches

For more information: Bret Thoman, SFO

770-402-4335

[bret.thoman@gmail.com](mailto:bret.thoman@gmail.com)

[www.stfrancispilgrimages.com](http://www.stfrancispilgrimages.com) for details and itinerary

## Writing Franciscan

### Fresh look at Francis's mission to Egypt

***The Saint and the Sultan: The Crusades, Islam, and Francis of Assisi's Mission of Peace* by Paul Moses. Doubleday Religion (New York, 2009). 302 pp.; hardcover, \$26; Nook book, \$14.99; Kindle edition, \$14.95. Winner of the 2010 Catholic Press Association Book Award for History.**

By Father Murray Bodo, OFM

In 1219 St. Francis traveled to Damietta, Egypt, to try to bring peace and reconciliation



between Christians and Muslims. He was mocked by the Crusaders and well received by Sultan Malik al-Kamil.

This monumental meeting, though little known, left a deep impression on both St. Francis and the sultan. Francis included a chapter in his *Early Rule* about how the friars are to go among Muslims and other nonbelievers. The sultan had asked Francis to pray for him, which he continued to do for the rest of his life. On his part, the sultan gave Francis gifts which are now on display in the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.

In a world of increasing tensions between Christianity and Islam, incited by extremists of both religions who foster violence as the only solution, the example of St. Francis and Sultan Malik al-Kamil provides a vivid image of an alternative solution: the peace of reconciliation and forgiveness.

St. Francis, of course, is the icon of Christian peacemaking, but al-Kamil, too, was a man of peace. He offered five peace plans to the Crusaders during the Fifth Crusade, and he was considered by Christians as the most tolerant of Egypt's sultans. Knighted by Richard the Lionhearted at the age of 11, al-Kamil respected Christianity and lived out the Quran's affectionate recognition of Christian monks as those whose "eyes brim with tears at the recognition of God's truth.

Surely, al-Kamil saw St. Francis as one of these holy monks. The story of these two men—Francis and the sultan—is told engagingly in this well-researched, timely and fascinating book by Paul Moses, a former *Newsday* editor and professor of journalism at Brooklyn College and the City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism.

Moses makes clear that, although what the two men actually said to one another is not known, it is certain that al-Kamil was moved by Francis' words and listened to him willingly. On his part, Francis was taken with the Muslim daily call to prayer and with the sultan himself.

All of this is dramatically narrated by Moses, as well as the bloody, hard-fought battles that preceded and followed Francis' venture into the Muslim camp.

A further strength of Moses' book is how skillfully he locates the Damietta sojourn within the whole Francis story. He shows how the young Francis' own experience—in the battle between Assisi and Perugia, his subsequent imprisonment, the shame he overcame after his conversion when he was mocked and spit upon by his fellow Assisians for renouncing his father

and, above all, when he began to live with lepers—prepared him with the courage and faith he needed to enter the camp of the sultan.

What impressed me most in this book is the privileged position Moses gives to the writings of St. Francis in trying to reconcile differing accounts of Francis' encounter with the sultan and Islam and how they show the influence of this experience, especially in the letters he wrote and in the *Early Rule* he composed after he returned from Damietta.

I highly recommend this book for readers interested in St. Francis, the Crusades, Islam and how the story of Francis and al-Kamil offers us a Franciscan approach to the interfaith challenges we face today.

*Murray Bodo, OFM, is a Franciscan priest whose books include Francis: The Journey and the Dream, Clare: A Light in the Garden, and Brother Juniper: God's Holy Fool.*

Editor's Note: This review originally appeared in the June 2010 issue of *St. Anthony Messenger*. Reprinted here with permission.



Brasile, 22-29 Ottobre 2011

## XIII General Chapter: 22-29 October 2011

Letter from our Minister General

Forward by Anne Mulqueen, U.S. councilor to the International Council of the Secular Franciscan Order (CIOFS)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Below is the final address from our Minister General Encarnación del Pozo at the recent general chapter in Brazil to YOU through me. (Note the word "All" in her greeting.) The bolded sections were essentially our final instructions for action in the next three years. And although formation was not addressed as a separate entity, the entire letter is about Franciscan formation—from consciousness raising to celebrating as a family—all is formation.

We were given instructions to stress through our lines of communication that every member of the Order—and that means the brothers and sisters in local fraternities throughout our nations—have access to the material entrusted to the international councilors. Therefore, I am asking you to make sure that not only your local ministers receive the material I send, but that they, the local ministers, understand that these messages are meant to reach every member of their local fraternities.

Only with your help will communication go from the Presidency and CIOFS to each and

every member of the Order and, thus, a sense of belonging will take root in the hearts and lives of all our brothers and sisters.

Feel free to use my message as you inform your local ministers how important it is that everyone be aware of what is happening at all levels of fraternity—that they belong to an Order beyond their local, regional, and national communities.

With fraternal affection and in peace,  
your sister Anne

From: Encarnación del Pozo, OFS, General Minister  
Sao Paulo, Brazil, October 29, 2011

TO ALL THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER  
AND YOUFRA (Franciscan Youth) IN THE WORLD.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the Lord give you peace! It gives us great joy to offer you warmest greeting from the whole chapter of the OFS, which met for the very first time in South America in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

From this place, we want to share with you the enthusiasm and spiritual energy that this chapter has given to each and every one of us.

The order is growing! It is growing not only in numbers but also in awareness of its identity, of its proper place in the Family and the Church as well as in awareness of the work it must undertake in the world in continuing the mission of Francis.

The number of emerging fraternities is increasing in all parts of the world, especially in those areas where the Church exists in very difficult conditions.

**Once again, the chapter exhorts us to be generous and to get involved in accompanying these fraternities both spiritually as well as materially and to assist them in formation.**

**Franciscan Youth is growing stronger all over the world and is a witness to us of a profound commitment of Christian and human authenticity. We have received many great signs of hope and encouragement to help us understand how much we both need each other.**

**We exhort you to love, get to know, and support YOUFRA.**

**We were forcibly and passionately challenged to discover and to live out our fundamental Christian vocation in our secular state by living radically as Francis did.**

**Our mission is that of the Church: “To evangelize is the grace and vocation proper to the Church; it is at the core of her identity” (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 14) We are called to carry out this mission with courage, generosity and creativity.**

**While we were in chapter, the Holy Father in his message, asked us “to confront with determination the evangelical challenges of this present moment, and to be builders of a civilization of love,” [and] “witnesses and instruments of the redemptive mission of the Church, announcing Christ both by word and their own example.” It is a mission which is urgent and demanding.**

**We also seriously called ourselves to reflect on our engagement to build a more just and fraternal world, to become active witnesses and not just passive and distracted observers of the injustices and extreme material and spiritual poverty that a world without God imposes on a large part of humanity and creation.**

**We can no longer sit on the fence. The Church and the world are waiting for a courageous and effective response from us. The Church and the world have a need for Francis and for the Family of which we are the part that is the largest in number and the**

most deeply implicated in every place of the world.

**There is still much to be done to create lines of stable and effective communication with all national fraternities and to fully develop a sense of belonging which is also attentive to the material necessities of the order. We need to be very much engaged in this way. The chapter reacted with responsibility and sensitivity to this issue. This is a great sign of consolation and hope.**

We experienced moments of great fellowship with many religious brothers, our spiritual assistants as well as several provincial ministers from Brazil and Paraguay. We leave with an immense sense of gratitude towards our religious brothers for the affection they have for us and for the genuine, vital and reciprocal communion that was already strong but has now grown stronger. We felt supported and surrounded by the love of our brothers of all the First Order and TOR who, through their respective ministers general and many provincial ministers, sent us messages of encouragement and expressions of warm fraternal communion.

At the Monastery of the Poor Clares at "HOPE FARM," which we visited to show our love for the Second Order and to celebrate the memory of St. Clare, we received prayerful, enthusiastic and loving support for the Chapter and for all the order. The Chapter took advantage of this special time of communion to present a preview of the message the Secular Franciscan Order will send to all the Poor Clares of the world marking the anniversary of the birth of their order.

From thousands of brothers and sisters in this wonderful country, we experienced a joyous welcome as well as a great and generous hospitality.

The whole chapter was held under the maternal protection of Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, venerated here as Our Lady of Aparecida. To her, our protectress and advocate, we entrust the whole Order that she might watch over us and lead us to the full realization of our vocation and mission.

We ask the Lord to give us "wisdom and insight" to welcome the conclusions of this general chapter with great love as well as a determination to make them part of our lives and to implement them in a courageous manner.

On behalf of all your brothers and sisters of the chapter,  
Encarnación del Pozo, OFS  
General Minister

### **Congratulations New Councils**

#### **St. Thomas More Fraternity**

Wilmington, N.C.

Oct. 16

Minister: Linda Perunko, SFO

Vice Minister: Brenda Wells, SFO

Treasurer: Marie Mallon, SFO

Secretary: Debbie Kotas, SFO

Formation Director: Bonnie Laurino, SFO

Councilor: Margaret Horan, SFO

#### **Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Fraternity**

Burlington, N.C.

Nov. 12

Minister: Paula Zanker, SFO

Vice Minister: Teresa Frazier, SFO

Secretary: Brian Ward, SFO

Treasurer: Marian Decowski, SFO

Formation Director: Carolyn Ashby, SFO

Councilor (appointed): Alan Zanker, SFO

Councilor (appointed): Kay Sutcliffe, SFO

#### **Father Solanus Casey Fraternity**

Morehead City, N.C.

Jan. 5

Minister: Charles Stephan, SFO

Vice Minister: Carolyn Peduzzi, SFO

Secretary: Peggy Hollandsworth, SFO

Treasurer: Joan Davis, SFO

Formation Director: Pat Boni, SFO

**BSSF Regional “on the road” Formation Workshop, 2012 Agenda  
Introduction to**

***For Up To Now, Foundational Topics for Initial Formation  
Manual***

<b>8:30 a.m. - 9:30 am</b>	<b>Continental Breakfast Pick up FUN Manual</b>
<b>9:30 a.m. – 10:00 am</b>	<b>Gathering Song Morning Prayer</b>
<b>10:00 a.m. – 10:15 am</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction – Faye Martin, SFO</b>
<b>10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>For the Formators, the Path to Profession</i></b>
<b>11:00 – 11:15</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>11:15 am – Noon</b>	<b><i>Vocation, Charism and Mission of Secular Franciscans</i> S-T-R-E-T-C-H</b>
<b>NOON – 12:30</b>	<b>Open Forum facilitated by morning presenters</b>
<b>12:30 – 1:15</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>1:15 - 2:00</b>	<b><i>Rite of Profession, Part 1</i></b>
<b>2:00 – 2:15</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>2:15 – 3:00</b>	<b>Rite or Profession, Part 2 S-T-R-E-T-C-H</b>
<b>3:00 p.m. – 3:30</b>	<b>Open Forum facilitated by afternoon presenters</b>
<b>3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Evening Prayer Sending Song</b>
<b>4:00 pm.</b>	<b>Adjourn – Safe Trip home</b>

**YOU WILL NEED TO BRING:**

- 1) 2-inch, 3-ring binder (anything smaller will not hold the *FUN* Manual)**
- 2) Sticky Post-Its to use as a book mark**
- 3) Liturgy of the Hours or Christian Prayer Book**
- 4) THIS Agenda**

**See Locations, Dates, and Presenters Next Page**

**Area 2 BSSF Regional Formation Workshop on March 10, 2012**  
**Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church**  
**3710 Augusta Road,**  
**Greenville, SC 29604**

- *For the Formators, The Path to Profession* - Barbara Smith, SFO
- *Vocation, God's Call* – Audrey Binet, SFO
- *Rite of Profession, Part 1* – Joanita Nellenbach, SFO
- *Rite of Profession, Part 2* – Faye Martin, SFO

**Area 1 BSSF Regional Formation Workshop on April 14**  
**St. Jude Catholic Church**  
**Family Life Center**  
**930 Ashland Terrace**  
**Chattanooga, TN 37415**

- *For the Formators, The Path to Profession* - Laura Haukaas, SFO
- *Vocation, God's Call* – Nancy Brochu, SFO
- *Rite of Profession, Part 1* – Cricket Aull, SFO
- *Rite of Profession, Part 2* – Faye Martin, SFO

**Area 3 BSSF Regional Formation Workshop on June 2, 2012**  
**St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church**  
**Trinity Center**  
**804 High House Road**  
**Cary, NC 27513 (near Raleigh)**

- *For the Formators, The Path to Profession* - Pat Wilkerson, SFO
- *Vocation, God's Call* – Jane Farris, SFO
- *Rite of Profession, Part 1* – Frank Massey, SFO
- *Rite of Profession, Part 2* – Faye Martin, SFO

**BSSF Regional "on the road" Formation Workshop, 2012**

**Registration Form**

Everyone is Welcome!

Cost per person: \$18.00

Please check the Workshop that you will be attending.

\_\_\_\_\_ Area 2 - Saturday, **March 10, 2012** @ Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 3710 Augusta Road, Greenville, SC 29604

\_\_\_\_\_ Area 1- Saturday, **April 14, 2012** @ St. Jude Catholic Church, Family Life Center Bldg., 930 Ashland Terrace, Chattanooga, TN 37415

\_\_\_\_\_ Area 3 - Saturday, **June 2, 2012** @ St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Trinity Center, 804 High House Road, Cary NC (near Raleigh)

**Name of Fraternity/Group on the following line:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Names for Registration**

1. Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclose \$18 per person.** That covers the cost of two meals and handouts. Make your check payable to **BSSF Region 61**. Send your completed registration form and payment **TWO WEEKS** before date of workshop.

Mail to:  
**Faye Martin, SFO**  
**6940 River Run Dr.**  
**Chattanooga, TN 37416**

**Congratulations  
Newly Professed**

**St. Michael the Archangel  
Fraternity**

Spartanburg, S.C.

Oct. 22

Vickie Blair Kloth, SFO

**Sacred Hearts of  
Jesus and Mary Fraternity**

Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Dec. 19

Barbara Elkins, SFO

---

**Born Into Eternal Life  
Patricia O'Connor Roach Cowan,  
SFO**



Patricia Cowan passed into eternal life on Nov. 19.

She was twice elected as an Area 2 councilor in the Brothers and Sisters

of St. Francis Region.

As a commissioned spiritual assistant, she served fraternities as pastoral visitor for visitations and as ecclesiastical witness at elections.

A member of St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity in Hendersonville, N.C., Pat made her perpetual profession on Oct. 4, 1986, and served the fraternity as minister, 1998–2000, and as formation director, 2006–2009. †

**LENTEN RETREAT**

Come away to spend time  
in prayer  
and Franciscan company.

March 9–11, 2012

New Ebenezer Retreat Center  
2887 Ebenezer Road  
Rincon, Georgia 31326

Liturgy and Lecture  
led by Father Cletus Pfeifer, OFM  
Conv.

Contact Virginia MacKenzie, SFO,  
for reservation by February 3  
843-681-5383 or  
gramadoc@hargray.com

\$150 payable to Sacred Hearts of Jesus  
and Mary Fraternity  
Mail check to Virginia MacKenzie,  
4 Barnacle Road, Hilton Head Island, S.C.  
29928

Check web site for directions  
<http://newebenezer.org/>

Includes 2 nights and 5 meals:  
overnight with 2 in room —  
Friday evening meal;  
Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner;  
Sunday breakfast, lunch

**BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION**  
**SCHEDULE OF VISITATIONS AND ELECTIONS (PROPOSED)**

\* confirmed

V+ follow-up visit

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>V/E</u>	<u>FRATERNAL / PASTORAL VISITOR</u>
<b><u>2012</u></b>			
Jan. 5*	Morehead City, NC	E	Frank Massey/Msgr. Francis Moeslein
Jan. 14*	Augusta, GA	E	Jerry Rousseau/Joanita Nellenbach
Jan. 15*	Duluth, GA	E	Willie Guadalupe/Laura Haukaas
Feb. 4*	Hilton Head, SC	V	Jerry/Kathy Taormina
Feb 8*	Fayetteville, NC	E	Jane Farris/Pat Wilkerson
Feb. 18*	Greenville, SC	E	Sara Nell Boggs/Fr. Aubrey McNeil, OFM
Feb. 25*	Garden City, SC	V	Judy Haupt/Joanita
Mar. 11*	Elizabeth City, NC	E	Jane/Pat Wilkerson
Mar. 11*	Chattanooga, TN	V	Jerry/Fr. Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv.
Apr 15*	Greensboro, NC	V	Jerry/
Apr 21*	Jonesboro, GA	E	Jerry/Fr. John Koziol, OFM Conv.
June 3	Charlotte, NC	E	Sara Nell/Br. Doug Soik, OFM Cap
June 10*	No. Charleston	V	Jerry/
June 10*	Bessemer, AL	V	Willie/
June 23*	Spartanburg, SC	V	Jerry/

**Formation workshops: March 10 (Greenville, SC)**  
**April 14 (Chattanooga, TN)**  
**June 2 (Cary, NC)**

**Quinquennial – July 3-8, 2012**

**ARG — August 3-5, 2012 (National Visitors)**

**Probable Canonical Establishments in 2012:**

Athens, GA (Feb. 13, 2012), Fr. David Hyman, OFM, delegate  
 Decatur, AL (March 10, 2012) Fr. Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., delegate  
 Conyers, GA

**Father Louis Vitale, OFM,  
 Excerpts from Prison Letters**

The cell door clangs shut. Now I am alone. But instead of trying to escape this solitude, I enter it deeply: This is where I am. Here in this empty cell I have begun to experience prison in the way James W. Douglass ... describes it: not as “an interlude in a white middle class existence, but as a stage of the way redefining the nature of my life.” (James W. Douglass, *Resistance and Contemplation: The Way of Liberation*, p. 172). I have sensed this transformation, little by little. These days are a journey into a new freedom and a slow

transformation of being and identity: an invitation to enter one's truest self, and to follow the road of prayer and nonviolent witness wherever it will lead.

I am in this little hermitage in the presence of God, in the presence of the Christ who gave his life for the healing and well-being of all. I am also in the presence of the vast cloud of witnesses, some of whom are represented in the icons that have multiplied in this cell, gifts sent to me from people everywhere: Oscar Romero, Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Day, Steven Biko, the martyrs of El Salvador, John XXIII. All those who have given their lives to fashion a more human world. At the same time I experience a deep connection with my fellow prisoners and with those outside these prison walls, including those who have sent me many letters and expressions of prayer and support.

In my little, empty cell, I experience a growing awareness of the communion of saints — and of the possibility of a world where the vast chasm of violence and injustice enforced by torture and war is bridged and transformed.

Veterans Day, November 11, 2007  
Imperial County Jail, California

As I sit in a solitary cell as a federal prisoner serving — along with Stephen Kelly, S.J., [who is serving his time in Arizona] — five month sentences for saying no to torture at Ft. Huachuca, AZ, one year ago, I reflect on the very recent act of beatification by Pope Benedict XVI of Franz Jagerstatter of Austria. Franz bears the name of Francis of Assisi and was a member of the lay order founded by that Saint which spread so widely in the 13th century carrying with it the penitent's mandate "never to bear arms." A call so successful that they were credited with bringing to an end — at least for that moment of history — all the wars of that part of the world. (A truly successful peace movement!)

---

Continued from page 3

### Regional Minister's Special Message

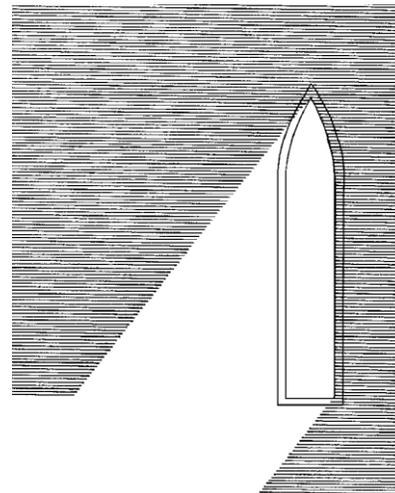
world. As Blessed Pope John Paul II told us directly at the 10th General Chapter in 2002, "The Church expects from you, Secular Franciscans, a courageous and consistent testimony of Christian and Franciscan life, leaning towards the construction of a more fraternal and gospel world for the realization of the Kingdom of God." One of the joys for me this past year has been the action of our Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission. Together with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), NAFRA embarked on a *courageous initiative* to support CRS with its Catholics Confront Global Poverty Initiative.

- **Second priority — FORMATION:** Vital Secular Franciscan fraternities need effective formation. The work now is to get this new manual, *For Up to Now: Foundational Topics for Initial Formation (FUN)*, into the hands, hearts, and minds of every local SFO fraternity involved in formation. We owe a deep debt of thanks to the Formation Commission for this incredible document and resource files.
- **Third priority — COMMUNICATION:** As I have shared with you, my preferred form of communication is one-on-one or in a small group, preferably over a meal, most especially before or after "breaking bread together" at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. My second most preferred form of communication continues to be e-mail. In addition to e-mail, I continue to write National Minister's Messages on the NAFRA Web site and in *TAU-USA*.
- **Fourth priority — YOUTH:** As I wrote last year, I need more help and prayers from all of you to attract youth and young adults into our NAFRA family. We still seek, but have

not found, a “youthful” chair, for youth needs to be represented by youth. I have talked with representatives of Franciscan Action Network (FAN) and with the executive director of the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities about plans to set up Secular Franciscan youth and young adult fraternities at our Franciscan colleges and universities in the United States. The 2011 Collated Annual Report from the regions reports a wide variety of activities with youth around the United States. Let us pray that all of us will do what we can to celebrate and encourage youth.

### From the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA)

Father Lester Bach, OFM Cap., president-in-turn, reminded us that a saint is one through whom the light shines (picture the effects of light through a stained glass window). The light of Christ is in us — whether we let it out or not. We must clean our house so we can let it shine through. We need to know “who we are”; for example, our Rule about the love of Mary is not about praying the rosary. Father Lester challenged us to look at the vitality of our fraternities. What are we doing, he asked, to enhance the vitality at regional and local levels? Nothing that we do should diminish the purpose of fraternity. It is not *our* Order — pray to let the Holy Spirit lead. “We cannot guarantee our salvation,” he said. “We must give courageous witness” (Greek translation of witness is martyr).



As regional minister, I now share the words of wisdom from the members of the CNSA with you and ask that you consider carefully what they have to say, particularly in the area of “good people” concerned about issues in the Church or the Franciscan family:

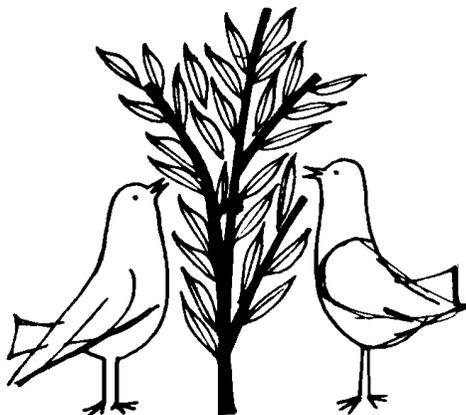
It has come to our attention that **emerging fraternities** are not always ready to move from emerging status to canonically established status. One reason for this is that many neglect to have a local spiritual assistant assigned to them early in the process. Having a spiritual assistant accomplishes two things that are important for a canonical establishment:

- a) The emerging fraternity is assured that a province of the First Order/TOR has accepted the *altius moderamen* for the fraternity. This assures the presence of a local spiritual assistant now and for the future. It bonds the fraternity to that province. Without such assurance, the *altius moderamen* does not exist as the Church requires. It brings into doubt the possibility of being canonically established if this has not been done. It is not good to appoint an SA at the last minute before canonical establishment. “The spiritual and pastoral care of the SFO, entrusted by the Church to the Franciscan First Order and the TOR, is the responsibility, above all, of their general and provincial ministers. The *altius moderamen*, of which canon 303 speaks, belongs to them. The purpose of *altius moderamen* is to guarantee the fidelity of the SFO to the Franciscan charism, communion with the Church and union within the Franciscan family, values which represent a vital commitment for the secular Franciscans” (SFO General Constitutions, Article 85.2).
- b) The spiritual assistant is a normal part of fraternity life and should be appointed *early* in the process of a developing fraternity. He/she gives the developing group a realistic experience of what a fraternity and a fraternity council will look like once they are canonically established. Without such spiritual assistance, the group lacks a vital ingredient of fraternity life. In addition, a suitable and well-prepared spiritual assistant is

a good partner in the formation process. Waiting until the last minute does not help the developing fraternity.

**The sponsoring fraternity** needs to do more than simply send a liaison to a developing group once a month or even less frequently. Unless the situation demands some kind of specific care, it is expected that various members of the sponsoring fraternity council are present at each formation session of the developing fraternity. The council of the sponsoring fraternity ultimately is responsible for appointing a council to the developing fraternity. These appointed council members (of the emerging fraternity) do an internship with the sponsoring council to learn how to serve a fraternity. Sponsoring fraternities need to be aware of these responsibilities before assuming that role. The Regional Executive Council needs assurance that the sponsoring fraternity is able to fulfill this important task. To neglect meeting these concerns is to accept fraternities with unknown or inadequate formation.

Although a committee has recently devised a brochure on **fraternal and pastoral visitations**, a brochure will not be enough. Personal sharing of information within the regions and local fraternities is needed. The brochure outlines the basic procedures of a pastoral or fraternal visitation and gives direction to conducting and evaluating both the visitation and a council's reaction to it. The follow-up evaluation — i.e., how the ideas in the post-visitation letters were implemented — is a healthy ingredient. It helps everyone to be servant leaders and better able to ascertain that suggestions and/or corrections have taken root in the local or regional fraternities.



We (CNSA) noticed that sometimes **good people, concerned about issues in the Church or the Franciscan family**, choose to disengage from people holding differing views on issues. People sincerely seek to keep the Franciscan Family from making mistakes or supporting things, people, or issues they consider to be outside the realm of our Catholic faith. Their suggestion is that we separate from groups or individuals whom they see as a danger to our faith or our way of life. Franciscans who disagree with these people or find their stance to be “out-of-touch” can fall into the trap of refusing to respect them

or to understand how they came to believe as they do.

Then the concerned people (Franciscans) respond in kind, refusing to listen to any other viewpoint. Both sides assume they are “right.” Such situations are filled with opportunities for conversion on all sides of the issue. Franciscans are called to seek to be on an *equal basis with all people, to be gentle* (SFO Rule, Art. 13, etc.). Though their concern seems legitimate, it is easy to fail to fulfill the goal of Article 19 of the SFO Rule: “[T]hey should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.” Article 13 of the Rule adds some other qualities that Franciscans must embrace: “with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ ... ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially the lowly ....”

To neglect the articles of the Rule would be to miss elements of our Franciscan spirit. Something of our “vision” is missing in Franciscans who look down on each other or treat each other disrespectfully or separate from people who seem to disagree with them. In our human situations, we all like to be “right” and help others to see it “our way.” While this is somewhat normal in our human nature, it does not fit our Franciscan spirit. Jesus and Francis and the SFO Rule call us to unity, relationships, forgiveness, understanding, compassion, humility, gentleness,

and respect for one another. In many cases dialogue is necessary. Franciscans are called to build bridges as paths to unity rather than destroy bridges and make unity impossible.

Some individuals or groups wish to be “defenders of the faith.” However, our Franciscan role calls us to maintain relationships with people in the same way that God does. Separation diminishes our ability to be good evangelists. In fact, it diminishes the very relationship upon which evangelization depends. Non-Franciscan groups may choose to disengage for their own reasons or because it fits their charism. We Franciscans cannot accept that way of acting. Instead, as Franciscans, we seek to build, maintain, and encourage relationships. We also seek to restore relationships that have been broken. One difficult part of dialogue is to listen to the other person so attentively that I can understand why they believe the way they do. It requires us to momentarily let go of our personal ideas in order to give total attention to the words of the “other.” We might say that it requires “abandonment” of our personal ideas so that we can understand the ideas expressed by the “other.” Dialogue may change our minds about what fits or doesn’t fit Franciscans. But even if we still disagree on some points, we continue to work together for the common good of the Order, the Church, and the world rather than seeking “our own way” as the only way. An even worse outcome would be to separate from one another. Dialogue is a basic and vital part of Franciscan life. Franciscans are called to live so that relationships are not broken but mended (where needed) and always enhanced. Franciscans “are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively (SFO Rule, Art. 14).

We are not committed to do everything in the Church or society. But we are called to do **our part** in building the Kingdom of God. That includes showing the world how to stay together in love even when we disagree on issues. Our ability to dialogue and respect one another must replace righteous argumentation, anger, hatred, or even the verbal or physical violence that has become such a part of society. Franciscans are called to be peacemakers, not the “winners” in every situation. To do otherwise would neglect what we are called to be: a gospel people belonging to a “community of love” (Church), with a Rule approved by the Church. These are a few things that need dialogue to enrich our understanding of the Franciscan vision. We are called to such behavior so that we are known for showing respect, reverence and especially, love, for all people: “See how those Franciscans love one another.”

### **Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)**

By this time the stage was set for Kent Ferris, SFO, JPIC Commission chair. We began with prayer and then celebration of the faithful example of this year’s JPIC Award recipient, Father Louie Vitale, OFM (see news release on page 4). We then had the review session for the webinar series, “Catholics Confront Global Poverty.” Chris West, CRS community organizer, joined us in person. Then we received a Franciscan Action Network (FAN) year-in-review and were again fortunate to have guests join us: Patrick Carolan and Christy Elliott of FAN. Finally, we talked about the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Spotlight Programs project. Wait, that wasn’t the end of the day! In the evening, there was the prayer service commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Day of Prayer for Peace! And then, the multicultural entertainers! And for the next day, a small group worked on the NAFRA statement to the Super Committee:



### **U.S. Secular Franciscan Order Demands the Deficit “Super Committee” Ensure Justice for All.**

The U.S. Secular Franciscans met for their national gathering from October 25th through 29th at the St. Francis Retreat and Renewal Center in San Juan Bautista, Calif. The

national group represents approximately 13,500 Secular Franciscans across the United States. The statement is based on the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, Chapter 2, Article 13, that they “place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ.”

**We issue the following statement to the “Super Committee”:**

Do not further oppress and penalize those who are poor and those who are already most vulnerable, here and around the world.

We realize the moment of decision is rapidly approaching, and in this critical time it is essential that you understand the impact each decision may have. Justice for all requires that we pursue the common good.

It is essential that the “Super Committee” reach a decision by November 23rd. It is morally irresponsible for this committee to delay a decision and default to the automatic cuts that are applied at a fixed percentage, doing further injustice to the poor here and abroad.

**Formation**

The following day Bob Fitzsimmons, SFO, our National Formation Commission chair, brought us up-to-date on the changes to the *FUN* Manual, including the publication of a Spanish version. Bob reminded us of the importance of formation. It is not just academic but is meant to inform the whole person of our identity, charisma, gift, and presence. We need to form Franciscan people who share Francis’ Trinitarian vision: a relationship of love overflowing. We are a fraternity of equals (leaders animate and serve). We cherish minority — esteeming others above self.

We are Gospel people seeking to imitate Jesus, and we recognize God as Lover inviting us (the beloved) into relationship. All creation is gift. Learn to embrace our littleness (lesser brothers). The reality is this: If we cannot share a gaze of love with people, we cannot do it with Jesus.

What identity are we displaying? What witness are we giving? Fraternity (our presence to our sisters and brothers) informs our identity. JPIC (our presence in the world) takes our identity to the world. We need both to enhance our identity. Our mission to the Church is our gift. We are to witness to a God who loves unconditionally (not judge, not turn others away). We are to spread the Gospel. We are to be a community of Love!



**Youth**

During this gathering we also heard from Jessica Hardinger, a representative of the youth who attended World Youth Day. She described the event as a gathering of one faith with many cultures. It was an experience of both chaos and miracle, a pilgrimage uniting so many Catholic youth and clergy. More than 14,000 priests concelebrated. She thanked the SFO for supporting

the youth who attended from the United States. They were accompanied by Father Kevin Queally, TOR (CNSA).

### Quinquennial

We then heard from Patrick Mendes, SFO, regarding the 2012 Quinquennial. Registration forms and information on the Q can be found on the NAFRA Web site (nafra-sfo.org).

### Database

While the Computer Committee (the Computer Committee takes care of the Database, supports *TAU-USA* distribution, the List Servers for communications, and the Web site) was not on the agenda, the committee would like all of us to be aware of the following in regard to the NAFRA database. This year, the National Executive Committee has decided that we need to add Profession date to all new members going forward, as this is required at many levels of the Order for record keeping and identification. We'd like to get that for all past members, as well; but it isn't required to update the old members now. It will mean that newly Professed **can't be marked as Professed and** won't get the *TAU-USA* without this information.

A database needs to be constantly maintained and updated to work correctly, and the database people need to be advised of newly Professed, lapsed, withdrawn, and deceased members. Bob Herbelin, SFO, has spent numerous hours tracking down address changes he gets for the *TAU-USA* from the USPS on returned mail, which costs NAFRA 70 cents an issue for each return. This amounts to some 300 to 400 returns an issue and a cost of up to \$1,000 a year on returned mail.

We need your help to remind fraternities in your region often to make sure this information is current. Each fraternity should keep a roster of members with contact information (name, address, phone, e-mail) and their Profession dates for their Active, Excused, and newly Professed that is updated at least yearly.

### Getting Together

Throughout the week we experienced time for prayer, fellowship and sharing among all participants and guests. The 30 regional ministers were assigned to geographic groups in which we met for some period of time each day to discern and share our experiences with one another. Our Region (Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis) was blessed to be a part of the South/Central geographic group along with the ministers for Five Franciscan Martyrs, St. Clare, Juan de Padilla, Los Tres Companeros, St. Joan of Arc, and Our Lady of Guadalupe regions.

If you care to read more highlights or to see pictures from this gathering please go to the NAFRA website and click on *Meetings and Resources*. Then under meetings click on 2011 NAFRA gathering.

I wish all of you and yours a happy, holy, and healthy New Year.

Peace and All Good,

*Jerry*

*Jerry Rousseau, SFO, minister of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region, is a member of Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Fraternity in Blairsville, Ga.*

*Communio* is published four times a year:  
mid-January, end of March, end of June, and end of September or  
October. Send news and information for publication to the editor at  
sfowriter@att.net.