

Communio

That All May Be One

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

Winter 2016

Words of Wisdom from Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv.

On Pilgrimage, Sept. 15, 2005: “In the Eucharist we see surrender, peace, and submitting to the will of God. Forgiveness is the core. Lack of forgiveness anchors us and we cannot move. God in Jesus Christ is the only one who could



Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., at the hermitage of Soffiano, Sept. 15, 2005, during a Secular Franciscan pilgrimage to Italy's Marches Region and Assisi.

make full reparation. When we are submitting to that virtue of forgiveness, we know who we are.

“Is our prayer interrupted by the difficulties and challenges of the world? Do we maintain the communion with the world when we are in pain? Do we trust God in those most desperate moments of sickness, trial, sorrow, or loss?

done? Do we pray in gratitude for their presence among us in life? Do we pray in supplication for their eternal rest?”

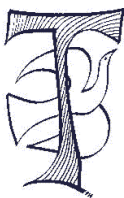
“What is our reverence for those who have passed from this life? Do we honor the good they have

During the Area 1 Retreat, May 2015:

“You are always in my prayer. I am part of you.”

The Four Pillars of Secular Franciscan Life

Spirituality



Formation



Fraternity



Apostolate





Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., carries the Eucharist in procession during a BSSF Annual Regional Gathering.

Photo by Ralph Kwiatkowski, OFS

Editor's Journal: Love Is Nothing Unless Shared

Several years ago, I asked Father Linus how he had decided to become a Franciscan friar and a priest.

He said he'd known since he was quite young that he had a vocation. The priests at his home parish (St. Stanislaus in Baltimore, Md.) were OFM Conventuals, and one in particular, Father Bruno, who was very holy and hardworking, was his hero.

Father Linus said he knew that he "wanted to work for people and with people and that's what the Order offered." I remember him also saying that he saw how the friars interacted with each other, "and that's what I wanted."

I think Father Bruno must have looked down from heaven and smiled on his protégé.

What a blessing Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., was to his Order that he served in so many capacities for more than 50 years; to the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region, which he served as our spiritual assistant for 16 years; and to me as my spiritual director for the past nine years.

He encouraged my writing and taught me so much about what it means to be a Franciscan and a spiritual assistant.

The website for his province, Our Lady of the Angels, describes him as "a loving man who truly understood the meaning of pastoral ministry for the entire Syracuse University Family."

Father Linus understood the meaning of pastoral ministry in our Region, too. He gave us so many gifts: his time, his wise guidance and council. In homilies, retreats, days of recollection, pastoral visitations, pilgrimages, he offered words that encouraged us to grow as Secular

Franciscans and in our love of God; he consoled us, laughed with us, challenged and uplifted us. He was totally present to us when he was with us.

Even after he transferred from Kennesaw, Ga., to Syracuse, N.Y., he was still available by phone or email; and he was with us for our Annual Regional Gatherings (ARG) and for spiritual assistant training. The words of wisdom he sent to the Regional Executive Council were shared with our Region in *Communio*.

He gave us so much, but what did we give him?

He taught us, but we also taught him. "We mentor one another, you see," he said, "so it's not six months or a year or two."

As we loved him, so he loved us. I recall that during a retreat, he told us, "You'll never know what it means to me to be with you."

A few years ago, we began singing, at the

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ARG, Jerry Aull's song, "Ridgecrest Roads." The first time we sang it, Father Linus wasn't in the room, so we sang it again the next time he came in. And we've sung it ever since.

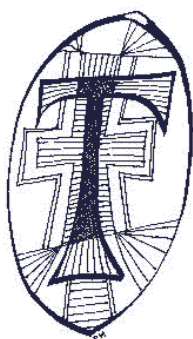
That line, "Come and find us, Father Linus." There will be tears if we sing it at this year's ARG, and we'll miss it if we don't.

We'll miss the signature raised eyebrows, the smile, the mellow baritone voice, the booming laugh, the total attention he gave us as a group and to anyone with whom he met individually.

But Father Linus will still come and find us — or we will find him — every time we recall something he said or did that continues to inspire us as Secular Franciscans.

Pace e bene
Joanita

Joanita M. Nellenbach, OFS, 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.



Minister's Message: New Beginnings

Greetings of hope and joy in the name of our Lord, dear sisters and brothers!

Our heavenly Father offers us the opportunity for new beginnings every day. There is always movement in creation — a new day dawns and unfolds into the beauty of that day; ultimately, opening to the twilight of the day and then nightfall. Birth brings new life; earthly life leads to death and the gift of eternal life.

A new year brings anticipation of what lies ahead — the changing of the seasons give us pause to ponder the beauty that comes with each spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Time ticks away and all is ordered by God. The future is the present, then the present is the past and on and on, it seems as in the blink of an eye. To me, the constant is God and his path for me as I journey through life, never knowing for sure what the future holds; but trusting in his love and providential care and guidance as I listen for the Spirit's promptings to show me the way.

A new beginning for me is to serve you, my sisters and brothers, as regional minister. I am thankful for each of you who serve our Region as servant leaders on the Regional Executive Council and the local Fraternity councils. I am thankful for every brother and sister in our Region as we journey together to build community, learn and share with each other, strive to live Gospel values, and offer God's love and peace to all.

Our Region has been deeply saddened by the loss of our beloved Father Linus, who has embraced Sister Death. Father Linus was a gift from God who exemplified the very essence of all things Franciscan and priestly. How fortunate we have been to have him guide us and love us for so many years! We can honor Father Linus by continuing on our Franciscan journey, putting into our daily lives all that he gave birth to in us, the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region, and by becoming the creation that God has chosen us to be. St. Francis said, "I have done what is mine to do; may Christ teach you yours." Truly, Fr. Linus did what was his to do for us and for all whom he touched in his lifetime. May we learn what is ours to do.

At our Annual Regional Gathering this year, we will have a Chapter of Elections for our Regional Executive Council. Again, new beginnings; but the path, made by all those who have served before us, will continue for all who will say "yes" to serving our Secular Franciscan

Order as we always begin anew each and every day that God gives to us.

“May the Lord bless you and keep you! May he show his face to you and be merciful to you! May he turn his countenance to you and give you peace!” (St. Francis, “A blessing for Brother Leo”)

*Your sister in Christ and St. Francis,
DorothyAnn*

DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS, minister of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region, is a member of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Fraternity, Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation: The Call of JPIC — Once Again

By Carolyn D. Townes, OFS

When I received the email last summer from Atilio Galimberti, OFS, of the International Presidency, asking me to be a part of the newly formed International Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, I was elated. Immediately accepted and thanked the Lord for the opportunity to serve more of my Franciscan family.

I had worked with Atilio in the past and knew he had a Franciscan heart for justice and peace; having chaired the International Presence in the World Commission. It was such a joy working with him that I did not hesitate on this opportunity to work with him again.

The International JPIC Commission, formerly Presence in the World, is a brand-new commission of the International Presidency. The purpose, as with all JPIC Commissions, is to bring greater awareness of peace and justice, through the lens of our Franciscan charism, to the hearts and minds of our Secular brothers and sisters. From this awareness, prayer and action can proceed.

Commission members are five Secular Franciscans from four continents: Europe, Asia, and North and South America. Our names were submitted to the Presidency at its meeting in November, and we were approved. So now the great work can begin! As it is a new Commission, we are in the process of creating all things new, including a new logo for the website and a handbook that can be adapted globally. I have shared the *JPIC Animators Handbook* I created for us here in the States to use as a guide.

During this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, my prayer is to bring a greater awareness of Franciscan peace, justice and compassion to all the brothers and sisters around the world. I thank God for giving me the grace to do what is mine to do.

Carolyn D. Townes, OFS, the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region's JPIC animator, is a member of Our Lady Queen of Angels, Emerging Community, in Columbia, S.C.; the National JPIC Commission; the International Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation; and the Franciscan Action Network Commission.



Born Into Eternal Life: Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv.

By Joanita M. Nellenbach, OFS

Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., and Sister Death embraced each other on Dec. 1, after he suffered a massive heart attack on Nov. 29 and two more heart attacks on Dec. 1.



He entered Franciscan life as a member of St. Anthony of Padua Province, headquartered in Ellicott City, Md. The province combined with Immaculate Conception Province on May 5, 2014, to become Our Lady of the Angels Province.

During our 2014 Annual Regional Gathering (ARG), in his homily at Mass on Aug. 2 (the feast of Our Lady of the Angels of Portiuncula), Father Linus told us of his new province's first commemoration of its feast day.

Speaking of Mary's patience, openness to God's will, and how she became her Son's disciple, he said how glad he was that his province could take its inspiration from her.

Father Linus served as spiritual assistant to the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region, 1999–2015.

He was instrumental in our Region's formation program. His was the idea for the Four Pillars of Secular Franciscan Life (Spirituality, Formation, Fraternity, Apostolate), a concept unique to our Region. He wrote the introduction to "The Four

Pillars of the BSSF Region" in the *BSSF Regional Formators' Guidelines for Orientation and Initial Formation*.

"These (Pillars) have been arrived at by the combined wisdom of those who have been in formation, those who are in formation, the ministers, the council," he said in his presentation when the Four Pillars were introduced at the ARG in 2004.

They were developed because of "what the minister, Audrey (Binet, OFS), and the vice minister and the councilors have seen in the course of these years," he said, "and what Audrey and I, but 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, but it's something we prayed about, we pondered, we reflected on, we've cultivated, we've refined and fine-tuned over the course of (five) years."

Father Linus was deeply involved in the training that prepared our Secular Franciscans to serve as commissioned spiritual assistants. He taught the first course, 1998–1999. Then he, Audrey; Faye Martin, OFS; and I were the SA Teaching Team that trained those in the next two courses: 2012–2013 and 2014–2015. He also wrote the ceremony we use for commissioning our spiritual assistants after they complete their training.

Bernard Lee DeSantis was born in Baltimore, Md., on Sept. 7, 1943.

Entering St. Joseph Cupertino Novitiate in 1961, he took Linus as his religious name. He professed his Temporary Vows on Aug. 15, 1962, and his Solemn Vows on Aug. 15, 1965. Bishop Edwin B. Broderick ordained him to the priesthood on May 22, 1971, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany, N.Y.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from St. Hyacinth College and Seminary in 1966 and a Master of Divinity in Theology at St. Anthony-on-Hudson, 1967–71, he earned a Master of Arts in English from the University of Dayton in 1972.

Father Linus taught in high schools staffed by his province: St. Francis, 1971–1976; and Archbishop Curley, 1976–1979. He served his province as a definator, guardian, and principal, 1979–1982, and was the registrar for St. Hyacinth College and Seminary at the same time as he

was providing pastoral assistance at St. Stanislaus Parish, in Chicopee, Mass., 1982–1988. He also served as a member of the province's Parochial Concerns Commission, 1997–2001.

His first campus ministry position was at Western Connecticut State University, 1988–1991, before returning to Maryland as the guardian of St. Joseph Cupertino Friary while working as the registrar for the Washington Theological Union in Silver Spring, Md.

After four years as assistant regent of studies, he moved to Lithia Springs, Ga., in 1994 to serve as parochial vicar of St. John Vianney Church.

In 1996, he returned to campus ministry. This time he served the Roman Catholic student body and staff needs of Kennesaw State University and Berry College before becoming director of the John G. Alibrandi Catholic Center's campus ministry for Syracuse University and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY–ESF), where he served for the last eight years of his life.

On Dec. 4, a Franciscan wake service for Father Linus was held in the St. Thomas More Chapel in the Alibrandi Center. Bishop Gregory Hartmayer, OFM Conv., of Savannah, Ga., preached the homily.

He was celebrant, Dec. 5, in the Franciscan Church of the Assumption, in the presence of Bishop Robert J. Cunningham of Syracuse on Dec. 5 at the Mass of Christian Burial. OFM Conventual and diocesan priests concelebrated, and Father Brad Milunski, OFM Conv., vicar provincial, Province of Our Lady of the Angels, preached the homily.

Audrey, Faye, and I attended these services. Charles Meyer, OFS, area councilor, BSSF Region, joined us in Baltimore for the Memorial Mass in St. Casimir Church and the interment in the friars' mausoleum in St. Stanislaus Cemetery. Father Milunski was celebrant and homilist, with priests from the province concelebrating.

Several fraternities in our Region have celebrated Masses or held prayer services in honor of Father Linus. Father James McCurry, OFM Conv., provincial of Our Lady of the Angels Province, celebrated a Mass for Father Linus in Lithia Springs, which a number of our Region's members were able to attend.

Editor's Note: Thank you to Our Lady of the Angels Province for permission to use information about Father Linus from its website www.olaprovince.org.

Joanita M. Nellenbach, OFS, 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.

Journeying With Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv.

By Audrey Binet, OFS

In 1998, after consultation with my local spiritual assistant, Father Sam Zebron, OFM Conv., I offered myself for nomination as minister of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region.

I was elected at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, N.C., with about 54 brothers and sisters present. It was our second year to meet at that location. We had outgrown Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley, N.C.

During the years of 1995 and 1996 — after the establishment of our region on Oct. 20, 1994 — our leadership



had become dysfunctional. In 1997, Ed Campbell, OFS, offered his services as interim minister for one year.

1998 was the year to “begin again” as a Region. I knew that our top priority was to find a spiritual assistant for the region. I began the search. Somehow, I connected with Father Bart Karwicki, OFM Conv., and he continued the search during the next year. To my knowledge, Father Linus was the only friar who showed an interest.

In 1999, at our regional meeting at the Catholic Conference Center, Father Linus made his first appearance. I remember Louise Charnock, OFS, my roommate, saying, “Hurry, hurry, he is here!”

Then, I met Father Linus! My spirit immediately determined that he was approachable, interested, and willing to serve. We would be good as a team.

It was time for Father Linus to experience his first meeting. Our council had gathered at a long table before the brothers and sisters. I sat at one end, he at the other end. I recall commenting, as I introduced him, “How handsome he is,” and all agreed. This was the beginning of my journey with Father Linus.



So, what next? Father Linus did not have a clue about our entire situation and I, professed in 1993, did not know much more. I had not been given any paperwork. Our council had begun to meet in Greenville, S.C., the home of our treasurer Nancy Ferro, OFS. Ed Campbell was always present at our meetings and gave us verbal guidance. Father Linus joined us.

Father Linus and I agreed that we wanted to meet our brothers and sisters in the region's fraternities. We decided

that we would travel together and conduct visitations and elections. Father Linus lived in Lithia Springs near Augusta, Ga., where I lived. Louise Charnock, OFS, our regional secretary, would accompany us as chaperone. She also lived close to me in Augusta.

Father Linus admitted that he had not traveled with a woman, and I admitted that I had never traveled with a priest. And off we went to explore our region. We got lost many times. A “navigator” would have been very helpful.

Even so, we continued in a joyful Franciscan spirit. Father Linus was my example of Franciscan spirituality. I was his example of a Secular Franciscan. He referred to me as his mentor. His Franciscan presence was pure gift and such an opportunity for me to deepen my Franciscan spirituality.

I am recalling our interactions with the fraternities. He always gave me the lead. I, in turn, most often had him present when I reviewed the records, so that he would learn about the fraternity and we could “be on the same page” during our visitation or election.

The one suggestion that he made after we had joined a fraternity to view a film was that we must always have reflection questions to use in discussing the film. I recall another situation where I let a sister tell us what we should do. His comment: “It was good you let her express her suggestions. I would not have done so well.”

The idea of the Four Pillars for the region came as we drove, discussed, and recorded our experiences of a visitation or election. Father Linus had the format and I had the pen. We conferred with our regional formation director, Christine Washington, OFS, and sought the approval of the council.

The timing was after six years of travel and at the closure of my six years as regional minister. Father Linus left the Four Pillars as my legacy. I leave them as his gift to us.

For me, his most profound words were “less is more.” With those words in mind, I will close. The journey with Father Linus has been the highlight of my Franciscan journey and a treasure to cherish. I am missing his presence, his spiritual direction and his wisdom. Thank you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As Father Linus said right up front, “You surely are into the Holy Spirit.” Amen.

Audrey Binet, OFS, is a member of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity in Augusta, Ga., and spiritual assistant to Our Lady Queen of Angels, Emerging Community, in Columbia, S.C.

Remembering Father Linus

By Jerry Rousseau, OFS

Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., touched my life. For me, he was “Barnabas” — the encourager.

Through the years I was privileged to listen to his words of wisdom during retreats, Annual Gatherings, meetings, pilgrimages, and personal visits. His Franciscan spirit and charism were always as big as life. His infectious laugh and raised eyebrow are embedded in my memory.

He helped me grow in faith and in my vocation as a Secular Franciscan. He reminded me often that we all have been given “listening” minds, souls, and spirits. Why? To know God’s will.

Father Linus taught me the secret to sanctity: to approach Scripture as a prayer. To truly pray the words found in the Bible, especially those that we pray each day in the Liturgy of the Hours. Whenever we prayed the Office together, it felt like Holy Ground.

But, most of all, he helped me see that it is only through Forgiveness, Mercy, and Franciscan Peace that I am set free to follow God’s will for me. When I approached him with my frustrations and sometimes anger over a situation or a person with which I was dealing, he would gently remind me of the Church’s mission — the salvation of souls — and therefore the mission of Secular Franciscans (OFS Rule, Art. 6).

He would ask me if I prayed for all God’s people to eventually achieve eternal life. After I would say “absolutely,” he would then say, “Well, then, if you want this person to be treated according to God’s will, you must let go of your feelings (and judgments) and recognize that this individual is created in God’s image and that God wishes for him/her to achieve salvation. Therefore, if you wish the same, you should not go around chastising and grumbling about him/her.”

In other words, if you say, “I refuse to forgive or dialogue with this person,” you are really saying, “I refuse to pray for this person created in God’s image and whom I hope to meet in heaven.” You are not following God’s will.

Father Linus made me understand that I cannot follow God’s will in my life if I do not have “a Heart at Peace.”

Madeline and I are indebted to him for helping us recognize the depth of our vocations. We miss him very much. He will always be in our prayers and a part of all that we are as Secular Franciscans.

Jerry Rousseau, OFS, is a member of the Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Fraternity in Blairsville, Ga., and former minister of the BSSF Region. He serves the OFS as national treasurer.



Spiritual Assistants Recall How Father Linus Inspired Them

Compiled by Joanita M. Nellenbach, OFS

Photos by Stephen Smith, OFS

In past issues of *Communio*, we ran Father Linus's words of wisdom. For this issue, *Communio* asked our local spiritual assistants what words of wisdom Father Linus had given them that have helped them as spiritual assistants and how he influenced them in that ministry.

These are the responses we received:



Cricket Aull, OFS:

What I especially appreciate in my memory of Father Linus is his encouragement to others. He seemed to always find the time and offered his time with genuine interest and good humor. I think he knew how to live in the present moment with God and with others. May we also learn to appreciate and apply those graces from God to live this way ourselves.

Nancy Brochu, OFS, spiritual assistant to St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Bessemer, Ala.:

The most time I spent with Father Linus was when I entered the very first spiritual assistant course in the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region. The first day of class Father asked me a question. I gave my answer and he looked at me and said "MORE." I knew then that he was the kind of teacher I needed to

take me out of my shell and push me further.

I traveled quite a bit to attend these sessions to become a spiritual assistant and was concerned about the cost (although my fraternity paid for me I was concerned about what they had to pay and how long I would be on the bus and away from home). Even after the course was finished, Father would tell me time and time again over the years not to worry about the money to get to ongoing sessions — that I would work it out.

I remember calling him one time because I did not agree with the way a situation was being handled in one of the fraternities and, after he listened to me tell him the issue, he just calmly said, "Nancy, peace. Nancy, be at peace."

I think I will remember Father Linus most for his ability to help me get myself back to a feeling of inner peace when things felt like they were falling apart. I will miss him dearly but will always remember his saying not to worry and to be at peace!

Rest in Peace Father Linus!

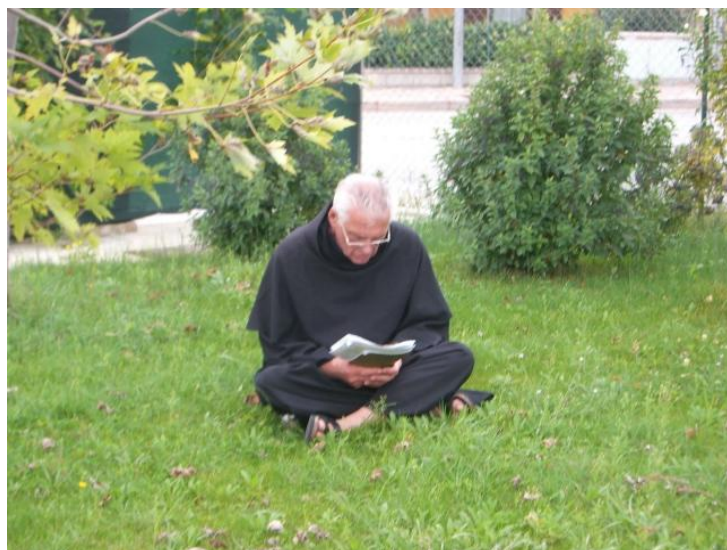
Margaret Horan, OFS:

Father Linus challenged me to look deeply within myself and to see where I am "being" Franciscan. All through my SA training, his insights and words of encouragement gave me the confidence to believe in myself and that it was God's plan, that he was in charge. There are a few words that Father Linus said to me last August that I keep remembering: "Yes, Margaret, you

can do it!" I feel that God blessed all of us who had the opportunity to journey to become SAs through Father Linus was a special gift that I will treasure always.

Faye Martin, OFS, spiritual assistant to Sts. Francis and Clare Fraternity, Knoxville, Tenn.:

I have been blessed as a member of the BSSF-SA Team. I learned so much, but I have finally chosen one of Father Linus's many comments, "We know you are Catholic, but how are you Franciscan?" Father Linus's brevity was always filled with plenty of wisdom. He wanted to make sure spiritual assistants understood and lived our Franciscan charism. Every aspect of our life should be animated by our Franciscan "form of life." Thank you, Father Linus.



Joanita M. Nellenbach, OFS, spiritual assistant to Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Fraternity, Blairsville, Ga.:

His wisdom, guidance, generosity, and deep, loving, and joyful Franciscan spirit are examples for me as a spiritual assistant and as a Franciscan.

Father Linus's ability to be in the present moment and to totally focus on

the person with whom he was speaking inspires me to that same focus.

He had a great deal of patience and a positive outlook. "Pazienza. Have patience," he said when I fumed over something that wasn't happening quickly enough to suit me. "Developing a via positive — a positive way — will help you learn patience."

"Slow down," he told us during the Liturgy of the Hours at our Annual Regional Gatherings. "Pray the psalms; don't say the psalms. See each line as a separate image."

"Pray the psalms aloud in private prayer," he told me. "They are then prayed with more attention, more slowly." And, "Immerse yourself in a deeper prayer life."

Always, trust in God and be open to what God asks of us. "The Spirit inspires, leads, guides," he said. "God has created us with certain abilities. When we pray to the Holy Spirit, it's not about getting an answer to what you should do; it's about asking to be open to recognizing God's plan ... being patient, waiting for what God is going to show you, and recognizing it."

Deacon Ed Radmacher, OFS:

The words I hear echoing in my mind are: "Where do you see Jesus in that situation, and what is he trying to tell you?" The influence he had on me was to always realize it's not about me, and to see things through the eyes of St. Francis.

Barbara Smith, OFS:

Father Linus was such a kind and gentle soul; but when he spoke, he spoke with conviction, from his heart. He would listen attentively to whatever one had to say to him, but he did not hesitate to speak directly to the issue. He was a person with a larger-than-life persona.

It was a joy to hear and see him laugh. He spoke eloquently. Needless to say, he had a profound affect on me, as well as others. He will be missed, but I believe that his words and

actions will effect a much closer walk with Jesus, Sts. Francis and Clare, and him (Father Linus).

At the Area 1 Retreat in May these were some of Father Linus's words that particularly influenced me:

"We are to own our history to enrich and influence our faith life, to draw strength, and to ask: How have I lived the Gospel? What have I come away with? How can I improve me?"

"Jesus was meant to live poverty, humility, and simplicity, to show us the way."

"Examination of conscience is a daily experience. Aim at that particular challenge (revealed in the examination). Judgment does not belong in our faith life. Think positively, and when we are sincere in our quest, Christ will give us insight into Christ's presence in others. How do I serve my brother and sister? What has been accomplished for the day in ministry?"

"We are rooted in peace. (As Jesus said) I am the vine and you are the branches. Now is the time to live as Jesus lived."

"We are to develop an attitude of gratitude."

Jamie Smith, Barbara's son, has driven her everywhere, including to spiritual assistant training and to our Annual Regional Gatherings. He offered this:

"If I could have chosen a dad, it would have been Father Linus."

Kathy Taormina, OFS, Queen of Peace regional spiritual assistant:

I participated in the first BSSF SA Class, led by Father Linus, begun in 2008. At that time we were all new to what the class was meant to be and what we were meant to learn.

The one concept that Father Linus drilled into our heads was that we were to "see through a different lens, through the pastoral eyes of a spiritual assistant." That, although we remained Seculars, we were to be in fraternities and to see them in a new and pastoral way, not just a fraternal way any longer. He taught us to "always be open to the Spirit to lead and guide," to which all the faithful are called.

What Father Linus taught me in the BSSF SA class I now use in the Queen of Peace regional SA class, so his lessons live on! The most impactful statement, though, was the note on my homework once where he wrote that my "uniqueness will provide another portrait of God" for those who know me; that was quite comforting and yet quite funny at the same time!

Patricia Wilkerson, OFS, spiritual assistant to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Fraternity, Burlington, N.C.:

What endeared Father Linus to me was his genuine desire that we lay Franciscans could be SAs. He believed in us and told me to stay strong in our calling.

To all in our BSSF Region:

**We are collecting words of wisdom or encouragement
that you recall from Father Linus,
anything from emails, conversations, talks, or homilies
you remember him giving.**

**If you have quotes or paraphrases that you could share, please send them to
Cricket Aull through Jerryaull@gmail.com.**

We will be sharing them at the ARG this August.

Thank you.

Peace and all good, Cricket

Feasts of joy celebrate Franciscan presence

By Virginia MacKenzie, OFS

Our journey, Nov. 1–Dec. 2, began in Lisbon, Portugal, with Mass at the shrine at Fatima and ended a month later in Cape Town, South Africa. In preparation for the trip, I went on somewhat of a scavenger hunt to find Secular Franciscans who wanted to meet us along the West African coast. Emails went out to about six countries with replies from two: Togo and Angola. Further emails went back and forth.

When our ship docked at Lome, Togo, my husband, Bob, and I were greeted at the gangway by Adolph Assagba, OFS, minister of the fraternity in Lome. Adolph took us to the office of the mayor to meet Fogan Adegnon (Joseph), OFS, who is the Lome mayor in the morning and the director general of the port in the afternoon. Joseph is also a retired navy admiral and the national OFS minister for the country of Togo. Joseph was not elected mayor; he was appointed by the president of Togo.



Bob MacKenzie (left) and Father Peter greet children at St. Anthony Parish School.

Adolph then took us to St. Anthony of Padua Church where we met a Franciscan priest, Father Peter, who is from London and has been in Africa 15 years.

Father Peter took us over to his parish school. When the children saw us, they swarmed around us yelling, “White people, white people!” in their native language.

The children come from such poor families that they haven’t learned the French spoken in Togo, much less English. They rubbed our hands to see if we were black under the white skin.

One little girl, about 4 years old, even licked my hand to try to see if the white paint would come off. They were precious.

We then had a delicious lunch, hosted by Joseph, in a beachside restaurant. We were also joined by another Secular Franciscan, a recently retired Togo Air Force colonel who has been flying relief missions for the United Nations in Liberia. It was a feast of joy, which ended all too soon but not before many hugs and kisses on both cheeks like the French do.

We were overwhelmed by the warmth and graciousness of our hosts. It was like we had known them for years. How Franciscan to make strangers feel welcome.

When we landed in Luanda, Angola, we were met by Kiala Kanu, OFS, who is a steel supplier for much of the building going on in Luanda. He is also the national OFS minister for the country of Angola, which is 60 percent Catholic. God bless the Portuguese missionaries.

We were escorted to the Church of Our Lady of Fatima for their 10:30 a.m. Mass, was packed with about 900 people. When they celebrate Mass in Angola, the focus is on “celebrate.” It is a joyous service. The young choir sang like angels with only the accompaniment of drums. Several dozen people who will be baptized on Easter Sunday came to the front during the Mass. After Mass, Father asked us to stand up to be introduced. The entire congregation stood and clapped.

We then went to their regular Fraternity meeting with about two dozen Secular Franciscans.



Virginia MacKenzie, OFS, and husband, Bob, join in the gathering of the Secular Franciscan Fraternity in Luanda, Angola.

Numerous photographs were taken. After the meeting, they had prepared a lavish buffet with every kind of food you can imagine, including wine and their special pineapple juice. The big surprise was French champagne. Several people made toasts to our visit, and I made one at the end: “America,

Angola, Amigos.” Truly, another feast of joy.

It is such a beautiful thing that one can go to the other side of the world, meet Secular Franciscans, and feel instantly that they are our friends, our brothers and sisters, and our soul mates, united in our love for God and for St. Francis. We are one huge worldwide fraternity that loves each other no matter where we live. We are Franciscans and that’s what we do.

Virginia MacKenzie, OFS, is a member of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Fraternity, Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Secular Franciscan Websites

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

www.bssfsfo.org

National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States (NAFRA)

www.nafra-sfo.org

Consilium Internationale
Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis (CIOFS)

International Council of the
Secular Franciscan Order

www.ciofs.org

Congratulations! New Councils

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity

Raleigh, N.C., Nov. 18

Minister: Carmen Madero, OFS

Vice Minister: John Reichart, OFS

Secretary: To be appointed later

Treasurer: Rod Allen, OFS

Formation Director: Fred Arsenault, OFS

St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity

Hendersonville, N.C., Nov. 21

Minister: Peake Dana, OFS

Vice Minister: Randy Hair, OFS

Secretary: Diane Salkewicz, OFS

Treasurer: Jim Costello, OFS

Formation Director: Mark Taylor, OFS

Councilor: John Knippel, OFS

Councilor: Teresa Knippel, OFS

Councilor: Greg Savold, OFS

St. Camilla Battista of Varano — Mystic and Inspiration

Story and Photos by Bret Thoman, OFS

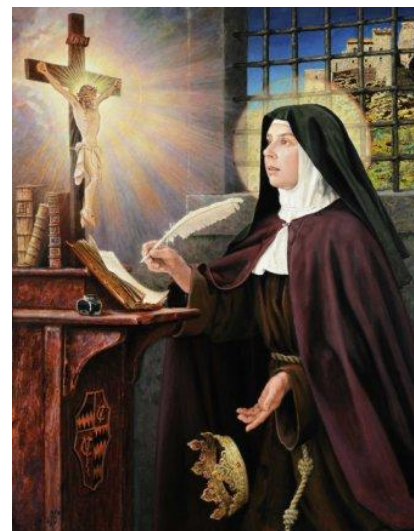
Just over five years ago, on Oct. 17, 2010, I was in St. Peter's Square for the canonization Mass of six men and women. One of them was St. Camilla Battista of Varano (1458–1524), a Poor Clare nun who lived in Central Italy during the Renaissance.

I had in hand a special ticket granting me a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enjoy the canonization while seated in the privileged “*sagrato*” — the area in front of St. Peter's façade — just a few yards away from Pope Benedict XVI.

I arrived about an hour early and after clearing security — and braving the usual chaos when throngs of pilgrims, tourists, and the curious come together for a huge papal event — I took a seat a few yards away from the still-empty papal throne.

Shortly thereafter, prime ministers, dignitaries, and royalty were escorted in by elderly Roman tuxedo-clad noblemen. Seated a stone's throw away from me, they were dressed to the hilt in splendid ceremonial uniforms complete with medals, sashes, coattails, and high hats. Next, dozens of cardinals and bishops processed in and filled the white travertine limestone with a sea of red and purple.

Finally, four Swiss Guards came out from under the portico in full Renaissance uniforms with helmets, lances, and swords, indicating the Holy Father's imminent arrival.



St. Camilla Battista's canonization banner



The Poor Clares — Sister Vittoria, OSC (left); Sister Chiara Viktorija, OSC; Sister Augustina, OSC; Mother Chiara Laura, OSC (abbess); Sister Laura Cristiana, OSC — in the crypt of their monastery in Camerino. A mannequin of St. Camilla Battista of Varano is in the glass sarcophagus; her remains are concealed beneath the mannequin. Sister Chiara Viktorija, who is from Ukraine, was a novice when this picture was taken but made her Solemn Profession on Sept. 14, 2014, the feast of the Triumph of the Cross.

Pope Benedict XVI, riding along in his “popemobile,” made his way among the crowd. After incensing the altar, he ascended to his papal throne at the highest place in the “*sagrato*.” Thus, began a two-hour liturgy rich in choir music, chant, prayer, incense, and splendor — all flawlessly orchestrated.

I was there thanks to the Poor Clare nuns of Camerino, who safeguard the relics and memory of St. Camilla. A year earlier, the sisters had asked me to translate her writings into English in light of the upcoming canonization. The special ticket I had was their way of saying thanks.

I looked up at the façade of St. Peter's Basilica. I couldn't help noticing that Camilla's banner was placed last out of the

six. However, it seemed appropriate, as she lived her converted life following the Scriptural verse: “The last shall be first” (cf. Matthew 20:16). Yet, there was also some irony in the whole

event as Camilla had begun her life surrounded by similar pomp and pageantry but finished it in poverty at the foot of the cross.

I learned a lot about Camilla as I translated her writings. Her father, Duke Giulio Cesare of



The hilltop town of Camerino, in Italy's Marches Region.

Varano, was the powerful ruling lord of Camerino, about an hour from Loreto, where we now live. Though Camilla was illegitimate, her father treated her no differently from his other children. She grew up in the splendid Renaissance court surrounded by high culture: poets, historians, philosophers, and painters were all regular guests of the duke. She learned Latin and read the classics; she was fond of painting, played musical instruments, and loved to dance.

According to her autobiography, she described her

childhood as vivacious and playful and said she loved beautiful and pleasurable things. Above all, she was passionate for the courtly life.

During Lent in 1466, however, everything changed. A Franciscan friar exhorted her to shed a little tear each day in memory of Christ's Passion. It was this penance/devotion in which her conversion began. When she was 18, after a series of difficulties including a dramatic break with her father, she entered a Poor Clare monastery following the Franciscan reform of the Strict Observance. She took the name Battista.

Embracing the reform, Camilla Battista lived a life of harsh penance and asceticism within the monastery. She committed herself to continual suffering with her beloved Christ where he was: on the cross. But she also dedicated herself in loving service toward her neighbor, beginning with her sisters. She emphasized living the virtuous life, faithfulness toward her vows, and service toward others as essential to a healthy spirituality.

Camilla was endowed with notable intellectual qualities and is known for her writings, which were read and meditated on by the likes of St. Philip Neri and Cardinal Charles Borromeo. This is remarkable also for the fact that women writers were neither common nor taken seriously then.

Writing in Latin and in the vernacular Italian, her writings focused heavily on the cross. Her first work was *Lauda della Visione di Cristo* ("Praises of the Vision of Christ"). In it, she describes a relationship with Christ that is familiar and confident, almost casual. At the same time, she also wrote a work in Latin on the Passion of Christ. Later, in 1483, she wrote *Ricordi di Gesù* ("Memories of Jesus"), in which she reveals mystical experiences that took place after entering the convent.

Her best-known work was written in 1488 and is the height of her meditations on the Passion: *I Dolori Mentali di Gesù nella Sua Passione* ("The Mental Sorrows of Christ in His Passion"). This work focuses not so much on the corporal sufferings or the physical wounds of Christ, as much on the sufferings of his heart.

Between 1488 and 1491, she underwent a painful period of spiritual desolation in which she felt God's absence. Nevertheless, she wrote various prayers to God the Father, Jesus crucified, the Eucharist, and the Virgin — all reflecting her profound interior and prayer life. During this

time she wrote her long autobiography in the form of a letter. Known as *Vita Spirituale* ("Spiritual Life"), it describes her life before entering the convent, details of her conversion, and mystical experiences after entering.

In 1501, she wrote *Instruzioni al Discepolo* ("Instructions to the Disciple") which is chock full of practical advice and counsel for living the spiritual life inside or outside the monastery. Finally, in 1521, she wrote *La purità del cuore* ("Purity of heart"), her most mature work.

Some of her writings may be difficult to understand. They also may seem foreign or somewhat archaic, as we are less accustomed today to focusing on penance and suffering. Yet, reading the mystics, who spent so much time in prayer and meditation, remains an authentic form of prayerful meditation and devotion. As St. Camilla wrote in *Spiritual Life*: "These things cannot be easily spoken of, but rather contemplated by the grace of God."

In St. Camilla, I gained not only an intercessor but an example, a friend, a guide.

Bret Thoman, OFS, is a member of Immaculate Conception Fraternity in Jonesboro, Ga., and director of St. Francis Pilgrimages. He is the author of From Worldly Princess to the Foot of the Cross: The Life and Writings of Saint Camilla Battista, Varano, O.S.C. (Tau Publishing, 2012).

REC Recap

By Christine Washington, OFS

A number of changes affecting the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Regional Executive Council were announced at our Oct. 30–31 meeting on Oct. 30–31. Here is a recap of what went on at the meeting .

- At the NAFRA Chapter of Elections, Oct. 13–17, Jerry Rousseau, OF, our BSSF Region minister, was elected NAFRA (National Fraternity) treasurer; Willie Guadalupe, OFS, our Multicultural Commission chair, was elected a national councilor; and Carolyn Townes, OFS, our Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation animatrix, was reappointed NAFRA JPIC animatrix. Carolyn was also appointed to the International JPIC Committee. We congratulated all three of our BSSF Region members who are now serving on our National Executive Council.
 - Jerry announced that effective immediately DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS, one of our Area 2 councilors, is now our regional minister. Frank Massey, OFS, who had been serving as an Area 3 councilor, is appointed regional vice minister.
 - Audrey Binet, OFS, announced that spirituality will be receiving greater emphasis in the spiritual assistant training curriculum.
 - In her JPIC report Carolyn noted that she sent out the new 12-week Season of Peace in September.
 - Sara Nell Boggs, OFS, regional formation director, reported that the National Formation Workshop included sessions on listening and Franciscan spirituality.
 - Willie, in her Multicultural Commission report, said that *The Franciscan Journey* has been translated into Spanish and that it has been requested that the *Essential Documents of the Secular Franciscan Order* be translated into Spanish.
 - In the Area 1 report, we discussed the centennial celebration of Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary Fraternity in Nashville, Tenn.
 - Carmen Madero, OFS, area councilor, will be added to the nominating committee for our upcoming BSSF Region elections in August 2016. Other committee members are DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS, and Nancy Brochu, OFS.
 - Jerry reported that we are involved in twinning with the Secular Franciscans in Uganda.
- These are just some highlights of the meeting. As you can see, our BSSF Regional Executive

Council is working hard to serve the needs of our brothers and sisters in our region.

Christine Washington, OFS, is the secretary of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Regional Executive Council and a member of St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity in Bessemer, Ala.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION CALENDAR SCHEDULE OF VISITATIONS AND ELECTIONS

*confirmed

V+ follow-up visit

(observers in parentheses)

2015Fraternity/Location**V Fraternal/Pastoral Visitors****E Presider/Ecclesiastical Witness**2016

Jan. 9–10	Stigmata of St. Francis, Duluth, GA	V	Julie Lorenz/Lori Moran
Feb. 12–13	St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Augusta, GA	V	DorothyAnn Rowland/Barbara Smith (Dcn. Ed Radamacher)
*Feb. 20–21	St. Thomas More, Wilmington, NC	V	Frank Massey/Pat Wilkerson
Mar. 19–20	Sts. Francis and Clare, Knoxville, TN	V	Barbara Garrison/Deacon Ed Radamacher (Willie Guadalupe)
Mar. 20	The Spirit of Francis & Clare, Conyers, GA	E	Julie Lorenz/Lori Moran
Apr. 7–8	Fr. Solanus Casey, Morehead City, NC	V	Frank Massey/Joanita Nellenbach
Apr. 9–10	St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Elizabeth City, NC	V	Frank/Joanita
Apr. 10	Five Georgia Martyrs, St. Simons Island, GA	E	If activated
Apr. 15–16	Our Lady of Good Counsel, Greenville, SC	V	DorothyAnn Rowland/Dcn. Tom Shaver (Margaret Horan)
Apr. 23–24	Seven Dolours of the BVM, Franklin, TN	V	Barbara Garrison/Faye Martin
May 7	St. Clare of Assisi, Aiken, SC	E	Charles Meyer/Audrey Binet (Dcn. Ed Radamacher)
May 10	Fraternity of St. Clare, Winston-Salem, NC	E	Carmen Madero/Margaret Horan (Sr. Kathleen Ganiel)
May 13–14	Immaculate Conception, Jonesboro, GA	V	Barbara Garrison/Dcn. Tom Shaver
June 4–5	St. Maximilian Kolbe, Huntersville, NC	V	DorothyAnn Rowland/ Margaret Horan (Willie Guadalupe)
June 12	Fraternity of Brother Francis, Newton, NC	V	Charles Meyer/Audrey Binet

June 30–4, St. Louis, MO (Renaissance Hotel): “Quinquennial” — Fr. Daniel Horan, OFM

July 14	St. Clare, Asheville, NC	E	Sara Nell Boggs/Dcn. Ed Radamacher (Fr. Roberto Perez?)
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Aug. 12–14, Ridgecrest, NC: BSSF Annual Regional Gathering — Chapter of Elections

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

Minister: DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS

Vice Minister: Frank Massey, OFS

Secretary: Christine Washington, OFS

Treasurer: Greg Savold, OFS

Formation Director: Sara Nell Boggs, OFS

Spiritual Assistant:
Search In Progress

Area Councilors
Barbara Garrison, OFS
Julie Lorenz, OFS
Carmen Madero, OFS
Charles A. Meyer Jr., OFS

Area 1

AL: Bessemer;

GA: Athens, Blairsville, Conyers, Duluth, Jonesboro;

TN: Chattanooga, Knoxville, Nashville

Area 2

GA: Augusta, St. Simons Island;

NC: Asheville, Charlotte, Hendersonville, Newton;

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

Area 3

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

SC: Garden City

Archivist: Sara Nell Boggs, OFS

Communio Editor
Joanita M. Nellenbach, OFS

Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Animator
Carolyn D. Townes, OFS

Multicultural Commission Chair
Willie Guadalupe, OFS

Youth/Young Adult Fraternal Animator
Position Available

Prayer Ministry (online prayer requests)
Area 1: Lori Moran, OFS
Area 2: Donna Kaye Rock, OFS
Area 3: Bob Pearson, OFS

Fraternity prayer coordinators submit prayer requests.

Words from Father Linus

“I seek to understand; to be
able to respond.

I look for the good and
pray for the shortcoming.

I pray for all of us,
that as St. Paul invites us
through his inspired words,
that we — with God’s grace —
bring to fulfillment the good
work he has begun in us.”

Fr. Linus DeSantis,
OFM Conv.

From a profile piece by Jamie
King on the Syracuse University
Campus Ministry Website. The
quote was on the prayer cards for
the Franciscan Wake Service for
Father Linus at Syracuse
University on Dec. 4, 2015.



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for the
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of
St. Francis Region
of the Secular
Franciscan Order in the
United States of
America.

Notice of Elections and Call for Nominations for our BSSF Region

By DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS; Nancy Brochu, OFS; Carmen Madero, OFS

BSSF Region Nominating Committee



We have been asking God to ready our hearts and minds for the process of electing the servant leaders he wants for our Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region.

Now we would like to formally notify every good brother and sister in our region that our Chapter of Elections will be held during our Annual Regional Gathering in Ridgecrest, N.C., on Aug. 13, 2016. We are now calling for nominations for this election process.

A quorum of ministers and the voting members of the Regional Executive Council (REC) or their delegates must be present for the Regional Fraternity Council to elect a slate of officers.

Every established-fraternity minister and the elected members of the REC (minister, vice minister, secretary, treasurer, formation director, and area councilors) are eligible to vote as members of the Regional Fraternity Council.

Eligible voters must be present or delegate this

responsibility to another member. The delegate must have a document written by the minister stating that said person is a delegate and has been appointed to that position by the fraternity council. Without the written statement, the delegate does not have voting rights. The delegate must give the statement to the regional secretary before the annual Regional Fraternity Council meeting.

Professed members and Candidates in your Fraternity, Emerging Community, or Newly Forming Group, and the REC members, may nominate members of your Fraternity, Community, or Group within the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region for election to the REC. They may be nominated for more than one position. Nominees must be active Professed members with proof of OFS Profession.

Fraternity ministers, emerging community leaders, and newly forming group leaders, please review, with all members, “Article 5. Duties of Members of the Regional Executive Council,” *Regional Guidelines*; and Section II: Voting and Conduct of Business — Articles No.6 and No. 7 in the guidelines. Council duties are also listed on pages 21–23 of this issue. In addition, peruse the “Election Chapter Nomination Form” on page 24.

This the procedure for nominations for the offices of minister, vice minister, secretary, treasurer, formation director, Area One councilor, Area Two councilor, Area Three councilor: E-mail or postal mail nomination form(s) to **ALL** members of the nominating committee. Names and contact information are on page 20 and on the nomination form.

Prayer for Selection of a New Council

O my dear GOD, we pray for
the guidance of your most
Holy Spirit as we review in our
minds the personal attributes
required by the various
Council positions
in our Region.

Illumine for us our own
strengths, and those of our
fellow members, that YOU
may inspire us to recognize
who it is YOU desire to serve
YOUR fraternity.

Dear Francis, we also ask for
your guidance

as we seek a new Council.

Lead us to those who will help
us to grow in your virtues:
humble, polite, peacemakers,
and ardent lovers of our
crucified Lord.

Help each of us to discover
“what is ours to do.”

Not our will Lord,
but thy will be done.

Amen.

NOMINATION FORMS ARE DUE By **MARCH 31, 2016**

Nomination Form, page 24

Nominations are sent to all committee members to avoid a nomination being lost. All nominations are confidential. Once the nominating committee receives the nominations, the nomination form(s) will be sent to each nominee so that he or she will have the opportunity to accept or decline the nomination(s). This is why it is important that all nomination forms are received by March 31.

The Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region Triennial Election
is scheduled for **Aug. 13, 2016** at the Annual Regional Gathering.

Professed Secular Franciscans & Candidates are eligible to nominate
Professed members of our Region for the Regional Executive Council.

TIMELINE

January — Notice of Election published; Call for Nominations

March 31 — Nominations close

April — Nominations Committee contacts nominees

June 1 — Deadline for nomination forms returned from nominees to accept
or decline nomination

June 15 — Résumés of nominees sent to voting members of
Regional Fraternity Council

Aug. 4 — Start 9-day novena of prayer for Spirit-led election

PROCEDURE

For the office of Minister, Vice Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, Formation
Director, Area One Councilor, Area Two Councilor, Area Three Councilor
email or mail Nomination Form to ALL members of Nominating Committee

Nancy Brochu, OFS brochunancy@yahoo.com
1110 Morrow Lane, Adamsville, Ala. 35005

DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS darsfo@embarqmail.com
P.O. Box 258, Seabrook, S.C. 29940

Carmen Madero, OFS ucougar2@comcast.net
1810 Balmoral Dr. #201 Fayetteville, N.C. 28304

Nominations are sent to all committee members to avoid a nomination
being lost. Committee members will continually cross-reference
nominations.

DO NOT send nominations to the REC. Nominations are **confidential**.

Guidelines of the Regional Fraternity of Brothers and Sisters of Saint Francis Secular Franciscan Order

Article 5. Duties of Members of the Regional Executive Council

1. The **Regional Minister**, in addition to the duties set forth in article #63 of the *General Constitutions*, has the following duties:
 - a. To prepare with the regional treasurer and the regional secretary the annual report to the regional fraternity and to the national fraternity. The report to the regional fraternity will include the Fair Share Summary Report, the Treasurer's Report, and the Proposed Budget. It will be forwarded to the members of the Regional Fraternity Council after approval by the Regional Executive Council no later than one month prior to the annual meeting. The annual regional report to the national fraternity will include the requested fair share contribution, the Treasurers Report and updated information as requested.
 - b. To approve when necessary extraordinary (non-budgeted) expenditures, not to exceed one per cent (1%) of the annual regional budget.
2. The **Regional Vice Minister's** duties are enumerated in article #52.1 of the *General Constitutions*.
3. The **Regional Secretary**, in addition to the duties enumerated in article #52.2 of the *General Constitutions*, has the following duties:
 - a. Record the minutes of Regional Fraternity Council Meetings and distribute to the Regional Executive Council for review before the next scheduled Regional Executive Council - Commissions Gathering.
 - b. Distribute the reviewed minutes of the Regional Fraternity Council Meetings within one month to the Regional Fraternity Council and the leaders of the newly forming groups and emerging communities and again at or before the next Regional Fraternity Council Meeting when the minutes will be approved.
 - c. Record the minutes of Regional Executive Council meetings and forward to the Regional Executive Council for review within one month.
 - d. To prepare a summary of the approved minutes of Regional Executive Council Gatherings and distribute to the Regional Fraternity Council and the leaders of the newly forming groups and emerging communities.
 - e. Furnish a copy of the approved minutes of Regional Executive Council meetings (excluding personal or sensitive matters) *when requested* by a local minister or leader.
 - f. Assist the regional minister and regional treasurer with the annual report to the regional fraternity and the national fraternity.

- g. Assist in maintaining the national database as needed.
 - h. Perform such other duties that the Regional Fraternity Council, Regional Executive Council and Regional Minister may designate.
4. The **Regional Treasurer**, in addition to the duties enumerated in article #52.4 of the *General Constitutions* has the following duties:
- a. To function in accordance with the Fraternity Internal Controls and Treasury Guidelines.
 - b. To assist the regional minister and the regional secretary with the annual report to the regional fraternity and to the national fraternity.
 - c. To make financial reports to the Regional Executive Council as requested.
 - d. To contact and schedule a meeting with two qualified professed members that do not serve on the Regional Executive Council to review the treasury records every year before the Annual Regional Gathering.
 - e. To send a copy of the approved budget to the region after the Annual Regional Gathering. This approved budget shall be published in the regional newsletter.
 - f. To perform such other duties that the Regional Fraternity Council, the Regional Executive Council and the Regional Minister may designate.
5. The **Regional Formation Director** has the following duties:
- a. To assume the position of Regional Formation Commission Chair after being duly elected to the regional council.
 - b. To involve the Regional Spiritual Assistant(s) in all formation including the development of formation programs.
 - c. To direct the deliberations of the Regional Formation Commission and report such deliberations to the Regional Executive Council.
 - d. To perform such other duties that the Regional Fraternity Council, Regional Executive Council and the Regional Minister may designate.
6. The **Regional Area Councilors** have the following duties:
- a. To serve on the Regional Formation Commission under the guidance of the Regional Formation Commission Chairperson.
 - b. To visit fraternities and groups within their assigned area when formation guidance is requested or needed.
 - c. To periodically contact all fraternities and groups within their assigned area no less than two times a year to encourage and discern if there are needs or problems.

- d. To preside and confirm the elections of local fraternities and conduct fraternal visitations of fraternities and groups within their assigned area when requested by the Regional Executive Council.
- e. To preside and confirm the elections of local fraternities and conduct fraternal visitations of fraternities and groups as a delegate to another area when requested by the Regional Executive Council.
- f. To attend admissions, professions, canonical establishment ceremonies and other special events within their assigned area whenever possible.
- g. To perform such other duties that the Regional Fraternity Council, Regional Executive Council and Regional Minister may designate.
- h. Refer to the *Handbook for Secular Franciscan Servant Leadership* and the *Handbook for Spiritual Assistance to the Secular Franciscan Order* (revised 2005) for further directives.

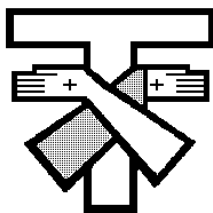
“Chapter III of the Rule makes the challenge to provide leadership in the Order quite clear. Each fraternity — local, regional, national, and international — ‘is animated and guided by a council and minister who are elected by the professed’ (OFS Rule, Art. 21).

“The call for members to animate and guide their brothers and sisters in fraternity is a call to leadership. Those who answer the call to leadership will seek a clear vision of the Secular Franciscan life toward which they will guide others: they will make efforts to love their fellow Franciscans in all their diversity, an attitude that will draw others. They will seek to live a Gospel-centered life of conversion. ...

“One overwhelming, compelling reason for us to answer the call to leadership in our Order is to play an essential role in passing on our Franciscan legacy. Our Father Francis passed on our heritage to his contemporaries, the lesser brothers, the Poor Ladies, ‘Brother’ Jacoba and other lay people. They, in turn, passed it on to others. We have received our history and our tradition from Franciscans before us. Now it is our turn to transmit it to others. We Secular Franciscans are to be our Rule incarnate. Secular Franciscanism is not the Rule book — it is our lives embodying the Rule. Our lives, our actions, our example are the substance of our tradition.

“As Franciscans of the third millennium, we in the OFS do indeed have an important task. We are seeking to continue the work of our Order begun by Francis: To live a conversion-based, Gospel-centered life, bringing Franciscan values to bear in our contemporary setting. We MUST answer the call in our times to ‘rebuild my church,’ as Franciscans before us have done and as Franciscans who follow us will do.”

Handbook For Secular Franciscan Servant Leadership
(2010 Edition), pp. 2–3



Brothers and Sisters of Saint Francis Region Secular Franciscan Order

Alabama · Georgia · North Carolina · South Carolina · Tennessee

ELECTION CHAPTER NOMINATION

Regional elections will be held Saturday, August 13, 2016, at Ridgecrest, NC
The Regional Executive Council and the Local Ministers or their authorized delegates
are the voting members of the Regional Fraternity Council.

Nominee _____

You, as a professed member of the OFS, have been nominated for the following office(s):

_____	I accept _____	I decline _____
_____	I accept _____	I decline _____
_____	I accept _____	I decline _____
_____	I accept _____	I decline _____

If you decline the nomination(s) for all of the offices to which you have been nominated,
please sign below and mail or email this form to committee names below.

Signature

If you accept the nomination for any or all of the offices to which you have been nominated,
please complete page two and three and mail or email all pages to:

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