

Communio

That All May Be One

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

Fall 2014

The Father of Us All

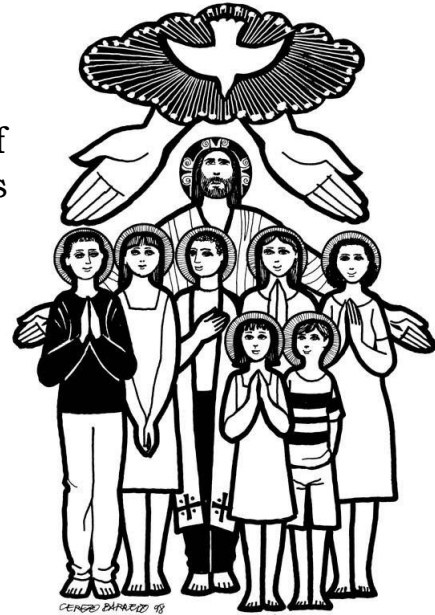
The town of Foligno lies in the valley quite near Assisi. It is the town to which Francis fled at the beginning of his conversion to sell a bolt of cloth and his father's horse for money to repair the little chapel of San Damiano.

It is also the town of the medieval Franciscan Tertiary and mystic, Blessed Angela of Foligno [feast day Jan. 7], who said, "The world is great with God." Whatever Blessed Angela intended by that, I like to think she meant, the world is pregnant with God, and we are here to bring God forth in our midst. We are to bring forth a God who first brought us to birth.

By becoming human, God was bringing every human being to rebirth in God. And not only humans but the world, too, and all of creation.

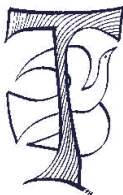
This is a deep mystery: God becomes what God first created so that God's creation might become a worthy return of God's love. God's love in creating the universe is infinite and therefore only God can return that love to the Blessed Trinity, so the second person of the Trinity enters God's creation to return the very love that created it.

Murray Bodo, OFM, *Song of the Sparrow: New Poems and Meditations* (128)



The Four Pillars of Secular Franciscan Life

Spirituality



Formation



Fraternity



Apostolate





Editor's Journal: What's your talent?

Some years ago, when I was serving as public affairs NCO in a unit in the Florida Army National Guard, the captain I worked for said to me one day, "You have no talent." Just look at Mozart, she added; now there was somebody with talent.

Well, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart had more than talent. A musical prodigy, he learned to play piano at age 3 by watching his father give lesson's to Mozart's older sister. Mozart began composing at age 5 and performing publicly at age 6.

That was Mozart, not me. As I explained to the captain, talent isn't necessarily genius; it's a marked innate ability. While I can't claim to be a literary prodigy, I do have writing and editing talent.

We all have abilities, but too often I think we downplay or denigrate them if we don't see them as equal to the genius of someone like Mozart.

At a retreat I attended several years ago, we were asked to name our talents. "I have no talent," one woman said. "All I can do is listen."

Wow, what a great ability. The person who can listen, really pay attention to what someone else is saying (instead of concentrating on what his or her own response will be) is always needed. Each of our talents and abilities is unique to each of us. We aren't called to be anyone else, including St. Francis. But Francis recognized his gifts, and he used them to the full.

Christmas and presents will soon be here. During Advent, which leads to that, maybe one of the best gifts we can give ourselves is to slow down a bit, to spend some quiet time, reflecting on and thanking God for the gifts he has given us, including our OFS vocation, our talents and abilities, and the gifts he has given to our brothers and sisters in fraternity. Each of us has much we can contribute to our fraternities, our Region, and to the Order as a whole.

*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.

In This Issue

Minister's Message	3
JPIC	4
Channel of Peace Transitus	5
St. Francis of the Hills Transitus	6
Immaculate Conception Transitus	6
Franciscan Action Network	7
Quiz a Franciscan	8
General Chapter Opens	9
New Councils	9
Avila Retreat	10
OFS Websites	10
Regional Calendar	11
Patriot Day	12
REC Roster	12

Newly Professed Congratulations!

Padre Pio Fraternity

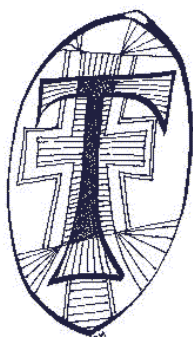
Raleigh, N.C., July 12
Maureen Copan, OFS
Ailen Evaniuck, OFS
Suzanne Nelson, OFS
Thomas Ryan, OFS
Sharon Winzeler, OFS

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity

Elizabeth City, N.C., Oct. 4
Mary Gilbert, OFS

Immaculate Conception Fraternity

Jonesboro, Ga., Oct. 12
Roxanne Turner, OFS



Minister's Message: How does God speak to me this day?

As I prepared to attend the National Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order (Oct. 21–26), I was reminded of the theme selected at last year's chapter for 2014: "Be the Merciful Presence of God."

How am I doing in living this theme? How does God speak to me this day? As I think about what to share in my Minister's Message this quarter, I need only turn to his word.

The day I wrote this happened to be Oct. 13. Our morning prayer was taken from Week IV of the Psalter. In our intercessions we prayed: "We praise you Lord, we hope in you. We thank you because you are rich in mercy, and for the abundant love with which you have loved us. With the Father you are always at work in the world, make all things new through the power of your Holy Spirit. Open our eyes and the eyes of our brothers (and sisters), to see your wonders this day. You call us today to your service, make us stewards of your many gifts."

And in our vocation prayers for Monday we intoned: "O God, you have given us the mission of sharing the Good News of your Kingdom with all people....."

In the Mass readings for the day, St. Paul reminds us: "For freedom Christ set us free" (Gal 5:1). In our responsorial psalm (Ps 113:1–2, 3–4, 5, 6–7) we pray, "Blessed be the name of the Lord forever. From the rising to the setting of the sun is the name of the Lord to be praised. High above all nations is the Lord; above the heavens is his glory. Who is like the Lord, our God, who looks upon the heavens and the earth below? He raises up the lowly from the dust; from the dunghill he lifts up the poor."

In the Gospel of Luke (Lk 11:29–32) for this day, Jesus admonishes the crowd and tells them, "This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah. ... [A]t the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here."

St. Gregory the Great, in his meditation on this Gospel passage, quotes St. Paul and tells us "signs are for unbelievers, not believers."

He further states: "Every day the Church works in the Spirit what the Apostles once did in the flesh. When its priests lay their hands on believers through the gift of exorcism forbidding evil spirits to dwell in their hearts, what else are they doing but casting out demons? And what else are we doing when we leave behind the language of the world for the words of the sacred mysteries, when we express as best we can the praise and power of our Creator, if not speaking in new tongues?

"When we remove malice from another's heart by our good word are we not, so to speak, picking up serpents? And when we hear the wisdom of the world, but choose not to act on it, surely we have drunk poison and survived. As often as we catch sight of our sister or brother stumbling on life's path, and we gather round them with all our strength, and support them by our presence, what are we doing but laying our hands upon the sick to heal them? Surely these miracles are all the greater because they are spiritual; they are all the more significant since it is the heart and not the body which is being restored."

In his apostolic exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis exhorts us to be missionaries — to go out in the world around us and to be on mission. In order to meet this daily challenge, he also exhorts us to be a people of prayer, of adoration, and of reflection — to allow the word to speak to us and to follow in the footsteps of Christ — to become Spirit-filled evangelizers fearlessly open to the working of the Holy Spirit.

The best incentive for sharing the Gospel, Pope Francis says, comes from contemplating it with love, lingering over its pages, and reading it with the heart. A true missionary, who never

ceases to be a disciple, knows that Jesus walks with him, speaks to him, breathes with him, works with him. In union with Jesus, we seek what he seeks and we love what he loves. In the end, what we are seeking is the glory of the Father. Mission is at once a passion for Jesus and a passion for his people.

As Secular Franciscans, we're certainly called to that missionary zeal, to "go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and works" (OFS Rule, Art. 6).

Let us together follow the example of our beloved St. Francis of Assisi and "Be the Merciful Presence of God" to all whom we encounter.

May the Lord grant you Peace!

Jerry

Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC): Who Do You Say YOU Are? The Key to Nonviolence (Part 2 of 3)

By Carolyn D. Townes, OFS

"Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he was asking his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven'" (Mt 16:13-17).



Someone wise once said that our job in this life is not to shape ourselves into some ideal we imagine we ought to be but to find out who we already are and become it. Jesus asks his disciples who the people say the Son of Man is. Jesus already knows who he is. It was revealed at his baptism by John that he was the beloved Son of God.

After his baptism, Jesus was led into the desert for 40 days to fast and pray. During this 40-day spiritual retreat, Jesus was tempted to deny who he was and to shape himself into something other than his true self. Satan always began his efforts with, "If you are the Son of God ...". There was no reason for Jesus to agree with anything the tempter had to say because he already knew who he was.

It is also with us. When we know who we are, our hearts are at peace, and violence cannot reside there. When we are living, moving, and having our being as our authentic selves, there is no allowing any temptations to shift us from the truth.

Author and poet e.e. cummings once said that it takes courage to grow up and become who you really are. This is very true. To be the person you were created to be, takes tremendous courage. To recognize your place in the kingdom of God takes courage.

However, this recognition also means living a life of compassion and nonviolence, like Jesus, the Prince of Peace. That recognition means knowing you are a wonderfully and uniquely made child of God. Article 19 of our holy Rule speaks of "trusting in the presence of the divine seed in

everyone.” The presence of the divine seed is our connection to everyone, who are also wonderfully and uniquely made children of God.

Knowing who you are before God and taking your rightful place means you are living a nonviolent life. The nonviolent life does not mean there will be no temptations to violence. It does mean that you make different choices — choices toward compassion. Our Rule (Art. 15) speaks of “promoting justice by the testimony of [our] human lives.” We cannot promote justice when we are acting out violence, and this includes violence toward self, as well as toward others: negativity, sarcasm, cynicism, bullying, manipulating, subtle put-downs, and passive-aggressive behavior, just to name a few.

To begin making different choices, first think about the words you use on a day-to-day basis. Think about the tone of your voice and your body language. All these can add up to create an atmosphere of violence. If you simply take the time to think before you speak, you will be proactive in creating a more compassionate and nonviolent world.

Carolyn D. Townes, OFS, is a member of Our Lady Queen of Angels, Emerging Community, in Columbia, S.C., and is the regional and national animator for Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation. She is also an action commissioner for the Franciscan Action Network, as well as a promoter for Pace e Bene’s Campaign Nonviolence.

Transitus, rosary celebrated; Greccio event planned

By Gail Campbell, OFS

Channel of Peace Fraternity, Chattanooga, Tenn., enjoyed a lovely autumn season that began with a beautiful celebration of the Transitus of St. Francis on Oct. 3, which included much singing and prayerful reflection on the last days and words of our beloved St. Francis. We were inspired once again by his not merely accepting, but welcoming, Sister Death.

The following week we gathered at the Shrine of the Virgin of the Poor in New Hope, Tenn., where we prayed the rosary while walking a “rosary” path with other visitors. Afterward, we shared a covered-dish meal.



In the spirit of St. Francis’s creation of a nativity scene at Greccio, we plan to celebrate our “Greccio” on Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Soddy-Daisy, Tenn.

In this celebration with prayers and music, the Christmas crib is recreated in front of the altar. The various pieces (stable, hay, animals, people, angel) are brought forth individually and put in place by fraternity members while a reflection on each piece is read.

After a busy season of preparation, we always welcome and enjoy this quiet and reflective time that allows us to ponder the meaning of the Incarnation and birth of the long-awaited Messiah. We are happy to have visitors join us in the celebration, which includes an Italian meal afterwards.

Any fraternity interested in receiving a copy of our Greccio celebration may obtain it from Barbara Garrison, OFS, at kindertchr25@bellsouth.net.

Gail Campbell, OFS, is a councilor in Channel of Peace Fraternity.

Fraternity, friars, parish present Transitus

By Greg Savold, OFS

St. Francis's Transitus was brought to life on Oct. 3 in Hendersonville, N.C., by St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity and friars and youth from Immaculate Conception Church. The bilingual play, open to the parish, was held in the church.

Greg Savold, OFS, and Randy Hair, OFS, directed the play, which opened at 7 p.m. with Esther Dutt, OFS, playing a hymn on the piano.

As the lights dimmed, Diane Salkewicz, OFS, and Margarita Melendez, OFS, narrated the play, in English and Spanish respectively. Our youth of the parish, performed in nonspeaking rolls, with Nicolas Okpykh as St. Francis; Andrew Okpykh, Jesse Jakubielski, Jonah Jakubielski, Jordan Jakubielski, and Ryan McCurdy as friars. Emma Miles portrayed Lady Jacoba, with Gabrielle Giacomaro, Jesse Jakubielski, and Dana Jakubielski as her handmaids.

Father Namdev Dagam, OFM Cap., parochial vicar, did a bilingual reading of Gospel of John 13:1–17.

Parishioners Bob Lange and Claudia Yépez presented reflections in English and Spanish.

Following the play, Father Martin Schratz, OFM Cap., Immaculate Conception's pastor; and



Father Namdev renewed their vows; and professed members of St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity renewed their professions.

Attendees joined in praying Psalm 142 antiphonally (Side 1/Side 2) bilingually, followed by intercessions. Father Martin offered the closing prayer.

The fraternity hosted a reception after the program, with a special treat: a tres leches (three milks) sheet cake donated by Azteca, our local Spanish bakery.

Greg Savold, OFS, is vice minister of St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity and treasurer of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region.

Transitus of St. Clare

St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity joined the Poor Clares in their monastery in Travelers Rest, S.C., for the Transitus of St. Clare on Aug. 10.

Following adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the sisters narrated the story of St. Clare's Transitus, which was combined with Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours and which everyone joined in praying.

Later, fraternity members enjoyed an Italian dinner at a Hendersonville restaurant.

Retreat, Profession, Transitus celebrated in Jonesboro

Immaculate Conception Fraternity celebrated the Transitus of St. Francis, with the service led by Nicholas Dragone, OFS. Honored guests were four Dominicans. A reception followed, with almond cookies prominent on the menu, in remembrance of Francis's favorite almond sweet.

On Oct. 12, the fraternity held its annual retreat, with Father John Koziol, OFM Conv., and Cricket Aull, OFS, as retreat masters. This year's theme was "A Pilgrimage to Profession and Beyond." During the retreat, Roxanne Turner, OFS, made her Profession. **T**



From the Franciscan Action Network (FAN): Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Water

Sister Maryann Mueller, CSSF

“Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Water;
she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.”

St. Francis of Assisi, “Canticle of the Creatures”

The readings for the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Nov. 9, remind us of the significance of water in both our spiritual and our physical lives. Water is recognized worldwide as a sacred gift and it assumes a central place in many faith traditions.

In the Catholic tradition we commence our sacramental life in baptism, “regeneration through water in the word” (*Catechism of the Church*, para. 1213), while water from the cross is also a sign of mercy and a symbol of the creation of the church. In many faiths, water is used in ritual cleansing or purifying before and during prayer: “The waters of the river gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High!” (Ps 46:5).

Water sustains both spiritual and physical life. “Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live...” (Ez 47:9). Without water, there is no life. Water is needed for life by all living creatures.

When we pollute water, we impact all “the astounding things he has wrought on earth.” (Ps 46:9) In January, 10,000 gallons of crude methyl cyclohexane methanol and an unknown amount of propylene glycol phenyl ether gushed from a ruptured storage tank directly into West Virginia’s largest public water supply, the Elk River. People in the area temporarily lost access to safe drinking water. Long-term effects of this chemical in the water supply to people, and to animals and plants in the area, are unknown.

This summer, toxic algae blooms were drawn up from Lake Erie by a water treatment plant in Ohio. These toxins are becoming more common along seacoasts and in fresh water across the world because of changes in climate. The toxins can turn up in tap water, causing paralysis and seizures in people, and have killed wildlife, primarily marine mammals and birds. The effect of

this toxic water on agriculture, and thus in our food system, is alarming.

What is more appalling is the effect of polluted water in developing countries. Water is intended to nourish, cleanse, and purify, yet today at least one child under the age of 5 years will die each minute due to a water-related disease.

Our Franciscan tradition teaches that all of creation, because of the Incarnation, is sacred: "The temple of God, which you are, is holy" (1 Cor 3:17). In the Gospel, St. John tells of the reaction of Jesus to the desecration of the temple area. We may ask ourselves what Jesus would say to us today about the desecration of our Sister Water.

We can all take steps to both conserve water and assure water quality.

Consider how you waste water, and think of ways you can save it. Find out about the quality of water in your neighborhood. Become aware how oil pipelines, fracking, mining, industry, chemical plants, etc., affect local water supplies. Look up information about the Clean Water Act and other legislation designed to protect our gift of water. Learn about and support organizations such as Water Aid that are saving lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene, and sanitation worldwide.

Let us pray that our Creator God will show each one of us one way we may advocate for Sister Water.

Suggested Petitions:

- May our hearts be open to the Lord as he shows us ways to advocate for Sister Water,
Let us pray ...
- May we be always aware of how our lives interact with water on a daily basis,
Let us pray...

Sister Maryann Mueller, CSSF, is a member of the Felician Sisters of North America and a FAN board member.

Quiz a Franciscan: Who Said It?

1. "Place your mind before the mirror of eternity! Place your soul in the brilliance of glory! And transform your entire being into the image of the Godhead Itself through contemplation."
2. "The most deadly poison of our times is indifference. And this happens, although the praise of God should know no limits. Let us strive, therefore, to praise him to the greatest extent of our powers."
3. "I asked the mother of God what was to become of me. Then she came to me holding two crowns, one white, the other red. She asked if I was willing to accept either of these crowns. The white one meant that I should persevere in purity, and the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept them both."
4. "If things created are so full of loveliness, how resplendent with beauty must be the One who made them!"
5. "When we pray, the voice of the heart must be heard more than that proceeding from the mouth."

(Answers, page 9)

Thanks to Esther Dutt, OFS, of St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity, Hendersonville, N.C., who found this quiz in the Five Franciscan Martyrs Region newsletter.

XIVth General Chapter of the OFS opens

The general minister of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS), Encarnación (Encarnita) del Pozo, OFS, on Nov. 1, officially opened the XIVth General Chapter of the OFS (its sixth elective Chapter), taking place in Assisi, Italy, until Nov. 8.

The 85 voting members of the Chapter will discuss important aspects of the life of the Secular Franciscan Order and take decisions about its future. They will also elect the new leadership team of the OFS for the next six years.

Before the official opening of the Chapter, all 170 participants — voting members, observers, and technical staff — celebrated the opening Eucharist in the lower Church near the tomb of St. Francis. Bishop Domenico Sorrentino, bishop of Assisi, Nocera-Umbra, and Gualdo Tadino, presided over the Eucharist, inviting all Secular Franciscans to live their faith in the spirit of the Beatitudes.

At the end of the Eucharist, Encarnita del Pozo consecrated the Secular Franciscan Order to the Virgin Mary by reading aloud a moving prayer, following the example of St. Francis.

The Chapter, moments before its official opening, welcomed its 70th fully recognized National Fraternity — Cameroon — as full member of the International Fraternity. Apart from these 70 recognized National Fraternities, the OFS is present or emerging in more than 46 nations worldwide.

Visit www.ciofs.org for more news of the International Chapter.

Answers to Quiz on page 8

1. St. Clare
2. St. Maximilian Kolbe
3. St. Maximilian Kolbe
4. St. Anthony of Padua
5. St. Bonaventure

Congratulations New Councils

St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity

Spartanburg, S.C., June 28

Minister: Michael E. Mason, OFS

Vice Minister: Jim Johnson, OFS

Secretary: Vickie Kloth, OFS

Treasurer: Shizuko Klatte, OFS

Formation Director: Joanne Babin, OFS

Councilor: Brenda Coggins, OFS

Councilor: Beverly Mitro, OFS

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Fraternity

Burlington, N.C., Sept. 13

Minister: Teresa Frazier, OFS

Vice Minister: Alan Zanker, OFS

Secretary: Alice Gottschalk, OFS

Treasurer: Lisa DiProfio, OFS

Formation Director: Jeannine Clemons, OFS

Councilor: Beverly McGee, OFS

Councilor: Brian Ward, OFS

Padre Pio Fraternity

Raleigh, N.C., Sept. 28

Minister: W. Stanley Driscoll, OFS

Vice Minister: Michael Evaniuck, OFS

Secretary: Maureen Copan, OFS

Treasurer: Sharon Winzeler, OFS

Formation Director: Joanne Jacovec, OFS

Councilor: Ida Irwin, OFS

Councilor: Suzanne Nelson, OFS

Councilor: Frank Peluso, OFS

Communio

is published quarterly for the
Brothers and Sister of St. Francis
Region of the Secular Franciscan
Order in the United States.

Retreat focuses on Francis's time at a tiny chapel

"A Little Portion in Time: Weekend With St. Francis at the Portiuncula" immersed 27 retreatants in events in the life and death of St. Francis.

Joanita M. Nellenbach, OFS, led this year's Secular Franciscan retreat, held Oct. 3–5 at Avila Retreat Center in Durham, N.C.

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.

Secular Franciscans attended from St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Elizabeth City, N.C.; Padre Pio Fraternity, Raleigh, N.C.; St. Thomas More Fraternity, Wilmington, N.C.; Bl. John Duns Scotus Fraternity, Garden City, S.C.; and Father Solanus Casey Fraternity, Morehead City, N.C.; as well as several people from the Newman Center at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

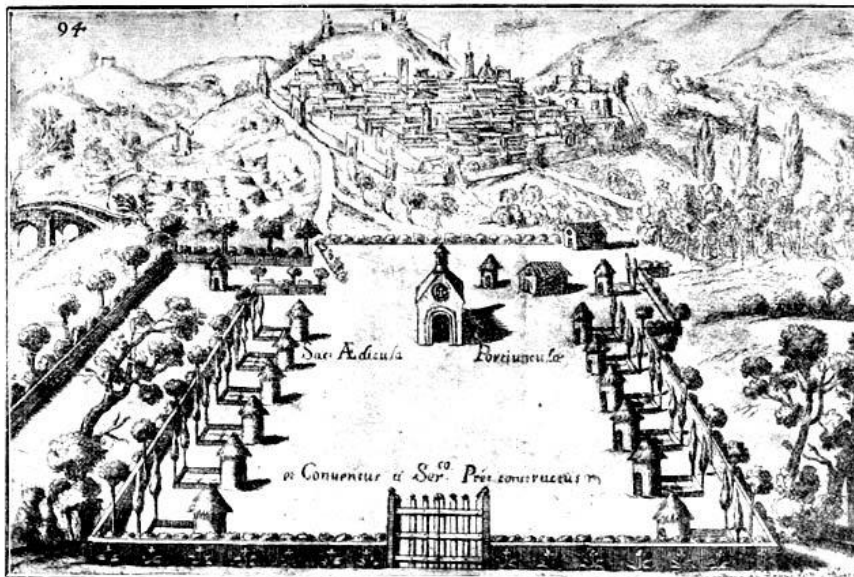
The evening of Oct. 3, everyone gathered in the chapel to celebrate the Transitus of St. Francis, with the professed making the traditional renewal of their Profession promises.

On Saturday afternoon, the feast of St. Francis, Mary Gilbert, OFS, of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, made her perpetual Profession. Father David McBriar, OFM, associate pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Raleigh, celebrated the Mass of Profession.

Talks during the weekend began with Francis's epiphany cry of "This is what I want" when he heard Jesus's instruction (Mt 10:9–10): "Do not take gold or silver or copper for your belts; no sack for the journey, or a second tunic, or sandals, or walking stick."

Francis loved the Portiuncula, the little chapel of St. Mary of the Angels because it was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, to whom he had a particular devotion. "Francis and Mary" reflected on that devotion.

The last instruction that Francis gave to his brothers was "I have done what was mine. May Christ teach you yours." So, the retreat's final talk reflected on how each person is to listen to God's call in his or her life. T



The Portiuncula in the time of St. Francis, with the tiny chapel surrounded by the friars' huts on the plain below Assisi.

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

BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION CALENDAR

*confirmed V=Visitation E=Election V+=follow-up visit

Names in parentheses are observers. Regional Executive Council members preparing to serve as fraternal visitors and election presiders, and spiritual assistants preparing to serve as pastoral visitors and ecclesiastical witnesses at elections, first observe those experienced in these duties and are then observed by them as they perform the duties.

2014 **Fraternity** **V Fraternal/Pastoral Visitors**
E Presider/Ecclesiastical Witness

*Nov. 3 St. John Vianney (NFG), Lithia Spgs, GA V Jerry Rousseau/Lori Moran (Willie Guadalupe)

**Nov. 14–15 BSSF Regional “On the Road” Formation: “Restorative Circles”
Area 2 Workshop, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Spartanburg, SC 29302**

*Nov. 16 St. Thomas More, Wilmington, NC E Jerry Rousseau/Barbara Smith

2015

*Jan. 8 Fr. Solanus Casey, Morehead City, NC E Frank Massey/Msgr. Moeslein

*Jan. 10 St. Elizabeth of Hungary,
Elizabeth City, NC E DorothyAnn Rowland/Dcn. Tom Shaver

*Jan. 11 Stigmata of St. Francis, Duluth, GA E Julie Lorenz/Laura Haukaas

*Jan. 18 Seven Dolors of the BVM, Nashville, TN E Barbara Garrison/Fr. Showraiah

*Feb. 13–14 Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary
Hilton Head, SC V Charles Meyer/Willie Guadalupe

**Feb. 13–14 BSSF Regional “On the Road” Formation: “Restorative Circles”
Area 3 Workshop, Avila Retreat Center, Durham, NC 27712**

Feb. 15 Sts. Francis & Clare, Knoxville, TN E Sara Nell Boggs/Faye Martin

Feb. 21 Our Lady of Good Counsel, Greenville, SC E Jerry Rousseau/Joanita Nellenbach

TBD Our Lady Queen of Angels (EC), Columbia V DorothyAnn Rowland/Faye Martin

Mar. 7–8 Channel of Peace, Chattanooga, TN V Julie Lorenz/

Mar 8 St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Elizabeth City, NC E Paula Zanker/

**Mar 20–21 BSSF Regional “On the Road” Formation: “Restorative Circles”
Area 1 Workshop, Hidden Lake Life Teen Camp, Dahlonga, GA 30533**

April 11–12 Franciscan Family of Greensboro V Jerry Rousseau/

May 9 Immaculate Conception, Jonesboro, GA E Barbara Garrison/Faye Martin

June 7 St. Maximilian Kolbe, Charlotte, NC E Jerry Rousseau/Willie Guadalupe

June 12–13 Crucified Christ, N. Charleston, SC V DorothyAnn Rowland/

June 12–13 St. Joseph Cupertino, Bessemer, AL V Barbara Garrison/

June 26–27 St. Michael the Archangel, Spartanburg V /Joanita Nellenbach

ARG August 7–9, Ridgecrest, NC, Annual Regional Gathering & Pastoral/Fraternal Visitation

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

Minister: Jerry Rousseau, OFS

Vice Minister: Paula Zanker, OFS

Secretary: Christine Washington, OFS

Treasurer: Greg Savold, OFS

Formation Director: Sara Nell Boggs, OFS

Spiritual Assistant:

Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv.

Area 1 Councilors

Barbara Garrison, OFS; Julie Lorenz, OFS

AL: Bessemer, Decatur;

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

NC: Franklin;

TN: Chattanooga, Knoxville, Nashville

Area 2 Councilors

Charles A. Meyer Jr., OFS; DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS

GA: Augusta, St. Simons Island;

NC: Asheville, Charlotte, Hendersonville, Newton;

SC: Aiken, Charleston, Columbia, Greenville,

Hilton Head Island, Spartanburg

Area 3 Councilors

Frank Massey, OFS; Marie Stephan, OFS

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

Hispanic Commission Chair

Willie Guadalupe, OFS

Youth/Young Adult Fraternal Animator

Vacant

Prayer Ministry (online prayer requests)

Area 1: Ada Winters, OFS

Area 2: Donna Kaye Rock, OFS

Area 3: Marie Stephan, OFS

Fraternity prayer coordinators submit prayer requests.

Fraternity sponsors Patriot Day

Blessed John Duns Scotus Fraternity, Garden City, S.C., sponsored Patriot Day on Sept. 11, honoring those killed in the terrorist attacks in 2001 and the loved ones of those who died.

About 150 people attended the remembrance and prayer service in St. Michael Catholic Church in Garden City; some of the attendees had been involved in rescue efforts in New York.

A table, covered with a white cloth, before the altar held an open Bible for strength and comfort, a crucifix for consolation, and two stoles to remember Father Mychal Judge, OFM, who died in the World Trade Center; a purple stole commemorating those who still grieve, a white stole for hope.

On the floor in front of the table, a vase contained three red roses to represent the love of the Holy Trinity and prayer for the families of the victims and the first-responders.

Flanking the table were smaller tables covered in white cloths. The left-side table held an American flag folded in a triangle and preserved in a glass-fronted wooden frame. The right-side table held a helmet from a New York Fire Department fireman involved in the rescue efforts.

The main table also held a candelabra with seven candles, to remember: 1) the victims in New York, 2) the victims in Pennsylvania, 3) the victims at the Pentagon, 4) those from the Garden City area who died in the line of duty, 5) those who have died elsewhere as a result of terrorist activities, 6) Christians being persecuted for the Faith and to pray for missionaries in harm's way, 7) that

we are children of the light and are called to bring the peace and love of God wherever we go. T