

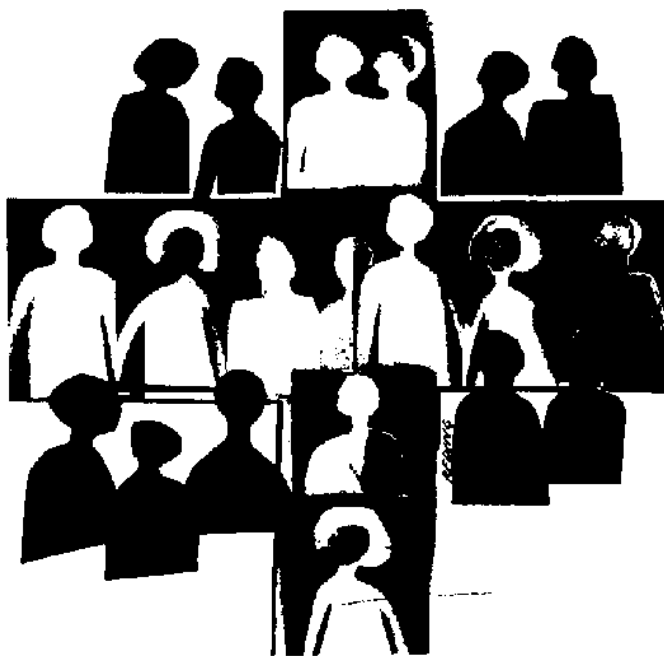


Communio

That All May Be One

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

New in 2007: Minister/Formation Director Workshops



By Paula Zanker, SFO
BSSF Region formation director

The long-awaited
minister/formation director workshops
are about to begin.

Three workshops are planned:
Raleigh, N.C., Feb. 3; Greenville, S.C.,
April 14; and Chattanooga, Tenn.,
June 23.

These workshops are open to all
members of your fraternity's formation
team, but we especially want to
encourage the minister (or leader) and
formation director to attend.

I sent the workshop information
and registration form to all ministers
and chosen leaders before Christmas.
Reminders, directions, and further
details will be sent out prior to the
workshop you register for.

Cost is \$12 per person. One check can cover everyone on the registration form and should be made payable to BSSF Region. Completed registration forms, with payment, should be sent by Jan. 20 for the Raleigh workshop, by March 24 for the Greenville workshop, and by June 9 for the Chattanooga workshop.

In a previous *Communio*, an article mentioned the possibility of having an ecology commission component to these workshops. This **will not** take place, but a special ecology session will be held at the Annual Regional Gathering in August.

Each workshop will be essentially the same so you will need to attend only one of them; however, we wanted to make them easily accessible for everyone, which is why we have three locations. The locations of the workshops are in areas that should be no more than a three-hour

See **WORKSHOPS**, page 4

Minister's message

"For unto us is born this day in the City of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all."

After the glitter and rush to purchase gifts, I wonder how we have come so far from the meaning of Christmas. How did we forget that this is our Lord and Savior's birthday —not ours? He came in poverty and humility, but the celebration is far from either.

As Secular Franciscans we promise to follow the Gospel in the footsteps of St. Francis. St. Francis was exposed to the glitter of fancy clothes, parties, and material possessions, but he took another path. It took a radical change and may just require such change of heart for us.

This year we will remember St. Elizabeth of Hungary, patroness of the Third Order, who came into the world 800 years ago in 1207. Born to pious King Andrew II of Hungary, Elizabeth had luxury and power, but her greatest joy was to give things to the poor.

She joined the Third Order of St. Francis and visited the poor and the sick, waiting on them with as much reverence as if she were serving Christ himself. In her short life of only 24 years, she lived the Gospel as close to the example of St. Francis as she could.

Let us pray and reflect how we are called to follow and do what is ours to do this year.

With prayers for a peace filled New Year!
Judy

Change in Quinquennial site
The 17th Secular Franciscan
Quinquennial Congress will not
take place at Franciscan University
in Steubenville, Ohio.

Information about the new
location will be made available as
soon as possible.



Editor's Journal: Musings on the season

In a recent homily, my pastor, Fr. Frank Doyle, OSA, said that the shepherds were immersed in their vocation—caring for the sheep entrusted to them—when the angels appeared to them to announce Jesus' birth. They then became the first to visit him who would become shepherd of us all; who, lying in a manger—a feeding trough—would become food for the world.

This made me think: Since SFO is supposed to be my way of life, am I always immersed in my Secular Franciscan vocation?

The shepherds were doing what they always did, living their way of life, and in that way of life they were open to hearing what God had to say to them—and to act upon it.

In my way of life, do I always hear what God is saying to me and do I act upon it?

Do I always live fraternity, spirituality, formation, and apostolate?

Fr. Frank has said that people have told him that they hate Christmas because of the commercialism. How sad is that?

But why get caught up in it?

Begin preparing now, in thought at least,
See JOURNAL, page 3

JOURNAL, from page 2

for a materialism-free Christmas 2007.

Some suggestions:

Don't receive gifts. How much more stuff do we need? Arrange with those who usually give you presents that you will not give anything to each other. Instead, send a donation (whatever you would have spent on gifts) to Food for the Poor, Catholic Relief Services, or some other organization whose beneficiaries *really* need the contribution.

This cut my shopping to the young children in my family and to a couple of other family members who needed gifts, but even one of them agreed to make a Food for the Poor contribution in lieu of sending me something.

Not receiving gifts is very freeing. It certainly lightened my mood.

Fr. Bob Dueweke, another of the Augustinians in my parish, told me that this past Christmas his family decided not to draw names to exchange gifts with each other. Instead, they "adopted" a home for elderly people who have Alzheimer's and whose families have mostly abandoned them. Fr. Bob's family bought gifts for the people in that home.

Avoid commercials. Yes, it can be done. Instead of watching lots of television once the commercial Christmas season begins (let's see, that's about late September or early October), check your TV listings for only the programs you really, really, really want to see. Watch only those programs, thus reducing the number of commercials you see. This could become a year-round habit.

Even better, if you have the equipment, record the programs (with the set off) and watch the shows later, fast-forwarding through the commercials.

You'll find more satisfying ways to fill your time.

Don't shop during the Christmas season. I love arts-and-crafts shows, and here in the mountains we have a lot of them, especially during the summer. If I see something at one

of these shows that I think someone will like (one of those few people on my list who does need a gift), I buy it then. I find that this dulls the temptation to buy for myself. It also eliminates the necessity—and stress—of shopping in crowded stores during the Christmas rush.

If you have other suggestions, please e-mail them to me. I'll run them in the summer or autumn Communio

Pace e bene
Joanita

New ARG location

Our Annual Regional Gathering will be held Aug. 10–12 at Ridgecrest, N.C.

After reviewing seven locations, the council selected Ridgecrest, near Ashville, for our 2007 gathering. Ridgecrest is located 17 miles east of Asheville on Interstate 40, Exit 66.

What a joy that we are growing! We outgrew the Catholic Conference Center near Hickory, N.C. For the past four years, we've held our gatherings at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Charlotte. We've outgrown that location and must move again.

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

Ridgecrest is owned and operated by Southern Baptists but has served the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh in the past, including the diocesan youth rally, and welcomes us.

The cost to attend will be about the same or less than last year. Details will be available soon. Please plan to attend and spend time with your Franciscan Family.

There is room in the inn!

WORKSHOPS, from page 1

drive for those attending but if overnight accommodations are necessary, we will provide a list of those available.

These workshops will be a wonderful opportunity for us to get together to share information, exchange ideas, discuss any questions or concerns you may have, and learn from each other. We never have enough opportunities to do this, so I hope this will be the start of a new tradition within our region.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at pazanker@aol.com or call me at 336-376-3874.

I look forward to seeing you all soon. T

John Michael Talbot concert set

John Michael Talbot (JMT) is scheduled to present a benefit concert in Winston-Salem, N.C., on March 22.

Dr. Jim and Sue Taylor, SFO, members of the Fraternity of Brother Francis, Hickory, N.C., and co-chairs of the BSSF Region Ecology Commission, organized the concert to provide funds to help New Life Mobility Assistance Dogs (NLMAD) train an assistance dog for a person with a disability in the Winston-Salem area.

NLMAD, a nonprofit organization in Wilkesboro, N.C., rescues dogs from animal shelters and trains them to assist people who have disabilities, thus giving both dog and person a new lease on life.

Talbot, a Secular Franciscan and a Christian musician known as the "Troubadour of the Lord," recently recorded his 50th album.

For more information on NLMAD visit www.nlmad.org. For information on the JMT concert, contact Jim or Sue at TaylorsPeak@netcape.com or 828-264-0054. T

Minister/Formation Director workshops

Feb. 3

St. Francis of Assisi Church,
Raleigh, N.C.

April 14

Our Lady of the Rosary Church,
Greenville, S.C.

June 23, 2007

St. Stephen Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Tentative Agenda:

8:30 a.m.—9 a.m.Registration
9 a.m.—10 a.m.Mass
10 a.m.—10:15 a.m.Break
10:15 a.m.—11 a.m.Keynote: Fr.
Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv.
11 a.m.—12:15 p.m.Session I:
Break into groups
12:15 p.m.—1:30 p.m.Lunch
1:30 p.m.—2:15 p.m.Session II:
Continue with groups
2:15 p.m.—2:30 p.m.Break
2:30 p.m.—3:15 p.m.Session III:
Continue with groups
3:15 p.m.—3:30 p.m.Groups join
for Evening Prayer
3:30 p.m.Adjourn—
Safe trip home

At each workshop, separate minister and formation-director sessions will run concurrently.

Congratulations to the new council
of St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity,
Hendersonville, N.C.,
elected Nov. 12:
Joanita M. Nellenbach, SFO,
re-elected minister
Tim Gibson, SFO, vice minister
Bill Stewart, SFO, secretary
Randy Hair, SFO, treasurer
Pat Cowan, SFO, formation director
Margie Joseph, SFO, councilor

Working with youth—special and important commitment



By Betti P. Longinotti

BSSF Region

Youth/Young Adult Commission chair

Peace and greetings to you in this new year!

Coming into 2007, I'm celebrating my anniversary of serving the BSSF Region as your Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Commission chair for two years. I've learned during that time and am still learning what works and what's not so successful.

I hope we're all active in serving the apostolates that our fraternities undertake, and certainly some fraternities in our region interact with youth. I imagine there are far more individual Secular Franciscans out there, working with their parishes in serving youth.

I'm faced with some questions and

suggestions as I continue to consider my role in this commission:

- How do we serve our youth? Locally? Regionally?
- Do we consider how the BSSF Region is planning to promote these opportunities to our local youth and young adults?
- If we do not, what obstacles or reasons are there for not promoting BSSF YYA?

Considering the comments from each fraternity within the region from the ARG, it didn't seem to me that there is an overwhelming commitment to our youth within our apostolates.

There might be various reasons for this. One, however, is quite obvious: Our parishes already have active youth groups, and to create other youth group gatherings might seem to compete with or even duplicate efforts already established.

If this is the case, what can we do as individuals or fraternities to serve our youth and assert our Franciscan spirituality? In that, especially, consider being active in your parish as a catechist or to serve or support your parish youth group.

Please let me know what you as an individual or as a fraternity are doing to support youth. There is a Web page linked to our region's Web page for BSSF Youth and Young Adult at: www.geocities.com/bssf_sfo/YYA.

Please send me your news and updates on your work with youth, so that these can be shared in community, on our BSSF YYA Web page, and with our national BSSF YYA minister. Pictures are great, so send me jpegs also!

Two upcoming opportunities are available to our region's youth:

- Consider sponsoring a young person to attend the Quinquennial and Youth Congress July 3-8. There is scholarship money available for youth to attend, provided by BSSF. Cost and details are on the Web site.
- Mission trip to St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia, June 29–July 1. Youth must be at least 16 years old to participate. Don't miss out on this special service opportunity! Spaces are limited; details are on the website.

Thanks for all you do to support our regional youth and young adults!



Poem reveals pilgrimage beauty

By Jerry Rousseau, SFO

Chosen leader

Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Emerging

Community

"I have done what was mine to do; may Christ teach you what is yours."

St. Francis of Assisi

Major Life of St. Francis

By St. Bonaventure

I wrote the following "Ode" during a pilgrimage that my wife, Madeline, and I made to Assisi and Rome in 2003. Some verses came about during our visits to sacred places, while others were written as I meditated on the day's events.

In thanksgiving for the love, friendship, and fraternity that Madeline and I experienced during that pilgrimage, I share these thoughts and prayers with you.

May the all-good and all-loving God bless you and yours, now and forever.

Ode to a Pilgrimage

O Brother Sun, who rises above Santa Chiara and illumines the house of "Il Povorello."

Bring light and warmth to the dark and cold of searching hearts among the pilgrims within your walls.

O Brother Francis, your spirit lingers and permeates the very stones on which we tread.

Grant us the yearning to surrender all, so we may follow Christ.

O Blessed Sights and Places, where once Francis and Clare reveled and were formed by the hand of God.

Draw us ever nearer to the mystery within these events of the past, whose hope remains ever present.

O Thunder and Lightning, in whose power the air is cooled and refreshed.

Awaken in us a desire for humility and peace.

O Sister Moon, you cast your shadows across the landscape of our lives.

May we rejoice in the knowledge that Brother Sun will rise again and bathe us in his renewing strength.

O Sister Clare, you beckon us to follow our hearts and to seek our peace in the most holy of holies by whose power the Saracens were dispelled.

May we follow your example of charity and service as we strive to gaze upon Christ, consider Christ, and contemplate Christ.

O Sister Lark, whose voice echoes in song the glories of the Lord.

May your hymn and that of the chorus of all creatures touch the very center of our soul that we might sing hymns of praise to the all good, Creator, God.

See ODE, page 7

ODE, from page 6

O Precious Grain and Grapes, which earth has nourished and hands have fashioned.

May we be filled to overflowing with the salvific bread and wine of life.

O Mighty Boulders, which split in agony at the Lord's passion and among which the brothers found solace and strength for the journey.

May our heads rest upon your sweet hardness and our hearts hear the words which live within.

O Shining Star, which lit the sky at Bethlehem. At Greccio you call us to contemplate the Incarnation of our Lord and to come as little children and sit in wonder and awe at God's gift of his only Son.

May we never cease to love and adore him.

O Wonder of Creation, whose works give you all praise—in stones of kingly arches, in earth come alive as terra cotta images of the marvels of your love, and in blessed wood which nature sculpts.

May our eyes be ever open to the joy and glory of creation.

O Sacred Valley, which recalls with amazement those who came before us and points the way to "he who is risen." We marvel at your wonders as we share in the joy of communion.

May the Eucharist sustain us in time of need and may our meditation on Brother Francis and Sister Clare lead us to the Prince of Peace.

Amen. Amen. Alleluia.

Franciscan spirituality day planned

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, patroness of the Third Order, was born in 1207.

In honor of her devotion to God as a Franciscan, the friars of St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church and the members of Immaculate Conception Fraternity, will host a "Day of Franciscan Spirituality" on April 14, in Jonesboro, Ga.

Every three years we host a "Franciscan Day" and this year, in honor of St. Elizabeth, we will give special attention to Franciscan saints of the Third Order. Various workshops and presentations will be offered throughout the day, giving people a chance to learn more about the saints in our Franciscan family.

In addition to our presentations on Francis, Clare, and Elizabeth of Hungary, a Franciscan "Hall of Fame" will introduce you to other Franciscan saints and their personal dedication to the Lord. You may choose to watch a film on Assisi or attend a workshop on the San Damiano Crucifix. Other workshops will include praying with a Franciscan saint, choosing a simple lifestyle, and the meaning of the Tau.

Or, you may want to come to our craft room and make your own memento to remember the day. As Franciscans, this is a great way to share our spirituality with others. You may be inspired with ideas for hosting this event in your diocese.

Our presentations begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude with song and prayer at 4 p.m. Mass will be offered at 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.; the sacrament of reconciliation is at 3 p.m. A \$10 registration fee will cover the cost of your lunch and materials you receive.

For more information, contact Cricket Aull at casfo@earthlink.net or Mary Mauldin at mmauldin@stphilipbenizi.org. We hope you can join us for this special day of Franciscan fellowship and sharing our spirituality with others. **T**



Novenas requested for people of Darfur

By Judy Haupt, SFO
Minister
BSSF Region

Members of the National Fraternity Council of the Secular Franciscan Order met in Marathon, Wisc., Oct. 24-29, for the annual NAFRA gathering.

In addition to the responsibility of electing our executive council, we prepared statements of concern (see below) regarding the tragic situation in Darfur and support of the recent pastoral letter issued jointly by the Catholic bishops of Mexico and the United States regarding immigration. This was

See DAFUR, page 9

Novena Prayer for Darfur

Merciful Father, Prince of Peace, Spirit of Wisdom and Compassion, please look upon our brothers and sisters in Darfur. We humbly pray: —For those who have been subjected to violence: women, children, young and old men, we ask for healing, consolation, and relief of further suffering.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

—For those who have done violence, we ask for healing, forgiveness, and the grace of conversion.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

—For those in authority throughout the world, we ask wisdom, creativity, compassion and courage in addressing this situation.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Lord Jesus, your sacred heart burns for love of all your people. Please place in our hearts that same love, and inspire us to have the courage, wisdom, and ingenuity to take what measures we can personally to relieve the suffering in Darfur. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Lord, through the intercession of the sorrowful and immaculate heart of Mary.

Memorare: Remember, O most gracious virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen

DARFUR, from page 8

reported in TAU-USA's winter issue.

The following statement on Darfur will be sent to President Bush as well as news media and publications:

"Two years ago in our annual meeting, the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, representing over 15,000 members throughout the United States, unanimously adopted a statement condemning the genocide in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

"As that horror continues, this year the National Fraternity reiterates that cry for justice and again urges that the United States firmly support the United Nations peacekeeping efforts in Darfur. In addition, we urge that the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service grant prompt and just refugee status to the people of Darfur now languishing in refugee camps in Kenya and throughout Africa."

The feeling of helplessness led us to propose some additional action to end this crisis. A donation of \$2,000 will be sent to the Catholic Relief Fund for aid to Darfur, and we can raise our 15,000 voices in prayer. A novena will be prayed across the country with each region assigned a time to pray during the year. Please pray the prayer on page 8 for those suffering and for those causing the suffering.

All members of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region are asked to pray for nine days beginning Feb. 11, and again beginning Aug. 12. T

Newly professed

Immaculate Conception Fraternity,
Jonesboro, Ga., Oct. 28:

Laura Cleary, SFO
Jo Jo Kimball, SFO
Sandy Thompson, SFO
Teri Williamson, SFO

St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity:
Hendersonville, N.C., Sept. 17:

Randy Hair, SFO
Nancy Torres, SFO

Calendar

Ministers may contact editor with fraternity events for the calendar.

2007

Feb. 3Workshop: Raleigh, N.C.

Feb. 4REC-CG: Raleigh

April 14Workshop: Greenville, S.C.

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

June 23Workshop: Chattanooga, Tenn.

July 3-8Quinquennial:

Location to be announced

Aug. 9-12ARG (elections)

2008

OctoberBSSF Region hosts NAFRA
(week of 12th or 19th)

Jubilees

Immaculate Conception Fraternity, Jonesboro, Ga., honored three of its members with a jubilee celebration Oct. 28.

Christine Sampson, SFO, observed her 50th anniversary as a Secular Franciscan; Father Michael Campbell, SFO; and Laura Haukass, SFO, were honored for 25 years each as Secular Franciscans.

Christine made her profession Nov. 26, 1956, and has been a member of Immaculate Conception Fraternity since June 11, 2000. She recalls that in her early days as a Secular, fraternity offices were limited to minister and spiritual assistant, and she also remembers that Seculars were allowed to wear a scapular and cord.

"My sisters and brothers of the Franciscan Order, family, and friends, I would like to thank you for sharing my anniversary of 50 years with the order," she told the fraternity. "It has been a long and happy journey. There have been some changes over the years, but we survive. There is always someone there to help you pick up the pieces when needed."

Father Michael, born in 1936, made his
See JUBILEES, page 10

JUBILEES, from page 9

profession in 1981 and was ordained a priest in 1986 in New York. Later, he transferred to the Archdiocese of Atlanta. He served at the cathedral and at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Atlanta and at Prince of Peace Church in Cumming, Ga. He was active in various apostolates and served as Immaculate Conception's spiritual assistant when the fraternity met at Sacred Heart Parish in Atlanta.

Laura, living on the West Coast at the time, had joined a widow-support group that asked Fr. Steve Gross, OFM Conv., to be its chaplain. One Sunday he spoke of the Franciscan Order and the family of Francis. Five members of this group joined with others and after several years of formation, 12 were professed in September 1981 in St. Francis Fraternity in the Province of St. Joseph of Cupertino.

She was elected fraternity minister that November and in February 1982 became province minister, a position she had for nine years. It was an exciting time, with the development of new fraternities and renewal of older ones. During this time she served five years on the first National Formation Committee, which developed *Guidelines for Initial Formation in the United States*

She also served on the regionalization committee that resulted in Secular Franciscans in the United States being grouped in regions instead of being attached to a particular obedience of the First Order. She also served 12 years as a councilor in CIOFS (the International Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order).

Since September 2003, Laura has been the chosen leader of the St. Monica Newly Forming Group in Duluth, Ga., which Immaculate Conception sponsors. **T**

Fraternity highlights

Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Emerging Community, Blairsville, Ga., has received approval from Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory and Fr. Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., to provide an ongoing apostolate, the "Eucharistic Day of Reflection," in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. The next day of reflection will take place at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Blairsville on March 10 as part of the parish's lenten programs.

Franciscan Martyrs held its first-ever live Nativity on Dec. 16 at St. Francis of Assisi Church. It was very well received and appears that it will become an annual event. Along with fraternity members, the school-age choir and members of the Sunday school classes took the various parts (shepherds, angels, kings, Mary, and Joseph). Franciscan Martyrs member Glenn Berns, SFO, provided three alpacas (mountain camels), which were a big hit with everyone.

The community provided music and refreshments for the program.

T

Fraternity of Brother Francis, Hickory, N.C., continued its annual Christmas tradition, presenting "The Crib at Greccio" at the Catholic Conference Center, Dec. 10.

Parishioners from local churches took the parts of Francis and his brother friars, Pope Honorius, the Holy Family, and shepherds to tell the story of St. Francis establishing the first live Nativity scene. Fr. Linus celebrated Mass during the program.

Fraternity treasurer, Dr. John Martin, SFO, coordinated the program and gathered the animals, including donkeys, a cow and calf, miniature horse, dogs, and a llama.

Refreshments and fellowship in the conference center followed the program.

T

At Eucharist on Dec. 9, **St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity**, Augusta, Ga., celebrated the ceremony of sponsorship for candidates Marie Champagne, SFO; Janet

See FRATERNITY, page 11

FRATERNITY, from page 10

Hulshof, SFO; Gerald Ouellette, SFO; Ken Wessling, SFO; and Nora Wessling, SFO. The candidates had chosen professed members as sponsors.

During the ceremony the candidates presented their sponsors, who promised to be “companions on the journey” throughout the candidacy phase by sharing their Franciscan lives in prayer, study, apostolate, dialogue, and leisure. Thus, the candidates will experience full Franciscan community as they grow spiritually in God’s presence through living and proclaiming the Gospel in the spirit of Sts. Francis and Clare.

“I am so blessed to be on my journey and appreciate the guidance of my sponsor to be my companion,” Janet said after the ceremony.

T

St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity, Hendersonville, N.C., celebrated the holidays with participation in various apostolates.

The fraternity purchased gifts for mothers and their children who had been helped last year by Open Arms, a pregnancy support center in Hendersonville, and invited them to attend the fraternity’s annual Christmas party, Dec. 3.

Fraternity members also prepared some 50 gift bags of small treats and toys for children in the Hispanic community.

On Dec. 23, fraternity members, along with friends and family, assisted Immaculate Conception Church in preparing for Bounty of Bethlehem, chopping herbs for seasoning for the dinner, which is served to 2,500–3,000 people on Christmas day.

Everyone was welcome at the dinner, served in the gym, and meals were also delivered to the homes of those unable to attend the dinner. **T**

REC-CG synopsis

The most recent BSSF Region Executive Council-Commission Gathering (REC-CG)

was held at Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville, N.C.

St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity hosted a potluck supper for the council and commission members on Nov. 10. Judy Haupt, SFO, regional minister, led opening prayer; Cricket Aull, SFO, regional vice minister, led the evening prayer service.

Nov. 11 began with the celebration of the Eucharist and Morning Prayer; Fr. Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., regional spiritual assistant, presided. The business portion began with the “Prayer for the Regular Meeting of the Council” from the *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*.

Among the items covered during the meeting:

1. The Annual Regional Gathering, scheduled for Aug. 10–12.

A new meeting place is required as the region has outgrown the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Charlotte. The members discussed possible new locations:

- a. Ridgecrest, a Baptist-owned conference center near Asheville, N.C.—Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, Communio editor; and Pat Cowan, SFO, Area 5 councilor, have visited this site and been very impressed. However, Pat reported that the chapel is not in the same building where the ARG would be held. It was also noted that no alcohol (other than wine for the Eucharist) is allowed on the site. Judy planned to visit also.
- b. Embassy Suites—regarded as too pricey.
- c. Marriott in Spartanburg. Prices were to be sent to Judy.

Judy was to send all REC-CG members a checklist for comparing the various places.

Fr. Linus recommended obtaining a five-year contract, if possible, at whatever place is selected, so that we would save money by being locked into a price.

See REC-CG, page 12

REC-CG, from page 11**2. Regional minister/formation director workshops in 2007.**

Paula Zanker, SFO, regional formation director, had already sent Judy the proposed agenda and format, which she distributed to the meeting attendees. Cost for the workshop—\$12 or \$15—was discussed.

Registration forms were to go out in late November or early December. Dates for the workshops are Feb. 3, Raleigh, N.C.; April 14, Greenville, S.C.; June 23, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Jim Taylor, SFO, regional ecology commissioner co-chair, asked if he could give a talk during the workshops. The council determined that the best place for the talk will be at the ARG. Jim agreed and will plan for that.

3. NAFRA meeting.

Judy reported on some of the highlights from the NAFRA meeting, held Oct. 24–29 in Wisconsin. A new NAFRA executive council was elected.

A “Novena Prayer for Darfur” (p. 8) was created during the meeting. Each region is assigned time to pray. Our region’s time is the second week in February and August of 2007. The prayer will be sent to the local fraternities.

Judy and the BSSF council reviewed the “State of the Order” report from then National Minister Carol Gentile, SFO.

We also reviewed our region’s report, generated by the NAFRA visitation at the ARG last August. The biggest concern is the lack of spiritual assistants at the local level. We cannot get approval from all provinces to allow us to have secular spiritual assistants. We are least concerned about our growth in members. We also talked about the requirements for the “Life-Giving Union” course and paperwork involved with it. Joanita will work with Fr. Linus to coordinate efforts to get all the papers together and to work with the provinces to get a program started.

4. Merging community

St. Benedict the Moor Emerging Community, Macon, Ga., wishes to stop the process of becoming a fraternity and, instead, merge with Immaculate Conception Fraternity, Jonesboro, Ga. Cricket made a motion, seconded by Deacon Dennis Arcand, SFO, that the emerging community merge with the fraternity. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Youth Commission

Betti Longinotti, SFO, Youth/Young Adult Commission chair, showed a flyer about the Youth Congress to be held during the 2007 Quinquennial.

She is asking for support to send youth to the congress and asked the BSSF Region for up to \$1,000 for this effort. The youth selected will be asked to put down a deposit to show their interest in attending the congress. Deacon Dennis moved, and Audrey Binet, SFO, Area Three councilor, seconded the motion to approve this expenditure. The council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Communio

Published four times a year for members of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Copy submission deadlines and publication dates:

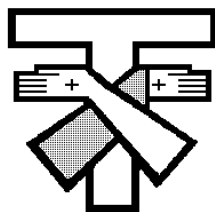
- ❖ **Spring 2007** deadline, March 23
Publication date, March 30
- ❖ **Summer 2007** deadline, June 22
Publication date, June 29
- ❖ **Autumn 2007** deadline, Sept. 28
Publication date, Oct. 5
- ❖ **Winter 2008** deadline, Dec. 21, 2007
Publication date, Dec. 28, 2007

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Joanita M. Nellenbach, SFO
Editor



Brothers and Sisters of Saint Francis Region

Secular Franciscan Order

Alabama · Georgia · North Carolina · South Carolina · Tennessee

Dear good brothers and sisters,

The Lord give you peace!

This letter is to notify you that our Chapter of Elections will be held during the Annual Regional Gathering in Ridgecrest, N. C., Aug. 10–12, 2007. A quorum of ministers and the voting members of the regional executive council or their delegates must be present for the regional fraternity council to elect a slate of officers.

Every established fraternity minister and the elected minister, vice minister, secretary, treasurer, formation director, and seven area councilors of the regional executive council 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 executive 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.

Please submit nominations for minister, vice minister, secretary, treasurer, formation director, and area councilors. At this time there are seven area councilors. Members of your fraternity, emerging community, or newly forming group and the regional executive council members may nominate a member(s) of your fraternity, community, or group, or any fraternity, community, or group within the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region. They may be nominated for more than one position. Nominees must be active professed members with proof of SFO profession. They can be members of established fraternities, emerging communities, or newly forming groups.

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” of the *Regional Guidelines* (page 14) and Section II: Voting and Conduct of Business—Articles No. 6 and No. 7 in the guidelines. In addition, peruse the “Election Chapter Nomination” form.

NOMINATION FORMS ARE DUE BEFORE JUNE 15, 2007.

Mail one copy of the nomination form [see page 16] to Joanne Babin, SFO, and one copy to Cathy Bohnsack, SFO. This duplicate mailing is to insure that all nomination forms are received. Once the nominations are received, the “Election Chapter Nomination” form 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 before June 15, 2007.

Thank You,

Joanne Babin and Cathy Bohnsack

Nominating committee co-chairpersons

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

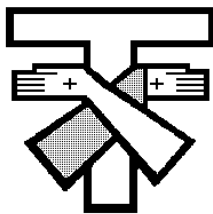
Article 5. Duties of Members of the Regional Executive Council

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. To 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. To 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. To record the minutes of Regional Executive Council Gatherings 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. To furnish a copy of the approved minutes of Regional Executive Council Gatherings (excluding personal or sensitive matters) *when requested* by a local minister or leader.
 - f. To assist the regional minister and regional treasurer with the annual report to the regional fraternity and the national fraternity.
 - g. To assist in maintaining the national database as needed.
 - h. To 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.

See DUTIES, page 15

DUTIES, from page 14

- 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. To 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. **T**



Brothers and Sisters of Saint Francis Region
Secular Franciscan Order

Alabama · Georgia · North Carolina · South Carolina · Tennessee

NOMINATION FORM

Chapter of Elections: August 11, 2007

I nominate _____

FOR: MINISTER VICE MINISTER SECRETARY TREASURER FORMATION DIRECTOR AREA COUNCILOR

Please underline office(s). You may nominate the professed member for more than one office.

Address _____

City and State _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Fraternity, Emerging Community or Newly Forming Group _____

City and State _____

Nominated by _____

Address _____

City and State _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Fraternity, Emerging Community or Newly Forming Group _____

City and State _____

E-mail or mail one copy to:

Joanne Babin, SFO

107 Dalewood Dr.

Spartanburg, S.C. 29302

Phone: 864-585-5099

E-mail: joannebabin@bellsouth

E-mail or mail one copy to:

Cathy Bohnsack, SFO

108 Timberlake Dr.

Inman, S.C. 29349

Phone: 864-592-9385

E-mail: brbohns@charter.net