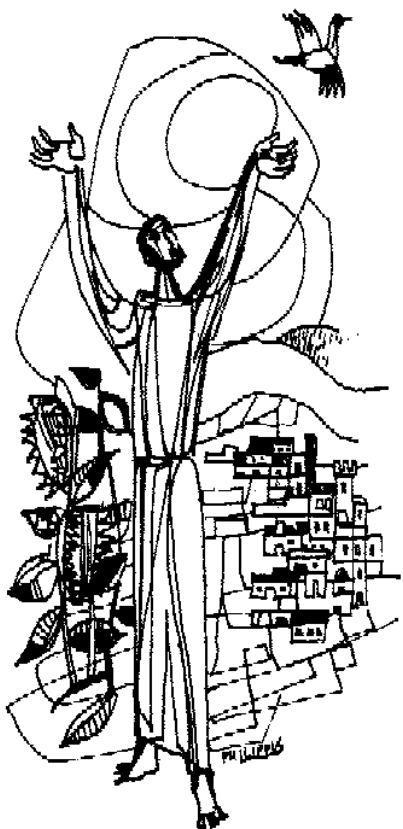


Communio

That All May Be One

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



ARG 2007 FOCUSING ON SECULAR SANCTITY

By Judy Haupt, SFO
Minister
BSSF Region

Join us Aug. 10–12 to “Celebrate Secular Saints” at our Annual Regional Gathering — a time of sharing and participating.

2007 is the eighth centenary of the birth of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, the patroness of the Third Order Regular and the Secular Franciscan Order. We plan to focus our time together on secular saints, St. Elizabeth, and examples of apostolates.

We gather at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, just minutes from Asheville, N.C. Meal and room prices are less than last year.

Reservations will be made to the BSSF Region (your minister/leader has the reservation forms) instead of the facility by July 10. However, you will pay Ridgecrest when you check in.

For those staying at Ridgecrest, the fee includes your room for

two nights, plus five meals (Friday-night dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner; and Sunday breakfast).

If commuting, you’ll check in and pay the day fee plus the cost of the meals you want. When you pay, you’ll receive your meal ticket. Meals are served buffet style.

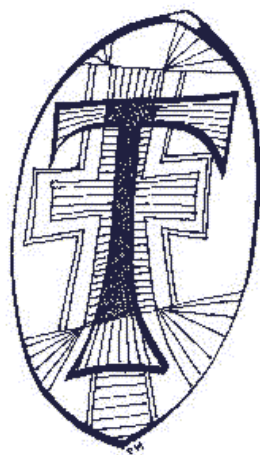
Alcohol — other than sacramental wine — is not allowed on the premises.

Five fraternities have offered to participate actively this year:
See ARG, page 4

**ARG Agenda
Pages 6 & 7**

**2008 Budget
Proposal, page 13**

**ARG Chapter of
Elections, Page 14**



Minister's Message

Dear Franciscan Family,

My service to you as minister in the past three years has had some challenges, but the rewards have been more numerous. It has broadened my visions of this "way of life" and inspired me by the witness of our members.

Our growth is a sure sign of hope for the future of Secular Franciscans in this region, our country, and our world.

Have you ever been asked the questions: What is the Secular Franciscan Order? Who are Secular Franciscans? What do they do?

The answers to those questions are in our Rule and General Constitutions. Take time to step back and reflect on who you are and what you are called to do.

The Secular Franciscan Order is a public association in the Church. It is divided into fraternities at various levels: local, regional, national, and international. Each one has its own juridical personality within the Church (Gen. Const., art. 1.5).

St. Francis of Assisi founded the SFO, along with the First Order and Second Orders. We are all called to continue the mission that God gave Francis to repair his Church.

The vocation to the SFO is a vocation to live the Gospel in fraternal communion. For this purpose, the members of the SFO gather in ecclesial communities which are called fraternities (Gen. Const., art. 3.3).

A member of the SFO is a member of the local, regional, national, and international fraternities. Entering the SFO and making perpetual profession is a commitment that impacts and embraces our entire life.

Mindful that the Holy Spirit is the source of their vocation and the animator of fraternal life and mission, Secular Franciscans should seek to imitate the faithfulness of Francis to His inspiration. They should listen to the exhortation of the Saint to desire above all things "the Spirit of God at work within them" (Gen. Const., art. 11).

Gaining inspiration from the example and the writings of Francis and, above all, filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit, each day the brothers and sisters faithfully live the great gift which Christ has given: the revelation of the Father. They should bear witness to this faith before all:

- *in their family life,*
- *in their work,*
- *in their joys and sufferings,*
- *in their associations with all men and women, brothers and sisters of the same Father,*
- *in their presence and participation in the life of society,*
- *in their fraternal relationships with all creatures (Gen. Const., art. 12.1).*

Emanuela De Nunzio, former SFO minister general, wrote in February 2001: "It rests on each one of us to ensure that we are 'spirit and life,' an instrument of consolidation and growth

See MINISTER, page 3

MINISTER, from page 2

of our order. We also, Secular Franciscans, are called to be witnesses, that is to say, martyrs for Christ.”

Perhaps we will not be asked to give witness by shedding our blood, but we will certainly be asked to give witness by being coherent and firm in the fulfillment of our baptismal promises, renewed and reaffirmed through profession in the SFO.

Our profession, the Rule, and its application — the General Constitutions — are, for each of us, the reference points for daily experience, beginning with a specific vocation and precise identity.

On this basis we need to reshape our existence and find a project of life (Franciscan evangelical radicalism) and a place of Church communion (the fraternity), in which it should be possible for us to “learn the purpose and the way of living, loving, and suffering” (Gen. Const, art. 10).

St. Francis said that he did what was his to do, and we are called to do what is ours to do: “For up to now we have just begun.”

Peace and all good,
Judy



Editor's Journal

“When you were just a baby ...”

Does your child ever ask what happened the day she was born, how Mom and Dad met, or about other family events from the past?

Take the time to tell her all the details. New

research shows that the more a child learns about her family—and her place in it—the greater her sense of self-confidence and competence.

From RealAge, a health Web site

We all are, or have been, “baby” Franciscans—new to the family — and I agree that the more we know about our family the more self-confident and competent we are.

There are many ways to do this.

We can, for instance, learn about Franciscan saints, blessed, and venerables during ongoing formation in our local fraternities and in our larger fraternity: our

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region. Last year, our ARG focused on St. Clare; this year, we’ll look at St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

At the memorial service at the ARG this year, we’re including a Litany of Franciscan Saints of the First, Second, and Third orders. You’ll find a “Litany of Franciscan Saints” in the *Secular Franciscan Companion*, as well as similar litanies online. Pick some names and find out more about those people.

The Franciscan supplement to the Liturgy of the Hours offers brief biographies of some of our Franciscan ancestors in faith.

That supplement sometimes gives you a different perspective than what’s in the “Proper of Saints” in the LOH. For example, on Feb. 6 in the LOH “Proper of Saints” we find the memorial of “St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs,” who died in Japan in 1597. Paul Miki, a Jesuit priest, is stressed because he was Japanese and these are the “Japanese martyrs.”

However, for Feb. 6 in the Franciscan

See EDITOR, page 4

EDITOR, from page 3

supplement, it's the memorial of "Peter Baptist, Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs." The supplement states that most of these martyrs were Franciscans, including 15 Seculars.

In the ongoing formation that we do on our own, over and above what we prepare for formation in our fraternity meetings, we can also get acquainted with Franciscan family members. The Office of Readings, for example, includes a biblical and nonbiblical reading. For the nonbiblical readings, why not use the writings of Francis, Clare, Bonaventure, Angelo of Foligno, Thomas of Celano, the *Little Flowers of St. Francis*, just to name a few.

Saints, though, aren't just those on the "official" list. We all know First, Second, and Third Order Franciscans who, by the way they live their lives, exemplify what it means to be Franciscan.

Hearing from them in their own words can be as inspiring as reading about Franciscans of past times.

At this year's ARG, we plan to recognize those members of our region who've been professed for significant periods of time. It'll probably add up to hundreds of years of profession.

We can also learn the stories of our own fraternities: When and where was the fraternity established? What significant events have happened? What have been the fun things, and the sad times, that build the life of any fraternity family?

The course for fraternity spiritual assistants was originally called "Life-Giving Union." Now, it's called "Franciscan Family Connections." This is a good name for this course, but it also reminds us of our family history: the history from the past and the history we are continuously creating.

Pace e bene
Joanita

ARG, from page 1

- St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity, Spartanburg, S.C., will coordinate the registration for the second year. Yea!
- St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity, Hendersonville, N.C., will lead the memorial service for the third year. You are great!
- Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Emerging Community, Blairsville, Ga., will coordinate our eucharistic adoration chapel. We will have 24 hours of adoration and prayer. We are so grateful!
- Channel of Peace Fraternity, Chattanooga, Tenn., and St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Augusta, Ga., will prepare recognition of newly professed and special SFO anniversaries. Thank you so much!

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

I look forward to being with you. T

Congratulations**Newly Professed**

Channel of Peace Fraternity

April 22

Mechtild Boles, SFO

Barbara Garrison, SFO

Debby Williams, SFO

Sts. Francis and Clare NFG,

July 1

Sharon Bubel, SFO

Janette Irwin, SFO

Rite of Admission

Channel of Peace Fraternity

May 6

Horace Brown, SFO

Gerri Toeller, SFO

Structure revised from seven to three areas

The Regional Executive Council met June 24 and revised our region's area structure. The idea was prompted by the success of the formation/minister workshops held in three locations.

This will allow two area councilors to work together and share ideas and responsibilities as well as continue to reinforce the connections members established in the workshops. Fraternities and groups may be realigned if needed.

Seven area councilors will be elected. Two councilors will be elected for each area and one additional councilor will assist with newly forming groups and emerging communities across the region.

The new structure is:

Area One(11) Chattanooga. Tenn.

Bessemer, Ala.

Decatur, Ala.

Athens, Ga. NFG

Blairsville, Ga.

Conyers, Ga. NFG

Duluth, Ga. EC

Jonesboro, Ga.

Franklin, N.C.

Chattanooga, Tenn.

Knoxville, Tenn. NFG

Nashville, Tenn.

Area Two (12) Columbia, S.C.

Aiken, S.C. EC

Augusta, Ga.

St. Simons Island, Ga.

Asheville, N.C.

Charlotte, N.C.

Hendersonville, N.C.

Hickory, N.C.

Greenville, S.C.

Charleston, S.C.

Columbia, S.C. NFG

Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Spartanburg, SC

Area Three (8) Raleigh, N.C.

Burlington, N.C.

Elizabeth City, N.C.

Fayetteville, N.C.

Greensboro, N.C.

Morehead City, N.C.

Raleigh, N.C.

Wilmington, N.C.

Winston-Salem, N.C.

Fraternity highlights

Sts. Francis and Clare NFG

Carol Paul Pavur, SFO, the NFG's chosen leader, has been recognized for 25 years of profession.

At the Area 1 Retreat, June 1–3 at Dubose Conference Center, Monteagle, Tenn., Carol renewed his profession promises during Sunday Mass, which Fr. Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., celebrated. Carol made his perpetual profession on May 16, 1982.

Channel of Peace Fraternity, which is sponsoring Sts. Francis and Clare NFG, gave Carol a Franciscan Crown that Channel of Peace member Barbara Garrison had made.

"I was completely surprised and was overwhelmed with the goodness and thoughtfulness of the Secular Franciscans," Carol said later. "I didn't expect [the recognition]. I was professed at St Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit where Father Solanus Casey is buried."

On another note, when Sts. Francis and Clare NFG celebrated the profession of Sharon Bubel and Janette Irwin at St. Mary Church, Oak Ridge, Tenn., July 1, it proved to be even more special than they had anticipated.

Faye Martin, SFO, Channel of Peace Fraternity's minister, reports that Jesuit Father William Oruko, the NFG's spiritual assistant, "was as excited as the newly professed. He had a sign out in front of the church stating the Franciscans were having a profession [that] day. He also arranged for a group at the church to prepare our lunch."

Sharon Bubel, by the way, drives 240 round trip to fraternity meetings.

ANNUAL REGIONAL GATHERING

BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION

LifeWay Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C.
Aug 10-12, 2007
Celebrating Secular Saints:
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Patroness and Example

Friday, Aug. 10

3:00 p.m.	Registration – St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity
4:00	Meeting: Fr. Linus DeSantis and spiritual-assistant students
5:30 -6:30	Dinner buffet (ticket required for all meals)
7:30	Welcome, Opening Prayer– Judy Haupt, Minister *Introductions and Recognition of New Councils, New Attendees Presentation: National Visitor - First Call for Nominations
8:15	Evening Prayer Service — Liturgy of the Hours — Cricket Aull, vice minister
8:45	Social

Saturday, Aug. 11

7:15–8:15 a.m.	Breakfast buffet
9:00	*Recognition of newly professed and special SFO anniversaries Commissions in action Second call for nominations
10:00	Celebration of the Eucharist: Mass of Canonical Establishment — Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Fraternity **Procession to Eucharistic Chapel — Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Fraternity
11:00	Presentation on St. Elizabeth of Hungary Third call for nominations
Noon—1 p.m.	Lunch buffet
1:00-4:00	Council Meeting Chapter of Elections ***Opportunity time, incl. display of Secular Franciscan saints, apostolates, discussion groups
4:00	The Secular Franciscan: Fr. Linus DeSantis
5:30-6:30	Dinner buffet
7:30	Liturgy of the Hours — Franciscan Crown rosary with music
8:30	Social

Sunday, Aug. 13

7:15-8:15 a.m	Breakfast buffet
9:00	Memorial for deceased members of region: St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity Novena Prayer for Darfur
9:30	Celebration of the Eucharist: Mass of Installation of Newly Elected Council
10:30	Break: Checkout by 11 a.m.
11:30	Presentation
Noon	Closing prayer — Adjournment
12:30	Meeting: Newly Elected and Outgoing Regional Executive Council

Bring your Liturgy of Hours or Christian Prayer Book and the Ritual

ANNUAL REGIONAL GATHERING

Franciscan Books and Articles Will be For Sale.

*We will recognize our newly professed and new councils
August 2006 until August 2007

****A Chapel will be open for Eucharistic Adoration 11 a.m. Sat.– 9:30 a.m. Sun.**

***Opportunity Time: group discussions; time for reflection, sharing, napping, and enjoying
God's creation.

Please take this time to introduce yourself to someone and get to know each other.

****We will remember our deceased: August 2006 until August 2007

Regional Fraternity Council Meeting

Opening Prayer: Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Report of Treasurer

Business:

Approval of Budget for 2008

Chapter of Elections

Calendar

Other

Open Forum: Please discuss items with regional minister before meeting.

Adjournment — Closing Prayer: Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order

Every fraternity minister is a member of the
Regional Fraternity Council.

Please be present OR delegate this responsibility to another member.

Send a note with your substitute authorizing that person to vote in your place.

The note is to be given to the regional secretary before the Regional Fraternity Council Meeting.

The delegate does not have voting rights without the authorization.

**MEMBERS OF FRATERNITIES, NEWLY FORMING GROUPS, AND
EMERGING COMMUNITIES ARE INVITED TO OBSERVE
THE COUNCIL MEETING.**

Pope asks for a solution in Darfur



Pope Benedict XVI has asked for a negotiated solution to the bloody situation in the Darfur region of Sudan.

“In this deadly conflict, that primarily affects the civil populations, everyone knows that no solution to arrive at a just peace can be implemented with the force of arms,” the pope said, June 1, after receiving the letters of credence of Ahmed Hamid Elfaki Hamid, the new ambassador to the Holy See from Sudan.

The pontiff spoke of the need for “a culture of dialogue and negotiation, so as to arrive to a political solution of the conflict, which respects the cultural, ethnic and religious minorities.”

Benedict XVI continued: “It is never too late to courageously make the necessary, and at times demanding, decisions to bring to an end a crisis situation, with the condition that all parties involve themselves with sincerity and with determination in their resolve.”

The Holy Father made a call “to all persons that have responsibility in this situation so that they continue their efforts and make the required decisions.”

Secular Franciscans across our country have continued to send prayers for peace.

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

Please, let us raise our voices in the following prayer for those suffering and those causing the suffering.

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 **T**

Franciscan Action Network: What's it all about?

Dear brothers and sisters,

As representative for the BSSF Region at the historical meeting in March, I bring you the latest update on our efforts to advocate as “one voice” on behalf of the marginalized, poor, and those affected by violence and threats to the environment.

Peace and all Good,
Jerry Rousseau, SFO
Treasurer, BSSF Region



What is the FAN?

Inspired by the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi and the long heritage of men and women who follow in their footsteps as present-day disciples of Jesus Christ, the Franciscan Action Network (FAN) is designed to bring a coordinated and effective voice to matters of justice, peace, and care for creation in our world.

FAN's advocacy focus is the U.S. government and related Washington, D.C.-based institutions, such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and Organization of American States. Advocacy topics will be international and domestic. In these arenas, FAN hopes to bring a spirit of healing and reconciliation as it advocates world transformation, as inspired by God's Spirit.

Who is the FAN?

The strength of any network dedicated to social transformation is the people and institutions that comprise it. FAN is made up of recognized U.S.-based Franciscan entities (with clearly elected leadership) that chose to be associated with the efforts. Both Catholic and non-Catholic, these entities represent the broad reach of the Franciscan message. They are congregations and provinces of religious men and religious women, Secular Franciscan regions, and ecumenical partners, building upon Francis' spirit of crossing “borders” to join in the common invitation of God to transform the world.

How does FAN function?

FAN is composed of three interrelated parts, each inspiring and supporting the others in a relational Franciscan style:

- FAN members: Friars, sisters, Secular Franciscans, ecumenical Franciscans, and the men and women with whom they minister. FAN membership is attained through the leadership entity being a part of it. FAN members will seek to animate the grassroots of their ministries and places of service to be advocates of transformation. At the same time, by nature of the relationships of service to persons who are poor or marginalized, the members have a unique and privileged perspective to share in voicing the change we seek.
- National Leadership Commission: A representative body of the Franciscan family in the United States, the Commission serves as a recognized group of leaders who will work to help the larger FAN formulate and focus the issues of advocacy for transformation, as well as to enhance the network's communication conduits.
- Action Center: Based in Washington, D.C., with staff trained and dedicated to help the FAN achieve its social-transformation goals. The center's staff will monitor and advise the course of the network's strategic decisions and will work with the members and the FAN Leadership Commission to help them develop the skills for greater public-advocacy impact.

See FAN, page 10

FAN, from page 9**How is FAN supported?**

In its inaugural year, member communities will make donations to support the FAN. In the future, additional means will be sought as the FAN grows and becomes ever more effective.

FAN goals for 2007-2008:

- Establish and begin the network with an operating Leadership Commission and Action Center.
- Finalize the guidelines and process for choosing issues and responses for transformative action.
- Host a kick-off gathering for advocacy in spring 2008
- Define public plans for training and building the FAN in 2008-2009.

FAN unity statement:

We Franciscan brothers and sisters, Religious and Secular, from throughout the United States gathered together in Baltimore, Md., to discern the possibility of a unified Franciscan voice for justice. With great concern for dehumanizing issues in our society, we recognized trends contrary to our calling as followers of Christ. We see that we have the power to effectively advocate for the redistribution of resources, the responsible care for creation, and the healing of relationships within the Franciscan family, the Church, and society. To these ends, we commit ourselves and call all members of the family to speak with one Franciscan voice to effect the transformation of national social policy. By walking with our brothers and sisters who are poor and marginalized, we intend to advocate for peace and to reaffirm the dignity of all creation.

Adopted March 9, 2007, Baltimore, Md.

How do I get more information about the FAN?

Contact the interim staff support for the Steering Committee:

Russell Testa, WIC Animator

Holy Name Province

6896 Laurel Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20012

202-541-5245

JPIC@HNP.ORG

FAN Web site (www.franciscanaction.org) to be launched by August 2007.

Regional Executive Council—Commissions Gatherings

April 21–22, Ridgecrest, N.C.

Summary:

- Review of fair-share payments sent by local fraternities. Jerry Rousseau, regional treasurer, planned to send letters to fraternities explaining what Fair Share means by referencing SFO Rule and General Constitutions.
- Judy Haupt, regional minister, reviewed the Annual Report summary. Presently, 35 members in the region have “excused” status.
- Betti Longinotti, Youth/Young Adult Commission chair, reported that Kevin Eldris, 18, requested a scholarship for the Youth Congress at the Quinquennial in Pittsburgh in July. The council agreed to award him a \$500 scholarship. Betti also said she had two youth signed up

See REC-CG, page 11

REC-CG, from page 10

- for the St. Francis Inn trip in June to Philadelphia. Additionally, she announced the World Youth Day 2008 registration begins in July. She estimates that the cost per attendee will be about \$3,000. Money will have to be raised for anyone who will attend.
- Cathy Arcand, Work Commission chair, asked that members of the region send her stories about how they bring their Franciscan charism to their workplace.
 - Plans reviewed for the Annual Regional Gathering, to be held at Ridgecrest Conference Center, Aug. 10–12. Theme will focus on St. Elizabeth of Hungary.
 - Judy summarized the process for the regional election and the list of nominees.
 - Because of the death of Glenn Berns, Area 1 councilor, a person was needed to fill that position until the regional election in August. Judy had asked Faye Martin, minister of Channel of Peace Fraternity, Chattanooga, and Faye agreed to fill the position and reported that Faye agreed. The council voted unanimously to approve Judy's recommendation.

June 9–10, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Summary:

- Ratified decision to canonically establish Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Emerging Community; establishment scheduled for ARG.
- Jerry Rousseau submitted proposed 2008 budget (see budget on p.); Regional Fraternity Council will vote on budget at ARG.
- Judy submitted proposal for new area structure; REC approved structure (see p. 5).
- Audrey Binet proposed amendment to regional guidelines to affirm that those who have been admitted to the Secular Franciscan Order by the Rite of Admission can have SFO after their names; if a candidate doesn't profess, the SFO designation ceases to exist. REC approved.
- REC agreed that nomination for Regional Executive Council will be accepted up to and including start of ARG (see nomination form, p. 16). **T**



Shirt story suits BSSF Region to a T

Yes, we still have BSSF Region T-shirts!

They are 100 percent cotton, navy blue, short-sleeved. Embroidered on the front: Tau cross with "Secular Franciscan Order" and "Pax et Bonum" in a circle. On the back, the embroidered design shows St. Francis playing his sticks among the animals, with region

name and states listed.

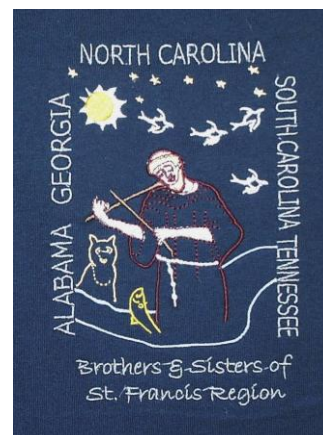
The following sizes and quantities are available: Medium, 7; Large, 17; X-Large, 39; 2X-Large, 5; and 3X-Large, 1 (sorry, no smalls).

Shirts are \$10 each, which includes shipping. Orders can be made on a fraternity or individual basis. Just send your order with payment (checks should be made out to "BSSF Region") to:

Paula O. Zanker, SFO
4441 Amberwood Dr.
Haw River, N.C. 27258

Or e-mail your order to pazanker@aol.com.

Paula, our BSSF Region formation director, will bring whatever shirts she has left to sell at the ARG. **T**





Lessons from Bird

Hello, Bird,
 I see you there on that topmost branch.
 Your joyful song fills the morning and is my
 delight;
 I wonder what it is, Bird, that causes your
 joy?
 Is it because you have no cares or burdens?
 Is that your joy — to be a simple bird? Or is
 it to simply BE?

I notice that you own nothing, yet have all
 you need.
 You are just a little bird, yet Creator has
 given you many gifts:
 Food for the day, nesting materials,
 Water from my backyard,
 Wings that lift you from place to place.

I am a human, not so simple.
 It would seem that Creator has give me the
 greater gifts:
 Intelligence, emotions, talents, skills....
 Why do I not have time to just sing praises
 to Creator?
 Have my gifts become burdens that keep me
 from singing?

Your life is simple, Bird; mine is complex.
 I notice that you rest often
 On branches, the fence post, in the grass.
 Creator has given me resting places, too,
 But I am too busy to rest.

Are there ever obstacles in your path, Bird?
 I've watched you glide through thickets of
 branches,
 Around tall buildings, under low fences
 Flying effortlessly, fearlessly, going higher,
 higher still...

My path has thickets of fears and
 discouragement
 That keep me from believing in myself,
 Keep me from soaring to the higher places
 Where Creator beckons.

Are you ever concerned about tomorrow,
 Bird, as I am?
 About the worm that might not be there
 Or the right piece of straw for your nest?
 You trust Creator, don't you? And he does
 provide!
 No wonder you burst with melodious hymn!

Creator provides for me, too. Provides very
 well.
 Teach me, Bird, to sing your song,
 Teach me to glide through the thickets of
 life,
 To rest often, and trust Creator.
 Teach me, Bird, to simply be
 And to make my life a hymn of praise.

Gail Campbell, SFO
 Channel of Peace Fraternity

Calendar

2007

Aug. 10–12 ARG and regional elections
 Ridgecrest, N.C.

2008

October BSSF Region hosts NAFRA
 (week of 12th or 19th)

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region 2008 Proposed Budget

EXPENSES

\$ 4,200	NATIONAL FRATERNITY FAIR SHARE (420 professed x \$10)
\$ 600	ANNUAL NATIONAL MEETINGS (NAFRA in Nashville)
\$ 0	NATIONAL VISIT TO REGION – ELECTIONS/VISITATION (travel, lodging, stipend for 2 visitors)
\$ 3,300	ANNUAL REGIONAL GATHERING \$ 1,200 socials \$ 300 room, meals Spiritual Assistant \$ 300 room, meals guest speaker \$ 400 audio visual etc. equipment rental \$ 500 materials, handouts \$ 600 scholarship funds, if needed
\$ 2,700	EXECUTIVE COUNCIL – COMMISSIONS GATHERINGS \$ 2,250 lodging 1 night for 3 meetings (10 members @ \$75) \$ 450 transportation costs for 3 gatherings
\$ 600	FRATERNAL – PASTORAL VISITATION EXPENSE (travel and materials, if needed)
\$ 2,600	COMMISSIONS (excluding formation) \$ 2,000 <i>World Youth Day</i> scholarship support \$ 450 materials \$ 150 travel
\$ 1,500	FORMATION/COMMISSION WORKSHOPS
\$ 900	OFFICE SUPPLIES, POSTAGE, COPIES
\$ 1,000	SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT
\$ 500	INTERNATIONAL FRATERNITY (CIOFS) DONATION
\$ 500	CHARITY
\$ 0	GENERAL FUND
\$18,400	<u>TOTAL EXPENSE</u>

INCOME

\$ 16,800	Regional Fraternity Fair Share	(420 professed x \$40)
\$ 1,600	OTHER	
\$18,400	<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	

Regional Chapter of Elections to be held at ARG

By Judy Haupt, SFO

Minister

BSSF Region

Chapter of Elections is a special moment in the life of the fraternity, a moment when the Spirit of God moves among us — a sacred time.

Our Regional Chapter of Elections will be held Aug. 11 during the Annual Regional Gathering in Ridgecrest, N.C. Nominations will be sought for minister, vice minister, secretary, treasurer, formation director, and seven area councilors.

A number of nominations have been made and accepted, but nominations are still open. The nominations can be sent to the Nominating Committee co-chairpersons, Joanne Babin, SFO, and Cathy Bohnsack, SFO, up to the start of the ARG (form included).

Three calls are required for nominations during the nomination process. In past years these calls have been made in succession immediately before the election to the specific position during the actual elections. Those nominated at that moment had to make a hasty decision to accept or decline the nomination.

At this Chapter of Elections we will spread the three calls for nominations during the entire period of the chapter:

1. First call — during the welcoming on Friday evening;
2. Second call — during the 9 a.m. program Saturday;
3. Third call — during the 11 a.m. program Saturday.

This procedure will allow members of the chapter to be open to the Holy Spirit.

During the chapter, you will be provided with a further opportunity to nominate individuals to serve the National Fraternity. There will be three calls for nominations during the chapter.

The election is scheduled for 1–4 p.m. Saturday. All ARG participants are welcome to attend the election, but only designated delegates are permitted to vote.

If you feel led to nominate someone, please do so, ensuring that you have the consent of the individual you are nominating. Then, provide the name of the individual and the position for which you are nominating him or her, to the coordinator of nominations (the visitor from NAFRA, who will officiate at the election).

You are also encouraged to talk with individuals who have been nominated. Get to know

See **ELECTION**, page 15

Prayer for Selection of a New Council

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

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 by done.

Amen.

ELECTION, from page 14

them (if you don't already) so that you will be fully prepared for the election.

If you are asked to serve, consider it in the light of the Spirit (even if you may have already been approached and declined). An elective chapter is a very special time, when the Spirit of God moves among our family. Be open to the movement of the Spirit among us.

Please pray and be open to the Holy Spirit in selecting candidates and accepting the call to serve the members of our region.

Nomination form, page 16.**Communio**

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



Secular Franciscan Retreat
 "Loving In Community:
 Two by Two"
 Sept. 14-16, 2007
 Host: Immaculate Conception
 Fraternity
 Everyone invited
 Retreat Guide:
 Father Noel Danielewicz,
 OFM Conv.
 Call or e-mail for reservations:
 Our Lady of the Holy Spirit
 Monastery
 2625 Hwy. 212 S.W.
 Conyers, Ga. 30094-4044
 770-760-0959
 monastery@trappist.net
 Check-in after 1 p.m. on Friday
 Check-out after lunch on
 Sunday
 Cost: \$120 (\$30 is due 60 days
 prior to the retreat to hold your
 room)
 Questions/concerns, call:
 Sheila Geist, SFO, 770-631-
 2890 or joegeist@bellsouth.net

2007/2008 publication dates and deadlines
 for copy submission:

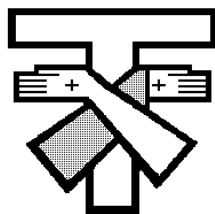
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 Publication date, Dec. 28, 2007

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 Publication date, Mar. 28

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**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 _____ Date: _____

Address _____

City and State _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Fraternity, Emerging Community or Newly Forming Group

City and State _____

E-mail or mail one copy to: AND

E-mail or mail one copy to:

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