

# Communio

## That All May Be One

Newsletter of the  
Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region  
Secular Franciscan Order  
Fall 2008

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### On the road again

#### Minister/Formation Director workshops set for 2009

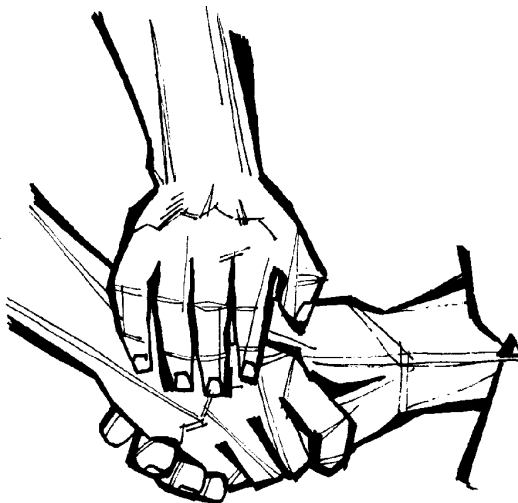
By Faye Martin, SFO

BSSF Region formation director

**I**t has been two years since our last BSSF Regional “on the road” workshops — and we “heard” how much you enjoyed them.

We have scheduled Minister/Formation Director Workshops for 2009 — in three different locations:

- Area 1 — Feb. 27, St. Stephen Catholic Church, 7111 Lee Highway, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37421.
- Area 3 — April 25, St. Andrew Catholic Church, 3008 Old Raleigh Road, Apex, N.C. 27502-9254. Apex is near Raleigh, N.C.
- Area 2 — June 6, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 161 North Dean St., Spartanburg, S.C. 29302.



The workshops are open to everyone, but we especially want to encourage the ministers/leaders and formation directors/teams to attend. There will be separate breakout sessions for the ministers/leaders and for the formation directors/teams. The same topics will be presented at all three workshops. Choose the location that is most convenient to you.

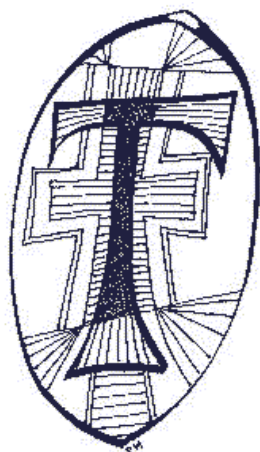
Agendas and registration forms will be sent to ministers/leaders and formation directors. They will also be posted on our BSSF regional Web site, [www.secularfranciscans.org/](http://www.secularfranciscans.org/). The registration form also appears at the back of this issue.

The cost for each attendee will be \$14. I need to receive your completed registration form and check, made out to **BSSF Region**, at least one month prior to the workshop that you plan to attend. Mail to:

Faye Martin, SFO  
6940 River Run Dr.  
Chattanooga, Tenn. 37416

For directions to St. Andrew Church, go to its Web site, [www.saintandrew.org](http://www.saintandrew.org), and click on “Driving Directions.” You can use Mapquest.com to get directions to the other churches.

The workshops will give us the added opportunity to discuss new topics, share concerns, learn from one another, fellowship, and pray together in smaller groups. **T**



## Minister's Message

Our promise at profession is to follow the Gospel according to the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order. Each of us says, "I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its rule of life."

What a commitment!

Sometimes I wonder what I must *do* to live this promise. But I forget that SFO is not something we *do*. Rather, it is who we *are* and how we live each moment of our lives.

How can I *be* a Secular Franciscan and witness to the life and teaching of our Lord, Jesus Christ?

The Gospel speaks to each of us individually as if Christ were speaking directly to us, if we listen with our heart. Read and reflect. Use *lectio divina*

to find your message.

Read the Rule. Make it part of who you are. Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR, has suggested that we read and reflect on one article of the rule each day. An easy way is to read Article 1 on the first day of the month and continue for 26 days. On day 27, and for the next few days, rest and reflect. Then, on the last day of the month, read the Prologue. Begin again with Article 1 the next day.

At our annual gathering Cricket Aull, SFO, gave us these suggestions to find holiness:

1. Find Christ in every person.
2. Find gratitude in your heart.
3. Find a way to impart peace.
4. Find the kingdom of God.
5. Find a way to grow in holiness.

*"May whoever observes all this  
be filled in heaven with the blessing of the most high Father,  
and on earth with that of his beloved Son,  
together with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter."  
(Blessing of St. Francis from the Testament)*

Celebrate being a Secular Franciscan.

Peace and all good,  
Judy

## Editor's Journal



*If You Listen Really Hard, God Will Tell You Stories.*

I believe it.

That's the title of Jane Wolford Hughes' book, published in 1995.

It's not just God, though, who tells us stories. Thanks to Thomas of Celano, Bonaventure of Bagnoregio, and others, we can deepen our love of Francis by reading his story. The *Little Flowers* are among my favorite stories about Francis and about the early friars, including those who lived in the Marches. Their stories keep us connected with our 800-year history.

Stories connect us to each other in our fraternities and in our region, too. During fraternity meetings, when we tell what has happened to us during the month, we become closer as family. Telling how we embraced — and

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**JOURNAL, from page 2**

continue to embrace — our SFO vocations (and we have such a story on page 5), we recognize ourselves in each other's stories.

If any of you would like to share your vocation stories, please send them to me for future issues of Communio.

And, please, encourage your fraternity members, especially those who've been SFOs for a long time, to share what their journey has meant to them. Make those stories part of your fraternity history to reread, and for others to read, in future years.

After all, they're your family story.

Pace e bene  
Joanita

## Litany of Secular Franciscan Saints

Lord, have mercy on us;  
Christ have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy on us;  
Christ, graciously hear us.  
God the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.  
God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.

Elizabeth of Hungary, pray for us.  
Louis IX of France, ...  
Ferdinand II of Castile, ...  
Rose of Viterbo, ...  
Margaret of Cortona, ...  
Ivo of Brittany, ...  
Elzear of Sabran, ...  
Roch of Montpellier, ...  
Elizabeth of Portugal, ...  
Conrad of Piacenza, ...  
Bridget of Sweden, ...  
Frances of Rome, ...  
Catherine of Genoa, ...  
Thomas More, ...  
Charles Borromeo, ...  
Martyrs of Nagasaki\*, ...  
Hyacintha of Mariscotti, ...  
Jane Frances Fremyot de Chantal, ...  
Mary Anne of Jesus de Paredes, ...  
Mary Frances of the Five Wounds, ...  
Joseph Benedict Cottolengo, ...  
Vincentia Gerosa, ...  
Vincent Pallotti, ...  
Emily de Vialar, ...



John Mary Vianney, ...  
Joseph Cafasso, ...  
Mary Joseph Rossello, ...  
John Bosco, ...  
Pius X, pope, ...  
Albert Chmielowski, ...  
Frances Xavier Cabrini, ...  
John XXIII, pope, ...  
Paul VI, pope, ...  
All Blessed of the Secular Franciscan Order, ...

Let us pray.

O God, bountiful in forgiving, and desirous of man's salvation, we beg your mercy in behalf of the members of our Order, our friends, relatives, and benefactors. Bless and protect all of us, absent and present. May those who have passed out of this life partake of everlasting bliss, through the intercession of Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, and all the saints, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen

\*The Nagasaki martyrs, SFO:

Paul Suzuki, Gabriel of Ize, John Kinuya, Thomas Danki, Francis of Mikayo, Thomas Kosaki, Joachim Sakakibara, Bonaventure of Mikayo, Leo Kasasumaru, Matthias of Mikayo, Antony of Nagasaki, Louis Iabaraki, Paul Iabaraki, Michael Kosaki, Peter Sukejiro, Cosmas Takeya, Francis Fahelante

## **From BSSF to NAFRA: Region's response to CIOFS questions**

Our minister general, Encarnación del Pozo, SFO, asked us to contribute to the upcoming General Chapter in November. She asked for our prayers and our thoughts as they define objectives for the future of our Order.

Our response is a reflection of how we perceive who and what we are today and where we are going in the future.

We published the letter and questions in our March and June regional newsletter and asked that every professed member take time to pray about the items and reflect on the questions, first individually then as a community in local fraternity gatherings.

We then met at annual chapter in August to discuss and summarize our thoughts to submit our responses to our National Fraternity and International Council.

The summary response from Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region-61 is below.

We will continue to review all responses as we work to serve our region.

Please continue to pray for the success of both National and International Chapters scheduled for this fall.

Judy Haupt, SFO  
Minister BSSF Region-61

### **Responses to Minister General from Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region**

We are each called to follow this particular path in life. We are each unique yet similar as Secular Franciscans. We belong to a local fraternity, which is the basic unit and connected to our regional fraternity, national fraternity, and international community.

How would you describe your sense of belonging to the Secular Franciscan Order?

1. We have a sense of belonging to a spiritual family and to a real order. Our lay Order is unique in that it originated with its founder, St. Francis.
2. We feel like we are part of a worldwide family, different yet sharing the same spirit.
3. We pray together and serve together. We are encouraged to be our own unique selves. Our fraternities give us support and encouragement; they help us to grow in holiness.
4. We bring our whole selves to our fraternity meetings; we are open about our weaknesses and difficulties, and thus receive love, healing, and support from others.
5. Our sense of belonging is in direct proportion to involvement in local fraternity and region activities (retreats, gatherings, workshops, apostolates).
6. Our sense of belonging is developed through our interconnectedness with greater network of the Franciscan family (all three Orders) — a worldwide “family.”
7. Being a Secular Franciscan challenges me to follow the Gospel in daily life.

Where do we go from here, defining objectives for the next six years?

1. We would like to promote more collaboration from the first and second orders. We want to work with the first order but not be controlled by them.
2. A greater focus on the universal issues that were important to Francis and that still need to be addressed today such as: care of creation, preferential option for the poor, and

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**CIOFS, from page 4**

- global justice and peace.
3. We would like the Order worldwide to focus on one issue, such as hunger or water, to adopt as a project to make a difference and work together for common goals.
  4. We must be grounded in our Franciscan identity and promote visibility. Wear Tau.
  5. Promote greater involvement with youth to attract younger people to discover a vocation to SFO.
  6. Promote creative study of the Rule — help each other to live each article as part of who we are.
  7. Create new ways to share Francis' message with those who are not members of the Franciscan family.
  8. Develop worldwide directory and use it as a tool for prayer and visitation.
  9. Consider a new formulation of what the Secular Franciscan Order is as well as what constitutes authentic Franciscan spirituality for inquirers.
  10. Open and frequent communication between fraternities, local, national and international. Use of Web sites. T

## What the SFO means to me

By John Martin, SFO  
Channel of Peace Fraternity

Whenever I think about what the SFO means to me, I reflect back on what my life was like prior to getting involved with the SFO and what my life has become since my profession.

Prior to my two years of study and then my profession in 1999, I can honestly and without hesitation say that my life had very little prayerfulness and spirituality in it.

Even though I am a “cradle Catholic” my involvement with my church consisted of going to Mass on Sunday, occasionally participating in the sacrament of reconciliation, being present at Mass on those holy days of obligation during the year, and maybe being just a little more focused during the Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter seasons.

I spent very little time praying, even less time reading religious books, and even less time reflecting on just where I was headed with my spiritual life. I have absolutely no reservation in saying that this all greatly changed once I became involved in the SFO. And I need to stop here and say that if it were not for my wife, Faye, I don't know if I



would have ever become involved with the SFO.

It was some time in the early fall of 1997 that Faye went to an SFO information meeting. I did not go with her. Being a “red-blooded sports-loving member of the male gender,” I was at home that Sunday afternoon watching pro football. I didn't have time for any information meeting.

When Faye got home, she was very

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enthusied about what she had learned and said she would really like for me to go with her to the next meeting. I'm sure I mumbled something to the effect that I would think about it, and I don't believe I gave it another thought.

However, when the day arrived for the next meeting, Faye reminded me that I had said I would go with her.

I dragged myself to the car, and we rode over to St. Jude where the meeting was to be held. But, I'm sure my mind was more concerned with the football I was missing. Still, I had promised to go with her, so I thought to myself, "I'll go, get this over with, and then get back home to catch up on the NFL games."

Boy, was I wrong!

I became very interested in the SFO, began the study process, learned a great deal about St. Francis and St. Clare and, before I knew it, I was standing with Faye at the steps to the altar at St. Jude on Aug. 15, 1999, making our profession into this most wonderful gift which the good Lord has given to me through Faye's intercession.

I had an almost immediate transformation in my lifestyle; at least it seemed to me that I did. Many of the things that had been so important to me—my job, advancement in my job, getting recognized for things at work, watching any sport that was on TV, playing golf—well, you get the picture. All of these became secondary.

I began to realize that what really mattered was where I was headed spiritually and what I was doing for my church. Over the past nine years, I have become a much more docile person when it comes to those things that used to be so important.

I have become much more interested in my church and my prayer life and where I want to go insofar as my future is concerned.

I know that it is up to me to work toward my eternal salvation. I know I have an all-forgiving God who knows what a weak human being I am, but he is always forgiving and always welcomes me back. In

the past few years it has become crystal clear that nothing I have accomplished or nothing I have has been a result of anything I have done—they are all gifts to me from God. He is allowing me to enjoy them while I continue my journey here on his earth.

He is so totally generous in what he continues to give to me, and it has taken me more than 60 years to realize that this is the way it has always been in my life.

Another beautiful result of my being in the SFO is the fact that I now want to begin every day spending time praying, thanking God for all he gives me and for all he lets me do but also asking him to continue to provide for me.

I so look forward every morning to spending the first two hours beginning with saying the beautiful Franciscan Crown rosary, reading my daily readings from *Christian Prayer: The Liturgy of the Hours*, and concluding with a series of petitions for individuals in need of prayer—my family and Faye's family, the pope, bishops, priests, religious, deceased family and friends, and prayers to special saints who have become such an important part of my life.

Each evening I also try to do similar prayers in thanksgiving for God getting me through another day.

I also find myself wanting to attend Mass on days other than Sunday whenever I have the chance.

This very special gift which Jesus gave to us on Holy Thursday night has also become so much more meaningful to me. When I now attend a weekday Mass, I find myself so overwhelmed at what Jesus did for all of mankind when he came to earth and eventually died the horribly torturous death on the cross for our salvation.

During the past nine years such incredible changes have taken place in my life and the key ingredient to these changes is the SFO. I will always be so grateful to my wife, Faye, for serving as God's intermediary in my being introduced to the SFO. T

## Prayer to the Potter

By Kathi Traywick, SFO,  
Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Fraternity

Come, O Great Creator  
Find this humble clay worthy of your wondrous hand  
Wedge this earthen mass and hone the sinfulness away  
Work out the willfulness, selfishness, and hurt

Take this dead earth and bring it back to life  
Put your hand to this worthless clay  
Bring all onto center now

Peaceful molecules dancing to your tune  
No will of their own  
Only yours

With your skill and care  
Now the shaping can begin  
Beauty and harmony  
Unique and all is new

And what if it should collapse because it was stretched too thin  
Or if it wobbles with lack of faith  
If impurities are found  
If some willfulness should be seen

Please, Lord, in your infinite understanding and patience  
Re-wedge the clay  
Center and begin again  
Over and over until no will of it's own remains

Carefully, little by little, with love and great care  
Allow the spirit of the Potter to emerge  
Make this earth sing and dance with your joy!  
Only then to the fire and final honing!

Transformation  
A reflection of you the Potter  
Real love  
Beautiful at last

Kathy says, "This poem is based upon two of my favorite Bible verses: Jeremiah 18: 16 and Isaiah 64:7."

Editor's Note: The words in the picture translate as, "Do what he will tell you."



## "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"



In a letter to Br. Leo, St. Francis writes, "In whatever way it seems best to please the Lord God and to follow His footprints and His poverty, do this with the blessing of God and my obedience. And if you believe it necessary for the well-being of your soul, or to find comfort, and you wish to come to me, Leo, come!"

In *Swimming in the Sun: Discovering the Lord's Prayer With Francis of Assisi and Thomas Merton*, Fr. Albert Haase, OFM, uses this writing as a foundation for discernment. I would like to share what I learned from his insight.

He writes that some mistakenly think that discernment is a "predetermined, preordained decision from on high which I must struggle to figure out and then buckle under to obey." Instead, Fr. Haase states that we are to collaborate with God and seek to find what is ours to do that would please God and allow us "to participate dynamically and creatively in helping build the Kingdom of God."

He calls this method, "head-heart decision making" and lists "five factors that need to be taken into consideration to maintain the delicate balance between the head and heart" in the discernment process.

1. *Our past history* includes everything about the values that we were brought up with, the dynamics of our family, our intellectual ability and education, and so forth. Our past can "narrow our possibilities or options."
2. *Our potential* includes our natural and possibly latent talents and abilities. These are our "wild cards" and can help "unlock our future."
3. *Our present identity* includes our "present commitment to others as well as the responsibilities which such commitments place upon us that need to be respected."
4. *Our hopes, dreams, and desires* are those "yearnings of the heart" that add "passion, ambition, energy, and meaning" to our life.
5. *Our free heart* means our heart must be freed from the "false self's agenda. ... Only after Francis freed himself from the false self's agenda to be a famous knight could he truly follow his heart in serving the Master."

Discernment "demands honest self-knowledge and should always be done in a communal setting: with family and friends, those affected by one's decision, and one's spiritual director in dialogue with the Scriptures and Church."

"To please God is simply to discover one's own unique way of contributing to Jesus' Kingdom of peace, justice, and love," Fr. Haase writes. "It is what we pray when we pray, 'Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven'"

Faye Martin, SFO  
BSSF Region formation director

## 2008 Annual Regional Gathering of Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

By Judy Haupt, SFO  
BSSF Region minister

We gathered Aug. 8–10 to celebrate Secular Franciscans at our annual regional gathering in Ridgecrest, N.C. We prayed the "Litany of Secular Franciscan Saints" (see page 3).

So many were involved to make it a success. Please join in thanking everyone who

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**ARG, from page 8**

participated and attended to make the event a joyful, prayerful time in community.

We were blessed to have Fr. Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., with us all weekend to celebrate Eucharist and inspire us with his words.

Fr. Linus and Faye Martin, SFO, BSSF Region formation director, spoke of our call to vocation and discerning profession.

Joanne Babin, SFO, BSSF Region secretary, used *lectio divina*, to lead us in meditating on the Prologue of our Rule.

Cricket Aull, SFO, gave us a model to seek what is holy, how to live our Rule, and a fun way to meet others.

Cathy Arcand, SFO, Family Commission chair, led us in a special Franciscan Crown rosary with private meditations from our members on the Gospel.

Betti Longinotti, SFO, shared her beautiful artwork on the wonder of creation.

We had four discussion groups to prepare a response to a request from International on our sense of belonging and where to go in future.

Regional council met and approved budget with no increase in requested fair share. Other business included plans for the National Chapter that our region is hosting in Nashville, formation workshops for 2009, and calendar items.

Thanks to Channel of Peace Fraternity, Chattanooga, who did a great job of coordinating the registration, and to Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Fraternity, Blairsville, who coordinated the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel to allow us to continue to pray and worship throughout the night to our Eucharistic Lord.

Michaelleen Davis, SFO, candidate from St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity, Spartanburg, prepared a card to recognize the newly professed and two special anniversaries and led us in renewing our promise.

Thanks to Theresa Christie, SFO, and Becky Bresnahan, SFO, from St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Augusta, for selecting the music for the liturgies and coordinating with the others who shared their musical talent to lead us in praise to our Lord.

Tamara Marshall, SFO, minister of Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary Fraternity, Nashville, sang her beautiful tribute to creation as Becky joined her using sign language. It was beautiful.

We recognized newly professed, those who in the last year reached 25 years of profession, and those who were born into eternal life since our 2007 ARG.

St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity, Hendersonville, N.C., led the memorial service for our deceased members. We are comforted to know they will be with our heavenly Father and praying for us.

So many helped and it is our hope that each attendee is a part of the time together.

It was a wonderful celebration of who we are and where we are going as Secular Franciscans.

As always, we thank Pete and Maureen Smith and Rosemary and Vinny Cummo for bringing the Franciscan books and articles to sell. We appreciate all the work.



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**ARG, from page 9**

Make plans to join us next year when we will have a Visitation from National.

Mark your calendar to attend next year Aug. 7–9, 2009, and the following years: Aug. 6–8, 2010, and Aug. 5–7, 2011, in the same location in Ridgecrest, N.C.

**40 newly professed — Aug. 7, 2007–Aug. 8, 2008****Immaculate Conception Fraternity, Jonesboro, Ga., Dec. 8, 2007**

Yone Daly, SFO; Sharon Laiselle, SFO; Laura O'Connell, SFO; Sylvan Thuente, SFO; Eugena West, SFO

**St. Elizabeth Hungary Fraternity, Augusta, Ga., July 13, 2008**

Marty Baumann, SFO; Becky Bresnahan, SFO; Marie Champagne, SFO; Theresa Christie, SFO; Janet Hulshof, SFO; Jerry Ouellette, SFO; Ken Wessling, SFO; Nora Wessling, SFO

**Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Fraternity, Blairsville, Ga., Nov. 18, 2007**

John Paul McGuire, SFO

**San Damiano Emerging Fraternity, Athens, Ga., Dec. 9, 2007**

Marisa Bilbao, SFO; Hank Cutler, SFO; Joanne Cutler, SFO; Dianne Dukes, SFO; Julie Lorenz, SFO; Virginia Macagnoni, SFO; Natalie Seney, SFO; Howard Smith, SFO; Sue Stephens, SFO; John Strickland, SFO; Mary Lou Zeitler, SFO

**Padre Pio Fraternity, Raleigh, N.C., October 2007**

Patricia Loftus, SFO; Mary Anne Steinis, SFO

**St. Francis of the Living Waters Fraternity, Franklin, N.C., Aug. 19, 2007**

Jacque Brown, SFO; Teresa Knippel, SFO; John Knippel, SFO; Kelly Long, SFO

**St. Clare of Assisi Emerging Fraternity, Aiken, S.C., April 5, 2008**

Val Cadarr, SFO; Connie Singer, SFO

**Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Fraternity, Hilton Head Island, S.C., March 1, 2008**

Rhoda Haight, SFO

**Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary Fraternity, Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 14, 2007**

Judy Korchak, SFO

**St. Michael Reactivating Fraternity, Garden City, S.C., March 3, 2008**

Mary Jean Davey, SFO

**Fr. Solanus Casey Fraternity Morehead City, N.C., Aug. 19, 2007**

Joan Brown, SFO; Joan Davis, SFO; James Gaghan, SFO; Jeanne Umbarger, SFO

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ARG, from page 10

### 25 years Professed

Barbara Smith, SFO, San Damiano Emerging Fraternity, Athens, Ga.  
Sally Woelkers, SFO, Fr. Solanus Casey Fraternity Morehead City, N.C.

### Born Into Eternal Life

#### Immaculate Conception Fraternity, Jonesboro, Ga.

Mary Bird, SFO, April 24, 2008  
RayAnna Childer, SFO, March 1, 2008  
Frances Katherine Drew, SFO, Feb. 8, 2008

#### St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity, Hendersonville, N.C.

Mary O. Ethier, SFO, Dec. 22, 2007

#### St. Michael Reactivating Fraternity Garden City, N.C.

Mary Jean Davey, SFO, March 19, 2008 (newly professed March 3, 2008)  
Mary Welch, SFO, June 21, 2008

#### St. Stanislaus Fraternity, Wilmington, N.C.

Josephine Krebs, SFO, Sept. 7, 2007

#### Our Lady of Good Counsel Fraternity, Greenville, S.C.

Jessie Litman, SFO

#### St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity, Spartanburg, S.C.

Joyce Seko, SFO candidate, Feb. 10, 2008

#### St. Clare of Assisi Emerging Fraternity, Aiken, S.C.

Barbara Bates, SFO, Oct. 19, 2007

#### Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Jane Carty, SFO, Oct. 18, 2007

### Born Into Eternal Life

Larry Carter, SFO

Lawrence "Larry" Patrick Carter, SFO, 90, died Sept. 17 at J.W. Keever Jr. Solace Care Center in Asheville, N.C.

A member of St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity in Hendersonville, N.C., for 20 years, he made his perpetual profession as a Secular Franciscan on June 15, 1941, in St. Elizabeth Fraternity in Royal Oak, Mich.

He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The fraternity held a Franciscan wake service prior to the memorial service Sept. 22 in St. Barnabas Catholic Church, Arden, N.C.

Larry is survived by his wife of 61 years, Barbara, SFO, also a member of St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity; 13 children, 36 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. T



**Congratulations**  
**to**  
**Our Lady of Good Council**  
**Fraternity**  
**Greenville, S.C.,**  
**Established Nov. 4, 1958**  
**Celebrating its 50th anniversary**  
**this year**  
**The celebration will be held**  
**Oct. 18**  
**at Our Lady of the Rosary Church**  
**in Greenville**

### Rite of Admission

St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity, Spartanburg, S.C., celebrated the Rite of Admission of six new candidates for perpetual profession on Sept. 13.

Congratulations to Brenda Coggins, SFO; Jo Curcio, SFO; Jim Johnson, SFO; Lynn Johnson, SFO; Shizuko Klatte, SFO; and Angelene Willard, SFO.

Fr. Dac Tran, OFM, the fraternity's spiritual assistant, presided. ¶

### Around the Region

The **Fraternity of St. Clare**, Winston-Salem, N.C., helped the Spirit of Assisi with pinwheels for peace on Sept. 21, the International Day of Peace. Some Winston-Salem churches held prayer services and other activities, and people went from church to church to participate.

The fraternity also planned a Transitus service for the evening of Oct. 3 in Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem. The next day in the church, during a morning Mass, friars and sisters renewed their vows, and professed members of the fraternity renewed their commitment. The church capped the weekend of honoring

St. Francis with a blessing of animals at 3 p.m. on Oct. 5.

¶

**Immaculate Conception Fraternity**, Jonesboro, Ga., hosted a retreat at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers, Ga., Aug. 29–31.

In addition to attendees from Immaculate Conception, Secular Franciscans also attended from the Fraternity of Brother Francis, Hickory, N.C.; Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Newly Forming Group, Conyers, Ga.; and the Stigmata of St. Francis Emerging Community, Duluth, GA.

Fr. Noel Danielewicz, OFM Conv., facilitated the retreat, which had "The Gift of Gospel Life" as its theme.

"We reflected on how we are gifts to one another as we shared our stories in small groups," Immaculate Conception member Jan Pitts, SFO, said. "As Franciscans, we are distinguished as being evangelical, penitential, eucharistic, creational, fraternal, and incarnational in our spirituality."

"In an exercise on praying with St. Clare, we meditated upon the face of Jesus in the San Damiano icon and asked ourselves, 'What is Jesus saying to me?' We had the pleasure of joining the Trappist monks at Lauds and Vespers. A few ventured out as the 4 a.m. bell tolled. This was our second annual retreat in this monastery, and the response has been a blessing." ¶

Francis' awareness of God came from his deep awareness of himself, where he discovered God was the very ground of his being. ... The essence of Francis' spiritual outlook can be found in the words of Saint Amadeus of Lausanne, who died just a quarter of a century before Francis was born: "He who does not know himself does not penetrate to the deep things of God."

Gerard Thomas Straub  
*The Sun & Moon Over Assisi:  
 a personal encounter with Francis & Clare*

## 12th General Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order



### Logo Description

#### **“Professione ed Appartenenza” — “Profession and Belonging”**

The logo for the 12th General Chapter contains important references:

- In the center, two hands are joined together holding a rose in sign of prayer, a symbol of the unity, humility, and the “perfume” of our profession and belonging to the SFO, and at the same time a reminder of St. Elizabeth, our patron saint;
- Surrounding the hands are three concentric circles which symbolize the Franciscan Family; i.e., the three Orders founded by Saint Francis of Assisi;
- Alongside the hands are six parallel horizontal lines which form a stairway that symbolizes the six priorities of the SFO (Formation, Presence in the World, Franciscan Youth, Finances, Spiritual Assistance, Communion in the Franciscan Family);
- All this, summarized in the Tau, is found in the heart of the Church, which is represented by the 12 columns forming an arch over the other symbols, a reminder of its presence in the world.

The logo, in shades of brown with a pink rose and green leaves, is at [www.ciofs.org/doc/kia8/kia8enlogo.htm](http://www.ciofs.org/doc/kia8/kia8enlogo.htm). T

### **Program of the General Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order Nov. 15 – 22**

You’ll find the entire program at [www.ciofs.org/doc/kia8/kia8enpgm.htm](http://www.ciofs.org/doc/kia8/kia8enpgm.htm), but these are the highlights.

#### **Nov. 15**

Opening Mass (animated by Youfra International councillors)  
Greetings of the presidency, presentation of participants.

**CHAPTER, from page 13****Nov. 16**

Holy Mass (liturgy of the day by Spanish-language chapters)

Preliminaries:

- Designation of the Chapter secretary and tellers
- Roll call
- Election of moderators
- Commission for the writing of conclusions
- Approval of the program and of rules of the Chapter

Reports, including: by minister general, Conference of Spiritual Assistants, on finances, results of demographic survey, proposed changes to the International Statutes, practical interpretation of article 89.4-b of the General Constitutions.

Group work on the activity of the presidency in the past six-year mandate, finances, considerations on proposed modifications of the CIOFS Statutes, and practical interpretation of General Constitutions, Article 89.4-b.

Evening Prayer

**Nov. 17**

Morning Prayer (liturgy of the day by German-language chapters)

Voting on report by the minister general, financial situation, proposed modification of the International Statutes, practical interpretation of article 89.4 of the General Constitutions

Presentation of the Chapter Theme: "Profession of the Secular Franciscan and Sense of Belonging to the SFO"

- "Profession of the Secular Franciscan," by Fr. Felice Cangelosi, vicar general, OFM Cap.
  - "Sense of belonging to the SFO," by Emanuela De Nunzio, former SFO minister general
- Outing to Estergom for the closure of the second year of the Centenary of St. Elizabeth.  
Visit to Estergom Castle.

Presentation by Michèle Altmeyer SFO, on St. Elizabeth.

Celebration of the Eucharist: Cardinal Laszlo Paskai, presider

**Nov. 18**

Holy Mass (Liturgy of the day by the chapters of English-language Area 2)

Plenary assembly and group work: presentations on emerging fraternities, the formation project (manual for initial formation and program for the next six years); presentation of candidates for election

Evening Prayer

### Prayer for the General Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order

Most High Glorious God,  
we praise you for your presence in the  
world and for the tremendous gift  
of our Franciscan vocation.

We beseech you to inspire every brother  
and sister of the Secular Franciscan Order  
as we prepare for the upcoming  
General Chapter in Hungary.

Grant the necessary wisdom to our brothers  
and sisters who will take part in the Chapter  
to develop the priorities for the Order for  
the next six years and to elect those you  
want to lead and animate us.

Guide and direct us so that we may follow  
the Gospel and our Rule more closely  
and be co-workers with you in rebuilding  
the Church and the Word.

We ask this through Christ our Lord  
and through the intercession of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Francis, St. Clare,  
and our holy patrons  
St. Elizabeth and St. Louis. Amen.

**CHAPTER, from page 14****Nov. 19****Elective session of the General Chapter**

Morning Prayer (liturgy of the day by French-language chapters)

Presentation by Fr. Marco Tasca, minister general, OFM Conv., on the beginning of the Franciscan charism; dialogue with the minister general.

Elective assembly: Fr. Tasca presides:

- Delegation of the Conference of Ministers General of the First Order and TOR
- Roll call
- Introduction
- Prayer
- Election of the minister general and vice minister general
- Election of presidency councillors

Thanksgiving Mass for the installation of the newly elected CIOFS presidency

**Nov. 20**

Tour and Mass in Budapest (liturgy of the day by Italian-speaking chapters)

Return to Chapter venue

Plenary assembly: new minister general presiding

Evening Prayer

**Nov. 21**

Holy Mass (liturgy of the day by Portuguese-speaking chapters)

Plenary assembly, including Youfra members' incorporation into the SFO

Group work: establish the priorities of the new 6-year term

Discussion and voting on priorities for the six-year term

Evening Prayer

**Nov. 22**

Morning Prayer (liturgy of the day by chapters of English-language Area 1)

Last plenary assembly, including presentation and voting on Chapter conclusions

Holy Mass to conclude the Chapter. T

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## Communio

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Joanita M. Nellenbach, SFO  
Editor

**Brothers & Sisters of St. Francis Region  
Minister/Formation Director Workshop  
Registration Form**

Cost per person: \$14.00

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**Fraternity:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

A. Workshop attending [circle one]

Chattanooga, TN on 2/28/09

Apex, NC on 4/25/09

Spartanburg, SC on 6/06/09

B. Session attending [circle one] Formation Session Minister Session

Question for Open Forum:

\*\*\*\*\*

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

A. Workshop attending [circle one]

Chattanooga, TN on 2/2/09

Apex, NC on 4/25/09

Spartanburg, SC on 6/06/09

B. Session attending [circle one] Formation Session Minister Session

Question for Open Forum:

\*\*\*\*\*

Enclose \$14 per person. Make your check payable to **BSSF Region**. Send your completed registration form and payment **one month before date of workshop** and mail to:

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6940 River Run Dr.  
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