

Communio

That All May Be One

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

Winter 2010

Celebrate Youth

A year of celebrations and ideas

Our National Fraternity has called us to make 2010 the year to Celebrate Youth. Here are suggestions, gleaned from the Internet, to help us have a Youth-full year.

January — National Poverty in America Awareness Month

1–7: Celebration of Life Week

6: Epiphany — have an Epiphany party but give gifts to a shelter

10: Baptism of Our Lord — celebrate baptismal promises

18: Martin Luther King Jr. — celebrate nonviolence and historical roots

22: Celebration of Life Day

31: Souper Bowl Sunday — go to www.souperbowl.org and sponsor a collection for the hungry

February — Youth Leadership Month

8: Feast of St. Jerome Emiliani, patron of orphans — pray for the unadoptable orphans of war

12–15: Random Acts of Kindness Week

16: Mardi Gras, Pancake Tuesday

17: Ash Wednesday

17: FYYA (Franciscan Youth/Young Adult) 2010 Lenten H2O

Project begins — log onto www.francisanyouthusa.com and take the challenge!

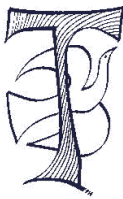
20: World Day for Social Justice



See CELEBRATE, page 13

The Four Pillars of Secular Franciscan Life

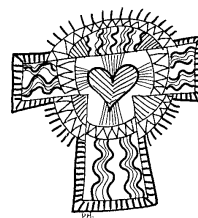
Spirituality



Formation

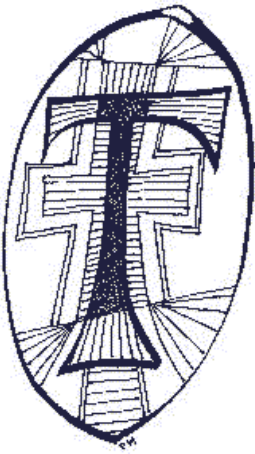


Fraternity



Apostolate





Minister's message

Do not be afraid!

We heard those words in the Gospel of St. Luke three times from the angel Gabriel. He spoke them to Zachariah, to Mary, and then to the shepherds. Each time the angel was announcing good news of great joy.

I did not realize that it is not unusual to begin good news with a statement about fear: Don't be afraid — you will have a baby. Don't be afraid — you have a new job or promotion. Don't be afraid — God is calling you.

I know that I am afraid and wonder, "Is this truly what God has in mind for me?" "Can I do this?" "Will I fail or make a fool of myself?"

When I fear failure, it is because I forget to remember that I am only an instrument. God's grace will be enough and the guidance of the Holy Spirit is in charge. I will only fail if I forget that. My prayer for the New Year is to really be open and trust that each challenge is an opportunity.

The Magi gave the newborn king gifts of wealth. My gifts are to return in service the many gifts and blessings that God has so lovingly given.

Please be open to the Holy Spirit when he calls. Trust and say "yes" when asked. Consider serving our Region. Reach out to others in love and service especially to youth and young adults this year.

May we all live our Franciscan lives as fully as we can.

With prayers for a peace-filled new year!

Judy

**Reminder that the Annual Regional Gathering will be at Ridgecrest
July 30–Aug. 1.**



Editor's Journal

You never know when you'll make a Franciscan connection.

I have one of those brown sweatshirts with the saying, "The best things in life aren't things," and a picture of St. Francis petting a deer.

Well, the other day I was walking through Lowe's and saw almost the exact same saying painted on a mirror frame: "The best things in life are not things at all."

Interesting statement to find in a place that exists, at least in part, to sell things.

Then, in a back issue of Arts & Crafts and the Renewal magazine, I came across an article, "Real Wealth: The Value of Art and Craft in a Debased Economy" by Timothy Holton, owner of a shop that makes by hand and sells custom picture frames.

Holton writes that, "On the whole, we have enough. We need less 'stuff,' but we need more value; less paper wealth, more real wealth."

I'll continue to get rid of "stuff" this year, keeping only what is of real value to me. That includes not just material goods but unproductive habits that don't contribute to helping me grow in my SFO vocation.

Probably as close to a New Year's resolution as I'm going to get.

Pace e bene
Joanita

Notice of elections and call for nominations for our Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region

By Jennye Taylor Johnson, SFO, and Christine Washington, SFO
BSSF Region Nominating Committee



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

Now we would like to formally notify every good brother and sister in our region that our Chapter of Elections will be held during our Annual Regional Gathering in Ridgecrest, N.C., on July 31, 2010. We are now calling for nominations for this election process.

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

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

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

Members of your fraternity, emerging community, or newly forming group, and the REC members may nominate members of your fraternity, community, or group within the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region for election to the REC. They may be nominated for more than one position. Nominees must be active professed members with proof of SFO profession.

Fraternity ministers, emerging community leaders, and newly forming group leaders please review, with all members, "Article 5. Duties of Members of the Regional Executive Council," *Regional Guidelines* and Section II: Voting and Conduct of Business – Articles No. 6 and No 7 in the guidelines. In addition, peruse the "Election Chapter Nomination Form." Duties are also listed below.

This is the procedure for nominations for the office of minister, vice minister, secretary, treasurer, formation director, Area One councilor, Area Two councilor, Area Three councilor. E-mail or postal mail nomination form(s) to **BOTH** members of nominating committee:

- Christine Washington, SFO, clunawash@aol.com, 6924 Meadow Ridge Drive, McCalla, Ala. 35111;
- Jennye Taylor Johnson, SFO, jennyesfo@msn.com, 7033 Stonington Lane, Charlotte, N.C. 28227

NOMINATION FORMS ARE DUE BEFORE **MARCH 31, 2010**

Nomination form, page 7

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

See BSSF GUIDELINES, page 4

**Guidelines of the Regional Fraternity of
Brothers and Sisters of Saint Francis
of the 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 the annual report to the regional fraternity and to the national fraternity to include the Schedule of Per Capita Payments, the Treasurer's Report, and the Proposed Budget. This annual report to the regional fraternity will be published in the regional newsletter.
 - b. To approve when necessary extraordinary (nonbudgeted) 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 and distribute in a timely manner, the minutes of the Regional Fraternity Council meetings and the Regional Executive Council gatherings.
 - b. 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 serve the region in accordance with the 2003 Treasury Guidelines.
 - b. To assist the regional minister with the annual report to the regional fraternity and to the national fraternity to include the Schedule of Per Capita Payments, the Treasurer's Report, and the Proposed Budget. This annual report to the regional fraternity shall be published in the regional newsletter.
 - c. To make quarterly financial reports to the Regional Executive Council.
 - d. To obtain a second signature from the regional minister or another designated member when writing checks.
 - e. 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 at the Annual Regional Gathering every year.
 - f. 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.
 - g. 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

See GUIDELINES, page 5

GUIDELINES, from page 4

- 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 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* for further directives. **T**

Where area councilors serve

A person can be nominated for area councilor for any of the three areas, not just from the area where his or her fraternity is located. The nominee must be willing to serve in the area for which nominated.

Once elected, the area councilor will contact the fraternities in that area and make periodic visits, to include presiding at elections and fraternal visitations as a delegate.

(EC = Emerging Community; NFG = Newly Forming Group)

Area One

Alabama: Bessemer, Decatur (EC);

Georgia: Athens (EC), Blairsville, Conyers (EC), Duluth (EC), Jonesboro;

North Carolina: Franklin;

Tennessee: Chattanooga, Knoxville (NFG), Nashville.

Area Two

Georgia: Augusta, St. Simons Island;

North Carolina: Asheville, Charlotte, Hendersonville, Hickory;

South Carolina: Aiken, Charleston, Columbia (NFG), Greenville, Hilton Head Island, Spartanburg.

Area Three

North Carolina: Burlington, Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Morehead City, Raleigh, Wilmington, Winston-Salem;

South Carolina: Garden City (Reactivating). **T**

Nomination Timeline and Prayer for Selection of New Council

BSSF Regional Executive Council Triennial Election Timeline

The Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region Triennial Election

is scheduled for July 31, 2010 at the Annual Regional Gathering.

All Secular Franciscans (Professed and Candidates) are eligible to nominate someone professed for the Regional Executive Council (REC).

TIMELINE

January — Notice of Election published.
 Call for Nominations
 March 31 — Nominations close
 April — Nominations Committee contacts
 nominees
 June 1 — Deadline for nomination forms
 returned from nominees to
 accept or decline nomination
 June 15 — Résumés of nominees sent to
 voting members of Regional
 Council
 July 22 — Start 9-day novena of “Prayer for
 Selection of a New Council” for
 Spirit-led election

PROCEDURE

For the offices of Minister, Vice Minister,
 Secretary, Treasurer, Formation Director,
 Area One Councilor, Area Two Councilor,
 Area Three Councilor, e-mail or postal mail
 Nomination Form (see form, page 7) to
BOTH members of Nominating Committee:

Christine Washington, SFO
clunawash@aol.com
 6924 Meadow Ridge Drive, McCalla, Ala.
 35111

Jennye Taylor Johnson, SFO,
jennyesfo@msn.com
 7033 Stonington Lane Charlotte, N.C. 28227

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

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

Prayer for Selection of a New Council

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

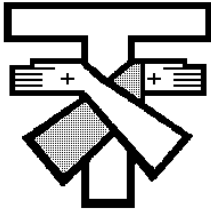
Illumine for us our own strengths,
 and those of our fellow members,
 that YOU may inspire us to
 recognize
 who it is YOU desire to serve
 YOUR fraternity.

Dear Francis, we also ask for your
 guidance
 as we seek a new Council.
 Lead us to those who will help us
 to grow in your virtues —
 humble, polite, peacemakers
 and ardent lovers of our crucified
 Lord.

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

Not our will Lord, but thy will be
 done.

Amen.



Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region
Secular Franciscan Order

Alabama Georgia North Carolina South Carolina Tennessee

NOMINATION FORM
Chapter of Elections: July 31, 2010

I nominate _____

FOR: MINISTER - VICE MINISTER - SECRETARY - TREASURER - FORMATION DIRECTOR -
AREA ONE COUNCILOR - AREA TWO COUNCILOR - AREA THREE 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 Fraternity or Newly Forming Group _____

City and State _____

Nominated by _____

Address _____

City and State _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Fraternity, Emerging Fraternity or Newly Forming Group _____

City and State _____

E-mail or mail one copy to both:

Christine Washington, SFO
6924 Meadow Ridge Drive
Mc Calla, Ala. 35111
E-mail: clunawash@aol.com
Phone: (205) 434-4648 (H)

Jennye Taylor Johnson, SFO
7033 Stonington Lane
Charlotte, N.C. 28227
E-mail: jtj@peterson-ae.com (W)
E-mail: JennyeSFO@msn.com (H)
Phone: (704) 535-5518 (H);
(704) 319-5343 (W)

BSSF Regional “on the road” Formation Workshop, 2010

Agenda

**Bring YOUR copy of the
“Provisional BSSF Regional Formators’ Guidelines for Initial Formation”**

8:30 a.m.–9:30 a.m.	Registration [name tags and evaluation forms] Continental Breakfast
9:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer – <u>Liturgy of the Hours</u>
10:00 a.m.–10:15 a.m.	Welcome and Introduction – Faye Martin
10:15 a.m.–10:45 a.m.	* Keynote – “The Goal of our Formation Program”
10:45 a.m.–11:15 a.m.	Foreword and Section <u>A</u> of the Regional Formation Guidelines
11:15 p.m.–12:15 p.m.	Section <u>B</u> of the Regional Formation Guidelines
12:15 p.m.–1:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:15 p.m.–2:15 p.m.	Section <u>B</u> continued/Section <u>C</u>
2:15 p.m.–2:30 p.m.	Break
2:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.	Portions of Section <u>D</u> and <u>E</u>
3:15 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	Complete Formation Guidelines’ Evaluation Form
3:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m.	Reconvene for Evening Prayer
4:00 p.m.	Adjourn – Safe Trip home

Keynote speakers

Christine Washington, SFO,
Regional Formation Director (2001-2004) – Area 1
Sister Bernadette Cappola, OSC – Area 2
Father Paul Gabriel, OFM Conv. – Area 3

See WORKSHOP AGENDA CONTINUED, page 9

WORKSHOP AGENDA CONTINUED, from page 8**Workshop on February 27, 2010 — Area 1**

St. Jude Catholic Church
930 Ashland Terrace,, Chattanooga, TN 37415

The workshop will take place in the Parish Life Center, which is left of the Church.

Places to stay in Chattanooga

Hampton Inn
1920 Hamill Road, Chattanooga, TN 37415
423-3100

Comfort Inn
4833 Hixson Pike, Chattanooga, TN 37415
423-877-8388

Workshop on April 24, 2010 — Area 3

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
408 West Davis Street, Burlington, NC 27215

Directions can be found on <http://www.blessedsacramentnc.org>

The workshop will take place in the parish hall which is a red brick building. The Church is white brick.

Places to stay in Burlington, NC

Hamilton Inn & Suites Burlington
2935 Saconn Dr., Burlington, NC USA 27215

Best Western Burlington
770 Huffman Mill Road, Burlington, NC 27215-5125, US
Phone: 336-584-0151
Toll Free Reservations: 800-780-7234

Workshop on June 19, 2010 — Area 2

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church
3710 Augusta Road
Greenville, SC 29605
Google mapquest.com for directions

Places to stay in Greenville, SC

Holiday Inn
4295 Augusta Rd., Greenville, SC 29605
864-277-8921

Google mapquest.com for directions to St. Jude Church &
Our Lady of the Rosary Church

BSSF Regional "on the road" Formation Workshop, 2010**Registration Form**

Everyone is Welcome!

Cost per person: \$15.00

Please check the Workshop that you will be attending.

_____ Chattanooga, TN @ St. Jude Catholic Church on 2/27/10

_____ Burlington, North Carolina @ Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church on 4/24/10

_____ Greenville, South Carolina @ Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church on 6/19/10

Name of Fraternity/Group:

Name

E-mail Address

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Enclose \$15 per person. That covers the cost of meals and handouts. Make your check payable to **BSSF Region**. Send your completed registration form and payment one month before date of workshop and mail to:

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

Retreatants challenged to radical Franciscan discipleship

By Ismini Frieser, SFO

Minister

Fraternity of Brother Francis

Emptying and filling.

Father Paul Gabriel, OFM Conv., asked us to set aside all the cares and preoccupations we carried in our “backpacks” and slowly fill them with feelings and thoughts we would gather in the following days.

It was the evening of Oct. 2 and 40 of us Secular Franciscans from several fraternities gathered in the meeting room of Avila Retreat Center in Durham, N.C., for a weekend retreat. Father Paul, the retreat director, is associate pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Burlington, NC., and spiritual assistant to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Fraternity.

A gifted speaker, Father Paul had given an inspiring presentation on prayer at the Annual

Regional Gathering in August; so we looked forward to a weekend of spiritual renewal centering on Franciscan discipleship.

By the end of the first session, “Discipleship,” we had easily connected with Father Paul. We enthusiastically responded to his deep spirituality, the clarity of his thoughts, and his wonderful sense of humor.

During the following sessions we explored the challenge of being true disciples of God: “What does it mean to be Franciscan?,” “Nurturing Discipleship: Franciscans at prayer,” and “The Franciscan Challenge: The Call to Radical Discipleship.”

We had Mass on Saturday and Sunday and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday afternoon, prayed the Liturgy of the Hours morning and evening, and commemorated the Transitus.

At Avila, putting aside the tribulations of daily life comes naturally. The center, a former Carmelite convent, has preserved the cloister’s mystique. It is nestled on 51 acres of fields, forests, creeks, and a large expanse of velvety lawns. The natural beauty of the grounds, the tranquility and silence enfolding us, induced us to meditate, pray, listen to the voices of nature. We felt the presence of God in the majestic trees as well in the humble wild flowers. Occasionally, we heard birds singing a “Kyrie” or a “Gloria” and joined them, praising God the creator of our mysterious and wonderful universe.

Free periods gave us time to read, reflect, hike on well-maintained trails, or walk the labyrinth, a 40-foot maze of paths to be walked as a spiritual meditation. After praying the Evening Office, we spent time with our brothers and sisters.

Avila Retreat Center, sponsored by the Diocese of Raleigh, is managed by Sister Damian Marie Jackson, OSF, director; Sister Carol Ann May, OP, assistant director and musician; and Kathy Biss, program coordinator. They welcomed us warmly, with customary retreat-center hospitality. Always smiling, caring, attentive to our needs, they made us feel at home. The home-style meals were appetizing and the rooms comfortable. All this for a modest donation of \$130 per person for the weekend.

Sunday morning came too quickly. We departed expressing our gratitude to Father Paul for a memorable retreat and carrying lighter backpacks filled with love, hope, and resolutions. We

See DISCIPLESHIP, page 12



DISCIPLESHIP, from page 11

started the retreat as “disciples,” ones who learn from a teacher. Father sent us home as “apostles” to deliver those teachings to others. Francis did his part, now we pray for the grace to do ours!

We discovered Avila thanks to Paula Zanker, SFO, a member of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Fraternity. The Fraternity of Brother Francis plans to make the retreat to the center an annual tradition because — and here is the good news — Avila Retreat Center offers a retreat designed for Secular Franciscans every year at the beginning of October. **T**



A call to celebrate our Youth

By Betti Pettinati Longinotti, SFO
Fraternal Animator
BSSF Youth and Young Adult Council

Let me reintroduce myself.

I had worked with the BSSF Regional Youth and Young Adult Commission for a few years and needed to step away from that role for some personal commitments.

I have come back to work with the BSSF YYA, which is now described as a council; and my role now is called fraternal animator.

So what does that role mean, how is animator defined? Looking up the definition of “animate,” it states:
1. to give life to; make alive.

I’m coordinating some activities for youth and young adults within our region, but I also want to encourage our members to actively support youth and young adults in their faith and while doing that, introduce them to our Franciscan spirituality.

I’ve designed a new BSSF YYA Web site (<http://sites.google.com/site/franciscanyouthsoutheast/>) that I expect to be linked to our new BSSF Web site when that is up and running.

Also, I’ve launched Franciscan Youth and Young Adults of the Southeast, a Facebook group for BSSF YYA. I invited everyone from the Regional roster: Fraternity ministers, and BSSF Council. We’re off to a good start, but I’m hoping to see more youth and fraternities participate by joining this group.

Through the Facebook, group activities and events will be announced and shared. The Web site directs people to the Facebook group.

So what can you do to support youth and young adults within your fraternity? Some people do not feel comfortable in actively working with youth, and do not feel led to this as an apostolate. However, here are some suggestions that might encourage your participation:

- Encourage the youth you know in your community to serve at a Catholic Heart Youth Camp. There are many of these scheduled throughout the Southeast. You can find information on these at <http://www.heartworkcamp.com/Dates.htm>.
- You could also serve at a Catholic Heart workcamp/mission trip in your area, as an individual or as a fraternity apostolate.
- You also could encourage youth within your community to attend a Franciscan Youth Conference, which is now being administered through Life Teen. You can check out these conferences at <http://www.franciscanyouth.com/>.

Speaking of Life Teen, one of our members from Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg

See CALL, page 13

CALL, from page 12

Fraternity in Blairsville, Ga., works with youth in his church community as a volunteer Life Teen youth minister. Stephen Smith, SFO, a retired school principal, activates an awesome ministry. His fraternity also feeds the youth group on monthly basis, in a program they call “Feed the Flock.”

You can find out more about Stephen’s ministry with youth by checking out their Facebook group called St. Francis of Assisi Life Teen.

This is a year our National Fraternity has called us to celebrate youth. So I call on you to ask yourself how you can participate in this celebration of youth and young adults.

On our Facebook group you will find news and reminders of two upcoming events for our region:

- An Earth Day retreat on April 17, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at Spirit of Assisi in Winston-Salem. Middle and high school youth are invited to the retreat to create bowls for the Empty Bowls project, a fund-raising event that supports the Second Harvest Food Bank.
- A Franciscan Youth Mission Trip to Philadelphia to serve at St. Francis Inn, July 11–19.

For more information on these events, please feel to e-mail me at bettisfo@gmail.com and/or join the Facebook group I discussed previously in this article.

I would love to hear what you’re doing to support youth in your community and for you to share that on our Facebook group. I feel sometimes there are many things going on that we do to support our youth, but we just don’t hear about it.

So, please feel encouraged to let us know. Please join me in Celebrating our Youth! T

Celebrate, from page 1**March — Deaf History Month**

3: Feast of St. Katherine Drexel, patron of blacks/Indians — volunteer at a school for a day

8: Daughters’ and Sons’ Day

22: World Water Day — see Feb. 17: the H2O Challenge

25: Feast of the Annunciation — this is the day FYYA make/and or celebrate the “Feast of YES!” and make their YouFra Promises.

28: Palm Sunday/World Youth Day Sunday 2010 — read the Pope’s “Message to Youth” online, see Oct. 24 for the USA

April — Celebrate Diversity Month

4: Easter Sunday

11–17: National Environmental Week

11: Holocaust Remembrance Day — visit a synagogue

22: Earth Day — clean a riverside, paint over graffiti, recycle electronics, plant a garden in the inner-city

May — Heal the Children Month

1: Feast of St. Joseph the Worker — pray for the rights of the world’s child laborers

3–6: Children’s Mental Health Week

8: World Fair Trade Day — only buy fair trade coffee and chocolate

15: Feast of St. Isadore the Farmer — patron of Internet — pray for the proper use of the Internet by our youths and lead a class to teach them strategies

15: International Day of Families — have a SFO/YouFra Picnic



CELEBRATE, from page 13**June — Children's Awareness Month**

Month of Youth Graduations

- 1: Stand for Children Day — write postcards to your elected officials about the rights and care of children
- 3: Feast of Sts. Charles Lwanga and Companions — Patron of African Youth
- 4: International Innocent Children Victims of Aggression Day
- 6: Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ — celebrate your first Communion
- 9–11: “Year of the Priest” conclusion in Rome — write or draw thank you cards for your priests
- 13: Children's Sunday
- 21: Memorial of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, patron of students — spiritually adopt a student to pray for during the next school year

July: Family Reunion Month

- 4: Independence Day — remember those who help us keep our civil/religious independence, write thank you if possible
- 6: Feast of St. Maria Goretti, patron of youth — sponsor a class on “chastity” at your parish
- 14: Feast of Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha, patron of Indians — check out Catholic Youth: Care for Creation and the Poor at www.climate.nfcym.org
- 19: National Hug Your Kid Day

**August — American Indian Heritage Month**

- 11: Feast of St. Clare of Assisi, patron of TV/Communications — give a talk on the miracle of telecommunications and our responsibilities with all that is available
- 12: International Youth Day — volunteer as a chaperone for a youth group
- 25–31: Be Kind to Humankind Week

September — National Hispanic Heritage Month

- 6: Labor Day — give a youth a day off, and then pray for child laborers
- 8: International Literacy Day — volunteer to read a book to youth at a school, church, or library
- 12: National Grandparents Day — spiritually adopt a grandparent/grandchild through your CCD program, youth ministry or YouFra fraternity
- 18: Feast of St. Joseph Cupertino, OFM Conv., patron of students
- 21: International Day of Peace — sponsor a peace pole planting at your parish

29: Feast of the Archangels

October — Fair Trade Month

Global Diversity Awareness Month

- 1–7: Universal Children's Week
- 2: Feast of the Guardian Angels — teach a child the “Angel of God” prayer
- 3: Intergeneration Day — celebrate the diversity of ages in your fraternity
- 3: Transitus of St. Francis

See CELEBRATE, page 15

CELEBRATE, from page 14

October continued.

- 4: Solemnity of our holy father, Francis of Assisi, deacon, founder of the three orders
— plan a Transitus or feast day celebration with the youth of your parish;
let the youth plan the Blessing of the Animals and give out prayer cards or medals
- 16: World Food Day — fast from one meal and donate food to a food bank
- 17: International Day for Eradication of Poverty — sponsor a youth food drive
- 18–24: National Food Bank Week
- 24: World Youth Day 2010 in the USA — Theme: “Good Teacher, What Must I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?” Mk 10:17
- 31: Trick-or-Treat for canned goods for your local food bank

November — Family Stories Month

- 1: Solemnity of All Saints — have a Saints Party, come dressed as a saint and bring a story
- 2: Feast of All Souls
- 8: World Orphan’s Day
- 14–20: National Homeless and Hunger Week— sponsor a “Night Without A Home” camp out
- 15: America Recycles Day — sponsor a recycling bin for aluminum cans
- 20: Children’s Day
- 21–28: National Bible Week — have your fraternity buy Bibles for a youth group
- 25: Thanksgiving Day

December —World AIDS Month

Universal Human Rights Month

Toys for Tots Month — buy/donate teen-age gifts this year

- 1: Aids Day —clinic
- 1–7: Tolerance Week — teach acceptance and we will not need tolerance
- 6: Feast of St. Nicholas, patron of children — place coins and candy in the shoes of a child
- 9–12: National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry — New Orleans
- 10: Human Right’s Day
- 18: International Migrants Day
- 25: Christmas
- 27: Feast of the Holy Family
- 28: Feast of the Holy Innocents — pray for the innocents of today’s wars and famines
- 31: Universal Hour of Peace Day **T**

New Councils Congratulations!

St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity

Hendersonville, N.C.

Nov. 22, 2009

Minister: Randy Hair, SFO

Vice Minister: Tim Gibson, SFO

Secretary: Nancy Torres, SFO

Treasurer: Patricia Paton, SFO

Formation Dir.: Diane Salkewicz, SFO

Councilors: Lucy Nordlund, SFO;

Bill Stewart, SFO

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity

Elizabeth City, N.C.

Minister: Eileen Chaney, SFO

Vice Minister: Pamela Barber, SFO

Secretary: Doreen Warren, SFO

Treasurer: Nancy Petruncio, SFO

Formation Dir.: Dorothy Davis, SFO

The 2010 H2O Project
A letter from the
National Franciscan Youth/Young Adult
Council of the SFO — USA



January 2010

Dear Franciscan Youth and Young Adult groups, Secular
Franciscans and all those interested,

Peace be with you!

We present to you the Franciscan Youth/Young Adult Council's Lenten Project 2010: The H2O Project.

Many of you throughout the United States have participated in this project to bring clean drinking water to youth around the world, especially those in most need.

We collected \$12,247.22 in 2009 by fasting and donating! National and international tragedies only underscore the world's need for clean, safe drinking water. This one project can be our way of providing some of that needed water. The recipient of the 2010 Lenten H2O Project donations is the Kenya Water Project, headed by Don Ryder, SFO, the 2009 SFO Peace Award recipient.

We challenge you and your fraternities to not only *donate* — but to *participate* in this project. By actively fasting from all beverages except water, we get a truer idea of how important clean water is to our brothers and sisters around the world. We who participate in the project experience solidarity with the poor, a solidarity that is called for within our Franciscan charism.

There are two new ways to donate to the H2O Project in 2010. The H2O Project is a restricted account, so we can accept donations any time and all through the year.

The first new way is to give monthly or quarterly. Donations received after July 1, 2010, however, will be donated as part of the 2011 H2O Project.

The second way to donate is to "Donate in Memory." This new program allows a donation to be made in memory of a person, group, or event. For example, you can "Donate in Memory of Mary Elizabeth on the date of her Solemn Profession," or "In Memory of St. Angela of Foligno Fraternity's 35th Anniversary." A certificate stating this donation will be mailed to the address you provide.

We ask you to consider joining us this year. Everything you need to know to begin can be found on our Web site (www.franciscanyouthusa.com).

If you have further questions, please call me at (952) 997-2243 or e-mail me at kltsfo@frontiernet.net.

As The H2O Project Web site video states, "We all gave it up so we could all give it away!" Help our council to give it away this year to those who need it the most!

Your sister in Francis and Clare,
Kathy Taormina, SFO

*"When I was thirsty you gave me drink."
Matthew 25:35*



"I was thirsty and you gave me drink" Matthew 25:35

Lent 2010

Change the world in two weeks! Take the challenge (see below) individually or as a fraternity.

The H2O Project is a Franciscan Youth fund-raising event to help provide clean water for youth and their families most in need. Franciscan Youth groups and SFO fraternities around the United States will join to bring clean water to those most in need.

The problem

Women and children walk two hours each way to fetch water (hauling dirty water back to their families). They have no time or energy left for education or small business, and many of them die.

Preventable water-related diseases kill one child every 15 seconds. That's 8,000 every day (and that's just the children)! Imagine if that many precious ones were dying in the United States.

The solution — take the H2O Challenge!

For two weeks (or the time of your choosing) make water your only beverage. Contribute the money you would have spent at the soda machine and coffee shop toward the drilling of clean water wells.

Is it a sacrifice to give up your milk, coffee, soda, and so forth for two weeks?

Will you be changing someone else's life forever? Absolutely.

What does The H2O Project get out of it? Financially, absolutely nothing — other than knowing the joy of helping you (and many like you) make a difference.

The process

Go online (www.franciscanyouthusa.com) for more information.

Pick one 14-day period during Lent.

Follow the instructions.

E-mail Kathy at kltsfo@frontiernet.net to let her know you have accepted the challenge; you must list your fraternity and region.

Start fasting. Start saving. Save the children!

H2O, from page 17**To send the money collected**

Make all checks payable to NAFRA. You must note on the check memo the name of the fraternity and the name of the region. If participating as a fraternity, send one check that includes the contributions from all fraternity members participating in the project.

Mail ALL checks by May 1, 2010, to:

Kathy Taormina, SFO
920 Whitney Drive
Apple Valley, Minn. 55124

Money collected through Kathy will be credited to our endeavor (please do not send contributions directly to The H2O Project) and will then be donated by sending one check in the name of the Franciscan Youth of the USA. The Region that collects the most will be recognized at the 2010 NAFRA meeting.

Watch the Web site:

- for updates on the project,
- for names and places of fraternities taking the challenge,
- for the amount of funds collected.

As Franciscans, you can be of tremendous help if you will:

- encourage your youth and members as they deny themselves for the sake of others;
- add any savings you see in your grocery bill to their cup banks before collection day;
- better still, join them in this time of sacrifice, and add your own savings to theirs;
- pray for The H2O Project and for the many communities waiting for a well;
- just do it, so you can say, "We all gave it up so we could all give it away!"

The H2O Project Savings Scorecard

Beverage	Cost Per Serving		Week 1 fast	Week 2 fast	=	Savings
Milk — home, 8 oz.	\$.25					\$
Milk — restaurant	\$1.50					\$
Soda — home, can	\$.50					\$
Soda — restaurant	\$2.00					\$
Soda — machine	\$1.25					\$
Juice — home, 8 oz.	\$.50					\$
Juice — restaurant	\$2.00					\$
Juice — convenience store	\$1.50					\$
Sports Drink — conv. store	\$2.00					\$
Coffee — home	\$.25					\$
Coffee — Shoppe, small	\$2.00					\$
Coffee — Specialty, small	\$3.50					\$
Other						\$

MY contribution \$ _____



Retreat focuses on words from Prologue

By Carole King, SFO

Minister

St. Clare of Assisi Fraternity

Cold, rainy weather didn't keep 14 members of St. Clare of Assisi Fraternity, Aiken, S.C., from attending the fraternity's seventh annual Advent retreat, Dec. 11–13, at Camp Kinard in Leesville-Batesburg, S.C.

The theme of the retreat was based on words from our Rule's Prologue, that "we give birth to [Christ] through a holy life."

Presenters were from St. Mary Help of Christians Church, where the fraternity meets. They were Joan LaBone, director of youth ministry; Jean Tierney, pastoral-care coordinator; and Rev. Mr. Bob Pierce, director of the parish RCIA program.

The retreat examined the concept of holiness, beginning with our "call to holiness," going through the ways and means available to us for attaining holiness, and availing

ourselves of the sacraments and teachings of our Holy Mother Church, to sustain and strengthen us on the journey to holiness.

Activities included a game of "Team Jenga Max," a blindfolded "Emmaus walk" (to explore the concept of the members of Body of Christ working together in loving trust), watching "A Charlie Brown Christmas" (the lesson of God's love and Linus's blanket is awesome). Following Mass, Brian Murdaugh (bryanmurdaugh.com), a youth minister from Columbia, S.C., gave a concert. He has an amazing gift for preaching the Gospel through his music.

Before leaving, the retreatants held a wrap-up and resolutions conference to create a "Map to Holiness" as a key to remembering what they had learned over the weekend.

We began this annual retreat to make the time to stop — to really put busyness aside and focus not just on the reason for Christmas, but the very Reason that we "live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). It is our annual "statement" to our church family and others that we are putting aside all earthly cares for a time, to "seek God, even perhaps grope for him and find him..." (Acts 17:27).

Our material preparations are *nothing* when compared with the joy of truly preparing our hearts, minds, and spirits as a warm and inviting place for the birth of Christ. **T**

From the start Francis adopted the signature greeting "May the Lord give you peace." ... Though it doesn't seem so now, Francis's greeting of peace was highly unusual for the time. Amid the violence of the Middle Ages, the principle of peace—announced in the gospels and practiced in the early Christian communities—had become an ideal reserved for the monastic life. ... One brother told Francis that people hailed in this manner would ask indignantly what "this greeting of yours" meant. The embarrassed brother asked Francis to let him use a different greeting. "Let them chatter, for they do not understand the ways of God," Francis responded. "Don't feel ashamed because of this, for one day the nobles and princes of this world will respect you and the other friars for this greeting.

Paul Moses, *The Saint and the Sultan:*

The Crusades, Islam, and Francis of Assisi's Mission of Peace, pp. 36–37

Regional Executive Council summary

By Judy Haupt, SFO

BSSF Region minister

The Regional Executive Council met Nov. 14 at the Poor Clare Monastery at Travelers Rest, near Greenville, S.C.

Some items included

- Appointment of Jon Strickland, SFO, as Regional JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) coordinator. The national JPIC chair will contact Jon and will send information to each local JPIC chair. He will need a contact person for each fraternity.

Please contact Jon Strickland (JonStrick@comcast.net), with copy to Jennye Taylor Johnson, SFO, (jtj@peterson-ae.com), with your contact's name and e-mail address by March 10.

- REC reluctantly accepted the resignation of our hard-working regional secretary, Joanne Babin, SFO, for health reasons. Keep her in your prayers.

We are accepting names to fill that position for the remainder of the term, ending July 31, 2010. Please submit suggestions to me (jahaupt@yahoo.com) by March 1.

- The latest schedule for Visitations and elections for the first half of 2010 (see page 25).
- Annual Report form to be sent January 1, due March 1.
- Please be aware that the National Fraternity has established 2010 as a year to "Celebrate Youth" starting in January. This means that all are encouraged to actively engage in reaching out to youth and young adults. We can assist in scheduled activities and/or hold something special for them (see suggested activities, beginning on page 1). We hope to be a witness as Franciscans on living the Gospel in the example of St. Francis.
- We will be asking each fraternity to share what they do via e-mail to our regional newsletter, "Communio," and sending report to national newsletter, Tau-USA.
- This year The H2O Project funds will go to support a well in Kenya under the direction of Don Ryder, SFO, our 2009 Peace Award recipient.
- Hope every fraternity can find ways to reach out to youth and young adults in 2010. Be a witness to our Franciscan charism. **T**

SFOs nationwide to pray "Novena of Solidarity"

By Judy Haupt, SFO

BSSF Region minister

As agreed at the recent NAFRA meeting, the SFO in the United States would like to continue the "perpetual" novena, this year on behalf of the people of Darfur, Orissa, Pakistan, the Philippines, and others who are oppressed.

Every day members of the SFO will be praying the novena prayer (page 21). For this to happen, five regional fraternities are assigned to cover each month.

To make sure we cover the entire month, there will be four to five "waves" of the novena, each starting on Sunday. People are assigned to these waves by Region again, as noted below.

For example, the first Sunday of December, members of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region will begin praying the novena; the second Sunday of the month, Lady Poverty will begin the novena. In this way the SFO will hold these people in prayer by the SFO for the entire year.

A novena allows us to hold a particular concern before God in a special way. The name "novena" comes from the Latin for "nine." Traditionally, we pray a novena every day for nine days, and the prayer is usually a bit longer than a brief intercession. This allows us to give more of ourselves to our prayer for the concern we are bringing before God.

See NOVENA, page 21

NOVENA, from page 20

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region will begin the novena on Sunday, Feb. 7 and again on Sunday, Aug. 8.

If you want to continue to pray before or after your week/month, you can certainly do that! You are also encouraged to share the novena with people in your parish, youth groups, or other organizations to which you belong.

	Dec/June	Jan/July	Feb/Aug	Mar/Sept	Apr/Oct	May/Nov
Week 1	St. Elizabeth of Hungary	Bl Kateri Tekakwitha	Fr Solanus	The Tau Cross	Our Lady of the Angels	St. Katharine Drexel
Week 2	Lady Poverty	St. Margaret of Cortona	Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis	Five Franciscan Martyrs	St. Maximilian Kolbe	Holy Trinity
Week 3	Divine Mercy	Our Lady of Indiana	La Verna	Mother Cabrini	Franciscans of the Prairie	St. Clare
Week 4	St Joan of Arc	Queen of Peace	Juan de Padilla	Los Tres Companeros/Three Companions	Our Lady of the Rockies	Santa Maria de las Montanas
Week 5 or Week 1*	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Troubadours of Peace	Bl. Junipero Serra	St. Francis	St. Thomas More	Ohana O Ke Aneunue

Franciscan Novena Prayer of Solidarity

Merciful Father, Prince of Peace, Spirit of Wisdom and Compassion, please look upon our brothers and sisters in Darfur, Orissa, Pakistan, and the Philippines. 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

St. Francis and St. Clare, pray for us.

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

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

St. Francis and St. Clare, pray for us.

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

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

St. Francis and St. Clare, pray for us.

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 these places. 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 to 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

Poor Clare monastery welcomes retreatants

By Joanita M. Nellenbach, SFO

Communio editor

A meeting among the trees.

That's what it felt like to me during the Regional Executive Council meeting in November. The council met in LaForesta, the retreat house at the Monastery of St. Clare in Traveler's Rest, near Greenville, S.C.

Though I'm not on the council, I usually attend the REC meetings as Communio editor so that I stay up with what the council is doing.

LaForesta, named after a place where St. Francis went for quiet and peace, is the monastery's guest house. It's a former private home within sight of the monastery buildings but surrounded by trees so it's quite private.

We brought food and prepared all of our meals in the kitchen (the monastery also stocks the kitchen with some canned and microwaveable foods). The large living room has lots of windows, so we could look out on beautiful woodlands. Had the weather been warmer, we might have spent some time on the front or back deck or in the gazebo.

The council completed its business (summary, page 20), and there was also time for fellowship and Morning and Evening Prayer. We went to the communion service in the monastery on Saturday morning and to Sunday Mass there. Cricket and Jerry Aull were on hand to help with some reflection time.

LaForesta has three bedrooms, so some of us stayed in the guest house for the weekend, but others lodged at a nearby motel.

I'd like to go back for some private retreat time. As the monastery brochure states, retreatants have the opportunity to:

- meditate on Scripture;
- attend Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours with the Poor Clare community;
- spend time in personal prayer and reflection;
- enjoy the healing power of nature;
- experience the peace, simplicity, and joy of a Franciscan holy place;
- share silence and solitude with others who are on retreat;
- deepen faith as they learn through books and tapes available at LaForesta;
- have time for journaling, exercise, walking;
- receive spiritual direction;
- enjoy a flexible schedule suited to their needs;
- experience the support of the prayers of the Poor Clare nuns;
- celebrate the wonders of creation in woods that surround the house and a nature preserve across the street;
- take time for rest and renewal;
- remain open to the surprises of God.

The guest house is available for stays of a day, overnight, a weekend, or several days. However, because of the nuns' retreat schedule, it's not available during Holy Week, Christmas week, or the week preceding Pentecost.

There's no set fee, but guests make a free-will offering according to their own discretion.

For more information, e-mail Sister Benadette Marie Cappola, OSC at Bernadettec@Juno.com. T



Holy Land pilgrimage provides insights for SFO life

By DorothyAnn Rowland, SFO

Minister

Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Fraternity

To be in the Holy Land and to see gospel places opened up a new vista for my journey in Secular Franciscan life.

In late October, 14 pilgrims met for the first time at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. We had been on long flights. Now we looked for our guide, Father Russell Governale, OFM Conv.

Father Russell was relatively easy to find in a sea of people of unfamiliar faces. Thank heaven for his Franciscan habit!

Safe haven now for our brood of Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs pilgrims as we gathered under his watchful eye to share the experience of a lifetime.

It was all part of our heavenly Father's plan for each of us, this opportunity to be together as we walked in the Holy Land. We listened and watched, pondering the Gospel, visualizing the past, being present in the here and the now of the Holy Land.

My dear Franciscan sister, Virginia MacKenzie, SFO (soon to be Professed), invited me to accompany her on this pilgrimage, and I thank God that she did.

I have a deeper understanding of and appreciation for what Jesus accomplished during his lifetime and how he totally submitted to the Father's will. My life is a life of service, just as his was. This pilgrimage has caused me to be more open to and trusting in my heavenly Father; to be at peace with whatever occurs, accepting it as part of God's plan for me because he has something to teach me.

My pilgrimage gave me an opportunity to recognize our Lord in people of different faiths and cultures. This happened because of shared conversation with others during free time: a non-Christian Palestinian and a Jewish shopkeeper.

We were in Israel; the familiar was now changed—language, culture, soldiers with machine guns, the call to prayer from the loudspeakers from the minarets of the mosques (the early morning call daily at 4:30 a.m. — truly perfect joy for tired and weary pilgrims).

We traveled by motor coach to all of our destinations, then walked and walked and walked some more — “praying with our feet,” as Father Russell said.

Another blessing — our second guide: Tony, a Palestinian Christian and archeologist, who has lived in the Holy Land all his life and whose family home and land were seized by the Israeli government. Tony truly is enmeshed in the living history of the Bible and told us innumerable stories and truths as our journey progressed.

We started our pilgrimage in Nazareth. How fitting, as the Word was made flesh here (*Verbum caro hic factum est*). We also traveled to Mary's well, Mount Tabor, Cana of Galilee, Capernaum, mount of the Beatitudes, renewed our baptismal promises at the Jordan River, Dead Sea, Qumran (place of the Dead Sea Scrolls), Bethlehem, Shepherd's Field, Ein Karem and the Visitation Shrine, Kidron Valley, the Cenacle, Jerusalem, a holy hour in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Holy Sepulcher.

All these sites that I'd only heard and read about truly came alive. A Holy Land pilgrimage

See PILGRIMAGE, page 24



PILGRIMAGE, from page 23

absolutely puts flesh on the Gospels.

When I hear or read the Gospels and other parts of the Bible, I can now visualize places. I suppose that's what impacted me the most — everything came alive. It caused me to ponder how I could give birth to our Lord this past Christmas and every day, and to continually renew his works of the Kingdom through me. I try to listen and observe and just be, so I may hear his voice.

This pilgrimage made me aware of how short my earthly pilgrimage is, in comparison with eternity. The kingdom of God is at hand, but many people don't see it. I need to be that connection for the time that God has given me to be here.

It has taught me to go at a slower pace, to listen for God, to stay aware of the here and the now, to value and love all relationships, to think more before I act, to depend on the wisdom and guidance of our heavenly Father, to recognize my shortcomings and failings and know that it's alright because God loves me.

My faith is increased so much more because I was a part of where Jesus lived, breathed, worked, taught, performed miracles, suffered, died, and was resurrected.

I journeyed to the Holy Land seeking an increase of faith and forgiveness. I received these and ever so much more! As I celebrated at Christmas, I was filled with the knowledge that, by the grace of God, Jesus is alive! **T**

Regional Roundup

Father Solanus Casey Fraternity Morehead City, N.C.

As our fraternity consists of members from more than one parish, we were happy to join those from St. Mildred Parish, Swansboro, N.C., for a celebration of the Transitus of St. Francis on Oct. 3 in their community. This was a prayerful and joyous occasion for all who attended.

We are all following with great interest the journey of our sister, Marie Infinito, who is making an extended visit to Christ the King parish in Bungoma, Kenya.

Several years ago she was instrumental in raising funds for the construction of a well for that community and its 800-student Catholic school.

Now, at the invitation of the pastor, Father Christopher Wayonyi, she's teaching at the school and participating in parish life. Our fraternity spearheaded the collection of classroom materials for Marie to take with her. Now we await her return and look forward to her account of her visit.

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

Fraternity members helped with preparations for Bounty of Bethlehem, a dinner held Christmas day at Immaculata School in Hendersonville. Many organizations in the community participate in preparing and serving several thousand made-from-scratch dinners of ham, turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and dessert.

Anyone in the community, regardless of financial situation, is welcome. Diners can eat in the school cafeteria or take their dinners home; volunteers also deliver dinners to the homebound.

See ROUNDUP, page 25

Newly Professed Congratulations!

Father Solanus Casey
Fraternity

Nov. 15

Peggy Hollandsworth, SFO

Marie Infinito, SFO

Carolyn Peduzzi, SFO

Rodney Strickland, SFO

Barbara Zaik, SFO

ROUNDUP, from page 24

In addition, the fraternity prepared gift bags of small treats for the annual posada party for Hispanic children.

Instead of its usual Christmas party early in December, the fraternity celebrated the Christmas season with an Epiphany party on Jan. 9. Members brought their favorite hors d'oeuvres and desserts to share.

Lucy Nordlund, SFO, led the fraternity in prayer from the "Prayers of St. Francis" in the Ritual. Diane Salkewicz, SFO, presented a program on the Epiphany's history and customs.

The day concluded with a "white elephant" gift swap, each person bringing an item he or she no longer used but thought others might enjoy. T

BSSF Calendar REC and Spiritual Assistant Plan**Visitations**

*Nashville, Sunday Sept. 20

*Bessemer, Ala., 1st Sun., Oct. 4

*Asheville, N.C., 2nd Thurs., Nov. 12

Augusta, Ga., 2nd Sat., Jan 9

Charleston, S.C. 3rd Sat., Jan. 16

Garden City, Jan. 17

Duluth, Ga., 2nd Sun., Feb. 14, 2 p.m.

Hilton Head, S.C., 1st Sat., March 6

Franklin, N.C., 2nd Mon., March 8

Raleigh, N.C., March 15, 16, or 17??

Elizabeth City, N.C., March 15, 16, or 17??

Morehead City, N.C., March 15, 16, or 17??

Jonesboro, Ga., no date scheduled

Hickory, N.C., May 16 or 26

Fraternal

Madeline Rousseau

Willie Guadalupe

Willie/Madeline

Judy Haupt

Judy

Judy

Judy

Faye Martin

Dale Anesi

Sara Nell Boggs

Pat

Pat/Jerry Rousseau

Judy/Alan Zanker

Judy

Judy

Audrey

Pastoral

Cricket Aull

Joanita Nellenbach

Cricket

Pat Cowan

Joanita

Cricket

Joanita

Joanita

Audrey Binet

Audrey

Joanita

Fr. Linus

Fr. Linus

Fr. Linus

Barbara Smith

Laura Haukaas

Elections

*Hendersonville, N.C., 4th Sun., Nov. 22, 1pm

Aiken, S.C., Mon. eve after 5:30 Mass

Feb. 1, March 1, or March 15

Winston-Salem, N.C., May 11

Presider

Sara Nell

?

?

Witness

Fr. Nick

Mormando, OFM

Cap.

See CALENDAR, page 26

CALENDAR, from page 25

Formation Workshops

Sat., Feb. 27, Chattanooga, Tenn., St. Jude Catholic Church

Sat., April 24, Burlington, N.C., Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

Sat., June 19, Greenville, S.C., Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church

Annual Regional Gathering

Ridgecrest, N.C. July 30–Aug. 1, 2010, Election
July 22–24, 2011

Profession
Anniversaries
Congratulations!
Stigmata of St. Francis EC
Dec 12
Deacon Ed Rademacher,
SFO
Jo Ann Rademacher, SFO
10th anniversary

REC

*Nov. 14–15, 2009, Poor Clare Monastery, Travelers Rest, S.C.

March 12–14, in connection with Visitation Workshop by Fr. Linus, location to be determined

June 19–20 in connection with formation workshop in Greenville

NAFRA Chapter October 26–31, 2010 Franciscan Resource Center Scottsdale, AZ

*Completed

Communio

is published four times a year. Publication dates and deadlines for copy submission:

Spring 2010

Copy deadline, March 24

Publication date, March 31

Summer 2010

Copy deadline, June 23

Publication date, June 30

Fall 2010

Copy deadline, Sept. 23

Publication date, Sept. 30

Winter 2011

Copy deadline, Jan. 6, 2011

Publication date, Jan. 13, 2011

To contact editor or to submit copy:

E-mail: sfowriter@att.net

Phone: 828-627-9209.

Joanita M. Nellenbach, SFO

Editor