

Communio

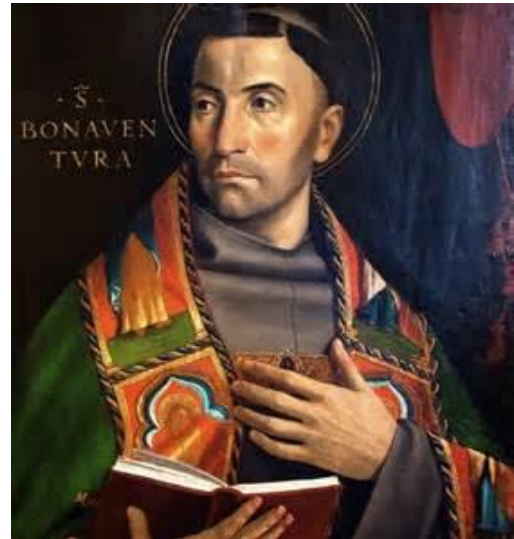
That All May Be One

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

Summer 2015

St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio (1221 [c.]-1274) Seraphic Doctor – Feast Day July 15

“[T]hat peace which surpasses all understanding ... the peace which our Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed and granted to us. It was this message of peace which our father Francis announced over and over, proclaiming it at the beginning and at the end of his sermons. Every greeting of his became a wish for peace; and in every experience of contemplation he sighed for an ecstatic peace. ...



Moved by this example of our most blessed father, Francis, I eagerly desired this peace ... I was moved by divine inspiration and withdrew to Mount Alverna since it was a place of quiet. There I wished to satisfy the desire of my spirit for peace. And while I was there reflecting on certain ways in which the mind might ascend to God, I recalled, among other things, that miracle which the blessed Francis himself had experienced in this very place, namely the vision of the winged Seraph in the form of the Crucified. As I reflected on this, I saw immediately that this vision pointed not only to the uplifting of our father himself in contemplation but also the road by which one might arrive at this experience.”

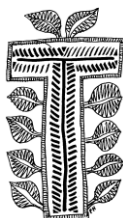
Works of St. Bonaventure: Itinerarium Mentis in Deum (Soul's Journey into God),
Translation by Zachary Hayes, OFM, Franciscan Institute Publications

The Four Pillars of Secular Franciscan Life

Spirituality



Formation



Fraternity



Apostolate





Editor's Journal

This *Communio*, as I hope for every issue, is full of connections, as our Region's motto is "That All May Be One."

In these pages you'll go from past to present, from one language to another.

It's with pleasure that I point to new features in *Communio*: Willie Guadalupe, OFS, our Multicultural Commission chair, has written her first column for us. And we have our first article in Spanish, which Willie translated into that language. She also supplied us with the English translation.

It's about "Being the Bridge." Bridge is also an important theme in our story about a peace-and-justice workshop.

Our regional spiritual assistant's words of wisdom on visitations provide food for thought for both visitors and visited.

You'll read some history by Stephen Brace, OFS, of Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary Fraternity, which this year celebrates its first 100 years. Wow! A whole century. We wish them many more.

A letter from the past gives inspiration to those who aspire to enter our Order.

Making the international connection, we have prayer intentions from CIOFS, our Order's governing body. I'm going to try to run CIOFS prayer intentions in every issue from now on. Check out the website (www.ciofs.org). Lots of interesting material, including pictures of newly elected national councils, reminding us of just how widespread our Order is.

Bret Thoman has another excellent article about Franciscans in the Marches region of Italy. This one's about "Spirituality of Place." What places, not necessarily churches, are spiritual for you? Accompanying Bret's story is an excerpt from *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*.

And if you've ever been lost, physically or spiritually, or lost your GPS connection (I don't even have a GPS connection), you'll relate to the story by Gail Campbell, OFS.

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I wish you happy reading and a beautiful, blessed summer. Looking forward to being with you at our Annual Regional Gathering, Aug. 7-9.

*Pace e bene,
Joanita*

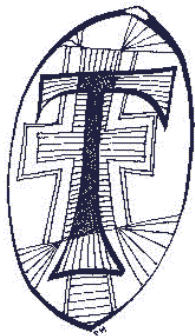
Joanita M. Nellenbach, OFS, Communio editor, is a member of St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity in Hendersonville, N.C., and spiritual assistant to Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Fraternity in Blairsville, Ga.

Communio

**is published quarterly
for the members of the
Brothers and Sisters of
St. Francis Region
of the
Secular Franciscan Order
in the
United States of America.**

Minister's Message: Be the Joyful Face of Christ to All

A look at the Franciscan Charism (Part 2)



This is a continuation of my minister's message that began in the spring issue of *Communio*.

The excerpts that I share are taken from a talk given by Father Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap., on the occasion of the Chapter of Mats celebrating the 800th anniversary of St. Francis's primitive rule of 1209.

On the basis of my earlier comments, let us try to see how we today could implement those three fundamental aspects of the primitive Franciscan experience that I previously explained: Preaching, Prayer, and Poverty. The focus of Part 2 is on Preaching and Prayer.

1. A renewed Franciscan preaching

What place does preaching occupy today in the Franciscan Order? Do we relegate it solely to ordained clergy? Or, do we follow the example of our Seraphic Father and "preach at all times — when necessary use words." As a Secular Franciscan, do I emulate a "gospel life"?

We Franciscans are "evangelicals" by birth and by our chosen vocation; we shouldn't allow itinerant preaching to be practiced only by modern "Evangelical" Protestants. You may recall that the earliest mandate given by Pope Honorius III to the friars was: "go and preach penance to all ... proclaiming vices and virtues, punishment and glory" (Later Rule, chapter IX).

Today, things have changed. We live in a society that in many countries has become post-Christian; the most necessary thing is to help people to find faith and to discover Christ. This is why "moralism" is not enough.

What is needed is a type of preaching that goes right to the heart of the message, proclaiming the paschal mystery of Christ. It was by this proclamation that the apostles became "fishers of men" and evangelized the pre-Christian world. And it will be through proclaiming this paschal mystery that we can hope to re-evangelize the post-Christian world.

We Catholics seem to be more comfortable in evangelizing those who have remained faithful to the Church than to bringing in new people, or to "fish back" those who have drifted away.

Therefore, we Franciscans, too, should continue to preach conversion; but we should give the word the meaning Jesus gave to it when he said: "Repent, and believe the Good News" (Mk 1:15). Before Jesus, to be converted always meant to change one's life and behavior, to turn back. With Jesus, it no longer means to turn back, but to take a leap forward and enter the kingdom that has freely come among us.

"Repent and believe" does not mean two separate things but the same thing: be converted, to believe the Good News! This is the great novelty of the Gospel, and Francis grasped it instinctively, without having to wait for biblical theology as we know it today.

2. A Franciscan way of praying

The second distinguishing element in Francis's earliest experience, as we have seen, is an intense life of prayer. In this initial phase, Franciscan prayer is, like preaching, a charismatic type of prayer. Later on, the Divine Office would become the hinge of the brothers' prayer (as it has become for Secular Franciscans). But in the beginning there were no breviaries or other books. They prayed spontaneously, as the Spirit prompted them, either alone or together.

How can we in our fraternities rediscover something of that fresh, spontaneous prayer? Before being the prayer of the primitive Franciscan community, it was the prayer of the Christian community. Paul wrote to the communities: "At your meeting, let everyone be ready with a psalm or a sermon or a revelation, or ready to use his gift of tongues or to give an interpretation"

(1 Cor 14:26); and again: “Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts” (Eph 5:19).

Certainly we should not despise liturgical prayer, but it has to be sustained and kept alive with other kinds of prayer; it is not enough by itself. We know only two kinds of prayer: liturgical prayer and private prayer. Liturgical prayer is communal but not spontaneous; private prayer is spontaneous but not communal. We need a type of prayer that is communal and spontaneous at the same time, and this, rather than some strange way of praying, is what we call charismatic prayer.

This would make it possible, in certain circumstances, or during the liturgical prayer itself, to have moments of real spiritual sharing among brothers and sisters. Recall what Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., our regional spiritual assistant, has shared with us about “praying the Divine Office”: We are to *pray* it, not read it. We are to concentrate on the words and let them penetrate our hearts. Otherwise, there is the danger that in our fraternities we share everything except our faith and our experience of Jesus. We talk about anything, except about him.

The Holy Spirit has revived this type of charismatic prayer. Charismatic prayer is essentially a prayer of praise and of adoration. Who more than Francis has embodied this type of prayer? Francis Sullivan, a Jesuit theologian, defined Francis of Assisi as “the greatest charismatic in the history of the Church.”

Next issue I will conclude with reflections on the third element — poverty — and offer some thoughts about our place in the Church (i.e., a Franciscan Pentecost). Meanwhile, I ask you to reflect once again:

“Question: In what, then, does the Franciscan charism consist? Answer: Looking at Christ with the eyes of Francis! We do not cultivate the Franciscan charism by looking at Francis, but by looking at Christ through Francis’ eyes” (*For Up to Now* [FUN], “Vocation: God’s Call,” p. 10).

Christ is everything for Francis: He is his only wisdom and his life. For Francis, Christocentrism was an experience, lived in real life and in a real way. There is no need to multiply quotations to prove this. At the end of his life, to a brother who tried to persuade him to have the Scriptures read to him, Francis replied: “But I have already taken in so much of scripture that I have more than enough for meditating and reflecting. I do not need more, son. **I know Christ, poor and crucified**” (Celano, “Second Life,” LXXI, 105).

Brothers and sisters, can we say the same?

May you have a Blessed Summer. Peace and All Good,

Jerry

Jerry Rousseau, OFS, minister of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region, is a member of Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg Fraternity in Blairsville, Ga.

Newly Professed Congratulations!

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity

Augusta, Ga., March 7
Susan MacArthur, OFS

Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary Fraternity

Nashville, Tenn., May 2
Jean Mezera, OFS

Franciscan Family of Greensboro Fraternity

Greensboro, N.C., May 3
Michael Evangelista, OFS
Susan Evangelista, OFS
Dorothy Fansler, OFS
Georgette Koty, OFS
Mary Nickel, OFS
Bob Pearson, OFS



Spiritual Assistant's Words of Wisdom

By Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv.

My Sisters & Brothers —Regional Executive Council members and Spiritual Assistants:

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts!

I see the schedule for the Pastoral and Fraternal Visitations for the remainder of 2015 and to the end of the triennium of 2016. There is much ministry to be done.

For you and those to whom and with whom you minister, it is very pivotal. To commend and recommend; to teach and to correct; to encourage and to define is the task of Visitation. Your ministry to and for them not only impacts their immediate community but the entire Region.

You, all of you, are the Body of Christ embracing the one who fulfilled his ministry to the sisters and brothers.

Recall the story of Francis when he introduces each friar by his name and his virtue. There is true intimacy in knowing someone's virtue. This could be one more item for the Annual Regional Gathering!!! Especially in view of the title of the Annual Regional Gathering: "Be the Joyful Face of Christ to All."

I may have mentioned that at the Catholic Campus Center for Lent we introduced the "Extraction": Scripture quote, saint, and virtue as an alternative to giving up chocolate or coffee. It has caught on and is very much appreciated. The students see the vast difference between giving up of some enjoyment for a time and the embracing of virtue which serves them for a lifetime.

Each fraternity has a life of its own and has an impact on the lives of all the fraternities. As you prepare for ministering as a member of a Visitation team, spend time in thoughtful prayer for the members of the fraternity you will be visiting. Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance that what you see and hear can be reflected back in the form of prayerful encouragement. Your attentiveness to what you experience makes all the difference. Crafting an informed response to strengthen, direct, comfort, teach, resolve will benefit them and you.

Be present to them, for it is Christ who is before you.

Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., is a member of Our Lady of the Angels Province, USA, which has its headquarters in Ellicott City, Md. He is Catholic chaplain at Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y.



Multicultural Commission

By Willie Guadalupe, OFS

Let me begin by giving you some background on how and why this commission was established.

In 2012, Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv., our regional spiritual assistant, received a request from the OFM Conventual friars at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Lithia Springs, Ga. They wanted to form a bilingual Secular Franciscan fraternity in the parish. I received an email from Father Linus volunteering me (I am sure this was led by the Holy Spirit) to assist them. They were focusing on the Hispanics in their parish because they were the largest group.

As I began to meet with this newly forming group, I found that most of the current formation materials used in the United States, such as *The Franciscan Journey*, the *Ritual of the Secular*

Franciscan Order, and our Rule, as contained in what we call our “little red Rule book,” and so on, were not available in Spanish.

That led me to do research and to contact our National Executive Council (NEC) to see how they could assist. Their response was that most of the essential documents in Spanish could be found on the CIOFS website. (Concilium Internationale Ordo Franciscanus Sæcularis is the governing body of our Order.) However, the *Ritual*, the Red Book, and the *Journey*, used in the United States, were not in Spanish.

Because of the enormity of the task, a Hispanic Commission was formed to assist any fraternity interested in forming bilingual members and those who speak little or no English. The commission consists of members from each of our Region’s three areas.

Last year, the Hispanic Commission was renamed the Multicultural Commission to bridge language, culture, and generational gaps in our region. We need to address the linguistic challenges inherent in ministering to any immigrant population.

Some may speak English, may read English, may write English, but many may not. Even for those who are bilingual, their native language could be their preferred language for worship, their language of prayer. Most of our Region’s fraternity members speak English, but we need to make sure that we welcome all of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our goal is not only to identify formation materials that need to be translated into other languages but also to address other challenges encountered when forming those in bilingual fraternities or sponsoring newly forming bilingual fraternities. It is imperative that our formation program develop consistent materials so that everyone receives the same formation regardless of the language they speak. We cannot have fraternities composed of “they and we.” It’s “we” — all together.

To date we have:

- established a commission team,
- renamed the Hispanic Commission as the Multicultural Commission,
- developed a bilingual “Come and See” DVD,
- translated several regional documents into Spanish,
- continued dialogue with the NEC,
- included several members of our commission team in the NEC Spanish *TAU-USA* translation team,
- assisted with the translation of *The Franciscan Journey* into Spanish (*La Jornada*).

We need to continue encouraging the development of an ongoing dialogue among our leaders and throughout the OFS communities in order to deepen our shared experience of community and help us to be “joyful and ready to place ourselves on an equal basis with” one another (OFS Rule, Art. 13).

We need more people on our commission. There is still a lot of work to be done, including translating documents into other languages and assisting fraternities interested in starting bilingual groups.

Please contact me (awilda.guadalupe@gmail.com or 678-438-7648) if you are interested in being part of this important commission.

Willie Guadalupe, OFS, is chair of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region’s Multicultural Commission. She is a member of Immaculate Conception Fraternity in Jonesboro, Ga., and spiritual assistant to St. John Vianney, Newly Forming Group, Lithia Springs, Ga.

Ser el Puente

By Pat Johnson, OFS

Como Francisco, estamos llamados a entender de dónde viene la persona y acoger al individuo con ideas diferentes — de un extremo al otro, si están de acuerdo con nosotros o no.



Debemos escucharnos y respetarnos el uno al otro así como lo hizo Francisco con quienes conocía. El también no estuvo de acuerdo con todos ellos, pero el escucho y respetó.

Siempre hablamos de construcción de puente — lo que tenemos que hacer no es solo construir el puente, si no SER el Puente. Debemos acoger nuestra humanidad para conocernos a nosotros mismos para que podamos continuar nuestra conversión, no solo por medio de la formación (inicial), sino a través de toda nuestra vida.

Necesitamos re-edificar relaciones con los otros, a estar abiertos al sanamiento, a salir y testificar con nuestras vidas y ser sanamiento para otros. Todos tenemos una misión única o sino no estaríamos aquí — El Señor no desperdicia su tiempo. Cuando somos llamados, necesitamos hacerlo, como Francisco, somos llamados a ser evangelistas — pasando del Evangelio a la vida y de la vida al Evangelio.

Pat Johnson, OFS, fue una nominada para tesorera nacional, he hizo este comentario en nuestro capitulo NAFRA 2012. Pocas semanas después inesperadamente, Pat encontró la hermana muerte.

Being the Bridge

Pat Johnson, OFS

Like Francis we are called to understand where the other person is coming from and to embrace the individual with different ideas — from one extreme to the other, whether they agree with us or not.



We should listen and respect one another like Francis did with those he met. He also did not agree with all of them, but he listened and he respected.

We always talk about bridge building — what we need to do is not only build the bridge, but BE the bridge. We must embrace our humanity and know ourselves so we can continue our conversion, not only through (initial) formation but through our entire life.

We need to rebuild relationships with others, to be open to healing, to go out and witness by our lives and be healing for others. We all have a unique mission or we wouldn't be here — the Lord doesn't waste time. When we are called, we need to do it. Like Francis, we are called to be evangelists — going from Gospel to life and life to the Gospel.

Pat Johnson, OFS, was a nominee for national treasurer and made this statement at our 2012 NAFRA Chapter. Just a few weeks after Chapter Pat unexpectedly met Sister Death.

Building up, dipping in: youth workshop focuses on peacemaking

By Joanita M. Nellenbach, OFS, and Diane Salkewicz, OFS

It's never too young to begin learning the ways of peace.

For the past 13 years, Diane Salkewicz, OFS, has facilitated the annual Peace and Gospel Tolerance Workshop for confirmation candidates and sponsors from Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Hendersonville, N.C.

In recent years, Diane, has asked the help of her fraternity, St. Francis of the Hills, in Hendersonville, and they responded with great enthusiasm at the opportunity to be involved with the parish's youth.

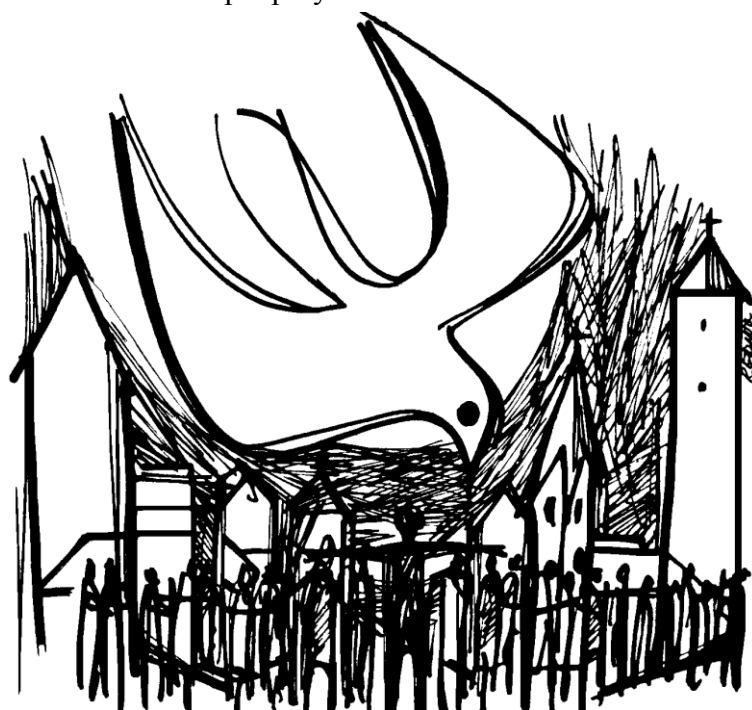
This year, though, Immaculata Middle School (grades five through eight) requested the workshop, to be held March 20, and which required even more assistance, since it was to focus on a broader age group and would include teachers and parents. Diane addressed the faculty prior to the workshop to prepare them for the day's agenda.

The workshop's prayer service included an extraction: each participant drawing, from

baskets, a virtue and a Scripture quote to aid their growth in peacemaking. These were received with awe and delight, feeling that the Holy Spirit had guided each to draw what he or she truly needed.

St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity members prayerfully selected more than 120 short Scripture passages and sent them to Diane, who cut the pages into individual quotes. At the fraternity gathering two weeks before the workshop, she also asked the fraternity members to become "prayer warriors," praying to the Holy Spirit to prepare each student, teacher, and parent to receive the message of peace and gospel tolerance.

Members of Immaculate



Conception parish also prayed for the workshop participants.

The day's program was steeped in Scripture; Diane and fellow fraternity member Randy Hair, OFS, guided the group in practical ways to truly live the beatitudes.

One visual that Diane likes to use is the image (on a large tapestry) of a covered bridge. She explains the surprising connection between the purpose of covered bridges and the function of peacemakers.

"Originally," she said, "the bridges were uncovered and were called plank bridges. Their function was to connect two bodies of land that could not otherwise be joined. The first objective of a peacemaker is to connect persons who cannot unite with others for any number of reasons.

"The second similarity came when, early on, horses became leery of crossing the bridges because they could see and hear the rushing water; so, sides were added to the bridges to dispel the horses' fears. Likewise, the role of a peacemaker is to dispel the fears that are at the very root of prejudice, exclusion, and hatred.

"Lastly, with no means to treat the bridge's wooden floor, the planks began to rot quickly; so, the bridge was covered with a roof to protect the entire structure. Similarly, the greatest role of a

peacemaker is to protect the vulnerable, the weak, the excluded, the poor, lost, and broken of our world.”

As Diane and Randy wrapped up the daylong workshop, they sensed something really extraordinary had taken place and asked themselves why this particular one was “so anointed,” as Randy put it. They concluded that it had to have been the prayer warriors from the fraternity and parish praying so intensely for every person there.

Weeks later they were still receiving heartfelt notes, messages, and profound affirmation of how the Holy Spirit was working deeply in the hearts of so many.

Joanita M. Nellenbach, OFS, and Diane Salkewicz, OFS, are members of St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity in Hendersonville, N.C.



One of the most touching – and profound – responses to the workshop is this painting that sixth-grader Leia Rose Thompson made for Diane, accompanying it with this note:

“Thank you, Mrs. Salkewicz, for a great retreat. I hope you will remember me from this picture. This picture represents peacemaking all over the world. The Chinese woman on the right symbolizes ambassadors making peace treaties. The girl on the left symbolizes people like you and me being peacemakers. The dove and heart symbolize peace and love. The thing connecting their hands is a covered bridge; it symbolizes a bridge between people and cultures. On the Chinese woman’s dress is the Chinese symbol for friendship. Her necklace and barrette have the symbol for peace.”

Seven Dolors Fraternity recalls its 100-year history

By Stephen Brace, OFS

"I bid you good bye, all you my sons, in the fear of God. Remain in Him always. There will be trials and temptations in the future, and it is well for those who persevere in the life they have undertaken ... I commend you all to His favor."

St. Francis of Assisi

St. Bonaventure, *Major Life of St. Francis*, Chapter 14

The life of a fraternity is best expressed in the life of its members. Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary Fraternity in Nashville, Tenn., has been blessed by many prominent members in the community.

Several members have continued on their journey by becoming vowed religious, while still others have impacted students and parishes.

The Sacred Heart Province in St. Louis, Mo., decided at its congress, July 3–8, 1914, to send Franciscan friars to Nashville. Father Charles Schlueter, OFM, arrived on July 29 and was placed in charge of St. Cecilia Academy.

There had been a Third Order of St. Francis fraternity at Assumption Parish circa 1913, but for lack of proper leadership it met with an untimely end.

On Nov. 28, 1915, Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary Fraternity was established, with Father Schlueter as the director of the Third Order, and a council was elected. Henrietta Wessel, OFS, president, was considered the best



Henrietta Wessel, OFS

harpist in the South and taught at Ward-Belmont School and St. Cecilia Academy. Mayme Stritch, OFS, secretary, was the biological sister of Cardinal Samuel Stritch, the first American elected to the Roman Curia; and Lulu Caraher, treasurer, was a teacher at Arkansas State Teacher College.

At a meeting on Dec. 5, 1915, 25 postulants presented themselves for

reception into the Order. The fraternity grew in membership to 150 members in 1931 (Father Maximus Poppy, OFM, and Paul R. Martin, *Survey of a Decade: The Third Order Secular of St. Francis in the United States*).

The history of Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary Fraternity encapsulates the legacies of many tertiaries and provides us examples to emulate on a local level. The following list of names is just a sample: Judge John Killen, OFS; Thomas Geraldts, OFS, sexton of St. Mary of the

**Join us in celebrating the
Transitus of St. Francis
and the
Centennial of
Seven Dolors of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Fraternity**

**at St. Philip Catholic Church,
Franklin, Tenn.,
Oct 3, 2015.**

**Mass at 5:30 p.m.
Transitus of St. Francis
celebrated during Mass.**

**Dinner served
after the service.
Deadline for reservations
Sept. 19.**

**Please contact
Stephen Brace, OFS, minister,
at columcille.ofs@gmail.com
or (931) 409-8948;
OR
David Weir, OFS,
vice minister, at
davidjosephweir@yahoo.com
or (615) 785-5580.**

Seven Sorrows Church in downtown Nashville; and Mary Catherine Schweiss (Strobel), OFS.

Mary Catherine is considered by some to be the Little Theresa of Nashville. She was tireless in helping the poor and was kidnapped and murdered in 1986 by an escaped convict. Today the Mary Catherine Strobel Volunteer Awards are given every year to exceptional charity workers. Her full bio can be read at Hands On Nashville (www.hon.org/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=015A00000001Prg6).

Several of our members are noteworthy in that they felt a further call and vocation to become vowed religious. Sister M. Ethel, OSF (Florence Goessman), entered the Sisters of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill., and took her final vows on Aug. 12, 1928. Sister Mary Helen, DC (Helen E. Neuhoﬀ), joined the Daughters of Charity on Dec. 6, 1923, followed by her biological sister, Sister Henrietta, DC (Angela C. Neuhoﬀ), on June 27, 1925, in St. Louis. Sister Mary Magdalen, OP (Mary J. Kearney), entered St. Cecilia Convent in Nashville.

Sister Mary Bernard, RSM (Margaret Fleming), entered the Sisters of Mercy at St. Bernard in Nashville in 1924 and was one of the five sisters who started St. Mary Memorial Hospital in 1930 in Knoxville. Sister Mary Thomas, DC (Mary E. Redd), on March 9, 1926, entered the Vincentian Convent of St. Thomas. James E. Fowlkes, was a Professed friar when he entered a Franciscan seminary; and Brother John P. Brunschwyler, OSB, entered in 1977 and resided at St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman, Ala.

Perhaps one of the most noteworthy members of our fraternity is Frances Brinkley Tate, OFS. Her life is a testament of the depth of forgiveness and suffering. Our record book recalls the story in the following manner with brackets indicating details from the newspaper stories:

“Fr. Paulinus Grosskopf, OFM, told us about Frances, the bomb victim. She was almost fatally injured by her estranged husband who [on June 3, 1960] brought a bomb [rigged with dynamite, buckshot, and a firing device in a jewelry box] to her mailbox, wrapped as a baby’s gift, when opened it blew



Richard Russo, OFS, poses with a statue of Ven. Solanus Casey during a visit to the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit, Mich., Oct. 23, 2014.

both her hands off, [disfigured her face], blinding her, and severely injuring her internally. Her two school age daughters were also injured but not seriously. [Frances remarked later that “I forgive him... I wish something could be done to help him.”] She was not a Catholic at the time but the two daughters mentioned were baptized because her first husband was a Catholic, he was in jail for burglary at this time. Fr. Paulinus said that although Mrs. Tate was hovering so long near death and so horribly crippled, she lived and forgave her husband. Fr. Paulinus baptized her, later received her into the Third Order and professed her conditionally.”

Another exceptional member, Richard Russo, OFS, served the poor with such devotion and was operating Casey’s Kitchen, a food kitchen and clothing distribution center from a residence in Old Hickory, Tenn., prior to his death on Nov. 8, 2014. His article about this ministry is in the winter 2014 *Communio*



Frances Brinkley Tate, OFS

(<http://www.bssfsfo.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Communio-01-Winter-2014.pdf>).

We are presently a small fraternity but with exceptional members and growing. David Weir, OFS, is vice minister; John Blake, OFS, secretary; Deacon Simeon Panagatos, OFS, treasurer; Anne Panagatos, OFS, formation director. Father Bala Showraiah, OFM, is our spiritual assistant.

Other Professed members are Daniel Epright, OFS; Francine Kimball, OFS; Jimmy Crawford, OFS; Jean Mezera, OFS, is newly professed. Our candidates are Ryan Carnes, OFS; Sara Hatcher, OFS; Jaime Maravia, OFS; and Sofia Grey, OFS. We have Patti Russo, Poy Dacpano, Edme Mendez, and Cheryl Blake in orientation.

Our apostolate is serving at the Dismas House, a safe haven for former offenders. We are presently trying to work on resurrecting Casey's Kitchen as a mobile ministry to serve Murfreesboro. We also have picnics with the St. Cecilia Chapter of Lay Dominicans and encourage participation in the feast of St. Dominic and the Transitus services.

As our centennial is upon us, these local members have left a remarkable example for us to imitate. It is my hope that we uplift these members in memoriam in offering up our prayers and to celebrate by continuing their legacy to the world in and around Nashville. May they intercede to God on our behalf.

Stephen Brace, OFS, is minister of Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary Fraternity.
All photos courtesy of the fraternity.

CIOFS Prayer Intentions

For each month, there is a general prayer intention, and a specific intention depending on the life of the universal Church and particularly on important events in national fraternities around the world. Let local fraternities pray for both.

July: For the spiritual assistants

For the National Fraternity of Rwanda celebrating an Elective chapter.

Our Father

August: For the Presidency of the International Council, and All Councils in the OFS

For the success of the Second European OFS-YouFra (Youth Fraternity) Congress and for the National Fraternities of Brazil, Ireland, and Cameroon celebrating their Chapters.

Our Father

September: For the Franciscan Family

For the National Fraternities of Nicaragua, Great Britain and Sweden celebrating their Chapters.

For the Fruitfulness of the Fraternal and Pastoral visit to the National Fraternity of Great Britain.

Our Father

October: For the Pope, Bishops and All those in Authority in the Church

For the success of the Synod on the Family.

For the National Fraternity of the USA celebrating a Chapter.

Our Father

REC Recap: April 24-25

by Christine Washington, OFS

As usual, we had a very spirit filled and productive Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis (BSSF) Regional Executive Council Meeting. Here is a summary of our discussion:

- We have a new Area 3 councilor, Carmen Madero, OFS, and a new Area 3 prayer coordinator, Bob Pearson, OFS. They agreed to serve in place of Marie Stephan, OFS, who held both positions but has moved to Virginia. Carmen is the minister of St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Fayetteville, N.C. Bob is newly professed in the Franciscan Family of Greensboro, Greensboro, N.C. We welcome both Carmen and Bob!
- We reviewed the letter from Tibor Kauser, OFS, who was elected minister general of our Order last November. Some highlights of this letter were:
 - The United States has about 14,000 Secular Franciscans, while in the world we number between 600,000 and 700,000. This shows the universality of our Order.
 - China has 7,000 members underground.
 - Our minister general encourages us as Secular Franciscans to have the following priorities in our lives: prayer, family, and then fraternity.
- We learned of pending spiritual-assistant appointments (to be announced when finalized) for San Damiano Fraternity, Athens, Ga.; Our Lady of Good Counsel Fraternity, Greenville, S.C.; Mother Cabrini, Newly Forming Group, Anderson, S.C.; and St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Augusta, Ga. We thank God for this increase for our Region.
- Documents referring to the spiritual assistant training program are now on our BSSF Region website (www.bssfsfo.org). There will be an enrichment session for commissioned spiritual assistants Friday morning of the ARG
- In her JPIC (Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation) Report, among other items, Carolyn Townes, OFS, regional JPIC animatrix, reported that she wants to create a Franciscan-based curriculum for Restorative Circles, which encompasses our Rule, as a way to move forward with the Restorative Circles workshops. We had a total of 125 people who attended the three Restorative Circles Workshops in our region this year.
- In the Multicultural Commission report Willie reported on the status of Spanish translations of documents and books. Both *The Franciscan Journey* and the little red Rule book have been translated into Spanish. TAU-USA, our national quarterly national publication, is now available in Spanish on our NAFRA website (www.nafra-sfo-org). The BSSF Regional Guidelines are in the process of being translated.
- We went over proposed revisions to the BSSF Regional Guidelines.
- We will pursue participating in the twinning program with English-speaking fraternities/regions in Africa.
- Our Region will make a Gift of Hope to the Franciscan Mission Service, a lay organization that sends missionaries to Central America and Africa.

These are just some of the highlights of our April Regional Executive Council Meeting. Please pray for us as we continue to do the work the Holy Spirit has for us in serving our brothers and sisters.

Christine Washington, OFS, is the secretary of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Regional Executive Council and a member of St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity in Bessemer, Ala.

**BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION CALENDAR
SCHEDULE OF VISITATIONS AND ELECTIONS
August 2015 – July 2016**

* confirmed

V+ follow-up visit

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

2015	Fraternity/Location	V Fraternal/Pastoral Visitors E Presider/Ecclesiastical Witness
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Aug. 7–9: Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Annual Regional Gathering, Ridgecrest, NC

Aug. 20–23: JPIC Animate Peace Retreat, Belleville, Ill.

*Aug. 21–22	St. Michael the Archangel, Spartanburg, SC	V Jerry Rousseau/Cricket Aull
Sept. 8	San Damiano, Athens, GA	E Jerry Rousseau/Fr. John Coughlin
Sept. 11–12	Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Burlington, NC	V Frank Massey/(Fr. D. Hyman?)

Oct. 13–18: NAFRA Chapter of Elections, Clinton, NJ

Jerry Rousseau, Willie Guadalupe, Carolyn Townes

Oct. 21	St. Anthony of Padua, Fayetteville, NC	E Frank Massey/Pat Wilkerson
*Oct. 24	St. Francis of the Hills, Hendersonville, NC	E Jerry Rousseau/Fr. Robert Williams
Oct. 24–25	Padre Pio, Raleigh, NC	V Paula Zanker (Carmen Madero)/ Willie Guadalupe
*Nov. 6–7	Our Lady Queen of Angels, EC Columbia, SC	V DorothyAnn Rowland/ Faye Martin
*Nov. 7	Blessed John Duns Scotus, Garden City, SC	E Carmen Madero

2016

Jan. 9–10	Stigmata of St. Francis, Duluth, GA	V Julie Lorenz/Lori Moran
Feb. 12–13	St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Augusta, GA	V Jerry Rousseau/Barbara Smith
*Feb. 20–21	St. Thomas More, Wilmington, NC	V Frank Massey/Pat Wilkerson
March 19–20	Sts. Francis and Clare, Knoxville, TN	V Jerry Rousseau, Willie Guadalupe
March 20	The Spirit of Francis and Clare, Conyers, GA	E Julie Lorenz/Lori Moran
April 7–8	Fr. Solanus Casey, Morehead City, NC	V Jerry Rousseau/Joanita Nellenbach
April 9–10	St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Elizabeth City, NC	V Jerry Rousseau/Joanita Nellenbach
April 10	Five Georgia Martyrs, St. Simons Island, GA	E (if activated)

See CALENDAR, p. 15

CALENDAR, from p. 14

April 15–16	Our Lady of Good Counsel, Greenville, SC	V	DorothyAnn Rowland/ Dcn. Tom Shaver
April 23–24	Seven Dolours of the BVM, Franklin, TN	V	Barbara Garrison/Faye Martin
May 7	St. Clare of Assisi, Aiken, SC	E	Charles Meyer/Audrey Binet
May 10	Fraternity of St. Clare, Winston-Salem, NC	E	Carmen Madero/Sr. Kathleen Ganiel
May 13–14	Immaculate Conception, Jonesboro, GA	V	Jerry Rousseau/Dcn. Tom Shaver
June 4–5	St. Maximilian Kolbe, Huntersville, NC	V	DorothyAnnRowland/Willie Guadalupe
June 12	Fraternity of Brother Francis, Newton, NC	V	Charles Meyer/Audrey Binet

June 30–July 4: Quinquennial, St. Louis (Renaissance Hotel) — Fr. Dan Horan, OFM

July 14	St. Clare, Asheville, NC	E	Jerry Rousseau/Fr. Robert Williams?
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Aug. 5–7: BSSF Annual Regional Gathering, Ridgecrest, NC – Chapter of Elections**Fraternity update**

By Carolyn Peduzzi, OFS

Fr. Solanus Casey Fraternity in Morehead City, N.C., has experienced change, joy, and sorrow in recent months.

As many of you know, last August our then-minister, Chuck Stephan, OFS, and his wife, Marie Stephan, OFS, one of our Area 3 councilors, lost their beautiful home in a fire. They have moved to Williamsburg, Va., and are now members of Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity in Hampton, Va., in St. Margaret of Cortona Region. While we miss them, we wish them “Pax et Bonum.”

We have lost to Sister Death two of our beloved members, Fred Woelkers, OFS, who passed last Aug. 6, and Art Wheatcraft, OFS, who died on Jan. 2. We miss the joy they brought to everything along with their guidance.

We continue to be blessed with our spiritual assistant, Msgr. Francis Moeslein, who graciously gives of his valuable time to all of us. In April, we had a Fraternity social and celebrated Msgr. Frank’s 82nd birthday.

As a Fraternity we discussed and agreed upon a new daytime Sunday gathering and began this on the first Sunday of May.

Our initial formation is going well, with three candidates: Mary Hudak, OFS; Bob Sabisch, OFS; and Yvette Parent, OFS, who has joined us from Connecticut. Mary Lou Kimmel, Teresa Perez, and Joan Rogers are inquirers; Elaina Bogan is an orientee.

Nine of us plan to attend the Annual Regional Gathering at Ridgecrest, N.C., and look forward to seeing our fellow Secular Franciscans.

Carolyn Peduzzi, OFS, is minister of Fr. Solanus Casey Fraternity.

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
with Fr. Linus DeSantis, OFM.Conv.**

Dec. 11-21, 2015

**\$3150: Ground & Airfare from Atlanta
Visit Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem,
and more.**

**Contact Bret Thoman, OFS,
for more information:**

tel: 770-402-4335 or

bret.thoman@gmail.com

Treasured letter reveals depth of connection

By Carole King, OFS, and Barbara Bates, OFS

Family. We hear that word a lot, especially in conjunction with Franciscans. Article 1 of our Rule calls it the “Franciscan Family.” What is that really? Family, Community, Brothers and Sisters. What does that look like in our own community?

We can recite definitions all day long, but in the place where the rubber meets the road, what is a Franciscan Family?

In “spring cleaning” mode, my daughter was going through a stack of papers, and came across a literal treasure: a letter written to our Fraternity by a sister who is now deceased. I read the letter, wept for a while at its incredible beauty, and then brought it with me to the interviews we held with our inquirers.

I have no doubt whatsoever that this timing was, indeed, God’s perfect timing. This letter is a poignant and beautiful example of the true meaning of Fraternity, and how Fraternity members are called to regard one another. How perfect to have it to read as our inquirers are discerning Fraternity life!

I hope this letter speaks to your heart as it did to mine.

Note: This was before we had men in our Fraternity, so it’s addressed to sisters. Also, our sister Barbara was extremely ill. She was in end-stage renal failure. This was written on her birthday.

Sisters,

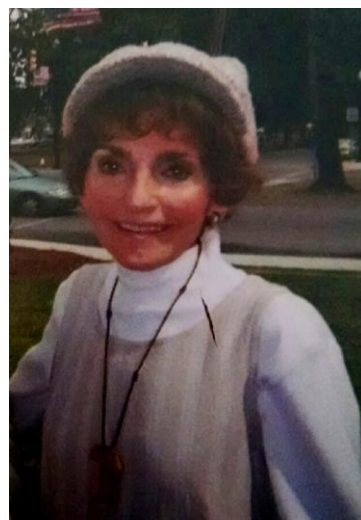
How beautiful you are! A plethora of color and fragrance surrounding me as we thank God for one more year to serve him; my birthday. I feel compelled to let you know how very special you are to me. You are my means of survival. You are my family!

Love is the source of life. That’s what you give me; ongoing and unconditionally. Without the support of a listening ear, companionship, and transportation, I wouldn’t be here. Knowing I have people in my life who care, gives me the energy to withstand dialysis treatments and the rigid discipline of dietary restrictions.

Most importantly you continue to be there for me just as I am. You see the selfishness, the vanity, the pickyness, the moodiness, the critical thoughts, words, self-pity, and negative visions; yet you are here for me.

Because of each of you, I am a better person. Your manifestation of Christlike giving and sacrifice teaches me how to be more “human.” Your example has helped me to understand what Jesus taught, and strive toward change. My illness has blessed me with a means of growth. A paradoxical treasure of God’s goodness in each one, gifts of bountiful love.

Thank you for your love and support. You are my pulse, my heartbeat. You are Jesus to me, resurrected. Like a beautiful field of flowers with their intricate detail, you color and perfume my life with love. — God bless you. Barb



Barbara Bates, OFS

Carole King, OFS, is formation director of St. Clare of Assisi Fraternity in Aiken, S.C.

Barbara Bates, OFS, was Professed in May 2001 and died Oct. 19, 2007.

Photo by Carole King

What a Journey!

Story and Photo by Gail Campbell, OFS

Franciscans from Area 1 have become more familiar with the Georgia countryside.

Our formation workshop in April and our retreat in May provided us with ample opportunities to explore the hills and winding roads that may or may not have led to our destination — Camp Hidden Lake, near Dahlonega, Ga.

The car in which I was a passenger made a wrong turn after the GPS lost its satellite connection, and we drove what seemed to be miles and miles on a lonely, windy road with no signs of civilization.

Finally, a truck came up behind us, so we stopped (the road was too narrow for it to pass), and one of our passengers got out to ask directions. Our hope was dimmed, though, when the driver wasn't able to help us.

Eventually we found a place to turn around and sometime later drove into the camp, amid happy sighs of relief.

Ours wasn't the only story to be told about getting lost on the way. Another Franciscan, who drove alone, described driving on an extremely narrow dirt path with some of the stones being large rocks (or "boulders", as she called them), and nothing but woods on both sides. She finally concluded that she was driving on a "fire road" used by fire engines in case of forest fire.

Another passenger from a car pool said, "We went off into nowhere!"

Several people I talked with told stories of getting lost in the boonies, before finding their way to Hidden Lake. Thankfully, everyone eventually arrived safely.

Instead of thinking of these adventures as being "lost," I think they were more about "finding our way." We might not have known where we were, but we made it our mission to find our way to the lake.

Isn't that the way it is with the spiritual journey?

All of us are on a mission to find our way. The spiritual path is an adventure. Just when it feels smooth and right, it may turn bumpy, with ruts and boulders of life to navigate. A straight path may become hilly, with ups and downs, twists and turns. At times we may be led into dark forests of discouragement and fear, and other times into sunny fields of contentment.

Even as we put our trust in our spiritual GPS (fondly referred to as the Holy Spirit), we do occasionally seem to lose connection. Then we wonder if we're on the right path, but we travel on, never giving up our mission to find our way. Eventually we will arrive at our heavenly destination amid happy sighs of relief and joyful exclamations of, "What a journey!"



The Area 1 Retreat at Camp Hidden Lake. May 1-3, offered time for meditation in the beauty of nature.

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

Spirituality of Place: Finding holy spaces all around us

By Bret Thoman, OFS

Photos by Joanita M. Nellenbach, OFS

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field (Mt 13:44).

What is “Spirituality of Place”? Are certain places holier than others? Or does one particular place have more spiritual value than others?

Since Katia and I made the decision to move to the Marches, Italy, to work with the friars and live in the Land of the Fioretti (Little Flowers), I find myself thinking about this a lot. We certainly did not move here for better “opportunities.”

A couple of millennia ago, ancient pagans believed that certain places possessed mystical powers in which the “spirits” were felt more strongly. Such places were usually associated with nature, and they often built temples over or near natural springs, in the hills or on mountaintops.

After the Romans converted to Christianity, many of the temples were converted into churches. Italy is full of them. The Pantheon in Rome — the temple where “all gods” were venerated — has been a church dedicated to Mary and the martyrs since the seventh century.

About halfway between Spoleto and Assisi in Umbria (near the old Roman Via Flaminia), stands a picturesque classical paleo-Christian shrine overlooking the Clitumnus springs, once dedicated to the river god Clitumnus. Roman soldiers used to bathe in the water for healing after battle. Since the third century, it has been a church.

If you’ve ever been to Assisi, you surely visited the ancient Roman temple in the central square. Once dedicated to Minerva (goddess of wisdom), it is now a church dedicated to the Mother of Wisdom and is called “St. Mary *over* Minerva.” Incidentally, the Romans built Assisi as a holy city; they were fascinated by the presence of underground water that mysteriously emerged from Mount Subasio.

But what about today? Can we Christians still refer to a “spirituality of place”? Certainly, we



Father Moreno Portaluppi, OFM (left), and Father Valentino Natalini, OFM, welcome Bret and Katia Thoman, OFS, and their children, Claremarie and Jacopo, to the 13th century Franciscan friary of Forano, a place of great spirituality in the Marches Region of Italy. The chapel behind them in the convent grounds marks the site of the miracle described in the excerpt from *The Little Flowers of St. Francis* (see this issue, 20).

don't build churches where we feel particular "spirits." But do we find God more in certain places and less so in others?

As Christians, we experience God wherever "two or more gathered" and the Word and prayer are present — usually in churches. As Catholics, many of us experience God powerfully in chapels where we spend time before the Blessed Sacrament. Further, pilgrims who go to Assisi, Rome, the Holy Land, or the Marian-apparition sites often feel something powerful while walking in the footsteps of the saints or Christ himself. Many, in fact, testify to experiencing mystical and supernatural phenomena in these places.



The portico of the Forano convent.

And many of us Franciscans have a particular affinity for nature, where we experience the presence of God by simply walking down the beach or in the forest. Certainly this is a legitimate way to experience the Creator, as he has fully informed all of his creation.

In fact, our pagan predecessors weren't very far off in their veneration of nature. After all, the desire to worship the one true God is written within all of our hearts. However, there is a subtle but important distinction: we don't worship creation in and of itself; instead, we worship and praise the one true God *through* creation.

St. Francis himself used a beautiful ancient Latin/Italian word in his "Canticle of the Creatures" to describe this nuance: *per*. It means "for," "through," "via," or "by." The closest we come in English is something like, "I parked by the curb *per* your instructions." Francis never praised the sun, moon, stars, wind, water, fire, earth, or even death in and of themselves; rather, he praised God *for*, *through*, *via*, and *by* these elements.

A close reading of the "Three Youths" in the Book of Daniel (3:57–88; 56) reveals the same thing. The elements of creation are not divinities in themselves; rather, they are reflective of the one Divinity who is reflected in them and who deserves our praise and worship.

So while we reject pantheism (the idea that everything is God), we still acknowledge the immanent presence of God in the world. Even in the Old Testament, God never remained totally aloof from his people to whom he was constantly "descending" and moving closer: he walked in the garden with Adam and Eve; he promised Abraham an heir and a particular homeland; he made a peace covenant with Noah; and finally, under Moses, he revealed himself in the Commandments. Yet, God revealed himself most fully when he lowered himself by becoming man in the Incarnation. When the waters of baptism touched the Christ, Jesus was not redeemed; instead, the world was.

So, I think we can say that, yes, the presence of God can be experienced in all places of the world. Then it is not such a surprise when we discover certain places that are more "informed"

with God. In this regard, our experience of the “spirituality of place” is subjective.

Francis himself loved particular places. It is true that he never wished to stay for too long in any one place (unlike the Benedictines who vow themselves to live “stably” in one particular monastery). Nevertheless, he was particularly fond of certain hermitages and places. His favorite was the Portiuncula. In fact, Francis once told his brothers, “See to it that you never abandon this place. If you are driven out from one side, go back in at the other. For this place is truly holy and is the dwelling place of God.”

Katia and I have found such a place, too — here in the Marches of Ancona. It is filled with friaries, hermitages, monasteries and convents. St. Francis himself visited this region at least six times, and in the 14th century, this region, in the words of Paul Sabatier, one of the pioneers of Franciscan studies, “became and remained the province more truly Franciscan than every other.” Today there is still a vibrant Franciscan community of friars, sisters, and Poor Clare nuns. Assisi has the bodies of Francis and Clare; here in the Marches, we have their faces.

And when one finds that treasure where they find God most fully, “out of joy [he] goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

Bret Thoman, OFS, is a member of Immaculate Conception Fraternity in Jonesboro, Ga., and director of St. Francis Pilgrimages.

The Little Flowers of Saint Francis Chapter 42 (excerpt)



Through this door, St. Francis entered the church in the convent at Forano.

Brother Conrad of Offida [lived] in the Convent of Forano in the custody of Ancona, where resided Brother Peter (his biological brother and fellow friar).

Having gone one day into the forest to meditate on God, Brother Peter followed him to see what would befall him; and Brother Conrad began to implore the Virgin Mary, with great fervor and devotion, to obtain from her Blessed Son that he might experience somewhat of the sweetness which St. Simeon experienced the day of the Purification, when in his arms he held Jesus the Blessed Savior.

Conrad, having finished his prayer, the Virgin Mary obtained his request; and, behold! the Queen of Heaven appeared in great splendor, with her Blessed Son in her arms, and approaching Brother Conrad placed the Holy Child in his arms. He received him most reverently, and embracing him clasped him to his breast, his heart overflowing and burning with divine love and inexpressible consolation.

Brother Peter, who witnessed this

scene at a distance, felt likewise in his soul great sweetness and joy.

When the Virgin Mary had departed from Brother Conrad, Brother Peter hastened back to the convent that he might not be seen; but when Brother Conrad arrived, full of joy and happiness, Brother Peter said to him: "O brother, thou hast received great consolation today!"

And Brother Conrad answered: "What sayest thou, Brother Peter? How dost thou know? Hast thou seen me?"

"I know," answered Brother Peter, "that the Virgin Mary, with her Blessed Son, has visited thee."

And Brother Conrad, who, through great humility, wished to keep secret the grace with which God had favored him, entreated Brother Peter to tell no one what he had witnessed; and from henceforth so great was the love which existed between these two brethren, that they seemed to have but one soul and one heart in all things.

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach, OFS

"Exploring the Canticle of the Creatures"

1. St. Francis and Creatures
2. Writing the Canticle
3. Praying with the Canticle and Creation

Oct. 2–4, 2015

Presenter: Joanita M. Nellenbach, OFS

Avila Retreat Center

711 Mason Rd., Durham, NC 27712

919-477-1285

www.avila-retreat-center.com

email: avila1983@nc.rr.com

Donation: \$160.00 double-occupancy room.

Limited number of single rooms available on 1st-come, 1st-served basis

Register by Sept. 25

Transitus of St. Francis on Saturday evening
with renewal of OFS commitment

Mass will be celebrated on Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Prayer booklets will be provided for Liturgy of the Hours.

Secular Franciscan Websites

Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region — www.bssfsfo.org

National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States (NAFRA)

www.nafra-sfo.org

Consilium Internationale Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis (CIOFS)

International Council of the Secular Franciscan Order — www.ciofs.org

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

Minister: Jerry Rousseau, OFS

Vice Minister: Paula Zanker, OFS

Secretary: Christine Washington, OFS

Treasurer: Greg Savold, OFS

Formation Director: Sara Nell Boggs, OFS

Spiritual Assistant:

Father Linus DeSantis, OFM Conv.

Area 1 Councilors

Barbara Garrison, OFS; Julie Lorenz, OFS

AL: Bessemer, Decatur;

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

NC: Franklin;

TN: Chattanooga, Knoxville, Nashville

Area 2 Councilors

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

GA: Augusta, St. Simons Island;

NC: Asheville, Charlotte, Hendersonville, Newton;

SC: Aiken, Charleston, Columbia, Greenville,
Hilton Head Island, Spartanburg

Area 3 Councilors

Frank Massey, OFS; Carmen Madero, OFS

NC: Burlington, Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Greensboro,
Morehead City, Raleigh, Wilmington, Winston Salem;

SC: Garden City

Archivist: Sara Nell Boggs, OFS

Communio Editor

Joanita M. Nellenbach, OFS

Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Animator

Carolyn D. Townes, OFS

Multicultural Commission Chair

Willie Guadalupe, OFS

**Youth/Young Adult Fraternal Animator
Position Available**

Prayer Ministry (online prayer requests)

Area 1: Lori Moran, OFS

Area 2: Donna Kaye Rock, OFS

Area 3: Bob Pearson, OFS

Fraternity prayer coordinators submit prayer requests.

**New Councils
Congratulations!**

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity

Elizabeth City, N.C.

April 12

Minister: Doreen Warren, OFS

Vice Minister: Charlotte Witosky, OFS

Secretary: Dory Davis, OFS

Treasurer: Cee Cee Petruncio, OFS

Formation Director: Pamela Barber,
OFS

Councilor: Mary Gilbert, OFS

Immaculate Conception Fraternity

Jonesboro, Ga.

May 9

Minister: Helene Ward, OFS

Vice Minister: Laura Cleary, OFS

Secretary: Lynda M. Von Kanel, OFS

Treasurer: Barbara Reich, OFS

Formation Director: Lori Moran, OFS

Councilor: Bernadette LaSorsa, OFS

Councilor: Linda M. Spring, OFS

Councilor: Eugenia West, OFS

St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity

Huntersville, N.C.

June 7

Minister: Martha Roman, OFS

Vice Minister: Gloria Buchanan, OFS

Secretary: Jennye Taylor Johnson, OFS

Treasurer: Janet Pearson, OFS

Formation Director:

David Roman, OFS

Councilor: Denise Hickey, OFS

Councilor: Anne Tinsdale, OFS

