



# THE JOY OF FRANCIS

Secular Franciscan Order | St. Francis Region #52 | Southern California

## Future Newsletters

Planned publication dates for *The Joy of Francis* are Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, Aug 15<sup>th</sup>, and Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. **Submission Deadlines** for information to be included must be received by Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, and Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Local Ministers, as well as District Liaisons, are encouraged to submit information about their fraternity's activities. Information should be sent as a Word document to [patriciadervish@yahoo.com](mailto:patriciadervish@yahoo.com) **NEW!!!**

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## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

*Judith Mussatto, OFS, Regional Minister*

## Called to Serve

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Every three years in accordance with Article: 63 of our General Constitutions, elections are held at the regional level. St. Francis Region will hold its Chapter of Elections January 12 -14, 2018.

The nomination process for the Chapter of Elections will begin in September. The Regional Executive Council has appointed Patricia Dervish, OFS and Margaret (Peggy) Botte, OFS, to serve as the Region's Nominating Committee which will have the following responsibilities:

- Send nomination forms to the fraternity ministers and group leaders.
- Receive nominations from professed fraternity members and members of the regional executive council.
- Ask each nominee to accept or decline the nomination.
- Obtain biographies from those who accept nomination

- **One month before** elections, if the slate is incomplete the committee can solicit nominations (directly contact members).
- Prepare the slate of candidates.

Ministers, when you receive the nomination form, please copy the form and make the copies available to your Professed members. All active Professed can nominate candidates. You can assist the committee by verifying the eligibility and qualification to hold the elected office for which she/he is nominated before forwarding your nomination to the committee.

Nominees for the positions of Regional Minister and Regional Vice Minister must be Professed more than three years, have served at least one term on a local fraternity council and be an active participant in Secular Franciscan events.

Nominees for the positions of Regional Secretary, Regional Treasurer and Regional Councilors must be Professed more than one year and be attending Secular Franciscan events regularly. In St. Francis Region, the position of Formation Director is an appointed position.

You have received gifts of the Holy Spirit. You have acquired skills. You have promised to serve the Order. It is now time to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider where and how you are being called to serve St. Francis Region. A prayer for leadership is included in this issue of the newsletter. Please make this prayer part of your fraternity and personal

prayer over the months leading up to our Chapter of Election January 12 -14, 2018.

Your Sister in Christ,

Judith

## VICE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

### ST. FRANCIS REGION LEADS THE NATION AGAIN; REGIONAL FRATERNITY APPROVES NEW "EMERITUS" STATUS!

**By: Frank Miller, OFS  
Regional Vice Minister**

As members of the Regional Executive Council and Regional Spiritual Assistants have made visits to the Fraternities within St. Francis Region, one of the concerns we have often heard over the years is about the changing demographics of the brothers and sisters who make up our Order in Southern California. Fraternity Councils have struggled with how to address those within the Order who, for health-related, distance or age issues, are no longer able to attend Fraternity meetings, but are still connected to the Fraternity through visits, prayer and other forms of contact.

The Constitutions and the National Statutes categorize Professed Secular Franciscans into **Active** (brothers and sisters who participate in the life of the Fraternity, or who may be on a Council-approved short-term leave), and **Lapsed** (members of our Fraternities who have stopped attending and provided no information, people who no longer respond to requests for contact, or have simply moved and we have no new contact information). Neither of these categories addressed the pastoral concern of Fraternities of those people

who do not “qualify” for Lapsed status (we know where they are, they just can no longer physically attend a Fraternity meeting).

Regional Minister Judith Mussatto approached NAFRA with this ongoing concern in late 2016 at the National Chapter meeting. NAFRA understood this concern and knows that Regions throughout the US are going through similar circumstances. The National Executive Council encouraged Judith to allow St. Francis Region to be the test case for a “new status” which addressed the loving concern of these Fraternity Councils. The Regional Council approved the language of a new **Emeritus** status within the Regional Governance Norms. This proposed change was announced to the Regional Fraternity at the Chapter gathering in January and went out to all Fraternity Ministers in the spring for a vote. There was overwhelming positive reaction and approval of the new status, and it is now included as the most recent addition to the Regional Governance Norms of St. Francis Region. Fraternity Councils can begin using the Emeritus status **THIS YEAR!**

Emeritus status isn't for someone who comes in-and-out of Fraternity life and participation, nor for someone who is just on a short-term approved leave of absence. Emeritus status addresses those Professed brothers and sisters who, due to infirmity, distance, age, or are now living with family elsewhere, can no long participate in regularly joining the community for meetings, events, etc. It is a loving way of keeping the connected bonds of Fraternity with those going through change in their circumstances. Those in Emeritus status will continue to receive the Tau newsletter, are not considered “lapsed”, and will continue to be united to their home Fraternity. Below

is the content of the approved Regional Governance norm:

**36.** St. Francis Region recognizes that Fraternity Councils, in an abundance of loving pastoral concern, might not want to lapse Professed Secular Franciscan members who, for reasons of infirmity, distance, or age-related conditions, can no longer attend Fraternity meetings and/or events. For this reason, a Fraternity Council may (by majority vote) move a Professed member into “Emeritus” status.

Secular Franciscans in “Emeritus” status is still considered active members of the Fraternity. It is the responsibility of the Fraternity, whenever possible, to remain in loving, prayerful contact with these “Emeritus” brothers and sisters. Include them in the prayer life of the Fraternity, invite them to important events when possible (e.g. Professions, anniversary celebrations, etc.), and keep them informed of Fraternity activities, such as through email, phone calls, in-person visits or newsletters.

“Emeritus” members are not eligible for nomination to any of the OFS Constitutional offices, nor can they serve on a Fraternity Council. They are not included in any OFS Constitutional quorum determination. An “Emeritus” Secular Franciscan may not vote during a Fraternity election;

if they do attend a Fraternity election, their role is only as an observer. The Fraternity continues to have an annual Fair Share responsibility for “Emeritus” members, but at 50% of the prevailing Fair Share rate established by the Regional Fraternity. “Emeritus” members will continue to receive the Tau newsletter and any other national/regional mailings.

## REGIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS

The Leadership Training class has had its first week-end meeting and all have pronounced it very successful. The format is totally different than what has been used over the past for the Spiritual Assistant/Formator classes, though the content to be covered will be very similar. Fifteen Seculars from six fraternities have signed on for the two-year program, which will consist of six week-ends at Pro-Sanctity Center in Fullerton, plus assignments and projects between week-ends.

An ongoing concern we see with all our fraternities as we make pastoral visits, is size. With the Constitutionally-mandated term limits on elected officers, many fraternities are very concerned about being able to put up a slate of candidates at their next election. Speaking to that concern, we know that only God sends vocations, but we can certainly pray constantly for vocations. One of the biggest problems the Order has always had is a lack of visibility. We cannot be the “best kept secret in the Church” and still expect to have vocations. I’ve never heard of a person having a vocation to an Order which they’ve never heard of. So my rather constant urging to fraternities is “be

visible.” That doesn’t mean standing on street corners preaching, or going out and proclaiming to the whole world that you are a Secular Franciscan. If you are truly living a Gospel life, you shouldn’t have to do that.

What it does mean, however, is participating in parish, regional and diocesan events. If you have 8 parishes represented in your fraternity, you – the Order – should be known in all 8 parishes. Always make a point to make the acquaintance of new pastors and associates in each of those parishes. Let them know that their parish members, who are also Secular Franciscans, participate in their parish ministries. When there are things like ministry fairs, ask to participate, and ALL the fraternity members help to staff a booth for that event. When a parish has a carnival, ask to have a booth, where you can have a game, or sell something, and pass out your literature.

When working with others, and when participating in parish and other events, always remember that first, we are Gospel people. We love, have compassion, forgive, and, in general, *work with* other people, as opposed to always wanting things “my” way. That should be our code for our life in general. It means that, while keeping our eye on Jesus, as we saw in the Gospel for Aug. 13th, we should also always be more concerned about the other person than we are about ourselves. That’s a lifetime struggle for most of us, but especially remembering it when we’re working with or are around non-Seculars, will help us both to BE Gospel people and to help others know about us. So pray always, and keep your eyes on Him.

Sylvia Paoli, OFS  
Regional Spiritual Assistant

## FORMATION

### Serra Retreat 2017



What an amazing time, meeting with my fellow Franciscans. Making new friends and catching up with my brothers and sisters I see maybe once or twice a year. This year our retreat master was Sr. Joanne Schatzlein, OFS. Sister is a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, whose Motherhouse is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is currently the director of the Office of Corporate Ministries for her congregation and continues to serve as a staff member for Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs based in Franklin, WI. The theme of the weekend was “St. Clare of Assisi: Franciscan Women, Leader, Healer and Friend.”

Sister’s sharing gave us a glimpse of St. Clare of Assisi. St. Clare as a medieval woman, daughter and a true follower of St. Francis. St. Clare was a reflection of Christ to her community of sisters, she had a healing ministry and was a consoler and friend to many. St. Clare carried the light of Christ as a Teacher, Author, Leader and a Holy Saint.

I would like to share one quote from Sr. Joanne “We can’t plan transformation.” We must suffer it, undergo it, submit to it, and then perhaps embrace it. It is that not I but Christ who lives in me” to quote St. Paul.

WOW who wants to suffer? I do want to be transformed, that is what our ongoing formation is all about. Do I submit to it and embrace it? This weekend I

reflected on this and realized yes, I do embrace my suffering with joyfulness. St Francis and St Clare have taught me to look in the mirror to see the face of Christ in me. **St Clare writes “but with swift pace, light step, unswerving feet, so that even your steps stir up no dust...”** This is a description of radical freedom, not counting the cost, with one’s vision fixed on what lies ahead.

Sr. Joanne asked, “How do we live the Gospel life?” “What might have I done 15 years ago, that I don’t do now?” I ask you to ponder these questions in your heart, and if possible share your thoughts with someone.

I love this quote from St. Francis “Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible!”

Lucy Ibarra, OFS  
Regional Formation Coordinator



## DISTRICT NEWS San Bernadino/Riverside



Padre Poi Fraternity elected a new council this quarter. They also had a pre-profession retreat for the candidates. The entire council attended the retreat along with the four candidates. Immaculata Fraternity also elected a new council. Holy Spirit Fraternity had their annual Marian Celebration and Dinner. Representatives from the three Fraternities in the district met for their quarterly meeting. We discussed how to use ongoing formation at Council to allow members of the council to better understand the details of what is needed, in practical terms, to perform the action of the various council position so that they can be prepared to fulfill that role should it be required. For example, how initial formation records are kept. We also discussed how to increase the awareness of the general membership on what each of the members of the council do as part of Fraternity Ongoing Formation, particularly in years where there will be an election.

Over forty people, including spouses, children and friends attended the District Picnic hosted by Holy Spirit Fraternity. This year we played Bingo as well as giving out potted succulents as door prizes.



## San Diego

On July 1st, the Saint Anthony of Padua Fraternity had an Election for the new Council. Presider was Judith Mussatto, OFS, Regional Minister of St. Francis Region. Church witness was Anthony Tuan Cao, OFS, Councilor, delegated.

The new Council members are:

Minister: Maria Phuc Pham, OFS  
Vice Minister: Vincent Cong-Uan Nguyen, OFS  
Formation Director: Joseph Dinh Le, OFS  
Secretary: Maria Minh Thi Do, OFS  
Treasurer: Maria Nu Thi Tran, OFS  
Councilor: Teresa Tuyet Thi Tran, OFS  
Spiritual Assistant: Anthony Tuan Cao, OFS



*New Council  
Saint Anthony of Padua*

On August 6<sup>th</sup>, the San Luis Rey Fraternity had a Fraternal visit by Frank Miller, ofs, Vice Minister of St Francis Region, delegated.

The same day August 6<sup>th</sup>, Nostro Signore de Angeles had a Pastoral visit by Marguerite Rodriguez, ofs, Regional Secretary, delegated.

The District of San Diego had a District Picnic on August 12 at Lake Santee in San Diego.

We had more the 60 members from all 5 Fraternities in San Diego: San Luis Rey, St. Anthony of Padua, Immaculate Conception, St. Diego and Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles.

Although we speak 4 different languages we did not have any problem because we are all Secular Franciscans and speak the same language of Love and Charity.

We had different kind of foods, activities and games. We also collected many gifts for Father Joe's village to help the homeless and others in need. We had a good time together to remind us that we belong to the worldwide Secular Franciscan Order not only to our own local Fraternity. Thank you very much for all 5 Council members for your hard works to prepare



such a wonderful annual District Picnic in San Diego.

Peace and all good.  
Anthony Tuan Cao, OFS  
San Diego District Liaison /Formator

**A PILGRIMAGE TO ROME, ASSISI AND  
THE HOLY LANDS 2017**  
BY  
ARMANDO LOMELI  
(OUR OWN BROTHER MANDO)



THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI



IN ROME WITH FRANCISCAN SISTERS FROM AFRICA



SAINT PETER'S CHURCH



THE WALL OF LAMENTATIONS



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

**A MESSAGE FROM  
THE PROVINCIAL MINISTERS  
OF THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE  
UNITED STATES**

**AUGUST 2017**

(The following has been sent to us by the Very Rev. David Gaa, OFM, Santa Barbara Province. It was signed and published by all the provincial ministers in the United States)

As followers of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron of peace, we, the Franciscans Friars of the United States join with the many public and religious leaders and fellow-citizens who have condemned the recent violence in Charlottesville, VA.

We hold that all forms of racism, white supremacy, neo-Nazism, xenophobia and hatred are wrong. Because we believe that every person is created by God in love, we also hold that disrespect or diminishment of—or violence against—*anyone* offends not only that person but also the One who created that person.

As Franciscans, we strive to be bridge-builders. To avoid future instances of the tragic violence that tore not only the community of Charlottesville but also the fabric of our nation, we call for a renewed commitment to respectful dialogue by all, whereby our opinions and differences can be shared in constructive and illuminating ways that lead to the possibility of growth and conversion for all. Such dialogue might lead us beyond the overt displays of violence and intolerance into an understanding of the subtler and even unconscious forms of discrimination and intolerance that may still inhabit our hearts as well as our society.

We commit ourselves to the responsibility of respect for and dialogue with all who seem “other” than ourselves. And we pray that all the citizens of our nation will join in striving to attain respect and peace in our communities.

**BEQUESTS:**

**PRESERVING AND EXTENDING OUR SECULAR  
FRANCISCAN WAY OF LIFE.**

Each of us can play an important role in preserving and extending our Secular Franciscan way of life, in our own fraternity, and at the regional level. This can be accomplished in many ways, including a bequest in our will.

Suggested beneficiaries:

Your FRATERNITY  
Your REGION

Suggested wording for your bequests:

1. A BEQUEST FOR GENERAL PURPOSES:

"I give and bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_% of my disposable estate) to: (name and address of fraternity, or region(.

2. A RESIDUARY BEQUEST OF INDEFINITE AMOUNT:

"After payment of expenses, debts and specific bequests, I direct that the residue of my estate be given to: (name and address).

3. A CONTINGENT SPECIFIC BEQUEST:

"I bequeath to (name and address) any part of my estate that other beneficiaries are unable to receive because of death or other reasons."

THE ADDRESS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION IS:

276 E. Green St.  
Claremont, CA 91711-5026



## Professed 50+ years

Now in the St. Francis Region



From Left to Right: Ray Hardwick. Professed:07/26/1963. Formation Director Immaculata Fraternity, Riverside. Mary Ann Reis. Professed: 01/05/1958. St. Louis the King Fraternity, Santa Barbara. Status: Active. St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fraternity Los Angeles. Maria C. Ibarra. Professed – Frances Elizabeth 08/25/1963, St. Joseph’s Church, Los Angeles, Councilor Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity, Hacienda Heights. Diane Halal. Professed – Ursula 07/07/1956, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yonkers, New York. Councilor St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity, Los Alamitos. Sr. Madeline Fitzgerald, OSC. Professed:04/22/1961 Newry, County Down, Northern Ireland. Spiritual Assistant, San Luis Rey Fraternity. Sr. Miriam Joseph Teresi, OSF, Professed 08/19/1961, Syracuse, NY, Spiritual Assistant, St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity, Los Alamitos. Sylvia Paoli. Professed - Elizabeth 06/21/1964, Dominguez Seminary, Compton, CA. President in turn Conference of Regional Spiritual Assistants, St. Francis Region

**The above group photograph taken at Serra Retreat Center, Malibu in May 2017 and a certificate of profession among the records of Immaculate Heart of Mary Fraternity, are the impetus for the presentation of this section highlighting our sisters and brothers who said “Yes” to the gospel life long before many of us ever had an inkling of the existence of the Secular Franciscan Order.**



**Carol Marie Rita (Johnson) Imhoff. Professed: – Joan 02/14/1965. Place: San Luis Rey Mission Church. Secretary and Newsletter Editor. San Luis Rey Fraternity**



**Lee, Byung Jae (Hilario). Professed: August 1960. Place: Korea. : Active. St. Francis Fraternity (K), Anaheim.**



**Dolores Cullen. Professed: Louise 10/24/1948. Place: St. Peter's Chicago. Active: Holy Spirit Fraternity. Claremont**



**Fred Atrash Professed: 10/04/1948. Place: Sacred Heart Fraternity, South Africa. Emeritus. Immaculate Conception Fraternity, San Diego.**

Joan Hardwich  
Professed: 07/26/1963  
Inactive: Immaculata Fraternity.  
Riverside

Robert Murray  
Professed:10/04/1956  
Place: St. Anthony Seminary, Santa Barbara, CA. Active. San Juan Capistrano Fraternity.  
San Juan Capistrano

Martha LoVetere  
Professed: 02/28/1965  
Place: St. Joseph's Church, Los Angeles.: Secretary Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity. Hacienda Heights.

Gloria Albamonte.  
Professed:09/04/1957  
Place: New York.  
Emeritus. San Juan Capistrano Fraternity.  
San Juan Capistrano.



**(Maurice) Richard Wild. Professed: 1965. Place St. Joseph Church, Pomona, CA.**



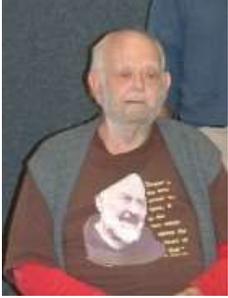
**Gabriel Harkey. Professed Stephen 11/15/1964. Place: St Patrick's Church, San Diego. Active: Immaculate Conception**



**Katherine (Kay) Scannicchio. Professed Mary Joseph 10/18/1964. Place: Tuscan, AZ. Emeritus: Immaculate Conception**



**Lorraine Newbrough. Professed: 10/03/1954.: Emeritus: Immaculate Conception Fraternity. San Diego**

<p>Marie O'Donnell.</p> <p>Professed: 08/24/1959</p> <p>Place: Mission San Juan Capistrano. Emeritus. San Juan Capistrano Fraternity. San Juan Capistrano.</p>	<p>Deacon Joe Halka</p> <p>Professed: 10/04/1959</p> <p>Status: Currently on Council – Councilor. San Juan Capistrano Fraternity. San Juan Capistrano</p>	 <p><b>Figure 1 Mich Duy Tran.</b>  <b>Professed:10/04/1964. Place: Viet Nam. Active: Vietnamese Martyrs EC(V) Santa Ana.</b></p>	<p>Teresa Steinmetz  Professed: 07/ 15/1953.  Place: St.: Joseph's Church, Los Angeles. Inactive.  Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity, Hacienda Heights.</p>
 <p>Midge Neff-Le Claire.  Professed Catherine 11/16/1958 St. Patrick's Church. San Diego. Active Immaculate Conception Fraternity. San Diego</p>	 <p>Norma Liu.  Professed:5/10/1964 St. Anthony Fraternity, Philippines. Active Immaculate Conception Fraternity. San Diego.</p>	 <p><b>Michael Coughlin. Professed Anthony 08/07/1960. Place: St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity. Los Angeles. Active.</b></p>	 <p><b>John Fenstermaker. Professed Gabriel 03/19/1954. Place: St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity Los Angeles. Excused.</b></p>

# Orden Franciscana Seglar

Región V. P. Fr. Antonio Margil de Jesús

## Patente de Profeso

La Fraternidad de San Francisco de Asis

Certifica que el:

Hno: Jesús Ureña

Profesó el día 3 de Octubre de 1951

*M. Catalina Madrid Barrios*  
Hna. María Catalina Madrid Barrios  
Ministra



O. F. S.  
SOMBRERETE, ZAC.

*Claudia Olivía Aguilar Silva*  
Hna. Claudia Olivía Aguilar Silva  
Coord. Formación

*Izela del Rocio Valdez M.*  
Hna. Izela del Rocio Valdez M.  
Secretaria

*P. Fray Arturo Favela Rodríguez*  
P. Fray Arturo Favela Rodríguez, O. F. M.  
Asistente Espiritual



*Peace and All Good*

# Calendar

August  26	Profession; 10:00 a.m. Vietnamese Martyrs, Fountain Valley.  Votive Mass: 3:00 p.m. Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles.
September	Period of Nominations for the Elections of the Regional Executive Council begins.
10  10  24  26 - Oct 1.	Pastoral Visit: Holy Spirit Fraternity.  Elections: St. Francis of Assist Fraternity.  Elections: St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe (K).  NAFRA Chapter, Indiana.
October	Period of Nominations for the Elections of the Regional Executive Council. Transitus Celebrations. Check your local area for events.
7  8  8  14  22  29	Regional Executive Council Meeting.  Fraternal Visit: San Lorenzo Ruiz Fraternity.  Pastoral Visit: St. Diego Fraternity.  Regional Gathering. <b>See flier in this newsletter and on the website.</b>  Elections: St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fraternity.  Fraternal and Pastoral Visit: St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity.
November	
12  12	Elections: St. Diego Fraternity.  Pastoral Visit: St. Maximilian Kolby.
December  17	Elections: Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity.

## PRAYER FOR SFO

### LEADERSHIP

Give us, O God, leaders whose hearts are large enough to match the breadth of our own souls and give us souls strong enough to follow leaders of vision and wisdom.

In seeking a leader, let us seek more than our own enhancement -- though enhancement we hope for -- more than security for our own plans and vision -- though security we need -- more than satisfaction for our own selfish wants -- though many things we desire.

Give us the hearts to choose and follow the leader who will work with other leaders to bring Your will to the agenda and help us to fulfill it.

Give us leaders who lead us to virtue without seeking to impose their own version of virtue on others.

Give us leaders who will provide for the advancement of our Order without dictating to others to achieve it.

Give us insight enough ourselves to choose as leaders those who can tell strength from power, growth from greed, leadership from dominance, and real greatness from the trappings of grandiosity.

We trust you, Great God, to open our hearts to learn from those to whom you speak in different tongues and to respect the life and words of those to whom you entrusted the good of other parts of this globe.

We beg you, Great God, give us the vision as Secular Franciscans to know where holy leadership truly lies, to pursue it diligently, to ask it to respect the integrity of every person in the entire Order.

We ask these things, Great God, with minds open to your word and hearts that trust in your eternal care. Amen.

Adapted by Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR.  
from "Prayer for Leadership" Published by Pax Christi USA.

