



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 15th, May 15th, Aug 15th, and Nov. 15th. **Submission Deadlines** for information to be included must be received by Feb 1st, May 1st, Aug 1st, and Nov 1st. 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 **NEW!!!**

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Judith Mussatto, OFS, Regional Minister

TEA

We, are like tea, need to be steeped – steeped in God's abundant love. This is slow work, as we see in a mirror dimly (1 Cor. 12:13), and are often slow to understand. But, it is when we KNOW of God's unfailing, unconditional love, that we are able to open ourselves to grow, to be transformed.

In 1995 I embarked on a journey which ultimately led me to be elected your Regional Minister in 2015. What I was seeking in 1995 was a way to **Learn** more about my Catholic faith. I am a cradle Catholic and in 1995 I was a woman in my forties living my faith at a 3rd Grade level. This search led me to a new way of being. I found community, family, fraternity. My local fraternity, my regional fraternity, my national fraternity.

As Regional Minister I represent the Region at the National Chapter. This year our Chapter was held at Mt. St. Francis Retreat Center, Indiana. The National Chapter is formatted exactly like the local fraternity meeting – Prayer, Ongoing Formation, Business and Social Time. During the time allotted for ongoing



formation we held a *Tea Party*. The phrase *Tea Party* congers up visions of Oolong, English Breakfast, Herbal Tea, Black Tea and many of the other varieties that can be found at the local supermarket or your favorite tea shop. Put that vision aside.

This was *Tea for your Franciscan Soul* and the Selection of Franciscan "TEA" served was:

Activity	Audacity	Authenticity
Catholicity	Charity	Chastity
Circularity	Clarity	Community
Creativity	Curiosity	Dependability
Dignity	Diversity	Flexibility
Formability	Generosity	Gratuity
Hilarity	Hospitality	Humanity
Integrity	Interiority	Minority
Poverty	Perceptivity	Sanctity
Serenity	Simplicity	Spirituality
Spontaneity	***	Unity

We randomly chose two "teas" and the following questions aided our reflections:

1. How do the "Teas" manifest themselves in life?
2. What may God be inviting me to in regard to these "Teas?"
3. Name the important aspects of your "Teas."

My Franciscan "Teas" are **Audacity**



And Flex-i-bil-i- Tea.



What are your "Teas?"

*Poverty,
Humility, Simplicity
and Charity.
Unity, Fraternity. This is our Identity.
If you choose to live a life as Franciscan minority,
Gaze, Consider, Contemplate, will surely give you Clarity.
There is one virtue we left out
But it is ours without a doubt
Conversion is our call you see.
This is our identity.*

At our Regional Gathering held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, La Habra on October 14th 2017 Rock DeSpain, OFS, Regional Spiritual Assistant was presented with a plaque. in recognition of his many years of service to the Secular Franciscan Order in St. Francis Region.

Your Sister in Christ,
Judith

FORMATION

Blessings to our wonderful Region. I have so much to be thankful for, I would like to share my thoughts on my experience I had at our National Formation Directors Workshop in August 2017. The theme of the weekend was "**Be who we say we are: May Christ Teach us what we are to do**"

First, I want to thank you for allowing me to attend this workshop.

Where do I begin, for up to now I have much more to do?

When you think of a workshop the first thing that pops into your head is work. This was more than a workshop, it was an opportunity to grow and learn.

Grow

In three days, my knowledge of what it means to be a Regional Formation Director/Coordinator and Formation Director has increased a great deal. As a Fraternity, we learn from each other and we grow, this weekend was a little fraternity away from home. The Franciscans in attendance were there ready and wanting to take home something. Each topic discussed gave us tools to take back to our Franciscan Community.

Learn

I learned that we are a family of brothers and sisters wanting the same thing. When I first got there and we had an open session, I stood up and said. As a Roman Catholic, I can go to Mass in California and in any other state and celebrate the Mass and know what I am doing. Then I questioned the team and asked, "Shouldn't it be the same when I walk into a Franciscan fraternity meeting, shouldn't we be on the same page."

During the weekend, we were broken up into teams and planned a session for our candidates. It was a wonderful experience, coming from all different places in the United States and different backgrounds and different years of being a Franciscan. My question was answered not by the team themselves but by their sharing and my experience on the weekend. Yes, we should be able to walk into a Franciscan formation or fraternity meeting and feel welcomed and at home, being able to be part of that meeting and session sharing who we are as a Franciscan.

During this weekend, I have made new friends and I believe through the internet we will stay connected and will ask each other for help along our journey.

My vocation as a Franciscan has been strengthen and blessed beyond by imagination. I have work to do I know that now, with the grace of the Trinity I will not grow weary and never give up.

Thank you to our team from the National Formation Commission, great job!

For Up to Now I have done Nothing!

Your devoted Region Formation Coordinator,
Lucy Ibarra

DISTRICT NEWS

Tri County

Below are two pictures, one of the group of enthusiastic new OFS professed as of July 2017, and the other of the number of our Fraternity who were present at their Profession!

We were fortunate to have both Father Richard McManus, OFM, the past Guardian of the Mission Friars, and the current Guardian, Father John Hardin, OFM, co-preside at the Profession. We were sorry to miss our Formation Director, Sandy Hornick, however, who had to attend a family wedding. Instead, we had one of our longest-term members, Borgia Izard, stand in her place. It was my first Profession as Minister, at the end of my first term (assuming I will take the office again, someday, as most do!), and a very exciting day.

The newly professed are (L to R): Aida Cordero, Monica Wassef, Antoun (Tony) Wassef, Michael Aberle, and Matthew Najera. I participated in their Formation actively, leading the Orientation, and assisting with the Candidacy. I felt like a proud mother hen watching my babies learn to fly!

In the group are: Back Row - Kevin Cheung, Associate; Cherif Khoury; Matthew Najera; Ken Given; Gregg Garrison. Middle Row - Alan Kuntzman, Associate; Aida Cordero; Mary Sheahan; Dean Wood; Monica Wassef; Antoun (Tony) Wassef; Michael Aberle. Front Row- Barbara Cunningham; Linda Whitman; Borgia Izard; Maria Keagan (our longest-term member, being professed some 50+ years ago in her late teens!); Dolores (Dee) Harrah; Nancy Schooler, and Grace Given.



Other activities recently are the planning for our annual See's Candy drive to generate funds for the Friars' Retirement Fund and Catholic Charities. We have a Nativity study planned, based in part, on St. Francis' idea of a living creche, led by one of our members, Gregg Garrison. We hope to have a Retreat Day in January or February, as well as a gift outreach to the poor around Valentine's Day.

Pace e Bonum,

Linda Whitman, Minister
St. Louis the King Fraternity, Santa Barbara

San Diego

1/ On October 21, 2017 the first Chinese speaking Fraternity, Servant of God, was canonically established at St Elizabeth Church in Oakland California. The Presider for the special event was Father David Gaa, ofm, the Provincial of the Santa Barbara Region. The Fraternity has 18 members with Joana da Rosa is the Minister and Fr Franklin Fong, ofm, is the Spiritual Director.

Congratulations and best wishes for your Franciscan Journey.



2/ On Sunday November 12, 2017 the San Diego District had a Thanksgiving Gathering at St Patrick Church in San Diego hosted by the Immaculate Conception Fraternity. At this event we gave thanks for the blessings we received throughout the year and we prayed for all departed brothers and sisters in our district. The gathering ended with social time and a delicious potluck lunch.



3/Also on November 12, 2017 the San Diego Fraternity had an election for the new Council. Tuan Cao , ofs, represented the Regional Executive Council and Armando Lomeli ,ofs, Regional Spiritual Assistant, served as the Church witness. The new council will have a term of 3 years from 2017 to 2020.

New council for San Diego Fraternity pictured here include :

- Minister : Regina Song,OFS
- Vice Minister : Paul Chung,OFS
- Formation Director : John Kwon,OFS
- Secretary : Teresa Chae,OFS
- Treasurer : Clara Park,OFS
- Councilor : Juliana Lee,OFS



With their Spiritual Assistant : John Kiesler ,OFM



San Bernadino/Riverside

Riverside/San Bernardino District

On November 11th, ten representatives of the fraternities in the District held its quarterly meeting. The following items were discussed.

- Initial Formation: St Padre Pio Fraternity has four people in Candidacy and Holy Spirit Fraternity has three. A Mass of Profession will be held on February 10th in the Chapel at Mission San Luis Rey.
- Readmission to Fraternity: The process for readmitting Franciscans who have been away from Fraternity for an extended period were discussed including how to determine what additional formation may be required.
- Council Formation: Formation of new and potential council members was discussed. Those present agreed that councils should act by consensus not by the decision of the minister.
- Regional Chapter: Sending observers to the Regional Chapter in January was encourages as one of the ways to prepare future leaders.

Inspired by Fr Alexi's presentation at the 2016

Regional Gathering, four members of Holy Spirit Fraternity have met with Fr. Michael, parish priest of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Chino to discuss the possibility of organizing a meeting of Moslems and Catholics. The meeting will occur on January 22, 2018 and will consist of a meal and a series of presentations. Space is limited, and 50 spaces have been reserved for Franciscans. Contact Randy Rohrer (951-285-9297) for more information and to reserve a space.

Sylvia Paoli was the Pastoral Visitor for Holy Spirit Fraternity and provided suggestions to

improve the life for that Fraternity. Left to right: Bill Mussatto, treasurer; Alma Jimenez, Formation Director, Maria Rodriguez, Secretary, Claudia Thompson, Vice-minister, Randy Rohrer, Minister and seated: Sylvia Paoli



Mission San Luis Rey Fraternity

Submitted by Carol Imhoff
Secretary of the Fraternity

On October 1, 2017, we had the profession of Kelly F, Sam D, and Elizabeth M, that will be remembered for all posterity in the photos on the next page.

Our celebration was held at the 10:00AM parish Mass in the Serra Center at OMSLR on October 1, 2017, with Fr. Vince (the Pastor) presiding at the Mass. It was a beautiful celebration...





Rite of Profession at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Fountain Valley

On Saturday August 26th, 2017, three candidates from the Vietnamese Martyrs E.C. made their permanent profession. During a solemn liturgical celebration at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Fountain Valley, Thuan Bui Nguyen, Thanh Thi Hoang and Thanh Thi Nguyen professed their commitment to Gospel living in The Secular Franciscan Order. Mass of Profession was presided by Fr. Hien Linh Bui, OH. The Minister, Huong Huynh received the profession and Sylvia Paoli, Regional Spiritual Assistant served as Church witness.

This was the most solemn profession ceremony with great number of guests in attendance. Regional Minister, Judith Mussatto, Orange County District Liaison, Trudy Weigel, family and friends are among the participants.



Following the Rite of Profession, Everyone enjoyed the reception filled with entertainment and authentic Vietnamese food. We thank God for this wonderful gift and for all his blessings. Special thanks to Br.

Joseph Bach Nguyen and all who took part in making this profession a memorable celebration.

Blessed Luchesius and Bounadonna Fraternity

On July 23, 2017, we held a Rite of Profession ceremony for seven members who have been in the order for 25 years or more. Four of the members were able to attend. They were Beronica Woon Hui Choi, Rosa Sun Ok Yeom, Cecilia Sun Ran Hwang, and Jennifer Joo Hyun Yang.

Julia Duk Hi Chung, Justina Jung Youn Han, and Francesca Nan Ok Cho were ill and not able to attend.

Pastor Augustine Chang Shin Kim at Sr. Basil was invited for the Blessing and joined the celebration.



Reflection on the Regional Gathering: by Dolores Cullen, OFS

I've been unable to attend the Regional Gatherings for a while because of commitments at home. But I was so glad I was able to attend the Gathering in October at Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Habra.

Another Franciscan drove me there. We arrived at the tail end of breakfast, but there was still a fine selection left. With my plate of food in my hand, I stood looking for a seat. All the tables—and there were many—were full! Randy, our Fraternity Minister, sprang into action to fill the need—he set up another table. Then he got *another* table and *another*! Franciscans kept coming and coming. It was a capacity crowd. If you were there, I'm sure you were glad to be there. We had a get-acquainted time as we "talked to someone you don't already know." Penny Hill (from the Valley) and I (from Claremont) had a warm chat and exchanged emails.

Later we recounted some history of fraternities in the Region—shared old photographs and stories of our fraternities with other fraternities and with younger members of our own groups. I'm an old lady (if that isn't obvious). One of our fraternity members had offered to drive me home at lunchtime if I "couldn't make it through the whole day." Well, it never occurred to me to leave. Adrenaline, or whatever, kept me actively participating until our closing prayer.

I plan to be at the next Regional Gathering – God willing. Hope to see YOU there!

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



A Pilgrimage to Fatima Marie and Tuan Cao

The 100th Anniversary of FATIMA. From September 10 to September 19, Tuan and Marie were fortunate to have a pilgrimage to Fatima with our son, Father Martin. We flew to Lisbon, Portugal and Fr. Martin drove from Marseille, France. He drove us around Portugal and Spain. We visited Fatima three times. We also visited Santarem and the Cathedral of St Anthony of Padua in Portugal. Later we went to Spain to visit Santiago de Compostella the place where pilgrimages from all over Europe arrive by walking a few hundred kilometers across the Camino de Santiago in Spain or Portugal. Very amazing !!!



We were very grateful to have made this historical Pilgrimage.

Thanks and praise to the Lord.

Fatima on September 13 ,2017



Our Lady of Fatima



Eucharistic Miracle in Santarem in 12th Century St Stephen Church in Portugal.



Compostela de Santiago in Spain. The Franciscan Influence was felt strongly throughout the city.



Chapter of Elections

January 12-14, 2018

Azure Hotel & Suites Ontario
Airport

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

Important Notice and Our Calendar

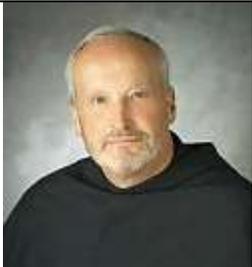
“Renewed and Confirmed: Live the Treasure!”
Celebrating 40 years of the OFS Rule
(NaFra Theme for 2018)

Calendar

December	
2	Regional Executive Meeting at Claremont
17	Elections: Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity
January	
12 -14	Chapter of Elections for St. Francis Regional Executive Council.
February	
3	Regional Executive Council Meeting.
10	Rite of Profession. St. Padre Pio Fraternity at San Luis Rey Chapel (not Mission Church), Oceanside. Time: 3:30 p.m.
March	
4	Elections: St. Francis Fraternity (K).

DVD of Regional Events are *now* available!!

Order Form

		Donation each set	# of Sets	Total
	2016 Regional Seminar: Multi-Culturalism Presenter: Dr. Patricia De Fretas Single DVD	\$5.00		
	2016 Regional Gathering: St. Francis and the Sultan Presenter: Rt. Rev. Alexie Smith Single DVD	\$5.00		
	2016 Regional Retreat: Franciscan Servant Leadership Presenter: Fr. Michael Higgins, TOR Two DVDs	\$10.00		
Total				

Send order to William R Mussatto
 276 E. Green St
 Claremont, CA 91711

Make check out to William R Mussatto.

Your Address: _____