



The Joy of Francis

Together for the Gospel!

Fall, 2009 - Vol. 17, No. 2

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Summer Seminar at St Francis University in Loretto, PA, June, 2009, on *Franciscan Spirituality for Secular Franciscans* with Vinal Van Benthem, SFO and Bob "Fitz" Fitzsimmons, SFO, presenting. *Page 3*

Minister's Message

Hearts on Fire for the Lord!

by Sylvia Paoli, Regional Minister



My brothers and sisters,

I write this on the feast of St. Elizabeth of Portugal, a member of the Third Order. The scripture reading from the Office of Readings for today begins with "set your heart on the greater gifts." (1Cor. 12:31) That is followed by 1 Cor. 13, the great "love" chapter. As I began thinking about those "greater gifts", I saw that many of them were set out in the "love" chapter - gifts such as patience, kindness,

selflessness, peacefulness, humility, among others. Along with asking for such gifts - and trying to live lives that reflect those gifts, we are called to poverty, a simplicity of heart and life. Can we truly say: "With simplicity of heart, I have joyfully

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S. California, USA

<http://www.stfrancisregion.org>

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offered everything to you, my God"? (Antiphon from Week 1, Sat.)

I have just returned from four days at St. Francis University in Loretto, PA, where the second Franciscan seminar was held, on the topic of "Franciscan Spirituality." Certainly all of the fruits of true love - the gifts set out above - must be part of our Franciscan Spirituality if we are to truly call ourselves Secular Franciscans. Love is the key. The Incarnation occurred because of God's divine love for us. Our Lord came and died and rose for us out of His divine love for us. Perfect love requires the love to hold nothing back from the Beloved. Are we up to this? This is what we have professed - for life.

Would you take a half hour and meditate on some of the thoughts above? Only when each of us as individuals gives all of ourself to the Lord will we, as an Order, be a force to be reckoned with in this materialistic world in which we live and work. We cannot help rebuild God's church if we are still quarreling amongst ourselves, making major issues out of simple differences of opinion on minor subjects, failing to give totally to each other but instead expecting others to give to us, having council meetings full of strife instead of love, wanting things done "my way" instead of being willing to do what is best for our fraternity. Until we learn that "God's time" is not the same as "my time" will we better be able to simply have faith and trust, and embrace and live the Gospel while we're doing it.

Peace and blessings to all of you!

Your sister Sylvia



Is your heart really on fire for the Lord?

Rock De Spain, SFO, CSRA

Sylvia Paoli, SFO, our Regional Minister, has given us a theme to follow, *Hearts on Fire for the Lord*. In a recent message to the fraternity ministers of St. Francis Region, she asked them to meditate about their journey as servant leaders and the "greater gifts" we all have received.

In my years as Regional Minister and now as Regional Spiritual Assistant, I have met many SFO's and know every one of you are really good people. However, my impression is that there is a difference in the understanding of what our "profession" to follow our Rule of Life really means.

How about you? Can you remember when you were going through Initial Formation? What was the degree of excitement you experienced as you grew closer to the day of your profession? Were you thinking about the changes you were experiencing on your journey? Were you maturing in your spiritual life? Did you come to the understanding as Francis did, that our journey is about how we "understand and respond to life's encounters?" Did you surrender yourself to God's plan for you? OR.....did you profess as a "Cafeteria Franciscan?" Perhaps all hung up in your "comfort zone?" Making efforts that were about your will, your desires, being in control, or what felt good to you? Hmmm..... Hopefully, all the Formation Directors in our Region

will have an On-going Formation session about *Hearts on Fire for the Lord*.

If this happens and we all are on the same page on our journey as a worldwide Order, there should not be fraternities or councils with members who want things done "their way", but members who want what is best for our Order first. We will then have Franciscans who are humble enough to follow the Articles of our Rule of Life that we all professed to follow. Hopefully, at some point on our journey we will come to the realization that the key to happiness is not having what you want, it's wanting what you have.

St. Francis Region is committed to following our Rule of Life and educating more Lay Spiritual Assistants and Formators. Classes are ending soon and the new classes start in November after Orientation sessions in August and September.



St. Francis Region Lay Spiritual Assistant/ Formator classes

The next group of classes for those who desire to become Lay Spiritual Assistants or Formators will begin soon. Before the classes begin, there will be 2 Orientation sessions explaining all you need to know about the sessions and what we need to know about you. In St. Francis Region we are taking the unique position of having the Lay Spiritual Assistants and Formators taking the same classes because the responsibilities are similar.



Requirements:

- * Letter from your fraternity council that you are a professed SFO in good standing.
- * Professed 5 years as of the date of completion of classes.
- * To attend one of the two Orientation sessions.
- * Attend the Annual Regional Gathering on October 17th.

Orientation:

- * Saturday, August 15th, starting at 9:00AM and finish no later than 4:00PM.
- * Saturday, September 19th, starting at 9:00AM and finish no later than 4:00PM.

Both sessions are at St. Gregory's, 13935 Telegraph Rd. Whittier, CA 90604

Classes begin on Saturday, November 21st at 9:00AM at St. Gregory's.

Please direct your questions to Sylvia Paoli, SFO, Regional Minister spaoli@roadrunner.com

OR

Rock DeSpain, SFO, Regional Spiritual Assistant at: sforock@gmail.com

Please send your intent to attend one of the Orientation sessions to

Rock DeSpain, SFO, Regional Spiritual Assistant at: sforock@gmail.com

SUMMER SEMINAR REPORT

Sylvia Paoli

We had a really great Summer Seminar at St Francis University in Loretto, PA the last weekend in June. This was the second year they had it there and the subject was *Franciscan Spirituality for Secular Franciscans* with Vinal Van Benthem, SFO and Bob "Fitz" Fitzsimmons, SFO, presenting. Vinal is a lay spiritual assistant and has been working with Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap, for many years. Fitz is our national formation director. Vinal and Fitz were excellent and worked very well together bringing out the concepts of why our Franciscan Spirituality is different from Dominican, Benedictine, Jesuit, and other forms of spirituality in our Church.

Franciscan Spirituality is very rich and focuses on a loving God who is very much in love with us and with all of creation. God always intended for the Word to be made flesh and dwell amongst us, not to redeem us from Adam's sin, which is the tradition handed down from Thomas Aquinas, but because of a boundless love that wanted Jesus to be incarnated into our world. The Franciscan tradition is an accepted and blessed tradition in the Church, but most people only learn of the other tradition, which seemed to have won out after centuries of debate in the Middle Ages. While parts of this spirituality have been absorbed by us over the years through our Profession, it was good to hear it consolidated so nicely by Fitz and Vinal and to examine some of the Franciscan sources that led to it.

We had over 100 Secular Franciscans from 18 regions around the country there for the Summer Seminar, which was in a great location, with cool weather, and air-conditioned facilities with an outstanding cafeteria. Our socials in the evening were a great opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. The National Executive Council had their meeting right before the Seminar and most were able to stay over and attend it as well. An excellent group picture was taken by Bill Mussatto, who, along with Judith, also attended, but the picture - and those we all took - can't capture the spirit that was shared, and the great presentations and liturgies we had together. In addition, our understanding of who we are to be was greatly enhanced and we will be sharing the material we received with the local fraternities in the upcoming months.

Many thanks to Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR, and Cyl Maljan, SFO, for all the work they did in putting the seminar together, and to St. Francis University for so graciously having these seminars for the SFO.



A New View – or is it?

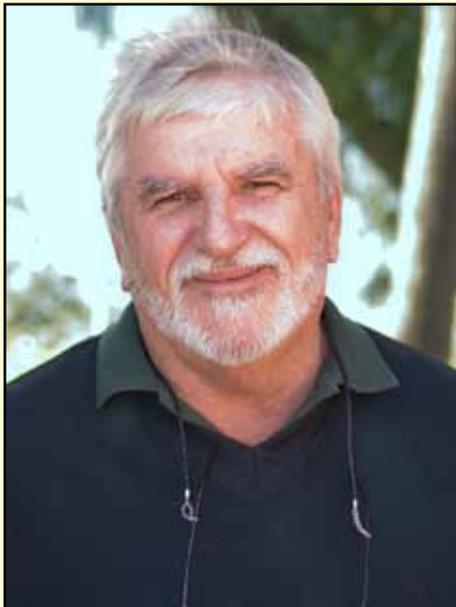
Bob Murray, sfo

District Liaison, Orange County

So, you've heard from, or even been visited by someone claiming to be a District Liaison (DL) person for the St. Francis Region in southern California. Well, you can set your fears aside. Yes, the DL position is a legitimate appointed position within our Region. In fact, we have five SFO members in the Region appointed to that position: Ed Gordon (Tri-Counties), Michael Coughlin (Los Angeles), Bill Mussatto (San Bernardino/Riverside Counties), Midge Neff-LeClair (San Diego), and me, Bob Murray (Orange County).

So, why do we need DLs?

To begin with, our Region stretches from San Diego to Pismo Beach and from the desert to the sea. On a perfect day the drive between San Diego and Pismo Beach could take a little more than five hours each way, but with



Ed Gordon, SFO, District Liaison
for Tri-Counties



Bill Mussatto, SFO, District Liaison
for San Bernardino/Riverside Co.

traffic as a reality, that drive of more than 300 miles could easily take seven to eight hours.

Then, within the Region, we have 31 fraternities, 3 Emerging Communities, 3 Newly Forming Groups and 3 new groups (without 5 professed yet). If we do the math, the Region President and the Friar/Church Witness must each travel more than 20 times per year *just to preside* over elections and Visitations as required by Canon Law (Can 305) and our documents. Then, wouldn't you know it, occasionally, special needs arise that require additional visits by these same elected regional council members and/or the Friar Provincial's representative. And these visits are only a part of their responsibilities.

The intention of these visits is not to find a "dog and pony show", nor are the visits an outgrowth

of the Spanish Inquisition. These visits are mandated by the Church and intended to offer support to a fraternity's "Franciscanism", to help up-build the fraternity, and perhaps offer suggestions as to how a fraternity might become "more" when needed or asked for.



Midge Neff-LeClair, SFO, District
Liaison for San Diego County

The DL position was created to help improve communication between the Region and the local fraternities, as well as to allow the Regional and Church Witnesses to become more pastoral and available to a fraternity. One of the DL's responsibilities is to help a fraternity prepare for its election or Visitation through a "pre-visit"; to help a fraternity know/remember what steps should be taken in order to prepare. By implementing the concept of District Liaisons, we have saved enormous amounts of time and energy for all involved.



The pre-visit conducted by a DL is designed to help improve the relationship between the Region and the local fraternities. It has become a fraternal-bridge, an information-bridge, between the Region and each local fraternity. Thus, the Region's Representatives and the Church Witnesses can now become more available to each fraternity. As the Regional Executive Council has discovered new and better ways to help each fraternity, they pass that important information along to each fraternity. Why should we have to re-invent the wheel when we can add air to the tires to make the ride smoother?



Michael Coughlin, SFO, District Liaison for Los Angeles

I have found that accepting a DL position has offered me the opportunity to meet and know many more of our brother and sister Secular Franciscans, and I treasure each of the new friendships I have developed. I am especially enjoying my new relationships within the Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese



Bob Murray, SFO, District Liaison for Orange County

communities. Gaining insights into the various cultures and languages has been an eye-opener. To experience the Franciscan love, caring and acceptance beyond my own fraternity, beyond my own culture, has been a terrific experience. But more importantly, I have been able to be of service to each of the fraternities and their members in the District.

Someday, you too might experience becoming a District Liaison person. If so, a great thrill awaits you. Pray about it, and pray for all those working so hard within the Region to be good examples of Servant Leadership.

Binh An va Thien Hao,
 Pyeonghwa wa Seon,
 Peace and All Good,
 Pax et Bonum,
 Paz y Bien

MORE NEWS ON SFO MEMBER'S OUTREACH TO YOUTH

About two years ago, Ron Wakefield, SFO, member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity, took a junior high band, along with several homeless children living at the Catholic Worker home in Santa Ana, to New York City where they played a concert at Carnegie Hall. A picture of the band at Carnegie Hall was on the front page of the Los Angeles Times.

Ron is doing it again, and this time he has expanded his outreach to young people in disturbed circumstances to include a residential treatment facility for young girls in crisis, abused and neglected inner-city kids, and kids in children's hospitals. There, the members of his junior high band, under his supervision, teach various instruments to the other children. He also takes his band to play regularly for homeless shelters, senior centers, and the children's hospitals.

Now a former student of Ron's, living in Baltimore, has extended his program to disadvantaged kids in that area. Some of those Baltimore kids, along with the kids being taught in LA County by Ron's band students, will join the band in another Carnegie Hall concert on April 2, 2010.

Help in any way with this wonderful outreach to disadvantaged young people is always welcome. You can reach Ron for any questions or offers of help. at:



npmsmusic@verizon.net



JPIC - JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Sylvia Paoli, Minister

The OFMs had their General Chapter recently and in that meeting, they talked at some length about JPIC. What they said about those issues and much in the plans they adopted are applicable to Secular Franciscans, and so I share with you some of their thoughts. The following excerpt asks the readers to do the following:

a. Examine the impact of our lives on creation, with special attention to the issue of climate change, and promote environmental justice in order to highlight the relationship between social and ecological questions.

b. Promote active non-violence in our lives, with particular emphasis on conflict resolution.

c. Give special attention to the excluded of our societies, according to the situation of each Entity.

d. Consider and promote the ethical use of financial and natural resources.

The General Chapter requests that, during the six-year period 2009-2015 and with the help of the JPIC Office, all Entities of the Order should examine the impact of our lives on creation, with special attention to the issue of climate change, and promote environmental justice in order to highlight the relationship between social and ecological questions.

The phrase environmental justice links the concepts of ecology and social justice. It highlights the strong relationship that exists between the

ecological questions, and the issues of justice, peace and the defense of the rights of individuals and peoples. It calls for the fair treatment of all races, cultures, income classes and educational levels with respect to the development and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment implies that no population should be forced to shoulder a disproportionate share of exposure to the negative effects of pollution due to lack of political or economic strength. The worldwide attack on ecology has become, in reality, an assault on the poor and a form of environmental racism.

The destruction of the planet and the pollution of its resources arise in the context of neoliberal capitalism, a system that also produces much violence, hunger and inequality. In this system it is the poorest who lose their lands and fields, who suffer the wars provoked by the great powers over natural resources, and whose lands are turned into dumps for the trash of the rich. The poor are forced to leave their homes and lands in many parts of the world, not only because of traditional reasons like war and violence, but increasingly because of environmental causes like drought, floods, desertification, disappearance of species, etc. It is the poor who most suffer the consequences of the ecological crisis.

The quality of human life is integrally tied to the quality of the environment. Without healthy and sustainable ecosystems, the quality of life for all creatures will continue to

deteriorate. So it seems only logical that promoting human dignity means promoting healthy ecosystems as well. We need to rethink and to change our current economic model and consumerist mentality, which are leading to loss of biodiversity and to climate change.

ACTIVE NON-VIOLENCE

The General Chapter requests that, during the six-year period 2009-2015 and with the help of the JPIC Office, all Entities of the Order should promote active non-violence in our lives, with particular emphasis on conflict resolution.

In the Testament Saint Francis tells us: "The Lord revealed a greeting to me that we should say: May the Lord give you peace." (Test 23). Francis used this greeting, as did his brothers. These words and this desire for peace were often transformed, in the life of Francis and of the primitive Franciscan family, into genuine and concrete initiatives for peace (cf. AC 84, 2C 108, LFI 11, 1C 57, LFI 21).

The **greeting of peace** and the **initiatives for peace** were an integral part of the self-understanding, the style of life and the mission of the first friars, and for this reason they were recognized as a true peace movement. Thus Thomas of Celano presents the primitive fraternity as a delegation, or an embassy, of peace (cf. 1C 24).

The Franciscan way of living and working for peace is that of active non-violence, which is not simply the absence of violence, but the force of



truth and love as well. Active non-violence is:

A **spirit** (that of the Beatitudes and of Franciscan spirituality): it is characterized by absolute respect for every human being, without judgment or condemnation of adversaries (ER 11); by not becoming upset with the sins of others; by working to prevent evil and by helping those who sin (ER 5, 7-8); by poverty of spirit (Adm 14); by welcoming all without distinction (ER 7); by love of enemies (ER 22 and LR 10); by reconciliation. [*Review our SFO Rule to find similar requirements - Sylvia*]

A **style of life** that is simple, fraternal, patient, attentive to others, ecologically-minded, does not appropriate anything to self, respects all beings, is willing to sacrifice for the common good and to disobey that which is unjust. It should promote an openness to the Spirit of God, along with a desire to be free of aggressiveness, hate, jealousy, prejudice and hateful stereotypes. Our style of life should demand of us a concern for personal improvement: self discipline, self control, self knowledge and confidence in oneself, which lead to the virtue of interior fortitude and to a sense of dignity.

A **methodology of social commitment** (provided by Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Dorothy Day, Lanza del Vasto, Danilo Dolci and others) to address social and interpersonal conflict in a human and constructive way, and to foster profound social transformation.

Non-violence does not remain passive in the face of injustice and violence, it

refuses to collaborate with them. It confronts them without recourse to violence and without abandoning love for neighbor. It works in an organized way with others to create a model of sustainable development, to guarantee the dignity of all human beings, and to foster a common life for all that is both peaceful and fraternal.

ETHICAL USE OF RESOURCES: NATURAL AND FINANCIAL

The General Chapter requests that, during the six-year period 2009-2015 and with the help of the JPIC Office, all Entities of the Order should consider and promote the ethical use of natural and financial resources.

All people are consumers of resources, both natural and financial. A call for ethical use of resources is a reminder that resources are finite, and that decisions on how to use them should be based on ethical criteria.

Ethical use of natural resources highlights the fact that our model for development needs to be sustainable. Such development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It respects the limited capacity of an ecosystem to absorb the impact of human activities. Ethical use of resources also promotes responsible consumption.

A responsible consumer is aware of the complexity of the system of production and distribution, and of the advertising that turns so many of our wants into necessities. Such a consumer employs a series of ethical

criteria in deciding to purchase goods, and takes into account the social value of that which is being bought.

The goal of ethical use of financial resources is to promote better conditions of life in society and the sustainable development of the planet. It is based on a decision to operate in the financial market according to ethical and social principles. Ethical investors are concerned with the return on their investments, but they combine this concern with a deep concern for society as well.

Ethical investment is often carried out through ethical investment funds. They are socially responsible mutual funds that hold securities in companies that adhere to social, moral, religious or environmental beliefs. To ensure that the stocks chosen coincide with the fund's beliefs, companies undergo a careful screening process. A socially responsible mutual fund will only hold securities in companies that adhere to high standards of good corporate citizenship.



Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith. Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. (The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, Articles 15 & 19)



From My Corner of the World

Anne Mulqueen, SFO
International Councilor, USA
2009-2

My dear brothers and sisters,

As usual, I have much to tell you. I will begin with the Chapter of Mats celebrating the eighth centenary of the Franciscan charism, held in Assisi and Rome, April 15-18, 2009.

This celebration commemorated an historic event for the entire Franciscan Family—our collective birth of a movement. And so it is with joy that we give thanks to the Lord for the Grace of our Origins.

Before I share snippets of the Chapter with you, let me make a point. Life is full of lessons, and the Assisi Chapter taught me an important one. My information is second-hand because my registration was sent too late—there was no room at the inns of Assisi. So, learn from me—if you want to attend an event, send your registration in immediately!

April 15-18, members of all three branches of the family met in Assisi to celebrate 800 years of Franciscan presence in the world. After the conclusion of the Chapter, the attendees made a pilgrimage to Rome to meet with the Holy Father, Benedict XVI, at Castel Gandolfo. This audience is reminiscent of the 1209 pilgrimage made by St. Francis and his brothers to gain approval from Pope Innocent III for a new Form of Life with roots as old as the gospel.

The participants gathered in a large tent in front of the Portiuncula, and listened to OFM Friar José Rodríguez

Carballo's exhortation, *Just as from the Portiuncula, Francis sent the first friars into the world two by two, so we also ideally want to leave again from here to bring the gospel message of peace and of reconciliation to every depressed and suffering heart.*

On the first day the participants spent time enjoying *fraternity* on the Portiuncula Square. Later, Capuchin Friar Raniero Cantalamessa gave an inspiring talk entitled, *Let Us Observe the Rule We have Promised.*

The second day was devoted to the various aspects of bearing witness; for example, interreligious dialogue, teaching, communication, and the Secular Franciscan Order. The presenters were past and present leaders of the Franciscan family, including our own Minister General Encarnación del Pozo.

On the third day, the participants were invited to fast and do penance. In the afternoon, TOR Friar Michael Higgins led a penitential pilgrimage from the Portiuncula to the tomb of St. Francis.

On the fourth day, all departed for Castel Gandolfo and an audience with the Pope. Pope Benedict delivered a speech to them entitled, *The Gospel as a Rule of Life. Following in the footsteps of St. Francis.* And before the Holy Father, all knelt and renewed their profession.

Tidbit: CIOFS refers to all religious men as "Br.," making no distinction between priest and brother. I substituted the title friar to avoid confusion.



First Meeting of the newly elected CIOFS Presidency—Rome—April 18-25, 2009

The newly elected Presidency Council met in Rome after the conclusion of the Chapter. They had lots of work to do. You may recall there were five priorities presented to the Presidency by the International Fraternity as the focus for the next six years. I'll give you a brief update on each of them.

Formation remains the top priority for the entire Order. As you know, the formation project is underway in the USA. Our National Formation Director, Bob "Fitz" Fitzsimmons, has begun the process of compiling a manual to be used by formators. The challenge will be to produce a manual that contains both information and concrete, practical application.

Communication Quoting the Presidency, *It is essential that the International Councillors enter fully into their roles with respect to their own national fraternities and the Presidency, and that they communicate regularly in both directions.* That quote is intended for me, but in a broader sense it applies to all leaders—you are obligated by your office to pass on information received and to supply



information requested so that others who depend on that information might fulfill their obligations.

The Presidency wishes to improve communication both within and outside our Order. They ask us to establish *effective and permanent contacts with the Church in all its expressions*. Also, *Particular attention should be given to the local Churches so as to realize an active presence in the Church where people actually live their lives*.

Franciscan Youth (YouFra) A vast amount of information is generated by CIOFS concerning youth. One point I would like to emphasize is that Secular Franciscans have a responsibility to youth. We should invite youth to significant events of the SFO and, where possible, share common apostolates such as the H2O project.

Again, communication is crucial with regard to youth and young adults. I believe the FYYA Commission would appreciate any information you may have concerning youth and young adults in your region.

Presence in the World

CIOFS stressed the fact that we are **secular**, and we are **immersed in the world**. What we are and what we do affects the world. With the natural world as our milieu, we must be actively involved in political debates and socio-economic issues.

Quoting CIOFS we are ... *to be present in the world with [our] being and [our] doing—in the political debate and in the courageous forming of just laws, in the promotion of the rights to life at all*

its stages, from conception to natural death. ...

Emerging National Fraternities

This is a serious concern for the International Fraternity. There are many emerging national fraternities that do not have an established national fraternity to accompany them.

The USA is accompanying the newly forming group on the island of Antigua. The sponsoring region is Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis. Audrey Binet is the contact person for the formation process. CIOFS Vice Minister Doug Clorey and I oversee the process—Doug for CIOFS and Anne for NAFRA.

Why do I write these articles? I write to keep you connected to your brothers and sisters all over the world. A last quote from the Presidency;

It is fundamental that the International Councillor, in the process of gaining awareness of their essential role, realize that their responsibility goes beyond their own National Fraternities and toward the Presidency to include the whole Order in its entirety.

With fraternal affection and in peace,

Your sister Anne

For Reflection:

1. Go to www.zenit.org/english/ (date April 20, 2009) and read the text of Fr. Cantalamessa's presentation, *Let Us Observe the Rule We Have Promised* and then meditate on the SFO Rule we have promised.

2. Go to http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2009/april/documents and read Pope Benedict's speech *The Gospel as a Rule of Life. Following in the footsteps of St. Francis. Is there a message in it for you?*

[If you do not have a computer, ask someone in your fraternity to print these document for you.] 

In the St. Francis Region

Regional Ongoing Formation Seminar II

September 5, 2009

9am - 4pm

Mission Santa Barbara
2201 Laguna Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Regional Gathering

**800th Jubilee of the Franciscan Orders
October 17, 2009**

St Margaret Mary Church
12686 Central Ave
Chino, CA 91710

8:30 am for coffee & social
9:00 - 4:00 for the gathering

There will be a Mass at which new Lay Spiritual Assistants and Formators will be certified.

Displays by fraternities or districts showing how they have celebrated the Jubilee year



FROM FAN - FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK

Franciscans and the Economy: Growing Rich in the Sight of God (Lk 12:21b)

by Larry Janezic, OFM

A Franciscan view of what many are calling "issue number one," economic recovery, must be a response to the radical mandate of the Gospel. A reflection on the parable of the rich fool (Lk 12:16-21) invites us, in the spirit of Vatican II's *Gaudium et Spes*, to read the signs of the times and to interpret them in the "light of the Gospel" (G.S. #4). This parable challenges us to look suspiciously at the motive of the rich man and with awe at the outcome of the story. The moral is that motivation grounded in fear and greed is foolish because (as we used to say in our family) "you can't take it with you" when you die.

Such wise advice, in our Franciscan view, is an invitation to radical renunciation and exuberant fraternal love. A Franciscan lifestyle witnesses by counter-distinction to a life of excess, a life spent trying to store up blessings "in reserve." It is spiritual richness that ultimately matters.

The Franciscan view cherishes life in fraternity. We live in the company of brothers and sisters and we strive to bring that sense of relationality to all. David B. Couturier, OFM Cap, in *The Fraternal Economy*, illustrates that an economic system can be fraternal. He points to the possibility of an economy based on relationality, in distinction from an economy driven by self-interest. A core insight is that the economy is about social relations. In so doing, he

calls for a renewal in professed religious life by highlighting the statements of the Minister General of the Capuchin Franciscan Order, John Corriveau. Religious life can model such an economy through life in community, solidarity and care of the poor.

David Couturier's powerful suggestions were written years before the Wall St. bailout. Yet they can be readily applied to our economic situation today by helping to rehabilitate our understanding of economic stabilization. The parable of the rich fool makes the same case. True stability occurs when those who are most adversely affected by the condition of the economy receive consideration and relief. The Franciscan view promotes the well-being of all by remembering the most vulnerable of the world. We are challenged by the question of excess in our lives and motivated by fraternal love.

As the discussions continue on a social policy level, most likely in a "lame duck" session of the 110th Congress, Franciscan Action Network will be advocating for policies that address the realities of the most vulnerable, those who struggle to care for their families and keep their homes, those who rent, and those who are unemployed. We see increases in benefits for the most vulnerable among the ways to help stimulate the economy. Care for the struggling and the vulnerable is growing rich in the sight of God.



Married Saints: East and West

The Society of St. John Chrysostom-Western Region will be hosting a discussion on **September 12, 2009**, at Prince of Peace Abbey, Oceanside:

Prince of Peace Abbey
650 Benet Hill Rd.
Oceanside, CA 92058
(760) 967-4200 x 200
FAX (760) 967-8711

Email: princeabby@aol.com

The Society of St. John Chrysostom-Western Region is an ecumenical organization of laity and clergy of the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches and the Eastern Catholic and Roman Catholic Churches which works to make known the history, worship, spirituality, discipline and theology of Eastern Christianity, and for the fullness of unity desired by Jesus Christ.

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DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 3, 2009

TO: All Priests, Pastoral Coordinators, Deacons and Liturgy Coordinators,
Parish, School and DPC Staff

CC: Bishop Barnes, Bishop del Riego, Sister Mary Frances Coleman, RSM,
Very Rev. Msgr. Wallace, Very Rev. Seleccion, Catholic Charities

FROM: Theresa D. Montminy, MSHS, Chancellor

RE: Stephanie Kathleen Culhane, woman purporting to be Sister Stephen Culhane

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles recently learned that Stephanie Kathleen Culhane, age 64, who is using the name Sister Stephen Culhane, has been soliciting donations and loans for her "mission" in the region. Some of the loans have been for tens of thousands of dollars. Ms. Culhane has told people that she is a Franciscan sister and regularly dresses like a member of the Franciscan Order.

At this time we have no evidence that she is currently a member of any order of women religious that is recognized by the Roman Catholic Church. In addition, we have heard no reports of Ms. Culhane's solicitation activities taking place in our Diocese. Please note, however, that any such solicitations are improper and should be reported immediately to Sister Mary Frances Coleman, RSM, Director of the Diocesan Office of Consecrated Life, at telephone number 909-475-5342 or to Theresa Montminy, Chancellor at 909-475-5103.

Please disseminate this information as you determine necessary. Our thanks for your continued support of the people of God in our Diocese.

In Christ,
Theresa Montminy, Chancellor
Diocese of San Bernardino



회장 메시지

실비아 파올리, 회장, 성 프란치스코 지구

주님을 향해 불타는 가슴!

형제 자매 여러분,

삼회원이셨던 포르투갈의 엘리사벳 성녀의 축일에 이 글을 씁니다. 오늘 성무일도의 말씀은 “여러분은 더 큰 은사를 열심히 구하십시오” (1코 12:31)로 시작되어, 코린토 첫째 편지 13장 사랑의 장으로 이어집니다. “큰 은사”를 생각해볼 때, “사랑”의 장에서 인내, 친절, 자신을 내줌, 평화, 겸손 등 은사들을 발견할 수 있습니다. 이 은사들을 청하며 이 은사들이 반영되는 삶을 살고자 노력함과 동시에, 우리는 가난과 마음과 삶의 단순함으로 불리움을 받았습니다. 우리는 정말 “단순한 마음으로, 저의 주님께 모든 것을 기쁘게 드립니다” 라고 말할 수 있을까요?

저는 “프란치스칸 영성”이란 주제의 두번째 프란치스칸 세미나에 참석차 펜실바니아 로레토에 위치한 성 프란치스코 대학에 나흘간 다녀왔습니다. 우리가 진정 자신을 재속 프란치스칸이라고 부른다면, 모든 참 사랑의 열매 - 위에 열거된 은사들은 우리의 프란치스칸 영성의 일부분이어야 될 것 입니다. 사랑이 열쇠입니다. 하느님의 저희에 대한 신성한 사랑은 육화를 가능케 하였습니다. 우리에게 대한 사랑으로 우리 주님은 저희에게 오시어 죽임을 당하셨습니다. 완전한 사랑은 사랑하는 사람을 위하여 모든 것을 내어 놓는 그러한 사랑을 필요로 합니다. 이것을 실천할 수 있을까요? 이것은 우리가 평생하겠다고 서원한 약속입니다.

위의 생각에 관하여 30분 간 묵상을 해 보지 않으시겠습니까? 우리 한 사람 한 사람이 자신을 온전히 주님께 바칠때, 우리는 하나의 회로서 우리가 살고 일하는 이 물질적인 세상에서 드러날 수 있습니다. 우리 안에서 의견이 나뉘지고, 간단한 일에 대한 사소한 의견 차이가 커지고, 서로에서 주지 않고 오히려 받기만을 원하고, 사랑이 없는 평의회를 열고, 형제회를 위한 길보다 나의 길만을 고집한다면, 우리는 하느님의 집을 다시 세울 수 없습니다. 하느님의 시간은 나의 시간과 같지 않음을 깨달을 때까지, 신뢰와 믿음으로 복음적 삶을 실천하며 살아야겠습니다.

평화와 축복이 여러분과 함께 하시길

여러분의 자매 실비아



MENSAJE DEL MINISTRO

Sylvia Paoli, SFO, Ministra de la Región de San Francisco

¡LOS CORAZONES EN FUEGO PARA EL SEÑOR!

Mis hermanos y hermanas,

Escribo esto en la fiesta de Santa Elizabeth de Portugal, un miembro de la Tercera Orden. La lectura de la escritura que se lee del Oficio de Lecturas de hoy que empieza con “puso el corazón en los regalos más grande”. (1 Corintios 12:31) Que es seguido por 1 Corintios 13, el gran capítulo del “amor”. Cuando empecé pensando de esos “más grandes regalos”, yo vi que muchos de ellos fueron nombrados en el capítulo del “amor” - regalos como la paciencia, la bondad, el desinterés, la tranquilidad, la humildad, entre otros. Junto con pedir tales regalos - y tratando de vivir vidas que reflejan esos regalos, nosotros somos llamados a la pobreza, una sencillez de corazón y vida. Podemos decir sinceramente: ¿“Con la sencillez de corazón, yo alegremente lo he ofrecido a usted, mi Dios”? (Antífona de la Semana 1, sábado).

Acabo de regresar de cuatro días en la Universidad de San Francisco en Loretto, PA, donde tuvimos el segundo seminario franciscano, con el tema de la “Espiritualidad Franciscana”. Ciertamente todos los frutos del amor verdadero - los regalos mencionados arriba - deben formar parte de nuestra Espiritualidad Franciscana si somos llamados sinceramente a ser

Franciscanos Seglares. El amor es la llave. La Encarnación ocurrió a causa del amor divino de Dios por nosotros. Nuestro Señor vino y murió y resucitó por nosotros por Su amor divino para nosotros. El amor perfecto requiere el amor para no tener nada fuera del Amado. ¿Vivimos nosotros así? Esto es lo que hemos profesado - para la vida.

¿Tomaría usted una media hora y meditaría en algunos de los pensamientos de arriba? Sólo cuándo cada uno de nosotros como individuos demos todo de nosotros mismos al Señor seremos, como una Orden, sería una fuerza para ser tenida en cuenta en este mundo materialista en el que vivimos y en el trabajo. Nosotros no podemos ayudar a reedificar la Iglesia de Dios si nosotros todavía nos peleamos entre nosotros mismos, haciendo asuntos de mayor importancia, sencillas diferencias de opinión de cosas secundarias, fallando de dar totalmente de darnos al otro pero en lugar esperamos que otros nos den a nosotros, teniendo reuniones de consejo llenas de discordia en vez de amor, deseando las cosas hechas “mi manera” en vez de estar dispuesto a hacer lo que es mejor para nuestra fraternidad. Hasta que aprendamos que el “tiempo de Dios” no es lo mismo que “mi tiempo”, estaremos mas dispuestos simplemente a tener fe y confianza, y a abrazar y vivir

el Evangelio mientras lo estamos haciendo.

¡La paz y las bendiciones a todos ustedes!

Su hermana, Sylvia



ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS Para el día de san Francisco

Altísimo, Omnipotente, Buen Señor, tuyas son la alabanza, la gloria, el honor y toda bendición.

Te alabamos y te bendecimos, Padre bueno, porque has enriquecido la historia de los hombres con el regalo de Jesús, dejándonos en Él, el ejemplo del hombre perfecto para que podamos seguirle en todo tiempo y lugar.

Te alabamos y te bendecimos también Por Francisco de Asís, nuestro hermano, Que siguió día tras día las huellas del Señor, Pobre con los pobres, Prodigio de humildad y delicadeza, hermano universal de los hombres y de todas las criatura.

Y que a fuerza de amarte llegó a ser una cosa paciente y redentora con Jesús crucificado.

Bendito seas, Señor, Dios nuestro, Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo, Amor sin límites y Providencia amorosa. Padre nuestro.

Amén.



THƯ CỦA TRƯỞNG PHỤC VỤ

Sylvia Paoli, sfo, Trưởng Phục Vụ Miền Thánh Phanxicô

LÒNG KHAO KHÁT CHÚA

Anh chị em thân mến,

Tôi viết lá thư này vào đúng ngày lễ kính Thánh Elizabeth người Bồ Đào Nha, một thành viên thuộc dòng Ba Phan Sinh. Bài kinh thánh theo Lịch Phục vụ cho ngày hôm nay bắt đầu với câu “Hãy hướng lòng mình vào những ơn cao trọng hơn” (1 Cor. 12:31). Tiếp theo chương 13 của 1 Cor. là chương nói về “đức ái” cao trọng. Khi tôi bắt đầu suy ngẫm về “những ơn cao trọng hơn”, tôi nhận ra rằng những ơn đó được nói đến trong chương nói về “đức ái”, chẳng hạn những ơn như nhẫn nại, hiền hậu, rộng lượng, bình an, khiêm tốn. Cùng với việc xin Chúa ban cho chúng ta những ơn đó và cố gắng biểu lộ những ơn đó trong cuộc sống, chúng ta được mời gọi để sống đức nghèo, với một tấm lòng và một cuộc sống đơn sơ. Liệu chúng ta có thể thành tâm thốt lên rằng: “Với trái tim đơn sơ, con xin vui vẻ dâng lên Chúa mọi sự”? (Phản Đáp ca trong thánh lễ thứ Bảy, Tuần 1)

Tôi vừa trở về sau 4 ngày hội nghị về Phan Sinh lần thứ 2 với chủ đề “Linh đạo Phan Sinh” tại Đại Học Thánh Phanxicô ở Loretto, Pennsylvania. Dĩ nhiên

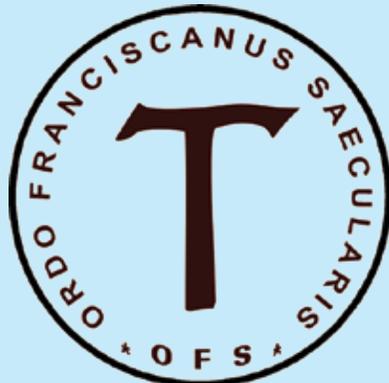
tất cả những hoa trái của đức ái thật sự -những ơn được kể ra ở trên- phải là một phần của Linh đạo Phan Sinh nếu chúng ta thật sự coi mình là những người Phan Sinh Tại Thế. Điềm then chốt ở đây là đức Ái. Chúa Kitô nhập thể cũng chỉ vì tình yêu của Thiên Chúa dành cho nhân loại. Chúa đã đến, đã chết và đã sống lại cho chúng ta xuất phát từ tình yêu siêu phàm của Ngài. Tình yêu tuyệt hảo không đòi hỏi sự đáp trả từ phía người được yêu. Chúng ta có đạt tới mức độ này chưa? Đây là những gì chúng ta khấn hứa – suốt đời.

Tôi xin mời các bạn bỏ ra nửa giờ để suy ngẫm về những ý tưởng nêu trên. Chỉ khi nào riêng mỗi một người trong chúng ta trao ban mọi sự của chính mình cho Chúa, cùng với nhau như một Dòng tu, chúng ta sẽ là một lực lượng với thế giới đầy vật chất mà chúng ta đang sống và làm việc. Chúng ta không thể nào tiếp tay xây dựng Giáo Hội Chúa nếu chúng ta vẫn còn cãi nhau, làm lớn chuyện từ những bất đồng đơn giản về những ý kiến trong các chuyện nhỏ, thiếu sự quên mình thay vào đó là trông chờ người khác nhường nhịn mình, hội họp trong xung đột thay vì trong thương yêu, muốn

mọi chuyện phải được thực hiện “theo cách của tôi” hơn là sẵn sàng thực hiện những gì tốt nhất cho huynh đệ đoàn. Chỉ khi nào chúng ta học được bài học “thời giờ của Chúa” không giống với “thời giờ của con người” thì lúc đó chúng ta mới có thể có niềm tin và niềm trông cậy để nhận lãnh và sống Tin Mừng trong khi chúng ta đang làm một việc gì đó.

Bình an & ân sủng của Chúa ở cùng anh chị em!

Chị Sylvia



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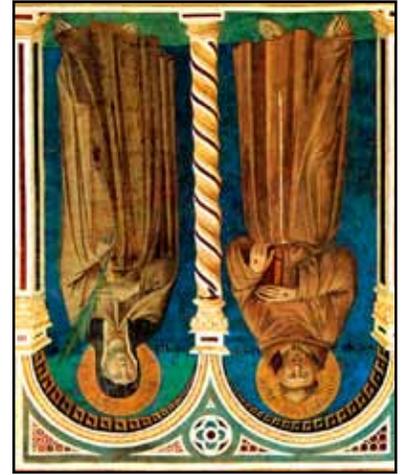
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Celebrating 800 Years



I promise to live all the days of my life the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing the Rule of Life.

May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Virgin Mary and our holy father Francis, and the fraternal bonds of the community always be my help, so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian Love.