

# The Portiuncula

## Franciscans of the Prairie Region

*Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis*

### OUR MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear sisters and brothers in our Lord and His servant Saint Francis. May the Lord give you His peace!

How quickly the days of summer seem to have sped by us! Most of the local communities of our

Regional Fraternity experienced much more than the average rainfall - so much so, in fact, that the planned Fraternal Visitation of our Franciscans of the Tau Fraternity in Calhoun County had to be rescheduled from June 28 to August 30 due to high floodwaters that made some of the roads impassible! Yet still we allow our Seraphic Father's sentiments to fill our hearts with the praise of our Creator: "Praise be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste" (*Canticle of the Creatures*).

On Sunday, August 23, the Region received our National Minister Deacon Tom Bello, O.F.S.'s Report on the Fraternal Visitation he so graciously conducted for us in April of this year. He sent it not only to me and the members of the Regional Executive Council, but also to the local Ministers, Vice-Ministers and Spiritual Assistants of all our fraternities! Thank you, Deacon Tom! For the benefit of everyone not included in that e-mail exchange between Deacon Tom and me, here's what was written:

"Dear Deacon Tom, our brother,  
The Lord give you peace!

On behalf of all the sisters and brothers of Franciscans of the Prairie, I want to express my most sincere and heartfelt gratitude to you for the

Report you have sent us of your recent Fraternal Visitation to our Region. The weekend of April 17-19, 2015 was truly a time of special grace and blessing for us, thanks to you and Father Kevin's presence with us! Thank you also for sending your Report to all the members of our Regional Fraternity Council as well as to our local Vice-Ministers and Spiritual Assistants.

At the risk of seeming irreverent (which you, of course, know that I never am... LOL), we simply refuse to accept your apology since none was in order!!! Given the heavy responsibilities you bear as our National Minister and your ongoing personal ordeal with your health, we are just very grateful for your words of affirmation, encouragement and challenge.

I cannot tell you how many inquiries I receive on an ongoing basis from members of our Regional family asking about you and your health, and assuring you of fervent and continual prayers. The brothers and sisters are reluctant to write you personally lest they add to your burden of reading and responding to many messages. Please know that we all continue to accompany you on the Way of the Cross the Lord has asked you and your family to walk at this time in your life. Brother Tom, think of us as **200+ Simons of Cyrene** seeking to assist you in any way we can!

Gratefully, and with a brother's love,  
Deacon Dave, O.F.S.

Minister, Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity  
Secular Franciscan Order

**T** *Ministrare, non ministrari*

***Be the Joyful Face of Christ to All!***

see **MINISTER** page 2

**MINISTER**

Continued from page 1

On Aug 23, 2015, at 4:27 P.M., Tom Bello wrote:  
Loving and, I pray, forgiving Sisters and Brothers of the Franciscans of the Prairie Region, please accept this most tardy Fraternal Visitation Report with my apologies, love and thanksgiving to all of you for your service to and prayers for your great Region. Let us always pray for one another with peace and love, Tom”

Please continue to keep Deacon Tom in your good prayers as he carries on the good fight with cancer, entrusting himself to God’s providential care and offering his sufferings for all of us.

Although it will make my Minister’s column in this issue of our Regional newsletter longer than usual, please allow me to share some of our Fraternal Visitor’s observations in his own words from the official Report:

“On the positive side, every fraternity in the Region having a Spiritual Assistant is perhaps unique in the United States. I agree with Friar Kevin (Queally, T.O.R., the Pastoral Visitor) that the Region is blessed to have an actively engaged friar as Regional Spiritual Assistant. He is tremendously knowledgeable and works closely with the REC. On the need for prayer side, to this National Minister from the American South, Illinois seems like one of the more Catholic states. Why are there not more Secular Franciscans at the Prairie table? Why do we not have more Candidates? Why do we not have more fraternities? Why do we not have any emerging communities or newly forming groups? This must be a concern for all us. We need more prayer, more vocation outreach, more visibility at both the Regional and Local level.”

“One can observe a lively Franciscan spirit in the Region. There is a special emphasis on working with all branches of the Franciscan family. The upcoming retreat in September to be led by the Poor Clare sisters is a good example.”

“The Franciscans of the Prairie Region is one of our smaller Regions, but size is no measure of quality. I saw a Region with excellent leadership and participation. All the fraternities were represented as was all the Regional Executive Council. Regardless of size, that level of participation takes commitment and planning. It was, indeed, a great

pleasure to be with you all and share in your Franciscan spirit. The Regional Council works well together and all feel comfortable expressing opinions. An amicable working relationship is firmly in place. All the members of the REC seem very committed to their roles. Discussions are open and frank.”

“**Recommendations:** More of the same, with special emphasis perhaps in four areas, inspired by Therese in her excellent PowerPoint presentation:

**One, ...** A small Region with good leadership and people needs to make every effort to be more visible. Ways to be more visible are:

1. Continued activity in local parishes and surrounding communities with TAU crosses visible.
2. Fraternities gathering at a common event, such as a Greccio Celebration or Transitus Service with invitations to the nearby parishes and communities.
3. Announced get togethers for nearby Secular Franciscans for lunch, say, at noon on every third Tuesday.
4. Announcements of Open Houses or Open Meetings or Days of Recollection in parish and diocesan publications and websites.

**Two,** each fraternity, with Regional encouragement, should try to get ALL of its active members more involved, so that no Secular Franciscan feels left out. Ways to involve all are:

1. Have one person in the Fraternity act as Communicator or Infirmarian to contact those who haven’t been to recent meetings.
2. Have a shared Mass and/or shared meal, not necessarily at the monthly meeting, where all can break bread together.
3. Have a common Day of Prayer or common prayers such as for the fraternity or for the sick of the fraternity or for new members that all might pray either individually or in community. For example, I loved the special prayers circulated in anticipation of the Visitation.

see **MINISTER** page 3

**MINISTER**

Continued from page 2

4. Have each member of the Fraternity take responsibility for an ongoing session.

**Three**, as part of this need to be more visible and to involve all, fraternities should continue to look for avenues where they can bond and pray and socialize with other fraternities in the Region. Ways to bond include:

1. Shared retreats and shared Days of Recollection, as has been done.
2. Greater participation at Regional Gatherings, such as at the Regional Retreat and the Regional Picnic on June 13, 2015.
3. Sharing of Newsletters.
4. Shared apostolates.

**Four**, I urge the Region and all the fraternities to be always mindful of the importance of Formation and Servant Leadership development. As with many fraternities across the country, getting our brothers and sisters to put their gifts at the service of the fraternity in an elective position remains a constant challenge. I applaud Therese's and Deacon Dave's constant and seemingly instinctive efforts at Ongoing Formation whenever possible, which contributed to the smooth and joyful election of Jeannine Montgomerie as the new Regional Vice Minister. Congratulations to Jeannine and all!"

Here are some general suggestions and encouragers Deacon Tom has for us:

"Continue the strong efforts to build up the Regional fraternity and spirit. With God's grace, these efforts will bear fruit."

"Continue using the excellent 'Portiuncula' Regional newsletter particularly to 'point up' future Regional events."

"The area of leadership development needs a strong effort on the Local Fraternity level. A plan with goals, objectives and a time line might be very helpful. It is good that your Region has started working on this area. Do try to give it more impetus."

"Continue to work on and pray for vocations. If what you have been doing does not produce vocations, try other things! As you are well aware,

prayer is the necessary foundation for growth in vocations. Continue to pray always. Be creative, serious and consistent in your approach to vocation awareness and recruitment. This is an area which needs strengthening in all our Regions."

"Continue the good effort to use the *FUN Manual* as a resource for formators."

"Look to the future and be proactive with regard to Spiritual Assistance, with fraternities being aware of their own Spiritual Assistants' situations, term of office, possible transfers, etc."

"The REC has done well to set Regional goals. Continue this, with revisions to them regularly, as things develop in the Region."

Deacon Tom concluded his Report with these words:

"Thank you to all the members of the REC and the Local Ministers, as well as all of the members of the Franciscans of the Prairie Region, for your sincere prayers and constant cooperation in helping make this a successful and enjoyable Visitation. May the Lord bless you and keep you in His unceasing love and mercy."

Reports such as this as well as the one sent to us earlier by our Pastoral Visitor are meant to be prayed about and reflected on by all the members of the fraternity to whom it is addressed, not merely by the servant leadership (i.e., the Council). Since each of us is co-responsible for the life of our Regional fraternity in addition to that of our local fraternity (cf. *General Constitutions of the OFS*, article #30), I ask you to join me in praying about and discussing the comments, observations and challenges Deacon Tom has entrusted to us.

**Newsletter Submission**

Submit articles and photos for our Regional newsletter to Neil Suermann, OFS, newsletter editor.

Submission deadlines are Jan 1st, April 1st, June 1st and September 1st.

see **MINISTER** page 4

**MINISTER**

Continued from page 3

**Several times our Fraternal and Pastoral Visitors emphasized the need for us to support Regional activities by our active participation. It is still NOT TOO LATE to register for our Regional Retreat being held at the Chiara Center in Springfield the weekend of September 25-27, 2015!**

In closing, please let me and the members of the Regional Executive Council know how we may be of service to you, and please let us always keep one another close in prayer!

Wishing everyone most blessed autumn, Advent and Christmas Seasons, I remain

Your brother and servant - with fraternal love in Saints Francis and Clare,

**Deacon Dave, O.F.S.**, Regional Minister

**T** *Ministrare, non ministrari*

**Be the Joyful Face of Christ to All!**

**ONGOING FORMATION**

Dear brothers and sisters,

Do we feel BLESSED?

This is the time of the year when nature reminds us that trees and flowers in our area are beginning to change in preparation for the colder autumn nights and the days and nights of winter. Some leaves have already fallen and trees are preparing to go through their process similar to hibernation called dormancy. Nature is attuned to or in relationship with its Creator! Franciscans can identify with this because of St. Francis' belief that everything in creation was either his brother or sister and therefore are our brothers and sisters. It is marvelous to think about our Seraphic Father and his prayerful discernment that whatever God created was a blessing. Our challenge is to look beyond the actual appearance of something and see with our "eyes of faith" the love with which God sanctified every element of creation. As article #18 of *The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order* states: "Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which 'bear the imprint of the Most High,' and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship."

Once we recognize God's sanctifying hand in all of

creation, we can prepare ourselves to encounter daily blessings. When we see trees that are dormant, we can feel sad that winter is approaching or we can thank God that the trees have given us the blessing of shade throughout the summer and that spring always follows winter. When looking out a window and seeing all of the snow, instead of cursing it, maybe thank God for the blessing that this is an opportunity to slow down our pace of life and "listen" to God instead of always "talking" to Him! Will we take the time to contemplate the wonders of God in nature and look for ways to enter into a deeper relationship with God and others?

It seems that maybe attitude has a major part to play in our interpretation of life. If we begin with the realization that God is merciful, kind, generous, loving, etc., then our outlook on life may reflect our Franciscan call to be joyful people. Maybe our attitude has something to do with vocations. If we are sincere in our outward expression that all of creation is good because our God in heaven created it good, then maybe people will want to come to know more about our way of life because we are a Gospel people who love life and are grateful for all of God's blessings!

We experience the blessings of new birth when we take the time to acknowledge that God is always with us and he wants to be in relationship with each and every one of us. There are so many opportunities to die to sin and rise with Christ. The Church has given us two special seasons, Advent and Lent, to look inward at our relationship with God and to "start anew!" The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a God-given opportunity for to humble ourselves and seek the loving embrace of our heavenly Father who wants us always to be in relationship with Him and His Church. This is another example of new beginnings, of leaving the sinful ways behind and striving to embrace our call to daily conversion. What are we willing to do from now until Christmas to prepare for the annual celebration of the Incarnation of the Word?

I hope that you experience many blessings!

**Thérèse, O.F.S.** Regional Formation Director

**NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION**

**Franciscans of the Tau Fraternity  
Fraternal Visitation**

On Sunday, August 30, 2015, Regional Minister Deacon Dave Ream, O.F.S. conducted a Fraternal Visitation to the brothers and sisters of the Franciscans of the Tau Fraternity. There was a prayer table visible to bring attention to the fact that "...let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do." (The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, article #8)



The afternoon began with Deacon Dave reviewing with the Council members materials specific to their different offices. Regional Formation Director, Therese Ream, O.F.S. reviewed formation materials with Roger Hagen, O.F.S. the Formation Director of the fraternity. The Council meeting opened with prayer from *The Ritual* and the members discussed a few items prior to Marian Hagen, O.F.S., the Minister, turning the meeting over to the Fraternal Visitor. The Regional Minister reviewed with the Council the *Pre-Visitation Questionnaire* which the Council members had collaboratively discussed and then submitted as one consensus *Questionnaire*. Deacon Dave also entertained any questions which they had. The Fraternity Gathering then began with the Regional Minister leading the fraternity in praying the *Prayer for the Pastoral or Fraternal Visit* from *The Ritual*. The Spiritual Assistant, Deacon Mike Hagen, O.F.S., led the praying of Evening Prayer from the *Liturgy of the Hours*. Formation Director Roger facilitated the ongoing formation segment of the gathering using Fr. John Sullivan, O.F.M.'s *Lesson One on Our Franciscan Charism*. Formation lasted an hour and everyone participated in the discussions. In the next segment of the Gathering, the fraternity attended to business items. The Gathering concluded with

wonderful desserts, drinks, and lots of Franciscan fellowship! The fraternity embraced the 4 segments which are to be present for every meeting/gathering: Business, Prayer, Formation; Social (these do not have to be in any particular order).



Seated (L-R): Virginia Breden, O.F.S.; Mary Ann Godar, O.F.S. Councilor; Marcy Klockenkemper, O.F.S., Councilor; Marian Hagen, O.F.S., Minister.  
Standing (L-R): Mary Ann Bailey, O.F.S., Councilor; Norbert Godar, O.F.S.; Michelle Hagen, O.F.S., Secretary; Roger Hagen, O.F.S., Formation Director; Deacon Mike Hagen, Sr., O.F.S., Spiritual Assistant; Tom Droste, O.F.S., Treasurer; John Baltisburger, Jr., O.F.S., Vice-Minister; Deacon Dave Ream, O.F.S., Regional Minister.

**Calendar**

**September 25-27, 2015**

Regional Retreat with Sr. Anna Marie Covely, O.S.C. and Sr. Vickie Griner, O.S.C., Chiara Center, Springfield

**September 27, 2015**

Regional Fraternity Council meeting, Chiara Center, Springfield, followed by a Regional Executive Council meeting.

**October 13-18, 2015**

NAFRA Elective Chapter, New Jersey

**October 25, 2015**

St. Margaret of Cortona Pastoral Visitation, Bloomington

**February 6, 2016**

Pastoral Visitation, Our Lady of the Angels, Edwardsville

**April 16-17, 2016**

Regional Fraternity Council Meeting and Elective Chapter, followed by a Regional Executive Council meeting, Chiara Center, Springfield

**NEWS**

Continued from page 5

**Sacred Heart Fraternity in Peoria**

Saturday, June 13, 2015, was a very special gathering for Sacred Heart Fraternity. First of all, it started with Mass, which in itself is special, but added to that was the Rite of Admission for candidates Robert Gayhart, Collen Gratton, Joel Gray, and Robert Polizzi, followed by veneration of relic and prayer to St. Anthony on his feast day, dedication to the Sacred Heart, and annual recommitment by members of the promises of profession.

But that's not all. Back at the hall a new tradition called "Extraction of Names" was launched. This involved all members and all those in initial formation receiving an envelope with a name of a living member plus three names of deceased members for which to pray for a year. This activity was suggested and arranged by Father Paul J. Langevin, O.F.M., Conv. All this happened only two weeks after our first Day of Reflection in many, many years at which time Father spoke to us about Consecration to Our Lady.

Our sense of belonging to a Franciscan family was certainly increased and strengthened by these joyful experiences, as was our gratitude to Father because only with his help and encouragement were they possible.

**St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity Fraternal Visitation**

St. Margaret of Cortona fraternity was pleased to host our Regional Minister, Dcn. Dave Ream, and his wife Therese (Regional Formation Director), for a Fraternal Visit to our fraternity at our July 26, 2015 Gathering. The purpose of the Fraternal Visit, as per the OFS General Constitution, is to "revive the evangelical Franciscan spirit, to assure fidelity to the charism and to the Rule, to offer help to fraternity life, to reinforce the bond of the unity of the order, and to promote its most effective insertion into the Franciscan family and the Church." They spent time with our group of Inquirers during Initial Formation, attended and participated in our Ongoing Formation, and met separately with the Council.

Dcn. Dave has provided a follow-up Report to the Fraternity Council which outlined his findings



Deacon Dave and Therese Ream, O.F.S. during the St. Margaret of Cortona July fraternity gathering saying "Good Luck" to Connie Noble, O.F.S. who is relocating to St. Louis and thus leaving the fraternity.

regarding the overall Fraternity, the Monthly Gathering, the Council, and the Fraternity Records. The Report summary stated that the fraternity "is a strong and vital Secular Franciscan community, one that has many resources in its members and its practices ... has a committed, well-functioning Council which obviously works hard to provide animation and guidance to the fraternity it serves ... recommendations are to continue doing all that you are doing so well." In addition, Dcn. Dave suggested that we consider several suggestions for ongoing improvement in the areas of Fraternity life and the workings of the Council.

St. Margaret of Cortona is most appreciative to Dcn. Dave and Therese for their contribution to increase the vibrancy of our fraternity.

see **NEWS** page 7

NEWS

Continued from page 6

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity**

The May 17, 2015 newly elected Council of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Quincy met at a restaurant in Kirksville, Missouri on Saturday, August 8, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for Council ongoing formation. They began studying and discussing Local Minister's Orientation upon Election sheet and then began with Session One on the reverse side. The topics covered on this side deal with the duties of a local Council as cited in the General Constitutions, National Statutes and the Handbook for Secular Franciscan Servant Leadership. The packet of information was given out during the April 18, 2015 ongoing formation session of the Regional Fraternity Council. The Council of St. Elizabeth's decided that they would meet quarterly for Council Ongoing Formation. Their next session is scheduled for November 21, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Umbria (not Italy, LOL, but the home of Deacon Dave and Thérèse, O.F.S.).



Seated (L-R): Dwayne Goodwin, O.F.S., Vice-Minister; Rosanne Roy, O.F.S., Minister; Dennis Dowell, O.F.S., Councilor; Lynn Carter, O.F.S., Secretary. Standing (L-R): Linda Boland, O.F.S., Councilor; Deacon Dave Ream, O.F.S., Spiritual Assistant; Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Formation Director; and Stan Bartley, O.F.S., Treasurer.

**Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Formation Day of Reflection**

A regional Day of Reflection for those in initial formation (people who have gone through the Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming and/or Rite of Admission) and people working with them was held on Saturday, July 25, 2015 at the Chiara Center in Springfield, Illinois. Six local Formation

Directors and twenty other interested persons were present from seven of the eight local Fraternities across the Franciscans of the Prairie Region.

Deacon David Ream, O.F.S., our Regional Minister, opened the Gathering with a warm greeting. He reminded the participants that, although the local Fraternity is the primary place for our shared life in Franciscan living, we also share our Franciscan charism with the Region as well. He commented that registration is now open for the Regional Retreat that will be held at the Chiara Center the weekend of September 25-27, 2015. The presenters for this retreat are two Poor Clare Sisters, who have selected our weekend as one of the few that they do throughout the year. He said, "We are extremely fortunate to have been selected to receive the message from the Sisters. I hope that many of our Regional Franciscan sisters and brothers will be able to attend this event."

Jeannine Montgomerie, O.F.S., Formation Director for St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity in Bloomington, led the group in a Morning Prayer celebrating the Feast of St. James the Apostle.

Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Regional Formation Director, introduced the morning's activity, reminding participants that the gathering was planned to be informal, with sisters and brothers sharing ideas. Each participant was invited to share a Franciscan symbol that held special meaning for them. Each person's comments were heartfelt, meaningful, and caring, demonstrating a deep knowledge about their Franciscan vocation with profound comments from both the younger members as well as those who have been professed for many years.



see NEWS page 8

## NEWS

Continued from page 7

After a break, Thérèse pointed out that sharing is an important aspect of Formation; everyone speaks from the heart and gives it over to God. Everyone can do that.

The group learned a little more about the Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity. The region includes eight local Fraternities encompassing the Springfield and Peoria Dioceses and including about 200 Secular Franciscans. The Regional Fraternity Council's membership includes the Executive Council (the Regional Servant Leaders, including the Regional Spiritual Assistant) and the Ministers from each local Fraternity. Although we all wear many hats, we hope for the time when our membership is large enough that each person will be able to serve in only one position. Beyond the Regional Fraternity is the National Fraternity (NAFRA) and the International Fraternity (CIOFS). The National Fraternity Council is comprised of the National Executive Council, the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants and the Ministers from each of the thirty Regional Fraternities. Similarly, the International Fraternity has its Executive Council (the Presidency) and representatives from each of the more than one hundred National Fraternities. Each of us actually belongs simultaneously to four Fraternities.



Each participant received a packet of information that highlighted the importance of the Eucharist to Franciscans. Deacon Dave explored the contents:

- I. St. Francis' prayer before the San Damiano Crucifix. His early focus was inward, but as he

- grew in his charism, his final prayers (Canticle of the Creatures) were focused on praising God;
2. We are Secular Franciscans - a good Catholic and "a little bit more";
3. During the ensuing weeks, the Sunday Liturgies of the Church will have us focus on the Bread of Life discourse in the Sixth Chapter of John's Gospel. Franciscans pay attention to these ideas because of our living From Gospel to Life and Life to the Gospel;
4. Franciscans are attentive to the three dimensions of Christ that were so important to St. Francis: Incarnation, Cross (stigmata), and Eucharist;
5. Deacon Dave pointed out the listing of Scriptures relating to the Eucharist;
6. Thanks to first rate scholarship in recent years, we have several writings about the Eucharist from St. Francis;
7. Also, we have commentaries about St. Francis that include references to the Eucharist;
8. The Secular Franciscan Rule leads us to a Eucharistic life in Articles 5 and 8; one way to become more familiar with the Rule is to read one Article each day of the month (e.g., Article 1 on the first, Article 2 on the second), with the last days of the month reserved for the Prologue and other Franciscan reading;
9. Profession should be done during a Eucharistic celebration;
10. The FUN Manual has several references to the Eucharist;
11. A list of questions on the Eucharist was provided for personal reflection.

(NOTE: To see the references (5-11), contact a member of your Fraternity who attended this Gathering.)

After lunch, participants joined in a prayer with the emphasis on "Blessed are the Merciful." In anticipation of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, this prayer and reflection reminded participants of the special position that Franciscans have with regard to mercy. Each person presented their petition and lit a candle.

see NEWS page 9

NEWS

Continued from page 8



The concluding activity of the day included an open discussion of topics of concern to the participants. Several areas were covered and discussed including:

- Involving all members in activities and leadership roles so that the same people don't end up doing everything,
- the possibility of conducting a Regional profession service,
- reminder that being a Secular Franciscan means that we put on the mind and heart of Jesus through the lens of St. Francis,
- Franciscans should participate if at all possible in this year's Regional Retreat and the Quinquennial Congress in St. Louis, June 30 - July 3, 2016,
- gratitude for the practice of celebrating Franciscan Wake services for our deceased members and their families, and
- finding ways to broadcast the Franciscan charism to the rest of the world and increase our membership.

The Day of Reflection concluded with Exposition and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Evening Prayer, which was held in St. Francis of Assisi Church.

[submitted by Dennis R. Dowell, O.F.S.]

**HELP WANTED**

**Regional Event Publicity Volunteers**

-----  
 Do you attend Franciscans of the  
 Prairie Regional Events?

Do you enjoy taking photographs?  
 -----

**The Regional Executive Council of the Franciscans of the Prairie is looking for interested persons who would like to volunteer to use his/her camera to take digital photographs of regional events for inclusion in The Portiuncula and the regional website.**

**Candidates interested should submit their name and contact information to Regional Councilor for the Newsletter, [neil.suermann@gmail.com](mailto:neil.suermann@gmail.com), who will forward it to Regional Executive Council.**

**Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve our Regional family!**



**REGIONAL PICNIC**

The Picnic was held at Gardner Park in Quincy. Roseanne Roy, O.F.S., Minister of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity made all of the reservations. The weather was perfect because there was NO RAIN! The shelter provided protection from the hot, sticky weather. However, all of the brothers and sisters gathered seemed to enjoy themselves and there were lots of smiles, laughs and good story telling.



Around 11:00 a.m., all of us began with prayer. Deacon Dave Ream, O.F.S., Regional Minister and Spiritual Assistant for St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity discussed the Feast of St. Anthony which is celebrated on June 13th and the meaning the day has for all Franciscans. Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Regional Formation Director and Formation Director for St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity had young people hold cardstock with the letters C L A R A and sang, There was a Friar who had a cat and Clara was her name, C L A R A! (used the tune, There was a farmer who had a dog and BINGO was his name.). Deacon Dave then led the Canticle of Creation (small booklet was



provided). Fr. Joe gave a blessing because June 13, 2015 was his 53rd Ordination Anniversary.



Fried chicken, baked chicken, drinks, silverware, and paper products were provided. People brought other food items. There was plenty to eat.

5 Regional Executive Council members were present: Deacon Dave, O.F.S., Regional Minister; Jeannine Montgomerie, O.F.S., Regional Vice-Minister; Kathy Adams, O.F.S., Regional Secretary; Sue Nelson, O.F.S., Regional Councilor (Leadership); and Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Regional Formation Director.

4 O.F.M. friars from Quincy University participated: Frs. Irenaeus, Joe, Jim, and Brother Huy.

There were 13 members from St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity present: [Rosanne R.; Stephen; Lynn; Dennis; Stan; Roseann G.; Sylvia; Cele; Toby; Joe; Bertha; Vicki; and Phyllis].

There were a total of 36 people: REC (5) + Friars (4) + 13 St. Elizabeth's members + 14 others [Emma + 3 daughters; Larry A.; Christy (from Edwardsville); John A.; Pat & Donna (Teutopolis); Chuck (Jeannine's husband)(Bloomington); Sue (Dennis' wife); Dick (Roseann's husband); Rosie and Nolon (Lynn's children)(Quincy).

The young people loved the water balloon chases and drawing with the sidewalk chalk.

People said their good-byes, shared lots of hugs and then started to leave around 2 p.m.

# 2015 Regional Picnic in Quincy



A  
GREAT  
DAY!



**Thank you to  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity -  
2016 will be hosted by  
Our Lady of the Angels - Edwardsville**



# Secular Franciscan Quinquennial Gathering

# The

## June 30-July 4, 2016 St. Louis, Missouri



*Experience a  
Franciscan  
Renaissance*

As St. Francis gathered the friars for a Chapter of Mats, the Secular Franciscan Order gathers every five years in a National Congress called the Quinquennial ("Q" for short!)

*Join your brothers and sisters!*

Rediscover the Franciscan charism and enjoy new growth and fruitfulness in your vocation. Share your joys and your insights as we look forward to future endeavors as a National Family.

*Prayer  
Celebration*

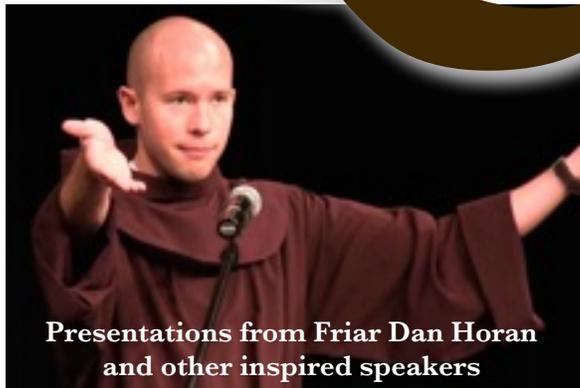
*Renewal*

*Growth*

*Learning*

*Fraternity building*

*A rebirth of joy in your vocation*



**Presentations from Friar Dan Horan  
and other inspired speakers**

The Q is for all Secular Franciscans and members of the wider Franciscan family, Franciscan affiliates and Franciscan-hearted companions.

To be held at the:  
Renaissance St. Louis Airport  
Hotel  
9801 Natural Bridge Rd.  
St. Louis, Missouri 63134



Website: [www.renaissancehotels.com/stlsa](http://www.renaissancehotels.com/stlsa)

*Just 5 minutes from the airport!*

Opening Mass and Dinner on Thursday Evening, June 30, 2016

Closing Mass on Sunday Evening, July 3, 2016

Departure on July 4, 2016

*Under the patronage of Sts. Francis and Clare  
and Sts. Louis and Elizabeth*

*Registration and other details coming soon!*





# Recapturing the Franciscan Spirit



*All are invited to attend  
a Day of Reflection on:*

**NOVEMBER 21, 2015**  
**AT SACRED HEART PARISH, EFFINGHAM**  
**FR. RON HILT, OFS WILL BE THE PRESENTER**

*The day will begin with Mass at 8 a.m.  
and will conclude by 2 p.m.  
Reconciliation will be available at 3 p.m. followed  
by the Parish Saturday evening Mass at 4 p.m.*

*This will be a day to truly Recapture the Joyfulness of the  
Franciscan Spirit! Everyone is invited to attend, both Professed  
Franciscans and anyone interested in the Franciscan Charism.*



*To help us serve you, kindly R.S.V.P. by November 7th  
to [st.francisofs@gmail.com](mailto:st.francisofs@gmail.com) or  
217-994-3144-Kathy Adams, ofs(either by calling or texting)  
or call 217-857-3586 Joyce Vahling, ofs*



---

# Franciscans of the Prairie Region

## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

### **Minister**

Deacon David Ream, OFS  
660-627-5626  
[umbria2@earthlink.net](mailto:umbria2@earthlink.net)

### **Treasurer**

Steve Roszhart, OFS  
309-825-2810  
[sroszhart@gmail.com](mailto:sroszhart@gmail.com)

### **Councilor (Leadership)**

Sue Nelson, OFS  
618-656-6261  
[susannecnelson@gmail.com](mailto:susannecnelson@gmail.com)

### **Vice-Minister**

Jeannine Montgomerie, OFS  
309-310-5315  
[jmntg.1229@gmail.com](mailto:jmntg.1229@gmail.com)

### **Formation Director**

Thérèse Ream, OFS  
660-627-5626  
[umbria2@earthlink.net](mailto:umbria2@earthlink.net)

### **Councilor (Data Base)**

Cathy Roszhart, OFS  
309-825-2900  
[crozshart@gmail.com](mailto:crozshart@gmail.com)

### **Secretary**

Kathy Adams, OFS  
217-994-3144  
[oremus7@gmail.com](mailto:oremus7@gmail.com)

### **Spiritual Assistant**

Fr. John Sullivan, OFM  
217-522-9822 x327  
[ofmsully@hotmail.com](mailto:ofmsully@hotmail.com)

### **Councilor (Newsletter)**

Neil Suermann, OFS  
618-792-4060  
[neil.suermann@gmail.com](mailto:neil.suermann@gmail.com)

## REGIONAL APPOINTEES

### **YouFra Animator**

Sue Nelson, OFS  
618-656-6261  
[susannecnelson@gmail.com](mailto:susannecnelson@gmail.com)

### **JPIC Animator**

Bill Ducett, OFS  
[wrducet@gmail.com](mailto:wrducet@gmail.com)

### **Webservant**

Jason Deavers, OFS  
[got-2-dive@hotmail.com](mailto:got-2-dive@hotmail.com)

---

Franciscans of the Prairie  
19514 Orrick Trail  
Kirksville, MO 63501-7126

