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. From the Lord - grace, peace and mercy!

Once again as your brother and your Minister, I wish each of you a happy, holy, joyful and mercy-filled New Year! Why all the emphasis on mercy? Well, I can't claim any credit for that; it properly belongs to our Holy Father Pope Francis who, as I'm sure you know by now, has convoked the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy which runs from December 8, 2015 until November 20, 2016. More on that in a moment.

Allow me first to share some Regional highlights from 2015. One local fraternity in our Region celebrated its triennial Elective Chapter, five fraternities had Pastoral Visitations (Father John has really been busy!), and three fraternities had Fraternal Visitations, each experience intended to renew and strengthen the Franciscan spirit and life of the sisters and brothers.

The weekend of April 18-19 we as a Region had a very successful and meaningful triennial Fraternal and Pastoral Visitation from the National Fraternity in the persons of Deacon Tom Bello, O.F.S., our National Minister, and Father Kevin Queally, T.O.R., the Third Order Regular member of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants. Much good work was done in preparation for this event and the participation by the members of our Regional Fraternity Council was outstanding and very much appreciated as was the attendance of so many of our local Spiritual Assistants! We are still studying the recommendations received from our Visitors.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity hosted our Regional Picnic in Quincy on June 13, 2015 (what a great way to celebrate the Feast day of St. Anthony of Padua!). The second Annual Day of Reflection for Those in Initial Formation and Local Fraternity Formation Team Members was held at the Chiara Center on July 25, 2015; most fraternities were represented at this event.

Our annual Regional Retreat at the Chiara Center in Springfield the weekend of September 25-27, 2015 was delightfully directed by two Poor Clare nuns, Sister Anna Marie Covely, O.S.C. and Sister Vickie Griner, O.S.C. who came to us from the Monastery of St. Clare in Cincinnati, Ohio. Together we learned so much not only about our own vocation to the Franciscan way of life by studying the Dossal of Saint Clare, but also about how our Second Order Sisters live their particular form of life in the Church and in the world.

As of December 31, 2015 our Region numbered 8 active local fraternities with 202 active and active/excused Professed members, 13 Candidates, 15 Inquirers, 6 Aspirants and 1 Affiliate. We commended 18 of our Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters into the eternal loving embrace of the Lord this year.

Looking ahead to the year we have just begun, the first major event impacting the life of our Regional Fraternity will occur the weekend of April 16-17, 2016 when our triennial Elective Chapter will occur during the Spring meeting of the Regional Fraternity Council (i.e., the local Fraternity Ministers plus the current Regional...
Executive Council. We recently received word from NAFRA that our newly-elected National Secretary Mattie Ward, O.F.S. will be coming from Philadelphia, PA to preside at our elections, while our very own Father John Sullivan, O.F.M. has been delegated by the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants to serve as the Ecclesial Witness. Two members of our Region are serving as the Nomination Co-Chairs for this election, Matt Eppel, O.F.S. of Sacred Heart Fraternity and John Grillot, O.F.S. of St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity. Thank you, brothers! This year we are patterning our nominations process on the one used by NAFRA in preparation for the 2015 National elections, using an almost exclusively electronic format (i.e., e-mail) for soliciting nominations, acquiring information from potential nominees, and disseminating information to the Regional Fraternity Council about those who accept nomination and agree to be on the April ballot. Nominations are due to Matt and John by February 1, 2016. Please pray for the success of this process and for a successful outcome to our Elective Chapter!

Other major Regional events currently on the docket for 2016 include the Annual Formation Day of Reflection on Saturday, July 30, 2016 at the Chiara Center and our annual Regional Retreat directed by Sister Renita Brummer, O.S.F. the weekend of September 9-11, 2016, also at the Chiara Center. Elsewhere in this edition of our Regional newsletter you will find information about the NAFRA Quinquennial event being held in St. Louis, June 30-July 4, 2016 - Folks, it can’t be located much closer to us than this! Please put these dates and these events on your calendars NOW!

Now, back to the theme of mercy! I hope that by now everyone has had the opportunity to read at least a synopsis of Misericordiae Vultus, the Papal Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. In its opening paragraphs Pope Francis writes:

1. Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. The Father, ‘rich in mercy’ (Eph 2:4), after having revealed his name to Moses as ‘a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness’ (Ex 34:6), has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. In the ‘fullness of time’ (Gal 4:4), when everything has been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father (cf. Jn 14:9). Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God.

2. We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.

3. At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.”

That’s quite an all-encompassing vision for us to consider! As I read and prayed through the Holy Father’s words in the very next paragraph, I could not help but think of the approximately 112
Professed members of our Order whom we have listed in our database as “Lapsed” members of our fraternities - just within our Franciscans of the Prairie Region. Pope Francis chose to incorporate the following section of Pope Saint John XXIII’s Opening Address of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council (Gaudet Mater Ecclesia, 11 October 1962, 2-3) in his reflections:

“4. We recall the poignant words of Saint John XXIII when, opening the Council, he indicated the path to follow: ‘Now the Bride of Christ wishes to use the medicine of mercy rather than taking up arms of severity... The Catholic Church, as she holds high the torch of Catholic truth at this Ecumenical Council, wants to show herself a loving mother to all; patient, kind, moved by compassion and goodness toward her separated children’.”

According to our National Statutes (article #18.7b), “Those brothers and sisters who neither attend meetings, support the community financially, nor have valid reasons due to health, family, work or distance, and who, after personal invitations to return to fraternity, consciously and deliberately reject or ignore the invitation, will be termed ‘lapsed’ and will not be carried on the fraternity membership roll nor be reported as a member to higher fraternity Councils [cf. General Constitutions, article #53.3].”

Are not these lapsed members of our fraternities, in a very real sense, our “separated” sisters and brothers? One way of living out the motto of this Holy Year, “Merciful Like the Father” (Misericordiae Vultus, #14), is to redouble our efforts to reach out to these members of our Order who, for whatever reason, are no longer active in the life of the fraternity even though, to the best of our awareness, they could be - and should be. Being a lapsed member of the Secular Franciscan Order should not be seen and passively accepted by anyone as just another permanent category of membership in the OFS. We are not complete without them! Please invite them home!

For some of our members currently listed as lapsed, in some instances it may even be necessary to explore the more definitive provisions outlined in article #58 of our General Constitutions such as helping someone definitively withdraw from the Order if they really and truly no longer wish to be a Secular Franciscan. Sadly, in extreme cases, even a decree of dismissal from the Order may need to be pursued.

This renewed effort to which I am calling every local Council and every fraternity member can be a very fruitful way for us to fulfill our Holy Father’s “...burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy” (Misericordiae Vultus, #15). Elsewhere in this issue of The Portiuncula, our Regional Formation Director has included an extended treatment on how we might reflect on and actualize the spiritual and corporal works of mercy in our Christian and Franciscan lives.

In the closing paragraph of Misericordiae Vultus Pope Francis expresses his hope that: “25. In this Jubilee Year, may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May she never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort.”

May we “never tire of extending mercy” either! May we strive to “be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort,” especially in our concerted outreach to our lapsed brothers and sisters during this Jubilee Year of Mercy!

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 hold one another close in prayer!

Wishing a joyful and grace-filled year to one and all, 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

“Bring God’s Love to All!”
(NAFRA theme for 2016)
Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has set aside the Extraordinary Jubilee Year, December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016, to concentrate on Mercy. The Pope suggests that all of us become familiar with the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Therefore, as Regional Formation Director, I am encouraging all Fraternities in our Region to implement plans/study/discuss/etc. the Works of Mercy which you will find listed below.

The categories were taken from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ website (USCCB.org), and the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, pp. 508 & 529; other information is a compilation from different sources. This information is being sent to the local Formation Directors and is being included in the January Regional Newsletter so that we can begin using the material as early as January 2016 if desired. If I can assist you in any way to study these Works of Mercy, please feel free to contact me!

Your Fraternity could use the Works of Mercy as Formation in several ways:

1. Look at one Spiritual Work and one Corporal Work and discuss the similarities and/or the differences.
2. Add your own ideas/examples to each category.
3. Discuss one to three Corporal Works of Mercy and ways that each member could address it/them in his/her personal daily life.
4. Discuss one to three Spiritual Works of Mercy and ways that each member could address it/them in his/her personal daily life.
5. Ask volunteers to share their own experiences about a particular Corporal Work of Mercy.
6. Ask volunteers to share their own experiences about a particular Spiritual Work of Mercy.
7. Plan ways in which the Fraternity could engage in one or more Works of Mercy as a Fraternity.
8. Discuss with the Fraternity members the way in which they want to address the Works of Mercy.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Spiritual Works of Mercy have long been a part of the Christian tradition, appearing in the works of theologians and spiritual writers throughout history. Just as Jesus attended to the spiritual well being of those he ministered to, these Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us to “help our neighbor in their spiritual needs” (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, p. 529). It is important to remember that ordinary deeds done every day to relieve the corporal and/or spiritual needs of others are true works of mercy, if done in the name of Christ.

There may be overlaps with some of the suggestions. Items may fit into a category other than the one where it is listed. You can discuss the items as a Fraternity and make your own determination!

The seven Spiritual Works of Mercy are listed below. After each work of mercy, there are also suggestions and words of advice for living them out in our daily lives.

1. **COUNSELING THE DOUBTFUL**

All of us have moments of doubt in our faith journeys. Nevertheless, we should always remember that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and we can turn to Him along our way.

- “Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may eventually become wise.” (Prov 19:20)
- The Cross of Christ “the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.” (1 Cor 1:25)
- Has someone asked you for advice? Orient your response to Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- Follow Christ with the witness of your life so that others may see God’s love revealed in your actions.
- Accompany a friend who is struggling with believing to join a parish group for service or faith formation.
- Share a book you found useful in dealing with your friend’s faith concern(s).

see FORMATION page 5
• Go with your friend to Sunday and/or Holy Day of Obligation Masses.
• It is an act of love to help others to be certain about what they should do to love and serve God. Many souls could be saved if Catholics would make the effort to speak the truth in love to their neighbors.
• Work at being optimistic and avoiding cynicism.
• Respond to cynicism, skepticism and doubt with hope.
• Be articulate about your own hopes.
• Ask people about their hopes and support them in trying to attain them.
• Give good advice to those who are uncertain about what to do.

2. INSTRUCTING THE IGNORANT
Learn about our Faith and be open to talking with others about our beliefs. There is always something more to discover about our Faith.

• Go on a service trip or short-term mission trip. No time? Donate to support someone on his or her service trip.
• Volunteer to help with religious education programs at your parish.
• Invite someone to go to Mass with you this weekend.
• Know your Faith! Read through the USCCA to find out more about the Catholic Faith and how to live it.
• Commit yourself to learning about the Catholic Faith and share your understanding of the Faith with others and with those who welcome it.
• Share your insights, knowledge, and skills with others, especially friends, fellow students, co-workers, and fraternity members.
• “Mentor” or “tutor” those who are just beginning ministries.
• Read good literature and encourage others to do the same.
• Be courageous yet compassionate in calling people and institutions to be faithful to Gospel values.
• Intervene in situations in which people are clearly doing harm to themselves or others.

• Respond to negative and prejudicial comments with positive statements.
• Put an end to gossip by walking away; set a good example for others.

3. ADMONISHING THE SINNER
Do not judge, but be supportive in helping others find their way and correct their mistakes. Together we can learn to walk more closely with Christ.

• In humility, we must strive to create a culture that does not accept sin, while realizing that we all fall at times.
• Don’t judge, but guide others toward the path of salvation. (Mt 7:1-2)
• When we correct someone, don’t be arrogant. We are all in need of God’s loving correction.
• We should journey together to a deeper understanding of our shared Faith.
• “Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother’s eye.” (Mt 7:5)
• It is an act of love to try to assist another in realizing how bad sin is.
• Maybe help someone get to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
• We can let others know indirectly, especially by our example, that we do not approve of certain actions which are contrary to the teachings of our Faith.
• Help people who sin understand and live God’s love.
• Be good examples—refuse to take part in things we know are wrong.

4. COMFORTING THE SORROWFUL
Be open to listening and comforting those who are dealing with grief. Even if we aren’t sure of the right words to say, our presence can make a big difference. Try to be an empathetic listener. Empathy means that we are trying to walk with people and understand their situation, whereas sympathy is more like standing on the outside looking in.
• Lend an empathic listening ear to those going through a tough time.
• Make a home cooked meal for a friend who is facing a difficult time.
• Write a letter or send a card to someone who is suffering.
• A few moments of our day may make a lifetime of difference to someone who is going through a difficult time.
• It is an act of love to help another in any kind of sorrow and to refrain from doing anything that would unnecessarily cause another person more sorrow.
• Walk with others through their pain.
• Offer words of encouragement to those who seem discouraged.
• Offer positive words to fellow co-workers, students and fraternity members who are having a difficult time with their tasks.
• Be present to those who are struggling or in emotional pain or despair.
• Offer our condolences to those who are grieving.
• Look for those who are having a tough time. Rather than try to “fix” the problem, be present to them. Just as “shared joy is doubled,” “shared sorrow is halved.”

5. FORGIVING INJURIES
Forgiving others is difficult at times because we do not have God’s limitless mercy and compassion. But Jesus teaches us that we should forgive as God forgives, relying on him to help us show others the mercy of God.
• Let go of grudges.
• Saying sorry is something we learn as kids, but how often do we really mean it? Forgiveness transforms hearts and lives.
• Participate in the Sacrament of Penance.
• Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
• It is an act of deep love to forgive all those who have injured us in any way, even deliberately and with malice.
• In His almighty wisdom, God knows that failing to forgive causes further injury to the person originally injured.
• Pray for those who have wronged us and pray for courage to forgive.
• Ask forgiveness from others.
• Go out of our ways to be positive with someone with whom we are having a difficult time.

6. BEARING WRONGS PATIENTLY
Do not be bitter about wrongs done against us. Place our hope in God so that we can endure the troubles of this world and face them with a compassionate spirit.
• Frustrated with someone? Step away from the situation; take a few deep breaths, pray the Our Father, asking God for patience.
• It is an act of love to accept the consequences of another’s thoughtlessness or carelessness and to suffer inconveniences which another should bear.
• Work at being less critical of others.
• Overlook flaws and mistakes.
• Give people the benefit of the doubt.
• Assume that people who may have hurt us did so because they are enduring pain of their own.
• Pray for those who have wronged us.
• Deal kindly with people who do thoughtless things.

7. PRAYING FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD
Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead entrusts all of us into God’s care.
• Request a Mass intention for a friend or family member who is going through a tough time.
• Request a Mass intention for a friend or family member who has passed away.
• Keep our own book of prayer intentions, writing down the names of those who we are keeping in our prayers.
• Ask friends or family members if there is anything we can pray about for them.

see FORMATION page 7
• Through prayer, entrust to God our cares and concerns for those around us.
• Sharing in the Communion of Saints demands that we pray for everyone.
• Go to the cemetery and pray for the deceased.
• Offer up our sufferings to alleviate the pain of others.

The Corporal Works of Mercy
The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They “are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs” (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, p. 508). They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life. It is important to remember that ordinary deeds done every day to relieve the corporal and/or spiritual needs of others are true works of mercy, if done in the name of Christ.

There may be overlaps with some of the suggestions. Items may fit into a category other than the one where it is listed. You can discuss the items as a Fraternity and make your own determination!

The seven Corporal Works of Mercy are listed below. After each work of mercy, there are also suggestions and words of advice for living them out in our daily lives.

1. FEED THE HUNGRY

There are many people in this world who go without food. When so much of our food goes to waste, consider how good stewardship practices of your own food habits can benefit others who do not have those same resources.

• Donate to a food drive so everyone can have something to eat.
• Research, identify and contribute financially to organizations that serve the hungry.
• The next time you make a recipe that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and donate one to your local food pantry or soup kitchens.

• Try not to purchase more food than you are able to eat. If you notice that you end up throwing groceries away each week, purchasing fewer groceries would eliminate waste and allow you to donate the savings to those in need.
• Sharing your food or candy.
• Helping to shop for groceries.
• Helping with the cooking.
• Doing the dishes.
• Waiting on company.
• Seeing to the proper nutrition of your loved ones.

2. GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY

Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ do not have access to clean water and suffer from the lack of this basic necessity. We should support the efforts of those working towards greater accessibility of this essential resource.

• We take it for granted that we have access to clean water. Donate to an organization which helps to build wells for water for those in need.
• Organize a group of children involved on a sports team (e.g., soccer) or a summer camp. Invite them to collect bottled water to distribute at a shelter for families. If parents can be involved, ask them to accompany their children in delivering the water to the families.
• Make a effort not to waste water. Remembering to turn off the water faucet when you are brushing your teeth or washing dishes can help, especially in regions suffering from drought.
• Give someone a drink on a hot day.
• Give the baby his/her bottle.
• Pouring drinks at the table.
• Lifting up a young child to get a drink at a water fountain.

3. SHELTER THE HOMELESS

There are many circumstances that could lead to someone becoming a person without a home. Christ encourages us to go out and meet those
without a homes, affirming their worth and helping them seek a resolution to the challenges they face.

- See if your parish or diocese is involved with a local homeless shelter and volunteer some time.
- Donate time or money to organizations that build homes for those who need shelter.
- Many homeless shelters need warm blankets for their beds. If you can knit or sew, that would be an extra loving gift.
- There are millions of children and families who are on the move, fleeing from war, illness, hunger and impossible living conditions, and searching for peace and safety. Engage parish groups of children, youth, young adults, and families in doing some research on the causes and challenges that these families face to survive. Contact Catholic Social Services, or diocesan offices of peace and justice for help with your research. Seek ways to provide shelter for the homeless locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.
- Take people into your home in times of fire, flood, or other disasters.
- Help neighbors care for their homes and do repairs.
- Advocate for public policies and legislation that provide housing for low-income people.
- Consider becoming a foster parent.

4. VISIT THE SICK
Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. Inspite of their illness, these individuals still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them.

- Give blood.
- Spend time volunteering at a nursing home - Get creative and make use of your talents (e.g., sing, read, paint, call Bingo, etc.)!
- Take time on a Saturday or another day to stop and visit with an elderly neighbor.
- Offer to assist caregivers of chronically sick family members on a one-time or periodic basis. Give caregivers time off from their caregiving responsibilities so they can rest, complete personal chores, or enjoy a relaxing break.
- Next time you make a meal that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and give it to a family in your parish who has a sick loved one.
- Run an errand for an elderly or sick person.
- Read to the sick or the elderly.
- Take time to call, send a card or an e-mail to someone who is sick.
- Volunteer to drive patients to medical appointments and treatment facilities.
- Volunteer at a hospital.
- Cook and deliver meals to the sick and homebound.

5. VISIT THE PRISONERS
People in prison are still people, made in the image and likeness of God. No matter what someone has done, they deserve the opportunity to hear the Word of God and find the Truth of the message of Christ.

- See if your parish, or a nearby parish, has a prison ministry and if so, get involved.
- Volunteer to help out or donate to charities that give presents to children whose parents are in prison.
- Advocate for humane treatment for the imprisoned.
- Help to care for the families of the imprisoned.
- Protect a little child from a bigger child.
- Take care of and protect a baby.
- Support and/or participate job-training and educational programs designed to rehabilitate prisoners.
- Pray for the inmates and their families.
- Support and/or participate programs that provide holiday gifts for prisoners and their families.
- Support efforts that seek the abolition of the death penalty.

6. BURY THE DEAD
Funerals give us the opportunity to give and show others support during difficult times. Through our prayers and actions during these times, we show our respect for life, which is always a gift from...
God, and comfort to those who mourn.

- Send a card to someone who has recently lost a loved one. Make your own card and use some of these prayers.
- Visit the cemetery and pray for those you have lost.
- Spend time planning your own funeral Mass, read through the Order of Christian Funerals and find our hope in the Resurrection.
- Attend funerals and/or wakes/visitations.
- Cutting grass on a grave and/or putting flowers on a grave.
- Support or volunteer at a hospice.
- Participate in a bereavement ministry.
- Spend time with widows and/or widowers.
- Take friends and relatives to visit the cemetery.
- Support ministries that offer free Christian burials to those unable to afford one.
- Offer daily prayers for those with terminal illnesses and for those who have died.
- Send Mass cards to families of those who have died.

7. **GIVE ALMS TO THE POOR** [some sources call this “Clothe the Naked”]

Donate money to organizations that have the ability to provide support and services for those in need. Do research and find organizations that put people in need first, rather than profit.

- Skip the morning latte and put that money in the collection basket at church.
- Find a charity that is meaningful to you and volunteer your time, treasure and/or talent.
- During Lent or at any time, give up eating out at restaurants. Pack your meals and donate the extra money to charities.
- Participate during Lent in Operation Rice Bowl.
- Throw your coin change into a jar and periodically donate it to a charity.

**Clothe the Naked**

- Take clothes to a needy family.
- Share outgrown clothes and footwear, etc. with another family or agency.
- Help a young child get dressed.
- Help with laundry at home.
- Participate in programs that provide towels, linens, etc. for hospitals in distressed areas.
- Support the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Charities, etc.

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**Calendar**

**January 17, 2016**  
Pastoral Visitation, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Quincy

**April 16-17, 2016**  
Regional Fraternity Council Meeting and Elective Chapter, followed by a Regional Executive Council meeting, Chiara Center, Springfield

**April 24, 2016**  
Elective Chapter, Our Lady of the Angels, Decatur

**May 17, 2016**  
Fraternal Visitation, St. Francis of Assisi, Teutopolis

**June 5, 2016**  
Fraternal Visitation, Pope St. John XXIII, Rock Island

**June 30 - July 4, 2016**  
Franciscan Quinquennial Gathering, St. Louis, MO

**July 30, 2016**  
Regional Day of Reflection for those in Initial Formation and Workshop for Formation Directs & Team Members

**September 9-11, 2016**  
Regional Retreat with Sr. Renita Brummer, O.S.F., followed by a Regional Fraternity Council meeting and Regional Executive Council meeting, Chiara Center, Springfield

**October 23, 2016**  
Elective Chapter, Franciscans of the Tau, Calhoun Co.

**November 1-6, 2016**  
NAFRA Fraternity Council meeting, Florida

**March 11-12, 2017**  
Regional Fraternity Council meeting and Regional Executive Council, Chiara Center, Springfield
NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Quincy

On Sunday, October 4, 2015, Jack O’Heren, O.F.S. from St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Quincy celebrated his 70th Anniversary of Profession. It was on October 4, 1945 when Jack first made his Profession as a Secular Franciscan. Jack renewed his Profession at the 10:30 am Mass in his home parish of St. Joseph’s, Palmyra, Missouri. He wanted to celebrate his Anniversary in Palmyra as a way to educate the parishioners about the Secular Franciscan Order and to promote vocations to our way of life. Minister Rosanne Roy, O.F.S. led Jack in his renewal of Profession.

On Sunday, December 13, 2015, Sherri Ray from Kirksville, MO experienced the Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming. Linda Boland, O.F.S. did the Introduction segment. Sherri said the following words “I have come to see in your Franciscan life a way that appeals to me. So I would like to inquire into that way and learn more about it. Perhaps in time I, by the grace of God, may be able to become part of the Secular Franciscan Order and thus come to serve the Lord and his people more faithfully.” Our Minister, Roseanne Roy, O.F.S. responded in these words, “On behalf of this fraternity, I warmly welcome you, and I note your desire to inquire into the Secular Franciscan way of life. Be assured that in your search you will have the support and the encouragement of our prayer, our formation and our example. And always keep in mind the words of St. Francis to Brother Leo: ‘In whatever way you think will best please our Lord God and follow in his footsteps and in poverty, take that way with the Lord God’s blessing.’” Sherri received a copy of The Poverello: St. Francis of Assisi by Mark Wegener from the Formation Director, Thérèse, O.F.S., as the following words were spoken “Take this life of St. Francis and read it carefully, in order to learn how to live the Gospel life of our Lord Jesus Christ by following his example.” The Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming concluded with a prayer offered by the Spiritual Assistant, Deacon Dave, O.F.S. “O Lord our God, you have shown us your wisdom and love, and you have called us to follow you. May Sherri here present inquiring into the Secular Franciscan Order be inspired and strengthened by your grace and the support of this community. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

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 NEWS page 11
**Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity, Edwardsville**

Deacon Dave, O.F.S., the Regional Minister, conducted a Fraternal Visitation on Saturday, September 12, 2015. Deacon Dave met with the various Council members who had materials/files/binders to be presented for review. The Regional Formation Director, Thérèse, O.F.S. and the Fraternity’s Formation Director, Richard, O.F.S. discussed materials used in Formation. The review was concluded in time for members to go upstairs to participate in the 4:15 pm Mass. Following the Mass, a potluck dinner was provided. The meeting/gathering began after the meal. There was prayer, ongoing formation and business. Deacon Dave, O.F.S. then addressed the Fraternity.

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Quincy**

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Quincy celebrated the Transitus on October 3, 2015 in the Quincy University Chapel. The Secular Franciscans prepared the Prayer Service and had Friars as well as Seculars involved. All those present joined in the remembrance of St. Francis meeting Sister Death and entering into eternal life!
Annual Regional Retreat Was Full of Blessings

Our 2015 Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Retreat was held on September 25-27 at the Chiara Center in Springfield, IL. There were 56 retreatants this year. Sister Anna Marie, O.S.C. and Sister Vicki, O.S.C. were our Retreat Directors.

The retreat theme was “Clare: Teacher of God’s Action, Praying through the Words of Clare”. The Sisters informed, entertained, and inspired us with their knowledge of both the spirituality of St. Clare and the Franciscan charism. Both Sisters personalized the presentation by intertwining throughout their talks their individual vocation stories and what life was like living as a Poor Clare in their monastery.

The weather was perfect. The Chiara Center, as usual, did not disappoint, providing us with very comfortable accommodations and delicious meals. In between the retreat talks, there was plenty of time for private reflection along the quiet walking paths and in the beautiful “St. Francis of Assisi” church, which adjoins the Chiara Center. An added bonus to the retreat is always the informal “Chaplet of Divine Mercy” sung each morning before breakfast in the residence hall community room. From the fresh, first-cup-of-the-morning coffee prepared in the community room kitchen, to the expansive picture windows framing the beauty of God’s creation, to the goodness of just being with our Franciscan brothers and sisters, there was
“pax et bonum” all around as the early risers prayed the Chaplet informally together each morning. Another retreat highlight was an invitation to join the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, who live at the Chiara Center, in their special chapel for Mass on Saturday morning.

Our traditional retreat silent auction, held Saturday and Sunday morning in our main meeting room, was as fun as ever. The auction made $1,050 to help defray retreat costs. The free book exchange was fun as well. It had something for everyone.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the precious time to get away, to pray, to reflect on our spiritual journey, and to enjoy fellowship with Franciscan brothers and sisters throughout the region. Truly, our regional retreat was full of blessings. Hope to see you this fall!

Submitted by Jan Emmert, O.F.S.
St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity, Bloomington

The St. Francis Emmaus Center (SFEC) is a Catholic, family-run maternity and medical hostel for the indigenous Cabecar people of Costa Rica. They live high in the mountainous Chirripo cloud forest and often must hike for days to leave their land to access modern medical care. The reserve lands have no roads, so the trip requires hiking out of the jungle to small mountain towns with periodic bus service to the city of Turrialba. Before the center was established in 2013, the only indigenous hostel in Turrialba was an open building with a concrete floor and no privacy. Blankets and mattresses for the floor can be rented for a fee. Obviously this is not a safe situation for women and children. Pregnant women, often with their other small children, travel to the SFEC in their ninth month, or sooner if they are aware of complications. The center provides a safe place to live, nutritious meals, childbirth instruction, accompaniment to prenatal checkups, and labor support at the local hospital, which is only a short distance away.

After birth, the mothers recover at the center, attending follow up visits with the obstetrician, pediatrician and lactation consultant before hiking home. Mothers of sick or premature babies stay longer, to be close to their children in the hospital. The center also hosts women and children who

see SFEC page 13
need a place to stay while seeking non-maternity related medical care.

The St. Francis Emmaus Center is run in the home of Greg and Colleen Mitchell and their five sons, American missionaries from Louisiana. They began serving the indigenous in mountainous rural Costa Rica in 2011. In 2013, while driving on the tiny mountain roads, they encountered a Cabecar mother carrying her ill infant. They pulled over, and she told them she was trying to walk far enough to meet an ambulance to take her baby to the hospital. The Mitchells gave her a ride into town and she and the baby stayed with them for three days. They learned that the indigenous population suffered infant mortality rates 5 times higher than the rest of Costa Rica because of lack of access to medical care, and the mothers’ inability to navigate the system without some kind of support. So the St. Francis Emma's Center was born with a single, small “yes”.

As of August 2015, more than 170 mothers have been served. SFEC collaborates extensively with the national ministry of health, which officially cited the center as contributing to a 50% reduction in Cabecar infant mortality in 2014. On their Facebook page and blog, Greg and Colleen carefully tell the stories of these mothers and babies, from preventing the infanticide of babies born handicapped, to the babies with cleft palate who stay for months until they can receive surgical repair, to the laughter and nervousness when Cabecar mothers encounter rocking chairs for the very first time.

Last fall, Lynn Carter, O.F.S. of Kirksville, MO, learned of the Saint Francis Emmaus Center from a Catholic blogger. Lynn is an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) with proficiency in Spanish, so it seemed like a natural fit, and she made an initial visit in February 2015 and returned with her young daughter in May to support the family while they were split between the SFEC and a large weeklong medical mission at the edge of the reserve. Her local fraternity of St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Quincy, IL supported the mission with monetary donations and gifts of personal care products and nursing bras for the Cabecar mothers.

Christmas 2015 Meditation

Linda Howley-Skuby, O.F.S.
Minister of St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the peace of the new born Prince of Peace be with you and your families!

As I begin this Meditation Letter to you, I will quote from our Divine Office these beautiful words, so fitting as we have laid to rest our dear Fr. Gregg Donald Petri, who died on a cold, Christmas afternoon with the love of his brothers and sisters surrounding him.

From Jeremiah 31:14

“I will turn their mourning into joy
I will console and gladden them after their sorrows.
I will lavish choice portions upon the priests,
And my people shall be filled with my blessings, says the Lord.”

As we reflect on the journey of one priest, we can gain insight into our own path. Fr. Gregg was a spiritual man who was fully in touch with his human side, and shared both with us in his daily life, and in his homilies. Some homilies were so deeply personal that it would make us cry, as he described his tendency to become depressed. Then there were others when he shared how he loved to watch the news channel until Lent, when he decided to cover the TV set with a blanket that he had received for Christmas; and he happily said how much time he found to read and commit to his prayers! His stories of his pilgrimage to Oscar Romero’s church where he had the experience of Radiant Light sun entering the church. Finally, Father read the most beautiful account of St. Francis embracing the Leper and St. Francis response to the the beauty of the leper’s eyes full of love.

These are the blessings that Jeremiah speaks of in the above verse. We are blessed by the gracious life and sacrifices of the priests in our world. We learn that in our imperfections we can strive to change. It is by living close to God’s word that we can find our fulfillment.

In our Secular Franciscan Fraternity, we live by the simplicity of the Rule that Father Francis left us to follow. We have studied the Rule in the last year to learn that not only is the Rule simple, as is living it, but will lead us to greater harmony with our brothers and sisters.

As we come to the end of the year 2015, let us pray, first to be inspired by the Holy Spirit to embrace the path of peace that we have been called to and have committed ourselves to follow for the rest of our life.

“Come Holy Spirit and reveal to my soul, the mystery of heavenly things, their exceeding greatness, power and beauty. Teach me to love them above and beyond all the passing joys, and the satisfaction of earth; and grant me the grace, I pray, that I might attain to them and possess them and hold them hereafter, my own forever.” Amen (from a blessed canticle to the Holy Spirit)

Secondly, let us, with the grace of God and led by the Holy Spirit, dedicate ourselves to practice the life of penance taught us by St. Francis and Clare. Recalling that it is with a joyful heart and smiling lips that we greet each other, leading others by our joyfulness to the way of Christ. By living simply and avoiding consumerism, we free ourselves in a spirit of detachment to enjoy the real beauty in each other and God’s world. Let us see through Christ’s eyes the Leper in our lives, that we must embrace and see truly beyond the outer and see the inner beauty of the love and light in their eyes.

Lastly, let us live truth with the Word of God. Praying daily with the Church our liturgy, so there is unceasing prayer to God being lifted up. Let us remain true to ourselves, and put a “blanket” over our distractions, so that we can attain the priceless unity with God.

Let us pray: “Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who also bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavens. God chose us in him before the world began to be holy and blameless in his sight to be full of love.” (Eph 1:3-4)
THE BODY OF CHRIST AND THE MORAL LAW

We know when one part of the body suffers, the whole body suffers as written in 1 Corinthians. Recently, the body of Christ is suffering a massive hemorrhage in the form of our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East who are being “beheaded and crucified for their faith in Jesus,” as Pope Francis said last Good Friday, “beneath our eyes, often with our complicit silence.” The body of Christ has been bleeding for decades with the scourge of abortion and other abuses across our land.

We focus on five non-negotiable issues in the Catholic Church: abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, cloning, and so-called homosexual “marriage.” Each is contrary to the moral law and an intrinsic evil that cannot be supported in any way by Catholics. In fact, according to St. John Paul II, who quotes St. Thomas Aquinas, these “laws” are not really laws at all but are “acts of violence” that Catholics can never obey and are, in fact, obligated to oppose using every licit and reasonable means at their disposal. (In order to understand the reasoning of this, see Tim Staple’s talk, “The Five Non-Negotiables” available at catholic.com.)

In Pope Francis’ recent address to Congress, he called on Congress and all people to defend the dignity of all of our citizens and pursue the common good. He said that “society endures when it seeks to satisfy the common needs by stimulating the good of its members, especially those in situations of greater vulnerability or risk.”

How can we put this into practice in the coming elections? We are called to seek the Truth and form our consciences correctly by acting on the Church’s teachings. The right to life, for instance, is a commandment from God and is a primary right through which all other rights flow. If candidates get this fundamental issue wrong, they will make big errors in other issues (political, social, international affairs, etc.) as well.

What else can a Catholic do to help those suffering members of the Body of Christ? Our main weapon is prayer, especially the rosary since Mary, the mother of Jesus and the spiritual mother of all people, has the God-given power to crush the head of Satan (see Genesis 3:15). The battle against all that seek to destroy innocent human life is a spiritual battle against the devil.

Recently the bishops of Nigeria urged all to pray the rosary and, as a result, Boko Haram is being defeated. If we all said the rosary daily, what miracles Our Lady could perform.

Excerpts of this article were taken from The Catholic Post (newspaper of the Diocese of Peoria in Illinois) with the permission of the author, Michelle Rebello, rebellofam7@gmail.com.

Submitted by Sue Nelson, O.F.S.
Regional Councilor for Leadership

SISTER RENITA BRUMMER, O.S.F.

Sister Renita Brummer is a farm girl from near Effingham, Illinois. She became a Franciscan Sister because of the influence of the Sisters who taught her and her love of all things Franciscan. She received a Bachelor Degree in American Studies from Marillac College in St. Louis, Missouri and a Masters Degree in Franciscan Studies from St. Bonaventure University in Olean, NY. Her years as a Franciscan Sister have taken her to classrooms in Wisconsin, Illinois and Louisiana, into campus ministry at the University of Missouri Rolla, into retreat ministry at Chiara Center in Springfield, Illinois. She is a certified spiritual director of retreats. In her previous term in congregational leadership, she also served as President of the National Franciscan Federation. Sister Renita enjoys meeting God in nature, watching people, playing her accordion, and visiting her wonderful family.

Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Retreat
September 9-11, 2016
Chiara Center, Springfield, IL
A NOTE ABOUT THE NAME OF THE ORDER

[Adapted from Ann Confort, O.F.S.'s article in Sacred Heart Fraternity's November 2015 Newsletter.]

Are we Third Order Franciscans? Lay Franciscans? Secular Franciscans? What are those letters professed members and Candidates can use after their name? All this can be somewhat confusing, especially for Initial Formation people; but even long-time members occasionally will refer to us as Third Order Franciscans.

We all want to be well informed in order to use the correct terminology. Therefore, I wish to share with you the following notice that was issued shortly after the October 22-29, 2011 meeting of the International Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order that took place in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE ORDER

The Official Name of the Order

The official name of the Order is Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis.

Translations of the Name of the Order

The translation of the name of the Order is already made in the four official languages, and these are the ones to be used in these languages, namely in Italian, in English, in Spanish and in French. The name can be translated into local languages only when the literal translation from Latin is easily understandable even by the civil society and does not change its meaning or substance. When the translation into the national language distorts the meaning of the name, or is linguistically impossible to transfer the genuine meaning, Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis must always be used, which can be followed by expressions to clarify and make more understandable the nature of the Secular Franciscan Order to everyone in the local language.

The Acronym

The acronym which refers to the name Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis is O.F.S. and is always to be used regardless of the language. For example, when Secular Franciscans use the acronym after their name, they must use “O.F.S.”

To sum up: When using English, we are Secular Franciscans and we are members of the Secular Franciscan Order; the initials that professed members can use after their name are O.F.S. In addition, Candidates also have the option of using the initials O.F.S. after their names. The option is theirs, not the Fraternity's option!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Included in this issue of The Portiuncula are the financial reports for the year ending December 31, 2015. These financial reports consist of the following:

1. The Balance Sheet - total cash balance in the two bank accounts is $78,750.47. There were no liabilities at year end.

2. Income and Expense Report.

3. Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual - please notice that the Regional Council budgeted a $7,593 deficit for the calendar year 2015. The actual deficit was approximately half of that amount at $3,826. The two major reasons for this deficit decrease were:

   • Donated mileage/travel of $1,847, of which $965 of mileage reimbursement for travel to council meetings that many RC and REC members donated back to the region and $882 for travel expenses to the NAFRA annual council meeting that the Regional Minister donated back to the region.

   • The difference in the budgeted ($1,200) and actual ($37) cost of the annual retreat is $1,163. The actual cost of $37 takes into account the $1,045 worth of receipts from the silent auction.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve E. Roszhart, O.F.S.
Regional Treasurer
# Balance Sheet

**Franciscans of the Prairie**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As of December 31, 2015**

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<tr>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Ordinary Income/Expense

#### Income
- **Donated mileage/travel**: 1,846.80
- **Investments**
  - **Interest-Savings, Short-term CD**: 6.33
- **Total Investments**: 6.33
- **Program Income**
  - **Member Assessments**: 7,208.00
- **Total Program Income**: 7,208.00
- **Special Events Income**
  - **Book and Calendar Sales**: 25.00
  - **Retreat Silent Auction**: 1,045.00
- **Total Special Events Income**: 1,070.00
- **Total Income**: 10,131.13

#### Expense
- **Awards and Grants**
  - **Fair Share**: 3,536.00
- **Total Awards and Grants**: 3,536.00
- **Operations**
  - **Internet Web site**: 107.40
  - **Professional fees**: 100.00
- **Total Operations**: 207.40
- **Other Types of Expenses**
  - **Spiritual Assistant Stipend**: 600.00
- **Total Other Types of Expenses**: 600.00
- **Travel and Meetings**
  - **Annual Retreat**: 1,082.40
  - **Conference, Convention, Meeting**: 5,697.85
  - **Formation Conference**: 546.34
  - **Travel**: 2,286.95
- **Total Travel and Meetings**: 9,613.54
- **Total Expense**: 13,956.94

#### Net Ordinary Income
- **Net Ordinary Income**: -3,825.81

#### Other Income/Expense
- **Other Income/Expense**
- **Other Expense**
  - **Void checks**: 0.00
- **Total Other Expense**: 0.00
- **Net Other Income**: 0.00

#### Net Income
- **Net Income**: -3,825.81
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<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
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<td>-7,592.65</td>
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Secular Franciscan Order XIX QUINQUENNIAL
“Reviving Our Spirit”
June 30 to July 4, 2016 Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel

General Information Sheet

Date: Welcoming session begins on Thursday, June 30th late afternoon. The Congress concludes with a closing Mass after dinner on July 3rd. Monday, July 4th is a travel day. No meals will be provided that day. Hotel restaurant hours will be posted on arrival.

Registration: Registration begins at 11:00 am Thursday, June 30th. Registration fee includes meals beginning with dinner on Thursday evening, breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and snacks at breaks, plus the cost of materials and other Quinquennial expenses.

Registration deadline: June 9, 2016 No refunds after May 1st
Registration form and check, made out to NAFRA, are to be mailed to:
Judy Haupt, OFS, 204 Abbey Glen Way, Hardeeville, SC 29927

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<th>Registration Rates</th>
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Rooms: Reservations for lodging must be made prior to June 9th with the Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel, 9801 National Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO, 63134. Mention date and NFRNFRA to get the special rate. Phone: 1-888-340-2594 or 1-314- 429-1100

You can also use the following link as well to make the reservations
Book your group rate for NAFRA (Includes Complimentary Self Parking and Basic High Speed Internet:)

Room Rate: $89 per night per room plus taxes and fees for 1 to 4 people. Room charges must be paid upon arrival at the hotel. The rooms have 2 Queen Beds or 1 King Bed.

Note: In the event that a guest checks out prior to the guest’s reserved checkout date, an early departure fee of $75.00 will be charged to that guest’s individual account. To avoid this fee, please advise the hotel at or before check-in.

Transportation and other amenities: The Hotel provides free shuttles to and from the airport. Free parking and high-speed Internet. See their website for a complete list: www.renaissancehotels.com/stlsa

Accessibility Needs: Limited number of rooms available. Notify Hotel when registering of needs.

τ Wheelchair access is required: Uses a wheelchair or scooter and needs roll-in shower.
τ Easy access is requested: Difficulty walking. Needs a room located near the elevator and/or walk-in shower.

Note: Special dietary needs and requests for a roommate must be noted on registration form.

Miscellaneous: Please consider bringing personal care items to be donated to the Franciscan St. Anthony’s Food Pantry in St. Louis. Some ideas are toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, and so on.

Questions? Find us on: web- the2016q.org , e-mail the2016q@gmail.com, Twitter #the2016q
XIX QUINQUENNIAL
“Reviving Our Spirit”
June 30 to July 4, 2016 Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel
Registration Form

Important Instructions:
1. Please TYPE or PRINT all information clearly.
2. Only one participant per registration form.
3. Payment must accompany this form.
4. Make your check for registration payable to NAFRA.
5. Mail this form with payment to: Judy Haupt, OFS
   204 Abbey Glen Way
   Hardeeville, SC 29927
6. Hotel reservations must be done separately by each person with the hotel prior to June 9th with the
   Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel, St. Louis, MO. Mention dates and code NFRNFRA to get the rate.
   Phone: 1-888-340-2594 or 1-314-429-1100    Website: www.renaissancehotels.com/stlsa
   PLEASE TYPE or PRINT CLEARLY (One name per form.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>(Name on Badge if Different)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<table>
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<tbody>
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Phone ____________________________________________ E-Mail Address ____________________________________________

Name of Your Secular Franciscan Order Region _______________________________________________________

Full Registration: See Information Sheet. Checks made payable to NAFRA. No refunds after May 1st.
   Note: We cannot accommodate walk-in registrations at the Quinquennial.

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<tr>
<th>Registration (Room not included.)</th>
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<td>Before April 15, 2016</td>
<td>$320</td>
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<td>April 16 to May 31, 2016</td>
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<td>June 1 to June 9, 2016</td>
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Day Only Registration: You may attend Thursday evening session for $0.00 (Dinner not included).

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<th>Days</th>
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<td>June 1 to June 9, 2016</td>
<td>$140</td>
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<td>FRI SAT SUN</td>
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τ Special Dietary needs: _______________________________________________________
τ Language preferred for small group sessions __________________________________________
τ Need a roommate assigned ___________ Please match with someone (M or F)___________
# Franciscans of the Prairie Region

## Regional Executive Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minister</td>
<td>Deacon David Ream, OFS</td>
<td>660-627-5626</td>
<td><a href="mailto:umbria2@earthlink.net">umbria2@earthlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Steve Roszhart, OFS</td>
<td>309-825-2810</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sroszhart@gmail.com">sroszhart@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilor (Leadership)</td>
<td>Sue Nelson, OFS</td>
<td>618-656-6261</td>
<td><a href="mailto:susannecnelson@gmail.com">susannecnelson@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-Minister</td>
<td>Jeannine Montgomerie, OFS</td>
<td>309-310-5315</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmntg.1229@gmail.com">jmntg.1229@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formation Director</td>
<td>Thérèse Ream, OFS</td>
<td>660-627-5626</td>
<td><a href="mailto:umbria2@earthlink.net">umbria2@earthlink.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Kathy Adams, OFS</td>
<td>217-994-3144</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oremus7@gmail.com">oremus7@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual Assistant</td>
<td>Fr. John Sullivan, OFM</td>
<td>217-522-9822 x327</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ofmsully@hotmail.com">ofmsully@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilor (Data Base)</td>
<td>Cathy Roszhart, OFS</td>
<td>309-825-2900</td>
<td><a href="mailto:croszhart@gmail.com">croszhart@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilor (Newsletter)</td>
<td>Neil Suermann, OFS</td>
<td>618-792-4060</td>
<td><a href="mailto:neil.suermann@gmail.com">neil.suermann@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>

## Regional Appointees

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YouFra Animator</td>
<td>Sue Nelson, OFS</td>
<td>618-656-6261</td>
<td><a href="mailto:susannecnelson@gmail.com">susannecnelson@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JPIC Animator</td>
<td>Bill Ducett, OFS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wrducet@gmail.com">wrducet@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webservant</td>
<td>Jason Deavers, OFS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:got-2-dive@hotmail.com">got-2-dive@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>