

# 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!

As the Spring 2017 issue of our Regional newsletter *The Portiuncula* arrives in your hands (or in your e-mail inbox), we as a Church will be in the midst of celebrating the great Solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection - a happy and blessed Easter to everyone! Please remember, for us as Catholics, Easter is not just a one day event, but a 50-day liturgical season when so many aspects of the Lord's Paschal Mystery and our participation in it unfold for us. May this truly be a time of God's grace and favor poured out upon us in abundance! Alleluia!

I want everyone to know how proud I am of the work done by our Regional Fraternity Council at its March 11-12, 2017 meeting in Springfield. Here's the notice I sent out to the Council members on March 24, 2017 when our newly-revised **Regional Guidelines** were published:

By the grace of God and for His glory, I am super pleased to present each of you with the official copy of **Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Guidelines for Governance** as recently approved by our Regional Fraternity Council. They now have the force of particular law for our Region and they abrogate any and all prior versions of our Guidelines. In time, a hard copy will be given to every Local Fraternity for inclusion among the official records and resources of the fraternity. In the meantime, I encourage everyone to begin the process of familiarizing



ourselves with the contents and of sharing aspects of our Guidelines as appropriate with the other members of our fraternities.

With the completion of the Regional Guidelines revision process, we have fulfilled the mandate we received from NAFRA during our 2012 and 2015 Fraternal and Pastoral Visitations. This project involved countless hours of careful research, comparative study of guidelines from other regional fraternities, broad-based and repeated consultation across our own Regional family, and many thoughtful conversations about the potential pros and cons of various provisions.

see **MINISTER** page 2

**MINISTER**

Continued from page 1

I cannot adequately express the depth of my gratitude to our Regional Formation Director (and my beloved wife) Thérèse who spearheaded this entire effort. It was rewarding beyond words when, at the Regional Fraternity Council meeting on Sunday, March 12, 2017, I called for the final vote on the revised Guidelines and the Council members voted unanimously for their approval and adoption. Thank you so much!

May it be our common prayer that all our Secular Franciscan Order-related legislation will assist us more harmoniously to achieve the only one goal that truly matters in our lives: “to observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people” (article #4, Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order).

As Minister, I ask you please to thank your Local Fraternity Minister and any members of the Regional Executive Council who belong to your fraternity for a job well done. From my perspective, the revision of our *Regional Guidelines* was a major experience of collaboration and co-responsibility for this aspect of our Regional family’s life. Please see Regional Executive Council member Thérèse’s article elsewhere in this issue of *The Portiuncula* documenting the entire timeline and significant moments in the revision process.

In January of this year, the Minister Provincial of Sacred Heart O.F.M. Province appointed Father Ed McKenzie, O.F.M. to be our late beloved Father John Sullivan, O.F.M.’s successor as **Provincial** Spiritual Assistant to the Secular Franciscan Order.

We were truly blessed that Father Ed joined us in Springfield for March’s Regional Fraternity Council meeting, giving us the mutual opportunity to get better acquainted. Father Ed is keenly aware of our need for someone to succeed Father John as our **Regional** Spiritual Assistant. Please keep this special intention at the top of your prayer list!

I want to remind everyone of the major events in the life of our Regional Fraternity currently on the docket for 2017 that include the Annual Regional Picnic in Bloomington on **Saturday, June 24, 2017** sponsored by St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity, Bloomington; the Annual Formation Day of Reflection for Those in Initial Formation and Formation Workshop for Formation Directors and Team Members on **Saturday, July 29, 2017** at the Chiara Center; and our annual Regional Retreat directed by Father Paul Joseph Langevin, O.F.M. Conv. the weekend of **September 29-October 1, 2017**, also at the Chiara Center. You will find more information about the Picnic elsewhere in this issue of *The Portiuncula*. **Please check to see that you have put these dates and events on your calendars and, if you haven’t, PLEASE DO SO NOW!**

This year will also find two of our local fraternities having their triennial Fraternal Visitations and four of our local fraternities celebrating their Elective Chapters. I am very grateful to those members of the Regional Executive Council who have agreed to serve as my Delegate for these events; as I move into the final portion of my service as Regional Minister, I am committed to the task of mentoring those with whom I am serving and who will service the Region after me.

see **MINISTER** page 3

*Next  
issue:  
July 15*

**Deadline:** Article and photo submissions are due on January 1st, April 1st, July 1st and October 1st.

**Deacon Neil Suermann, OFS**  
Editor  
[neil.suermann@gmail.com](mailto:neil.suermann@gmail.com)

**The Portiuncula  
MISSION STATEMENT**

The Portiuncula publishes the newsletter to inform, serve and inspire the Secular Franciscans of the Franciscans of the Prairie regional fraternity.

**MINISTER**

Continued from page 2

Please continue to keep the members of our Regional Executive Council and me in your prayers and please be assured of a special place in mine. May we never cease encouraging one another to live the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi!

Wishing you peace and every good, I remain

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

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

Regional Minister

**T** *In Persona Christi Servi*

***"O Breath of God, unite us in action!"***  
***(NAFRA theme for 2017)***

**ONGOING FORMATION**

My dear brothers and sisters,

The Lord give you peace!

The Regional Minister shared with me the Formational section of each Fraternity's 2016 Annual Report which was submitted on or before February 28, 2017. Seven

of the Region's 8 Fraternities have people in Initial Formation. Two of the 7 Fraternities meet for 1 hour per month. Five Fraternities report that those in Initial Formation meet between 2 - 3 hours a month in addition to the regular Fraternity Gathering which includes ongoing formation. It is wonderful to note that the majority of Fraternities use a Team approach to formation with different Fraternity members presenting materials or journeying specifically with one Inquirer/Candidate.

At the March 11 - 12, 2017 Regional Fraternity Council meeting, the concept of Rotating Formation was addressed. Please read what Matt Eppel, O.F.S., Regional Formation Team member, has written on the subject. Also, I want to mention that Fr. Ed McKenzie, O.F.M., Provincial Spiritual Assistant for Sacred Heart Province was in attendance at this meeting and was delighted that people who are discerning a vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order are invited to become a member of the group who was also discerning a vocation and not made to wait until there is a "class". Please give Matt's article a careful and prayerful read and discuss with your Fraternity's Council. Those Fraternities not yet utilizing this method of Formation, please consider this process. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Wishing you and your families a most joyous Easter Season! (50 days: Easter to Pentecost)  
Alleluia!

*Thérèse, O.F.S.*

Regional Formation Director

**A Local Fraternity's Actual Experience with  
this Process**

This is an actual example of how the Rotating Initial Formation process worked out for us (Sacred Heart Fraternity in Peoria). We started the class with 4 people on Chapter 1 of The Franciscan Journey book. Later, we had 3 more people join the class already in progress and jumped in right where the first 4 were at the time. A while after that 2 more joined...

To give you an idea of how the process unfolded:

4 people started together on Chapter 1  
3 people joined us and started on Chapter 8  
2 people joined us on Chapter 18

Of the first group (4 people) that started out with chapter 1, one gentleman has continuously been in

see **FORMATION** page 4

**FORMATION**

Continued from page 3

formation and will be ready for profession in March 2017 if he discerns that to be God's will and the Council approves. The other 3 have had various interruptions due to work or other matters that delayed their formation. The next group of 3 + 2 will then start back at Chapter 1 once we finish the book in February 2017 and we will go through the materials from Chapter 1 to Chapter 7 and then they (group of 3) will be at their final discernment point for profession. The last 2 people will continue on through Chapter 17. Any new arrivals will be "plugged in" to whatever chapter we are on at the time and that will be their starting point.

The key for the rotating plan is a very good attendance record, as suggested by the Region (thanks!), to be able to note who joined when, what chapter they began with, and then if they show up for the initial formation meetings consistently. Being able to go back to the monthly attendance records and check to see what was missed and the proper way to address that factually has been very helpful.

When we came to chapter 29 out of 33 total, we discussed the remaining timeline/plan for the 1st and 2nd groups to layout the wrapping around of the chapters back to the beginning with #1 and given them the option to finish their formation up in time for our August 2017 elections while still meeting the timeline requirements for initial formation. Candidates generally felt that starting at Chapter 1 and going through the material in order would be their initial preference, but the ability to start initial formation right away rather than waiting for the next class to form outweighed

a Chapter 1 start. They also liked being in a larger group so that they could hear all the different perspectives on things and the amount of sharing that takes place. One Candidate mentioned how someone would ask a question on something they were thinking about and it gets answered before they can fully formulate the question themselves. Most were not sure if they would have waited for a whole new class to start if it were the only option.

Additional feedback from the Candidates was to recommend that those starting on later chapters to at least read through the initial few chapters to get some basic foundational information and questions answered - something like a chapter per week on their own and some follow-up discussion with the Formation Team. Some did this on their own and some did not. The advantage to group #2 was that they also received foundational information through the ongoing formation at the Fraternity Gatherings and are now coming back to the beginning of the material that will solidify the initial information received. The eligible Candidate who started with Chapter 1 decided to continue with group #2 and profess with them several months from now as he enjoyed the formation time together, getting as refresh on the initial material, and wanted to be part of a larger group sharing in their professional day together.

We were very thankful to have people who were called to enter into formation with us. I did not have any reservations with this rotation method back then, because I did not know any better at the time, and as we prepare to wrap the cycle to the start of the book again, I am still thankful for the people God sent us...and not having to tell them to wait any longer! Come and See! Don't delay, Come and See!

Peace,

Matt Eppel, O.F.S.

Formation Director of Sacred Heart Fraternity,  
Peoria



## THE PROCESS OF REVISING THE 2006 REGIONAL GUIDELINES



The process began shortly after September 21, 2014 when the members of the Regional Executive Council (REC) reviewed the last two Fraternal and Pastoral Visitation reports which include recommendations about the Region's *Guidelines*. The

Visitors stated that

the 2006 Regional Guidelines were too "thin" (lacking in content). This was the impetus to do research on other Regions' Guidelines and then propose new *Regional Guidelines* for Franciscans of the Prairie Region. Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., a member of REC, was entrusted with this task.

Thérèse reported to REC at their April 19, 2015 meeting that the *Regional Guidelines* project was massive and very time consuming because of the materials to be reviewed (Guidelines from other regions) and making recommendations on what should or should not be included in our *Regional Guidelines*. On May 2-3, 2015, 14 Regions' *Guidelines* were downloaded from websites for review. *Essential Documents* were used to ensure that the Franciscans of the Prairie *Regional Guidelines* were accurately reflecting the *Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order*, *General Constitutions*, *National Statutes* and the *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*.

Through the review process, it became apparent that there was an entire section concerning Elections and Duties of Regional Officers that needed to be addressed for the Franciscans of the Prairie Region.

In late May 2015, the Regional Minister, Deacon Dave Ream, O.F.S., began his review. It included the Region's previous *Regional Guidelines*, the information which Thérèse compiled and

verification of the said materials in reference to the *Essential Documents*.

### Then, Life happened!

March 8 - 14, 2016, an asserted effort was made to bring this review portion of the project to completion. Deacon Dave on March 14, 2016 sent the **1st draft** of the *Regional Guidelines* to REC and the Nominations Co-Chairs (looking specifically at the Nominations Process) for input by 4/1/16. April 1, 2016, Deacon Dave received feedback from several REC members and the Nominations Co-Chairs.

During the April 16 - 17, 2016, Regional Fraternity Council (RFC) meeting, which was also the Elective Chapter, Deacon Dave explained to RFC and the newly-elected REC the collaborative process of revising the *Regional Guidelines*. On May 4, 2016, Deacon Dave sent the newly-elected REC the **2nd draft** with a May 18, 2016 deadline for feedback. Several REC members gave feedback. Deacon Dave on June 3, 2016 sent the **third draft** to RFC with a July 4, 2016 deadline for feedback. He received feedback from several RFC members. At the September 11, 2016 RFC meeting, an update was given about the *Regional Guidelines* process.

The months of September - October 2016, were devoted to incorporating feedback into the **final draft** of the *Regional Guidelines*.

### Then, Life happened!

Thérèse worked with Deacon Dave from January 26 - 29, 2017 incorporating final suggestions, revising Appendices, designing a title page, etc. The **FINAL DRAFT** was e-mailed to the members of RFC on January 30, 2017 in preparation for the March 11 - 12, 2017 RFC meeting.

Presentation and discussion of the final draft of the *Regional Guidelines* took place on March 11, 2017, at the RFC meeting. Approximately 1-1/2 hours in the morning with an additional 2-1/2 hours in the afternoon were dedicated to this topic as ongoing formation. The participants were encouraged to talk among themselves prior to the votation on the *Regional Guidelines* to be held on Sunday, March 12, 2017.

see **GUIDELINES** page 6

**GUIDELINES**

Continued from page 5

After the members of RFC celebrated Mass, they continued with the *Regional Guidelines*. Deacon Dave led the group through the proposed *Regional Guidelines* for any clarification and to vote on accepting different options for two different sections of the *Regional Guidelines* pertaining to term limits for Councilors. The *Regional Guidelines* were unanimously accepted on March 12, 2017! Every Minister or a Minister's Delegate and the members of the Regional Executive Council all signed a sheet to be included with the 2017 Franciscans of the Prairie *Regional Guidelines*. It was noted that these *Regional Guidelines* abrogate those approved by the Franciscans of the Prairie Fraternity Council on May 6, 2006 and all previous versions of the same document.

Thanks goes out to all of those who participated in this process and to all of the brothers and sisters who kept this intention in their prayers!

*Submitted by Thérèse Ream, O.F.S.*

*Regional Formation Director, Franciscans of the Prairie Fraternity*

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is May 7. As is noted on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website:

"2017 marks the **54th Anniversary** of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

The purpose of the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations** is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, 'Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest' (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the *ordained ministries* (priesthood and diaconate), to the *Religious life* in all its forms (male and female, contemplative and apostolic), to *societies of apostolic life*, to *secular institutes* in their diversity of services

and membership, and to the missionary life, in the particular sense of mission *'ad gentes.'*"

Our Rule notes that having been made "living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism..." we have been "...united more intimately with the Church by profession." Our own baptismal calling leads us to the "privileged place," the local fraternity, where a sense of the Church and the Franciscan vocation is developed. As Secular Franciscans, we understand answering the call to God's divine service and know how important praying for vocations truly is for our Church. Because of this need, we join together in prayer:

"God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

(From USCCB's Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, we are given the Prayer for Vocations.)

*Submitted by Kent Ferris, O.F.S.*

*Councilor for Vocations Promotion, Franciscans of the Prairie Fraternity*



**REGIONAL TREASURER REPORT**

It's been almost a year ago that I was elected Regional Treasurer, and I have learned much about my role and responsibilities. I was rather apprehensive about taking on this responsibility, especially since I was replacing Steve Roszhart who is a CPA. However, with Steve as a long-distant and much appreciated "consultant," I was able to make it through the first year and manage our finances.



Our Region continues to be blessed with adequate finances to support our on-going operations. At the end of 2016 we had total assets of \$75,610. This savings balance is due primarily to a 2004 bequest from Mary Bernadine Pitsch, O.F.S. As a result of this generous bequest and the ongoing support of our local fraternities, the Regional Fraternity Council has been able to maintain a low Fair Share amount (we are among the lowest in the nation).

We maintain our normal operating funds in a bank checking account and the balance of our funds are invested in an Ave Maria mutual fund account. In October 2016 we switched our savings from a bank savings account to an Ave Maria account. This one gave us the opportunity for increased income while adhering to core pro-life, Catholic values. Since that time we have realized over \$900 of growth. Although not guaranteed, we are on-track to realize an income of over \$2,000 during calendar year 2017.

Partly as a result of this new income stream, the Regional Fraternity Council, at its March 2017 meeting, voted to offer scholarships (either whole or partial) to our members. These scholarships will enable individual members throughout the Region to attend Franciscan events (such as Annual Retreat or the Quinquennial) that they might otherwise be unable to attend. The scholarships will be memorial scholarships in the name of Fr.

John Sullivan, O.F.M. and Fr. Benet Fonck, O.F.M., two beloved friars who were dedicated to supporting and nourishing the Secular Franciscan Order over many years. As plans are developed to administer the scholarship funds, more information will be communicated.

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

*John Grillot, O.F.S.*

*Regional Treasurer, Franciscans of the Prairie Fraternity*

**Regional Fraternity Council Report**

Prairie Region Fired Up!

It might really be interesting for the Regional fraternities to know that their ministers have the privilege and responsibility to do some "behind the scenes work" with the Regional Executive Council. This was the activity of the recent Regional Fraternity Council as we met on the weekend of March 11-12 at the Chiara Center to do the task of reviewing the updated Guidelines for the Region, which was recommended by the last NAFRA fraternal visit. After several years of work by



Deacon Dave and Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., the body of the new Guidelines were ready to final revision and review. This task, though time consuming, about 5 hours, (give or take), was a group effort of living out our Franciscan work to support the ongoing life and spirit of our fraternity. Here are a few highlights:

see **RFC REPORT** page 8

**RFC REPORT**

Continued from page 7

- The overall flow of how the guidelines come about is Rule > Constitution > Statutes > Guidelines. In other words, the Guidelines need to reflect the higher forms or governance.
- Originally developed in 1994, the Mission statement contains the following statement: “we intend to spread like the prairie fire of old, cleansing the earth and nourishing the land with His Word. Deacon Dave handed out a colorful page with an expanded definition and on the other side of the page, were some Google referenced Prairie Fire which described some very “hot” drinks! However, we will go with the following:
- The definition for a prairie fire, “Prairies are burned at regular intervals to help keep them healthy.” So we, Secular Franciscans, can spread the Word of God and like a wildfire, refresh life in the Gospel.
- Clarification of “Fair Share” or contribution to the common fund: “We are bonded together in fraternity which means that we are not a club, we do not have membership dues. Therefore, ability to contribute to the Common Fund is not necessary to be part of the fraternity.”



Before the consensus vote, we had a hearty discussion of some finer points and then the final draft was approved. In the remainder of the day and half we were able to listen to the work of the Executive Council and received updates from the all Executive Council members.

We received a peek into the activity of the Sacred Heart fraternity from the Peoria area, presented by

Sonda McEnroe. It appears that the Sacred Heart Fraternity is alive and well and on the move in putting their faith into action within the community.



It was a unified decision to have Memorial Scholarships in honor of Fr. John Sullivan, O.F.M., our recent Spiritual Assistant for the Region and all round Brother to all of us; and Fr. Benet Fonck, O.F.M., an author of many books on our Franciscan way of life and editor of the Ritual book which we use regularly.

In light of the recent passing of Fr. John Sullivan, O.F.M., we have a significant role to fill. Fr. Ed McKenzie, O.F.M., visited with us for the weekend. Fr. Ed travelled from Chicago where he lives at St. Peter's in the Loop. He introduced himself and shared a most interesting journey on his way to being a Franciscan priest. Fr. Ed referred to Fr. John as a “giant” in his ministry work and his service with the Secular Franciscans.

Fr. Ed did advise us that there is a continued need for vocations and at this time he asked us to pray for vocations, as they search for a Spiritual Assistant for the Region. The following are quotes that seem to capture some of Fr. Ed's thoughts: “I will do my best for you.” “Cross train within your fraternity to know how to do another's position.” “Look to the future.”

Fr. Ed also promoted the idea that we may have to develop from within our local fraternity to develop Spiritual Assistants. There is a training program that can be accessed through Fr. Ed, upon recommendation of the local Council to the program.

see **RFC REPORT** page 9

**RFC REPORT**

Continued from page 8

Other comments from Council members:

John Grillot, O.F.S., our Treasurer, announced that our investment is making growth and predicted a steady trend in the positive direction. Based on this, John gathered suggestions to consider how we may use the benefits of the increased money. The outcome was establishing of the scholarship in both Fr. John Sullivan and Fr. Benet Fonck's names.

Kent Ferris, O.F.S., as the new Councilor for Vocations said the following: "Grow where we are." "Grow through the fraternity to be with each other in good and bad times." Kent is will to visit with fraternities to support vocations.

Emma Lozowski, O.F.S., Councilor for Database, said she loved working with numbers and had done a small research on the trend in our growth as a fraternity and noted that we had a "bump" in the late 1990's, but currently appears to be a downward trend.

Mary Farrell-Diekemper, O.F.S., Regional Vice-Minister, was looking forward to visiting fraternities to support developing servant leadership within the fraternity. Mary will also be presiding at elections this coming year at some of the fraternities as Deacon Dave, O.F.S. has delegated this to members of the Executive council as a means of mentoring and learning the process of visitations and elections.

Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Regional Formation Director, will have a special release of a newly-developed Regional Formation Kit this July at the Annual Formation Day of Reflection for Those in Initial Formation and Formation Workshop for Formation Directors and Team Members.

Jason Deavers, O.F.S., Regional Webservant, displayed the Franciscans of the Prairie web page. It is really nicely displayed and easy to use. Everything you want to know about the Region can be found very easily.

Deacon Neil Suermann, O.F.S., Regional newsletter editor, sent a reminder that he would like contributions from around the whole region.

Kathy Adams, O.F.S., Regional Secretary, captured every last detail of the whole event.

**SILVER JUBILEE**

The 25th anniversary since the formation of the Franciscans of the Prairie Region will occur in 2019!

At the March meeting of the Regional Fraternity Council, it was suggested that the jubilee celebration could coincide with the annual fall regional retreat that year.

Rosanne Roy, O.F.S., Minister of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Quincy, agreed to chair this event, and would like to have one member of each fraternity in the region to assist on the planning committee. It is not necessary that someone be a council member, but rather, someone who has memories and knowledge of our region's early days and is able to meet as a group at the fall retreat this year and next. Another way of information sharing and planning can be done via e-mail, and all comments and suggestions will be considered.

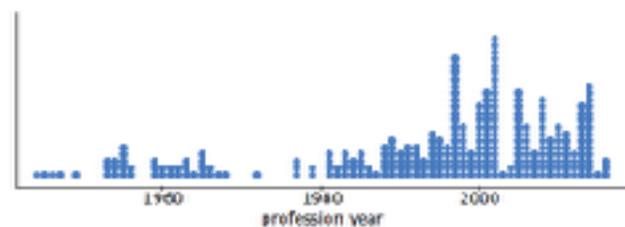
Please contact Rosanne at [homestretch07@yahoo.com](mailto:homestretch07@yahoo.com) to volunteer or to share ideas. More information to follow at a later date.

*Submitted by Linda Howley-Skuby, O.F.S., Regional Fraternity Council member and Minister, St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity, Bloomington*

**Vocations**

The following picture illustrates that in the early 2000's there was an increase of professions in our region. That means that the late 1990's were a great time for new vocations. What might be the reason for the increase, and can this be repeated?

*Submitted by Emma Lozowski, O.F.S., Regional Councilor for the Database*



see NEWS page 10

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

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

On March 19, 2017, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Quincy celebrated the *Sponsor Ceremony* for Joe Smith with Cecilia Middendorf, O.F.S. being his sponsor. She will journey with him as his spiritual companion.



**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity,  
Quincy  
Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming**

The Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming was celebrated at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity's February 19, 2017 Gathering. Joe Smith from St. Francis Solanus Parish, Quincy was introduced by Cecilia Middendorf, O.F.S., a member of the Fraternity. Rosanne Roy, O.F.S., the Fraternity's Minister welcomed Joe: "On behalf of



this Fraternity, I warmly welcome you, and I note your desire to inquire into the Secular Franciscan way of life." (Ritual of the Secular Franciscan



Order, p.10) The Formation Director, Thérèse Ream, O.F.S. gave Joe a life of St. Francis to read and learn how to live the Gospel life of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Ceremony concluded with the Spiritual Assistant, Deacon Dave Ream, O.F.S. praying a prayer and giving a blessing.

**St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity,  
Teutopolis  
Taste of Teutopolis**



Pictured front (l-r): Nancy Roley, O.F.S., Fr. Ken Rosswog, O.F.M., and Pat Niemerg, O.F.S.  
back (l-r): Kathy Adams, O.F.S. and John Adams, O.F.S.

St. Francis Fraternity of Teutopolis participates yearly with the Youth by agreeing to hold a booth during their Taste of Teutopolis held in February. Booth volunteers are encouraged to make a food and then samples are shared. Those going from booth to booth purchase tickets which allow them to sample the fare.

see NEWS page 11

**NEWS**

Continued from page 10

All proceeds go the Youth for their Catholic Heart Work Camp trips. St. Francis Fraternity has participated now for three years and the food they prepare is Lamb which is grown on one of the Fraternity member's farm. It has been a wonderful way to be Visible and share the Joy of being a Secular Franciscan.

**JPIC ANIMATION**

Most of my life (ever since around 8 years old), I was involved with the Boy Scouts of America. Consequently, I gained a strong and persistent consideration for conservation of the outdoors. So, when I professed as a Franciscan, the concept of integrity of all creation just came second nature to me. In our personal lives, Sue and I have always held an active view and participation in the care of our common home and the Justice and Peace that comes along with that attitude.

Serving my second term as JPIC Animator (the first one over ten years ago), I have gained a greater appreciation for the Church's view on these issues. From the Pastorals on Peace and Economic Justice to the many encyclicals of Pope St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, I have a grateful appreciation of the immensity of creation, the smallness of our place in it, and the Gift that God continues to provide.

For me, being the fraternity's JPIC Animator gives great satisfaction when we discuss issues at our monthly gatherings and we find out how many people recycle, help the poor, open their hearts to the less fortunate, contribute to various social causes with their time, talent and treasure. Over the last year, we have reviewed in detail the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy and are now watching and discussing Fr. Houran, O.F.M.'s series on the Care of Creation. It's easy to animate, when so many at our gatherings freely share how they are working to decrease their footprint on our common home.

For me, animate is the key word. "To bring to life" our common concern for our world and all of its residents is the key issue of our time. We Franciscans have an obligation to do this. My role

is to help our folks understand how they can do this too, even though many are quite elderly. It's just plain fun!

The challenge is to remain relevant to the folks in the fraternity. Many have already lived long lives of service to others and even though the spirit remains strong, the flesh doesn't always cooperate. As I continue my own journey in "post-youth," I'm finding this to be even more true. Yet, even with that understanding of our population, challenging the "younger" folks to even greater service that their vitality can accomplish remains a concern. But our lively conversations remind me just how much the over 80 crowd still does to help others and to care for our common home and just how active our "younger" folks remain.

May God Give You Peace!

*Submitted by Dennis R. Dowell, O.F.S., JPIC Animator,  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Quincy*

**REGIONAL JPIC ANIMATOR WANTED**

The Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity is looking for someone who has a passion for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation and would like to channel that passion to help guide and animate the JPIC efforts of our Region.

If you are interested in an appointment to be the JPIC Animator for the Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity, review the Regional Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Animator job description on page 12 of this newsletter.

Contact a member of the Regional Executive Council (REC) to submit your name for consideration.



**REGIONAL JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION (JPIC) ANIMATOR**

In accordance with the provisions of article #23.5 of the *National Statutes*, the Regional Executive Council (REC) may appoint positions as deemed necessary; however, only those persons duly elected to office shall have voting rights within the REC; all others shall act in consultative roles. Such appointments may be provisionary or valid until the next elective chapter or until otherwise revoked by the REC. These appointments are made by the REC, but not from among members of the REC. One such appointment is the Regional JPIC Animator.



The Regional JPIC Animator serves the Region by calling forth the passion of the members of the local fraternities with regard to the areas of justice, peace, and the integrity or creation and promoting their apostolic expression in accordance with articles #12 - #19 of the *Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order* and article #15 - #23 of the *General Constitutions*. The Animator develops and articulates the vision which guides Regional JPIC activities, giving encouragement, guidance and information to the local fraternities to enhance the spirit and life of their JPIC programs. The Animator affirms and challenges the Fraternity members to recognize, understand and embrace peace and justice ministry as an essential element of their Franciscan evangelical vocation through the process of initial and ongoing formation.

The Regional JPIC Animator assumes the following responsibilities:

1. To serve as the Region's official contact person with the National Fraternity's (NAFRA) JPIC Commission;
2. To forward to each local JPIC contact person and the members of the Regional Fraternity Council (RFC, i.e., local Fraternity Ministers and REC) pertinent materials from the NAFRA JPIC Commission.
3. To translate the information from the NAFRA JPIC Commission into usable suggestions for practical implementation in the local fraternities;
4. To be proactive in developing, planning, coordinating and assisting with implementation of JPIC programs and events for the local fraternities;
5. To submit a Regional JPIC-themed article for each issue of the Regional Newsletter;
6. To submit a written report on Regional JPIC activities for each meeting of the REC and the RFC, and annually provide the RFC with a written report that would include proposed changes to the JPIC Animator's Job Description;
7. To submit, within one month of the event, a specific written report to the REC on any NAFRA-sponsored activity attended as the Regional JPIC Animator if attendance is funded by the Region;
8. To get approval from the REC for expenses and receive reimbursement, including travel to local fraternities within the Region to present JPIC programs, etc.; and
9. To attend, at the Region's expense, the Spring RFC meeting and any other REC and/or RFC meetings when invited or when deemed necessary.

This job description will be reviewed periodically by the Regional JPIC Animator and the REC to insure that the agreed upon responsibilities are being met.

+ Adopted and approved by vote of the Regional Executive Council, May 5, 2016

## REGIONAL MISSION STATEMENT



*We, the Secular Franciscans of Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity, are called by the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation to holiness. We are committed by profession to living the Gospel values of our Lord Jesus Christ in our time according to the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi for the rebuilding of the Church. With the Holy Spirit as our guide, and by following the simple example of St. Francis of Assisi, we intend to spread, like the prairie fire of old, cleansing the earth and nourishing the land with His Word. The Regional Fraternity Council will provide direction and resources to local fraternities for understanding and implementing the Rule, the General Constitutions, and the National Statutes of the Secular Franciscan Order.*

## Calendar

**June 24, 2017**

Regional Picnic hosted by Bloomington

**June 25, 2017**

Fraternal Visitation, Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity, Decatur

**July 29, 2017**

Regional Day of Reflection for those in Initial Formation and Workshop for Formation Directors & Team Members.

**August 12, 2017**

Elective Chapter, Sacred Heart Fraternity, Peoria

**August 27, 2017**

Elective Chapter, St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity, Bloomington

**September 9, 2017**

Elective Chapter, Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity, Edwardsville

**September 17, 2017**

Fraternal Visitation, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Quincy

**September 17, 2017**

Elective Chapter, St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Teutopolis

**September 26 - October 1, 2017**

National Fraternity Council Meeting, Mt. St. Francis, IN

**September 29 - October 1, 2017**

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

**April 13-15, 2018**

Fraternal and Pastoral Visitation, Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Executive Council and Regional Fraternity Council, Chiara Center, Springfield

**July 21, 2018**

Regional Day of Reflection for those in Initial Formation & Workshop for Formation Directors & Formation Team Members

**September 28-30, 2018**

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



*Franciscans of the Prairie*

# Regional Picnic



**Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**11:00am – 4:00pm All Are Welcome!**

**RSVP to Linda Howley-Skuby, ofs**

Home: 309-663-2449 Mobile: 309-530-8555 Email: [lmhowley@aol.com](mailto:lmhowley@aol.com)  
by Friday, June 16th

## **GE Park**

1750 GE Road  
Bloomington IL 61704

### **Coming from Peoria ... or other West/Northwest**

Head east on I-74 towards Bloomington

When approaching Bloomington, use left lane to take Exit 127 to merge onto I-55 N toward Chicago

After 5 miles, take Exit 167 for I-55 Loop S/Veterans Pkwy

Turn right onto I-55BL/Historic U.S. 66 W/Veterans Pkwy

After 2.3 miles, turn left onto General Electric Rd. (heading east)

After about 0.1 miles, GE Park is on your left (north side of the road)

### **Coming from Lincoln ... or other South/Southwest**

Head north on I-55 towards Bloomington

When approaching Bloomington, use the right 2 lanes to take exit 157A-157B for Interstate 55

Business Loop N/Veterans Pkwy/I-74/US-51 toward Decatur/Indianapolis

Keep left to continue on Exit 157B, follow signs for Veterans Pkwy/Interstate 55 Business N

Follow I-55BL/S Veterans Pkwy for 7.1 miles (through town) to General Electric Rd

Turn right onto General Electric Rd (heading east)

After about 0.1 miles, GE Park is on your left (north side of the road)

### **Coming from Champaign or other East/Southeast**

Head west on I-74 towards Bloomington

Take exit 142 toward Downs

Take County Rd 1900 E/S Towanda Barnes Rd to General Electric Rd in Bloomington

Turn right onto E 700 North Rd/County Rd 700 N and continue onto S Seminary St (for 0.7 miles)

Turn left onto US-150 and continue for about 2 miles

Turn right (heading north) onto County Rd 1900 E/S Towanda Barnes Rd and continue for 5.8 miles

Turn left onto County Rd 1500 N/General Electric Rd for 2.3 miles

Turn right into GE Park (on north side of the road)

---

# Franciscans of the Prairie Region

## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**Minister**

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

**Treasurer**

John Grillot, OFS  
309-696-4846  
[grilljw@gmail.com](mailto:grilljw@gmail.com)

**Councilor (Vocations)**

Kent Ferris, OFS  
563-299-6107  
[ferris@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:ferris@davenportdiocese.org)

**Vice-Minister**

Mary Farrell-Diekemper, OFS  
[mpf1258@yahoo.com](mailto:mpf1258@yahoo.com)

**Formation Director**

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

**Councilor (Data Base)**

Emma Lozowski, OFS  
618-656-1941  
[e\\_lozowski@yahoo.com](mailto:e_lozowski@yahoo.com)

**Secretary**

Kathy Adams, OFS  
618-483-5381  
[oremus7@gmail.com](mailto:oremus7@gmail.com)

**Spiritual Assistant**

## REGIONAL APPOINTEES

**Newsletter Editor**

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

**JPIC Animator****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

