

The Portiuncula

Franciscans of the Prairie Region

Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis

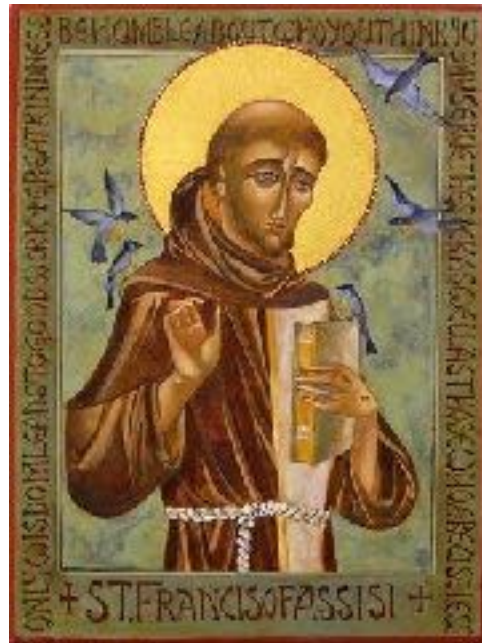
OUR MINISTER'S MESSAGE



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

On this great Solemnity of the Blessed Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul (June 29th), may we never cease to give thanks to the Lord for the gift of His Holy Catholic Church which He founded on Saint Peter's confession of faith and which was extended throughout the world by the fearless preaching of Saint Paul! I invite you to reflect upon the words of one of the questions asked of the Candidates by the Celebrant during the **Rite of Profession to the Gospel Life for Secular Franciscans**: "You have been made members of the People of God by your Baptism, and strengthened in Confirmation by the new gift of the Spirit, in order to proclaim Christ by your life and your words. Do you wish **to bind yourself more closely to the Church** and to work intently to rebuild the ecclesial community and fulfill its mission among all people?" (*Ritual of the OFS*, page 22). May our response, "**Yes, this is what I want,**" inspire our efforts to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the manner of Saint Francis of Assisi as faithful daughters and sons of the Church our Seraphic Father loved and served so completely!

Our triennial Fraternal and Pastoral Visitation as a Region was celebrated the weekend of



April 13-15, 2018. We are very grateful to our Visitors from the National Fraternity, our National Vice-Minister, **Mary Bittner, O.F.S.** and our National Spiritual Assistant, **Father Jerome Wolbert, O.F.M.** for their love, their encouragement and their support. Although we are still awaiting the official written report from our Visitors, I can tell you from their verbal comments shared with the Regional Fraternity Council on Sunday morning that they recognize how we have collaboratively worked together to stabilize our Region, to provide reasonable governance structures, to support and develop our common formation efforts, to maintain dependable accountability of our Region to NAFRA and to our sisters and brothers at the

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local level of fraternity, and to encourage our members in the daily living out of their Franciscan vocations. Their challenge to us: **Go forth and live the Gospel!**

The morning of June 5, 2018 brought great joy to my heart when I checked the day's e-mail and found a letter addressed to me from Father Michael Zielke, O.F.M. Conv., the Minister Provincial of St. Bonaventure Province, officially appointing **Father Giles Gilbert, O.F.M. Conv.** to serve as one of our **Regional Spiritual Assistants!** Father Giles has been serving as the local Spiritual Assistant of our Sacred Heart Fraternity since being assigned as Parochial Vicar of Holy Family Parish in Peoria. Since then, he has been in the process of gearing up to assume his new responsibilities within our Franciscan family. The Regional Spiritual Assistant is the concrete sign of the unity that exists between our Order and the friars of the First Order and Third Order Regular. **So - welcome, Father Giles!** Thank you for saying "Yes" to this appointment which is truly an answer to the prayers of the sisters and brothers of our Regional family.

Although I have submitted Father Michael's letter to Deacon Neil to publish elsewhere in this edition of our Regional newsletter, I ask you to give prayerful reflection to these sentiments and convictions Father expressed in his letter:

"The Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters are our partners in witnessing to the Gospel! We profess the Gospel each in our own unique ways but it is the Gospel that is our rule of life. Thank you for your faithful witness in being men and women of the Gospel."

Thanks be to God for the gift of life-giving union we share with all the members of the Franciscan Family - First Order friars, Second Order nuns, and Third Order Regular friars and religious sisters and brothers!

I want to remind everyone of the major events in the life of our Regional Fraternity remaining on the Regional calendar for 2018 include the Annual Formation Day of Reflection for Those in Initial Formation and Formation Workshop for Formation Directors and Team Members on **Saturday, July 21, 2018** at the Chiara Center; the Annual Regional Picnic at Southwind Park in Springfield on **Saturday, July 28, 2018** sponsored by Pope St. John XXIII Fraternity, Rock Island; and our annual Regional Retreat directed by Father Michael Higgins, T.O.R. the weekend of **September 28-30, 2018**, also at the Chiara Center. You will find more information about the Picnic and the Retreat 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!**

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*Next
issue:
Oct 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

**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.

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Over the years we have come to appreciate more fully how our annual Regional Retreat serves not only as an opportunity for prayer and spiritual renewal, but also as the most major gathering of members of our Regional Fraternity. Brothers and sisters come to retreat who do not attend either of the two annual Regional Fraternity Council meetings or the Regional Picnic. The Regional Fraternity Council has taken note of this reality and, wanting to encourage its growth, has decided to offer some very generous financial assistance to Professed members and those in initial formation who may need help affording the cost of the Retreat. The **Father John Sullivan, O.F.M. Memorial Retreat Scholarship Fund** has been established as a permanent tribute to our late Regional Spiritual Assistant who remains dearly beloved by our Region. Details for applying for this financial assistance can be found elsewhere in this issue of *The Portiuncula* as can information about our Retreat Director and the official retreat registration form. **Please help us fill the Chiara Center this year!**

Finally, our Regional Chapter of Elections is scheduled for the weekend of March 9-10, 2019. Now is not too soon to begin praying for a successful outcome to this Chapter, that the persons whom the Lord wishes to guide and animate our Regional Family for the next three years may allow their names to go into nomination for elective office and that they may, indeed, be chosen by the Electors.

In closing, I wish to repeat my invitation: please let me and the members of your Regional Executive Council know how we may be of service to you, and please let us always remember one another in our daily conversations with the Lord!

Wishing a safe and enjoyable summer to everyone, I remain

Your brother and servant - with a brother's love
in Saints Francis and Clare,

Deacon Dave, O.F.S.,

Regional Minister

T *In Persona Christi Servi*

***“Renewed and Confirmed: Live the Treasure”
Celebrating 40 years of our OFS Rule***

National Secular Franciscan Fraternity Theme for 2018

Realizing that the next edition of our Regional Newsletter will not be published until October 15, 2018, we are providing a ***Transitus Service for Home*** elsewhere in this edition of *The Portiuncula*. Individual Franciscans in their homes can celebrate it when they are not able to join together with a group of Franciscans on October 3rd. We hope that the celebration of this time-honored traditional Franciscan prayer will help keep all of us united in the memory and spirit of our Seraphic Father, St. Francis of Assisi

Preparation for the Regional Elective Chapter: March 9-10, 2019

I would like to recommend that all of us be engaged in the Discernment Process concerning our Elective Chapter which will occur on Saturday, March 9, 2019. I am using one of the handouts from the *Regional Formation Resource Kit* which addresses *Aspects of the Discernment Process*. I believe that it will be advantageous for us to look at the different aspects of discernment over the next several months.

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ELECTIONS

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The first aspect to consider is: **Relationship**. A person must be in relationship with God to be able to discern His will. It is wonderful to pray to God and let him know our thoughts, desires, hopes, disappointments, etc. However, there also needs to be quiet time for us to LISTEN to God. Some may find it challenging to just sit and be quiet but we need to be in the right frame of mind to hear God's voice. It may take some time to feel comfortable in waiting for God to speak (while we listen), but please let us practice it awhile and see what happens! Once we are comfortable with praying and listening, then we can dialogue. We can talk with someone with whom we are in relationship: Fraternity member, parish priest or deacon, personal friend, family member, etc. The goal is to be involved in the process so that we are open to discerning God's will for us!

A person discerns God's will through:

- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Listening
- ◆ Dialogue

May you experience a deeper relationship with God as you discern God's will for you and the March 2019 Regional Elective Chapter!

Wishing everyone a safe and most enjoyable Summer!

Thérèse, O.F.S.

Regional Formation Director

July 21, 2018, the 5th Annual Regional Formation Day!

[WOW, what an awesome blessing!]

The Regional Day of Reflection for those in Initial Formation and Workshop for Formation Directors and Formation Team Members will occur on **Saturday, July 21, 2018** at the Chiara Center from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is **NO registration/meal cost** for the day for eligible participants, only their own transportation to and from the Chiara Center. The event is part of the Regional Formation Director's Budget which was approved by the Regional Fraternity Council in September 2017!

The participants for this event for Track 1 (Initial Formation Day of Reflection) are: **Inquirers** (those who went through the *Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming* or those who will go through that *Ceremony* prior to July 21, 2018) and **Candidates** (those who have gone through the *Rite of Admission* or will be going through the *Rite* prior to July 21, 2018). Track 2: Workshop for **Formation Directors and Formation Team Members**. Those who are **Newly Professed** or are Professed by July 21, 2018 had the choice to participate either in Track 1 or Track 2. Also, the members of the Regional Executive Council (REC) were invited and selected either Track to attend.

A Spiritual Assistant has been added to the REC. Our Regional Minister sent an email on June 7, 2018, to the Regional Fraternity Council, that stated that there was "white smoke" present as we welcomed Fr. Giles Gilbert, O.F.M. Conventual as a Regional Spiritual Assistant.

Fr. Giles as the Regional Spiritual Assistant has graciously offered to assist in any way he could with our July 21st Regional Day. So, Fr. Giles will be offering Mass for the participants on Saturday morning in St. Francis of Assisi Church! He also will facilitate a Prayer

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Experience for both Tracks from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.

This year Formation Directors/Team Members will share how the *Regional Formation Resource Kit* was used in the Fraternity since July 2017. The Fraternity which utilized the most handouts from the *Kit* will receive a Franciscan item for the Fraternity! We will also spend time discussing the Fraternity's successes, challenges and answering Formation-related questions.

By the way: the Tau is the new logo for the National Fraternity!



Ongoing Formation Report April 14, 2018

Background: June 24, 2018 is the beginning of the year-long celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the promulgation of the current *Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order*.

Fraternal Visitor, Mary Bittner, O.F.S., NAFRA Vice-Minister, facilitated a hands-on formation experience for the Regional Fraternity Council and Observers. Mary stated that during this Visitation she wished to work with us on our *Rule*, reminding us that there are not 26 Rules, but instead we have one *Rule* with 26 Articles.

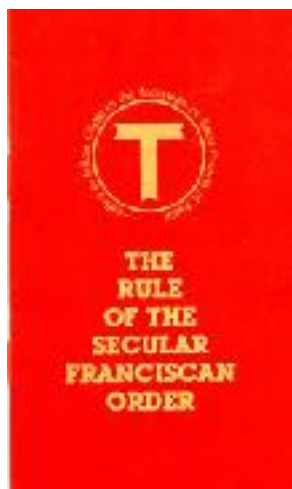
Mary noted that only a few people present were professed under the prior *Rule of 1883*. She pointed out that the old *Rule* was very specific on how we were to live and in what specific

ways we were called to do so. Then jumping ahead to Vatican II, she noted we were asked by the Holy Father to return to our roots. He was referring to all Religious Orders. He called us to refresh ourselves.

Mary then outlined a project that our General Spiritual Assistants did to rewrite/revise the *Rule of 1883*. This effort was brought to the "body" and the response was negative. She pointed out that one could read more of this history as some of the information is found in the appropriate chapter of the *FUN Manual*. However, upon hearing the comments, the Friars met again and realized that when they had previously met there were no Secular Franciscans present. Therefore, in 1969 a Congress convened in Assisi which brought forth a listing of 17 Essential Elements of a spirituality of a new *Rule*, and also 6 more points emphasizing Franciscan Spirituality. Then in 1978, The *Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order* was finalized and promulgated on June 24, 1978 by Blessed Pope Paul VI.

Mary asked each of us to look back to the time of Francis and the first *Rule* of his teachings, pointing out they came from Scripture. She then asked everyone to reflect individually on how he/she would make a *Rule of Life* to inspire us to express or reflect our way of living the Gospel.

After some personal reflection time, the participants were divided into small groups. Each group designed their own "Rule" using Scripture quotes and Franciscan spirituality. After an allotted time, each group had a spokesperson who shared the group's "Rule" with the entire group. Many ideas and passages from Scriptures were shared, such as: Acts 2; Phil 2; Col. 3:12; Psalms 1-41, 37:5-7; Matt 4-8, 25, 28; Mark 1; Luke 10:29, 15-11-32, 24:13; John 1, 6, 10-14, 21; Jer 15:16 & Isaiah 42. Mary thanked everyone for their willingness to share, and noted how each of us brought forth different Scriptures and thoughts.



Regional Executive Council and the National Visitors

The Regional Executive Council meet with the National Visitors, Mary Bittner, O.F.S. and Fr. Jerome Wolbert, O.F.M., on Friday evening of April 13th. This gave an opportunity for sharing, questions and reviewing of appropriate documentation for each Executive Council member. This was followed by dinner and evening prayer and discussion.

Topics of discussion were: the absence of a Regional Spiritual Assistant for our Region. Fr. Jerome noted that each of our Provinces have a responsibility to provide a Regional Spiritual Assistant.

Discussion was held on the Spiritual Assistant Formation Program with Fr. Jerome recommending the possibility of collaborating with other connecting Regions. It was pointed out that if anyone would be interested in the Spiritual Assistant Program they should contact the Regional Minister for guidance on this process.

Informal discussion was then held with Mary reviewing the challenges that were expressed on the Pre-Visitation Questionnaire. Fr. Jerome reminded the Council to tend to the Spiritual Health of the Fraternities. He noted the importance to be aware of how we portray our charism, that this is what attracts more vocations. We should all remember to encourage each other to always wear our TAU cross, as it fosters awareness and inquiries.

Discussion was held on the challenges our Region faces. Also discussed was that the National Executive Council has a Vocations Tool Kit available on the website. Mary also noted that the *Regional Formation Resource Kit* has received great praise for our Region.

Continued discussion was held on Vocations, how to foster them, and also to reach out to our

Active/Excused members. Our Active/Excused members serve as an Apostolate of Prayer for the Fraternity along with Vocations, the Visitations, Retreats and the entire Council.

The topic of *Perfect Joy* was discussed. Fr. Jerome shared these comments: "If you want spiritual growth and perfect joy - pray for graces; in difficult times - pause, don't react. Calm down & pray, such as the Jesus Prayer;" and "to seek a Spiritual Director or even share with each other, or just pray together." He shared that having peace in your heart during times of difficulty and when bad things happen is "Perfect Joy."

The business included establishing our Nominating Co-Chairs, Matt and Kevin, for the 2018 Elections. As our Elections approach, may we each be open to the Holy Spirit if we are called upon to this Servant Leadership.

Let us continue to pray for our Region and be assured that the Executive Council is praying for all of you too.

Submitted by:

Kathy Adams, O.F.S.
Regional Secretary

Regional Fraternity Council Meeting

The meeting was held on April 14-15, 2018 at the Chiara Center in Springfield, IL. Not only did we have regular business to discuss, we also had both a Pastoral and Fraternal visitation. We were blessed to have Mary Bittner, O.F.S., National Vice-Minister, and Fr. Jerome Wolbert, O.F.M. one of our National Spiritual Assistants join us for the weekend. Our Visitors spent Friday evening April 13th going over the region's books and interacting with the Regional Fraternity Executive Council.

Saturday began with Mass. Following Mass, Deacon Dave, O.F.S. introduced our visitors

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RFC

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and they provided us with ongoing formation activities. Mary handed out a sheet that listed the 17 Essential Elements of a New Rule from the Assisi Congress - October 1969. She then asked us to work in small groups to develop a new Rule based on these elements. We were asked to provide Scripture references and then write a Rule based on what we decided to include. This task was quite intense. The groups spent a good deal of time looking up Scripture that could demonstrate each of the elements.

Some of the elements that were included in the list were:

1. "To live the Gospel according to St. Francis"
2. To live in Communion with Christ
3. To live in joy
4. To be pilgrims on the way to the Father
5. To be open to the Action of the Spirit
6. To live in simplicity, humility and minority
7. To be instruments of peace

Our time was up before any of the groups got a chance to write a rule. It is easy to see why it takes so long to write a Rule and how hard those who came before us had to work to get it just the way they wanted it.

Fr. Jerome shared with us some of St. Anthony's reflection on the Gospel of Doubting Thomas. Why did Christ have to show his wounds to Thomas - to show that He had truly risen, to impress our hearts with notable signs of the Passion, and to provide a place for us to rest in the wounds. St. Anthony really wanted to just rest in the wounds of Christ. Such a resting place would be so welcoming for all of us.

Mary and Fr. Jerome also talked with us about Servant Leadership. They handed out a sheet of word clouds and we were asked to choose words that we would use to describe a servant leader. After a few minutes, we were asked to share some of the words we had chosen and

why we chose those words. As elections are approaching, this activity gave a chance to think about what we are looking for in our own fraternity leaders whether at the local or regional level.

The first part of the Regional Fraternity Business meeting took place following lunch. We approved the minutes from the October 1, 2017 meeting and ratified electronic work done on our Annual Report.

Deacon Dave, O.F.S. then introduced the regional people and talked about the process of completing and submitting an Annual Report to the National Fraternity. We are continuing to search for a Regional Spiritual Assistant. Deacon Dave will keep us posted on how the search is going. We reviewed the Regional calendar and the dates for upcoming fraternal visitations and elections. At each regional meeting, we highlight a fraternity. For the March 9, 2019 meeting Pope St. John XXIII fraternity will be the regional spotlighted fraternity. Deacon Dave talked briefly about our region's Silver Jubilee Celebration that is planned for September 27-29, 2019. Kathy Adams, O.F.S. agreed to start putting something together to celebrate this momentous occasion.

John Grillot, O.F.S., our Regional Treasurer, provided us with regional financial statements including information on the Ave Maria Fund we currently invest in. John also updated us on Regional Fair Share items. We discussed the Regional retreat which will be held September 28-30, 2018 at the Chiara Center. John talked about prices for the retreat and food. The silent Auction this year will be coordinated by St. Margaret of Cortona fraternity. John also discussed the Fr. John Sullivan Memorial Retreat Scholarship Fund. This fund will help offset costs for members who would like to attend but cannot afford to pay the entire cost.

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RFC

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Therese, O.F.S. our Formation Director called people's attention to the upcoming Regional Day of Reflection for those in formation and for Formation Directors and teams. Those who are newly professed will also be invited to attend this day of reflection. Therese reminded everyone that the *FUN Manual* is online and we should be using that document to guide our formation.

We had chance to talk with Mary and Fr. Jerome in an open forum setting. Many questions were asked and answered and there was a lot of lively discussion. The open forum continued after dinner and picked up where we left off from earlier. It was a real joy to have both Mary and Fr. Jerome join us for the weekend. They provided us with a lot of good information and gave us a lot to think about.

Submitted by:

Lori Ferris, O.F.S.

Delegate for Pope St. John XXIII Fraternity

Feedback from our Pastoral and Fraternal Visitors

On the morning of April 15, 2018, our Fraternal and Pastoral Review continued with Mary Bittner, O.F.S. and Fr. Jerome giving the Prairie Region an overall very complimentary review. Both joined us from great distances. Mary flew in from Michigan and Fr. Jerome from Pennsylvania. National Minister, Jan Parker, O.F.S. provided transportation for Fr. Jerome and Mary, and also shared in many of the activities of the weekend.

From Mary's perspective, she appreciated the overall organization of the Region and the enthusiasm of those who shared in the weekend. Mary felt it was important to stay close to and honor our Promises made in Profession. Mary read from pp 20-22 of the Ritual, which covers the Promises and how we said "yes" to our calling to serve Jesus Christ in

Calendar

July 21, 2018

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

July 22, 2018

St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity, Bloomington - Fraternal Visitation.

July 28, 2018

Regional Picnic, Southwind Park, Springfield, IL.

August 5, 2018

Pope St. John XXIII Fraternity, Rock Island - Elective Chapter.

September 8, 2018

Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity, Edwardsville - Fraternal Visitation.

September 16, 2018

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Quincy - Elective Chapter.

September 28-30, 2018

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

October 9-14, 2018

National Fraternity Council meeting and Elective Chapter, St. Louis, MO.

October 26, 2018

Franciscans of the Tau Fraternity, Calhoun County - Fraternal Visitation.

March 8-10, 2019

Regional Meeting with Elective Chapter
 March 8 (Fri) Outgoing REC Meeting
 March 9 & 10 (Sat & Sun) Regional Fraternity Council Meeting & Elective Chapter
 March 10 (Sun) REC Meeting (old & new)

July 20, 2019

Regional Day of Reflection for those in Initial Formation & Workshop for Formation Directors & Formation Team Members, also Newly Professed.

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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.

FEEDBACK

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following the way of St. Francis. As the Region is anticipating elections in 2019, we want to be aware of the Yes to the invitation to serve.

To quote Mary: “Our Order is old but as a unified Order we are relatively young. It is hard to govern people from all over the world with different cultures, languages and customs. We have to broaden our outlook.”

“We develop vocations by being visible. By invitation and making present the charism of our Seraphic Father. I would remind you that you are fortunate by your proximity to each other.” (Mary is referring to many areas that have great distances to travel for fraternal gatherings.)

Fr. Jerome shared the Pastoral reflection by encouraging us to make sure we petition Fr. Ed McKenzie for at least 2 Spiritual Assistants - “You cannot get by with just one.” Keep in mind that the Spiritual Assistant does not have to be a Friar, but someone who is suitable and well-prepared. Who can your Fraternity “send forth to prepare in this formation?”

In addition, Fr. Jerome remarked: “I’d like to praise the camaraderie of the fraternity and the Franciscan formation. The Greek word for the process is called “synergy,” meaning working together with God. If we do what God wants us to do-discern-well, and cooperate with God, this brings about synergy.”

Submitted by:

Linda Howley, O.F.S.

Minister, St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity

Regional Executive Council Meeting

The Regional Executive Council (REC) met on Sunday, April 15, 2018 for its regular springtime meeting. This meeting followed the Regional Fraternity Council (RFC) meeting

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that had been held earlier in the day. All REC members were in attendance except for Kathy Adams, O.F.S. who had previously been excused to attend a grandchild's First Holy Communion. A variety of business items were covered, including retreat stipends and the affirmation of several prior items that had been previously covered via electronic communications.

Considerable time and discussion focused on the 25th Anniversary/Silver Jubilee Celebration of our Region's founding, with the event planned for late September 2018. The discussion was for the purpose of providing the Organizing Committee (which is still being structured) with some thoughts and guidance from the REC in three areas: 1) a framework for an operating budget for the Committee; 2) an idea of what items that the Region will cover financially; and 3) possible elements of the structure for the weekend schedule. While many ideas and thoughts were developed, it was recognized that the Organizing Committee would have the wherewithal to develop their own proposal for these three areas.

With NAFRA now reenergizing the Franciscan Youth / Young Adult (FY/YA) initiative, each Region was asked to identify an FY/YA Animator. Due to her background and interest, Lori Ferris, O.F.S. (Pope Saint John XXIII fraternity) was appointed to this position for our Region. A job discussion for this position will be developed, and Mary Farrell-Diekemper, O.F.S. will be the REC liaison with Lori.

The REC appointed Matt Eppel, O.F.S. (Sacred Heart fraternity) and Kevin Kaurin, O.F.S. (St. Margaret of Cortona fraternity) as Nominations Co-Chairs in preparation for the Regional Elective Chapter to be held March 8-10, 2019. The REC also agreed to recommend retaining our two elected Councilor positions (Database Management

and Vocations Promotion); this will be decided by the RFC at the September 2018 meeting.

The meeting concluded following a brief discussion regarding each of our eight local fraternities, noting any particular issues or concerns as well as upcoming events (professions, elections, visitations, etc.)

Submitted by:

John Grillot, O.F.S.
Regional Treasurer

Prairie Region is Turning 25 Years Old

"Save the Date" for our Silver Anniversary! On September 27-29, 2019 gathering we will have a very special celebration with a Holy Hour, Mass and a buffet lunch. Many details will be confirmed as we develop the guest speakers and plan for the weekend, but guest speakers and a video presentation of our Brothers and Sisters recalling the early years of the Prairie Region is in the works.

Unlike past Fall Retreats, we will be celebrating on Saturday, with the Regional Fraternity Council and Regional Executive Council meetings on Sunday. However, the Chiara Center will be available for overnight stays. Regional Fraternity Council members are invited to stay for the Regional meeting on Sunday.

We are requesting that all Ministers discuss with their Councils, potential attendance and ideas from their fraternity, for instance, who would want to share their "story" in the video presentation. (This can be in the form of art, song, personal memories.)

Those who would like to contribute stories, souvenir ideas, decorations for our Super Saturday celebration, please contact with Kathy Adams, O.F.S. and Linda Howley-Skuby, O.F.S.

Meet our New Regional Spiritual Assistant



Father Giles Gilbert, O.F.M. Conv. is 38 years old and was raised in Lake Forest, IL. He is the oldest of 5 children. As a young adult, he became a member of the Militia of the Immaculata (M.I.), founded by Saint Maximilian Kolbe.

His vocation developed under the friendship of the friars ministering at Marytown (the National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe) in Libertyville, IL. After graduating from college, Fr. Giles worked as a Dispatcher for Mundelein Police Department, where he also served as a Spanish/English interpreter and translator. He has been a Franciscan friar since 2003, having lived 8 years in a contemplative Franciscan friary serving Christ in the poorest of the poor in downtown Boston, MA as a religious brother. There, he collaborated closely with the Secular Franciscans of the St. Paschal Baylon Fraternity, who met monthly at his friary. In 2009, he began philosophical and theological studies for the Priesthood and was ordained in Milwaukee, WI in 2016. Fr. Giles holds a B.A. in Spanish Language and Literature, with minors in Communications Studies and Philosophy, from Northern Illinois University. After completing studies in Philosophy at Loyola University Chicago, he obtained the M.Div. in Catholic Theology from Mundelein Seminary. His interests include: Early Franciscan history; the Jesus Prayer; Byzantine iconography and Theology; Astronomy; Camping; Kayaking; Snowmobiling; Traveling; and Animals (especially a friend's dog named "Ricky"). Fr.

Giles is currently serving as the Parochial Vicar at Holy Family Parish in Peoria, IL and is very grateful to serve as Regional Spiritual Assistant for the Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity.

The Countdown has Begun for Our Regional Retreat!

The *Franciscans of the Prairie Region* is truly pleased to have **Fr. Michael Higgins, T.O.R.**, a friar of the Sacred Heart Province of the Third Order Regular, lead the Region's **September 28-30, 2018** Retreat! The theme is: **St. Francis, the Master of Prayer.**

Fr. Mike has made his airplane reservations and will be winging his way to our prairie family for our **S e p t e m b e r** Regional Retreat. We are truly blessed to have the opportunity to share the weekend with Fr. Mike and experience his love of his Franciscan vocation as a priest dedicated to living out God's will for him.



Fr. Mike is a member of the Third Order Regular Friars who emphasize the same charism as the members of the Secular Franciscan Order: penance, change of heart (*metanoia*), and conversion. As article #7 of *The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order* states, "United by their vocation as 'brothers and sisters of penance,' and motivated by the dynamic power of the Gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the Gospel itself calls 'conversion.' Human frailty makes it

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RETREAT

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necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.”

Please fill out the Registration Form contained in this issue of our Regional newsletter so that you will be among the brothers and sisters of the *Franciscans of the Prairie Region* who welcome our dear brother, Fr. Mike, with open arms, smiling faces and Franciscan joy!

Visitation Preparation for April 13-15, 2018

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

We want to thank everyone for praying the Regional Visitation Prayer and for all of your loving care and support as the Regional



Executive Council prepared for our Visitors. The officers who were required to have materials reviewed by the Visitors were: Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, Formation Director and Councilor for Database Management. The Visitors were pleased with all of the materials available so that they could be reviewed on Friday evening, April 13, 2018.

This Visitation was a wonderful opportunity to get all of our materials together in one place and to make sure that we had all of the items on the Minister’s and Formation Director’s check lists. We have included pictures of the Minister’s trolley, files and books as well as the Formation Director’s binders and texts.

Thanks again for praying us through this process!

With a brother’s and sister’s love,
Deacon Dave, O.F.S. & Therese, O.F.S.



Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation

We arrive at the third leg of our JPIC discussion with our consideration of Integrity of Creation. Pope Francis’ recent encyclical, ***Laudato Si***, covers this topic very thoroughly. If you haven’t read it yet, you should. A main point of the Pope’s explanation is the idea of integral ecology. Of course, we Franciscans know this idea very well because of St. Francis’ ***Canticle of Creatures***.

*Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honor, and all blessing,
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.*

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*Praised by You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day and through whom You gave us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.
Praised by You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and
the stars,
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and
beautiful.
Praised by You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind
of weather,
through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.
Praise by You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and
chaste.
Praised by You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.
Praised by You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother
Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces various fruit with colored flowers
and herbs.
Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give
pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.
Praised by You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily
Death,
from whom no one living can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most
holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.*

*Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.*

So, what is our response as Secular Franciscans? When we look at all the environmental problems, the injustice because of resource unbalance, and the breakdown of the social order, we understand that we have a solemn



responsibility to help correct these issues affecting our “common home.” Our action is to recycle, use water carefully and prudently, turn out lights not being used, lobby our energy companies to create clean energy, install solar panels on our homes, lobby our legislators to create protections for the environment and for the poor, dialogue with our city leaders to look at environmentally sound practices, e.g., elimination of plastic bags, help at food pantries and homeless shelters, and the list goes on. We become advocates for our “common home” through our individual practices and our dialogue with others to make a difference in our own corner of the world. No matter what our age or physical condition, we can do small things that will make a difference.

As our Rule reminds us,

- *Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children. (11)*
- *A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with*

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all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ. (13)

- *Moreover, they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which “bear the imprint of the Most High,” and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship. (18)*

So, let us continue to promote a balance of our use of resources for all who share our “common home.” Let us continue to advocate for intelligent use of our natural resources that leaves a world of promise for our children and grand-children and their children. Let us “... come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast. In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking God, for ‘if the world has a beginning and if it has been created, we must enquire who gave it this beginning, and who was its Creator.’ (Basil the Great) Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.” (Laudato Si, 244).

Pace e Bene!

Dennis R. Dowell, O.F.S.
Regional JPIC Animator

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity,
Quincy, IL**
Rite of Profession

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order happily shares the news of our recent Professions. **Becky Goodwin, O.F.S. and Robie Orf, O.F.S.** made a permanent commitment to the Gospel Life as they professed into the Secular Franciscan Order. This *Rite of Profession* took place during Mass at St. Francis Solanus Church, Quincy. Profession was received by the Minister, Rosanne Roy, O.F.S. and the



(l-r): Becky Goodwin, O.F.S. and Robie Orf, O.F.S.

Celebrant and Ecclesial Witness was Fr. Don Blaeser, O.F.M. assisted by Deacon Dave Ream, O.F.S., Spiritual Assistant.

Profession in the Order is the culmination of over two years of initial formation. At their Profession the candidates promised to follow the Rule of Life of the Secular Franciscan Order, pledging themselves to live the Gospel in the manner of St. Francis by means of this *Rule*. St. Francis himself wrote the first “*Rule of Life*” for members of the Secular Franciscan Order. Since Vatican II, that *Rule* has been updated but remains true to the vision of St. Francis of Assisi. This *Rule* calls Secular Franciscans to live out our calling to the Franciscan life in a particular way in our homes and families, at work, in our parishes, and in the world.

The **St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity** of the Secular Franciscan Order was canonically established in 1861 and began meeting in Quincy. We usually gather as a Fraternity on the **third Sunday** of the month at **12:30 p.m.** in the **St. Francis Solanus Parish Center**.

Teutopolis Monastery Museum
Teutopolis, Illinois

Recently the Teutopolis Monastery Museum in Teutopolis, Illinois, received a new item for display. The violin that Brother Simon Van

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Ackeren, O.F.M. played as a young lad was given to the museum by Brother Simon's family.

Br. Simon was born in Humphrey, Nebraska in February 1918 and christened Lawrence Van Ackeren. Throughout his youth and school years he was affectionately known as Van or Curly because of his curly, sandy colored hair. He was also known for his smile, willingness to help others and his special love for the Eucharist.

After high school, Van spent a short time at the Franciscan preparatory seminary in Mayslake, IL. Having a losing battle with his studies, he decided the priesthood was not for him. He applied for admittance to the Franciscan Lay Brotherhood and was transferred to the Teutopolis, IL seminary in January 1937. His vocation was readily recognized and he was invested with the Tertiary habit on March 2, 1937 and then answered to the name of Brother Simon. He was seen frequently in the chapel, helping in the kitchen, assisted in the shoe shop and helped out wherever he could and smiling all the day long.

In January of the following year, Br. Simon developed a slight limp because of the pain he had in his ankle. When the pain became so bad that he could hardly walk, he was admitted to the hospital for treatment, but after a month, the ankle failed to respond. He returned to the seminary on crutches and several days later, March 4, 1938, he made his profession as a Tertiary brother in the seminary chapel. The next day, Br. Simon left for St. Louis to see a specialist about his ankle. After three weeks he returned on crutches, his ankle in a cast and with the diagnosis of tuberculosis of the bone.

Even though his health continued to decline, his smile and good natured attitude stayed with him. He returned to the Effingham hospital the end of April where he passed away on the evening of May 10, 1938. His greatness was in doing the little things well. His burial was on

May 13th in the mausoleum on the church grounds next to St. Francis of Assisi church in Teutopolis. As the inscription on his marker in the mausoleum states: "Being made perfect in a short space, he fulfilled a long time." (Wisdom 4:13)



Many prayers addressed to Br. Simon have been answered. A novena prayer to obtain the help of Br. Simon is available as in the booklet, "On Crutches to Heaven" by Fr. Philip Marquard, O.F.M. at the Teutopolis Museum.

The Monastery Museum in Teutopolis, IL is open to the public on the first Sunday of each month, April through November. The hours are 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a \$5 admission fee. Br. Simon's violin displayed in the museum and his burial site along with 78 other Franciscan brothers and priests buried in the mausoleum are included with the tour. The monastery museum is a memorial to the Franciscan Friars who arrived in Teutopolis in 1858, and to the early pioneers who settled in Teutopolis in 1839. The Secular Franciscans also have an area displaying their history as their local St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, was canonically established March 6, 1864. For more information on the Monastery Museum call 217-857-6404 ext. 236. Please leave a message and someone will return your call.

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Sacred Heart Fraternity, Peoria, IL Annual Day of Reflection

Sacred Heart fraternity's annual Day of Reflection was held on June 16, 2018 at St. Augustine Manor.

Fr. Giles led our day and it was very inspirational day. We first each shared our experience and knowledge regarding the Sacred Heart devotion, and how we honored the Sacred Heart of Jesus in our families. Our morning began with reflecting on excerpts from Pope Benedict XVI's February 10, 2010 General Audience on St. Anthony of Padua's understanding of prayer.

Saint Anthony speaks of prayer as a loving relationship that impels man to speak gently with the Lord, creating an ineffable joy that sweetly enfolds the soul in prayer. He reminds us that prayer requires an atmosphere of silence. It is more than distancing ourselves from external noise. This silence is an interior experience that aims to remove the distractions caused by a soul's anxieties, which in turn creates silence in the soul itself. According to his teachings, prayer is structured in four indispensable attitudes and stages:

- **(Obsecratio)** or Opening one's heart to God's presence, not merely accepting a word.
- **(Oratio)** or Speaking with him affectionately, seeing him present with oneself.

- **(Postulatio)** or something natural presenting our needs to him.
- **(Gratiarum actio)** or praising and thanking him.

His teachings on prayer are specific traits of the Franciscan theology:

- Divine love that enters into the sphere of the affections.
- The will and of the heart, it is also the source from which flows a spiritual knowledge surpassing all other knowledge.

Charity is the soul of faith, it gives life. Without love, faith dies. Always put Christ at the center of our life (Franciscan theology is Trinitarian and Christocentric).

We celebrated Mass after our reflection. Social time after Mass. Great food and fellowship was enjoyed by all. After social time, Fr. Giles gave us a handout on the Gospel of Matthew 11:25-30 (one of the Gospels proclaimed on the Feast of the Sacred Heart). Together, we engaged in *Lectio Divino*. We broke into three small groups to discuss what word or phrase spoke to us in the Scripture reading.

So powerful how the Lord spoke to each of us.

We finished up the afternoon by discussing the article "Franciscan Devotion to the Eucharist and to the Sacred Heart" by Margaret A. Gregory, O.F.S.

Francis while praying before the crucifix at one of the neglected chapels of Assisi heard a voice telling him to "Rebuild my church, for it is nearly in ruins."

- On that day, the life of Francis Bernardone was changed; and on that day our lives were changed.
- Our holiness is a result of our union with Christ in His Mystical Body.
- However, we are fortunate to belong to an Order of saints beginning with St. Francis

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and St. Clare, whose examples inspire us, and merits and graces are shared with us.

- St. Francis was so wise for indeed love makes all things easy.
- They are to show deep reverence for God's Churches, and make visits to them readily, whenever an opportunity occurs.
- Finally, take greatest care to make life within the family pleasant and happy. The crucifix...shall occupy the principle place in living rooms and bedrooms.
- All devotions are important but good to focus Franciscan devotion to the Eucharist and the Sacred Heart. The devotions that will most easily help us become lovers of Our Lord.
- All Franciscans should enthrone a picture or statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in a prominent place in the home and pray the Act of Consecration the the Sacred Heart.
- I promise you, in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the first Friday for nine consecutive months, the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My displeasure nor without their sacraments: My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in his last moment.

We concluded the Day of Reflection by praying the Litany of the Sacred Heart together before an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the chapel. Afterwards, we made an Act of Consecration of the Fraternity to the Sacred Heart. The Act of Consecration was adapted from the original composed by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

**Pope St. John XXIII Fraternity,
Rock Island, IL
Rite of Profession**

On July 1, 2018 the Pope St. John XXIII of Rock Island, IL celebrated the Rite of

Profession, during Mass at St. Vincent Center, Davenport, Iowa, for Alicia Harker, O.F.S., Roxanne Miner, O.F.S., Patrick Miner, O.F.S. and Pascal "Pat" DeLuca, O.F.S. Father Ed O'Melisa, Priest of the Diocese of Davenport presided. Deacon Al Angelo, O.F.S. assisted at the Mass and preached the homily and Deacon Frank Agnoli, O.F.S. also assisted at the Mass.

A large number of family, friends and two additional priests from the Diocese of Davenport joined the members of the fraternity on this blessed day. Also, in attendance from the Regional Fraternity was John Grillot, O.F.S., Regional Treasurer. This was the first profession for the fraternity since 2002.



Fr. John Sullivan O.F.M. Memorial Retreat Scholarship

Last year for the first time the Region offered scholarships to provide financial assistance to individuals within the Region to attend our annual Regional Retreat. As previously announced, the Regional Fraternity Council subsequently decided to continue such scholarships as an ongoing program in honor of Fr. John Sullivan, O.F.M.



To provide assistance to the most individuals within our Scholarship Fund budget, we ask that applicants consider both their financial need and their ability to pay a portion of the registration fees. Scholarships are being offered to provide partial funding of the Registration fees at the levels of 25%, 50%, 75%, and 90%. The corresponding Registration fees to be paid by the individual are \$135 (for 25% scholarship), \$90 (for 50%), \$45 (for 75%), and \$18 (90%).

Applications are requested by August 1, 2018 and should be sent to Regional Treasurer John Grillot, O.F.S. The application can be submitted in one of two ways: 1) Complete the attached Application Form and mail along with the Retreat Registration, or 2) Send an email to Regional Treasurer indicating the level of Scholarship being requested.

Please note that the Registration Form for our regional retreat is also included elsewhere in this edition of The Portiuncula.

John Grillot, O.F.S.

1600 Fayette Avenue, Washington, IL 61571

	<i>Franciscans of the Prairie</i>	REGIONAL RETREAT		
	September 28-30, 2018 at the Chiara Center in Springfield "St. Francis, the Master of Prayer" Retreat Director: Fr. Michael Higgins, T.O.R.			
Father John Sullivan O.F.M. Memorial Scholarship				
APPLICATION FORM				
Due Date: August 1, 2018				
Name	_____			
Fraternity	_____			
Background	Scholarships are being offered to provide financial assistance to individuals within the Region to attend our annual Regional Retreat. To provide assistance to the most individuals within our Scholarship financial budget, we ask that applicants consider both their financial need and their ability to pay a portion of the registration fees. Please indicate below the level of Scholarship being requested.			
	<input type="checkbox"/> 90%	<input type="checkbox"/> 75%	<input type="checkbox"/> 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> 25%
To Apply	Option 1. Complete above Application form and mail along with Retreat Registration. Option 2. Send info shown above via email.			
Submit To	John Grillot, ofs 1600 Fayette Ave., Washington, IL 61571 grilljw@gmail.com cell 309-696-4846			



Franciscans of the Prairie
REGIONAL RETREAT

September 28-30, 2018

"St. Francis, the Master of Prayer"

Chiara Center: 4875 LaVerna Road, Springfield, IL 62707

Retreat Director: **Fr. Michael Higgins, T.O.R.**



REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Due Date: Wednesday, August 1, 2018

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____

Fraternity Name _____

Position

<input type="checkbox"/> Professed Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Spiritual Assistant
<input type="checkbox"/> Candidate / Inquirer / Aspirant	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest

Registration: A. \$180 Full Registration with Double Occupancy room
 B. \$85 Commuter Registration (no lodging)

Note: All registration options include Sessions & Meals (Friday dinner thru Sunday breakfast)

Optional: \$9 Box lunch for Sunday (for non-RFC/REC members only)

Due to limited space, single rooms are not available at the Chiara Center. If you prefer your own room, please register as a commuter and arrange lodging separately. See below for nearby hotels.

Donation to Scholarship Fund Please consider contributing an additional amount to help others attend the retreat.
 \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Roommate Preference _____
We will accommodate requests as best we can.

Nearby Hotels:

Ramada Springfield North 3281 Northfield Drive, Springfield 217-523-4000	Northfield Inn & Suites 3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield 217-523-7900
--	---

Meals Please specify any special dietary needs: _____

Entertainment

I would be willing to provide entertainment for Friday night Social

I would be willing to provide entertainment for Saturday night Social

Rooms will be reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis. We encourage you to complete and return Registration Form by above due date. If the Chiara Center fills up, some attendees may need to stay elsewhere.

-- Note: Email registrations are OK ... with payment to be followed soon thereafter.

Return registration form with check payable to: **Franciscans of the Prairie Region**

Send to: **John Grillot, ofs**
 1600 Fayette Ave., Washington, IL 61571
 grilljw@gmail.com cell 309-696-4846



PROVINCE OF SAINT BONAVENTURE

ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR CONVENTUAL
6107 NORTH KENMORE AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60660-2797

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER PROVINCIAL

(773) 274-7681
FAX (773) 274-9751

June 5, 2018

Deacon Dave Ream, O.F.S.
Minister
Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order

Dear Deacon Dave,

Praised Be Jesus Christ!

Thank you for your letter dated May 15, 2018 requesting that Friar Giles Gilbert, OFM Conv. be appointed as Regional Spiritual Assistant for your Franciscan Prairie Regional Secular Franciscan Fraternity. Friar Giles has not only my permission but also the backing of our Council to be the Spiritual Assistant.

The Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters are our partners in witnessing to the Gospel! We profess the Gospel each in our own unique ways but it is the Gospel that is our rule of life! Thank you for your faithful witness in being men and women of the Gospel.

May our Lord continue to bless you in your ministry as a Deacon and in your ministry as Minister of a Secular Franciscan Fraternity. May our Mother Mary, Queen of the Franciscan Order, shower you with her maternal love and support and may our Seraphic Father, St. Francis continue to be your guide!

Yours in Christ and St. Francis,

Friar Michael Zielke, OFM Conv.
Minister Provincial

TRANSITUS SERVICE IN ONE'S OWN HOME
The Transitus of St. Francis
(Francis passing from this life into eternal life)

Saint Francis died just after sunset on October 3rd. He recited Psalm 142 and, during the closing verse, he died. This event is solemnly recalled each year by Franciscans to honor their holy Father's entrance into joy. You are invited to commemorate this night by participating in the prayer service. The following observance may be done in the privacy of your own home or with others in your home.

[Light two candles and have a relic or image of St. Francis available as well as a crucifix, preferably a San Damiano Crucifix.]

[Begin with Evening Prayer I from the *Liturgy of the Hours*. If you do not have the *Liturgy of the Hours* or do not know how to pray it, pray instead the Fourth and Fifth Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, *The Crucifixion of Jesus* and *The Death of Jesus on the Cross*.]

[Then read the following excerpt from Francis' *Testament*. (Francis gave it to his brothers in 1226 shortly before he died.)]

The Testament of Saint Francis

And I worked with my hands, and I still desire to work; and I earnestly desire all brothers to give themselves to honest work. Let those who do not know how to work learn, not for desire to receive wages, but for example and to avoid idleness. And when we are not paid for our work, let us have recourse to the table of the Lord, begging alms from door to door. The Lord revealed a greeting to me that we should say: "May the Lord give you peace." [*The Testament*, verses 20-23; *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents* (Vol. I: *The Saint*), Editors: Regis Armstrong, O.F.M. Cap.; J.A. Wayne Hellmann, O.F.M. Conv.; and William J. Short, O.F.M., 1999]

[Pause for a few moments of silent reflection.]

[Venerate (kiss or touch) the Relic or image of St. Francis.]

Hymn (*All Creatures of Our God and King*) [The hymn may be sung or recited.]



**All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia!**
**Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
**Thou rushing winds that are so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise him, Alleluia!**
**Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

[After the hymn, the following Antiphon is said.]

Antiphon: Alleluia, Alleluia, Francis, poor and humble, enters heaven rich and is welcomed with celestial hymn. Alleluia.

[Then recite Psalm 142.]

Psalm 142:

**With all my voice I cry to the Lord,
with all my voice I entreat the Lord.
I pour out my trouble before him;
I tell him all my distress
while my spirit faints within me.
But you, O Lord, know my path.**

**On the way where I shall walk
they have hidden a snare to entrap me.
Look on my right and see:
there is no one who take my part.
I have no means of escape,
not one who cares for my soul.**

**I cry to you, O Lord.
I have said: "You are my refuge
all I have in the land of the living."
Listen, then, to my cry.
for I am in the depths of distress.**

**Rescue me from those who pursue me
for they are stronger than I.
Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise your name.
Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness to me.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will are for ever. Amen.**

[Repeat the Antiphon.]

Antiphon: Alleluia, Alleluia, Francis, poor and humble, enters heaven rich and is welcomed with celestial hymns. Alleluia.

[Extinguish the candles to signify the death of Saint Francis.]

Then, having in mind St. Francis' devotion to the wounds of our Lord, and looking at the figure of the Crucified, with arms outstretched, say five times the prayer of our Lord: ***Our Father...***

[After the 5 *Our Fathers*, pray the following prayer.]

O God, you granted our blessed Father Francis the reward of everlasting joy: grant that we, who celebrate the memory of his death, may at last come to the same eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

[End *The Transitus Service* with the following blessing.]

May the Lord + bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

[Author unknown, adapted by Deacon Dave & Therese Ream, O.F.S., February 19, 2018]



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