



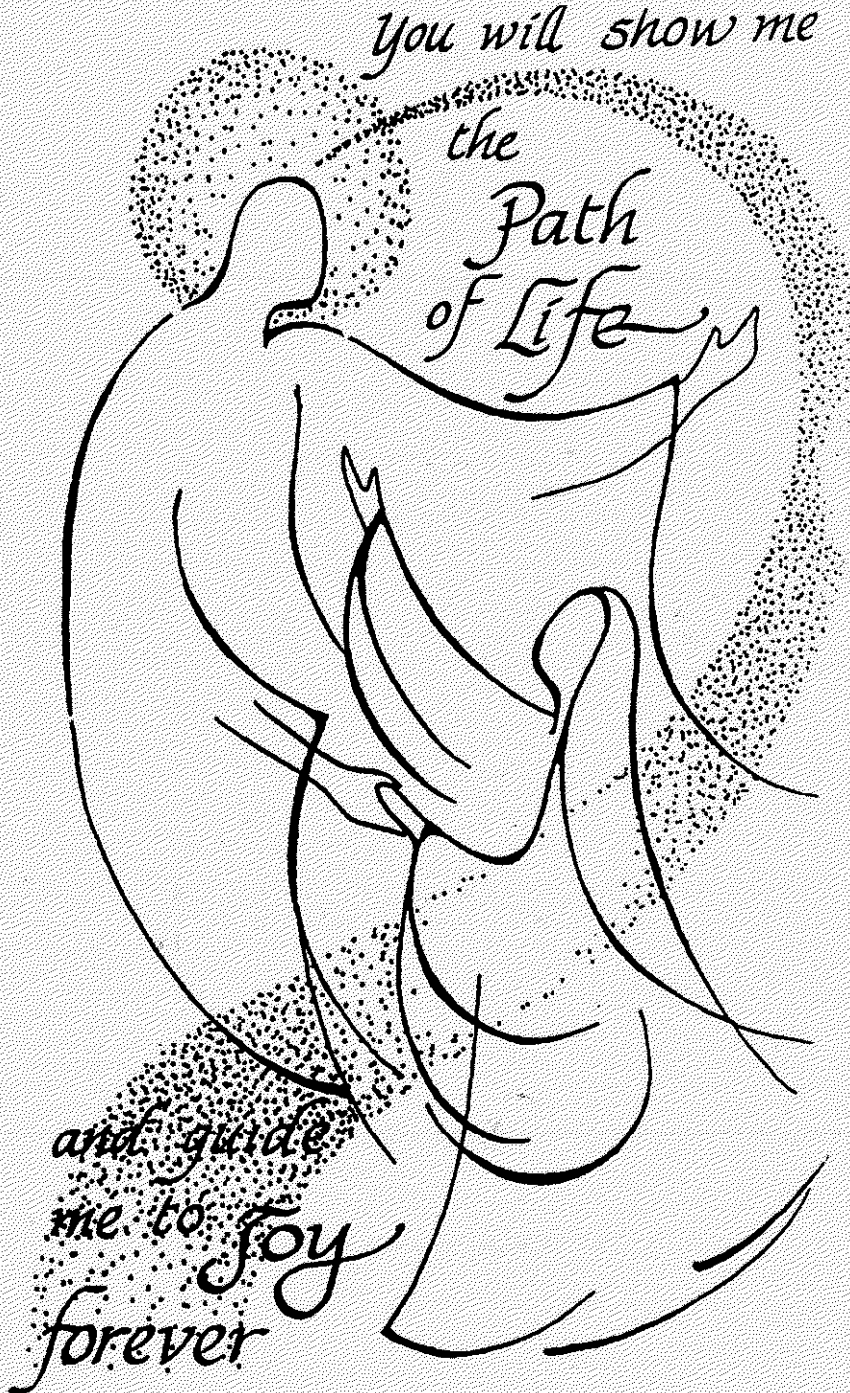
LA VERNA · SFO · REGION

LaVerna vision

SPRING 2007

Published by the LaVerna Regional Council of the Secular Franciscan Order

<http://www.rc.net/sfo/laverna/>



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JULY 3-8, 2007

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The LaVerna Region of the Secular Franciscan Order in the USA consists of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. The area is divided into 4 districts: Southeast, Central, Fox Valley & UP.

LaVERNA VISION is a vehicle of communication within the LaVerna Region. It presents a forum for presenting information and insights that relate to the SFO way of life.

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LaVerna Vision is published three times a year.

The **deadlines** for submitting articles are as follows:

Spring issue-March 1
Published on April 1

Summer issue-July 1
Published on Aug. 1

Winter issue-November 1
Published on Dec. 1



March 2007

Minister's Thoughts

As we again passed through the season of Lent, it was and is a time when we are called to draw together our thoughts of good and evil, to take an account of our lives and pray over these thoughts.

Where are we today? Each year / season within the church we are called to live the Gospels in our daily lives. Are we doing this? Are we really taking the heart of the Gospels into our daily activity?

Some will say we are not. Some will say we Catholics are two faced. We preach one thing and live another. Are we doing that?

As Franciscans we need to take these questions further. Are we living the Gospels? Are the Gospels placed in our lives as a guide to use as the stepping-stones toward eternal life?

We profess to go to the Gospels for directions and then take the Gospels to our lives and live what is given to us – that is Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel.

It is not easy to do this with the type of secular world that is around us. Around every corner there is temptation to live in contrast to the Gospel Life. There are material things that will pull us away from living the true calling of the Gospels. There are moral attitudes in this society that take us away from the Gospels. There are pressures from our neighbors that will try to force us to live in contrast to the Gospels. Where are we when these things all come at us?

This is when we need our prayer life. This is when we need to pull ourselves toward meditation on the Gospels. This is when we need to plead with the Holy Spirit to come and be within us.

Another way to help in our Living Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel is by our community, our Franciscan Fraternity. It is through our gathering at least once a month that we are given strength to carry out our calling. If we are able to join each other more often when different events come up – so much the better. We are a people that live and grow in community. We need and should be together. We should make every effort to join together to build up strength in our living the Gospels.

There are two opportunities that are within our reach to join together. The district gatherings in the La Verna Region will have occurred by the time you read this. I pray you all took advantage of this opportunity to grow in the Holy Spirit. I know that if you did attend you are the better for it.

The other event that gathers together Secular Franciscans from all over is the Quinquennial. This opportunity comes but once every five years. Having attended so many in the past I can say I am very grateful for the experiences. Apart from the many good talks / conferences there was the experience of seeing so many of our family from all over the US. It is there that Franciscan companionship will grow deep in our hearts. They all give warmth in the soul that lasts forever. You will gain richly by attending. I, along with the national executive council urge you to attend.

As we journey thru this Lent may we keep each other in thought and prayer.



Community life. A community of secular Franciscans, committed to working toward a common goal, demands a lot of "giving" on their part. The interaction within family life gives a taste of what it takes to have a community. Parents (spouses) agree and disagree. Children (siblings) agree and disagree. Children and parents agree and disagree. Each member of a family has a different idea about how the family should function. Some members recognize a need for structure and other members resist structures. Creating an atmosphere where disagreements can be worked through and agreements can be enhanced demands a lot of persistent work as a family changes over the years.

People called by the Holy Spirit to the Secular Franciscan way of life commit themselves to the work of making the fraternity a community. What are some qualities of this "work?"

Listening. Listening is different than hearing. Listening requires attention to this particular person in order to understand the peculiarities of the situation. It may call for quiet prayer; a sharing of experiences; a celebration; silent or verbal compassion; clarification - a gentle probing for better understanding. It implies a readiness to dedicate oneself to understand the situation and recognize the contribution I can make toward dealing with the issue. I may not have a solution but I am committed to help in any way I can.

Patience and perseverance. Not every situation has immediate solutions. Sometimes we must commit to a longer-term "walking with" the other person. It may require patience when nothing seems to go right. It requires an openness in Franciscans to the needs of someone they may not even like.

Love. St Francis is called the Seraphic lover. His spirit sought the good of the "other." Without love the other qualities are just a struggle. With love we commit whatever time and effort is needed to find a life-giving way of dealing with issues. Part of our cross is that we may have no answers. We may have to walk with the person until the issue is diminished. As St Paul put it:

Love is patient and kind. Love envies no one, is

never boastful, never conceited, never rude; love is never selfish, never quick to take offense. Love keeps no score of wrongs, takes no pleasure in the sins of others, but delights in the truth. There is nothing it cannot face, there is no limit to its faith, its hope, its endurance. Love will never come to an end.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

By profession a Secular Franciscan is committed to this work. Investing energy and talent to develop a lively and life-giving fraternity life is required of all of us. To renege on this commitment is one way of being unfaithful. Francis understood that this is no easy task. He wrote:

A servant of God cannot know how much patience and humility he has within himself as long as he is content. When the time comes, however, when those who should make him content do the opposite, he has as much patience and humility as he has at that time and no more.

Admonition XIII - Francis of Assisi - The Saint - Page 133

If Secular Franciscans put their Franciscan lives in second or third or fourth place in their lives, our Franciscan Order is in jeopardy. We cannot continue with half-hearted commitments. Profession in the SFO requires that the SFO is a primary choice in life. Of course, there will be times when this does not apply. Good decision-making keeps priorities in their proper order.

Blessed is the servant who does not consider himself any better when he is praised and exalted by people than when he is considered worthless, simple, and looked down upon, for what a person is before God, that he is and no more.

Admonition XIX - Ibid - Page 135

La Verna Region depends on the dedication of all its members. We are a strong region that shows compassion for one another. When a fraternity is suffering, we try to find ways to keep the individuals committed to our Franciscan way of life. When a brother or sister is struggling or doubts his/her vocation, we offer help. In short, we are consistently concerned about one another and help in any way we can.

We are committed to the Franciscan way of life. We continue to bring Francis' spirit to the Church and the world each day of life. Or else?

Lester Bach OFM Cap



INVITATION

MARK YOUR CALANDERS

17TH SFO QUINQUENNIAL CONGRESS

JULY 3-7, 2007

All Secular Franciscans, young and old, new Candidates and old professed have an opportunity to share and explore the Franciscan charism at the Quinquennial Congress. According to John Sanborn, Chairperson, the congress is "open to anyone who loves Francis of Assisi—his spirituality, his ability to think outside the box, his dedication to church (despite its faults), his willingness to 'embrace the lepers' of society and his kinship with the world and its creatures.."

"We are delighted with the Radisson Hotel which has a convention center and breakout meeting rooms, all in close proximity." This should make it a lot easier for anyone with difficulty walking.

The theme is "Many Cultures-Through Francis-In Christ". For more information see the Spring issue of TAU-USA. If the interest is there, La Verna Region will get a van or bus to take us. If you are interested please contact Ken Beattie, Regional Minister as soon as possible.

**REGISTRATION FORM
SFO QUINQUENNIAL CONGRESS
JULY 3-8, 2007**

Opening Mass on Tuesday, July 3 at 7:00 pm
Congress Concludes Sunday, July 8 at 1:00 pm

Important Instructions:

1. Please **TYPE** or **PRINT** all information clearly.
2. Only one participant or married couple per registration form.
3. Payment must accompany this form and is **NON-REFUNDABLE**.
4. Make your check for registration and meals payable to **NAFRA**.
5. Mail this form with payment to: Dennis W. Ross, NAFRA Treasurer
8933 Trailwood Court
Mentor, Ohio 44060-2131
d_ross@oh.rr.com

6. Hotel registration is done separately by each person (see bottom of this form).

PLEASE TYPE or PRINT CLEARLY

Title	First Name(s)	Last Name			
Address		City	State	Zip	Country
Home Phone		Work Phone		E-Mail Address	

Early Registration: # of people _____ x \$ 110 = \$ _____
After May 10, 2007 the registration is \$ 150 per person.

Meal Plan: Tuesday Dinner through Sunday Breakfast

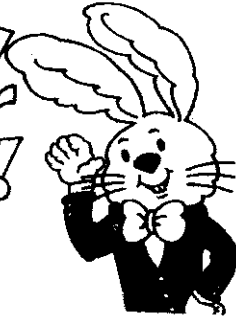
of people _____ x \$ 150 = \$ _____
If received by May 10, 2007: TOTAL = \$ 260 per person
If received AFTER May 10, 2007: TOTAL = \$ 300 per person

Housing and the Congress are at The Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh Green Tree
101 Radisson Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205
Telephone: (412) 922-8400
www.radisson.com

NAFRA has arranged for a discounted room rate of \$ 74.00 per night.
Each room has twin double beds with 1 to 4 occupants possible.
You should make your own room arrangements directly with the hotel.
The Hotel provides free shuttles to and from the Pittsburgh Airport.



now
hear
this!



A FRATERNITY PRAYER.

My fraternity is composed of people like me.

I help to make it what it is.

It will be friendly if I am.

Its Gatherings will be well attended, if I attend.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes,
if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into Franciscan life.

if I bring them in.

It will be a fraternity of loyalty and love,
of fearlessness and faith,
and a fraternity with a noble spirit,
if I who make it what it is,
am filled with these things.

Therefore, with the help of God,
I shall dedicate myself to the task
of being all the things that I want my
fraternity to be.

(Adapted from a prayer for stewardship
-- St. Anne Catholic Church, Pleasant
Prairie, Wis.)

FAMILY

Evelyn Staszak, SFO

Family is the foundation of our country. Genesis tells us God created man and woman to become one and fill the earth.

There are many needy families in our area. When possible, help where you can with food, clothing, etc. There is a heating assistance program for those who are in need.

Be aware of child abuse. If you see something unusual going on, call Social Services and have them investigate the situation.

Schools are always in need of help. If you have time, call a school and volunteer. Many children today need someone to listen to them and give them some attention.

Pray! Pray! Pray! God will listen and take care of all families.



GOD'S HELP IS ONLY A PRAYER AWAY

Liturgy Of The Hours

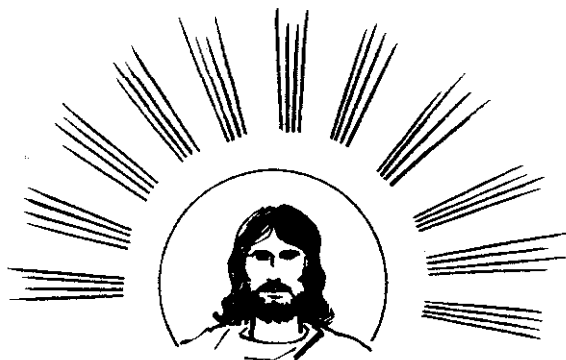
Sr. Angela Sackmann

The celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours is the official prayer of the whole Church. As we pray the Hours, we join with others praying at the same time somewhere in the world. Furthermore, as we pray with the Church our voices are echoing in Christ and His voice is echoing in and through us.

Morning and night prayers are the most important prayers of the Christian Community. Morning prayer has a two fold purpose: the sanctification of the day and the recalling of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning. St. Basil says, "It (the Hours) is said in the morning in order that the first stirrings of our mind and will may be consecrated to God and that we may take nothing in hand until we have been gladdened by the thought of God."

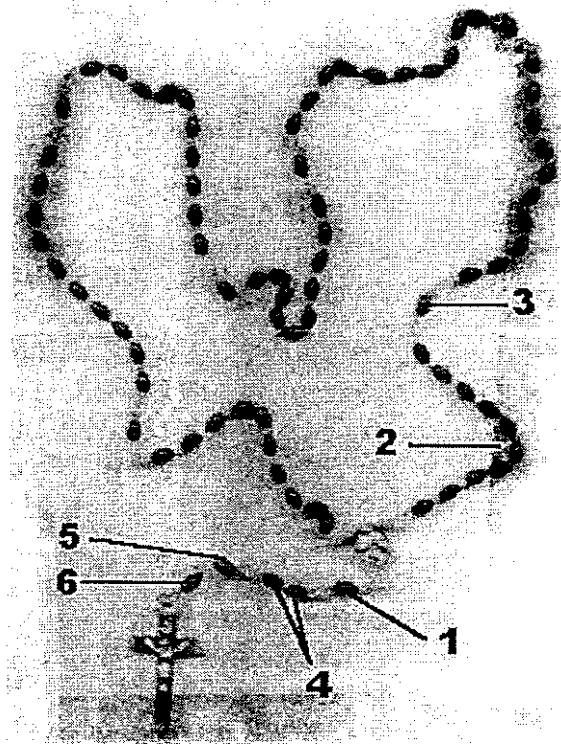
Evening prayer is celebrated at the time of the setting sun. As the day closes, we pause and give praise and thanks to God for all the blessings we have received and for all the good we've done during the day. We also recall Christ's great love for us as He forgives our faults and sins. Finally we remember that one day our sun will set and we will enjoy eternal happiness in heaven forever.

Keeping just these four points in mind, we realize what a privilege it is to pray the Hours...Then, not only are you living your Rule, you are joining with the whole Church giving praise, glory and thanks to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



How to Say the Franciscan Crown Rosary

1. Announce the First Mystery and Say the Our Father on the fifth bead from the Cross.
2. Say one Hail Mary for each of the ten beads.
3. Announce the Second Mystery and then say the Our Father. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for the 3rd through the 7th Mysteries.
4. Say two Hail Marys to complete 72 years of Mary's Joy on the fourth and third beads from the Cross.
5. Say Our Father and Glory Be on the 2nd bead from the Cross.
6. Say Hail Mary on the bead closest to the Cross



(from CROSSED ARMS Fox Valley News Letter)

Traditional Mysteries

1. Annunciation (Luke 1:31-32)
2. Visitation (Luke 1:42, 45)
3. Nativity (Luke 2:6-7)
4. Adoration by the Magi (Matthew 2:1-6)
5. Finding in the Temple (Luke 2:46-47)
6. Resurrection (Matthew 28:5-6)
7. Assumption of Mary and Coronation (Judith 13:18 and Revelation 12)

La Verna Website

Peter Bekkers, SFO

Have you noticed that the LaVerna Website has a new appearance? Yes, it has a new look and is much more user friendly than the previous one. Judy Stouffer has completely redesigned our website. Although the old one worked very well, it didn't have as many links as the new one. It is more exciting to surf the web and you can find many more things about Franciscans and even the church in general.

First you need to be able to go on the Internet and access the website by entering the address, which is: <http://www.rc.net/sfo/laverna/>. Once you get on the web you will find these links, which will take you almost anywhere you want to go.

Some of the links that are available now are:

- "Who is Saint Francis"?
- "What is LaVerna"?
- "Regional Executive Council"
- "Find a local Fraternity"
- "Our Rule"
- "Our Constitutions"
- "Apostolic Commissions"
- "Regional Guidelines and Mission Statement"
- "Upcoming Events"
- "Newsletter"
- "Resources for SFOs"
- "Information for Local Fraternities"
- "Links"
- "Prayers for Franciscan Unity"
- "Contact us"
- "Home"

You can see that this is quite an extensive list. Some of them are not yet fully functional but are being worked on as we speak. I'm anxiously waiting for the time when they will all be completed. However, I think they will

be constantly improved, if I know Judy. Keep an eye on this website. New things are happening all the time. When they are all working and filled with the updates that will be out there, we will be able to get whatever information we want without leaving our home. Then this information will literally be at our fingertips.

We at St. Joseph Fraternity in Appleton are very proud of one of our members, Judy Stouffer. She devoted many hours designing and now maintaining the LaVerna website. As our web-master, she takes pride in doing the job very well. This is all volunteer work on her part. She is disabled and is confined to her home but does this anyway. Last year I interviewed Judy and gave you an idea of who she is and where she came from. I had the pleasure of meeting her and discovering her personality. She is so dedicated and I am so excited to see what she can accomplish in spite of her disability. I think I know a lot about computers but compared to Judy, I've got a lot to learn yet. All she asks is that we keep her and her husband, Michael, in your prayers. May God bless you and give you His peace, Judy.

WANTED

EDITOR, LaVERNA VISION

The Regional Fraternity would like to fill the position of Editor as soon as possible. The position requires meeting deadlines and good writing and computer skills. If you are willing and able to accept this position, **please**, contact

Kathryne Sutliff, SFO
Secretary, LaVerna Region
1015 Thayer St.
Rhineland, Wis.
54501

History of St. Anthony's Fraternity

The Document of Affiliation with the Capuchin Franciscan Tertiary Province of St. Joseph in the United States was given in Detroit Michigan to St. Anthony's Fraternity in Marathon on the 24th day of April, 1926.

In a letter dated Jan. 22, 1946, Fr. Fergus Pease OFM Cap. wrote to Fr. Multerer: "The fraternity was erected canonically on Feb. 13, 1921," The bishop of the diocese at that time was Bishop James Schwebach.

In 1921 there were 97 members in the fraternity. One of the members, Francis Heil, was professed in Austria in 1883. Fr. Edmund, Fr. Theophilus and Fr. Nexuis were the Capuchins who lead the group. Between 1921 and 1935 the membership totaled 326. According to the records, the fraternity was active until 1947.

In October 1959 an introductory meeting of those who were and those who desired to become Franciscans was held at St. Mary's Church. Eighteen professed and 25 prospective members answered the call. Fr. Joques, director, appointed Frank Gertschen, prefect, Esther Seibert, vice-prefect, Clara Nuxoll, mistress of novices, Katheryn Mathews, secretary, and Arnold Blume, treasurer. The records of the fraternity which had formerly flourished, were discovered in the basement of the rectory.

Fraternity meetings were held at St. Mary's church every other Sunday afternoon with Capuchins from St. Anthony's Retreat Center providing music. A discussion group was formed

and met in school after the Wednesday evening novena. Members were to wear the scapular and cord under their outer garment. Per Capita dues were \$3.00 a year with a free will offering for the local fraternity's needs. Membership in the 1980's averaged about 82.

The Franciscan life was well promoted locally. In 1963, the "Hour of St. Francis" had been on the radio for 18 years and through the efforts of the fraternity's finance and promotion, Channel 7 television aired some of the segments.

In the spirit of Vatican II a new rule was being drafted in Rome in 1968. The last renewal was 70 years earlier by Pope Leo XIII. Council members were asked to review this draft and give their comments and opinions. They had no objections and gave their approval.

At present the membership is at 42 with 75% over 80 years old. The latest professed members from the Marshfield area are eager to start their own Fraternity. The "Spirit of St. Francis" is deeply instilled in their hearts and St. Anthony Fraternity will act as their sponsor.

(from the St. Anthony Fraternity Newsletter)



NEWS NOTES

Profession

St. Ann Fraternity in Green Bay celebrated Profession of three of their members on Feb. 20, 2007. Sandy Yewman, Jeff Gumz and Ed Tombal were welcomed into the Fraternity.

Information Night

St. John Neumann Fraternity in Rhinelander is planning an information night on April 19, 2007 for anyone wanting more information on the Secular Franciscan Order. A video will be shown, questions answered and refreshments served. All interested friends and relatives are invited.



Aluminum cans

St. James Fraternity in Wausau is saving aluminum cans with the proceeds going into the fraternity treasury to assist in funding the local apostolates.

Pilgrimage

Secular Franciscans from the Fox Valley area are sponsoring a pilgrimage to the Solanus Center in Detroit May 22-24, 2007. Members from Oshkosh, Appleton and Menasha as well as bible study groups from Monte Alverno Retreat Center will be participating. A 48 passenger bus has been reserved for the event. For more information contact Don Samsa at 920-734-4979.

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL

If you would like to include the La Verna Region in your last will and testament, please advise your attorney to have the request read:

"I give and bequeath the sum of \$ _____ unto the LaVerna Region of the Secular Franciscan Order for the purpose of furthering the ideals of the Secular Franciscan Order."

Correspondence can be mailed to:

SFO Regional Council
C/O Ken Beattie
2951 W Bridge St.
Greenfield, Wis. 53221

Your generosity will be remembered for years to come by those following the Franciscan way of life.

La Verna Regional Fraternity SFO
STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSE
FOR YEARS ENDED DEC 31, 2007 & 2006

	THIS YEAR Y. T. D. 2007	LAST YEAR TOTAL 2006
<u>BEGINNING BALANCES:</u>		
REGULAR CHECKING -----	1,203.99	1,174.63
INVESTMENT SAVINGS -----	5,764.65	0.00
INVESTMENT SAVINGS CD -----	10,000.00	7,094.67
CASH ON HAND -----	<u>0.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>
TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS -	16,968.64	8,519.30
<u>REVENUE:</u>		
DONATIONS -----	0.00	2,300.34
INTEREST INCOME -----	29.05	269.98
SPECIAL MEMORIALS -----	0.00	1,300.00
MEETINGS -----	0.00	0.00
CHAPTER -----	0.00	796.00
FAIR SHARE -----	4,850.00	24,322.50
MISC INCOME -----	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3,126.00</u>
Total Revenue -----	<u>4,879.05</u>	<u>32,114.82</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS -----	21,847.69	40,634.12
<u>EXPENSES:</u>		
STIPENDS -----	500.00	2,000.00
RENT INCLUDING EQUIPMENT -----	0.00	50.00
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES -----	0.00	263.02
MEETING ROOM & FACILITIES -----	0.00	815.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES -----	0.00	103.15
ANNUAL REPORT -----	0.00	0.00
DONATIONS -----	0.00	0.00
INSURANCE -----	0.00	0.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXP -----	0.00	66.70
NEWSLETTER -----	0.00	1,629.38
TRAVEL EXP -----	0.00	4,642.12
FAIR SHARE TO NAFRA -----	0.00	4,870.00
ANNUAL CHAPTER EXP -----	0.00	3,719.29
NAFRA MEETING HOSTING -----	0.00	5,056.82
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE -----	<u>0.00</u>	<u>450.00</u>
Total Disbursements -----	<u>500.00</u>	<u>23,665.48</u>
ENDING BALANCE -----	21,347.69	16,968.64
<u>CURRENT BALANCES:</u>		
REGULAR CHECKING -----	1,553.99	1,203.99
INVESTMENT SAVINGS (7 day CDs @ 4.00% -----	9,793.70	5,764.65
9 MONTH 5.15 % CD 5/03/07 -----	10,000.00	10,000.00
CASH ON HAND -----	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS --	21,347.69	16,968.64

PETER J. BEKKERS, SFO,

TREASURER

02/09/07



LA VERNA - SFO - REGION

La Verna Region
Secular Franciscan Order
2951 W Bridge St
Greenfield, WI 53221

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COMING EVENTS

Apr. 13-15, 2007	SFO Retreat , Monte Alverna Retreat Center, Appleton
May 5, 2007	Executive Council Meeting @ Green Bay
Jun. 15-17, 2007	Chapter Meeting & Visitation
Jul. 3-8, 2007	Quinquennial Congress
Aug. 25, 2007	Executive Council Meeting @ Green Bay
(Late Sep-Oct)	SFO Retreat, Saint Anthony's Retreat Center, Marathon
Oct. 2-7, 2007	National SFO Meetings
Oct 26-28, 2007	Executive Council Meeting @ Marywood