



Published by the  
LAVERNA REGIONAL  
COUNCIL OF THE  
SECULAR  
FRANCISCAN ORDER

# LAVERNA VISION

YEAR OF INFORMATION ❖ WINTER 2008 EDITION  
[www.lavernasecularfranciscans.com](http://www.lavernasecularfranciscans.com) & [www.lavernasecularfranciscans.org](http://www.lavernasecularfranciscans.org)

“Christmas was Francis’s favorite feast. It was for him the Feast of Feasts, and he wanted to celebrate it in a special way. Why? Because the all Good God

chose to be born in human flesh. Because the Word was conceived in the womb of the Virgin. Because our all Good God was born each day in the Eucharistic bread of the altar. But most of all because of God’s great love, revealed to us in the Incarnation.”

*In the Footsteps of Francis and Clare*, Roch Niemier, OFM.



**“Oh how holy and how loving, pleasing, humble, peaceful, sweet, lovable and desirable above all things to have such a brother.”**  
St. Francis’ *Letter to the Faithful* II 56

FRANCISCAN LIFE  
DAY ONE: 800 YEARS  
1209 - 2009



## 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration scheduled at Cardinal Stritch Cousins Center in Milwaukee

In 2009 the Franciscan world is celebrating the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rule of St. Francis. This historic date marks Francis’s presentation of a form of life to Pope Innocent III for his approval in 1209.

“THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY ... RAISED UP BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH, UNITES ALL MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD – LAITY, RELIGIOUS, AND PRIESTS – WHO RECOGNIZE THAT THEY ARE CALLED TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI.” Article 1, SFO Rule

Mark you calendars and plan to join the Celebration of the Rule to be held at the Milwaukee Cousins Center, April 17-18. (see page 12 Calendar of Events) Celebration reservations will be required. Agenda details about fees and registration will become available in January 2009.

In seeking confirmation of a Gospel way of life, Francis, Bernard of Quintavalle, and Peter Catanio prayed at the Church of San Nicolo in Assisi. Opening the Missal containing the Book of the Gospels, the following passage as well as others help established the course of action which we profess to follow today: **“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”** Matthew 16:24.

## Three Wisconsin Secular Franciscans renew their spirituality beyond our borders

Therese Shin’s narrative story speaks of her call to visit South and North Korea. Her article joins two earlier *LaVerna Vision* published stories: Don Ryder’s mission work in Kenya and Jim Carlson’s supportive presence in Santa Domingo. Their exemplary work mirrors a Way of Life, that goes beyond the two dimensional world of scholar and myriad seminars. They all decided to travel so that their roles may form us, who are physically unable to go, and challenge us to practice the Tau formation in our own community.

(continued on page 6)

From Gospel to Life—From Life to Gospel

**La Verna Region Executive Council and Formation Team**

**Minister**

Ken Beattie, SFO  
Portiuncula – Franklin  
512 Pioneer Road  
Sheboygan, WI 53081-8705  
(414) 380-3850  
[beatiesfo@aol.com](mailto:beatiesfo@aol.com)

**Vice-Minister**

Jim Carlson, SFO  
St. Paschal Baylon – Wind Lake  
236 Elizabeth St.  
Whitewater, WI 53190  
(262) 473-3130  
[James.Carlson@wicourts.gov](mailto:James.Carlson@wicourts.gov)

**Treasurer**

Peter Bekkers, SFO  
St. Joseph - Appleton  
W6855 St. Mary's Dr.  
Greenville, WI 54942  
(920) 757-9027  
[taxmannatp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:taxmannatp@sbcglobal.net)

**Secretary**

Kathy Sutliff, SFO  
St. John Neumann – Rhinelander  
1015 Thayer St.  
Rhinelander, WI 54501  
(715) 369-3367  
[ksut517@charter.net](mailto:ksut517@charter.net)

**Spiritual Assistant**

Lester Bach, OFM Cap  
4123 Monona Dr.  
Madison, WI 53716  
(608) 222-6238  
[lbofmcap@aol.com](mailto:lbofmcap@aol.com)

**Councilor – Central**

Patricia D Yates, SFO  
St. John Neumann – Rhinelander  
420 Michigan St #4  
Eagle River, WI 54521  
715-479-4631  
[Patricia811@excite.com](mailto:Patricia811@excite.com)

**Councilor – UP & Fox Valley**

Bob Henning, SFO  
St. Anthony's Fraternity – Marquette  
210 Thunderchief St.  
Gwinn, MI 49841  
906-346-6727  
[bmjhsfo@aol.com](mailto:bmjhsfo@aol.com)

**Councilor – UP and Fox Valley**

Jeanne M Thill, SFO  
St. Francis – Escanaba  
4179 Il Road  
Garden, MI 49835  
906-644-2382  
[athill@uplogon.com](mailto:athill@uplogon.com)

**Councilor - Southeast**

Rodney Knier, SFO  
Holy Innocents – Manitowoc  
24228 Fish & Game Rd.  
Kiel, WI 53042  
920-946-9029  
[rodvalknier@verizon.net](mailto:rodvalknier@verizon.net)

**Formation Team**

Jean Platz, SFO  
4818 Apple Dr.  
Rhinelander, WI 54501  
(715)362-6562  
[japsfo@frontiernet.net](mailto:japsfo@frontiernet.net)

Carol Bekkers, SFO  
St. Joseph – Appleton  
W6855 St. Mary's Dr.  
Greenville, WI 54942  
(920) 757-9027  
[cjbekkers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cjbekkers@sbcglobal.net)

Pauline Riedl, SFO  
St. James – Wausau  
628 ½ Augusta Ave.  
Wausau, WI 54403  
715-842-8263  
[pauline1945@netzero.net](mailto:pauline1945@netzero.net)

Joann Boss, SFO  
St. Paschal Baylon – Wind Lake  
W222 N8172 Plainview Pkwy  
Sussex, WI 53089 262-250-9251  
[ed-joann@execpc.com](mailto:ed-joann@execpc.com)

The LaVerna Region of the Secular Franciscan Order in the USA consists of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. The area is divided into four districts: Southeast, Central, Fox Valley and Upper Michigan. *La Verna Vision* is a vehicle of communication with the LaVerna Region. It presents a forum for presenting information and insights that relate to the SFO Way of Life. Permission to copy materials printed in *LaVerna Vision* is freely given except where the copyright is specifically reserved to the author or artist. Please credit *LaVerna Vision* if you copy any of the articles.

The *La Verna Vision* newsletter is published three times a year. Deadline for submitting articles are as follows:  
spring issue—March 1; summer issue—July 1; winter issue—November 1.  
*La Verna Vision* editor—Ed Boss, [ed-joann@execpc.com](mailto:ed-joann@execpc.com) (262) 250-9251.



## REGULAR GATHERINGS

There are a variety of opinions about the goal of the regular gathering of the fraternity. It is an important element of Franciscan life. Sometimes secular Franciscans use almost any excuse to miss a gathering.

It may happen because secular Franciscans do not understand its importance; or it may be that gatherings do not stimulate much excitement about Franciscan life; or because the commitment to the SFO way of life is growing dim; or people may be sick and homebound; or the gatherings do little or nothing to assist in living our way of life; or they may always be exactly the same with no sense of fresh ideas; or perhaps only one form of prayer is used; or there may be other reasons. In any case, *absence does not make the heart grow fonder*.

Local councils are responsible for developing gatherings that bring secular Franciscans together to share ideas that help stimulate a richer Franciscan life. We are not just "another society." We are committed to a 24/7 way of life. Nothing in life is separate from our Franciscan spirit. So there is plenty to share with each other. The council guides this conversation and uses ways and means to bring us to a deepened commitment to the Franciscan way of life.

Nourishment is not just for the mind. It must also touch our hearts and move us to action.

*The unbreakable bond between love of God and love of neighbor is emphasized. One is so closely connected to the other that to say that we love God becomes a lie if we are closed to our neighbor or hate him altogether. ... closing our eyes to our neighbor also blinds us to God.*

*God is Love (Deus Caritas Est) - Benedict XVI - Paragraph 16*

I thought it helpful to share some possibilities for the regular gatherings of the fraternity. **This is not a complete list**, nor does it require each point to be a part of every gathering. The local council

can use their creative imagination to implement the ideas contained below.

- + To provide a variety of prayer forms.
- + To use a majority of the time for ongoing formation. To make certain everyone understands the Rule and Constitutions of the SFO. In addition, we need time to illustrate the "how" of implementing the Rule in daily life.
- + To share insights through small group sharing.
- + To tackle secular and church issues with a Franciscan spirit.
- + To dialogue about common personal issues.
- + To allow time for the council to share important local, regional or national SFO issues.
- + To take time for the council to enter into dialogue about issues important to fraternity life.
- + To offer an opportunity for the spiritual assistant to share ideas on Franciscan spirituality or help to foster communion with the Church. (Cf. Statutes for Spiritual & Pastoral Assistance to the SFO - article 2.3)
- + To enjoy each others' company through a social period. Of course, Franciscans rarely have a gathering without good food.
- + To plan common initiatives regarding PJIC i.e. *Peace, Justice and the Integrity of Creation*.
- + To occasionally have gatherings just to enjoy being together.
- + To have special liturgical celebrations for various times of the liturgical year.
- + To share information on the development of people in the initial formation program. To involve them in fraternity activities.
- + To have programs for healthy integration into fraternity life for the newly professed.
- + To dialogue about ways to discover people with a vocation to the SFO - ways and means to invite people to our Franciscan way of life.
- + To provide input on leadership and the responsibility for Seculars to serve the fraternity.
- + To invite fraternity members to participate in accomplishing all of the above!
- + To explain the purpose of a visitation

I think you can see that these possibilities require sufficient time not only for prayer but for common conversations about our Franciscan life. It includes our willingness to participate. Fraternity gatherings cannot simply be prayer time. Prayer and activity combine to deepen our commitment to give flesh to our Franciscan calling.

SHALOM

## Minister's Thoughts

Greetings my dear Sisters and Brothers,

How often do we take time for prayer?  
When we are in prayer what is it we repeat, what do we breath deep within our heart and expel in words that bring us closer to our God?

For me, it is often the Prayer of St Francis. Not only do I recite these words, but I carry them in my daily thoughts. The prayer's wording highlight my environment and perspective into God's creative actions.

Do we really take these words to heart? Do we place them in our daily activities?

Are we **instruments of peace** - are our actions peaceful?

Do we sow **love when hate comes into our hearts**? Are those who offend us, **granted pardon** in actuality or just words spoken in the wind?

Is our **faith strong even when doubt is present**? Do we have that unending **hope** in the Resurrected Lord, **when despair is within us**? Do we **see the Light** and **live in the Light**, when darkness is all around us?

Do we carry **Joy within our hearts** when sadness attempting to enter our hearts?

Do we seek from our Lord Jesus **to be granted console** or do we pray that we will be able to **console others first**?

Is it better that **we understand then to be understood**, when events in life are brought before us?

**Do we love** with all of heart, mind and soul rather than wanting to be loved by all? It is **better to give then to receive**. It is by far **better to pardon** all who encounter us **then wanting to be pardoned** of our actions.

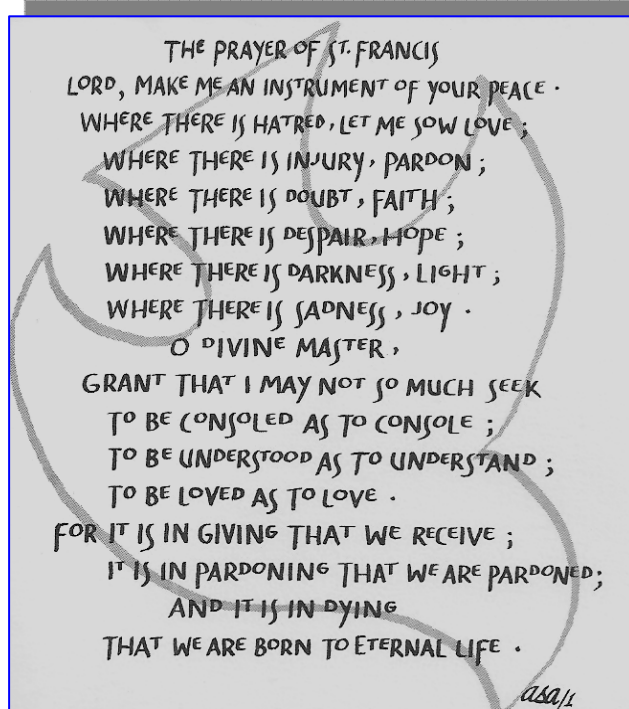
It is our final reward to **enter the Eternal Life** - *and we must do this by partaking in the dying process* - are we ready, each and every, day to do this?

As I pray, this is what comes to me in thought, but what are your feelings? We are often requested to share our thoughts – are you willing to do this?

Our editor of the *La Verna Vision* is

requesting from any of us to share your thoughts on many things: A book review, a poem, art work, or your view of a fraternity or regional events. Write something down which you would be willing to share with your Franciscan Family.

Peace and All Joy, Ken



## ENVIRONMENT: God's hand and human technology

by Judy Stouffer, B.S., M.S., SFO



Judy Stouffer, SFO

Earlier this summer, even though it was pouring rain, my husband and I took a drive to see the new wind farm that came on-line this summer in northeast Wisconsin. Alternative energy sources like wind power, ethanol from switchgrass and other crops and biomass digesters that convert manure to clean energy are coming into their own. All of these alternative energy sources have benefits, as well as drawbacks, and have their supporters and opponents, as do fossil fuels.

This particular wind farm, called the Blue Sky Green Field Wind Energy Center, was designed to generate 145 megawatts (MW) of electricity from 88 Vesta wind turbines, which means that it's capable of powering about 36,000 homes. In practical terms, this wind field already generates enough power to provide the electricity for one out of every fifty residences in Wisconsin.

Since the turbines must be spread out for maximum efficiency, they dot the landscape over 10600 acres of farmland. Each turbine and its access road uses up a half-acre of farm land, but farmers are able to raise crops and animals pasture right up to the base of a turbine. The actual aerable land actually taken out of production by the windfield amounts to forty-four acres, spread out over sixteen square miles of farmland. The farmers are compensated by the energy company that owns the wind turbines at a fixed rate that one farmer said is more than he could ever get for

"growing any legal crop" on a half an acre. I certainly had to appreciate his sense of humor, as well as the perspective of a farmer struggling in these difficult economic times to keep his family farm viable.



### The End of the Rainbow

Right as we approached, the sun came out from a break in the clouds behind us, creating this spectacular rainbow arching over the wind turbines. Awesome.

(article and photo (c) 2008, Judy Stouffer. All rights reserved)

---

**Book Report** by Ed Multhauf, sfo - *"Spirituality of the Beatitudes: Matthew's Vision for the Church in an Unjust World"* by Michael H. Crosby, ofm Cap, Orbis Book – Maryknoll, New York, 216 pages.

This great book, copyright 2005, is actually a revision of "Spirituality of the Beatitudes (Matthew's Challenge for First World Christian's, copyright 1981), and hailed by many readers as one of the best studies of the Beatitudes available.

Over the years, Fr. Crosby's perspectives adjusted to the degree that he needed to revise his work. "Matthew's Vision for the

Church in an Unjust World" explores Jesus' message in terms directly relevant to the present times. For this review I outlined only some of the authors' thoughts on the eight Beatitudes.

*Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*" Crosby proceeds with an interesting discourse challenging Luke's "Poor." He states that we do not encounter Jesus promoting poverty until his final days (Luke 26:3) and that in the world

of Matthew's gospel; resources are shared, not denied.

*"Blessed are the Meek: for they shall possess the land."* The idiom "meekness" in today's world appears to be 180 degrees out of phase with Matthew's. Fr. Crosby's example uses the Russian author Leo Tolstoy and the dilemma with Christian characters portrayed in his novels.

*"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."* Here Crosby illustrates how the third beatitude attests to the disastrous forces that benumb all of our lives and the promise of Hope. The author's interesting presentation follows by examining the complete sense "mourn" and "comfort."

*"Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill."* In spite of the everlasting debates about definition of "justice," the author demonstrates how Matthew refines its significance in today's comprehension of gospel spirituality.

*"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."* Fr. Crosby quotes Pope John Paul II encyclical letter "Rich in Mercy" that says the human heart is capable of mercy and that Sermon on the Mount reveals the same perspective about the deep mystery of God: the inscrutable unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is where love, containing justice, starts mercy in motion, which in turn reveals the perfection of justice."

In summary, Father Crosby continues to highlights deep and through investigations that will make you want to often refer back to his work. His writing will make any Catholic and especially Franciscan reader begin to explore personal ideas of the Beatitudes' relevance of Matthew's gospel for First World Christians of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond.

### Three Wisconsin Franciscans, cont'd.

Over the year each edition of the *La Verna Vision* reported about Wisconsin Secular Franciscans who had the opportunity to travel and perform good works. In the fore front of their thinking was how our

Franciscan Rule may be become possible. In the spring 2008 edition, "The Tau in Africa," Don Ryder talked about how the SFO

Rule works for the Maasai tribe in Kenya, concerning his and Romey Wagner's successful Kenya Water Project.



In the summer *Vision* edition, Jim Carlson wrote a story called "Caminando Juntos," where he joined with 13 pilgrims, as part of



a mission outreach program sponsored by various Milwaukee and Green Bay archdiocesan parishes, and visited the Dominican Republic. The pilgrims visited their

Archdiocese sister parish, La Sacrada Familia (The Holy Family). Later, he toured the village called Sebana Yegua on foot and outlying villages by vehicle. After each day of touring, the group prayed with the village congregation at daily Mass at La Sacrada Familia. The Sacrada Familia parish priest, Fr. Oriol Regales, requested that the next archdiocese visitor provide a picture of St. Francis for their chapel.

And the good news follow-up story is a strong report. On her September trip to the Dominican Republic, Milwaukee parish member Sandy Nowak took the St. Francis picture with her. "The picture was rolled in a long tube with my carry-on airline luggage. I wouldn't let it out of my sight," she said.

The same St. Francis picture has since been framed and is displayed in the village parish center.

( continued on page 7)

**The Tau goes East**  
WITNESS FOR THE REFUGEES

During this past September, Secular



Franciscan  
Therese Shin of  
St. Paschal  
Baylon fraternity  
attended the  
National  
Unification  
Advisory  
Council

conference held in Seoul, Korea. Their council discussed international diplomatic policy objectives, current status that may bridge relations between the estranged North and South Korea. Interwoven amongst the council plans are ways to build unity and harmony. But one must see the current conditions in the North to understand their problems. Mindful of the council's fruitful role and plans, Therese's Tau's *Way of Life* also helped her prepare for the trip into communist North Korea.

*"Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others": Rule 19.*

Therese writes that "in September, we were allowed to visit the city of Kaesung, which is just north of the demilitarized zone (DMZ). The excitement of anticipation kept us awake all night, Therese said. The Korean nation suffered the separation of families by the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel and the terrible war." When she entered the DMZ, Therese's group was instructed by North Korean soldiers that all cell phone usage was prohibited, to avoid political talk, and do not carry film cameras. (Apparently digital cameras were allowed, but they would be censored after the trip.)

Once allowed through the DMZ, two North Korean guides joined and monitored the group. Near the DMZ area, there are several factories where North Korean workers were toiling in factories. For over three hours, we traveled past small towns which seem destitute and the sights presented an eerily calm. The streets were nearly deserted. Along the Yimjim River, we saw sentries positioned everywhere.

Compared to the South Korea, where global businesses flourish, the North was lagging far behind, and its people suffer from serious poverty.

Our first stop was at Pakyun Falls, a splendid picturesque falls which inspired many artists. But this beautiful place was deserted. If this setting was in the South, it would be filled with tourist. As we entered Kaesung, there were tall buildings and resident houses, but the urban streets were quiet. It made us wonder if there are people really living in this city.

At another stop, we entered the city center, and we were led to a house for lunch. Later the guides took us to some important historical places such as Sunjukyo Bridge, Pyochungbi Memorial, Koryo Museum.

The North Korean government receives a lot of assistance from the UN and South Korea, but the common people don't seem to benefit from the aid. Many North Koreans look impoverished; they still live under strict psychological control of communist ideology.

After we crossed back through the DMZ from the North, I thanked the Lord for my safe return to Seoul. Later we shared prayers and dinner at the Cheong-Dong Franciscan Friary. I met Fr. Leonardo, ofm and asked him why there so many sentries and soldiers positioned in the North. There doesn't seem to be any need to protect anything, I said. The North Korean government tries to keep its people from contacting foreign visitors and influences, Fr. Leonardo answered.

Over the past ten years, Fr. Leonardo had built a small dwelling in Pyongyang, the capital of the North. He and some Franciscan brothers served the poor with precious food and shelter. However, his work and effort become too frustrating, and he gave up all hope. But government officials recently invited him to return and help the Pyongyang children.

*(continued on page 8)*

## The Tau goes East, cont'd.

I was really grateful to our Lord for giving me this opportunity to visit the North, and witness the sufferings. With a heavy heart, I left my Korean fatherland on September 20<sup>th</sup> and returned back home to Racine. On our flight back, “I prayed for Fr. Francis Kim, ofm, who is also taking care of refugees along the Chinese border. I made a decision to do my share and support his work.

### NOVENA OF INTERCESSION

As agreed at the recent NAFRA meeting, the SFO in the United States would like to institute a “perpetual” novena for at least one year on behalf of the suffering people both home and abroad especially for those in Orissa, India, as we did in 2007 for Darfur. Every day for the next year, members of the SFO will be praying the novena prayer. For this to happen, 5 Regional fraternities are assigned to cover each month. To make sure we cover the entire month, there will be four to five “waves” of the novena, each starting on **Sunday**. People are assigned to these waves by Region, as noted below. For example, the first Sunday of December, members of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region will begin praying the novena; the second Sunday of the month Lady Poverty will begin the novena. In this way the people of Darfur/Orissa or whomever we wish to pray for, will be held in prayer by the SFO for the entire year.

In the event there are only 4 Sundays in the month, the fifth Region can pray week 1, or choose another week. Individuals may start and end their novena on other days if necessary, or do a different week. If you want to continue to pray before or after your week / month, you can certainly do that! You are also encouraged to share the novena with people in your parish, youth groups, or other organizations to which you belong.

A novena allows us to hold a particular concern before God in a special way. The name “novena” comes from the Latin for “nine”. Traditionally we pray a novena every day for nine days, and the prayer is usually a bit longer than a brief intercession. This allows us to give more of ourselves to our prayer for the concern we are bringing before God.

|                          | <b>Dec/June</b>          | <b>Jan/July</b>         | <b>Feb/Aug</b>                      | <b>Mar/Sept</b>                      | <b>Apr/Oct</b>             | <b>May/Nov</b>              |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Week 1</b>            | St. Elizabeth of Hungary | Bl Kateri Tekakwitha    | Fr Solanus                          | The Tau Cross                        | Our Lady of the Angels     | St. Katharine Drexel        |
| <b>Week 2</b>            | Lady Poverty             | St. Margaret of Cortona | Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis | Five Franciscan Martyrs              | St. Maximilian Kolbe       | Holy Trinity                |
| <b>Week 3</b>            | Divine Mercy             | Our Lady of Indiana     | <b>La Verna</b>                     | Mother Cabrini                       | Franciscans of the Prairie | St. Clare                   |
| <b>Week 4</b>            | St Joan of Arc           | Queen of Peace          | Juan de Padilla                     | Los Tres Companeros/Three Companions | Our Lady of the Rockies    | Santa Maria de las Montanas |
| <b>Week 5 or Week 1*</b> | Our Lady of Guadalupe    | Troubadours of Peace    | Bl. Junipero Serra                  | St. Francis                          | St. Thomas More            | Ohana O Ke Avenue           |

The prayer follows:

### Novena Prayer of Intercession

(continued on page 9)

From Gospel to Life—From Life to Gospel

Merciful Father, Prince of Peace, Spirit of Wisdom and Compassion, please look with mercy upon our suffering brothers and sisters here at home and around the world, [particularly in \* Orissa]. We humbly pray:

---- For those who have been subjected to violence, and their families, we ask for healing, consolation, and relief of further suffering.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

---- For those who have done violence, we ask for healing, forgiveness, and the grace of conversion.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

---- For those in authority throughout the world, we ask wisdom, creativity, compassion and courage in addressing these situations.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

Lord Jesus, Your Sacred Heart burns for love of all your people. Please place in our hearts that same love and inspire us to have the courage, wisdom and ingenuity to take what measures we can personally to relieve the suffering of our brothers and sisters. We pray this in the Name of Jesus, our Lord, through the intercession of the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**Memorare:** Remember oh most gracious Virgin Mary that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, oh Virgin of Virgins, my Mother. To thee I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. Oh, Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen

\*insert specific concerns for which you would like to pray.

---

**PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL**

We value our life as Secular Franciscans and wish to have our way of living the Gospels continued through generations. If you as an individual feel strongly about this, we ask you to remember the La Verna Regional Secular Franciscans in your will. Please advise your attorney to have the request read: "I give and bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ unto the La Verna Region of the Secular Franciscan Order for the purpose of furthering the ideals of the Secular Franciscan Order." Correspondence can be mailed to:

**La Verna SFO Regional Council  
c/o Ken Beattie, SFO  
Regional Minister  
512 Pioneer Road  
Sheboygan, WI 53081-8705**

**Your generosity will be remembered for years to come by those following the Franciscan Way of Life. Feel free to call Ken at (920) 458-6437 / or e-mail at [beatiesfo@aol.com](mailto:beatiesfo@aol.com).**

## Franciscan News

### Franciscan Action Network

## RESULTS of the C4C Process

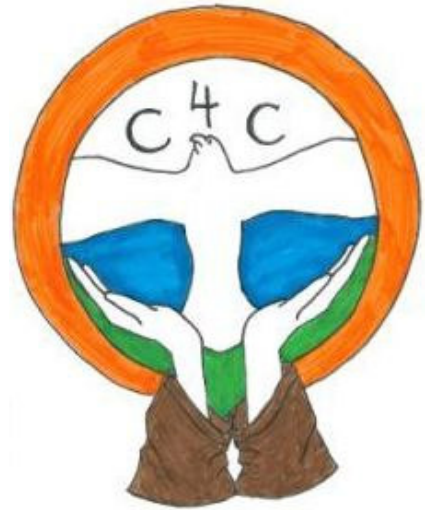
At the end of the C4C process, each host group or ministry will have a core group of skilled Franciscan Creation Caretakers able to integrate a more vital care for creation ethic into the life of the church. However, this process is not so much about creating new programs for already busy people; rather, it will help enhance programs already in place, making them more effective through their actions.

## What is this Franciscan Care for Creation Program—C4C?

C4C is a 5-session, intense immersion experience and spiritual journey for a small group (8-18 persons) to become self-aware Franciscan Caretakers for Creation.

During the 5 sessions, the participants of the group will learn:

- How and why Prudence is the virtue and Sustainability the criterion of the moment to recover Care for Creation in the 21st Century.
- How “Sister Water” is still largely untapped as a resource of healing and unrecognized for its systemic role in the perpetuating of violence and injustice in creation.
- Why contentious water relations (not oil) hold the key to the future of human beings in creation, and how each of us can be persons who can help heal these divisions.
- The many facets of climate change in a context of globalization, eco-justice, and the distortion of American political and media filters, including denial of humankind's condition as an endangered species.
- Skills and resources to reduce our individual, group, church, as well as larger societal “carbon footprint.”
- How Franciscan spirituality provides a foundation from which to respond to creation’s groaning.
- How resistance to both individual and social change is not only internal and external, but also perfectly natural.
- Ways to befriend and harness this resistance through spiritual practice. Identification of small initial steps that can have a large impact in bringing about social transformation.
- For more information, click on Franciscan Action Network at [www.franciscanaction.org](http://www.franciscanaction.org)



The C4C Process is jointly supported by [FAN](#), the [Sisters of St. Francis \(Stella Niagara, NY\)](#), [Holy Name Province Franciscans \(OFM\)](#), and the [Catholic Coalition for Climate Change](#).

## **Regional: Formation for Secular Franciscan Spirituality**

### INFORMATION, FORMATION AND TRANSFORMATION

The 2009 La Verna Regional District Gatherings start throughout Wisconsin in March and April. Please check the “Calendar of Events” on page 12 for date and location in your area. For the next three years, our district gatherings will explore each theme taken from *A New Glance at the Formation Process* prepared by Teresa V. Baker, SFO and former National Formation Commission Co-chair.

This spring at each district gathering location, the La Verna Regional Formation Team will gather to discuss Information as the first of a three part theme component. Information is vital to each fraternity member so that a person coming to us in formation is able to make informed decisions concerning his/ her vocation in the Order.

Another way to look at *A New Glance at the Formation Process* is that if **Information** is a map and our guiding compass is **Formation**, then the path’s journey leads to **Transformation**. Consider your fraternity as an informative community that makes “Christ the inspiration and center of his/ her life with God and people.” SFO Rule 4

Information stands at the threshold of formation and leads one path from Orientation, Inquiry, and Candidacy into ongoing Franciscan learning. Our Information must *correctly* explain the Vision that St. Francis started 800 years ago. A unique Vision which one carries for a lifetime. This is one basic reason why people are attracted to our Order, and this is why we spend a lifetime learning it well.

Please welcome the La Verna Formation Team members Jean Platz, Carol Bekkers, JoAnn Boss, and Pauline Riedl when they attend your district gathering this spring.

**LaVerna Vision survey.** As we move deeper and deeper into the electronic gathering information age, the Executive Council would like to know how you feel about having the LaVerna Vision newsletter delivered to your computer. So far, the reviews have been a little too “quiet” to make a formal decision. The electronic newsletter, and previous editions, may reviewed at our LaVerna Regional website. But we would like to hear from you on the matter of home PDF file delivery via e-mail. Please send you comments to Ed Boss at [ed-joann@execpc.com](mailto:ed-joann@execpc.com). Thank you.

## **Local: Formation news.**

**St. Paschal Baylon** has appointed John Terranova as its first Infirmarian for the Madison area Rainbow Cell members. John will make quarterly visits to those Madison area members who are unable to attend meetings because of illness, confinement to home, nursing home. Also, the fraternity may soon initiate an Affiliate Orientation Plan for persons who are not seriously interested or unable to participate in a regular SFO fraternity formation program, but wish to be a friend of Francis. The Affiliate Orientation Plan does require specific guidelines. The affiliate must express in writing a desire to remain as an Affiliate every two years to the local council. Each fraternity formation director may obtain a copy of instructions from the Regional Formation Team.

**LA VERNA REGION  
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER  
512 PIONEER ROAD  
SHEBOYGAN, WI 53081**

**NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
GREEN BAY WI  
PERMIT 460**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS: WINTER/ SPRING/ SUMMER 2009**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>February 7</b>  | <b>LaVerna Regional Executive Council meeting, Green Bay.</b>  |
| <b>March 21</b>    | <b>S.E. District Gathering, St. Josaphat Basilica, (lower church)<br/>corner of West Lincoln Avenue and South Sixth Street, Milwaukee.</b>   |
| <b>April 17-19</b> | <b>800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Rule. Gathering at the Cardinal Stritch<br/>University Cousins Catholic Center, 3501 South Lake Drive, Milwaukee.</b>                                   |
| <b>April 18</b>    | <b>Central District Gathering, the Solanus Center, St. Anthony Retreat Center,<br/>Marathon.</b>   |
| <b>April 25</b>    | <b>Fox Valley and U.P. Districts Gathering, at St. Mary's School, 540 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (next<br/>to Mt. Tabor) in Menasha, WI.</b>  |
| <b>May 2</b>       | <b>La Verna Regional Executive Council meeting, Green Bay.</b>   |
| <b>May 28-31</b>   | <b>National Formation Workshop, Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL.</b>   |
| <b>June 25-28</b>  | <b>SFO Summer Seminar at St. Francis University, Loretto, PA<br/>(call: (814) 472-3367 or e-mail Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR, at<br/><a href="mailto:kqueally@francis.edu">kqueally@francis.edu</a>.)</b> |
| <b>June 26-28</b>  | <b>LaVerna Regional Fraternity Chapter Gathering, St. Anthony Retreat<br/>Center, Marathon.</b>  |