



Published by the
LAVERNA REGIONAL
COUNCIL OF THE
SECULAR FRANCISCAN
ORDER

LAVERNA VISION

EASTER BLESSINGS ❖ YEAR OF INFORMATION ❖ SPRING 2009 EDITION
www.lavernasecularfranciscans.com & www.lavernasecularfranciscans.org

THE ANATOMY OF INFORMATION

Where does our information come from? Our high tech culture may say it's stored in computers. The Merriam-Webster Collegiate dictionary says the word "information" usage goes way back in the 14th century. The definition describes the word as to "communicate knowledge, facts, and data. Such as a message, experiment, a picture, or theory that represents physical or mental experience." On March 21, the LaVerna Region began its 2009 district gatherings at St. Josaphat Basilica in Milwaukee, and its theme is called the "Year of Information."

The Secular Franciscans who attended the Milwaukee meeting were asked to apply information as their map to interweave formation components. JoAnn Boss, a member of the regional formation team, says "information is the map, formation is the compass, and the journey along the path leads us to transformation." Information can teach us to eyewitness our world in diverse forms. It can explain why it takes a fraternity to develop and sustain a Secular Franciscan.



Take sound information used in the melody arrangement of three musicians who combined their talent for *Peace Prayer*, the opening song to the 2009 southeastern district gathering. Two St. Josaphat formation students, Angela Scaffidi on clarinetist, and Linda Faust, on guitar, join their fraternity member pianist Ural Campbell, SFO.

In concert they played a moving song-prayer.

*"Lord make me
a means of your*

*peace, where there is hatred grown,
let me sow your love, Where there's injury, Lord, let forgiveness
be my sword. Lord, make me a means of your peace."*

Information comes to us through *prayer* (another 14th century word taken from the Latin word *precarious*). Said *precarious* or prayer addresses God in word or thought and takes a path which hopefully leads us to transformation.

But the 21st century Franciscan is familiar and comfortable with the electronic and printed word. We have grown accustomed to computers, hard copy, books, and flip charts. Regional formation team member Pauline Riedl, SFO, St. James Fraternity,



please see **INFORMATION**, on page 9

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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 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* is published three times a year. Deadline for submitting articles: spring—March 1; summer—July 1; winter—November 1. *La Verna Vision* editor, Ed Boss. E-mail: ed-joann@execpc.com (262) 250-9251.

Minister's Thoughts by Ken Beattie, SFO

This year is scheduled to be a very busy time with upcoming elections in several fraternities and some Regional Visitations. It is also an opportunity for open communication between your local fraternity members and the Regional Council -- Regional Fraternity. We look forward to have this opportunity to talk about your needs and how each of us, as an individual and group, may well serve one other.

The fraternal Regional Council gatherings are also meant to seek out and discuss one-to-one dialogue with you. What is it that you want from the regional fraternity? We look to you to see how our Family is living the Gospel Life.

A youth group recently gave me a list of "Tips." When I read the list, I could not help but think about our communication between one other. I took their list and made a few revisions to fit our Fraternal Family. Hope this list will bring some meaning for you!

TIPS FOR IMPROVING FRATERNAL - FAMILY COMMUNICATION

- **Set aside time each day to talk** (Through open and honest communication we will grow in the Love of the Gospels.)
- **Don't expect your family to read your mind** (Our Franciscan Family formation process does not teach mind reading.)
- **Be specific about your expectations and requests** (If we expect a certain action from each other, then we must be clear in our request.)
- **Have patience, good communication takes time and effort** (We should not rush into anything. There is an adage which says – "don't rush a good thing", we are a good thing and we should not rush it!)
- **Brainstorm ideas with each other before making any decisions** (Through joint efforts we will make a wise decision.)
- **Ask for input from family members** (The right step to take when dealing with a concern is allowing each member to speak on a subject. It may be that person's opinion that opens our mind to the best response.)
- **Be willing to compromise** (After allowing each other to speak, be willing to compromise on a final choice.)

These are some thoughts I enjoyed when reading "Tips." I hope my tips will bring about a greater sense of openness with each other.

Peace and All Good, ken, *T*

REFLECTIONS

**Regional Spiritual Assistant
Lester Bach, OFM Cap**

WOW!

*In these fraternities the brothers
and sisters, led by the Spirit,
Strive for perfect charity
in their own secular state!
SFO Rule – article #2*

The work of formation is never finished for Secular Franciscans. We regularly face new issues. The economic recession has created new issues for many people, Franciscans as well as others. We need sharing at *ongoing formation* to address these issues. We seek things to do for one another and for others caught in financial difficulties or personal problems because of the recession. This is one item for *ongoing formation*.

We seek ways to achieve whatever assistance we can give. Since we are called to love one another, we are called to be creative in supporting one another. We need an honest evaluation of the situation and imaginative and creative ways of dealing with it. Local councils, as well as the members, collaborate in achieving the goal of **HOW** we show our love.

TRANSFERS

*If a brother or sister, for any reasonable cause, desires transfer to another fraternity, he or she first informs the council of the fraternity to which he or she belongs and then makes the request, **including the reason for the transfer**, to the minister of the fraternity to which he or she wishes to belong. The council makes its decision after having received the necessary information in writing from the fraternity of origin.*

Constitutions—article #55

The transferee is encouraged to make the request in writing. He/she may ask the secretary of the fraternity of origin to send the record of profession to the secretary or minister of the new fraternity. The council of the new fraternity decides on the request of the transferee to become part of the local fraternity.

It is a good practice for the local fraternity council to sit down with the transferee and discover the kind of formation they have experienced as well as their experience as a Secular Franciscan. Sometimes former formation and fraternity life is quite different from that of the new fraternity. In such cases the council can invite the transferee to engage in the fraternity's formation program for a specific period. Respectful dialogue on this issue is expected and needed.

The goal is to help the transferee to be in tune with the spirit and practices of their new fraternity. It will help them feel more at home. This is a good process for welcoming transferees. Otherwise they may feel uncomfortable with fraternity life that differs from their fraternity of origin. As someone put it: "*It is good when everyone in the fraternity is on the same page!*"

Respectful dialogue also helps the council to get to know the transferee and vice versa. Establishing a good relationship is part and parcel of what the council does. The council also introduces the transferee to the fraternity members. This form of reverent and gentle hospitality should be a normal part of fraternity life.

WOW!

*... let prayer and contemplation be the
soul of all they are and do.*

SFO Rule—article #8

ENVIRONMENT: Second-Hand Infertility by Judy Stouffer, SFO



Judy Stouffer, SFO

Most of us have heard about the negative health impacts for non-smokers caused by "second-hand" cigarette smoke. Now, scientists are increasingly worried that the herbicides homeowners and lawn care services use to kill weeds in lawns cause "second-hand" infertility.

Dr. Warren Porter, a leading environmental toxicologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, discovered that a mix of 2, 4-D, mecoprop, dicamba (three herbicides commonly used together in "weed and feed" products) caused miscarriages and re-absorptions of fetuses. Even supposedly "safe" herbicides like RoundUp can affect early cell division processes in embryos, according to Dr. Porter.

Only a tiny amount of these chemicals -- just a few parts per billion seeping into our drinking water -- can cause these unintentional early-stage abortions. Samples taken of our drinking water here in Wisconsin already show much higher concentrations of these chemicals in areas of our State.

How can we help protect our future mothers, their hopes of having families and their children?

1. We as Catholics have a special calling to protect the unborn.

We can educate our fellow Catholics about the threat these chemicals pose to our unborn children. Bruce Hannemann, husband of Jeannie Hannemann, Founder of Elizabeth Ministry, has just written a useful book that teaches about the dangers of these types of chemicals, titled, "Second Hand Sterility: Infertility Caused By Other's Decisions." It's available through the Elizabeth Ministry for only \$3. The Elizabeth Ministry can be reached by phone at (920) 766-9380, or copies can be ordered online at: <http://www.elizabethministry.com/store/cart.php?cat=BOOKS&s=150>



2. We can each chose to stop using synthetic pesticides on our lawns. Safe and effective alternatives are available everywhere, even at the "big box" stores. If you feel you must use a synthetic fertilizer, then buy one that is free of herbicides and insecticides. Don't buy a "weed and feed" combination fertilizer.

3. We can ask our neighbors, friends and families to stop using synthetic pesticides. Our Canadian neighbors to the north have already restricted or banned residential use of yard chemicals in three Canadian provinces, with the other provinces expected to follow suit. Why can't we do the same?

A "perfect" lawn isn't even remotely worth the life of our unborn babies.

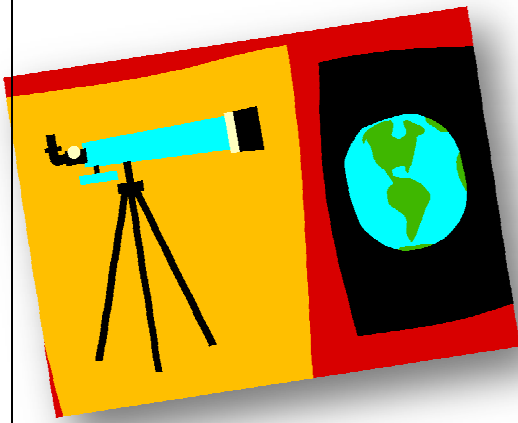
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SFO Gardener's note: In the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article, "An Eden of herbs," (August 31, 2008) the story said that the Bible is a learning source about herbs. Scripture mentions more than 66 herbs ranging from Genesis thistle references, to Hebrews words on plants with prickles and thorns. For example, to symbolize their harsh bondage in Egypt, the Hebrews were commanded to eat Passover lamb with bitter herbs. The Old Testament mentions the ancient herb hyssop used in Hebrew purification sprinkling rites, and lemon grass relates to calamus.



God included calamus in his direction given to Moses for making and using holy oil. Numbers 11:15 mentions garlic, and Matthew 23:23 talks about cumin. Onions, leeks, dill and mint were all part of the everyday lives of the Bible people. Kitchen herbs like basil, rosemary, and thyme were used for cooking and medicine.

In the *I Thirst* cookbook, compiled by the Wausau Secular Franciscans at St. James Fraternity, there are many recipes that ask for herbs to season tasty meals. Why not try your green thumb at becoming a backyard gardener? You will enjoy the Creator's ample work, and probably reap a plentiful herb harvest, which will bring out the savory taste of your next meal.



From My Corner of the World
by Anne Mulqueen, SFO,
International Councillor, USA

Have you ever had so much to say that you didn't know where to begin? Well, I have. And so the Holy Spirit

had to step in and lead me to write an article which will set the tone and content for this column.

And because the major part of my responsibilities in the SFO is to communicate, I will pay heed to Michele Canone, OFS, a 30-year old Italian man. His reflection refers to the recent International Chapter in Hungary. He confesses to finding it difficult to imagine men and women aged *50 to 60-years old so full of light and*

*charged with energy.*¹ He admits that his experience at the Chapter changed his perception, and that **light, if it is real, cannot fade.** Michele's article speaks of **Communication**, one of the International Fraternity's priorities for the next six years. In his article, Michele says:

*Communication in the past meant to the Order little more than issuing a circular [letter], which informed everyone about important events. Today, communication is **action**... communicating means **living communion** and making this known so that others can live it. This is the greatest challenge. Training will be necessary in communication, which is the soul of sharing!*

I will do my best not only to inform you about major events and the directives of the International Fraternity, but also share my impressions and perception—my very *self* with you in fraternal communion. In addition to information and reports of activity, I will share how the International Fraternity functions. It may help you to put the information into perspective. And so in the spirit of communication and communion, let us begin.

In my opinion, Minister General Encarnacion del Pozo's most dramatic and important assertion came from her State of the Order address. She told us to take charge of our identity as an Order, and act on the conviction that we are equal partners in the Franciscan Family, not passive members. Encarnita (as our Minister General is affectionately known) exhorts us as follows:

I beg of you—the SFO must not and cannot trail behind ... the other components of our family. The SFO has to reclaim ... its place in these family events. I do believe that the First Order, the Second Order and the Third Order Regular at all levels need the knowledge that we can offer, as people fully immersed in the ordinary circumstances and problems related to work, family, politics, education and science, including situations of extreme poverty and all kinds of misery.

If we are to assume our place at the table, we need to know our heritage. What more auspicious time than the 8th centenary of the birth of the Franciscan charism to reflect on our history. In 1209, Francis and his brothers presented themselves before Pope Innocent III and asked for recognition and approval of their gospel way of life. Although the penitential movement predated 1209, and St. Francis was a penitent, 1209 marks the official birth of our charism. It is with joy and gratitude that we join the rest of the Franciscan family in celebrating this 800th anniversary. If you have access to a computer, search for a document call *Conference of the Franciscan Family, Living According to the Gospel*. It is an excellent formation resource.

continued on page 7

¹ I think I saw some brothers and sisters with light and energy who were older than 50 to 60-years old, but I suppose when you're 30-years old, it difficult to imagine life beyond 60.

Continuing with the State of Order address, Encarnita reported that in the Western World, particularly Europe, vocations are declining, while in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Slavic nations, there is astonishing growth. We can only wonder why. The United States numbers have remained approximately the same over the last few years. In my last report to CIOFS, I reported 15,811 professed members, 1,208 candidates and 850 inquirers. It seems that people who once gave little thought to spiritual matters during secure times, now in times of turmoil, turn to God for comfort. Perhaps, Saint Paul's assertion that, *All things work together for good for those who know and love the Lord*, will bear fruit in new vocations.

As you may remember, the theme of the General Chapter was Profession and a Sense of Belonging. Many of you helped me prepare for the Chapter by your responses to the circular letter that was distributed last year. During the Chapter there were major presentations on each of these topics. After each presentation, reflection questions were provided to stimulate discussion. At the bottom of this article I have included a few reflective questions for your personal use. If you are interested in reading the presentation that was given, go to the NAFRA website and look under *Meetings and Resources*.

Of the five priorities² established by the International Fraternity, formation was voted number one. **Great emphasis was placed on revitalizing the local fraternity where the life of the Order exists and vocations are developed.** The anniversary of the birth of the Franciscan movement challenges us to *consciously* recommit to the ideals of St. Francis and our Baptismal and Profession promises. After all, the risen Christ is in the midst of our fraternities and in the heart of each brother and sister.

I will leave you by restating the opening line of this article. I have so much to say that I will have to save some topics for future articles. With fraternal affection and peace, Your sister, Anne.

For your reflection:

Profession: Secularity represents the special mission brought forth by Profession into the SFO. Do you believe (understand) that you have been called, precisely by virtue of your own vocation, to work in the world for its sanctification?

Sense of Belonging: Based on your experience, what are the symptoms of a fragile or missing sense of belonging to the SFO? In your opinion, what means may be implemented to improve or reinforce a sense of belonging for your brothers and sisters?

The LaVerna Franciscan Retreat Endowment Fund

by Peter J. Bekkers, SFO, Regional Treasurer

On June 21, 2008 the LaVerna Regional Executive Council finalized and approved the implementation of a plan whereby we could have a way to safeguard the funds received from St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity of Milwaukee upon its deactivation in 2007.

Since this fund was a contribution for the precise purpose of helping financially challenged Professed SFO Members with the financial burden of going on a Franciscan Retreat, we have set up the **“LaVerna Franciscan Retreat Endowment Fund.”** We would use only the proceeds to help Professed SFO members within the LaVerna Region who need financial help to make a retreat. We have worked up the logistics of how this would

Please see **RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND, page 8**

² Formation, Communication, Franciscan Youth, Presence in the World, and Emerging National Fraternities
Spring 2009

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RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND

be accomplished. The earnings could amount to between \$750 and \$900 per year. With this amount, perhaps, we would be able to help up to 10 or more SFO members with a maximum amount of **UP TO ONE HALF** of the retreat fee.

If the fund would grow by additional contributions, this amount could be even larger. For those who are able and willing, this Endowment Fund could be added to and thus enable more dollars to be available to help a larger number of members who need financial help for retreats. Since we are a 501 (c) (3) organization, any contributions made to this fund would be tax deductible for federal and state tax purposes.

Following are the guidelines we've set up to help us determine whether a member would qualify for financial assistance. These guidelines will be updated each year as the cost of living index adjustments are made.

* * * * *

The following guidelines as of **October 2008** will help us to determine your qualifications for financial assistance:

<u>FAMILY SIZE</u>	<u>MAXIMUM MONTHLY INCOME</u>
1	\$ 1,127.00
2	\$ 1,517.00
3	\$ 1,907.00
4	\$ 2,297.00
5	\$ 2,687.00
6	\$ 3,077.00
7	\$ 3,467.00
8	\$ 3,857.00
9	\$ 4,247.00
10	\$ 4,637.00

For an endowment fund application, please contact Peter Bekkers, (920) 757-902,
email: taxmannatp@new.rr.com

Book Report By Ed Multhauf, SFO

“A Practical Commentary on Holy Scripture” by the Most Rev. Frederick Justus Knecht, D.D.,
Translated and adapted from the German edition, Tan Book Publishers

First published in German in 1883 and then English in 1894, the 2003 latest edition of *A Practical Commentary* attempts to explain Scripture to be easily understood by anyone. The 2003 revised edition contains more modern developments and footnotes which clarify the original text aspects, and for the most part, the adapted method works well. One consistent book quality in each chapter is its brief redemptive purpose to daily life.

The book is not a proper verse-by-verse or even chapter-by-chapter bible commentary, but a more biblical history survey based on Douay-Rheims Old and New Testaments selected texts. Archbishop Redwood of

Please see **Book Report, page 9**

Book Report “*A Practical Commentary on Holy Scripture*”

Wellington, New Zealand, recommended that “when studying, *A Practical Commentary* [one] must be read it hand-in-hand with the Catechism.” A typical chapter will first tell a bible story, based on the Douay-Rheims Bible, with many fascinating explanations of particular words and phrases. Then follow many brief explanations of topics in Scripture passage, clearly showing Catholic doctrines. The explanations include teaching on the Church, the Mass, the Sacraments - especially the Holy Eucharist - Sanctifying Grace, intercessory prayer, Mortal Sin and Venial Sin, Forgiveness, the Will of God, Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and much more.

The enthusiasm and confidence of RICA and Sunday school teachers would be enhanced and raise several notches if they employee this commentary. *A Practical Commentary on Holy Scripture* is a noteworthy commentary, and it serves as a painless “travel” through Bible history for everyone.

From page1, **INFORMATION**

Wausau, said that each fraternity member is responsible for the new comer, and that formation lesson plans are important: What kind of attitudes does the new comer have? Does formation use good dialogue and questionnaires to know the student better? Pauline said that formation information may be presented in audio visual format which show professionally produced media on spiritual works or presentations. Technology makes history more accessible.

Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap, said that a “know it all” formation student or Professed member is a warning sign. “Knowledge isn’t enough. We have to have the will and heart to become Franciscan. Having the heart is more important than heady stuff,” he added. “Transformation is a dangerous thing because we are forced to change. We thought we knew it all ... but transformation means I’m no way near to knowing all the answers. We have to change and we change by forgiveness.” Learn to change and your spirit will do the conversion.



Franciscan Action Network - One Year report

By Dan Mulholland, SFO

The Franciscan Action Network (FAN) started one year ago this March and it has been a busy year. The network was formed to speak as one voice for the national Franciscan Family: friars, sisters and seculars. We propose to bring a perspective advocacy to the US Government which demonstrates a healing spirit of reconciliation, and which will transform our world. It's not a small task. FAN was one of the Catholic social justice organizations that met with the incoming Obama Administration around issues of concern in upcoming legislative sessions.

FAN's Action Center has set up and staffed dedicated people for its office. The staff includes Board members and SFO Action Commissioners located in six geographic regions in the US. The SFO Action Commissioners are: Ken Beattie, Tom Bello, Dan Mulholland, Jan Parker, Stephanie Sormane, and Carolyn Townes. Each of the six Action Commission Regions has a friar, sister, and secular representative who provide contacts and meet twice a year in Washington, DC: once in March and September. Two Action Commissioners, Fr. Pio Jackson OFM and Sr. Sheila Kinsey OSF represented FAN in the fifth Franciscan Solidarity Seminar and the World Social Forum in the Brazilian Amazon.

Please see **One Year Report, page 10**

Last year, FAN published numerous articles as well as white papers on Franciscans and the Financial Crisis. FAN has networked with a number of Catholic and Interfaith groups, including the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

FAN needs more membership and support. We currently have 40 friar and sister organizations signed up as well as the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscans. However, individual memberships are also needed, and it is easy to register by going to the FAN website www.franciscanaction.org and then look for the blue box in the upper right hand corner. FAN currently has a membership of 1793 members and is hoping to get 3400 members this year. Our website gives action alerts and an easy way to contact your Congress person, or Senator via email forms on issues of Franciscan concern.

Finally, the 2009 March meeting in Washington, DC was productive, and we also enjoyed celebrating FAN's Executive Director Russ Testa's 40th birthday. Finally, I ask that you please click on the link below and view the pictures from our March meeting. Thank you. <http://picasaweb.google.com/dannymai3/FANYearlyMeeting#>



A Special Role in Life

by Stephen P. Mickey, sfo

*For every person
there is a plan
Each one of us has
a special role in life.*

*A purpose destined
by our Creator
Let no one deny
you that purpose.*

Stephen is a professed member of Holy Innocents Fraternity, Manitowoc, and his booklet of poems is titled *Faith Hope and Love*.

This side of Mirth and Laughter

**A humorous short story shared by Peter Bekkers
during the 2008 Regional Chapter of Elections**

"GETTING A CLEAR TITLE FOR LAND PURCHASE"

A New Orleans lawyer sought an RFC loan for a client. He was told that the loan would be granted if he could prove satisfactory title to the property offered as collateral. The title dated back to 1803, and he had to spend three months running it down. After sending the information to the RFC he got this reply: "We received your letter today inclosing application for loan for your client, supported by abstract of title. Let us compliment you on the able manner in which you prepared and presented the application. However, you have not cleared the title before the year 1803 and therefore, before final approval can be accorded the application, it will be necessary that the title be cleared back of that year."

Annoyed, the lawyer replied: "Your letter regarding title in Case No. 189156 received. I note that you wish title extended further back than I have presented them. I was unaware that any educated man in the world failed to know that Louisiana was purchased from France in 1803. The title to the land was acquired by France by right of conquest from Spain. The land came into possession of Spain by right of discovery made in 1492 by a sailor named Christopher Columbus, who had been granted the privilege of seeking a new route to India by the then reigning monarch, Isabella. The good queen, being a pious woman and careful about titles, almost, I might say, as the RFC, took the precaution of securing the blessing of the Pope upon the voyage, before she sold her jewels to help Columbus. Now the Pope, as you know, is the emissary of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and God, who, it is commonly accepted, made the world. Therefore I believe it is safe to presume that He also made that part of the U. S. called Louisiana, and I hope to hell you are satisfied.

**La Verna Regional Fraternity SFO
STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSE
FOR PERIODS ENDED DEC 31, 2008 & 2007**

	THIS YEAR Y. T. D. 2008	TOTAL Budget 2008	Budget Variance orable (Unfavorat	LAST YEAR TOTAL 2007
<u>BEGINNING BALANCES:</u>				
REGULAR CHECKING -----	1.36	943.14		1,140.99
RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND	177.90	0.00		0.00
INVESTMENT SAVINGS 7 day CD-----	4,521.02	7,500.00		5,764.65
RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND CD	11,150.21	0.00		0.00
INVESTMENT SAVINGS CD-----	15,000.00	15,000.00		10,000.00
CASH ON HAND -----	0.00	0.00		0.00
TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS -	30,850.49			16,905.64
<u>REVENUE:</u>				
DONATIONS -----	1,135.05	1,000.00	135.05	1,649.09
INTEREST INCOME -----	868.05	1,000.00	(131.95)	720.81
INTEREST ENDOWMENT FUND	681.57	0.00	681.57	0.00
SPECIAL MEMORIALS -----	5,673.94	0.00	5,673.94	12,732.19
MEETINGS -----	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHAPTER -----	898.00	800.00	98.00	947.00
FAIR SHARE -----	22,991.66	24,400.00	(1,408.34)	23,198.34
MISC INCOME -----	15.00	1,500.00	(1,485.00)	2,929.60
TOTAL REVENUE -----	32,263.27	28,700.00	3,563.27	42,177.03
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS -----	63,113.76			59,082.67
<u>EXPENSES:</u>				
STIPENDS -----	2,350.00	3,000.00	650.00	2,300.00
RENT INCLUDING EQUIPMENT -----	0.00	250.00	250.00	520.00
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES -----	841.55	400.00	(441.55)	1,075.81
MEETING ROOM & FACILITIES	903.00	950.00	47.00	100.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES -----	235.60	250.00	14.40	47.44
DONATIONS -----	748.00	1,000.00	252.00	630.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXP -----	1,295.36	1,200.00	(95.36)	1,335.32
NEWSLETTER -----	1,832.07	2,500.00	667.93	1,588.54
TRAVEL EXP -----	6,187.07	6,000.00	(187.07)	6,822.29
FAIR SHARE TO NAFRA -----	4,580.00	4,850.00	270.00	4,850.00
ANNUAL CHAPTER EXP -----	5,001.75	5,000.00	(1.75)	6,846.98
RETREAT SUBSIDY	140.00	0.00	(140.00)	1,712.80
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE -----	3,011.80	950.00	(2,061.80)	403.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS -----	27,126.20	26,350.00	(776.20)	28,232.18
ENDING BALANCE -----	35,987.56			30,850.49
GAIN OR (LOSS) FOR PERIOD -----	5,137.07	2,350.00	2,787.07	13,944.85
<u>CURRENT BALANCES:</u>				
REGULAR CHECKING -----	(1,031.19)			1.36
RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND (Restricted)	719.47			177.90
INVESTMENT SAVINGS (7 day CD)	4,475.13			4,521.02
RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND 5.25% CD	16,824.15			11,150.21
13 MONTH 3.15 % CD 9/07/09 -----	15,000.00			15,000.00
CASH ON HAND -----	0.00			0.00
TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS --	35,987.56			30,850.49

**Amount received for Retreats from St. Francis Of Assisi Fraternity Milwaukee and St. John Neumann Fraternity Rhindlander, WI

PETER J. BEKKERS, SFO, TREASURER 02/09/09

**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: Spring/ Summer 2009

- April 18** **800th Anniversary of the First Rule. Gathering at the Cardinal Stritch University, North Campus, Milwaukee.**
- April 18** **Central District Gathering, at the Solanus Center, St. Anthony Retreat Center, Marathon, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**
- April 25** **Fox Valley and U.P. Districts Gathering, at St. Mary's School Cafeteria, 540 2nd Street (next to Mt. Tabor) in Menasha, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**
- May 2** **La Verna Regional Executive Council meeting, Green Bay, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**
- June 13** **Deaconate ordination of Dale Nees, SFO, at Cathedral of St. John-Evangelist: 812 N Jackson St. Milwaukee, 10:30 a.m.**
- June 25-28** **SFO Summer Seminar at St. Francis University, Loretto, PA
(call: (814) 472-3367 or e-mail Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR, at kqueally@francis.edu)**
- June 26-28** **LaVerna Regional Fraternity Chapter Gathering, St. Anthony Retreat Center, Marathon.**

Calendar of Events: Summer 2010

- June 13** **100th anniversary of St. Josaphat Fraternity, Milwaukee. Mass and spaghetti dinner.
All are welcome! (more details will follow in the upcoming *Vision* newsletters)**