



Published by the  
LAVERNA REGIONAL  
COUNCIL OF THE  
SECULAR FRANCISCAN  
ORDER

# LAVERNA VISION

YEAR OF INFORMATION ❖ WINTER 2009 EDITION

[www.lavernasecularfranciscans.com](http://www.lavernasecularfranciscans.com) & [www.lavernasecularfranciscans.org](http://www.lavernasecularfranciscans.org)

## “Gospel Footprints: A Secular Franciscan Perspective”

By JoAnn Boss, SFO—Formation Team member –

Are we not *all* formators? Is not the whole fraternity responsible for shaping the candidate's view of the Secular Franciscan Way of Life? The material being prepared for the 2010 district gatherings is not just for each formation minister and his/ her assistants but also for the whole fraternity.

Consider the article thoughtfully written in our SFO constitution:

“Mindful that the Holy Spirit is the principal agent of formation and always attentive to collaboration with Him, those responsible for formation are: the candidate, **the entire fraternity**, the council with the minister, the master of formation and the assistant.” Constitution Article 37 – Title II Entrance into the Order and Formation

In 2009, the La Verna Region formation team presented the Orientation and Inquiry phases of initial Secular Franciscan formation at each Wisconsin district gathering. In 2010, the team has prepared material on discernment, formation and transformation in the Candidacy phase. NAFRA recommendations will be presented along with available resources, lesson plans and experiential exercises – scripture reflection, contemplation and a service project. Fr. Lester Bach, Ken Beattie, and regional district counselors will be invited to add further insight for Candidacy formation and fraternal involvement.

Along with La Verna Region formation members Carol Bekkers, Pauline Riedl, and Jean Platz, the team is happy to have Lee Ann Niebuhr join us. Lee Ann, a member of Queen of Universe Fraternity in Woodruff, WI, has been tracing the Beatitudes to the Admonitions of Francis to Vatican II documents to the Pope's encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*. She has found some wonderful resources for discussion, and her goal is to have a gospel to life educational component in one of our breakout sessions.

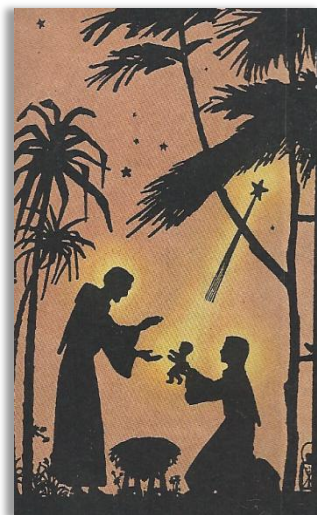
Please mark your 2010 calendar and plan to attend the district gathering in your area. Page 12 of the LaVerna Vision newsletter has outlined the meeting date and locations.

## La Verna Region Fraternal and Franciscan Christmas News

### TWO LOCAL FRATERNITIES CELEBRATE THEIR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

On December 17, **St. Clare Fraternity** in Milwaukee will celebrate the Feast of Christmas reading of *The Crib – The Greccio Story* by Fr. John Sullivan OFM, followed by a quiet time for reflection. A manger scene will be displayed, and Christmas carols will be played softly throughout the program. A brunch will immediately follow. Among the goodies will be a birthday cake honoring the Infant Jesus. (Kathy Kaczynski, St. Clare council secretary)

Over the years **Holy Innocents Fraternity** in Manitowoc has donated a share of its money to the Brother Regis Salvatorian Warehouse located in New Holstein, WI. The Christmas donation goes to the Salvatorians brothers to help with their mission work, primarily in Tanzania. Missionaries send letters to the Brother Regis Warehouse requesting such items as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and other needed substance. The fraternity-donated money will continue to help the Mission Warehouse mail out sanitary supplies to over 20 underdeveloped nations. (Margaret Senzig, Holy Innocents Fraternity minister)



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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* newsletter is published three times a year. Deadline for submitting articles are as follows: spring issue—March 1 summer issue—July 1 and winter issue—November 1

*La Verna Vision* editor—Ed Boss, [ed-joann@execpc.com](mailto:ed-joann@execpc.com) (262) 250-9251.

Original logo on page one was designed by Mujana Darian, SFO



# Reflections

*Lester Bach OFM Cap - Regional Spiritual Assistant.*

## INCARNATION

Francis learned of God's love for us in the birth of Jesus. Love moved the Trinity to send the Son, Jesus, to come among us in his humanity. Not assuming a regal manner or dress or authority, God's presence came in the ordinary ways of human birth. Francis saw the humility of God and was amazed. It became part of Francis' desire to be a "little one" among people. The humility and poverty of the Incarnation was a model for Francis' spirit. Without God, Francis could do nothing. With God all things are possible.

Over 800 years later that possibility continues to show itself in the Franciscan family. Secular Franciscans are blessed with the 1978 Rule which prompts us to bring the spirit of Francis into the Church and the World. Through us the Franciscan spirit of reverence and respect and wonder is brought to the people in our lives. It all begins with the Incarnation, the visible expression of God's love for us.

We need to grasp both the spirit of the SFO Rule and to make it evident to others. Thus they get a glimpse of what the Kingdom of God looks like. Our response to the Incarnation is our passionate desire to live the SFO Rule with faithfulness and compassion and dignity and respect and forgiveness and reconciliation and joy and hope and courtesy - a few among the many qualities of the Gospel.

May each of us learn to love with the passion of Jesus' love for all people. May nothing we say, do, or desire, separate us from one another. Help us, Jesus, and thank you for coming among us and being with us.

## STATISTICS and their message

There are 110 countries in which the SFO exists. There are 65 national fraternities with about 42 emerging national fraternities. There are about

400,000 secular Franciscans throughout the world.

In the USA there are 674 fraternities in 2009, down from 718 last year. There are about 14,722 professed members, a decline of 1,089 from last year. There are 1,245 candidates with a slight increase of 37 over last year. There are 898 inquirers, an increase of 48 over last year. There are 44 emerging fraternities, an increase of 7 over last year and newly forming groups number 36, an increase of 3 over last year.

There are 519 spiritual assistants for the 674 fraternities. That means that 155 fraternities have no spiritual assistant. There are 70 SFO members being trained as spiritual assistants - about 10 less than last year.

All in all, the statistics offer a less than exciting picture about the SFO in the USA. In our own region we have gone from 33 fraternities several years ago to about 18-19 at the present time.

## A few signs that a fraternity is dying

1. Inability to elect a new council without the same people running again and again.
2. Fraternities who have more devotional elements than ongoing formation.
3. Fraternities whose members are growing older with no newcomers entering.
4. Fraternities lacking a solid initial and ongoing formation program, with only minor growth in knowledge of the SFO way of life.
5. Fraternities who rarely participate in regional activities.
6. Fraternities who do nothing to gain new members.
7. Fraternities whose gatherings are not attractive and tend to be exactly the same every month.
8. Fraternities who ignore regional, national and international sharings.
9. Fraternities who are closed to change or to learning fresh ways of living the SFO Rule.

This information should move us to develop healthy ways of dealing with these issues locally and regionally. The SFO is our way of life!

## Thoughts from my corner of the Region

By Ken Beattie, SFO Regional Minister

*Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being,  
praise his holy name.*

*Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his  
benefits.*

*Who satisfies your desires with good things so that  
your youth is renewed like the eagle ...*

How often do we read and pray the psalms? Do we think about what we read and really pray from our heart or do we simply recite words?

As David said in the psalm above – we give praise to our Lord with our whole body, mind, and soul. Our heart gives praise. While we are searching our heart, do we recall the blessings given us? Do our given desires, our wants, our requests feel the warmth of God's love? Surely we have much to be thankful for ... or do we?

Our American ancestors set aside a special day of gratitude—a day of thanks—to praise God for what they had abundantly received. People all over the world look at America and its rich culture for hope, fine things, a better life. But are we making the mistake of showing thanks for material possessions and not looking at how our Lord has blessed us?

It is my belief that we should praise the Lord and be thankful for the freedom to pray, the freedom to express ourselves in a way that comes from our heart.

### THE FRANCISCAN WAY

How may we as Franciscans show our respect? How do we support those who lack the basic needful things to live a humane and just lifestyle? I think these answers are written in Rules 14—16.

#### SFO Rule 14:

*Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself, let them exercise*

*their responsibilities competently in Christian spirit of service.*

People of good faith are called to walk with each other on that journey toward our eternal home. We walk and learn from each other, and we teach what our Good Lord has given us. We share in giving thanks onto the Lord.

#### SFO Rule 15:

*Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.*

This is where Secular Franciscans are called to act out the gospels in promoting justice among those who do not have the needed things to live: A full life created by the Lord for their enjoyment. We are called to bring the ideals of the gospels into our communities and tell what is right and just for each other. Are we doing this in every way we can?

#### SFO Rule 16:

*Let them esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community.*

There are people who don't have the ability to work. For some it is the lack of jobs, for others it is a lack of education to sustain a job. And then there are those who can't work due to illness.

As Franciscans how do we contribute to all aspects of work and the lack of work? How do we bring about a just and fair society so that all people of good faith can care and work for themselves?

I'm writing this article on Thanksgiving Day, and I wonder what it would be like if all people were able to sit down at their tables and give thanks for family, food, work, and health.

Pax et Bonum,

Ken, - your servant minister

## ENVIRONMENT — FREE DROP OFF PROGRAM STOPS ELECTRONIC WASTE



Judy Stouffer, SFO

### Recycle a Computer (and help Goodwill Industries programs for the disabled and disadvantaged at the same time)

If recycling electronics such as computers is such a good thing (which it is) then why is it so hard to find places which will take old computers for recycling?

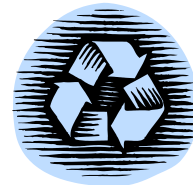
"RECONNECT" is a new partnership between Goodwill Industries and Dell Computers that recycles all brands of old computers and computer equipment—absolutely free!

The donated computer equipment is responsibly recycled through Dell's Asset Recovery Services. Dell's authorized product recovery partner remarkets the recycled materials, such as plastics, glass and metals, instead of them just being dumped into a landfill. And the proceeds support the mission of Goodwill Industries.

**RECONNECT accepts any brand of computer equipment in any condition from consumers and recycles them (at no charge).** They also accept just about anything that can be attached to a computer. Goodwill Industries hopes to offer this program in all of their locations nationwide, but for right now it's only available in some states and in some locations.

As of November 2009, the following Goodwill locations in Wisconsin and upper Michigan are participating in the RECONNECT program:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Beaver Dam, WI	920-885-3109
Fond du Lac, WI	920-923-5246
Marinette, WI	715-732-4004
Portage, WI	608-745-0907
Sheboygan, WI	920-459-8600
West Bend, WI	262-335-2053
Escanaba, MI	906-786-5001
Iron Mountain, MI	906-774-4402
Houghton, MI	906-482-3680



More locations are gradually being added. A nationwide directory of which Goodwill stores are participating in the RECONNECT program and it can be checked on the internet at: <http://reconnectpartnership.com/locations.php>

Judy Stouffer, SFO (copyright © Judy Stouffer; all rights reserved)

## THE LA VERNA VISION IS GOING GREEN

The *La Verna Vision* will begin a new process of distributing newsletters to members. In 2010, the newsletter will be U.S. postage mailed, as usual, but it will also be emailed to readers. If you do not have access to a computer, then a fraternity member who has received the electronic *Vision* will print copies. (The *Vision* can be downloaded from the La Verna Region website) We ask readers to voice their opinion on this matter, but first please give it a trial run for a limited time. From our first poll taken about whether to receive the *La Verna Vision* newsletter via email or U.S. postage, the opinions ran 50-50.

We ask members to send their decision on how they wish to receive the *La Verna Vision*. Please mail or tell your opinions to your fraternity minister or email the editor at [ed-joann@execpc.com](mailto:ed-joann@execpc.com)





**Don Ryder, SFO received the National Peace Award** from the Secular Franciscan Order during its annual Chapter held Oct. 20-25 in Albuquerque, NM. He was presented the award for his work with the Kenya Water Project. Archbishop Michael J. Sheenan of Santa Fe presented Don the Peace Award for 2009. The award comes with a St. Francis trophy and a \$2,000 prize.

Ryder, a member of St. James Fraternity in Wausau, co-leads the water project with Romey Wagner, also of Wausau. They raised funds and coordinated the digging of wells to provide clean, fresh water for Maasai tribes in Kenya. Ryder said he was humbled by the honor, but deep recognition really belonged to everyone involved in the project. The first well, he said, cost \$65,000. They had to dig down 400 feet to find fresh water. Powered by a diesel engine, the well is now providing clean water for between

4,000 and 5,000 Maasai and 100,000 head of cattle, he said. A second well was dug and went on line this month, powered by a huge windmill, he said. It cost about \$45,000. The well is already providing running water for a school, and they are in the process of laying pipe to a dispensary. "Our hope is that once the dispensary has running water, it will be upgraded to a hospital," Ryder said.

The following is a small portion of Don's award acceptance speech.

"I accept this on behalf of the many people I've worked with in this service and the many who have supported it financially and in other ways.... We are Eucharistic people; we are blessed; we are broken, and we are given-one to another. We are all good! As Franciscans, we are people of the Tau. That means we are people of the Mystical Body of Christ and are all one. We are connected. When one of us suffers, we all suffer. Together we can celebrate the ordinariness of our lives.

Ryder and his wife, Yvonne, have a long history of working with the poor and marginalize. Before moving to Wisconsin, they volunteered at a California operation that ran a soup kitchen, temporary shelter and clinics. Then in Wisconsin, they volunteered with church groups that visited Jamaica to help with construction projects and food and clothing. While in Jamaica, Ryder met a missionary priest from Kenya, who suggested that he might want to visit his home country. That led to volunteering to help build a church and repair homes in Kenya, working with the Catholic diocese. While there he had the opportunity to visit a Maasai village. Several months after returning to the United States, Ryder received an email from the Vatican describing the worsening drought. He emailed a contact in Kenya, who confirmed that the Maasai were particularly hard hit.

The thought kept coming to him that he should do something, he said, but he would dismiss it, thinking, who am I, what can I do? Finally, after praying about it for several days, he opened the Bible and his finger fell to a passage in the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus says, "I was thirsty and you gave me drink."

"Okay, God, I'll see what I can do, but I'm putting it in your hands," he recalled saying. "This is your project. I expect you to open the doors."

He told his parish priest at St. Anne's Church about it, who said the parish would help. He told Secular Franciscans, and they jumped on board. His co-leader, Romey Wagner, stepped up. Soon they were getting speaking engagements to schools, churches, Rotary Clubs. A young couple donated \$2,000. School children collected coins. Donations started pouring in from coast to coast, he said.

And the future? "As my co-leader likes to say, we'll always be digging a new well." He added that anyone interested in donating to the Kenyan water project may do so through the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin ([www.cfoncw.org](http://www.cfoncw.org)). Don Ryder's fraternity also maintains a fund for the project.

Previous SFO National Peace Award recipients included, among others, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Portions of this article were obtained from the St. James Fraternity newsletter, November - December 2009 edition, and the CNN news report, November 9, 2009.

## Book Report By Eddie Multhauf, SFO –



### ***“Strength in What Remains: A Journey of Remembrance and Forgiveness”***

By Tracy Kidder, Published by Random House/ New York, 304 pages.

**T**his book is “hot off the press,” copyright 2009 and carries a waiting list in our Burlington, WI library system. “Deogratias,” yes that is the protagonist’s name in this well written first-person narrative biography, adventure story and historical work. Pulitzer Prize winner Tracy Kidder covers Deogratias’ escape and journey from the current civil war, political upheaval and ethnic violence in Burundi, Rwanda and Darfur. Deogratias (Deo) is gifted with a strong will to survive the odds of beating death; he has determination, second chances, and unlimited love of his country and native Burundi people.

Deo travels by plane to America seeking a better life in New York City. He speaks no English, has no social, and no business contacts, and only two hundred dollars in his pocket. Homeless, living in Central Park, and learning English by reading dictionaries in bookstores, he meets strangers who will transfer his intellect. He meets Sharon McKenna, an ex-nun, who helps him find medical care and then connects him with her friends. The friends become Deo’s benefactor. He later earns an undergraduate degree at Columbia University and goes on to medical school. His biggest lesson and battle is learning how to spiritually heal himself and forgive others.

The author weaves a narrative study of someone who transforms the horrors of ethnic genocide. Tracy Kidder tells about the indignities that Deo endures when people treat him as stupid merely because he does not speak English. “Strength in What Remains” becomes a telling success story for all to enjoy and promote in their own lives

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## The Poet’s Corner



### **Our Cave**

By Ellen Jennings, SFO

Come away from all, to linger there;  
Dark dwelling, inside a light to appear.  
Turmoil to cease – peace to abide;  
One thought alone growing inside -  
God in our cave.

Prayer and praise a-new in the heart;  
Soft and serene – not living apart,  
But together creating a brand new light;  
Just beginning – again – not too bright -  
God in our cave.

The cave of our soul – empty – to fill  
With love, compassion, strength in the still  
Of seeing our soul reach the top of the hill -  
God in our cave.

Ellen Jennings is a member of Portiuncula Fraternity in Franklin, WI

# Franciscan Faith Formation—Winter Series

Sponsored by the St Francis Institute in Milwaukee, a Capuchin Ministry

**January 16, Saturday**

9 a.m. - noon

## "Franciscan Values and the Art of Peacemaking"

Facilitator:

**Jacqueline Haessly, Ph.D.**

*The values espoused and lived by St. Francis and St. Clare in the twelfth century continue to ground people in their work for peace with justice today. How do we understand Franciscan Values? How do we comprehend the breadth of the ministry of St. Francis in his time? How is his ministry in his time related to our ministry in the Franciscan tradition in the twenty-first century? How do Franciscan values relate to the art and act of Peacemaking today? How do our definitions, values, images, and language use influence both our understanding of peace and our ability to promote, protect, and preserve a culture of peace in our homes, our communities, and our world for today and for future generations?*

### About the presenter:

Jacqueline Haessly, a member of the Third Order of St. Francis, is founder and president of Peacemaking Associates. Jacqueline's has many published works and earned her Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis on Spirituality, Peace, and Transformational Leadership from The Union Institute and University.

**February 13, Saturday**

9 a.m. - noon

## "Reconciliation: A Franciscan Interpretation"

Facilitator:

**Dawn Capiluppo, CSF**

*To see with new eyes, to change how we think about and respond to the difficult other is a challenge not to be underestimated. More often than not, the mere thought of such engagement is met with clenched teeth and a squirming gut. This presentation will explore the historical foundation and vested interest Franciscans have in bringing about the union of opposites; it will acknowledge the personal tussle we have with reconciliation; and it will offer a practical approach in dealing with the "dreaded other" through the medium of myth and animal folklore.*

### About the presenter:

Dawn Capiluppo is a member of the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters. Residing in Milwaukee, she has a fulltime private practice as a Spiritual Directress and Retreat Guide. Dawn's professional background includes working in the education and sponsorship of the healthcare and housing ministry of her congregation's system of ministries, and teaching in the Chicago Archdiocese and at Northern Illinois. Through the medium of Folk Literature.

**March 30, Tuesday**

9 a.m. - noon

## "Servant Leadership: The Art of Empowering"

Facilitator:

**Keith Clark, OFM Cap**

*Servant Leadership is one of the most popular leadership models used today. The servant leader serves the people he/she leads which implies that they are an end in themselves rather than a means to an organizational purpose or bottom line. Servant leaders are felt to be effective because they consider the needs of their followers and assist them in reaching their full potential. A strength of this way of looking at leadership is that it forces us away from self-serving, domineering leadership and makes those in charge think harder about how to respect, value and motivate.*

**About the presenter:** Capuchin friar and author Keith Clark received his postgraduate study from Oxford University. His Masters Degree in Religious Education from Fordham University in New York. Clark has dedicated much of his research and educational efforts to the study of leadership. He teaches, has had several servant leadership publications and leadership positions throughout his career. Clark's most recent book is *Servant Leadership: The Art of Empowering*.

**TO REGISTER:** Call 414.374.8841, ext. 35 or email: [sfim@thecapuchins.org](mailto:sfim@thecapuchins.org) or visit the website: [www.sfim.org](http://www.sfim.org)

**SUGGESTED DONATION:** \$5 for January & February / \$25 for March

St. Francis Capuchin Center, 1927 N. Fourth Street, Milwaukee. Please enter through the Center's doors, located directly adjacent to St. Francis of Assisi parish.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The March session will be held at Cardinal Stritch University, Sister Camille Kliebhan Conference Center, 6801 N. Yates Road, Milwaukee, WI



## 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 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 (414) 380-3850/or email [beatiesfo@aol.com](mailto:beatiesfo@aol.com)

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### *The Franciscan Action Network*

The Franciscan Action Network has entered into partnership with [JustFaith Ministries](#) to develop special Franciscan supplements to the immigration-focused sessions of the Just Matters program. These supplementary materials are designed to aid in reflection and discussion about comprehensive, just and humane immigration reform from a Franciscan perspective.

Participation in the Franciscan Supplement will direct the participant to a deeper appreciation of the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare and an acquaintance with the inspiring pastoral approach to the experience of immigration of Franciscans through the centuries.

For more information please visit  
<http://www.franciscanaction.org/justmatters>



**A Place to Call Home**  
**MARCH 19-22, 2010**  
Join us for Ecumenical Advocacy Days.  
Worship, learn & lobby with faith-based advocates in Washington DC.  
MIGRATION . IMMIGRATION . DISPLACEMENT  
**Register Now!**

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### EDITOR'S WEBSITE PICK: Humor and Catholic Continuing Education

**The League of Bearded Catholics** is not an organization but The League is held together by nothing much more than a sincere and spontaneous appreciation for Catholic culture, for authentic Catholic manhood and for the company of Catholic men and the women who tolerate them. "It is an appreciation and gratitude especially for the lives and literary work of Tolkien, Lewis, Belloc and Chesterton - **TLBC**." So, visit the website and learn about bearded early 20<sup>th</sup> Century writers, bearded saints, and continuing Catholic education feast days.

<http://timothyjones.typepad.com/tlbc/welcome-bylaws.html>

**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 2008	LAST YEAR TOTAL 2007
<b>BEGINNING BALANCES:</b>				
REGULAR CHECKING -----	1.36	943.14		1,140.99
RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND	177.90			
INVESTMENT SAVINGS 7 day CD-----	4,521.02	7,500.00		5,764.65
RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND CD	11,150.21			
INVESTMENT SAVINGS CD-----	15,000.00	15,000.00		10,000.00
CASH ON HAND -----	0.00	0.00		0.00
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND &amp; IN BANKS -</b>	<b>30,850.49</b>			<b>16,905.64</b>
<b>REVENUE:</b>				
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	
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
<b>TOTAL REVENUE -----</b>	<b>32,263.27</b>	<b>28,700.00</b>	<b>3,563.27</b>	<b>42,177.03</b>
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS -----</b>	<b>63,113.76</b>			<b>59,082.67</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
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 -----	2,130.36	1,200.00	(930.36)	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 -----	2,176.80	950.00	(1,226.80)	403.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS -----</b>	<b>27,126.20</b>	<b>26,350.00</b>	<b>(776.20)</b>	<b>28,232.18</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE -----</b>	<b>35,987.56</b>			<b>30,850.49</b>
<b>GAIN OR (LOSS) FOR PERIOD -----</b>	<b>5,137.07</b>	<b>2,350.00</b>	<b>2,787.07</b>	<b>13,944.85</b>
<b>CURRENT BALANCES:</b>				
REGULAR CHECKING -----	(1,031.19)			1.36
RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND (Restricted)	719.47			177.90
INVESTMENT SAVINGS (7 day CD)	0.00			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
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND &amp; IN BANKS --</b>	<b>31,512.43</b>			<b>30,850.49</b>

\*\*Amount received for Retreats from St. Francis Of Assisi Fraternity Milwaukee

PETER J. BEKKERS, SFO, TREASURER

06/23/09



Deacon Tom Bello of St. Thomas More Fraternity in Arlington, VA is the new national minister of the Secular Franciscan Order in the U.S. He was elected Saturday, October 24, at the Order's elective Chapter held Oct. 20-25 near Albuquerque, NM.

Tom, who was professed in 1983, has served the order at all levels. He was elected vice-minister of his local fraternity in 1986 and became minister in 1988 and again in 1992. He was a member of the Provincial Executive Council, Holy Land Province from 1988 until the province became a region. He then was elected to the regional council of St. Margaret of Cortona region and has served in numerous positions, including regional minister.

On the national fraternity, Tom has worked on the National Statutes and up to this election, he served as National Vice Minister. He has worked as an ESOL teacher for the past 21 years. He and his wife Judy have three children.

Tom Bello photo from NAFRA newsroom website: [www.nafra-sfo.org](http://www.nafra-sfo.org)

## THE 2012 QUINQUENNIAL TO BE IN CHICAGO

Secular Franciscans from all over the United States and abroad will, for the 18th time since 1921, come together to celebrate their Franciscan charism and family at the 2012 Quinquennial in Chicago. The celebration will take place July 3-8, 2012. Its theme will be: ***"Why Francis? Claim the gift!"*** Chicago was the site of the first Quinquennial in 1921. That year, 4300 Secular Franciscans attended. In 2012, some 400 to 600 are expected to converge for the celebration. Programming will be centered around a series of questions that are meant to help Secular Franciscans revisit the vision and to claim the gift that Francis left us. Meeting events will be take place at the North Shore Skokie Holiday Inn.

## International SFO News

On September 17, 2009, Encarnacioun del Pozo, SFO General Minister, addressed an urgent letter to bring attention to the persecution of Christians in Pakistan. The General Minister had earlier received letters from Secular Franciscans living in Pakistan and they asked for some type of intervention on the part of the Order.

In response to the brothers and sisters living in Pakistan and the international community, the Minister's letter was mailed to Mr. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The correspondence expresses "strong opposition to the human rights violation that are currently being experienced in Pakistan." Encarnacioun del Pozo's communiqué goes on to say that the Secular Franciscan Order urges the removal of all provisions of discrimination on the basis of religion and to repeal its blasphemy laws. For further reading and information about the letter to prime minister Gilani, please go the SFO International website: [www.ciofs.org](http://www.ciofs.org).

Also check out (FI) Franciscans International Human Rights Campaign at [www.franciscaninternational.org](http://www.franciscaninternational.org). FI is one of the world's largest faith-based advocates for human rights. Their organization works with the global community of Franciscans and serves at the United Nations on behalf of the poor and people at risk.

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

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## **Calendar of Events: Winter/ Spring 2010**

January 16	Winter Series Talk: "Franciscan Values," at St. Francis Institute, Milwaukee
February 6	Executive Regional Council – Green Bay
February 13	Winter Series Talk: "Reconciliation," at St. Francis Institute, Milwaukee
March 19 – 22	FAN Advocacy Days, Washington, DC
March 20	Southeast District Gathering – St. James Catholic Church, Franklin, WI
March 20	Winter Series Talk: "Servant Leadership," at St. Francis Institute, Milwaukee
March 27	Central District Gathering, St. Michael Church-Wausau, WI
April 24	Fox Valley District Gathering, Old St. Andrews Church, Manitowoc, WI
May 8,	Executive Regional Council – Green Bay
June 4-6	" <i>Lessons from St. Francis</i> ," Marygrove Retreat Center, Garden, MI (UP)
June 13	100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Josaphat Fraternity, Milwaukee. Mass and spaghetti dinner.
June 25-27	LaVerna Regional Chapter and pastoral/ fraternal visitation at St. Anthony's Spirituality Center, Marathon, WI
June 26 -28	Continuing Education: "Franciscan Tradition & Spirituality" by Vinal Van Bethem, sfo and Bob Fitzsimmons, sfo at St. Francis University, Loretto, PA