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## Permanent profession requires permanent commitment

The La Verna Regional Formation team and their theme “Gospel Footprints: A Secular Franciscan Perspective” began the first of three district gathering presentations on March 20 at St. James Catholic Church in Franklin, WI. Portiuncula Fraternity hosted the Southeastern district meeting, which attracted Franciscan members from Milwaukee and area fraternities.

The La Verna Regional formation team members include Lee Ann Niebuhr, JoAnn Boss, Pauline Riedl, and Carol Bekkers. Team members also gave appearances at the Central Wisconsin and Fox Valley District gatherings. The team discussed Franciscan Gospel history, contemplative imagery, and a hands-on workshop that teaches how to create the gift of personal reconciliation.

To begin the March 20 meeting, formation team leader JoAnn Boss, SFO said that Candidates want to learn and reflect the spiritual traditions of Sts. Francis and Clare. This requires not only good formation instruction but also genuine ongoing fraternal commitment. All Candidates go through periods of doubt, she said, and they want professed members to rally round them with interactive communication, mentorship, and compassion. If there is a superficial relationship between the fraternity and the Candidate, he or she may eventually leave or worse do nothing. Then the fraternity is faced with the old adage: “the surgery was successful but the patient died,” JoAnn said.

# LAVERNA VISION

YEAR OF FORMATION ❖ SPRING 2010 EDITION

Look at “what happened when Francis and his brothers worked with the lepers,” JoAnn said. “During their work and initial formation with the lepers, fear left them and the love of Christ entered.” Today our busy, over-committed lifestyles have become our present-day “lepers.” If the professed member’s time runs parallel, but not interwoven with each Candidate, who suffers? Time not vested will weaken not only the Candidate and the newly professed but also the entire fraternity. Intra commitment seeds the fraternity with positive motivation, growth, promise, and the love of Christ.

JoAnn added that an updated NAFRA formation manual will be available in 2011, followed with training workshops. It is suggested that formation instructors, both regional and local level, try to attend a formation workshop, when dates and locations become available later this year.

## Let history be a lesson

SFOs can trace their Franciscan Gospel Footprints throughout history.

La Verna Regional formation team leader Lee Ann Niebuhr opened her breakout group reading a passage from the Beatitudes of Jesus Christ: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy,” Lee Ann said. However, “being truly merciful requires spiritual sweat,” she added.

On her presentation handout, Lee Ann asked some pondering questions: “How do we show mercy?” “What groups of people do we have difficulty forgiving?” “What does it mean to ‘see with our heart’ instead of our eyes?”



Lee Ann Niebuhr, SFO, Queen of Universe Fraternity, Woodruff, WI

Next, our gospel history footprints walk us through the *Admonitions* of St. Francis. The *Admonitions* teach us two things: how to be servants and how to be transformed, Lee Ann said. Continue the journey with the 1978 *Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order*: “witness to the good yet to come, and obliged to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced ....” (#12)

Finally, Lee Ann said that the encyclical *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love) by Pope Benedict XVI is structured to embrace, raise and save humankind. “...it is God himself who goes in search of the ‘stray sheep,’ a suffering and lost humanity.”

## **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@new.rr.com](mailto:taxmannatp@new.rr.com)

### **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@new.rr.com](mailto:cjbekkers@new.rr.com)

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  
Sussex, WI 53089 ( 262) 250-9251  
[ed-joann@execpc.com](mailto:ed-joann@execpc.com)

Lee Ann Niebuhr, SFO  
Queen of Universe Fraternity  
Woodruff, WI  
[leeannniebuhr@yahoo.com](mailto:leeannniebuhr@yahoo.com)

The La Verna 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. For further information about the La Verna Region and the Secular Franciscan Order, please go to our website at [www.lavernasecularfranciscans.com](http://www.lavernasecularfranciscans.com) or [www.lavanasecularfranciscan.org](http://www.lavanasecularfranciscan.org)

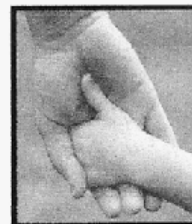
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*La Verna Vision* editor—Ed Boss, [ed-joann@execpc.com](mailto:ed-joann@execpc.com) (262) 250-9251

# Reflections

Lester Bach OFM Cap - Regional Spiritual Assistant



## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Reflecting on the *signs of the times* is a good practice but not always satisfying. There are many ways to read the *signs of the times*. Here are some reflections for Franciscans who read the *signs of the times* in a world which God loves.

Some say that disasters and violence indicate that God is upset with us and that he is trying to get our attention or punishing us.

Franciscans find this difficult to accept since our God is a loving God. I can't imagine God using violence and disasters to either punish us or get our attention. Mother Nature and people do a good job at creating disasters and violence without blaming God. Rather, God invites us to care for one another with love. Violence and disasters are nothing new. Jesus experienced them both in his life and his death.

But his faithfulness to the way of the Father brought him past all the resistance, violence and his own painful death. Obviously God was not causing Jesus' pain. Together they had chosen this path to show the power of love. So powerful was this Father-Son love that resurrection overcame even the power of death.

This is a clear lesson for us when we tend to focus on the negatives of life. Love never dies. It continues to make itself felt as we embrace its consequences in our personal lives. Reflect on how Paul illustrates both the demands and the consequences when people seek the ways of love. After mentioning how powerless things are without love (1 Corinthians 13:1-3), he shares his idea of what real love looks like. His words point us in a direction to follow, especially when we fall into negativity as we read the *signs of the times*.

*Love is patient and kind. Love envies no one, is never boastful, never conceited, never rude; love is never selfish, never quick to take offence. Love keeps*

*no score of wrongs, takes no pleasure in the sins of others, but delights in the truth. There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, its endurance.*

*... There are three things that last forever: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of the three is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 13

These texts could serve as a preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It's probably fair to say that none of us always practice the ways these words define love. God's goodness and love reveal themselves in this Sacrament. God lovingly frees us from failure, forgives our sins, and rebuilds our ability to be faithful.

Our Franciscan spirit invites us to choose positive ways to act in response to the *signs of the times*. We discover God's call to greater faithfulness. We show love rather than hatred; hope rather than depression; forgiveness rather than holding grudges; wonder at God's goodness rather than questioning his love; choosing ways to inject love into life rather than complaining that nobody cares; learning how our Franciscan life requires sacrificial love rather than whining about life.

We need each other to achieve these positive ways of showing love. The Spirit, acting both in each of us and in the whole community of Franciscans, walks *hand in hand* with us to bring seraphic love to our world and its people.

We become *signs of the times*, showing people what love looks like. Our actions speak louder than words - but we need to take action! Love, in large and small ways, will find people searching for such a quality in a muddled world. To fail to be a loving *sign of the times* would mean we fail to fulfill part of our profession as Franciscans.

*As God has called you. live up to your calling. ... Spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives.*

Ephesians 4: 1, 3



# Minister's Report by Ken Beattie, SFO

## Service is our way of life

You may remember an email I sent out to you on February 19, 2010. *"I am happy to announce the newly elected council of Sacred Heart Fraternity in Oshkosh on February 18. We keep them in our prayers as they journey through the next three years with their fraternity"* The new council members are:

Minister: William (Bill) Hammond, sfo  
Vice-Minister: Susan Trofka, sfo  
Secretary: Barbara Laabs, sfo  
Treasurer: Richard (Rich) Trofka, sfo  
Formation Director: Theresa (Teri) Doughty, sfo  
Hospitality Chair: Joan Reiter, sfo

As you most likely know, Sacred Heart Fraternity in Oshkosh, and other La Verna Region fraternities, held council elections last year and earlier this year. I mention Sacred Heart fraternity not to put them under the spotlight, but only to emphasize that *all* newly elected council members pray for your cooperation.

## Our brothers and sisters profess commitment

During the recent elections that I attended, it was good to hear from you about your fraternity activates. I really like to listen to the events which generate life into our Franciscan Family. In addition, your reasons for doing good works follow Jesus' loving relationship to the Apostles. Love naturally generates the courage to serve others.

However, many times we will hear ourselves fall away from our fraternal commitments and say – "not me, I don't know enough"—"I don't have the time"—"I did my part!" Sometimes we say these non-committal phrases automatically without shame or hesitation. Nevertheless, do we really stop and listen to the Holy Spirit calling us? What is our response to that call? How are we doing our part as members of the Family? The need is now, and we are to respond to action now!

Service is our way of life. Look around your fraternity and see how others respond to this call. Another thought is to remember all those who have inspired us – many of them we distinguish as saints, leaders, and people in our Franciscan Order, even our newly elected brothers and sisters on local council. They all share their service to each other in fraternity and in community.

As we pray for you, please remember in your daily prayers those who are able and willing to serve our Region.

Peace and All Good, Ken T

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## FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK—(FAN) NEWS

Over the past two years, FAN has used this approach to address issues of human life in a variety of ways.

- In 2009, we participated with the U.S. Bishops in addressing the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) calling for a more consistent approach to all the challenges of life.
- In the healthcare debates, we have insured that all of our principles include a strong call to value all of life in whatever reforms are made.
- We have brought the consistent ethic of life message to the annual March for Life in Washington, DC.
- We have participated in working with *Just Faith* in the creation of a tool that will enable them to utilize the gift of the Franciscan tradition to approach a unit on the support of life.
- We are following closely legislation that appears to be a direct harm to human life. This has been primarily in the area of abortion and health care.

While keeping an eye on the legislative flow in Washington, we have avoided being engaged in "life advocacy issues" that have no prospect of moving the agenda forward. It has been our contention that often these types of efforts are more symbolic than effective at moving our world closer to the full respect of life. That is why we have been supportive of approaches like the "Pregnant Women's Support Act." Even though this will not get us the full way to supporting all life, it does help move things closer to the ideal.

Please visit the FAN website at [www.franciscanaction.org](http://www.franciscanaction.org) for resource papers discussing these issues.



Judy Stouffer, SFO

## ENVIRONMENT

### SPRING CLEANING: WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE OLD AND UNUSED MEDICATIONS

Have you looked inside your medicine cabinet lately?

If you have old bottles of pills, or liquid medications for you or your pets that you no longer use, what should you do with them?

Whatever else you do, **don't** flush them down a toilet or down your sink. Wastewater treatment plants don't remove medications. So those drugs, when they enter the water systems, can harm plants and animals--and humans--that live downstream. It's actually illegal to flush certain hazardous medications!

**Here's what you can do to get rid of those drugs.**

- Check with your local municipality. Many police departments, for example, now collect old or unneeded prescription and non-prescription drugs and dispose of them.
- In Wisconsin, you can take your unused drugs to what is called a "pharmaceutical collection program or collection event." The University of Wisconsin-Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center keeps a list of upcoming drug collection events on their website at <http://www4.uwm.edu/shwec/pharmaceuticalCollection/viewRecords.cfm>
- Call your local pharmacy and ask them if they know of any drug collection programs in your area. If they don't, ask your doctor or nurse, or even a local nursing home.
- If you ever must put any unused drugs in the trash, the State of Wisconsin has some really good ideas on how to do it right:
  - remove or mark over all labels that identify the materials as drugs or that could provide personal information about you, including prescription information that someone could try to refill;
  - make them unattractive to children and thieves by dissolving them in a small amount of water or alcohol, or by grinding them up and mixing them with coffee grounds or kitty litter; and
  - put them in a second container or small plastic bag and then hide them in your trash.



**Happy Spring Cleaning!**

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**The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds  
for mirth,  
One is nearer God's Heart  
in a garden  
Than anywhere else  
on earth.**

by Dorothy Frances Gurney



## ST. CLARE MEMBERS WELCOME NEW FRATERNITY SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

Fr. Roch Niemier, OFM, Provincial Spiritual Assistant of the Assumption BVM Province, recently installed Sr. Ann Kelley as the new Spiritual Assistant for St. Clare Fraternity – Greenfield, WI.

Sr. Ann is a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi based in Milwaukee. She has been a Franciscan for thirty-five years, and ministered in various locations in Wisconsin, Ohio and Michigan.

For the past twenty-five years, Sr. Ann has ministered to God's people mostly in the area of spirituality, facilitating retreats, and workshops, and a faith companion (spiritual

director) for countless individuals. Although having been educated at two Jesuit Universities and studied Ignatius spirituality, Sr. Ann has spent considerable time and effort in learning and sharing Franciscan spirituality whenever possible. She has felt the call to minister to Secular Franciscans.

Sr. Ann received her mentorship from Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap to become the St. Clare Fraternity Spiritual Assistant.

The St. Clare fraternity welcomes Sr. Ann and looks forward to her guidance as members continue on their Franciscan journey.

## NEW SFO FORMATION BOOK



A brand new formation book is available for use by the SFO in the USA. *The Franciscan Journey* by Lester Bach OFM Cap, contains material for Orientation, Inquiry, and Candidacy. It is also useful for ongoing formation at fraternity gatherings.

It contains commentaries on the Rule, quotations from the Constitutions, USA Catholic Catechism for Adults, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Encyclicals and Vatican II documents. Directives from the 2008 SFO International Chapter are implemented in the book. Trinitarian spirituality and Scriptural words help to link the SFO Rule to Scripture. Readings and questions at the end of each chapter stimulate research and reflection.

It can be obtained from: Smokey Valley Printing - Box 189 - Lindsborg, KS 67456 - 785-227-2364

# Secular Franciscan Plans Interfaith Chapel at Mitchell Airport



Suzanne McKinney, SFO

*"...for my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples." Isaiah 56:7*

The words "repair my church" speak directly to Suzanne McKinney, SFO and member of Portiuncula Fraternity in Franklin, WI. For years travelers would stop at St. Stephen's Church, called the "Little Parish at the Airport," for prayer before flying out of Milwaukee's Mitchell International Airport.

Last year St. Stephen Church closed its doors and moved to Oak Creek, a nearby city. That move inspired McKinney, a member of St. Stephen's parish, with the idea of a new interfaith airport chapel, which will provide space for worship or private meditation. The idea came after her visit to the lay ministry department at Cardinal Stritch University, where she learned that some graduates may go on to work in so-called mobility ministries - on cruise ships or traveling circuses, airports and truck stops.

"Travelers are often under stress, and they need a little time for peace," said McKinney, who has founded a nonprofit organization, Interfaith Airport Chapel of Milwaukee, to promote and fund the chapel. This chapel, as well as those throughout the world, welcomes people of all faiths. The group is looking at about 600 square feet in the Mitchell parking garage, accessible through the walkway that connects the ramp to the terminal. And they're hoping to incorporate some elements of the old St. Stephen's Church. "We've received some stained-glass windows, some marble from the sanctuary, a few pews," said McKinney.

An airport official said the interfaith chapel proposal is preliminary and must be approved by the Milwaukee County Board, which oversees Mitchell. Airport management is open to the idea but has stressed that any worship facility would need to be welcoming to people of all faiths. Suzanne said the Interfaith Airport Chapel of Milwaukee is incorporated, and has obtained an ID number. Their current goals are to complete the Board of Directory and Advisory Board and to identify those would like to help in this ministry.



For more information, contact The Interfaith Airport Chapel of Milwaukee. They may be reached at P.O. Box 402, South Milwaukee, WI 53172, or by calling (414) 570-9906.

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## LA VERNA VISION EDITOR'S WEBSITE PICK

British author G.K. Chesterton once said, "the Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people." Chesterton, who wrote the charming biography *St. Francis of Assisi*, and the worldwide acclaimed *Father Brown* mystery series, has an entertaining website for comedy, satire and a brighter look of pervasive faith.

Chesterton defended the common person and common sense. He defended the poor, the family and beauty. He defended Christianity and the Catholic faith. This absent-minded, overgrown elf of a man, who laughed at his own jokes and amused children at birthday parties by catching buns in his mouth, this was the man who wrote a book called *The Everlasting Man*, which led a young atheist named C.S. Lewis to become a Christian.

Check out the G.K. Chesterton website [www.chesterton.org](http://www.chesterton.org) for humor and common sense education.



## 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)

### National

#### Frances Ann Misuraca Wicks, SFO

August 6, 1939 – February 18, 2010  
Editor-in-Chief – TAU-USA (2003 – 2010)

Frances grew up in Harvey, Louisiana - across the Mississippi River from New Orleans - a Sicilian community that celebrated their culture with St. Rosalie Day parades, St. Joseph Day Altars, good food and family. She married Bill Wicks in 1958 and both were professed on October 3, 1982. "She was Franciscan from birth. Her profession into the SFO was an official acknowledgement of this by the Church," wrote Bill Wicks, SFO in the Spring 2010 TAU issue. Frances served in leadership roles on many fraternal levels. "But the job she cherished most was that of editor of the TAU-USA." "Frances was so natural, so real. Everything that sprang up from her was good," Bill said. "I had the pleasure of her company for a while, and I am forever grateful for that." Frances was blessed with five children who are filled with hope and love.

### Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation

#### Daily practices for nonviolent living

Creative nonviolence is a process of bringing us back to our truest selves. Ultimately, its techniques and strategies must draw their life from the well of sacredness within. Practically speaking, this means consciously cultivating those dimensions planted deep within our being, which bring life to us, to other human beings, as well as to the earth and all its inhabitants. To this end, we are called to cultivate the spiritual dimensions of the nonviolent life on a daily basis. Here are some spiritual qualities that lie at the foundation of a spirituality of nonviolence, with some suggestions for practicing them.

#### Centering

There is a spiritual tradition that says that the truth of our being lies in the center of our spiritual hearts. And in order to contact this center, a cave is imagined within which a blue flame burns. As an opening ritual, let us imagine this cave within that physical position and a blue flame burning steadily and brightly inside it. Now hold on to this blue flame without allowing your mind to wander...hold on....

May I dwell in the heart,  
May I be healed,  
May I be full of love,  
May I be free from suffering,  
May I be joyful and free,  
May I be at peace  
And discover the utter radiance  
Of my own true nature.

From: Veronica Pelicario

Peace Justice and Integrity of Creation, continued on page 9



### Awe

Often we are so absorbed in our everyday life that we assume that this is all there is. We come to believe that the structure and horizon of the world we experience—at home, in the work-place, and through the media—is “reality.” By making this assumption, we often miss the fact that this social reality is constructed—it is a system of rules, beliefs, and motivations that shape and limit our view of life. We tend, therefore, to overlook the fact that life is much more mysterious and unfathomable than the systems we manufacture to navigate through the world. When we cultivate a sense of awe for the great and irreducible mystery of our lives, we are able to see that life is more than the systems in which we live. We are also able to see that those systems can and must be transformed when they contradict or offend the great mystery that is our beginning and end.

### Gratitude

A nonviolent stance is one of deep gratefulness for our life and for all life. It is a posture, which acknowledges the source of this life. It recognizes that each one of us is on a spiritual journey and that all of our experiences—happy or sad—teach and transform us. It salutes all the ways we have been gifted. way of cultivating gratitude is taking some time in a quiet place and recalling ten people who have given of themselves so that your life

could be better. Call to mind their faces. Remember in some detail what they have done for you. Recall the ways people have lavished their time, energy and resources on you. Cultivate this awareness throughout the day, increasingly acknowledging how our entire life—and everything that passes through it—is a gift.

### Joy

The horrors of this world are often overwhelming. Though these are not to be ignored, awe, gratitude, receptivity and compassion demand nothing less than engaging them fully.

Horror is not the ultimate reality. Creative nonviolence is a spiritual path that cultivates a keen awareness that the meaning of life is found by joining wholeheartedly in the profound power of joy. How do we join in this sacred rejoicing? We do this by letting it flow into all parts of our existence, including our modest efforts to mend the brokenness of our world.

From: Ken Butigan with Patricia Bruno, O.P., From *Violence to Wholeness* (Berkeley, CA: Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service, 2002), pp. 51-53.

For more information on Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), please go to the TAU-USA website: [nafra-sfo.org/tau-usa.html](http://nafra-sfo.org/tau-usa.html)

## Integrity of Creation

### SFO Rule 18—“Moreover they should respect all creatures ...which bear the imprint of the most High”

Toads may be able to predict earthquakes, according to observations made in Italy. After every earthquake stories emerge of animals behaving strangely before the ground shook. But hard evidence of animals responding to some kind of mysterious pre-earthquake cue has been lacking. Now, biologist Rachel Grant of the Open University in Milton Keynes, UK, reports that common toads (*Bufo bufo*) showed a dramatic change in behavior five days before an earthquake shook L'Aquila, Italy in April 2009. Grant and her colleague found the toads abandoning spawning days before the shaking started, they report in the *Journal of Zoology*.



The team suspects the strange toad behavior was triggered by pre-seismic perturbations in the ionosphere, which were detected by very low frequency radio sounding. Exactly how the toads sense danger is still unclear; however, changes in the epicenter atmosphere filled with radon gas or gravity waves prior to an earthquake may suggest that the toads sense danger. “Our findings suggest that toads are able to detect pre-seismic cues such as the release of gases and charged particles, and use these as a form of earthquake early warning system,” Rachel Grant said.

Portions of this report from BBC Earth News, March 31, 2010

# La Verna Regional Fraternity SFO

## APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL RETREAT ASSISTANCE for 2010 RETREAT FEES

Applicant's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

RETREAT LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

RETREAT DATE \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR FINANCIAL RETREAT ASSISTANCE, WE NEED TO HAVE SOME INFORMATION.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN FAMILY LIVING AT HOME \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL MONTHLY HOUSHOLD INCOME \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

THESE GUIDELINES WILL HELP US TO DETERMINE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

<u>FAMILY SIZE</u>	<u>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

PLEASE RETURN APPLICATION TO: PETER BEKKERS, SFO  
W6855 ST. MARYS DR., GREENVILLE, WI 54942

E-MAIL: TAXMANNATP@NEW.RR.COM  
PHONE (920) 757-9027

## International SFO News

By Br. José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM Minister General

### Madrid, Spain World Youth Day Planners Seek SFO Participation

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Peace and all Good to you!



In 1984, Pope John Paul II gave start to the celebration of World Youth Day (WYD), which is celebrated annually on Passion Sunday (also known as Palm Sunday) in all the Dioceses of the world. Every three years, WYD is celebrated at an international level with the participation of the youth from all over the globe in one of the biggest cities of the world. The last gathering took place in 2008 in Sydney, Australia. Madrid, Spain is set to host the next World Youth Day in 2011.

World Youth Day always draws a great number of young people from Franciscan youth (SFO/YouFra), young Friars from both the First Order and the Third Order Regular, young religious sisters from various Congregations and Franciscan Institutes, and, together with them, many other youth who are connected in different ways to our Franciscan Family.

For this reason, the Conference of Franciscan Family wishes for the first time on the occasion of WYD in Madrid that all Franciscan youth (lay and secular, male and female religious), as representatives of the Franciscan Family, participate together in all common gatherings of WYD. They are also to participate especially in those gatherings that specifically belong to the Franciscan Family, in order to both share and bear witness to the Charism of our common Seraphic Father, St. Francis.

Since all this requires a suitable organization way in advance, we entrust the Presidency of the International Council of the Secular Franciscan Order (CIOFS) Encarnación del Pozo, SFO, Minister General with the responsibility to coordinate this event through the Commission of Franciscan Youth and the Conference of Assistants General of SFO-YouFra.

In order to carry out this service, they can count on the invaluable collaboration of a Commission of the Franciscan Family of Spain, purposely formed for both the preparation and programming of this event during WYD.

For further information, write to:

**1. International Franciscan Family Commission for WYD 2011**

E-mail: [gmg2011ff@gmail.com](mailto:gmg2011ff@gmail.com)

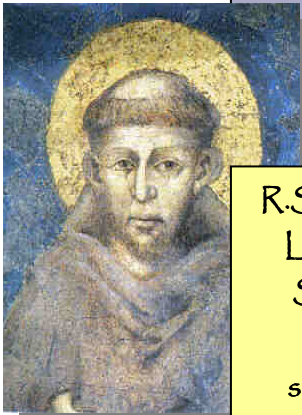
**2. Franciscan Family Commission of Spain for WYD 2011**

E-mail: [ffmadrid2011@gmail.com](mailto:ffmadrid2011@gmail.com)

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Please join the Secular Franciscan Order  
of St. Josaphat Fraternity  
Celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



R.S.V.P. by May 28, 2010 to  
Lizanne at 414-372-6593  
Sylvia at 414-687-2426  
Or e-mail to  
[schulrud@sbcglobal.net](mailto:schulrud@sbcglobal.net)

Mass at noon in the Basilica of St. Josaphat  
6<sup>th</sup> & Lincoln Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53215

Followed by  
An Italian Lunch of  
Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread and Tiramisu  
in Baran Hall at 8<sup>th</sup> & Lincoln

There will be a free will offering

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

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## Calendar of Events: Summer/ Fall 2010

- April 24 Fox Valley District Gathering, at Silver Lake College, Manitowoc.
- May 15 One-day mini Franciscan retreat at Monte Alverno Retreat Center, Appleton.
- June 4-6 "***Lessons from Francis***," presentation at Marygrove Retreat Center, 6411 State St., Garden, MI (UP)  
Call: (906) 644-2771 or register online at [www.marygrove.org](http://www.marygrove.org)
- June 13 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Josaphat Fraternity, Milwaukee. Mass and spaghetti dinner.  
All are welcome! (see enclosed invitation on page 11)
- June 24 – 27 Continuing Education: **A Summer Seminar for SFOs** presented by Fr. Joseph Nagle, OFM and Pat Brandwein-Ball, SFO, at St. Francis University, Loretto, PA.  
Limited registration to 100 participants only. Registration contact: Cecilia Maljan, SFO, 1111 Freyburg St., Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1211. Questions? Contact Diane Rombouts, St. Francis University, (814) 472-3219; email: [icfl@francis.edu](mailto:icfl@francis.edu)
- June 25-27 La Verna Regional Chapter and National pastoral/fraternal visitation at St. Anthony Spirituality Center, Marathon, WI
- October 15-17 Franciscan Spirituality retreat at St. Anthony Spirituality Center, Marathon, WI