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REGIONAL
COUNCIL OF THE
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

LAVERNA VISION

YEAR OF FORMATION ❖ SUMMER 2010 EDITION



Mary Bittner, SFO, National Councilor (Midwest Region), and Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR.

NAFRA visitation team notes LaVerna Region local fraternal formation work and growth

By Bob Henning, SFO and Rodney Knier, SFO

The 2010 LaVerna Region Chapter held at the St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon attracted Secular Franciscans from 18 Wisconsin and Upper Michigan fraternities and two National Fraternity Council (NAFRA) visitors. The June 25 – 27 gathering included visitors Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR, and Mary Bittner, SFO, (Midwest Region). At least every three years, the regional minister requests a pastoral and fraternal visitation from the Executive Council of NAFRA.

During his opening talk, Fr. Kevin spoke about the similarities between the SFO and the TOR. The Prologue is the same, he said, but the numbers of articles in the Rules are different: The Third Order

Regular (TOR) has 32 Rules as 26 Rules belong to the SFO. Fr. Kevin suggested that for each day of the month we read an article from our SFO Rule, and on the remaining days, read the Prologue. This is a way for us to “wear” the Rule, he said. The Rule readings will teach and guide our daily actions, and influence our spiritual way of life. The Friday evening social hour presented “The Franciscan Players,” members of Wausau’s St James Fraternity, who performed an educational and enjoyable skit on St. Francis’ historical Holy Land visit with the Sultan of the Saracens.

On Saturday, National Councilor Mary Bittner commented on the La Verna region’s diversity of people, i.e. their SFO history and unique formation ideas. She reminded us that we are all part of a Franciscan family community, and we strive to remain close with one another.

The NAFRA visitor’s final report to the executive council admired LaVerna region’s formation growth. (According to the *Minister’s Report* given to the executive council on Saturday, 13 of the region’s 18 fraternities reported students training at various formation levels). The visitors also noted the region’s fraternity-to-community actions: that fraternities reach out and offer help to people in a variety of ways. But of particular note, the visitors referred to the joyful SFO camaraderie among fraternity gatherings: following in the footsteps of St. Francis and the gospel way of living.

Fr. Kevin Queally and Mary Bittner recommended to council that
Please see **NAFRA Visitation**, page 8

La Verna region nominating committee begin plans for 2011 council elections

Lizanne Schulrud, St. Josaphat Fraternity, Milwaukee, and Joanne Guzik, St. John Neumann Fraternity, Rhinelander will head the nominating committee for election positions to the LaVerna Regional Executive Council. The council elections will take place during the 2011 LaVerna region Chapter at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon.

One of the nominating committee’s first important steps is to contact all active SFO LaVerna members, and ask them to
Please see **Nominating Committee**, page 6

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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*

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Please go to our website at www.lavernasecularfranciscans.com or www.lavanasecularfranciscan.org

The *La Verna Vision* newsletter is published three times a year. Deadline for submitting articles are as follows:

Spring issue—March 1; Summer issue—July 1; Winter issue—November 1

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

Reflection

Lester Bach OFM Cap - Regional Spiritual Assistant



A look at who we are ...

... as individuals, as fraternities - relating to one another and relating to people in our lives. I thought we might meander through a few articles of the SFO Rule. Reflection can call us to model the Franciscan spirit in our daily lives.

1. Franciscans are called to develop these qualities as required by the SFO Rule -

A gentle spirit / A courteous spirit / Accept all people as a gift / Accept people as an image of Christ / Place ourselves on an equal basis with all people / Recognize the worth of all people (SFO Rule - Article 13)

It seems simple until we realize all the people to whom we must show such qualities. E.g. -

Conservatives / Liberals / People in the hierarchy / People who disagree with us / Stubborn and arrogant people / Young people / Older people / People questioning our sincerity or ideas / People who hurt us in some way / People whom we dislike or who disagree with us / Politicians / CEO's / Work supervisors / Spouses / Family / Neighbors / Enemies / Fellow parishioners / Everyone!

Are there people in your life who you decide not to love? What are your reasons? The Rule calls you to act with gentleness, courtesy, acceptance of others etc. If not, why not? When will it happen in your Franciscan life?

2. Are you willing to serve on a local council? a regional council? other higher councils? *Are you available to serve the SFO in various capacities? Are you competent for a particular office? Do you seek to serve in order to achieve a personal agenda? Do you support those in authority in the SFO?*

Council service, which lasts for a definite period, is marked by a ready and willing spirit and is a duty of responsibility to each member and to the community. (SFO Rule - Article 21)

How ready are you to serve if you are able? Do other choices hinder your ability to serve? Can those choices be changed for the sake of service to a

fraternity at different levels? The "council" is responsible for fraternity life and individual council members do not act independently. The council (including the Spiritual assistant) works together to animate fraternity life.

3. How often do you invite people to become Secular Franciscans? *How do you personally encourage vocations to the SFO? Is your Franciscan life attractive to others? Are your fraternity gatherings worthwhile attending? If not, what are you doing about it?*

4. Sometimes we are the source of discord or conflict in a fraternity. *Our close-mindedness, aggressiveness, judgmentalism, indifference, or arrogance can cause conflict rather than peace.*

The SFO Rule requires Franciscans to *seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue* (listening and sharing), *trusting in the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.* (SFO Rule - Article 19)

Being externally agreeable without interior change is a form of hypocrisy. Interior conversion is needed. The Holy Spirit calls us to change and helps us achieve it.

Reflect on the entire SFO Rule and accept the need for personal conversion. We are challenged to develop positive perspectives. We are people of healthy relationships not negative critics!

And this is my prayer, that your love may grow ever richer in knowledge and insight of every kind, enabling you to learn by experience what things really matter.

(Philippians 1:9-10)

Put on, then, garments that suit God's chosen and beloved people: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience ... Finally, to bind everything together and complete the whole, there must be love.

(Colossians 3:12-14)

Minister's Report By Ken Beattie. Editor's note: Ken is on summer vacation in Italy, and plans to visit Rome and Assisi. Ken will return with his **Minister's Report** article in the next *La Verna Vision* newsletter.



Judy Stouffer, SFO

OUR ENVIRONMENT By Judy Stouffer

Make Your Own Nontoxic Ant Repellants and Baits

It's summer, and in Wisconsin that means ants. If you discover ants invading your living space, there are least-toxic ant repellants and baits that you can make yourself and use indoors or out.

Ants come into homes through cracks and crevices. So your first line of defense is blocking paths they use to come in. Caulk or seal all visible cracks, crevices, or other openings around the perimeter of the building, and inside, too. Look especially in areas that have water (kitchen, bathroom, laundry room) and seal openings around pipes if possible.

If you still get ants inside, here's a variety of repellants you can try. If one doesn't work, try another one. What repels one species of ants doesn't seem to bother another!

According to Steven Tveden, internationally known integrated pest management specialist, you can:

1. Dust to deter ants with any of these nontoxic alternatives: Food-Grade Diatomaceous Earth (make sure it is "food grade" - do not use any other type!), talcum powder, medicated body powder, baking soda, Splenda®, dried peppermint, cinnamon, salt, freshly ground pepper (cayenne), garlic powder, cream of tartar, bone meal, powdered charcoal, cedar oil, Tide® soap, calcium chloride Bon Ami® or Comet®. Steven says to "lightly blow or sprinkle the powder into the corners, cracks, crevices etc. where you have seen the ants infesting or entering building. A light layer works better than a heavy layer."
2. Put out cucumber peels and damp coffee grounds where you see ants, as these are also known to repel ants.
3. Create a barrier where you do not want them to cross. Draw a line with chalk, or anchor a strip of duct tape sticky-side up in places where ants are seen crossing.



If you need to eliminate a nest of ants, you can try the following easy-to-make non-toxic ant bait. I've used it myself, and found it very effective! Note that you need to place baits where you see ants, as the only way to destroy a nest is to create a bait that the workers will take with them back to the queen ant who lives inside the nest. The only way to kill an ant colony is to kill the queen ant.

Ant bait bases: apple sauce, creamy peanut butter, shortening, sugar water, moist cat food, honey, light Karo Syrup, real maple syrup or jelly.

Mix one teaspoon of borax (Twenty Mule Team Borax) or boric acid (available from any pharmacy) into one cup of your preferred base (i.e., applesauce or maple syrup). You can add a little more borax or boric acid if you want, but not too much - the ants will detect it and ignore the bait. Put the bait where you see ants, in a shallow container that ants can get into.

WARNING: If you have children or pets, make sure to put the bait where that they can't get at it or eat it! Borax and boric acid aren't safe for people or pets to eat, and are irritating if they get into the eyes.

You can also put bait into a used empty plastic soft drink or bottled water bottle. Label the bottle so you know what's inside it, and absolutely do not use this technique if you have children who might pick up the bottle and try to drink from it! Lay the bottle on its side with the cap off right next to an ant nest, dug into the ground a little bit so that the ants can get into it through the mouth of the bottle. That way the bait won't be eaten by a dog or a wild critter, and won't be diluted by rain.

It takes about two weeks for the bait to make its way through the colony and kill the entire nest. So make sure you leave the bait available to the ants for at least that long. If you see ants dying near the bait, it may be too strong. However, if you still have ants after two weeks, the bait is too weak. If your ants don't try the bait, mix up more, using a different base. Ants have food preferences the same way we do! If you first tried a "sweet" base such as applesauce or maple syrup,

Please see **ENVIRONMENT**, page 5

ENVIRONMENT



consider switching to a "grease" base (peanut butter or shortening or even bacon grease). Experiment until you find the base they prefer.

Steven Tveden also reports success with these other baits, so give them a try if your ants don't disappear with this bait.

1. Try adding a little diluted Tagmet, aspartame or baking soda to your ant baits.
2. Make a bait mixture of 50% baking soda and 50% powdered sugar.
3. Make a bait mixture of 50% instant grits and 50% packets of Equal®.
4. Make a bait mixture of 1/3 powdered sugar, 1/3 baking soda and 1/3 powdered Vitamin C.
5. Spray dry dog food with diluted 1% borax or boric acid; let dry and grind to powder and then use as ant bait.

If you aren't sure you want to try creating your own baits, you can also look for the "Terro" brand ant bait stations at a local store. Terro makes ant baits that are premixed with the same non-toxic ingredients used in these recipes. Make sure, however, to only get the Terro baits that list "boric acid" or "sodium borate" as the active ingredient. And, of course, only use them according to the package directions.

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LA VERNA REGION FRATERNITIES RECOGNIZE THEIR SPECIAL FRANCISCAN GIFTS

Mary LaGrange celebrated her 50th Jubilee of Profession into the Secular Franciscan Order in May 2010 at the St. Clare Fraternity gathering in Greenfield, Wisconsin. Mary has served as the fraternity formation director for the past three years. St. Clare members truly treasure Mary as an outstanding fraternity member. Congratulations Mary.



Mary LaGrange, SFO



Seated in front row: Carol and Peter Bekkers, SFO

On June 20, St. Joseph's Fraternity in Appleton held a gathering at Holly Hall to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Minister, Peter Bekkers and Secretary, Carol Bekkers. Peter and Carol professed on May 15, 1960. Also, St. Joseph's fraternity Ruth Kneice, SFO will mark her 60th anniversary on November 15. Ruth could not be present for the group photo.

On May 12, 2010, Judith Longrie, was one of the Spanish and English speaking students who graduated and received their lay minister's diploma from Cardinal Stritch University's Department of Religious Studies. Judith is a member of Portiuncula Fraternity in Franklin, Wisconsin. Her full two-year schedule curriculum covered Sacred Scripture, Canon Law, Moral and Contextual Theology, Church History, Parish Ministry, Liturgy, Vatican II Documents, and various conferences and retreats.

She serves with the local prison ministry, and continues as a catechist with her parishes: Our Lady of the Lakes in Random Lake, and Holy Rosary parish in Fredonia. She also plans to do more mission work, such as pastoral care at local hospitals and nursing homes. In addition, she works with seniors in bible studies and fellowship gatherings. Judith said that she is very excited about spending more time promoting Christianity in any way she can.



BOOK REPORT

By Ed Multhauf, SFO

GOD'S CRUCIBLE: ISLAM AND THE MAKING OF EUROPE, 570 – 1215

Written by David Levering Lewis, Illustrated. 473 pp.

David L. Lewis' narrative book is an outstanding and fresh look into the history of the European "dark" ages.



His work refines perceptions of world history to understand current cultural and religious clashes. The emergence of Europe, as we now know it and the present state of Islam were shaped by a turn of events of this era. He tells a story of long,

drawn-out "clash of civilizations" that cover hundreds of years: endless wars between Persia and Rome, the origin of Islam prospering in Christian and Jewish realms, and the ascent of Mohammed.

There is the spellbinding ascension of Charlemagne with his efforts to unite the Roman Prelate and the Franks. Lewis writes how the warrior Charlemagne engaged his dispute with Islam and suffered a calamitous withdrawal over the Pyrenees. The author gives exceptional images of Islamic Spain, questionable misjudgments that have predominated established history.

This incisive commentary places Muslim "Spain" into the very center of European culture and diplomacy.

However, a *New York Times Book Review* written in 2008 said that the author of *God's Crucible* might have contradicted himself. Lewis "views that Abd al-Rahman [as an] enlighten ruler brought to his newly won territories [Spain], a principle of 'civilized coexistence' that might have served as a model for the continent.' However, Lewis's own examples show that civic harmony in Umayyad Spain was more the result of shrewd statecraft and common sense than of some vague and anachronistic ideal of 'tolerance.' In a highly stratified society, composed of unruly and often incompatible elements, religious and ethnic—not only Muslims, Christian and Jews but Arabs, Berbers and Slavs—the assignment of strictly defined roles ... was essential."

David L. Lewis is considered one of our greatest historians, and is the author of a much-acclaimed Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of W.E.B. Du Bois. President Barack Obama awarded Mr. Lewis the National Humanities Medal at the White House on February 25, 2010. Mr. Lewis documented *God's Crucible* with 37 pages of fine print notes on 8 glossary pages, 3 genealogies pages, 8 bibliography pages, and a 22-page index.

Ed Multhauf, SFO is a regular writer for Book Report and a member of St. Paschal Baylon fraternity in Wind Lake, WI.

HELP WANTED - LA VERNA REGIONAL HISTORIAN

Secular Franciscans interested in joining the Regional Executive Council positions:

Archivist/Historian and Assistant Webmaster

For recommended qualifications, please see job descriptions, "Regional Guidelines" at www.lavernasecularfranciscans.org/ or contact Vice Minister, Jim Carlson, 236 S. Elizabeth St., Whitewater, WI. 53190 or e-mail: james.carlson@wicourts.gov For those with the gifts, this is an exciting way to help the fraternity - please consider inquiring.

FROM PAGE 1

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

discern about adding their name on the ballot for a council position. Based on the NAFRA election nominating committee time line, Lizanne and Joanne may begin making their LaVerna region calls in December 2010.

Lizanne added that the second paragraph in SFO Rule 21 states, "Their service, which lasts for a definite period, is marked by a *ready and willing spirit and is a duty of responsibility to each member and the community.*" Lizanne goes to say, "This election is a wonderful opportunity to live out our commitment as Secular Franciscans. As I am sure we have all experienced the deeper our commitment the greater the joy." The regional nominating committee schedule will be published in the winter edition of the *LaVerna Vision*.

LADY JACOBA COOKIES, DESSERT RECIPE BY MARIE AMORE, SFO

3/4 CUP OF BUTTER
2 CUPS OF FLOUR
1 CUP OF SUGAR
1/2 TSP. OF BAKING SODA
1 EGG
1 CUP GROUND ALMONDS
1 1/2 TSP. VANILLA

Cream together butter and sugar....add vanilla....
add egg and beat.
Sift together flour and baking soda and add to the butter mixture.

Shape the dough into several oblong rolls about 2" wide.....roll these in ground almonds and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for at least 2 hrs. When you are ready to bake....slice the dough quite thin and bake at 350 degrees for about 15 minutes.

MAKES ABOUT 100 SMALL COOKIES.

On Sunday June 13, St. Josaphat Fraternity celebrated its 100th Anniversary at the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee. Spiritual assistant Fr. Jim Ciaramitaro, OFM celebrated Mass, and following services, the fraternity hosted a home cooked Italian feast held in Baran Hall.

Over 100 SFOs from La Verna Region and Northern Illinois, and parish members, with their families attended Mass and special lunch.

LaVerna Regional Minister Ken Beattie receives an ample serving of spaghetti and meatballs, from St. Josaphat member Lizanne Schulrud, SFO. Green salad, garlic bread, and Tiramisu were also served on the menu.

Mary Fedor, SFO, who baked 700 Lady Jacoba cookies for the anniversary occasion, provided wrapping instructions. The fraternity kitchen angles carefully displayed the cookies on each guest's dinning table. Mary said, "The Italians refer to these favors as "bonbonnières," and they are meant to symbolize a special occasion to provide guests with a memento of the special day."

MARY'S WRAPPING INSTRUCTIONS

"I used a 12" circle of tulle (netting). On top of that, place a 10" circle of plastic wrap to prevent the butter in the cookies from forming a grease stain. A rubber band secures the netting gathered around the cookies. A tag announcing the 100th Anniversary was slipped on to a 1/8" wide ribbon, which was then tied in a bow."



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. Call Ken at (414) 380-3850/or email beatiesfo@aol.com

From page 1

NAFRA Visitation

each local fraternity begins to set aside money and send their SFOs to attend the 2011 national formation workshop. NAFRA Formation Chair, Bob "Fitz" Fitzimmons, SFO, will announce the national formation workshop dates and locations later this year. Mary added that each local fraternity develops their own formation teams, similar to what the regional council has built over the past two years. She went on to recommend that local fraternity work with youth is vital for our growth. Any fraternity that works with youth should send their information to LaVerna Regional Vice Minister Jim Carlson or Minister Ken Beattie. Don't be afraid to advertise fraternity events in area Catholic newspapers," Fr. Kevin said, and make known fraternity efforts to the Bishops, local news media, and area parishes.

The Chapter's morning and evening prayers were beautiful. Saturday evening chapel service, presented by Lee Ann Niebuhr, was titled *Conversion of Heart*. Her Scripture reading was from 1 Peter 3:8-11. During the prayer service, the members were asked to consider the "stony" little corner of our heart that still holds hurts. Lee Ann's guided meditation was about reconciliation and turning things over to God for healing.

OUR FRANCISCAN CHALLENGE

On Sunday, Mary Bittner asked the audience why SFOs should meet for Chapter. Why have open forum, offer up prayers and break bread together? One answer from the audience said that our Secular Franciscan charism is challenged differently: As each of us experience our own growth spurts—our day-by-day selflessness—we may appear divided or unusual. Nevertheless, when speaking and listening with other Secular Franciscans at fraternity, retreats, and Chapter meetings, we learn to appreciate our rich sacramental and gospel lifestyle.

Novena Prayer for Darfur

Merciful Father, Prince of Peace, Spirit of Wisdom and Compassion, please look upon our brothers and sisters in Darfur. We pray:
-----For those who have been subjected to violence: women, children, young and old men, we ask for healing, consolation, and relief of further suffering.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

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

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

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

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

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

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

La Verna Regional Fraternity SFO

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL RETREAT ASSISTANCE for 2010/ 2011 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 AS OF **OCTOBER 2008** 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 E-MAIL: TAXMANNATP@NEW.RR.COM
W6855 ST. MARYS DR., GREENVILLE, WI 54942 PHONE (920) 757-9027

THE LAVERNA VISION EDITOR'S WEBSITE PICK

Going to the movies today is expensive. Our personal moral values may guide us away from most modern Hollywood films. Special effect geeks have monopolized the big screen. Sometimes motion scenes are so fast pace—one scene per second—that they may give the viewer attention deficit disorder. What ever happened to wholesome talent and uplifting films? A decent film worthy of your hard-earned money?



There is a Catholic answer by clicking on to www.usccb.org/movies, which reviews motion pictures. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) contains an office responsible for film reviews. The site even shows the "Vatican's Top 45" best all-time movies. (Not surprisingly, the Vatican picked *The Flowers of St. Francis*. The review said that the picture was a "remarkable 1950 Italian movie production about the beginnings of the Franciscan Order"). The site also reviews TV programs. Each film and TV program evaluated for its moral and entertainment content. Going to the picture show will still be expensive, but using the USCCB website, may give you a chance to enjoy a happy end.

La Verna Regional Fraternity SFO
STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSE
FOR PERIODS ENDED DEC 31, 2009 & 2008

	THIS YEAR Y. T. D. 2009	TOTAL Budget 2009	Budget Variance 2009	LAST YEAR TOTAL 2008
BEGINNING BALANCES:				
REGULAR CHECKING -----	(1,031.19)	943.14		1.36
RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND	719.47			177.90
INVESTMENT SAVINGS 7 day CD-----	4,475.13	7,500.00		4,521.02
RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND CD	16,824.15			11,150.21
INVESTMENT SAVINGS CD-----	15,000.00	15,000.00		15,000.00
CASH ON HAND -----	0.00	0.00		0.00
TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS -	35,987.56			30,850.49
REVENUE:				
DONATIONS -----	1,357.60	1,000.00	357.60	1,135.05
INTEREST INCOME -----	517.91	750.00	(232.09)	868.05
INTEREST ENDOWMENT FUND	863.29	878.00	(14.71)	681.57
SPECIAL MEMORIALS -----	547.50	1,000.00	(452.50)	5,673.94
MEETINGS -----	0.00	-	0.00	0.00
CHAPTER -----	604.00	750.00	(146.00)	898.00
FAIR SHARE -----444 @ 50 -----	22,782.00	23,000.00	(218.00)	22,991.66
MISC INCOME -----	35.00	1000.00	(965.00)	15.00
TOTAL REVENUE -----	26,707.30	28,378.00	(1,670.70)	32,263.27
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS -----	62,694.86			63,113.76
EXPENSES:				
STIPENDS -----	2,400.00	2,500.00	100.00	2,350.00
RENT INCLUDING EQUIPMENT -----	0.00	750.00	750.00	0.00
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES -----	551.55	400.00	(151.55)	841.55
MEETING ROOM & FACILITIES	1,130.00	1,100.00	(30.00)	903.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES -----	188.94	250.00	61.06	235.60
DONATIONS -----	717.50	750.00	32.50	748.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXP -----	838.25	1,200.00	361.75	2,130.36
NEWSLETTER -----	1,845.38	2,600.00	754.62	1,832.07
TRAVEL EXP -----	9,390.74	6,930.00	(2,460.74)	6,187.07
FAIR SHARE TO NAFRA -- 444 @ 12 - -	5,340.00	5,520.00	180.00	4,580.00
ANNUAL CHAPTER EXP -----	4,632.70	5,000.00	367.30	5,001.75
RETREAT SUBSIDY	300.00	878.00	578.00	140.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE -----	245.00	500.00	255.00	2,176.80
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS -----	27,580.06	28,378.00	797.94	27,126.20
GAIN OR (LOSS) FOR PERIOD -----	(872.76)	0.00	(872.76)	5,137.07
ENDING BALANCE -----	35,114.80			35,987.56
CURRENT BALANCES:				
REGULAR CHECKING -----	1,011.47			(1,031.19)
RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND (Restricted)	1,282.76			719.47
EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND	1,000.00			
U S BANK SAVINGS				4,475.13
RETREAT ENDOWMENT FD 5.25% 59 mo C	16,924.15			16,824.15
20 MONTH 1.15 % CD 5/31/11 -----	15,516.96			15,000.00
VISA CREDIT CARD -----	(620.54)			
CASH ON HAND -----	0.00			0.00
TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS -	35,114.80			35,987.56

**Received for Retreats from St. Francis Of Assisi Fraternity Milwaukee

**& St. John Neumann Fraternity Rhinelander

PETER J. BEKKERS, SFO, TREASURER 01/29/10



PRESIDENCY OF THE SFO INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

JULY 2010 ONGOING FORMATION PROJECT

Topic: Sense of Belonging to the Secular Franciscan Order

Belonging to the SFO, by Emanuela De Nunzio, SFO

PREMISE: *The sense of belonging is the basis of true brother/sisterhood. In an age of individualism, we need to rediscover the meaning and value of the SFO as a Franciscan family, where we all belong to each other as brothers and sisters, and where everyone takes care of the other. The sense of fraternal belonging will help us to construct our sense of identity, to be aware of whom we are, and to assume our proper place and our specific vocation in the Church. In practice, it will help us to live the Gospel in the manner of St. Francis, in fraternal communion (Const. 1.3; 3.3), bringing trust where is distrust, collaboration instead of competition, acceptance and love instead of hostility and refusal.*

INTRODUCTION. The crisis of the sense of belonging in post modern times

The General Picture. In the present time, those certainties that used to provide solid structures have become scarcer: the national state, institutions, the family, and work. Nothing is fixed or guaranteed any longer. Even interpersonal relations have become more superficial.

The Main Connection. Every talk on belonging is connected closely to identity and presupposes it. There is no identity without belonging and there is no belonging without identity.

Belonging to the family. The family is the greatest resource for the person and for society. It provides generosity, unconditional welcome, and solidarity in different life circumstances. Besieged today by many challenges of the modern world, the family becomes weakened and is attacked by proposals that equate it to cohabitation under the same roof. *As result we see the progressive losing of its specific identity and role.*

Belonging to a nation. The sense of belonging to a specific territory is profoundly changed, not only because of mobility, but also because the national reality, which at one time made one feel deeply rooted and with a personal identity (I am Italian, Spanish, English. ..), is being replaced with a "supranational" entity. On the contrary, attention grows toward regional realities, to a restricted environment where one's interests lie, with other social consequences:

1. The fragmentation of society: deprivation of the culture of solidarity, that makes individuals live "near" or "opposite", and not "together";
2. The little-appreciated sense of the social: highly guarded privacy, which creates a permanent conflict between the good of the individual and the good of the community;
3. The culture of suspicion: Suspicion and distrust undermine the base of civil society.

Belonging in professional life. The effects of precariousness are also heavily seen in the working life. Many accept the type of work for which they do not feel drawn. For this reason they feel like strangers without roots in their profession.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION IN FRATERNITY

1. How do you experience "the crisis of the sense of belonging in post-modern times" in which you are living? Why is the connection between belonging and identity so important?
2. How can Secular Franciscans address the challenges around belonging to a family, to a nation and to a professional life?
3. Do you think this is a time of crisis or an opportunity for Secular Franciscans to exercise their particular mission in the world?

Editor's note: For more information on the JULY 2010 ONGOING FORMATION PROJECT, please go to www.ciofs.org and click on "ongoing formation project monthly dossier."

LA VERNA REGION
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
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SHEBOYGAN, WI 53081

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PERMIT 460

Calendar of Events: Summer/ Fall 2010

- August 1 - 31 **Kohler-Andrae State Park**, Sheboygan. Lakefront hiking trails, sand dunes, and the beautiful Lake Michigan scenic view presented by our **Creator**, (please read *SFO Article 18* before you bring your picnic basket). For more secular information, check the DNR website dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks, or call (920) 451-4080.
- September 18 ***Spirituality of Place*** presented by Fr. Roch Niemeir, OFM, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., St. Francis Institute, Fourth & Brown Sts., Milwaukee. To register, call (414) 374-8841—Ext. 35.
- October 3 **Transitus Service**, Silver Lake College, 2406 Alverno Rd., Manitowoc, or contact Sr. Mardelle Meinholtz at (920) 686-6200 (Silver Lake College is a four-year Franciscan college)
- October 15-17 **Franciscan Living Retreat: *Living Franciscan Spirituality in a Polarized World*** presented by Fr. Dan Crosby, OFM Cap. St. Anthony Spirituality Center, Marathon, WI. To register, call (715) 443-2236
- October 23 ***Praying with the Saints***, presented by Sr. Joanne Schatzleing, OSF, St. Francis Institute, Fourth & Brown Sts., Milwaukee, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. To register, call (414) 374-8841—Ext. 35.
- November 5-7 **La Verna Regional Executive Council and Formation Team** gathering, Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center, Arbor Vitae, WI
- November 13 ***Built-In Tensions of Authentic Franciscan Tradition***, presented by Fr. Dan Crosby, OFM Cap St. Francis Institute, Fourth & Brown Sts., Milwaukee, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. To register, call: (414) 374-8841—Ext. 35.