

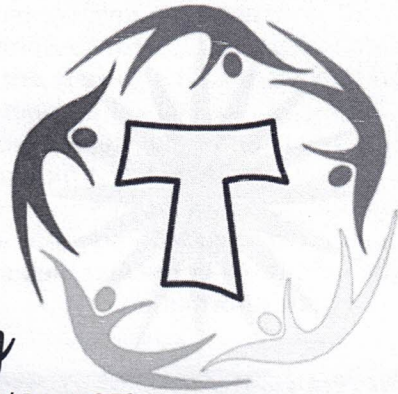


LA VERNA-SFO REGION

# La Verna Vision

## Be the Bridge to Fraternal Life

FALL 2016



## Life in Fraternity

by Ed Boss, OFS,  
La Verna Regional Spiritual Assistant

**“Francis ... went around cities and villages, proclaiming the kingdom of God and preaching peace and penance ... not in persuasive words of human wisdom but in the learning and power of the Spirit.”**

*Thomas of Celano, The Life of Saint Francis (1 C 36)*

Our words act like performers because they actually work tasks and do things. How so? When someone says “I will help you,” or “I take thee to be my wife,” or “I will sing praise to the Lord,” he or she is not just describing the world but actually changing it in some small measure. Another example comes from the early Christian hymn prologue of John 1:1-2 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” When Francis spoke in cities and villages, I sense that the Holy Spirit guided many of his words, which revitalized his listeners with amazement and enchantment. How may your words move people today in the secular world? I would like to present a few basic examples.

Rule 6 – “They have been made living members of the Church ... united more intimately with the Church by profession. Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.”

In Rule 16 ... work is a “gift” which reaches beyond the notion of merely physical and mental. We are to understand work as sharing our talent within the human community. A back story to this rule is that we work with people by speaking words. But if we are not careful, our words may move listeners from poetic followers to offended cynics. I have witnessed this complex

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action surface from local councils, spiritual assistants, and our dear religious. These people methodically prove their point by reciting article upon article of the OFS constitution, page after page of Vatican doctrines, encyclicals, or statues to ad nauseam. What was meant to be helpful words may end up sounding similar to a pundits' stump speech. In this case, the poor listener is forced to undergo words of a debate, not of a well-rounded conversation.

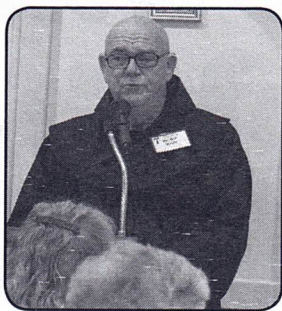
Rule 18 asks us to respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which “bear the imprint of the Most High.” Many people read or hear about climate change, “Go Green,” or eat more organically grown foods, but they may not understand why God's creation benefits humankind and universal kinship.

My point is how do we reveal to others the spiritual vision of the world in which we live? What words are more acute, prickly, and funny? How may we praise God in the ripe taste of a juicy red apple or when mesmerized by stars brilliantly reflected on a calm lake? How do we bring spiritual awareness

*Continued on p. 7*

# Minister's Report

Br. Bob Brady, OFM, (pictured to the right) Director of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants, conducted the Pastoral Visitation and Joan Geiger, OFS, National Councilor, conducted the Fraternal Visitation this year, June 24-26, 2016. Their report first sets forth the various matters reviewed, including documents, demographics, annual report, website and apostolic activities. They commented on our breakout sessions aimed at Spirituality, Vocations and Formation, the areas that the REC has highlighted in its plan of action two years ago. We hope to follow up on these good idea at our next meeting and our retreat in October.



## Commendations:

The meetings the REC hold promote sharing

- The prayer services were varied and well done
- Despite the serious illness of two members, the REC carried on admirably
- The region is blessed to have Spiritual Assistants at each fraternity
- The three minute sharing by ministers/delegates showed the efforts of dynamic and energized members
- Congratulations on the reactivation of St Peter Fraternity, Beaver Dam and the new St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity at Cardinal Stritch University
- Continue promoting the 3 themes of Pope Francis-mercy, simplicity and joy
- The Nominating Committee for next years election is already formed

## Recommendations:

- As some of our Council members are either leaving or ineligible for election next year, efforts should be made to train possible candidates- Servant Leaders like those lifted up last year by Carl Koch. Check out The Handbook for Secular Franciscan Servant Leadership, advertised on the back page of the TAU.
- While formation is all members responsibility, the Region should follow its guidelines-a Formation team.
- Review the Regional Minister's Annual Report regarding the dramatic drop in membership. Refer to the handout "Ideas for OFS Outreach" for possible suggestions. Prayer and efforts to encourage vocations to the OFS need to be taken
- A reminder-post issues of your newsletter, LaVerna Vision, on your website in a timely manner. May the new editor and printing company serve you effectively.

The theme for next year's District Meetings is Living in the Spirit: Formation, Spirituality and Vocation. Let us build on those suggestions generated at our Chapter meeting

Jim Carlson, Regional Minister

# Spiritual Assistants' Workshop

In May of 2016 La Verna Region spiritual assistants and others interested in becoming spiritual assistants gathered at St. Anthony Spirituality Center to discuss and create a variety of practical ways for fraternities to live out the various articles of our Franciscan Rule. Dividing into four groups, they discussed fresh and creative ways to assist fraternities in responding to contemporary issues.

The October 2016 workshop at St. Anthony's will continue to focus on creating innovative responses to all articles of our Franciscan Rule. We invite spiritual assistants and other interested Franciscans to join our "think tank" from 2:00 PM October 23 to 3:00 PM October 24th. We are in need of spiritual assistants, so we especially encourage those of you who are professed and may be considering becoming a spiritual assistant to join us in these lively discussions. Contact your regional spiritual assistants, Ed Boss at ed-joann@att.net or Lee Ann Niebuhr at lamniebuhr@gmail.com for more information.



## Land of Goodness

Ferry me across the water, O Ferryman –

To a land that is truly grand,  
Where all peoples, together may stand,  
With love eternal, hand-in-hand.

Ferry me across the water, O Ferryman –

Where there is no more fear and strife,  
To know only goodness and peace in one's life,  
Filled with music from horn, cymbals and fife

Ferry me across the water, O Ferryman –

Into the glory of the Lord shining about,  
The warmth of his light chasing darkness out,  
Wrapping us forever in His arms  
as we shout:  
Alleluia!

Ferry me across the water, O Ferryman

Poet Ellen Jennings, OFS, is formation director with Portiuncula Fraternity located at in Franklin, WI.



# Vice Minister's Report

My brothers and sisters in St. Francis. 2016 has been an exciting year for the La Verna Region. It is great to see our Regional Spiritual Assistant, Ed Boss, OFS, and our Regional Minister, Jim Carlson, OFS, back from health concerns. For me, the highlight of the year was our 2016 District Gatherings.

The theme of the 2016 District Gatherings was Our Common Home. The theme comes from Pope Francis encyclical On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si'). Pope Francis in Laudato Si speaks about how "everything is interconnected" and that all of creation is a "kind of universal family.... Each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love." I introduced Pope Francis's encyclical and spoke about the three models of Creation as identified by Fr. Dan Horan, OFM. Fr. Horan has other videos about Laudato Si on YouTube that you could view individually or as a Fraternity at gatherings.

The theme of Our Common Home continued with Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS and Barb Spies, OFS and their talks about Franciscans: Bearers of Hope and Peace in a Troubled World and the Co-Responsibility for Fraternity, respectively. Barb's talks can also be viewed on YouTube if you search for "Co-Responsibility for Fraternity." After a wonderful lunch, Sharon Dale, OFS gave a report about her trip to the NAFRA Chapter in New Jersey. She represented the Region in place of our Minister, Jim Carlson, OFS who was unable to attend because of health reasons. Our Spiritual Assistants, Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS and Ed Boss, OFS reminded us of our charism as Secular Franciscans. Our Secular Franciscan charism is found in our Rule which states, "The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this:



to observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people." Are you living out your Franciscan charism?

As your vice minister, I am the regional point person for the Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation commission (JPIC), Youth and Young Adults commission (YouFra) and the Regional Collector of Fraternity Histories.

The mission of JPIC is to assist Professed Secular Franciscans as they reflect on their relationship with God as manifested in the fruits of conversion in their lives. This with special regard to the daily choices made in the areas of justice, peacemaking and respect for all created things and people; as brothers and sisters of penance, bringing life to the Gospel and the Gospel to life. Our National JPIC Animator is Carolyn D. Townes, OFS (ctownes26@hotmail.com). Periodically, I forward emails from Carolyn, which cover JPIC topics for you to share with

your local Fraternity. If you would like to be on my e-mail list, let me know. Recently, Carolyn shared a reminder about Laudato Si Week. She suggested that each Fraternity do something to mark the one year anniversary of Laudato Si. I was inspired when St. John Neumann Fraternity, in Rhinelander WI, reported that they will be studying Laudato Si for the next several months. Below is a picture of the fraternity with their new books.



I also ask for your help and prayers to attract Youth and Young Adults into our Secular Franciscan family. YouFra is a "fellowship of young people who feel called by the Holy Spirit to make, in fraternity, an experience of Christian life, in the light of the message of Francis of Assisi, deepening their vocation within the realm of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS)." YouFra is intended as a temporary experience for young adults age 18-30 to live out the Gospel in the footsteps of Francis and Clare on a year-to-year basis, with the option to make an annual "promise." I was inspired by Donald Derozier and the Sacred Heart Fraternity. They met with individuals from the Green Bay Diocese who represented the Department of Evangelization, the Catholic Schools, Adult Faith Formation and the director of Youth Ministries about YouFra. Don said that the Diocese had many questions about YouFra and about Secular Franciscans in general. Don was fired up about YouFra and took the time to contact his Diocese. What have you and your Fraternity done to reach out to young people whose hearts are already burning with the desire to know and love God? Please share with me the stories and activities from your local fraternities that are celebrating and encouraging youth.

Finally, I continue to encourage the fraternities who still have not turned in their local **fraternity history** to get them to me as soon as possible. I have been collecting and archiving these histories at my home. Your fraternity history may take on any format - written, oral, photographs.

Please do not hesitate to communicate any questions or concerns you may have. I look forward to serving you for another year.

Peace and Joy!

Jeff Gumz, OFS - Vice Minister



## On the Road with Lee Ann Dynamite and a Flute!

by Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS

Dynamite and a flute . . . never did I expect to experience them both at the same time! Never did I anticipate that they would serve as guides throughout our current tumultuous times. God's ways are truly mysterious and awesome.

Ten years ago, in the summer of 2006, I was heading to the St. Anthony of Padua fraternity in Marquette, Michigan to do a Fraternal Visitation. As I got closer to Marquette, I started to see warning signs about blasting occurring in the area. Sure enough, a construction worker told me I would have to wait for quite some time while they finished blasting and cleaning up the area. I turned off my car and started thinking about what all that dynamite had ripped apart. Frustrated by the delay, an unexpected movement of this tired construction worker caught my attention. He opened the trunk of his ancient, battered, blue station wagon. Inside the trunk appeared to be all his earthly possessions. Surprisingly, he pulled out

a simple flute. In the eerie silence after all the blasting, he simply stood in the middle of the road and played his flute. The gentle music of his flute stood in stark contrast to the earlier sounds of blasting that carved great openings in the rocky landscape.

This summer I was again heading up to Marquette to do a Pastoral Visitation. As I travelled north, I reflected that we are certainly living in tumultuous times in which groups of folks are "dynamiting" one another with reckless abandon. Whether it is in politics or in the tragedies that are occurring here and abroad, the world needs Franciscans who, like that construction worker so many years ago, sing our song of peace through the way we live out our Franciscan charism. Building and maintaining bridges, not dynamiting anyone or any group, is our way of bringing sanity to an explosive world.

## La Verna Region Executive Council

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taxmannatp@gmail.com



## Feast of St. Mary of the Angels and Portiuncula Pardon

What a great celebration of the Feast of St. Mary of the Angels and the 800th anniversary of the Franciscan Feast of the Portiuncula Pardon on August 2, 2016. Bishop David Ricken, of the Green Bay Diocese, celebrated the Solemn Mass along with Franciscans from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd order and parishioners of St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church in Green Bay. It was a wonderful evening. Below are some pictures.



## Four Fraternities Honor Jubilarians

On Tuesday evening, June 28th, a first-time ever event took place at St. Anthony's Spirituality Center in Marathon. Four fraternities collaborated in honoring their SFO members celebrating 25 or more years as professed Secular Franciscans.

Richard Hoffman, minister of St. Anthony fraternity, in the Central District of LaVerna Region, invited the ministers of St. James fraternity in Wausau, St. Peter fraternity in Stevens Point, and Our Lady Queen of Heaven fraternity in Wisconsin Rapids to join their jubilarians with his in a grand celebration. Each minister enthusiastically checked names, sent invitations, and gathered as many as could attend to this special event, a first as far as we know.

A special Mass was celebrated by resident priest Father Bob Streveler followed by a reception in the dining room. Fraternity members and guests supplied finger foods such as cheese and sausage, fruit plates, and desserts, and the hosting fraternity provided a beautiful anniversary cake for the occasion.

Each honoree was called by name, was given a blue carnation (in honor of our Blessed Mother), and was handed a certificate of appreciation for the many years they served as Secular Franciscans.

Jubilarians not able to attend the celebration were handed their certificates at their subsequent fraternity gatherings.

We had a great time visiting with other Seculars in our Central Region and congratulating the 16 honorees at St. Anthony's.

Thanks to the ministers and others for helping put together this event.

*submitted by Sharon Dale OFS*

# The Presence of Holiness

by Dianna Trush, OFS

As the news reported the visit of our Holy Father Pope Francis coming to the United States, my heart began to race and my mind ran a marathon of scenarios of the possibility of seeing my spiritual inspiration. First, I prayed that if it was God's will, that certain possibilities be put into place, and slowly afterwards these graces were given on a gold platter. This is how the year of waiting started.

Most of you may not know my discernment decision to become a Secular Franciscan was loudly confirmed with Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio's installation as Pope Francis. At the time of the announcement, I still had doubts if the call that I was hearing came out of my doing or whether it was the Holy Spirit guiding me. I prayed for a sign. When I saw that our Pope took the name of Francis, I knew St Francis of Assisi was answering my prayer. Without more doubts, I knew I had received my answer.

*"Brothers, look at the humility of God, and pour out your hearts before Him! Humble yourselves that you may be exalted by Him! Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves, that He who gives Himself totally to you may receive you totally!"*  
St. Francis of Assisi

This is what I see when I look upon the actions of our Holy Pope Francis. He has a heart full of love and compassion and he has no fear in asking us to pray for him. In his writings he exhorts us to become like Christ, humble, loving, merciful and compassionate. These are just some reason why I felt in my heart the urge to see him in person.

On September 23, 2015 I was graced and blessed to have the opportunity to be a witness to seeing our Holy Father, Pope Francis, in the National Mall in Washington D.C. My sister and I were at the mall around 5:00am. I was surprised to find a spot that was almost empty.

So we stood there for about five hours. As people were arriving with joyful hearts, we all became a community of Catholic believers waiting for our spiritual servant leader. The crowds grew larger, some singing hymns, others praying, but all had patience and there was a fraternal sentiment of helping each other. We shared our treats, water and stories. And the parade began.

I took several pictures as my family and friends were following me thru Facebook. At one point I stopped, put my phone down and contemplated the moment that I was living. I took a deep breath and my soul was exhilarated. I had a surreal feeling that I was in the presence of holiness. I began to sob inconsolably, not of sadness, but from the ecstasies of joy and love! Who am I that the Lord God would grace me with this gift! This is a moment in my journey of life that I will treasure forever. The rest of the day I felt that I was walking on air; nothing that anyone could have said to me would change the happiness of the moment.



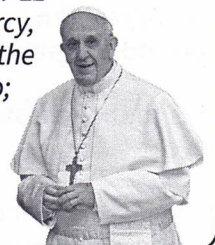
I would be blessed again to see our Holy Father Pope Francis in Rome. At this time I was with a group of pilgrims traveling to Rome, then on to Assisi and St. Giovanni Rotondo. We stayed in Rome for two days and were able to be part of the general audience Wednesday. Pope Francis talked about the love of family. He is someone that is full of love for others. He can speak in such a simple and eloquent manner. Then he saluted all the guests, one by one, without leaving anyone out. We prayed with him; then he blessed us. His actions speak louder than words.

I think Pope Francis has a heart like our blessed St. Francis of Assisi, and he is a daily example and an inspiration for me to follow the love of Jesus Christ in all I do.

I'll finish with a Bible verse for all of you to ponder:  
*"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"* John 13:34-35

*Dianna Trush made her profession in the Secular Franciscan Order on December 13, 2015.*

*"God's mercy can make even the driest land become a garden, can restore life to dry bones (cf. Ez 37:1-14). ... Let us be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish."* Pope Francis





## Burlington's Portiuncula Pardon

The Friars of the Assumption BMV Province and the brothers and sisters of St. Paschal Baylon fraternity of the OFS in Wind Lake welcomed guests to a celebration of the 800th Anniversary of the Portiuncula Pardon on Sunday, July 31st. The Portiuncula chapel on the grounds of St. Francis Friary in Burlington, WI was filled to overflowing. The sacrament of Reconciliation followed by a celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass followed in the St. Francis Chapel. Fr. Ed Tlucek, Provincial Vicar was the celebrant.



### *Life in Fraternity continued from front cover*

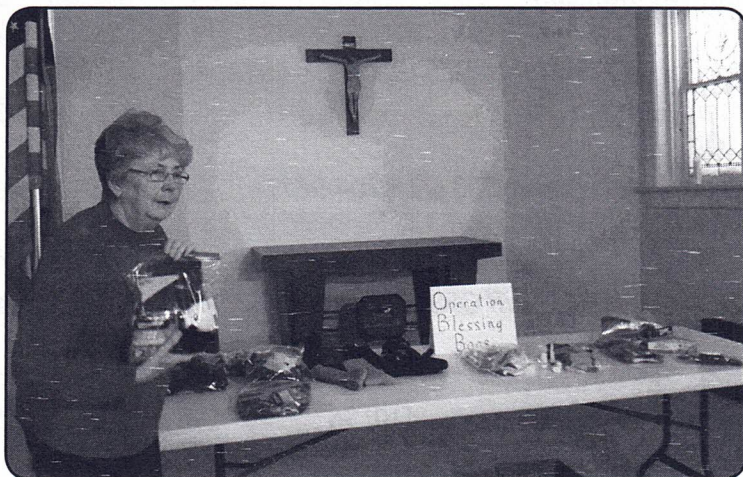
to industrial polluters of our fresh drinking water? Can our words be learning and powerful without getting too wrapped up in political ideology?

All of our OFS rules are worded to help us serve others. They are written like instruments which are diligent, honest, and just. One rule may appeal to us to join others in applying spiritual awareness upon God's wonderful creation. Another rule asks us to examine our own life style and strive to adopt a more charitable labor, like serving on council. From time-to-time our twenty-six rules may require "preaching" words like St. Francis. And when that happens, we humbly ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in proclaiming peace with confidence.

The word to remember is to love. Love of Christ deeply embedded within all our words.

## Operation Blessing Bags

During this Year of Mercy, St. Josaphat Fraternity is participating in Operation Blessing Bags by assembling survival care kits for the homeless. Bags contain gloves, socks, hand/toe warmers, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, shampoo, mouthwash, a razor, lip balm, tissue, a snack/protein bar, McDonald's gift card, bus tickets and phone card.



# Quinquennial Report 2016

by Sharon Dale, OFS

On Thursday, June 30th of this year, over 600 Secular Franciscans and friars of the Franciscan First Orders convened in St. Louis, MO, for Quinquennial Congress XIX. Fourteen Seculars from the LaVerna Region were among the attendees. Note our group picture in front of our hotel.

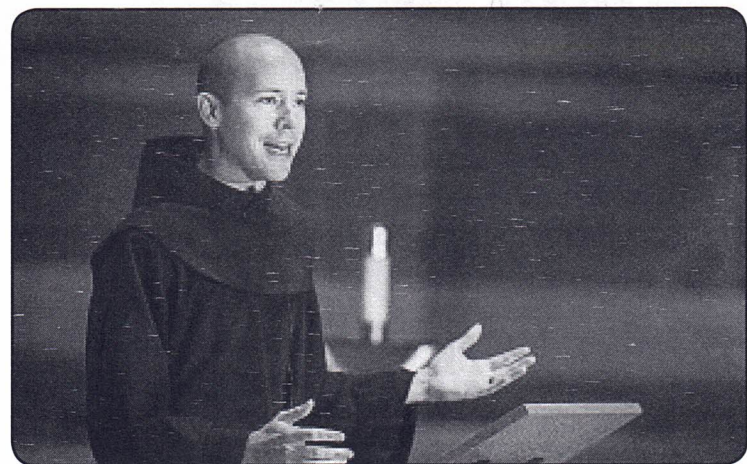
The first Congress was held in Chicago in 1921. Third Order members from all over the U.S. were gathered as one family for the first time. Six thousand friars, prelates and Tertiaries were in attendance. The delegates proposed to the Provincials that one national Third Order organization be formed with its own Directive Board and an Executive Council. Every 5 years since (hence the nickname QUINQUENNIAL) a Congress has been held in major cities across the United States.

The theme for this year's "Q" was REVIVING THE SPIRIT. We all have gifts and ways that we revive our Franciscan Spirit; the Quinquennial's hope was to offer a variety of both national speakers and international guests in different presentation formats, opportunities for all of us to share in little fraternity groups around a series of questions formulated by Father Dan Horan OFM, our keynote speaker, and to listen to other speakers from around the United States as they share how they "revive" their spirit.

those in need!  
...We are the ones who now bear this Franciscan gift, entrusted to us, to be shared with the Church and the world. This is why it is so necessary that we continually be open to revival by the Holy Spirit....Let the joy of revival begin!"

The 3.5 days were filled with joy at meeting old and new friends, sharing in discussions as well as delicious meals. There were plenty of opportunities to purchase books, t-shirts and totes, and religious articles.

Each of us was energized through this "Q" to go out and share the Good News when we returned to our respective fraternities and communities, with a deeper understanding of our role in today's world to live the Gospel in all we say think and do, in peace, joy, and mercy for all.



Fr. Dan's three keynote addresses focused on Mercy and Minority in the Franciscan Tradition. Specifically, they broke down as "Creation and Poverty," "Violence and Peacemaking," and "Racism and Xenophobia." The complete texts of his and other main presenters (Father Lester Bach OFM Cap and Fr. Murray Bodo OFM were names you are familiar with) appear on our National SFO website: [www.nafra-sfo.org](http://www.nafra-sfo.org). Click on Quinquennial 2015 for presentations, photos, and comments.

As Jan Parker, National Minister, phrased it: "How desperately our world needs this "evangelizing impulse"! How our Church needs members alive in Christ to bring hope and healing to





# Reflection on the Rule

## The Franciscan Life: Trust

by John McDonnell, OFS  
St. James Fraternity, Wausau

Trust is one of things that is easy to explain and understand, but hard to do. Yet, trust is so fundamental to our relationship with God, it is something that we must constantly strive for. Where do we find the strength and example of trust?

This year marks the twentieth-fifth anniversary of the Sisters of Life whose community was founded in New York City. For those not familiar with Sisters, it is a religious congregation of nuns whose apostolate is dedicated to Life: service to the unborn through constant prayer and social outreach. Among its special gifts is the story of its founding. In 1991, John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, felt called in prayer to add another tool in the Church's witness to life. What is special about the calling is the simplicity and trust in which that call was accepted.

At 70 years of age, O'Connor was at the zenith of his ministry to the Church. Forty-five years a priest, O'Connor had retired some ten years prior from the U.S. Navy where he had reached the office of Navy Chief of Chaplains. Elevation to bishop of Scranton, Pennsylvania immediately followed, but his stay lasted only six months. A half year later found O'Connor headed to New York City to assume the archbishopric of the Big Apple. By all accounts, O'Connor's service was stellar with credit received for a number of initiatives within and without the diocese. Yet, in prayer, O'Connor felt an insistent tug that the Culture of Life needed some higher octane fuel to combat the decline of secular morality.

What is interesting is what O'Connor did next: He took out an ad in the diocesan newspaper. It read, "Help Wanted: Sisters of Life". Word spread among dioceses in this pre-internet era by the local Church print media so when the archdiocese of New York offered a discernment retreat a few months later, the audience was full. Yet, the surprises were not over.

O'Connor introduced the retreat, "I want to invite you to consider joining a non-existent religious community that I may or may not attempt to found." He continued, "I am but a simple priest ... if it is of the Holy Spirit, it will work. If it isn't, it won't". Eight women stepped forward and the rest is history.

So aside from the marvelous addition to the arsenal of Life, what are the learnings for the Franciscan?

Prayer: it's fuel for the fire. By his own admission, Cardinal O'Connor did not come up with idea of a new community on his own. More importantly, neither did the women who joined the community at its inception ... or since. The best discernment does not come in isolation; it comes in conversation with God.

Keep at it. Like the high school football coach told us to do: keep hitting until whistle blows. Or like the old baseball sage, Yogi Berra, was famous for pronouncing, "It ain't over until the fat lady sings." O'Connor's 70 years of age, nor anyone's 80 or 90 years on earth, should not be a source of fear for accomplishing a mission, nor should it be a reason for not pursuing a call given to us by God (see discernment, above). Ministry comes in all ages, shapes, and sizes and it shouldn't be hindered by the grey in our hair.

Humility: O'Connor's humility shines throughout this story. First, he was humble enough to know that he needed to listen, that he needed to move forward with an idea. It is clear, though, that he was modest enough to know that he couldn't do it on his own. He needed God. He needed God not only to tell him what to do, but how to do it.

Trust: John Cardinal O'Connor stepped forward in faith, trusting in God to direct him and the newly founded community. O'Connor did not know the end of the story; in fact, he only lived another nine years after the Sisters of Life community began.

Prayer, persistence, humility, and trust are bedrock to the Franciscan way of life. God's grace and the examples of our brothers and sisters in faith go a long way in helping us to reach and maintain those values. God bless John Cardinal O'Connor and the Sisters of Life.



### O Beloved,

*Numerous fears rise up within me, like an army they seek to overwhelm me, and they would keep me in darkness.*

*Yet, you are merciful and gracious, ready to forgive and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.*

*Be present with me and receive my prayer, imbue me with strength.*

Psalm 86  
(Nan C. Merrill)

**LA VERNA REGIONAL FRATERNITY OFS**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSE**  
**FOR PERIODS ENDED DEC. 31, 2015 & 2014**

LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR Y. T. D. 2015	Budget 2015	Budget Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Approved Budget 2016
<b><u>BEGINNING BALANCES:</u></b>				
REGULAR CHECKING -----	1,401.73			
RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND -----	3,027.22			
EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND -----	1,028.70			
RETREAT/EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FD ---	25,000.00			
VISA CREDIT CARD -----	0.00			
CASH ON HAND -----	0.00			
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND &amp; IN BANKS -</b>	<b>30,457.65</b>			
<b><u>REVENUE:</u></b>				
DONATIONS -----	2,155.39	3,000.00	(844.61)	3,000.00
INTEREST INCOME & CASH BK BONUS-	103.23	100.00	3.23	100.00
INT. RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND	670.00	625.00	45.00	625.00
INTEREST EDUCATION FUND	670.00	625.00	45.00	625.00
SPECIAL MEMORIALS -----	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	1,000.00
CHAPTER -----	1,649.00	1,800.00	(151.00)	1,800.00
FAIR SHARE -----424 @ 50-	17,954.25	650.00	(650.00)	21,500.00
SA WRKSP	432.00	-	432.00	650.00
MISC INCOME -----	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE -----</b>	<b>23,633.87</b>	<b>7,800.00</b>	<b>(2,120.38)</b>	<b>29,300.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS -----</b>	<b>54,091.52</b>			
<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>				
STIPENDS -----	3,125.00	3,000.00	(125.00)	3,000.00
RENT INCLUDING EQUIPMENT -----	0.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES -----	174.50	525.00	350.50	525.00
EDUCATION/TRAINING -----	1,281.20	625.00	(656.20)	625.00
MEETING ROOM & FACILITIES -----	1,756.00	2,100.00	344.00	2,100.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES -----	232.19	90.00	(142.19)	90.00
DONATIONS -----	144.79	100.00	(44.79)	100.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXP -----	160.40	475.00	314.60	475.00
NEWSLETTER -----	350.69	1,600.00	1,249.31	1,600.00
TRAVEL EXP -----	6,979.97	9,066.00	2,086.03	9,066.00
FAIR SHARE TO NAFRA -----	5,538.75	7,310.00	1,771.25	7,310.00
ANNUAL CHAPTER -----	5,731.50	3,300.00	(2,431.50)	3,300.00
VISITATION / ELECTION -----	0.00	-	0.00	-
RETREAT SUBSIDY -----	485.00	625.00	140.00	625.00
SA WRKSP	-		0.00	
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE -----	0.00	434.00	434.00	434.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS -----</b>	<b>25,959.99</b>	<b>29,300.00</b>	<b>29,300.00</b>	<b>29,300.00</b>
<b>GAIN OR (LOSS) FOR PERIOD ---</b>	<b>(2,326.12)</b>		<b>0.00</b>	
<b>ENDING BALANCE -----</b>	<b>28,131.53</b>			

# Financial statement, continued

## CURRENT BALANCES:

REGULAR CHECKING -----	(1,273.58)
RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND -----	3,079.22
EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND -----	1,335.50
RETREAT / EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FD ** --	25,000.00
VISA CREDIT CARD -----	0.00
CASH ON HAND -----	(9.61)
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND &amp; IN BANKS --</b>	<b><u>28,131.53</u></b>



ENDOWMENT FUND VALUE as of 12/31/15 25,097.89  
 Gain / (Loss) 97.89

Elsa Ruscoe, SFO, TREASURER

08/18/16

\*\* Note: Includes \$11,150.21+\$5,573.94 From St. Francis of Assisi Milwaukee

## Financial Report for Chapter



submitted by Elsa Ruscoe, OFS

Revenue is behind by \$1865.97 reflecting some fraternities that had not paid their fair share by end of May. Several have since paid.

Expense side – the stipends only show the first quarter since the second quarter isn’t paid until June.

Our travel expense, and expenses for supplies and administrative cost reflect additional materials for the SA Workshop in addition to the REC expenses. The budget for the SA Workshop will catch up with itself this year since last year was the first time we worked at it and we now have a better view of the needed supplies and expenses for the workshop.

We have a new printer and editor for our newsletter so you should see the newsletter more often.

The endowment fund sent us the interest payment for the year of \$1250. This amount was divided equally between the retreat and education fund to continue to fund our endeavor in this area.

## Prayer to the Virgin Mary, Theotokos

Holy Virgin Mary,  
 There is none like you among all women on earth.  
 You are the daughter and handmaid of the  
 Most High King and Father of Heaven.  
 You are the mother of  
 our most holy Lord Jesus Christ.  
 You are the spouse of the Holy Spirit.  
 Pray for us, with Saint Michael the Archangel  
 and all the powers of heaven and all the saints,  
 to your most holy and beloved Son,  
 Our Lord and Master.  
 Glory to the Father and to the Son,  
 and to the Holy Spirit.  
 Amen.

The La Verna Region of the Secular Franciscan Order in the USA consists of Eastern three-quarters of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. The region geographical area is divided into four districts: Southeast, Central, Fox Valley and Upper Michigan. The La Verna Vision is a communication vehicle with the LaVerna Region, and presents a forum for information and insights that relate to the Secular Franciscan Order way of life.

**La Verna Region  
Secular Franciscan Order  
236 Elizabeth Street  
Whitewater, WI 53190**

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## Preaching to the Birds

*Father Francis and his companions were making a trip through the Spoleto Valley near the town of Bevagna. Suddenly, Francis spotted a great number of birds of all varieties. There were doves, crows and all sorts of birds. Swept up in the moment, Francis left his friends in the road and ran after the birds, who patiently waited for him. He greeted them in his usual way, expecting them to scurry off into the air as he spoke. But they moved not.*

*Filled with awe, he asked them if they would stay awhile and listen to the Word of God. He said to them: "My brother and sister birds, you should praise your Creator and always love him: He gave you feathers for clothes, wings to fly and all other things that you need. It is God who made you noble among all creatures, making your home in thin, pure air. Without sowing or reaping, you receive God's guidance and protection."*

*At this the birds began to spread their wings, stretch their necks and gaze at Francis, rejoicing and praising God in a wonderful way according to their nature. Francis then walked right through the middle of them, turned around and came back, touching their heads and bodies with his tunic.*

*Then he gave them his blessing, making the sign of the cross over them. At that they flew off and Francis, rejoicing and giving thanks to God, went on his way.*

