



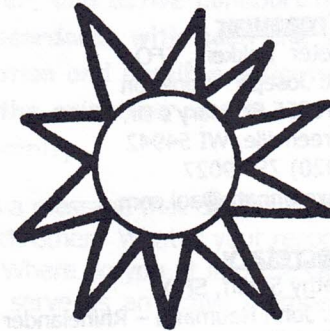
LA VERNA · SFO · REGION

LaVerna vision

Summer 2006

Published by the LaVerna Regional Council of the Secular Franciscan Order

<http://www.rc.net/sfo/laverna/>



The
LORD



bless
and
keep
you

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Minister's View |
| 2 | Reflections—SA |
| 3 | Minister's Corner |
| 4 | Apostolic Commissions
on a County Highway |
| 5 | (con't) |
| 6 | On-going formation |
| 7 | Topics for On-going form. |
| 8 | Recruiting Members |
| 9 | 50 th Anniversary party |
| 10 | Regional Chapter |
| 11 | News Notes |
| 12 | Puzzle |
| 13 | Financial Report |
| 14 | Coming Events |

LA VERNA REGION
Executive Council

Minister

Ken Beattie, SFO
Portiuncula Fraternity – Franklin
2951 W. Bridge St.
Greenfield, WI 53221
(414) 281-9856
beatiesfo@aol.com

Vice-Minister

Lee Ann Niebuhr, SFO
Queen of the Universe – Woodruff
8648 Bambi Ct
Woodruff, WI 54568
715-356-1009
leeannniebuhr@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Peter Bekkers, SFO
St. Joseph - Appleton
W6855 St. Mary's Dr.
Greenville, WI 54942
(920) 757-9027
taxmannatp@aol.com

Secretary

Kathy Sutliff, SFO
St. John Neumann – Rhinelander
1015 Thayer St.
Rhinelander, WI 54501
(715) 369-3367
ksut517@charter.net

Spiritual Assistant

Lester Bach, OFM Cap
4123 Monona Dr.
Madison, WI 53716
(608) 222-6238
lbofmcap@aol.com

Councilor – Fox Valley

Jim Carlson, SFO
St. Paschal Baylon – Burlington
236 Elizabeth St.
Whitewater, WI 53190
(262) 473-3130
James.Carlson@wicourts.gov

Councilor – Southeast

Mary Fedor, SFO
St. Josaphat Fraternity – Milwaukee
2860 S 44th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53219
(414) 545-3340
ralphmary3@tds.net

Councilor – UP plus other duties

Bob Henning, SFO
St. Anthony's Fraternity – Marquette
210 Thunderchief St
Gwinn, MI 49841
906-346-6727
bmjhsfo@aol.com

Councilor - Central

Lee Ann Niebuhr, SFO
Queen of the Universe – Woodruff
8648 Bambi Ct
Woodruff, WI 54568
715-356-1009
leeannniebuhr@yahoo.com

Formation Director

Jean Platz, SFO
4818 Apple Dr.
Rhinelander, WI 54501
(715)362-6562
japsfo@frontiernet.net

The LaVerna Region of the Secular Franciscan Order in the USA consists of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. The area is divided into 4 districts: Southeast, Central, Fox Valley & UP.

LaVERNA VISION is a vehicle of communication within 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 given freely except where the copyright is specifically reserved to the author or artist. Please credit LaVerna Vision if you copy any of the articles.

LaVerna Vision is published three times a year.

The **deadlines** for submitting articles are as follows:

Spring issue-March 1
Published on April 1

Summer issue-July 1
Published on Aug. 1

Winter issue-November 1
Published on Dec. 1



Ministers View:

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

In the shadows of our recent Chapter I am filled with joy to know what a success the gathering was. By the results of the evaluations from those who attended all were pleased with the workshops. We are very pleased with your participation and positive results. Thank you all for attending. For those who did not make it this year -- we hope to see you next year, please plan ahead.

In our Rule/Constitution, Article 21, we read:

1. **Rule 16 For Francis, work is a gift and to work is a grace. Daily work is not only the means of livelihood, but the opportunity to serve God and neighbor as well as a way to develop one's own personality. In the conviction that work is a right and a duty and that every form of occupation deserves respect, the brothers and sisters should commit themselves to collaborate so that all persons may have the possibility to work and so that working conditions may always be more humane.**

In my view I see this gift of work applying to our working as members of our fraternity councils. We are called to serve each other as well as the community we live in.

This fall many of our local fraternities are to hold elections for their council. So many of us have served on council through the years, that it has become a revolving door for some of us.

I ask each of you to take a look at yourself and ask, "is it my turn to serve my fraternal family?"

We also read in Article 30:

1. **The brothers and sisters are co-responsible for the life of the fraternity to which they belong and for the SFO as the organic union of all fraternities throughout the world.**
2. **The sense of co-responsibility of the members requires personal presence, witness, prayer, and active collaboration, in accordance with each one's situation and possible obligations for the animation of the fraternity.**

Hear again is a message that calls us to be in service to each other. What is your response to this call? Where do you fit into the call to step up and serve as an active member of the council?

Each of us has a talent to give to the full fraternal family, is it your turn to give of your self?

So many times we tell ourselves, I am not smart enough, I don't have the ability to do well -- I just don't have the time. Is this your response?

Know that the Holy Spirit is with you and will not abandon you when you are in need. Place yourself in his loving hands and be willing to do your part and offer to be placed on the ballot for elections. Don't wait to be asked, come forward to say, "If I am needed, I will serve".

Know that the Regional Council is here to offer assistance to you as fraternal council. If you have questions related to how things should be done, we are here to help you. We will always stand by and offer any help you may need.

We are in prayer with and for each of our local fraternities as the election process is carried out.

Ken Beattie, SFO

+ REFLECTIONS +

Regional Spiritual Assistant
Lester Bach OFM Cap

At this point in time, the 1978 SFO Rule ought to be making an impact on Secular Franciscans. In turn, they then impact that part of the world where they live. The SFO Rule offers specific ideas about peace and justice. We need to know what they are and make them seen and heard. The SFO Rule has a focus about family life and marriage. We ought to be encouraging families in ways that support their efforts in living a Christ-centered life together. The SFO Rule calls us to relate to one another in ways that will build a "communion" among us. Any words, actions or attitudes that keep us separate from family, fraternity, neighbors and the world community should be deleted from our lives. *We are Franciscans with a particular perspective on life and living.*

We view life, the world, and its people from a Franciscan perspective. We look for ways to bring people together rather than condemning them and bringing separation among us. Forgiveness is our way of dealing with the hurts others may bring into our lives. We will not be dominated by anger and hatred, bitterness and revenge. It is not in our Franciscan bones to act that way! Seeking forgiveness is our way of dealing with those we have hurt. We cannot "make them" forgive us, but our spirit seeks them out to try to receive forgiveness. We too easily fall into the trap of "labeling" enemies so we can do whatever we want to them. The label helps keep them from being the neighbor whom Jesus calls us to love.

We Franciscans have a spirit of stewardship. We are not deceived into thinking that happiness is found by the accumulation of things and bank accounts. We need basic things for life. But we recognize that we often have what others may need for even a minimum human life. As stewards we find ways of sharing with others rather than merely accumulating things for ourselves.

Franciscans recognize that we have not always been creative about our monthly

gatherings. We may have done little or nothing to learn or to develop actions that help others deal with the issues life brings.

To fill the monthly gathering with devotions and nothing more misses the goal of the monthly gathering. Helping one another live the SFO Rule requires conversations among us as to how we might implement the SFO Rule in today's world and in our daily lives. If our prayer is healthy, it will move us to a deeper compassion and concern for our neighbor and our world. It will move us to DO SOMETHING about the issues we face in secular life. Otherwise the gatherings miss a vital element of Secular Franciscan life.

For any Secular Franciscans who have had little experience of formation with the 1978 SFO Rule and its implications, I would encourage you to invest time and energy in gathering for formation and understanding the implications of the Rule.

This is not a request but a necessity if all of us are to be knowledgeable and dedicated Franciscans. Formation always includes the actions that give life to the Rule. Secular Franciscans have professed to follow the 1978 Rule. To do less is to fail the call given by the Holy Spirit. Ours is not just another organization or society. The Secular Franciscan way of life is meant to touch each moment of each day. There is no time when we are not Franciscans. It is important that we are faithful to whatever our way of life requires.

Such ideas make it obvious why the commitment to your fraternity requires your presence at regular gatherings. Creative ongoing formation programs are useless if you are absent. If there is a solid reason for absence, please talk it over with your fraternity council. They need to know where you stand and what issues influence the decision to attend gatherings or make it impossible for you to be present. Gentle dialogue does wonders!

*How wonderful it is that nobody need
wait a single moment before starting
to improve the world.*

Anne Frank

Minister's Corner

Pauline Riedl SFO
St. James, Wausau



Transformation is the 2006 theme of the LaVerna Region. Transformation is change or conversion. It is not just a "one shot deal" but a life- long process.

Jesus offers each of us grace so that we can deal with the challenges we face and the daily demands of life-with a spirit of charity and heart of generosity. Try to cooperate with that grace.

Most of us will never have a conversion like St. Paul, but we have opportunities every day for small ones.

Maybe you:

1. refuse to snipe back at someone who is provoking you.
2. say a prayer for someone who gets "in your face" instead of harboring spiteful thoughts.
3. do something for an irritating neighbor or co-worker.
4. forgive someone without getting even.
5. persevere doing something you don't like to do without complaining.
6. set attending the monthly Fraternity Gathering as a priority and not something to do if I don't have anything else to do.
7. consent to run for an office or serve as a chair or on a committee without excuses.

We must open our hearts to receive the grace for a more generous attitude, take advantage of every big or small invitation to love, so our Franciscan joy and peace will be light to everyone around us.

Choose one thing that you want to "transform" in your life and work on it every day so the perfection of Jesus will begin to shine out of you.

St. Clare, Patron Saint of Television

The following appeared in a recent issue of Catholic Digest:

"Long before the creation of EWTN or satellite dishes, Clare of Assisi sat in her cell, ill and alone on Christmas Eve and saddened at the prospect of missing midnight Mass. But comfort came in the form of a vision that enabled Clare to watch from her bed as the Mass taking place in her convent chapel appeared on the wall of her cell. And while the world's first live broadcast didn't register on the Nielsen ratings, the event was enough to make St. Clare of Assisi the patron saint of television "

ABOUT GOD'S WORK

(Dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi)

Ellen Jennings SFO

"Francis, dear Francis, where did you go?"

The brothers exclaimed to him.

"The night is abound with nocturnal sounds,

It is late, and the light is so dim."

"My brothers," said he, "you still can't see?"

Our Father's Word I must spread –

And travel to every woodland and valley;

There is no time for bed."

"But Francis, dear Francis, we fear the loss

Of losing your presence and love.

The woods are dark and danger-filled,

And no moonlight is showing above."

"Dear brothers," said he, "there is no fear

For our Lord is my Guiding Light;

He shows me each path which I must follow,

And His power makes evil take flight.

There is nothing more that you must learn,

For our Lord has filled all your needs;

The satchel for your journey is within your soul,

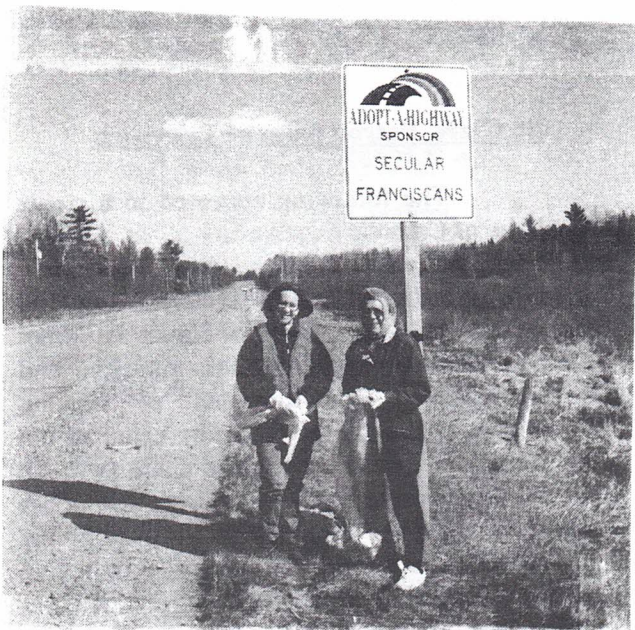
Love, Joy, Peace are the planting seeds."

"So spread these seeds throughout the world;

This is our Lord's command.

And when I am gone, you can still carry on;

From heaven I will hold your hand."



Apostolic Commissions on a County Highway

Joanne Guzik SFO

In early 1994, the St. John Neumann Fraternity based in Rhinelander, Wisconsin found itself struggling with some of the same issues it had faced for the past few years. Although these weren't very serious, they did seem to be minor obstacles to further growth of the fraternity.

Our recruiting efforts weren't yielding many new candidates. Toward the end of our monthly gathering, we often had difficulty as a group in trying to identify ways we could apply the various Franciscan lessons to our daily lives. We didn't have much trouble meeting the goals of our apostolates because, frankly, we weren't committing ourselves to any significant challenges. We always met our goals of providing approximately the same amount of money to the same worthwhile missions. One project in which most members participated was individually saving aluminum cans for what had been, up to that time, optional recycling. The cans were then gathered, sold for the going rate on aluminum and the proceeds were donated to one of the charities we helped to support. However, the rate for aluminum was quickly dropping because recycling was becoming mandated.

Under the sound leadership of our Council, our on-going formation was taking us to a study of the 1990 revisions of the General Constitution based on the revised Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order published in 1978. We started to study the Apostolic Commissions and tried to decide on an apostolate that would give our fraternity an opportunity to take our Franciscan way of life into "the midst of the world". We weren't quite yet sure which of the commissions should be our focus. What might be a new project that would help our fraternity to address some of the minor, yet present, roadblocks that hindered our growth? And, what could we undertake to begin to have fraternity activity toward one of the commissions? The Holy Spirit so reliably responded to our prayers for guidance in the matter.

About that same time, many Wisconsin communities began to promote various versions of their own "Adopt-a-Highway" programs. When the suggestion was first made to the members, there was an element of doubt in the group. Were our middle-aged and older members physically able to pick up trash along local rural highways? Was it safe from a traffic perspective? How about the germ factor? Information provided in a brief video orientation obtained from the County Highway Department answered those concerns in a realistic, positive manner.

OK. We'd give it a try for one year. Our Fraternity Minister, then Marge Huser, signed the necessary application to commit our group to doing this for at least the April through October clean-up season of 1994. Then the dilemma unfolded. Would this project be considered a work commission apostolate or would it more appropriately be an ecology apostolate. Along with the fluorescent orange safety vests the highway department provided, there also would be a sign erected on the highway with the name of our fraternity in big bold letters. It would inform those who used the highway that the St. John Neumann Secular Franciscan

Fraternity was keeping this two mile stretch of County Highway G free of accumulated litter.

In April 1994, armed with our work gloves, work boots, insect repellent and other "tools of the trade", we did our first clean-up event. We soon learned that the spring clean-up is the most difficult because six months' worth of litter has accumulated over winter. In North Central Wisconsin, the grass isn't very tall in April so Mother Nature hasn't had the opportunity to hide any litter. It's all out there for Franciscans to see. So see it we did, and pick it up we did.

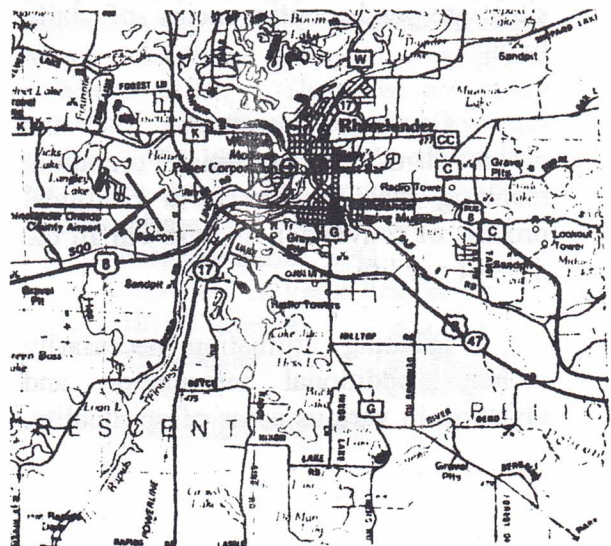
The first fruits of our efforts were soon reaped shortly thereafter. A married couple who often drove on that highway to do their errands saw the new Secular Franciscan sign. They had been wondering if there was a Secular Franciscan group in the area. They then were led to contact us. After attending a few monthly gatherings as guests, then helping with the other highway clean-up events that summer, they began initial formation classes. Both were professed a few years later and were active here until they needed to relocate to another part of Wisconsin where they soon became active in the local fraternity near their new home.

In our thirteenth year of cleaning our stretch of Oneida County Highway G, we still aren't sure if this is more of a work commission activity or an ecology one. The colorful sign with the name of our fraternity still looks good. Our orange safety vests are still bright orange. Both of those factors keep our quiet presence out there "in the midst" of this world. Whenever one of us thinks our members are getting too old to physically handle the project, or it's too hard to find a time when a majority of busy members can be out there, the problem of that day is resolved and we do it for a few more years. We have also enjoyed a very good side effect. Doing physical work together, laughing together and occasionally even enjoying a simple meal

together after the work is done has helped us to strengthen the sense of family with our fellow fraternity members.

Although it is very simple work that doesn't require great skill, it meets the description of work found in our important Franciscan tools, our Rule and our Constitution. It fits into at least two of our apostolic commissions. In a secular manner, it promotes awareness of our fraternity as a positive and active presence in the community. It reflects the truth in Article 16 of our Rule: *"Let them esteem work both as a gift and a sharing in the creation, redemption and service of the human community."*

The best part of this apostolate for me is that when I bend down to pick up discarded fast food wrappers or empty beer cans, I can hear Francis telling his followers that he worked with his own hands and with all his heart he wants his brothers to devote themselves to useful work that would benefit others. I remember that St. Clare told her Sisters that those to whom the Lord has given the grace of working should labor faithfully and devoutly in honesty and for the common good. Most of all, why I value this simple even dirty work is that I can see the beautiful face of Jesus as I clumsily bend over to pick up litter: *"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve."*



Ongoing Formation Phase

-from Formation Commission web site

When we look at the Secular Franciscan formation process, it is important to see it as a continuum, that is, each stage flowing into the next. Aspects that are essential in the first phase, Orientation, will still be essential in the second, Inquiry, the third, Candidacy, and into the Ongoing Formation of professed members.

The purpose of the Ongoing Formation Phase is **to support** the professed members' commitment, and **to strengthen** their Franciscan vocation so that the ongoing conversion process will continue as a lifestyle.

"Begun by the preceding stages, the formation of the brothers and sisters takes place in a permanent and continuous way. It should be understood as an aid in the conversion of each and everyone and in the fulfillment of their proper mission in the Church and in society" (General Constitutions, article 44.1).

Ongoing Formation is a process of renewal for the entire Fraternity by which we are encouraged and challenged to live our vocation in the actual situations and contingencies of daily living.

Ongoing Formation is the outgrowth of proper Initial Formation, realizing that we are in a continual process of conversion and growth all the days of our life.

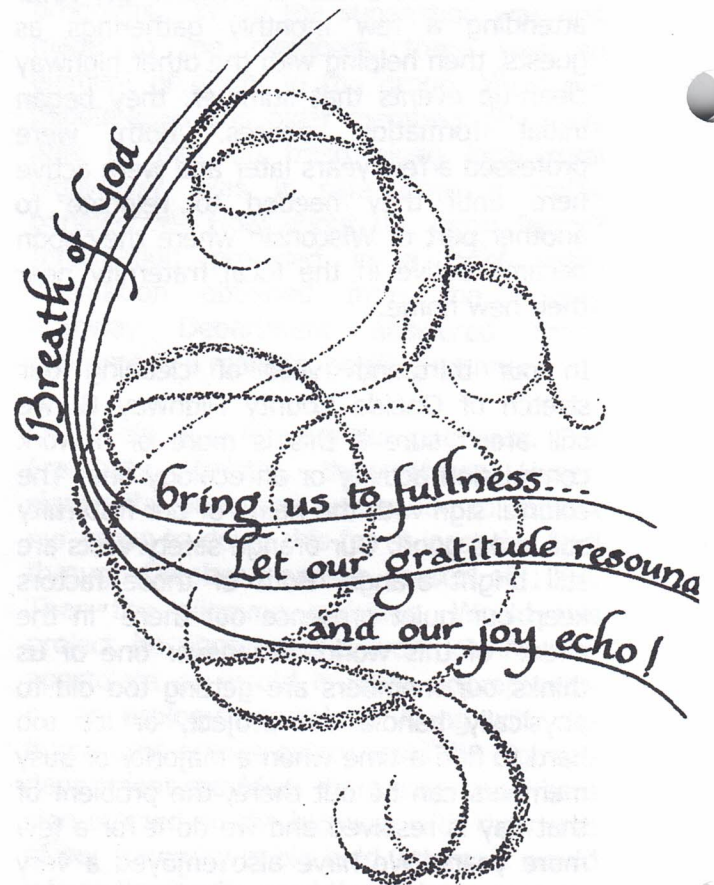
Ongoing Formation necessarily includes additional information and updating in various areas of spirituality,

and deepening of our commitment to the Gospel life. None of us ever completes formation; it is a lifelong process.

Monthly Fraternity gatherings are the ordinary place for Ongoing Formation.

Other opportunities for Ongoing Formation include:

- Retreats
- Days of renewal
- Community celebrations
- Interaction between fraternities
- Interaction with Friars, Poor Clares, the Third Order religious
- Attendance at Regional and National gatherings
- Workshops and seminars



Possible Topics For Ongoing Formation

- Prologue to the Rule
- SFO rule
- Writings of Francis, Clare, Bonaventure etc.
- Franciscan history
- Articles from TAU-USA
- Papal encyclicals, apostolic letters etc.
- Pastoral statements from US Conf. of Catholic Bishops
- Official documents of the Franciscan Family
- SFO Ritual and Constitutions
- International, National and Regional statutes
- Scripture
- Franciscan spirituality and prayer
- Lives of Francis, Clare and other Franciscan Saints
- Servant leadership
- Ecology
- Family
- Peace and justice issues
- Work
- Youth and young adults
- Etc. etc. etc.



Prayer for Our Youth

I pray, dear St. Francis, that you intercede for me on behalf of the youth of today.

That they find their way in our confusing world and survive the pressures of this age.

That they find meaning in life, as you did, through finding God.

That God will be their strength in times of struggle and when choices need to be made, they will have in sight and wisdom, so that they might always discern God's holy and true will.

That they find hope, faith and love in the message of the Gospels and have safe, healthy, and loving generous lives.

That they will have someone in their life who will teach what is right and to pass on to them the values of a Christian life.

And I pray, as a follower of you, St. Francis, that I may have the courage and the will to not pass by any opportunity to be present to the youth in my neighborhood, parish, and family. Amen

Composed by Sister Maria Vinton SSM 2004

WANTED-Editor, "LaVerna Vision"

The Regional Fraternity would like to fill the position of Editor as soon as possible. If you are willing and able to accept this position, please send in your resume ASAP. The position requires meeting deadlines and good writing and computer skills. There is no salary associated with the position, but expenses relative to the work of editing will be paid for by the Regional Fraternity. Qualified persons, please send your resumes to:

Kathryne Sutliff, SFO
Secretary, La Verna Region
1015 Thayer St.
Rhineland, Wis.
54501
ksut517@charter.net



"Recruiting" Members

Jim Carlson, SFO



Chapter workshops emphasized that recruiting members is really helping people discern their vocation, what gifts they have and how God is calling them to use them. Lisa Gilson, Our Lady of the Universe fraternity started the workshops off by reading Mt 5:13-16, the *Good News* that we must share our faith and works with world. Recruiting can be thought of as extension of Formation and Leadership, the other workshop topics. (See Rule 7, 14 & 22 and Constitution Article 45.) Recruiting fits in with this year's theme, Transformation, as it requires not only transformation of individuals and fraternities, but the world environments that fraternity members impact [cf, Article *The Local Fraternity...the privileged place*, TAU-USA, Summer 2006 @ p.17].

As a foundation for recruiting, fraternities should exercise good public relations. (See [www.nafra-sfo.org/meetings and resources.html](http://www.nafra-sfo.org/meetings_and_resources.html) for a helpful manual.) Promotional materials can be created or purchased. (See www.franciscanresources.com for a variety of brochures for purchase.)

Three recruitment models were explained. Carol Derozier explained how Sacred Heart fraternity, Oshkosh, was aging and shrinking in size and how she and her husband Don were recruited directly. St. Joseph fraternity, Appleton, helped with a formation team, deferring profession for about two years until they were certain it was God's call. The Derozier's have now themselves recruited several new and younger family members. Carol Gilson, Our Lady of the Universe fraternity, Woodruff explained how her fraternity

annually hosts a food drive for the local food pantry. After the event volunteers are invited to a "thank-you" tea which has been used to also successfully recruit several new members. Young people are often called to "hands on projects" like this and should be viewed as a tool for recruiting younger members [see *LaVerna Vision*, Spring 2006 @ p. 9]. Jim Behan transferred from a Chicago fraternity to the Madison Rainbow cell of St Paschal Baylon fraternity, Wind Lake. Jim explained the Open House "talks" method-- a detailed process to not only invite the public to learn about the SFO, but also to get members involved in the process. Jim emphasized that we should not be focusing on the negative ("What can a shrinking, aging fraternity do to recruit members?"), but the positive (Let us prepare a good program to explain SFO to those whom God is calling).

Small groups discussed, "What has worked? What hasn't worked?" Discussion groups reported several interesting suggestions including whether or not we should have a Vocations Director on the Regional Council. Smaller, less-resourced fraternities may benefit by coordinating with other fraternities, or even through region-wide coordination to help hold a SFO Open House. Timed, coordinated efforts can also help share costs and enable us to take advantage of large-scale announcements, such as Relevant Radio.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Mind what you say, or you might say whatever comes to mind.

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER/SFO
50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

The Marquette Fraternity of the Third Order of St. Francis, now called Secular Franciscan Order/SFO, celebrated its 50th Anniversary on June 13th at the Presque Isle Pavilion with a turkey dinner & cake, a salute to its charter members and a visitation by Bishop Alexander Sample. Also as their guest, they had Minister, Betty Rogers and Vice Minister, Jean Thill from St. Francis Fraternity in Escanaba, MI. The celebration was attended by 41 people.

Mary Jane Henning, who serves as minister, recognized some notable fraternity members:

- Charter members Charles and Frances (Mickey) Downs; Charlie was the fraternity's first minister.
- Dennis and Marie Bernier, members for 44 years.
- Fr. Tom Schmied, OFM Cap., the Spiritual Assistant since 1990.

Regional Vice-Minister Lee Ann Niebuhr congratulated the membership on their enthusiasm and good works. Regional Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap., reminded every one of a guiding principle: "You may not be around to finish the job, but you can certainly get started!"

Bob Henning outlined the history of the fraternity. On June 13, 1956, St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity was canonically established. The first location of meetings took place at St. Mary's Hospital with Fr. Constance, OFM Cap. being their first spiritual advisor. His parents, Harry and Dena Constance were the first to be professed. Over the years they have had different spiritual advisors, one of them being Fr. David Harris when he was pastor at St. Louis the King Parish in Harvey, MI. Now they meet at the hall at St. Christopher's Church on the first Wednesday of the month, except for July

and August when they meet the 2nd Wednesday.

St. Francis of Assisi, renowned as a "conqueror of souls," was so successful with stirring feelings of piety that an entire congregation begged to be admitted to his order. In order to accommodate such a request, St. Francis established three different orders. First order was called Friars Minor for the male, single, religious; the second order was called Poor Clare's for the female, single, religious which followed Saint Clare of Assisi; and the third order was for secular male and female, both single or married, now called the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO).

Their lifetime commitment of being a Secular Franciscan has been a means to serving in the different ministries of their parishes. Their group of 39 active members covers 9 different parishes since St. Ann's Fraternity at Chassell, MI merged with them in 2004. The apostolates that the fraternity supports are, Marquette Pregnancy Services (now called Care Clinic), a family in India, Covenant House in New York, and the Marquette Diocese Outreach Program that Sr. Ludmilla coordinates.

Bishop Sample gave the dinner invocation and Fr. Schmied gave the final blessing.

we want to thank all the fraternities who sent us congratulatory wishes. It was great seeing all the signatures. Thank you for taking the time to remember us.

Mary Jane Henning SFO

WANTED---

Female companion to travel to Assisi and Rome in October 2006. If interested, please contact Margaret Senzig for more information.

Margaret Senzig SFO
1501 Kuhl St.
Manitowoc, Wis. 54220
1-920-683-9049

La Verna Regional Chapter

The Chapter Gathering took place at St. Anthony's Retreat Center on June 16-18, 2006. Representatives from 17 fraternities and the executive council were present.

The gathering opened with a Memorial service for members that died during the past year followed by a social. Saturday morning was the Regional Business Meeting where each officer gave their report. Workshops on leadership, formation and recruitment were held Saturday afternoon. Sunday liturgy was celebrated and a social was held in the evening. Sunday morning Lee Ann Niebuhr and Mary Fedor introduced some activities that they wrote to accompany Fr. Bach's new book, Capturing the Spirit of Francis and Clare,

which will be published this fall. The gathering closed with a beautiful ritual for the Conclusion of Elections.

It was emphasized many times during the weekend that attending your fraternities gathering each month is top priority, which was a promise you made at profession to follow the Rule of the Secular Franciscans.

(From-St. James Fraternity newsletter)

FOR THOSE WHO TOUCHED ME ON MY ROAD BACK

I cannot travel this road alone
I will need to let someone in
To help me.
Some will be friends
Others will be strangers.

I'll have to learn to trust
All over again
After so much emotional and physical pain
Can I just let go?
Be at peace on this journey back.

I must not be afraid
To ask for help
To seek a little TLC
Compassion, understanding, respect
For at times it was missing in the hospital
I so much need it now.

I am so sensitive to being hurt again
To be lonely and alone
At times it seems I am doing it all alone
But in my heart I know I am not
There is God, my faith, my friends and my
extended family.

Stephen Mickey SFO



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 SFO Regional Council
C/O Ken Beattie
Regional Minister
2951 W. Bridge Street
Greenfield, WI 53221-4823**

Your generosity will be remembered for years to come by those following the Franciscan way of life.

Feel free to call Ken at 414-281-9856 / or Email at beatiesfo@aol.com if any questions.

NEWS NOTES

Secular Franciscan retreat

St. Anthony's Retreat Center will be holding its annual Franciscan Living Retreat September 29-October 1, 2006. The theme this year will be "look at the humility of God" Presenters will be Fr. Dan Crosby, OFM Cap, and Don Ryder, SFO.

"This retreat will help us stay in that loving, contemplative look and in doing so we'll discover God's heart, Francis' heart and through it, discover that our own heart is opening wider and wider to all that God lovingly sends us."

The suggested offering for the weekend is \$140.00. Call for more information and reservations.(715)443-2236.

Jubilee Celebration

Fr Ulric Buening, OFM Cap celebrated his Diamond Jubilee (60 yrs.) at a Jubilee Celebration held at St. Lawrence Seminary on Friday, August 4th. Many of you remember him as he spent most of his priestly career working with the Secular Franciscans on local, provincial, regional, national and international levels. Communication can be sent to the following address:

Rev. Ulric Buening, OFM Cap.
St. Paul Home
1211 Oakridge Ave.
Kaukauna, Wis.
54130



St. Francis Fraternity, Milwaukee

July 2, 2006 St. Francis Fraternity hosted a "Patriotic Rosary". Invitations went out to all fraternities in the Southeast District.

In September they will have a jubilee celebration for 4 of their members. Helen Krueger, Marjorie Narlock and Fred Klotz will be celebrating 50 years and Rosie Nichols will celebrate 25 years.

The Fraternity also supports the prison ministry of St. Francis Parish.

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Frat.

Working at the Neighborhood Table project is one way the Wisconsin Rapids Fraternity is serving the poor.

They also make donations to the area food pantry and help to fund the shelter for families who are victims of abuse.



Our Lady Queen of the Universe Frat.

To raise money for the "fair share", members of the Woodruff fraternity are making Tau cross necklaces and Franciscan note cards. They find it a great way to raise money and spend quality time together.

St. Anthony Fraternity

Marathon fraternity, as an aging fraternity, finds that they enjoy coming together to collect and make supplies for the missions. They are collecting used pill bottles, make 5x7 squares for quilts and make bandages and soap pads.

Quinquennial Congress—2007

Begin to save now!! If you have not attended a congress before, you have missed one great event. We will work on planning to take a bus if enough folks are interested. Watch for more details. The dates are July 3-8, 2007 at Stuebenville, Ohio.

Help is at Hand (Swedish Proverb)

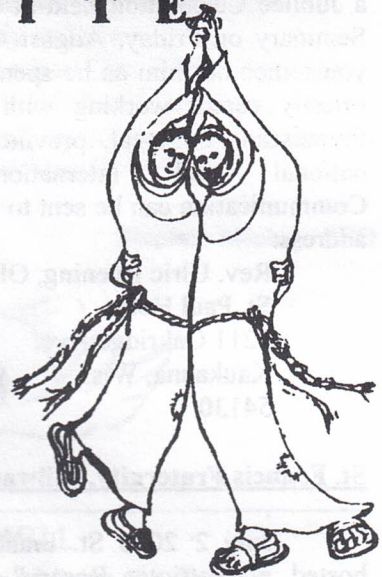
The best place to find a helping hand is at the end of your own arm.

Find-the-Words Puzzle

O A L V E R N A C S P B
T H G F E D N C L R A Z
T S T I G M A T A X Y S
H U M I L I T Y R W I V
V N E F F G U J E N T U
D B C D R H R K G S R Q
S M A Z Y A E L U A M R
K L I Q L X N R B S N O
L O O U W V T C B S L N
L V C P O U Q S I I S I
P E A C E R H G O S T M
S P O C A L L O N I T E

ALVERNA
ASSISI
BITE
CALL
CLARE
FRANCIS
GUBBIO
HUMILITY
LOVE

MINOR
NATURE
PEACE
PRAY
SECULAR
SING
STIGMATA
SUN
TRUST



A Fish Fryer's Tale

Lost on a rainy night, a nun stumbles across a monastery and requests shelter there. Fortunately, she's just in time for dinner and was treated to the best fish and chips she's ever had.

After dinner, she goes into the kitchen to thank the chefs. She is met by two Brothers, "Hello, I'm Brother Michael, and this is Brother Charles."

"I'm very pleased to meet you. I just wanted to thank you for a wonderful dinner. The fish and chips were the best I've ever tasted. Out of curiosity, who cooked what?"

Brother Charles replied, "Well, I'm the fish friar." She turns to the other brother and says, "Then you must be...?" "Yes, I'm the chip monk."

**La Verna Regional Fraternity SFO
STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSE
FOR YEARS ENDED DEC 31, 2006 & 2005**

	THIS YEAR Y. T. D. 2006	LAST YEAR TOTAL 2005
BEGINNING BALANCES:		
REGULAR CHECKING -----	1,174.63	13,031.42
INVESTMENT SAVINGS -----	0.00	0.00
INVESTMENT SAVINGS CD-----	7,094.67	0.00
CASH ON HAND -----	250.00	0.00
TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS -	8,519.30	13,031.42
REVENUE:		
DONATIONS -----	210.60	296.60
INTEREST INCOME -----	0.00	94.67
SPECIAL MEMORIALS -----	0.00	10.00
MEETINGS -----	0.00	1,105.00
CHAPTER -----	766.50	0.00
FAIR SHARE -----	10,875.00	12,856.25
MISC INCOME -----	48.00	78.50
Total Revenue -----	<u>11,900.10</u>	<u>14,441.02</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS -----	20,419.40	27,472.44
EXPENSES:		
STIPENDS -----	1,000.00	2,050.00
RENT INCLUDING EQUIPMENT -----	0.00	110.00
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES -----	25.00	0.00
MEETING ROOM & FACILITIES -----	410.00	0.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES -----	7.75	148.81
ANNUAL REPORT -----	0.00	0.00
DONATIONS -----	0.00	100.00
INSURANCE -----	0.00	0.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXP -----	23.00	652.33
NEWSLETTER -----	577.20	2,506.09
TRAVEL EXP -----	1,575.43	3,138.01
FAIR SHARE TO NAFRA * -----	0.00	5,030.00
ANNUAL CHAPTER EXP ** -----	0.00	4,758.86
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE -----	48.00	459.04
Total Disbursements -----	<u>3,666.38</u>	<u>18,953.14</u>
ENDING BALANCE -----	16,753.02	8,519.30
CURRENT BALANCES:		
REGULAR CHECKING -----	8,891.85	1,174.63
INVESTMENT SAVINGS -----	0.00	0.00
7 MONTH 4.10 % CD 7/31/06 -----	7,094.67	7,094.67
CASH ON HAND -----	766.50	250.00
TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS --	16,753.02	8,519.30

* Fair Share assessment for 2006 not yet received from NAFRA

** Cost of Annual Chapter will be paid at conclusion of Chapter.

PETER J. BEKKERS, S.F.O.,

TREASURER

06/14/06



LA VERNA - SFO - REGION

La Verna Region
Secular Franciscan Order
2951 W Bridge St
Greenfield, WI 53221

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
GREEN BAY WI
PERMIT 460

558 *****AUTO**ALL FOR ADC 530
FR. LESTER BACH OFM CAP
NATIONAL
4123 MONONA DR
MONONA WI 53716-1661



COMING EVENTS

- Aug. 17-20, 2006 Reflections on the Early Documents of St. Francis, Vol. 2
Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center (715-385-3750)
- Sept. 9, 2006 Regional Council Meeting, Green Bay
- Sept. 29-Oct 1, 2006 Franciscan Living Retreat
St. Anthony's Retreat Center (715-443-2236)
- Oct. 22-24, 2006 National Executive Council Meetings
St. Anthony Retreat Center
- Oct 24-29, 2006 National Fraternity Meeting
St. Anthony Retreat Center
- Nov. 4, 2006 Regional Council Meeting, Green Bay
- Jun. 15-17, 2007 LaVerna Regional Chapter Meeting & National Formation Commission
Workshop St Anthony Retreat Center
- Jul. 3-8, 2007 Quinquennial Congress, Stubenville, Ohio