

THE LAVERNA VISION

YEAR OF TRANSFORMATION ❖ SUMMER 2011 EDITION



THE PATHWAY TO PROFESSION STARTS WITH FUN

"Let us begin For Up to Now we have done nothing." ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

The *For Up to Now* manual written by the National Formation Commission was introduced at a workshop for Secular Franciscans in Belleville, IL, May 12 -15, 2011. The *For Up to Now* (FUN) manual outlines programs, lesson plans, instructions that will "constitute the areas deemed essential in the formation of the Franciscan person."

In an opening letter addressed in the manual the NAFRA Formation Commission wrote, "Over the past two and a half years, the National Formation Commission and a host of dedicated Secular Franciscans have help design the FUN (For Up to Now) manual to adapt the original CIOFS Forming the Formators materials for use in the United States..."

The formation manual idea was expressed at the international General Chapter (2008) in Hungary to expand the CIOFS materials in order to develop a comprehensive manual, which would serve as the foundation of Initial Formation.

Please see *Pathways to Profession*, page 6



Chapter of Elections picks Secular Franciscans to serve on the LaVerna Regional Executive Council

Left to right: Jeff Gumz, Vice Minister; Peter Bekkers, Treasurer; Ed Boss, Councilor; Jim Carlson, Minister; Kathy Sutliff, Councilor; Joanne Guzik, Councilor; Bob Henning, Councilor; Lizanne Schulrud, Secretary, (absent from photo).

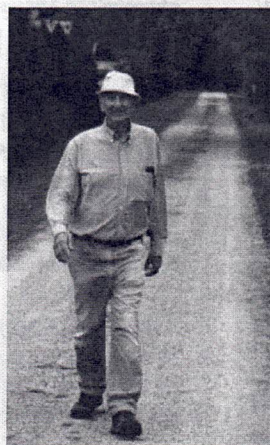
Please see *Chapter Elects New Council*, page 8

Walk for Spirit

**"Pursue some path, however narrow and crooked,
in which you can walk with love and reverence."**

Henry David Thoreau

John Terranova, SFO did not plan to become a distance walker, but his paths and trails beckoned him to walk farther towards the next horizon and Franciscan discovery. And along his walk, something or someone shares wisdom pure enough to continue his journey.



John Terranova, SFO along the Glacial Drumlin Trail near Lake Mills, WI.

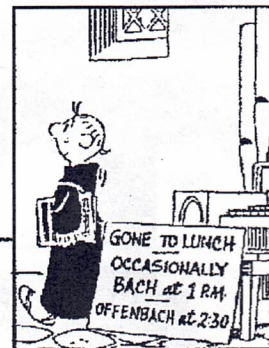
The joy of walking offers inspiration and insights that befriend his daily strides. "At times I think of fraternity issues, John said. Then there are thoughts such as how do we evangelize, pray, communicate? Where is fraternity headed? What can I do to help fraternity? Other times I just walk and enjoy the beauty that God has provided for us to look at, enjoy, and preserve."

At the beginning, John walked only three miles a day. He set out making a loop from his home in Madison heading north to Cherokee Lake. Those daily walks were mostly on sidewalks and not too exciting. Stretching his walk one or two miles, he felt better and found trails in nearby Cherokee Marshes' two conservancies. The beauty of winding trails around the Cherokee Marsh provides a sauntering and lyrical journey to attentive eyes. There are North American Sandhill Cranes, colorful varieties of butterflies that take nectar from prairie wildflowers, extensive sphagnum peat deposit, and the largest marsh wetlands in Dane County. "It is interesting as

Please see *Walk for Spirit*, page 7

Reflection

Lester Bach OFM Cap - Regional Spiritual Assistant



IT'S TIME ...

... to get serious about Spiritual Assistance. We often wait until a SA's term is ended or a transfer takes place, or something else happens, and then - we scramble to find somebody (sometimes "anybody") to serve as a spiritual assistant. Or we notify the Provincial Spiritual assistant of the Province to which our fraternity is bonded, and dump the problem in his lap. He is then expected to pick a warm body out of the air, trained or not! Such a skewered process CAN NO LONGER be tolerated!

The spiritual and pastoral care of the SFO, entrusted by the Church to the Franciscan first Order and the TOR, is the duty, above all, of their general and provincial ministers (major superiors). The "altius moderamen" of which canon 303 speaks, belongs to them. The purpose of "altius moderamen" is to guarantee the fidelity of the SFO to the Franciscan charism, communion with the Church, and union with the Franciscan family, values which represent a vital commitment for the Secular Franciscans.

SFO Constitutions - article 85.2

Only a major superior of the 1st Order or TOR, or his delegate (a general or provincial spiritual assistant) has the authority to appoint a spiritual assistant.

Anyone appointed as a SA **must be knowledgeable** about Franciscan spirituality. That must be determined, not presumed. He/she must be available for the various meetings and gatherings of the fraternity, the council and the formation people. Pastors or deacons, whose first service is to the parish or the diocese, will seldom be able to add this role to their other duties. They are well trained for Church service. They may have little or no knowledge of Franciscan life or have time to take the 19 month SA training course (*Franciscan Family Connections*).

Without a trained person a fraternity gets inadequate assistance. Anyone who sees the SFO as simply another parish organization is NOT suitable. A SA **MUST BE** suitable and well-prepared (SFO Constitutions - article 91.1 - Rule #26). A poorly prepared person should not be recommended nor appointed!

As a concrete sign of communion and co-responsibility, the councils on the various levels, keeping with the Constitutions, shall ask for suitable and well-prepared religious for spiritual assistance. (SFO Rule #26).

The Constitutions point out the people who may be

appointed as a spiritual assistant:

When it is not possible to give such a spiritual assistant to the fraternity (a religious), the competent major superior can entrust the service of spiritual assistance to:

- religious brothers and sisters of other Franciscan institutes;*
- diocesan clerics or other persons, specially prepared for such service, who are members of the SFO;*
- other diocesan clerics or non-Franciscan religious.*

Constitutions - Article 89.4

Candidates must be *suitable and well-prepared!* Fraternity life is at stake. Without adequate Franciscan knowledge and understanding SA's can hardly "assist" Franciscan life. Ignorance is not a qualification to become a SA to the SFO.

The principal task of the assistant is to communicate Franciscan spirituality and to co-operate in the initial and continuing formation of the brothers and sisters.

Constitutions - Article 90.1

What can we do about this issue?

I challenge each fraternity council in La Verna Region to choose (carefully) one or more secular Franciscans from their fraternity to take the *Franciscan Family Connections* course (19 months). It is a correspondence course mentioned by the appropriate Provincial SA or a competent person delegated by the Provincial or the Provincial SA.

The council may help to provide the extra reading books as well as assisting the nominee(s) with any needed financial support for the training course. *Franciscan Family Connections* (Revised - 2011) can be obtained from Smokey Valley Printing - cf. 2nd last page in TAU-USA. Costs can also be found there. The "Preliminaries" of the book spell out the process of taking the course.

This goal will create a group of well-prepared people to serve as a SA when the need arises. La Verna will have well-trained people available to serve as SA's to a local fraternity or as a regional SA.

Candidates must be professed for at least five years. They may be men or women SFO members - or others listed above in the Constitutions. The council recommends them to the fraternity's provincial SA. **Doing nothing is not an option if we wish to have suitable and well-prepared people to serve as SA's!**

LaVerna Minister's Message —



In the words of Venerable Solanus Casey, OFM Cap — Deo Gratias!

From my perspective, the June 24 — 26 LaVerna Regional Chapter of Elections held at St.

Anthony Retreat Center in Marathon, WI was an especially Spirit filled gathering of Franciscan Family. I wish to express special thanks to election Visitors Fr. Oliver Bembenc, OFM Cap who was our electoral witness for CNSA and to Dennis Ross, SFO National Treasurer, who was our electoral conductor. In addition, my appreciation goes out to our nomination committee members, Joanne Guzick and Lizanne Schulrud. They worked very hard over the months contacting LaVerna region members and asking them to run for executive council.

On Friday June 24, the first day of the Chapter, regional ministers, delegates, observers, and visitors gathered in the retreat center chapel. We offered prayers and held a votive candle memorial service in memory of our sisters and brothers who Sister Death had called this past year. Later that same evening, we spent time to socialize in a comfortable room getting to know each other a little better, or just enjoying a Franciscan reunion of old friendships.

Each day of the three-day Chapter, regional officers, local ministers, delegates, and observers gave reports, shared information, and discussed events about their fraternity to the assembled group in the retreat main conference room. My thanks go out to all of them who added an important role to the Chapter. Their unique perspectives and special contributions made the meeting a well-rounded success.

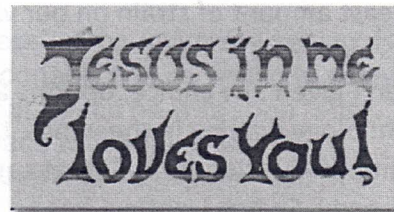
Bless those younger SFO members who attended and asked that their name be added on the election ballot, even at the last moment. They heard the inner call to run for an office and stepped forward. May their willingness continue to serve set a standard for our future local and regional elections. Pre-election prayers vital.

To those who served the region these past three years, thank you! We tried our best to thank past regional minister Ken Beattie, professed 45 years. Ken has served LaVerna region in leadership roles 25 years, in sickness and in health! Continue to remember him in your prayers—I am sure he will continue to find ways to serve the Order until the Lord calls him home!

The newly elected Regional Executive Council (REC) held its first meeting during the Chapter at St. Anthony Retreat Center, and scheduled its next council meeting for August 27 at St. Mary of the Angels Friary and Parish in Green Bay. We will make sure that the new officers have the basic material necessary to serve, and that each elected councilor is assigned to a specific LaVerna area district.

Our formation team members have agreed to continue to serve. The team will meet prior and again on August 27. They will help the REC determine the next steps, which bring new NAFRA formation guidelines and ideas to our local fraternities as soon as possible. We will also consider the recommendations from the last regional council to focus the REC now and in the years ahead. Moreover, council will review the good suggestions heard from Chapter at the retreat center.

On Sunday, the final day of the Chapter, I passed out my calling card:



"Jesus in me Loves You!" Thanks to Rodney Knier, I have many more of these colorful cards and I will

carry some of them with me to various LaVerna area gatherings and share them with those who haven't received one. I suggest that you carry at least one card with you, and if the Spirit prompts, give it to someone who might become a prospective member of our Order. And, invite them to a SFO meeting.

I remain yours in Christ,
Jim Carlson, SFO
La Verna Regional Minister



When "Green" Goes Awry by Judy Stouffer, SFO

In case you haven't heard the rumblings yet: a permanent ban on incandescent light bulbs goes into effect starting in January of 2012. It's a phased ban, so the first consumer bulbs to disappear will be 100 watt bulbs, followed by other wattages over the next two years.

The rationale behind the ban is that incandescent bulbs are inefficient, and waste most of the energy they use as heat, instead of light. Their replacements, as of now, are compact fluorescent lights.



This move isn't as "green" as it seems, according to the ban's critics. Compact fluorescent lights, called CFLs, have many problems of their own. CFLs contain mercury, and when a bulb breaks, it releases the mercury. The instructions from the federal government on how to clean up a broken CFL read like a response requiring a hazmat team. Secondly, all CFLs are currently manufactured in China.



China's laws are lax compared to the USA, Canada, the European Union and other countries regarding worker exposure to toxins and production of environmental pollution from manufacturing. This is of particular concern because the mercury contained in CFLs and used in their manufacture is such a serious human and environmental toxin.

Third, CFLs' energy savings don't hold up when compared to real-world data on how well they actually perform. About 1 in 4 CFL fails in less than half of its expected lifetime, and the ordinary lifetime of a CFL is cut drastically when used with a dimmer switch or in several other common uses and situations. CFLs have other drawbacks as well, including that they don't create the 'warm' colored light that most closely matches sunlight, and puts the least amount of strain on our vision.

Since consumers aren't given any choice, options are limited if the ban remains unchallenged. However, manufacturers of a technology waiting in the wings, LED light bulbs, are working hard to come up with a consumer- and environmentally-friendly bulb that can replace both incandescent bulbs and CFLs. Only one LED manufacturing company, Switch Lighting, has an LED replacement bulb that reviewers feel is truly equivalent to a 60 watt incandescent bulb in usability, brightness and 'warmth' of light color that it emits.

Retail sales of this bulb won't begin until this October, and they won't be widely available right away. The bulb carries a hefty up-front price tag as well. If it lasts as long as it should, though, it may actually turn out to be cheaper, more environmentally-and human-friendly, and more energy efficient bulb than either incandescent lights or CFLs.

Let's hope that this and other reasonable options become available so we don't go from the frying pan into the fire through the legislative ban that forces consumers to replace their incandescent bulbs with CFLs.

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Recently, I have heard many caring memorial words about our sister Jean Platz, SFO who died of cancer in April. I listened to SFOs and OFMs who summarized that Jean worked for the greater good in her 60-years of Secular Franciscan service. She was not one to be discontent, ashamed, or afraid to stand-alone or join-in with projects, especially formation. She served on regional and local formation levels, but in reality, she was installing formation all the time.

In the winter 2007 *LaVerna Vision* edition, Jean wrote an article about one of our cultural demons: busyness. Her commentary outlines that our individualism, speed, and arrogance inherit many secular projects. She writes that the too busy SFO may side step the basic needs that nourish healthy fraternal life.

I want to reprint Jean's article, to raise our inner awareness a little, and in the hope that we ask ourselves the main thrust of her concern. The too busy Franciscan displays a facade of looking industrious, but in the midst their hectic life, he or she wither away from Rule responsibilities.

But cheer up, Jean would not want you to feel distraught or joyless. Her article leaves you—the Secular Franciscan—a perfect antidote for the busy life. I hope you can spot it.

TOO BUSY by Jean Platz, SFO

Article 7 of our Rule states: *"Let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel calls conversion."*

In our day and age, it seems that everyone is so "busy."
We hear this as an excuse for lack of attendance and/or participation at the monthly meeting, days of reflection, retreats, apostolate, socials, etc.

I wonder if it isn't time to re-evaluate our priorities. In his book *Journey to Daybreak*, Fr. Henri Nouwen writes about the year he left the academic world of Harvard University to live and work with the L'Arch Community: community living with the developmentally disabled.

He felt he had to get away from the "busyness" of the university setting. He wrote in his book that we need to be able to attend to the "important" and be willing to delay the "urgent" or let go completely. However, even at L'Arch he was soon "busy." A Jesuit friend told Henri that was his character defect. The place was not the key to his busyness. Henri Nouwen created the same busyness at L'Arch that he experienced at Harvard.

Maybe it's time to re-evaluate our lives and determine what's "important" and what "urgent" things can be put off or let undone, and birth that radical interior change in which we are called.

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: Peter Bekkers, SFO LaVerna Regional Treasurer, W6855 St. Mary's Dr., Greenville, WI 54942. (920) 757-9027 or you may email Peter at taxmannatp@gmail.com Your Franciscan Way of Life and generosity will be remembered for years to come.

International SFO News

AFRICAN CONGRESS HELD IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

From June 1 - 7, 2011, Secular Franciscans, Franciscan Youth and Spiritual Assistants gathered at St. Bonaventure's College in Lusaka, Zambia for the 5th Congress of English-speaking Africa.



Representatives from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Zambia came together to reflect on the theme of the Congress, "Identity and Commitment," and to mark the 10th anniversary of the promulgation of the SFO General Constitutions.

The Congress was hosted by the National Fraternity of Zambia under the direction of its National Minister, Honorius Chilufya, and his National Council. The International Presidency was represented by Doug Clorey, Vice-Minister General, Lucy Almiranez, Presidency Councilor. Fr. Martin Bitzer, OFM and Fr. Temelso, OFM Cap, General Assistants to the SFO.

Presentations and work sessions formed how the Congress conducted its work on "Profession," "Sense of Belonging," and the importance of spiritual assistance. The role of the major superiors provides spiritual and pastoral assistance to the SFO. Honorius Chilufya's presentation was on Franciscan Poverty versus Self-Sustainability. Participants also discussed Franciscan Youth and International Fraternity. In addition, the African Congress served as an opportunity to discuss the need for an "Africa Project" that supports the life of SFOs in Africa. Such a project requires communications between Africa's national fraternities to support emerging fraternities, strengthen established fraternities, and to address formation as a priority, including the training of formators and the provision of formation materials.

National News

Pathways to Profession, continued from page 1

The "Forming the Formatters," NAFRA workshop held in May at The Shrine of Our Lady of the Snow was attended by SFOs and OFMs throughout the United States. During the four-day workshop, Robert Fitzsimmons, NAFRA Formation Chair and Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM Formation Spiritual Assistant, outlined and discussed information on the FUN manual. Fitzsimmons and Trezza, along with NAFRA formation commission leaders, presented the fundamental basis of formation for the Order.

The Forming the Formatters workshop's main initiative was "to revitalize our formation process and provide training for the Order." The national formation commission's intention is to reach local fraternities ...

- to develop a uniform formation process across the United States
- to define essential elements of formation
- to provide formators with easy to read texts and to use materials that include suitable for formation students, along with teaching aides, lesson plans, objectives, power point presentations, audio and video CDs, prayer actions, etc. All to make facilitating the local and regional formation process easy to follow
- to grow in our understanding as Franciscans

Regional News

Secular Franciscans begin study to become fraternity Spiritual Assistants

by Jeanne Thill, SFO

Two Secular Franciscans from St. Francis Fraternity in Escanaba, MI requested and received acceptance to begin their study and training as fraternity spiritual assistants. Acceptance and permission to begin study was decided by LaVerna Regional Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Lester Bach, OFM.

The St. Francis fraternity council upon solicitation chose Rose Mary Sankovitch and Jan Tolfas as acceptable candidates. In turn, their names, qualifications, and requests to study were submitted to Fr. Bach for his approval. These endorsements have helped the fraternity take steps towards resolving the situation of our fraternity of not having a spiritual assistant for over four years. Our last spiritual assistant was Fr. Tom

Schmied who served St. Francis Fraternity over seven years before reassignment to Canada. Currently, there are no Franciscan Sisters in the Escanaba area, so the fraternity prayed and looked inward for evangelical assistance.

In Fr. Bach's "Reflections" article, published in the winter 2010 *LaVerna Vision* newsletter, he writes about the requirements SFOs need on becoming spiritual assistants (SA). His article asks that interested members read his book *Franciscan Family Connection*, a preparation text designed to form people who wish to serve as regional or fraternity spiritual assistants. His helpful commentary started our consideration and request rolling.

Though all seems very positive at this point – the spiritual assistant course is 18 months long and could be longer, depending on the individual. During the candidates SA training, Rose Mary and Jan

continue an open line of lesson plan communication and discernment with Fr. Bach.

Our fraternity feels truly blessed that both Rose Mary and Jan have come forward and will have the opportunity to both become a SA for the fraternity or co-SAs and work together.

We all feel with the blessing and guidance of the Holy Spirit, Our Lady, Sts. Francis and Clare – the sky is the limit for us. Please keep us in your prayers for the success of this endeavor. Rose Mary and Jan are truly great Franciscans and sincerely have the interest of the continued success of the fraternity at heart for all and for all our spiritual lives.

Editor's note:

The general rule is that a lay Spiritual Assistant does NOT serve his/her own fraternity. If there is no other fraternity within a reasonable distance that might have a lay SA to serve the needy fraternity, he/she could serve their own fraternity at the discretion of the Provincial Spiritual Assistant who makes the appointment.

Walk for Spirit, Continued from page 1

"winter ends and spring is trying to decide whether to present itself or not ... to slowly see and hear nature's flora and fauna coming to life. I wonder if I would be able to talk to the birds and animals as Francis did. I think – probably not. Besides, they are long gone before one can get too close to them."

I started walking for health reasons," John said. "I did not think I needed to go to a gym and build up muscles. I am past that age." John will celebrate his 81st birthday on November 24.

Cardiovascular exercise was what I thought would be most

beneficial to me, so walking seemed the way to go." His walks are not just limited to the Madison area. During a late spring outing in the outdoors, John ventured onto a four-mile stretch walking the popular Glacial Drumlin trail near Lake Mills in southeastern Wisconsin.

Last June marked a 10-mile jaunt in Madison, just to see if it could be done. "I had not walked that distance for about three years. By the way, the day after that 10-mile walk, I felt great. I was invigorated from head to toe," he added.

John and his wife Josephine both professed into the Secular Franciscan Order on October 14, 1984, and they are active members with Sts. Francis and Clare cell group in Madison. Over his 27-seven years as a professed member, John has served as fraternity minister, St. Paschal Baylon fraternity newsletter editor, fraternity treasurer, St. Joseph Province Vice Minister, Provincial newsletter editor, and assisted on the LaVerna Region Implementation Team. John and Jo have one son, three daughters, and are the proud grandparents to nine grandchildren and one great grandchild.

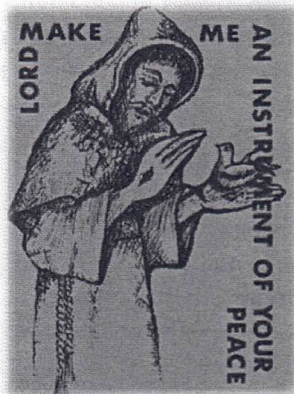
"Walk for Spirit" was written by John Terranova and edited by Ed Boss.

Formation and Peace Prayer by JIM COLLINS, SFO

As Secular Franciscans, we recite, pray, and sing the Peace Prayer at ceremonies and at home. We say the first prayer sentence without hesitation, as if we were announcing to Our Lord, "I'm ready, put me into a conflict and I'll do your work."

But in truth, we are often not ready to be Christ's peace representative in conflict.

How often do we empty ourselves from our churning emotions and become peaceful as we see family, friends, fellow workers, parish members, political parties, and nations engaged in heated conflict, if not actual violence? Do we have resources to understand what generates real conflict? Often the best action to take is to leave an aggressive situation and return when emotions have simmered. Can we truthfully ask Our Lord to make us as His instruments of peace, as if we were handing out cards saying, "Have Peace, Will Travel." Perhaps we can gain insight about St. Francis' life as recorded in the popular three volume series *Francis of Assisi*.



Christian literature to denote the great spirituality of the early martyrs]. Now he is eager to despise his own life, by setting aside all concern for it. Thus there might be peace for him ..."

The first step in Francis' new life finds peace in himself. Afterwards, as recorded in Volume 1, "In all of his preaching, before he presented the word of God to the assembly, he prayed for peace saying, 'May the Lord give you peace.' He always proclaimed this to men and women ... Accordingly, many who hated peace ... became themselves children of peace ..."

In Volume 2, we read "His [Francis] great desire was that he and his brothers would perform deeds through which the Lord would be praised. He used to tell them: 'As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that you have greater peace in your hearts, thus no one will be provoked to anger or scandal because of you.'" As there are several hundred references to examples of St. Francis and his message of peace in the *Francis of Assisi* books, it would save the life of a small tree in print if we just focus on a main point. If we can grow strength of peace in our hearts through a corresponding close relationship with Jesus Christ, the King of Peace, we don't need to worry about learning the causes of conflict or deciding when Our Lord wants us to be His instrument of peace.

By our demeanor, and through the calming whispers of the Holy Spirit, we will affect peace. In that way, we will be Our Lord's instrument of peace. Through prayer, we can do this. Through the example of St. Francis, we know that this can be done. Peace, my brothers and sisters.

Jim Collins is Minister of St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Marquette, MI. "Formation for Peace Prayer" was initially published in the *St. Anthony Courier* fraternity newsletter, June 2011.

In *Francis of Assisi—Early Documents*, Volume 1, Francis strips his clothes in front of the bishop and begins a new life. St. Francis initially found peace through total trust in Christ and his humble nakedness to the world. "Look! Now he wrestles naked with the naked.

After putting aside all that is of the world, he is mindful only of divine justice [the language of nakedness was used in early

CHAPTER ELECTS NEW COUNCIL, GIVES KEN BEATTIE TRIBUTE

Eight Secular Franciscans were elected to a three-year term to serve on the regional executive council. The June 25 election had its own memorable moments when thirty-five LaVerna Region Secular Franciscans gathered at St. Anthony's Spirituality Center for its Chapter of Elections, which occurs every three years.

Unlike a national or state political election, the Chapter of Elections is a distinctive process because it offers a holy time for the Regional

Fraternity – which asks that each fraternity minister seek the Holy Spirit's guidance and vote for a candidate who has answered God's call to run for a council office.

Our newly elected members are: Minister, Jim Carlson; Vice Minister, Jeff Gumz; Secretary, Lizanne Schulrud; Treasurer, Peter Bekkers; district councilors: Bob Henning, Kathy Sutliff, Joanne Guzik, and Ed Boss. The elected councilors will receive their district area assignments at the August 27 regional council meeting in Green Bay. During the June 24 – 26 Chapter, it was announced that a new formation

manual, "For Up to Now" (FUN), will be released to local fraternity formation directors at a future date.

In recognition for his years of regional service and leadership, Ken Beattie was moved to tears as he accepted a carved olive wood statue of St. Francis. The hand carved statue was made in Palestine in the Holy Land.

Editor's note: Portions of this article written by Bob Henning, SFO, St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Marquette, MI, and reprinted from the July/ August 2011 edition of the St. James Fraternity newsletter, Wausau, WI.

La Verna Regional Fraternity SFO
STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSE
FOR PERIODS ENDED DEC 31, 2010 & 2009

LAST YEAR

	THIS YEAR Y. T. D. 2010	TOTAL Budget 2010	Budget 2010 Favorable (Unfavorable) Variance	LAST YEAR TOTAL 2009
BEGINNING BALANCES:				
REGULAR CHECKING -----	1,011.47			(1,031.19)
RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND	1,282.76			719.47
EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND	1,000.00			-
INVESTMENT SAVINGS 7 day CD-----	-			4,475.13
RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND CD	16,924.15			16,824.15
INVESTMENT SAVINGS CD-----	15,516.96			15,000.00
VISA CREDIT CARD -----	(620.54)			-
CASH ON HAND -----	-			-
TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS -	35,114.80			35,987.56
REVENUE:				
DONATIONS -----	1,508.80	1,200.00	308.80	1,357.60
INTEREST INCOME & CASH BK BONUS-	65.00	350.80	(285.80)	517.91
INTEREST ENDOWMENT FUND	858.05	851.90	6.15	863.29
SPECIAL MEMORIALS -----	600.00	1,000.00	(400.00)	547.50
CHAPTER -----	854.75	750.00	104.75	604.00
FAIR SHARE -----	22,143.25	22,200.00	(56.75)	22,782.00
MISC INCOME -----	125.00	1,000.00	(875.00)	35.00
TOTAL REVENUE -----	26,154.85	27,352.70	(1,197.85)	26,707.30
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS -----	61,269.65			62,694.86
EXPENSES:				
STIPENDS -----	2,400.00	2,450.00	50.00	2,400.00
EQUIPMENT INCLUDING EQUIPMENT -----	-	100.00	100.00	-
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES -----	678.40	750.00	71.60	551.55
EDUCATION/TRAINING -----	-	-	-	-
MEETING ROOM & FACILITIES -----	1,175.00	900.00	(275.00)	1,130.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES -----	155.29	150.00	(5.29)	188.94
DONATIONS -----	-	320.00	320.00	717.50
ADMINISTRATIVE EXP -----	739.65	2,000.00	1,260.35	838.25
NEWSLETTER -----	1,823.19	2,910.80	1,087.61	1,845.38
TRAVEL EXP -----	8,685.30	6,492.00	(2,193.30)	9,390.74
FAIR SHARE TO NAFRA -----	5,352.00	5,328.00	(24.00)	5,340.00
ANNUAL CHAPTER -----	4,310.68	5,000.00	689.32	4,632.70
VISITATION / ELECTION -----	814.80	-	(814.80)	-
RETREAT SUBSIDY -----	577.50	851.90	274.40	300.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE -----	100.00	100.00	-	245.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS -----	26,811.81	27,352.70	540.89	27,580.06
GAIN OR (LOSS) FOR PERIOD -----	(656.96)	-	(656.96)	(872.76)
ENDING BALANCE -----	34,457.84			35,114.80
CURRENT BALANCES:				
REGULAR CHECKING -----	80.89			1,011.47
RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND (Restricted)	1,563.31			1,282.76
EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND	1,000.00			1,000.00
RETREAT ENDOWMENT 5.25% 59 mo CD **	16,924.15			16,924.15
20 MONTH 1.15 % CD 5/31/11 -----	15,516.96			15,516.96
VISA CREDIT CARD -----	(627.47)			(620.54)
CASH ON HAND -----	(0.00)			-
TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS --	34,457.84			35,114.80

**Received for Retreats from St. Francis Of Assisi Fraternity Milwaukee & St John Neumann Fraternity Rhinelander

PETER J. BEKKERS, SFO, TREASURER

6/23/2011

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The La Verna Region of the Secular Franciscan Order in the USA consists 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.

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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 editors: Ed Boss, SFO, ed-joann@execpc.com, and Bob Henning, SFO, bmjhsfo@aol.com

LaVerna Region August 2011 daily novena for the suffering in 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

Book Review

The Emergent Christ: Exploring the Meaning of Catholic in an Evolutionary Universe by Sr. Ilia Delio, O.S.F.

Published by Orbis Books, 2011.

A serious exploration on the meaning of anything takes work. Exploring the emergent Christ takes the explanation of Sr. Ilia Delio who asks in her book for faith over dogmatic belief. Belief clings. Faith lets go.

Delio re-examines the writings of Bonaventure, Meister Eckhart, Teilhard and discovers an evolutionary universe. For many, evolution dictates understanding God in our day. The insights of science today in the areas of biology, cosmology, and quantum physics urge us to put the God of the medieval cosmos to rest and to welcome the God of evolution. The emergent Christ is about a dynamic God of love in evolution who holds the future horizon of universe.

Some of her book reviews write that Sr. Delio makes sense of the universe, "beginning with the story of cosmic evolution, coursing through the meaning of God in evolution and the emergence of Christ, and concluding with new ways of seeing Christ in all things."

Sr. Delio is a Senior Fellow at Woodstock Theological Center, Georgetown University, where she concentrates in the area of Science and Religion. Her research concerns transhumanism, technology and evolution, and ecology. Prior to appointment at Woodstock, she was professor and chair of the department of spirituality studies at Washington Theological Union, where she taught Franciscan theology, and Science and Religion. She holds a doctorate in Pharmacology and a

doctorate in historical theology from Fordham University. She is author of ten books including *Care for Creation* and *Franciscan Prayer*, and will be the keynote speaker at the July 2012 Quinquennial at the Holiday Inn Chicago North Shore in Skokie.

Ilia Delio reveals the sacrament of God at work in the world. She also explores the spiritual evolution within each of us and suggests that it will change the cosmos as well as the church. She shows that we are at a stage in evolution where our choices will determine what happens next.

The Emergent Christ is an antidote to the new atheism that says there is no place in evolution for God, let alone a God of love. It is also a spiritual tonic for Christians interested in understanding their place and purpose in this evolving universe.

Heaven is for Real by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent, Thomas Nelson, Inc. publishers, 2011,

Book review by Eddie Multhauf, SFO, St. Paschal Baylon Fraternity, Wind Lake, WI

A young boy emerges from life-saving surgery with remarkable stories of his visit to heaven. A burst appendix almost put four-year old Colton Burpo close to death. During his emergency appendectomy, he left his body and went to heaven. After surgery Colton gave his father sporadic review of his mystical adventure. The first thing that made his family aware of his "gift" was Colton's perfect description of doctor's activities, while anesthetized in surgery.

Rated Number 1 on the New York Times bestseller list, their review reads that, "Colton said he met his miscarried sister, whom no one had told him about, and his great grandfather who died 30 years before Colton was born, then shared impossible-to-know details about each. He describes the horse that only Jesus could ride, about how 'reaally big' God and his chair are, and how the Holy Spirit "shoots down power" from heaven to help us. Told by the father, but often in Colton's own words, the disarmingly simple message is heaven is a real place, Jesus really loves children, and be ready, there is a coming last battle.

Beautifully illustrated, under Colton's direction, this book is uniquely written from a child for a child. Colton tells of his experiences in first person and comments on things that will be important to kids. A letter to parents is included to guide them in talking to their children about heaven. Scripture along with Q&A section with answers from the Bible are also included in the book.

This story reads 163 pages long, easy to follow, and will definitely provoke doubters, and it will intrigue the faithful. What is special and unusual about this book is that the story comes from a little boy, thus it deactivates some of the cynicism that can go along with adults capitalizing on their experiences.

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Calendar of Events: Summer/Fall 2011

- August 27** LaVerna Regional Council meeting, St. Mary of the Angels Friary, 9:30 a.m., Green Bay.
- August 30** "MOVEMENT INTO RETIREMENT" Do you wonder about the blessings and "balance" you desire in your retirement? We will examine recommendations that Bishop Morneau has described in his writings, which many cherish. 9:30-11:30 a.m. At the Marywood Spirituality Center, Arbor Vitae, WI. Suggested donation \$10. Sr. Maria Lang, FSPA will be presenter. For more information, call 715-385-3750 or e-mail marywood.center@gmail.com
- September 17** Feast of the Stigmata Mass and lunch. Mass will be at 10 a.m. in the lower church at the Basilica, followed with a pot luck lunch at the Parish Center. St. Josaphat Fraternity will provide Sloppy Joes and beverages.
- October 18-21** "FRANCISCAN SOLITUDE" Sr. Kathy Lentsch, OSF will present a retreat on solitude, quiet and focus on ways to pay attention to God's stirrings within a person. Simple meals are taken in silence. One does not meet with a guide for spiritual direction as direction/healing comes from the solitude experience itself. Orientation for the experience begins with Tuesday 5:30 evening meal. Departure is 10:00 AM on Thursday. At the Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center in Arbor Vitae, WI. Fee: \$125 includes private room in shared cabin and meals. Register by September 22.
Call 715-385-3750 or e-mail: marywood.center@gmail.com
- November 18 – 20** St. Paschal Baylon Fraternity will host a fraternity retreat at the Schoenstat Catholic Center in Waukesha, WI. Sr. Joanne Schatzlein, OSF will be the keynote speaker, and her suggested topic will be "Clare—Follower of Francis." Sister Joanne's topic will be in celebration of the 800th anniversary of St. Clare. For further information, driving instructions, and retreat cost, please call Ed Boss, SFO at (262) 250-9251 or e-mail ed-joann@execpc.com Retreat is open to all Franciscans.
- July 3-8, 2012** "Why Francis? Claim the Gift!" The 18th Quinquennial of the Secular Franciscan Order held at the North Shore Skokie Holiday Inn, Chicago, IL. Keynote speaker will be Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF. <http://www.ciofs.org/doc/kia8/kia8enchap.htm>