



LaVerna Vision

LA VERNA-SFO-REGION

Your Presence is Our Gift ♦ *Summer 2013*



ANNUAL CHAPTER HELD AT THE ST. ANTHONY SPIRITUALITY CENTER IN MARATHON CITY, WI

The 2013 La Verna Regional Chapter and NAFRA Visitation brought together over 50 secular and religious Franciscans to the St. Anthony Center. Some Secular Franciscans also invited their spouses to the three-day event held June 28 -30.

The annual Chapter represents the La Verna regional and local fraternities; it is designed to share learning exchanges, build spiritual relationship and discuss questions regarding its own life and organization.

This year, the La Verna Regional Chapter became a special event when national visitors Mary Bittner

OFS and spiritual assistant Fr. Kevin Queally TOR met with regional council officers and local ministers. Their Pastoral and Fraternal Visitation presence gave the opportunity to listen to their knowledge and support of abundant Franciscan gifts.

Saturday June 29 marked a "first" for the regional Chapter when two formation students participated in the Ceremony of Introduction and Welcoming. Students Mike Adsit and Coletta Cody, from Beaver Dam, WI, expressed an interest in the Franciscan way of life. Their welcoming ceremony was held before Chapter attendees in the conference room.

Minister's Message



Regional Minister's Message - "Be the Bridge"

My sincere thanks to all who attended our recent Regional chapter meeting at Marathon; 8 regional officers, 17 ministers or delegates, 21 observers and 6 others, including NAFRA visitors Mary Bittner OFS and Fr. Kevin Queally TOR, 2 Inquirers from Beaver Dam who were "welcomed" and one wife.

"Be the Bridge, Accept all people as a gift of God" is the NAFRA theme for 2013. The Tau bridge appeared on the last cover of the Tau magazine and will appear on T shirts for this summers JPIC/Y/YA Confab and next years NAFRA annual meeting. The term "bridge" seems to be popping up everywhere I turn recently, including a book I am reading about Mother Teresa's writings wherein she describes her "call" from Jesus to be a bridge sharing Gods love" with the "poorest of the poor". Visits are a bridge, a way for NAFRA to reach out and help us. Likewise, Regional visits are a bridge, a way for the region to help its fraternities. We will receive a formal post visit letter with recommendations, but we have plenty of suggestions from the meeting to reflect upon. Please read the officers' reports, Rule 26 as to the purpose of the visits and Fr. Kevin's reminder that we must live our charism and all are "co-responsible" for the life of our fraternity [Art.30, Constitution]. Ask "How can I help?"

- When asked to discern for election, or help on the nominating committee our first answer should be "yes".
- Vocations—balance contemplation and action, pray and ask people in new ways to discern-set a goal that newly professed exceed "candles"(deceased)
- Fraternities need JPIC and Y/YA "point people" to head up these areas. Francis, patron of Ecology, saw God in all of creation and calls us to promote stewardship. We need to share our charism with youth
- Formation-we need volunteers to serve on the Regional formation team; remember, the "FUN" manual is not an option • Spiritual Assistants-lay volunteers must step forward and be trained as Spiritual Assistants-is God calling you?
- 16 brothers and sisters offered to be a bridge to our intellectually disabled— lets follow ups and see how we can help
- New council members were in the majority at chapter—the Region must provide meaningful orientations at district and regional gatherings and provide guidelines and checklists for mentoring new officers on the website
- Bridge the gap between needy shut in and non-member brothers and sisters- "care" more than "heal".
- Thanks for the many suggestions for places to hold our next regional gathering—if necessary we will find a new home
- Neighboring fraternities, be a bridge to our emerging and re-activating fraternities
- Thanks for the 2 minute reports—many come to get "new ideas"-we heard many

Peace and Good

Jim Carlson, Regional Minister

Reflections

Regional Spiritual Assistant - Lester Bach OFM Cap
La Verna Region



Spiritual Assistants

Present and to come

At our Regional Chapter in Marathon, WI from June 28-30, 2013 we shared ideas on spiritual assistance in the region. We will deal with that issue through a day-long program for spiritual assistants, people in training and interested Secular Franciscans. The program will be held at:

Monte Alverno Retreat & Spirituality Center,
1000 N. Ballard Road
Appleton, WI 54911
September 14, 2013
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

We will dialogue with the present spiritual assistants in the region to share ideas on what are some basic needs for practicing SAs. From there, we will dialogue about topics we feel are important for spiritual assistants. This is an important program. We hope that all spiritual assistants, those taking the training program and other interested people will attend.

Spiritual assistance is a vital ingredient for the "communon" between the 1st Order/TOR and the OFS members in the Franciscan family. Enriching our understanding will enable us to "assist" one another in living our Franciscan vocation.

We encourage local fraternities to assist attendees with the financial needs of those who wish to attend. The region will also contribute from our Regional endowment fund. **Please contact Ed Boss OFS for registration forms and detailed information.** His address is:

W222 N. 8172 Plainview Pkwy
Sussex, WI 53089 -
ed-joann@att.net
262-250-9251

See Y'all

Saturday,



in Appleton!

Sept 14th.

The call of the Trinity

The Secular Franciscan Order is a vocation to consecrate our lives to the way of St Francis in living the Gospel. It is different than belonging to the KC's or the Mother's guild or a youth program. Once profession is made, you commit yourself to this way of life until you die. It is meant for you to embrace, to grow in, and to express attitudes and perspectives that reflect the spirit of St. Francis. The OFS Rule, approved by the Church, is our way of fulfilling God's will. If anyone begins to cause division or dissension in a fraternity or acts like someone who "knows it all," their Franciscan vocation is in danger.

One sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit is that unity is the result of our actions. If an individual initiates ideas and actions that begin to separate them from the community we can be assured the action comes from a spirit, but not the Holy Spirit. It may spring from our need to be "right" all the time. It may spring from a misunderstanding of the OFS vocation. It may come from the influence of people whose ideas do not reflect the magisterial teachings of Vatican II. In fact, such folks might even consider Vatican II as "bad news." That would be a sad commentary on their faith.

This council now wishes to address the matter of how God reveals Godself to humankind and how humans respond to the voice of God. This we do in order to strengthen the faith of all people. It is our hope that by hearing the message of Christ, all the world might believe and, believing, might hope and, hoping, might love more profoundly. In this, we take as our lead the words of St. John expressed in his first letter, "What we have seen and heard we announce to you so that you may have community with us and together our community may be with God and God's Son, Jesus Christ.

*Lumen Gentium - Paragraph 1
Vatican II in Plain English - Bill Huebsch - Vol 2 - Page 73*

We Franciscans are called to assist people who walk in darkness to see the light. We are called to bring new attitudes through the quality of our lives. As messengers of Jesus, our thoughts, actions, and inner qualities should bring the fruit of conversion to people. For enemies, we bring forgiveness and reconciliation. For those who are isolated for whatever reason, we bring community. For the joyful we bring friends to celebrate with, For those who are depressed we bring a sense of direction. For those who are bankrupt we may bring financial guidance. For those confined to their sick bed, we bring loving visits and supportive prayer. No one needs to fear that in our presence they will feel left out. Love is always present in our actions. Without love we will be unable to live our Franciscan life.

OUR ENVIRONMENT



Don't Bug Me!

By Judy Stouffer, OFS

It's that time of summer when the mosquitoes are thick, looking to take a tasty meal from any handy "donor." DEET is the most recommended mosquito repellent, but there are some alternatives that claim to work as well that are on the market. We tried some "natural" products in years past, and weren't impressed, but there are two products currently available that really are worth a try.

The first is a brand of mosquito repellants called "Bite Blocker" made by a company named HOMS. The active ingredients, which have been proven to repel mosquitoes, are surprisingly simple: Soybean Oil, Geranium Oil and Castor Oil.



trip at a

well that other boys who were using a high percentage DEET kept asking to use the Bite Blocker instead, as they were getting bitten frequently while the scouts using Bite Blocker weren't getting any bites. The only drawback was that Bite Blocker had to be reapplied more often than the bottle suggested (every 2 to 4 hours, instead of 4 to 8).

I was a bit skeptical about how well Bite Blocker repelled mosquitoes out in the "real world," but my husband Michael used it for several days during a canoeing trip into the wilderness of the Boundary Waters, and found it worked very well. Then, I asked a friend who's a Scout leader if he'd be willing to try it on himself and his sons over a weekend camping mosquito-laden site. The results? The Bite Blocker worked so



The other product to look for is called "Herbal Armor," from a company named All Terrain. Like Bite Blocker, the active ingredients have been tested and shown to repel mosquitoes and are familiar names: soybean oil, citronella oil, peppermint oil, cedar oil, lemongrass oil and geranium oil. It's more fragrant than the Bite Blocker, but it also effectively repels mosquitoes. Friends who have actually used it in "buggy" locations have reported to me that they are very pleased with how well it works.

Both products come in several different styles, including sprays, wipes and lotions. Herbal Armor is a little easier to find than Bite Blocker, as stores like Walmart carry it nationwide. In the Midwest, you can find Bite Blocker at camping and outdoors stores, and in Wisconsin it's carried by local Menards stores and some farm supply chain stores.

Here's to a bite-free summer!

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Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Submitted by Minister, Greg Zajackowski, OFS

St. James Fraternity, Wausau, WI

Franciscan Participation at Warming Center

In the fall of 2012, Catholic Charities received approval to open and operate a warming center in Wausau. The purpose of this center was to provide a safe and warm place for the homeless during the bitter cold late evening and night hours. The center provided individual dignity of the persons and all were treated as if they were guests in our own homes. There was room for 15 adults and everyone was offered a hot evening meal and a light breakfast in the morning. Volunteers were needed to register guests, and supervise the center all night, in two shifts. Also needed, were people to prepare and deliver the evening meal.

Our fraternity began to talk about getting involved. Meetings were held by Catholic Charities, and after attending these, we knew we wanted to help. We selected to prepare the Sunday evening meal and OFS member, Pauline Riedl agreed to be the chairperson.

The warming center was open from February to April and was successful. This fall, they hope to be in a different location with more spaces for people and hope to open earlier in the evening and let the people stay longer in the morning. Our fraternity has signed up for the Sunday meals once again. What a wonderful opportunity to be able to help meet a need in our own community and spread the spirit of St. Francis.

Report from the Franciscan Summer Confab

By Jeff Gumz, OFS

From July 25-28, 2013, I attended the Franciscan Summer Confab at Our Lady of the Snows Conference Center in Belleville, IL. Confab comes from the word confabulation which means to talk casually or chat. The Confab was a coming together of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission and the national Franciscan Youth & Young Adult Commission.

These two national commissions met jointly to integrate how to address justice, peace and care for creation with the mobilization and engagement of the next generation. During the Confab, each commission presented breakout sessions simultaneously. Since my obligations as vice minister includes being the point person for each of these important commissions I attended some of each of the sessions. However, I focused more attention on YouFra since this is the commission I was least aware of.

Rob Breen, OFS, our national chair for Franciscan Youth & Young Adult Commission, was the facilitator for all of the YouFra breakout sessions. Rob shared some background and history on YouFra on Thursday evening. **Franciscan Youth and Young Adults ("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. Internationally, there is a strong YouFra movement in other parts of the world, especially Latin America; however, because of our cultural influences, it is in its infancy here in the United States.

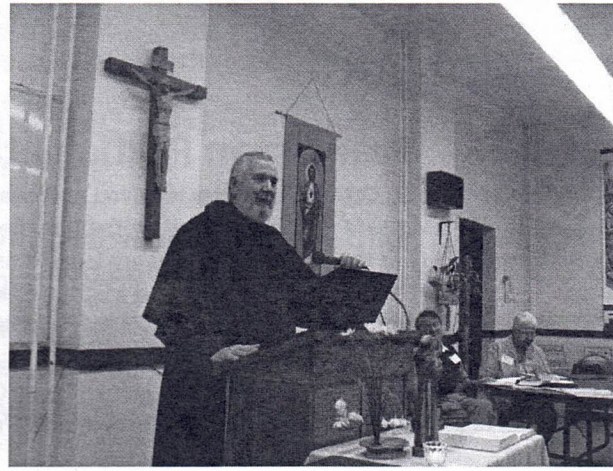
YouFra integrates faith and action to serve our brothers and sisters, work for social justice, protect Creation, and grow spiritually. Franciscan Youth chapters are made up of young adults ages 18-30 (there are also teen groups).

These young adults form a small Christian community and follow the Gospel life of Jesus and the early apostles in the "little way" of Francis and Clare. They pray together, sing together, learn together, and serve together. Franciscan Youth apply Franciscan Catholic approaches to address human and environmental needs in their community. Franciscan Youth receive support and guidance from members of the Secular Franciscan Order.

On August 14, 2013, I met with one of the up and coming fraternities of our region – St. Francis of Assisi in Milwaukee and with Anne Gates from Cardinal Stritch University. During the Confab, our regional brother Rhett Engelking OFS suggested **Anne's name as someone who** is highly motivated in starting a YouFra group. Anne is a junior at Stritch and is very interested in starting a YouFra group at the university. I shared with her a sample YouFra brochure, told her about my Confab experience and relayed the information about the website that Rob created. The college based model would be the best **structure to follow in this situation**. Anne's e-mail is agates93@gmail.com

There are several members of the St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity who are interested in helping Anne establish a YouFra group at Cardinal Stritch. They are Art Montgomery, OFS - amontgomery1@wi.rr.com, Fr. Jim Gannon, OFM - jggannon@stritch.edu and Barbara S. Spies, OFS, Ph.D. - bsspies@stritch.edu.

All of these people were added to the YouFra discussion group/website – where a discussion has already begun on assisting the creation of a YouFra group at Cardinal Stritch University.



Mary Bittner OFS, National Councilor and Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR, giving their opening remarks at the beginning of Region's Fraternal and Pastoral visitations.

WORKING WITH THE SCRIPTURES *(Lk.10:25-37)*

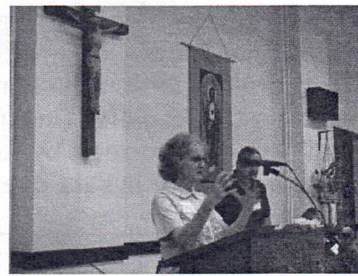
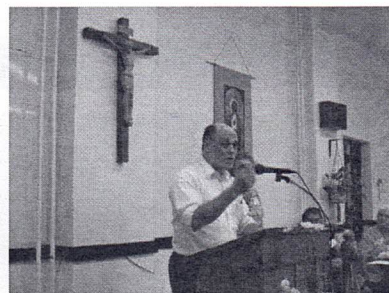
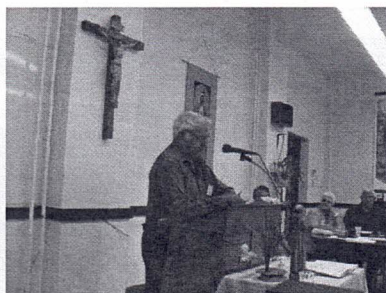
VINAL VAN BENTHEM, OFS

Who is your Samaritan? Not literally, of course, since most of us probably don't really know anyone from Samaria, but that person who you think would be the last person in the world to help you if they found you beaten and bloody in a ditch? Who is the person who – whether because of religion or ethnicity or whatever – would walk right by you without batting an eye? I'm guessing that most of you (hopefully!) would not name your priest or clergyperson, but what about someone from another religion (or even no religion at all) who for one reason or another doesn't particularly care for people who go to your church? Would it be a politician, someone who needs to be seen with only the 'right' people if they want to be reelected? What if a banker walked by, would he or she be concerned that it might cost money to help you? Would a lawyer stop to help if it looked like you couldn't afford to pay their fee?

Now let's reverse the question. Who would you "...pass by on the opposite side"? Would it be someone from a country associated with terrorist activity? Someone whose last name or national identity makes you uncomfortable? Would you cross the street to avoid someone whose sexual orientation was different from your own? Or someone whose skin was a different color? Would level of education or economic status determine which side of the street you would choose to walk on? Would it depend on just how badly they were hurt and how much effort it would take if you let yourself get involved?

"A man fell victim to robbers..." "But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight." "*You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart... being... strength... and... mind... and your neighbor as yourself.*" What does this kind of love look like in our world today? Your answer to this last question may depend on how you answered the first two. Look around you – at work, in your community, in your neighborhood. Who is your neighbor? Who is your Samaritan?

Fraternity Ministers and Delegates giving a short talk about their fraternity's successes and accomplishments during the past year. Many different ideas are shared and some are helpful for other fraternity's when implemented in their own way.



FIRST 'WELCOMING' CEREMONY PERFORMED AT A LA VERNA CHAPTER



JoAnn Boss, OFS introduces Beaver Dam group formation students Mike Adsit and Coletta Cody as Jim Carlson, OFS looks on. Those who are ready to begin their Initial Formation as Inquirers start with the "Ceremony of Welcoming" within the fraternity responsible for their studies. In this event, the Regional Fraternity – including the Regional Executive Council – assumed the responsible role, and which is why the Welcoming Ceremony is performed by Regional Minister James Carlson, and Regional Formation Chair JoAnn Boss. Then a blessing is said over the new inquirers with the whole group participating.

The Saturday morning memorial service is a time for us to remember each OFS member who has embraced Sister Death since the last Chapter. Each minister or delegate comes to the front table recites the names from their fraternity and lights a candle.



La Verna Regional Fraternity SFO
STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSE
FOR PERIODS ENDED DEC 31, 2012 & 2011

LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR Y. T. D. 2012	12 Months Budget 2012	Budget Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	LAST YEAR TOTAL 2011
BEGINNING BALANCES:				
REGULAR CHECKING -----	2,217.93			80.89
RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND -----	2,041.81			1,563.31
EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND -----	0.00			1,000.00
RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND CD -----	16,924.15			16,924.15
INVESTMENT SAVINGS CD -----	4,994.55			15,516.96
VISA CREDIT CARD -----	(690.05)			(627.47)
CASH ON HAND -----	462.50			0.00
TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS -	25,950.89			34,457.84
REVENUE:				
DONATIONS -----	3,719.50	1,500.00	2,219.50	2,894.65
INTEREST INCOME & VISA BONUS -----	50.65	300.00	(249.35)	368.84
INTEREST ENDOWMENT FUND -----	888.74	888.50	0.24	888.50
SPECIAL MEMORIALS -----	500.00	1,000.00	(500.00)	60.00
CHAPTER -----	1,334.05	675.00	659.05	395.15
FAIR SHARE -----	21,925.00	21,750.00	175.00	21,863.00
MISC INCOME -----	0.00	700.00	(700.00)	589.95
TOTAL REVENUE -----	28,417.94	26,813.50	1,604.44	27,060.09
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS -----	54,368.83			61,517.93
EXPENSES:				
STIPENDS -----	2,600.00	2,650.00	50.00	2,775.00
RENT INCLUDING EQUIPMENT -----	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES -----	316.91	625.00	308.09	1,083.15
EDUCATION/TRAINING -----	326.00	1,000.00	674.00	6,185.32
MEETING ROOM & FACILITIES -----	1,110.00	400.00	(710.00)	1,150.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES -----	46.98	100.00	53.02	134.69
DONATIONS -----	500.00	200.00	(300.00)	0.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXP -----	331.62	950.00	618.38	1,415.77
NEWSLETTER -----	1,874.01	1,882.41	8.40	1,818.58
TRAVEL EXP -----	9,271.99	9,097.59	(174.40)	10,138.82
FAIR SHARE TO NAFRA -----	5,352.00	5,220.00	(132.00)	5,352.00
ANNUAL CHAPTER -----	3,971.12	3,650.00	(321.12)	4,029.65
VISITATION / ELECTION -----	0.00	-	0.00	484.11
RETREAT SUBSIDY -----	430.00	888.50	458.50	410.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE -----	100.00	100.00	0.00	589.95
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS -----	26,230.63	26,813.50	582.87	35,567.04
GAIN OR (LOSS) FOR PERIOD ---	2,187.31	0.00	2,187.31	(8,506.95)
ENDING BALANCE -----	28,138.20			25,950.89
CURRENT BALANCES:				
REGULAR CHECKING -----	3,669.59			2,217.93
RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND (Restricted) -	2,500.55			2,041.81
EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND -----	674.00			0.00
RETREAT ENDOWMENT 5.25% 59 mo CD ** -	16,924.15			16,924.15
US Bank 1.01% CD maturing 5/2/13 ---	4,994.55			4,994.55
VISA CREDIT CARD -----	(674.64)			(690.05)
CASH ON HAND -----	50.00			462.50
TOTAL CASH ON HAND & IN BANKS --	28,138.20			25,950.89

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

PETER J. BEKKERS, SFO, TREASURER 05/31/13

La Verna Regional Executive Council and Formation Team

Minister, Jim Carlson, OFS (262) 473-3130

james.carlson@wicourts.gov

Vice Minister, Jeff Gumz, OFS (920) 866-2005

jagumz@gmail.com

Secretary, Kathy Sutliff, OFS (715) 369-3367

ksut517@charter.net

Treasurer, Peter Bekkers, OFS (920) 757-9027

taxmannatp@gmail.com

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guzi@frontiernet.net

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bmjhsfo@aol.com

Councilor, Ed Boss, OFS (262) 250-9251

ed-joann@att.net

Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap

(608) 222-6238 lbofmcap@aol.com

Formation Team

In the process of forming.

The La Verna Region of the Secular Franciscan Order in the USA consists of Eastern ¼ 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, OSF, ed-joann@att.net, and Bob Henning, OSF, bmjhsfo@aol.com

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL

We value our life as Secular Franciscans and wish to have our way of living the Gospels continue through future 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, OFS, La Verna Regional Treasurer, W6855 St. Mary's Dr., Greenville, WI 54942. Telephone number is (920) 757-9027 or email Peter at taxmannatp@gmail.com

YOUR FRANCISCAN WAY OF LIFE AND GENEROSITY WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR YEARS TO COME.

**LaVerna Regional Fraternity OFS
APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FOR 2013-2014 FRANCISCAN RETREAT FEES**

APPLICANT _____ PH # (____) _____ - _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ / ____ / _____

FRATERNITY: _____ PROFESSION DATE: ____/____/____

RETREAT LOCATION _____

RETREAT DATE ____/____/____ FEE \$ _____

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

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN FAMILY LIVING AT HOME _____

TOTAL MONTHLY HOUSHOLD INCOME \$ _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

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

FAMILY SIZE	MONTHLY INCOME
1	\$ 1,536.00
2	\$ 2,081.00
3	\$ 2,625.00
4	\$ 3,170.00
5	\$ 3,714.00
6	\$ 4,259.00
7	\$ 4,803.00
8	\$ 5,348.00
9	\$ 5,893.00
10	\$ 6,438.00

**RETURN TO: PETER BEKKERS, OFS, W6855 ST. MARYS DR., GREENVILLE, WI 54942
PHONE: (920) 757-9027 E-MAIL: TAXMANNATP@GMAIL.COM**

**NOTE: IF FOR SOME REASON YOU CANNOT ATTEND THIS RETREAT,
PLEASE RETURN THE ASSISTANCE MONEY TO "LAVERNA REGION OFS"**

LAVENA REGION
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
236 ELIZABETH STREET
WHITEWATER, WI 53190

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
GREEN BAY, WI
PERMIT 460

FR. LESTER BACH
4123 MONONA DR
MONONA, WI 53716-1661

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Calendar of Events: Fall/Winter 2013

September 14, 2013 – Spiritual Assistants Workshop at Monte Alverno Retreat Center. For all current Spiritual Assistants, those studying to become Spiritual Assistants and all other interested Secular Franciscans and religious. The Center is located at 1000 North Ballard Road in Appleton, WI. – (920) 733-8526. Registrations should be sent to Ed Boss OFS no later than 28 August. Check-in at 9:30 AM and sessions begin promptly at 10:00 AM.

September 27-29, 2013 – Franciscan Living Retreat at the St. Anthony Spirituality Center, 300 East 4th St., Marathon, WI., 54448, (715) 443-2236. Discount of \$10 if registration and \$35 deposit received by August 28, 2013.

October 3, 2013 – Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi/ October 4 – St. Francis Feast Day.

October 25-27, 2013 – Regional Executive Council planning meeting at the Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center, 3560 Highway 51 North, Arbor Vitae, WI., 54568, (715) 385-3750. Planning for next year's District Gatherings, Theme and the Chapter of Elections in June 2014.

December 23, 2013 (tentative) – Franciscans for Life – Christmas Carols at the Empty Manger. Meet at Affiliated Medical Services, 1428 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee. 10 a.m. to Noon.

March 8, 2014 – Southeastern District Gathering at St. Josaphat Basilica, Milwaukee. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.