



# LaVerna Vision

LAVERNA-SFO-REGION

*Be The Bridge To Fraternal Life* ❖ *Summer 2014*

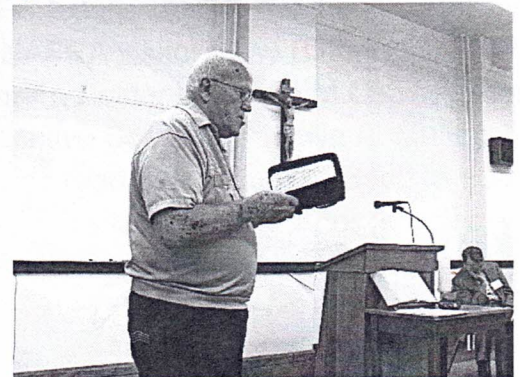
## Chapter of Elections Gathering in 2014



Once every three years a new Regional Council is elected by the Regional Fraternity which consists of the



Minister of each Fraternity and the Regional Executive Council. The elections were presided over by Mary Bittner, OFS of the National Executive Council and witnessed by Fr. Lester Bach, OFM, Cap.





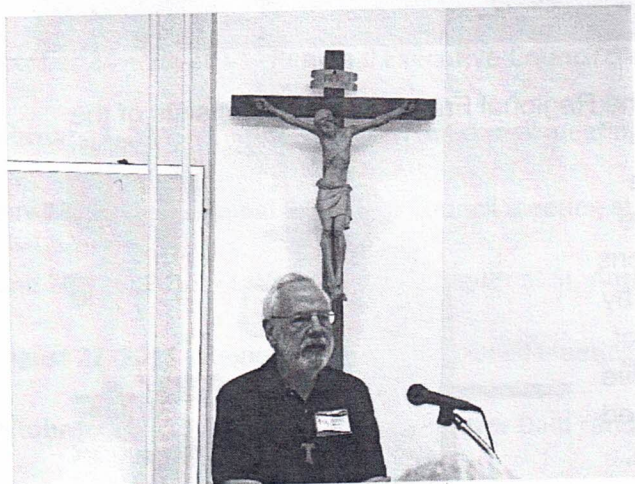


The Chapter begins for the Regional Executive Council (REC) Friday afternoon with a meeting that goes over any last minute changes to the plans for the Chapter and to conduct any needed business issues.

One of the meals for Chapter attendees. The regular dining area was under renovation so we ate in a makeshift dining room that was very well set up and met our needs



Our gathering began with supper Friday night at 5:30 p.m. and a welcoming meeting at 6:30 p.m. Fr. Frank Corradi, OFS, gave a presentation on the availability of community living at St. Anthony's. Pauline Riedl, OFS, a volunteer at St. Anthony's, then gave an orientation to the facility.





An evening prayer service led by Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS, was held in the chapel.

Orientation to the Election process was given especially for new-comers but all were invited. Bob Henning, OFS and Jeff Gumz led the process.

The evening ended with a social.



Saturday, June 28, 2014 we gathered at 9:30 a.m. following breakfast and attended the memorial service for those who died since we last gathered.



Jim Carlson, OFS led the opening of the Chapter by welcoming our NAFRA visitor Mary Bittner, OFS and our CNSA visitor Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap. A letter from CNSA Executive Secretary Cecilia A. Maljan-Herbelin, OFS was read delegating Fr. Bach to act in its stead as the ecclesiastical witness for our elective chapter.



## Business Meeting:

Roll call was taken by Kathy Sutliff, OFS, appointed secretary.

The following were in attendance:

### Ministers and Delegates: Voters

Elsa Ruscoe	OFS	St. Joseph, Appleton	Delegate
Jack Boerschinger	OFS	St. Ann, Green Bay	Delegate
Marilyn Smet	OFS	St. Joseph, FDL	Minister
Valeria Knier	OFS	Holy Innocents, Manitowoc	Minister
Barb Studener	OFS	Sacred Heart, Oshkosh	Minister
Audrey Ricard	OFS	St. Paschal Baylon, Wind Lake	Minister
Francine Fosselman	OFS	St. Clare, Greenfield	Minister
Richard Lepesqueur	OFS	St. Josaphat, Milwaukee	Delegate
Suzanne McKinney	OFS	Portiuncula, Franklin	Minister
Jeanne Thill	OFS	St. Francis, Escanaba	Minister
Mary Jane Henning	OFS	St. Anthony of Padua, Marquette	Delegate
Richard Hoffmann	OFS	St. Anthony, Marathon	Minister
Mary Kranz	OFS	St. John Neumann, Rhinelander	Delegate
Bob Crane	OFS	St. Peter, Stevens Point	Minister
Pat Schoonover	OFS	St. James, Wausau	Delegate
Patrick Reusch	OFS	Queen of Heaven, Wis. Rapids	Minister
Barb Hesse	OFS	Queen of the Universe, Woodruff	Minister

### Regional Executive Council: Voters

Jim Carlson	OFS	St. Paschal Baylon, Wind Lake	Minister
Jeff Gumz	OFS	St. Ann, Green Bay	Vice Minister
Peter Bekkers	OFS	St. Joseph, Appleton	Treasurer
Joanne Guzik	OFS	St. John Neumann, Rhinelander	Councilor
Bob Henning	OFS	St. Anthony of Padua, Marquette	Councilor
Ed Boss	OFS	St. Paschal Baylon, Wind Lake	Councilor
Kathy Sutliff	OFS	St. John Neumann, Rhinelander	Councilor

### Observers: Non-voters

Lee Ann Niebuhr	OFS	Queen of the Universe, Woodruff	Sp. Assistant
Art Montgomery	OFS	St. Francis of Assisi, Milwaukee	(Emerging fraternity Minister)
Pauline Riedl	OFS	St. James, Wausau	
Teri Doughty	OFS	Sacred Heart, Oshkosh	
Rodney Knier	OFS	Holy Innocents, Manitowoc	
Ken Beattie	OFS	St. Francis of Assisi emerging fraternity, Milwaukee	



Marion Schroers	OFS	St. James, Wausau
Carol Derozier	OFS	Sacred Heart, Oshkosh
Sally Crane	OFS	St. Peter, Stevens Point
Kelley Reis	OFS	Holy Innocents, Manitowoc
Lora Hainy	OFS	St. James, Wausau
Sharon Dale	OFS	Queen of Heaven, Wisconsin Rapids
Chris Niemela	OFS	Sacred Heart, Oshkosh
Joan Reiter	OFS	Sacred Heart, Oshkosh
Susan Spencer	OFS	Sacred Heart, Oshkosh
Karen Juntikka	OFS	Queen of Heaven, Wisconsin Rapids
Jean Marie Mueller	OFS	St. Joseph, Appleton

Others:

JoAnn Chase                                      Wife of Richard Hoffman

**Treasurer's Report:** Peter Bekkers explained the expense report for FY 2013 and the proposed budget for 2015 using the YTD report for 2014.

Peter encouraged those present to remind their fraternity members to request a retreat subsidy if needed. An audit of the Treasurer's records had been given to Mary Bittner. Jim Carlson also has a copy.

Motion by Jeanne Thill, seconded by Richard Lepesqueur to approve the 2013 expense report. Carried unanimously.





**La Verna Regional Fraternity OFS  
STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSE  
FOR PERIODS ENDED DEC 31, 2013 & 2012**

	THIS YEAR Y. T. D. 2013	12 Months Budget 2013	Budget Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	LAST YEAR TOTAL 2012
<b>BEGINNING BALANCES:</b>				
REGULAR CHECKING -----	3,669.83			2,217.93
RETREAT SUBSIDY FUND -----	2,500.31			2,041.81
EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND -----	674.00			0.00
RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND CD -----	16,924.15			16,924.15
INVESTMENT SAVINGS CD -----	4,994.55			4,994.55
VISA CREDIT CARD -----	(674.64)			(690.05)
CASH ON HAND -----	50.00			462.50
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND &amp; IN BANKS -</b>	<b>28,138.20</b>			<b>25,950.89</b>
<b>REVENUE:</b>				
DONATIONS -----	3,262.43	2,300.00	962.43	3,719.50
INTEREST INCOME & VISA BONUS -----	146.95	300.00	(153.05)	50.65
INTEREST ENDOWMENT FUND -----	359.91	671.20	(311.29)	888.74
SPECIAL MEMORIALS -----	10,020.00	1,000.00	9,020.00	500.00
CHAPTER -----	1,991.72	400.00	1,591.72	1,334.05
FAIR SHARE -----	18,802.50	22,300.00	(3,497.50)	21,925.00
MISC INCOME -----	919.00	650.00	269.00	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE -----</b>	<b>35,502.51</b>	<b>27,621.20</b>	<b>7,881.31</b>	<b>28,417.94</b>
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS -----</b>	<b>63,640.71</b>			<b>54,368.83</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
STIPENDS -----	2,900.00	2,650.00	(250.00)	2,600.00
RENT INCLUDING EQUIPMENT -----	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES -----	510.23	500.00	(10.23)	316.91
EDUCATION/TRAINING -----	2,140.70	1,000.00	(1,140.70)	326.00
MEETING ROOM & FACILITIES -----	1,000.00	400.00	(600.00)	1,110.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES -----	89.52	75.00	(14.52)	46.98
DONATIONS -----	0.00	100.00	100.00	500.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXP -----	537.24	850.00	312.76	331.62
NEWSLETTER -----	1,222.87	1,810.00	587.13	1,874.01
TRAVEL EXP -----	8,285.53	9,075.00	789.47	9,271.99
FAIR SHARE TO NAFRA -----	7,225.00	6,690.00	(535.00)	5,352.00
ANNUAL CHAPTER -----	5,946.75	3,150.00	(2,796.75)	3,971.12
VISITATION / ELECTION -----	1,021.90	500.00	(521.90)	0.00
RETREAT SUBSIDY -----	282.50	671.20	388.70	430.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE -----	472.00	100.00	(372.00)	100.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS -----</b>	<b>31,684.24</b>	<b>27,621.20</b>	<b>(4,063.04)</b>	<b>26,230.63</b>
<b>GAIN OR (LOSS) FOR PERIOD ---</b>	<b>3,818.27</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,818.27</b>	<b>2,187.31</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE -----</b>	<b>31,956.47</b>			<b>28,138.20</b>
<b>CURRENT BALANCES:</b>				
REGULAR CHECKING -----	4,106.59			3,669.83
RETREAT ENDOWMENT FUND (Restricted) -	2,577.72			2,500.31
EDUCATION/TRAINING FUND (Restricted) ---	369.20			674.00
RETREAT ENDOWMENT- CATHOLIC FOUNDATION *	25,000.00			16,924.15
US Bank CD MATURED ---	0.00			4,994.55
VISA CREDIT CARD -----	(97.04)			(674.64)
CASH ON HAND -----	0.00			50.00
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND &amp; IN BANKS --</b>	<b>31,956.47</b>			<b>28,138.20</b>

\* Endowment value as of 12/31/13: 27,380.31

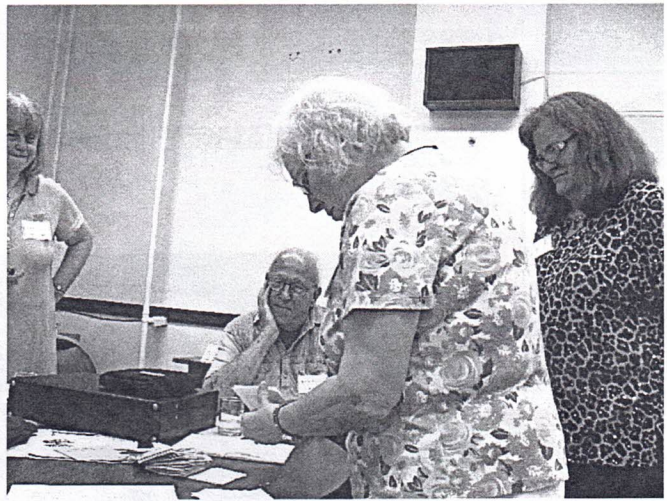
PETER J. BEKKERS, OFS,    TREASURER    05/05/14

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



**Saturday - 1:30 p.m. The Chapter of Elections** was opened by Mary Bittner, OFS using the ritual of the OFS.

Mary moved all of the voters to 5 specific tables. Tellers appointed were Mary Kranz and Mary Jane Henning. Secretary appointed was Jeanne Thill and recorder on the white board was Sue Spencer. It was determined that 13 would be the absolute majority as there were 24 voters. No one was running for a third term so a 2/3 vote was not a consideration but would have been 16.



**Newly Elected Regional Executive Council: (REC) from Left to right**

- Kathy Sutliff, OFS - Secretary, Elsa Ruscoe, OFS - Treasurer, Peter Bekkers, OFS - Councilor
- Teri Doughty, OFS - Councilor, Jim Carlson, OFS -Minister, Jeff Gumz, OFS -Vice Minister
- Sharon Dale, OFS -Councilor & Bob Crane, OFS -Councilor



# Minister's Message



## MINISTER'S MESSAGE - The Merciful Presence of God



Caravaggio's painting "The Calling of St. Matthew"

The Regional Chapter of Elections over; the new Regional Executive Council having met, and our new Regional Spiritual Assistants having heard from the various ministers or delegates from our fraternities, the REC is ready to consider goals and perhaps a plan of action for the Region.

National Minister Tom Bello explains on the homepage of the National Fraternity why NAFRA chose "The Merciful Presence of God" as its theme for the year commencing October 2013 ( [www.nafra-sfo.org/NationalMinister/Welcome2014.html](http://www.nafra-sfo.org/NationalMinister/Welcome2014.html) ) The theme is based on the motto of Pope Francis, which is found on his coat of arms. It is also the hope of Our Holy Father's pontificate. In the last Winter edition of the *TAU* magazine Minister Tom describes the origins of this theme and its connection with Jesus call of St Matthew, "follow me" as found in the Gospels. Below this article Tom explains the diagram of "NAFRA's Priorities" 2012-15. In this Spring's *TAU* Minister Bello focuses on how we must respond to God's call. He explains how God plants a seed in all of us and how that seed can grow with the fertilization of God's grace. Can we give our all as Jesus did? As His apostles did? As St Francis and Clare did? If so we can "Be the Merciful Presence of God", and be a part of the "New Evangelization". I urge you to take a yellow marker and review these important articles.

At our August 16 meeting I am inviting the REC members to review the attachment to my annual report. This attachment uses the NAFRA Diagram of Priorities to sort the many unfulfilled ideas or "dreams" of the last REC. I am asking them to bring what they each consider are the three top priorities that the region should focus on this year or term. Hopefully, from these ideas, or "dreams" we will establish goals and a plan of action that we can evaluate each year. I encourage fraternities to do the same. Formulate annual goals and a plan of action that can be evaluated yearly.

Peace

**Jim Carlson, Regional Minister**



## LIFE IN FRATERNITY

by Ed Boss, OFS – La Verna Regional Spiritual Assistant

### “What a mystery this Franciscanism” - Pope John XXIII

That spiritual glow or “honeymoon period” quickly wears off when the newly-professed feels rushed into a local fraternity council position. Many recently professed desire to savor, if only a little while longer, the mystery of St. Francis and his deep love for Christ. I feel they need to further explore their personal curiosity before becoming an OFS officeholder. Call it their precious time of innocence. That limited spell where their curious sense of humor and novice-like enjoyment blossoms into Franciscan Order fertility and productivity. Some were fortunate to relish that special time segment, but for many of us, it came and swished by too soon. The post-profession radiance was eclipsed to serve on council.

I’m not saying that the newly professed should be left orphaned or alone at fraternity gatherings. Chances are if their initial formation years were directed well, the newly professed learned an acute awareness toward their importance with *fraternal* Secular Franciscan life. But they also sensed that current council members watched and evaluated them as potential future council members. My humble suggestion is to allow the newly professed a limited amount of time to enjoy ‘Secular Franciscan 101’ before they enter onto council and further OFS responsibilities. That way their profession enjoyment only grows stronger in the dayspring with Jesus, St. Francis, and members of your community.

Fr. Andre Cirino, OFM wrote a historical article about St. John XXIII, Secular Franciscan in the recent TAU-USA newsletter: “Pope John seemed to be captivated by the Franciscan Order and charism, for he once exclaimed: ‘What a mystery! What a mystery this Franciscanism.’” Throughout his career, Pope John (Angelo Roncalli) often spoke about his being a Secular Franciscan. He offered fond testimony of his childhood years living nearby the Franciscan friary in Baccanello, Italy and how that influence remained with him throughout his entire life. During Angelo’s youth he said, “...I would see the humble and modest friars who edified me very much passing nearby my house. They often invited me to the Franciscan friary of Baccanello to pray in solitude and recollection.” Angelo enjoyed listening to the bells of Baccanello that invited the friars to choir to pray the Divine Office.

In that short given time and opportunity Angelo was able to enjoy what would become the building blocks to his Franciscan charism. These simple yet memorable milestones may have been his early formation years; years before he was established with deeper responsibility to the Church.

Think of your newly professed influenced by the modest OFS who edify him or her in fraternity gatherings; the fraternal brothers and sisters who allow the newly profess to simply pray and listen without becoming too involved with agendas or theme planning. No doubt their OFS responsibilities will be called upon, and they will be the better for it. Like Angelo Roncalli, your newly professed Secular Franciscan needs a special short developing time to breathe in the Franciscan spirit that will remain forever.



## Circles and a Franciscan Eraser

By Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS - La Verna Regional Spiritual Assistant

The gift of years is truly spectacular, especially when we listen to the profound truths that we have learned along the way. Thinking we had the world “by the tail” when we were younger, certainly taught us Franciscan humility when we discovered that what we thought we “had” was of little value. Instead, we learned, as Francis learned, that in having nothing, we have everything.

When I review my life, I discover that in my early years, high school and beyond, I valued circles. I drew lots of circles in my mind; these circles showed me who was “in” and who was “out”. I made the debate team, and for a time that made me “in”. I didn’t win a whole lot of tournaments, and that made me “out”. Circles filled my life and puffed up my ego. In some very strange way I assumed the more circles I was in protected me from future hurts and harm. I am shaking my head as I write this, embarrassed of the superficiality of my life.

Then one Tuesday, when I was traveling through Italy, I found myself standing in front of the tomb of St. Francis, and my life changed. Francis gently showed me that it is in seeing the face of God in everyone that truly gifts us with richness. As I read about him, and tried so hard to imitate him, somewhere along the way he gave me an eraser.

Now I spend much of my time working to erase those circles I drew in my youth that said some folks were in and some were out. Believing that each person is the face of God has helped me to erase some of those circles. Francis was not afraid to embrace the leper or befriend the wolf of Gubio because they, like all creation, were created in love by God our Father. I have found that erasing the circles is so much easier than creating them because NOW EVERYONE is IN and no one is out. I have more time now to walk with the least, the last and the lost because all of us are the least, last and lost at various times in our lives.

When I come to visit your fraternity, it will be as a humble one who has always had to learn the hard way. I come to you as your sister, and I am eager to meet you and to work WITH you to create a community where EVERYONE is respected and welcomed.



From the July 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the U.P. Catholic - The installation of Jan Tolfa, OFS as the new Spiritual Assistant of the St. Francis Fraternity in Escanaba, MI. To the best of our knowledge we believe that Jan is the first OFS to be appointed and installed as a local fraternity Spiritual Assistant in the LaVerna Region.

## *Tolfa installed as spiritual assistant in the Order of Franciscans Secular*

BY VICTORIA LAFAVE

After a Mass on Saturday morning, June 21 at St. Joseph and St. Patrick Parish in Escanaba, Janice Tolfa was officially installed as a Spiritual Assistant in the Order of Franciscans Secular (OFS).

The official presider at the Rite of Installation, Bob Henning, who is the Regional Councilor of the La Verna Region of the OFS, said, "This is indeed an extraordinary event, as this is the first time in our LaVerna Region that a new Spiritual Assistant has been installed." The La Verna Region, (one of 31 regions within the United States and many more around the world), includes the entire Upper Peninsula and much of Wisconsin, including Green Bay, Madison and Milwaukee.

After the ceremony, Tolfa thanked everyone present for their support, and said when she started her studies, it wasn't easy. "For three years, we studied the Faith, Catechism, Vatican II, and we also studied a lot about the Franciscan Saints and the current encyclicals."

Tolfa studied for these three years under the tutelage of Father Lester Bach, OFM Capuchin and Provincial Spiritual Assistant for the Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order, Madison, Wis. Father Bach appointed her to serve as the local Spiritual Assistant to the St. Francis Fraternity in Escanaba.

After the June 21st Mass, which was celebrated by Father Eric Olson of St. Joseph and St. Patrick's Parish, and the installation ceremony, Tolfa said, "I appreciate all that I've been through and have studied. It's just been amazing."

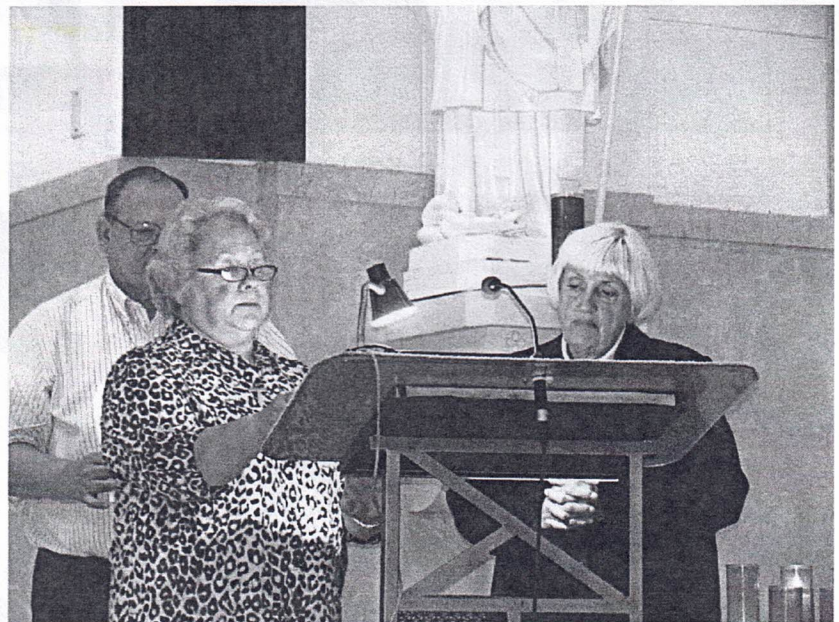
According to the La Verna Re-

gion's Secular Franciscan website, the Order of Franciscans Secular is an Order of Catholic men and women who, attracted to the person and charism of Saint Francis, recognize that they are called by God, the Holy Spirit, to profess the Rule of the Secular Franciscan order, and so to "follow Christ in the footsteps of Francis of Assisi." Individual Secular Franciscans gather in local fraternities, such as the Escanaba fraternity, to pray, study, witness, engage in apostolic work and share community together.

The OFS will be in good hands now that Tolfa is the official Spiritual Assistant, according to Henning. "Now that Jan is here, the flowers are going to bloom," he said with a smile.

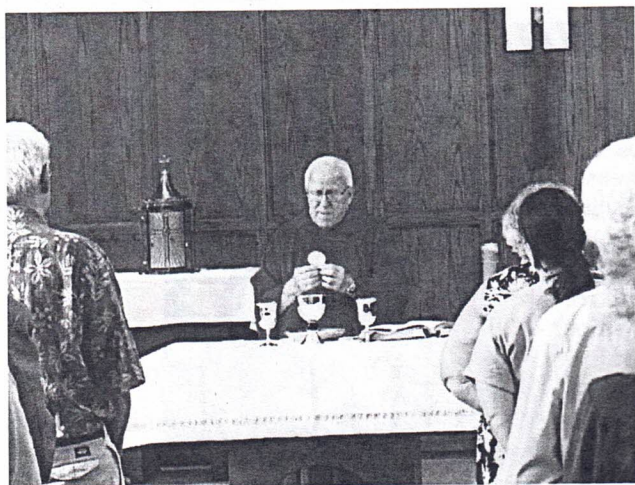


**SPIRITUAL - Janice Tolfa holds a framed certificate recognizing her being installed as a Franciscan Spiritual Assistant. (Photo courtesy of Les Yeip)**

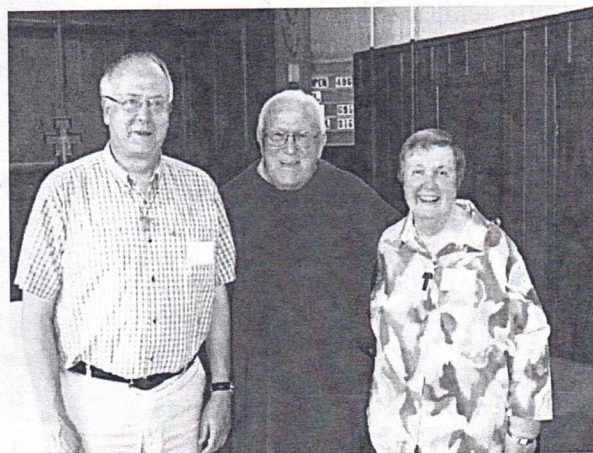




On Saturday after Fr. Bach OFM, Cap, presided over Mass for the group we were privileged to participate and witness the formal installations of our two new Regional co-Spiritual Assistants, Ed Boss, OFS and Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS.



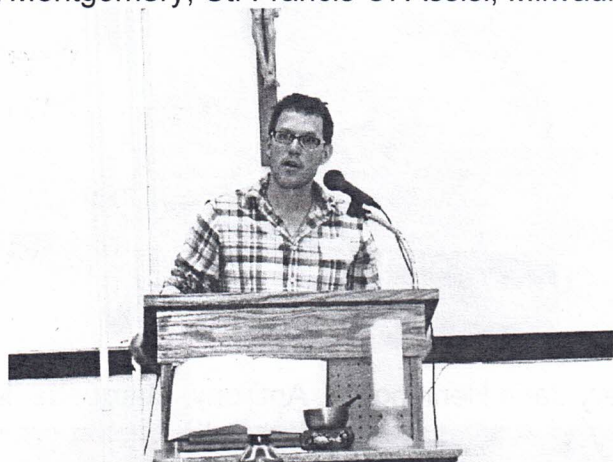
Symbol of Unity





Each of the ministers or delegates of the Fraternities are given an opportunity to tell the rest of the Region a little about what their Fraternity is doing to change the world. This sharing of ideas and projects is very helpful because these are ideas that might be taken back and maybe tried as new ways of spreading God's word.

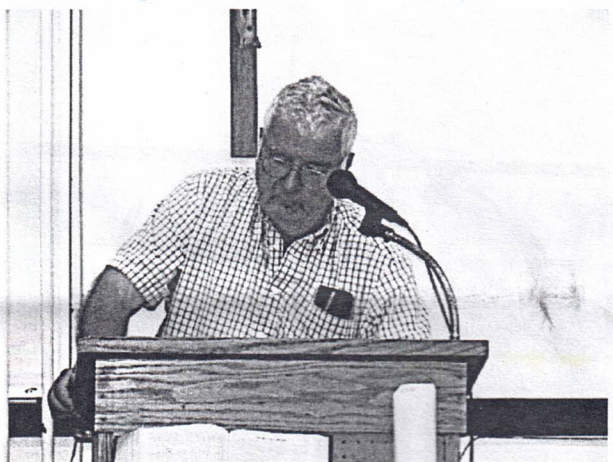
Art Montgomery, St. Francis Of Assisi, Milwaukee    Jean Marie Muller, St. Joseph, Appleton



Jack Boerschinger, St. Ann, Green Bay



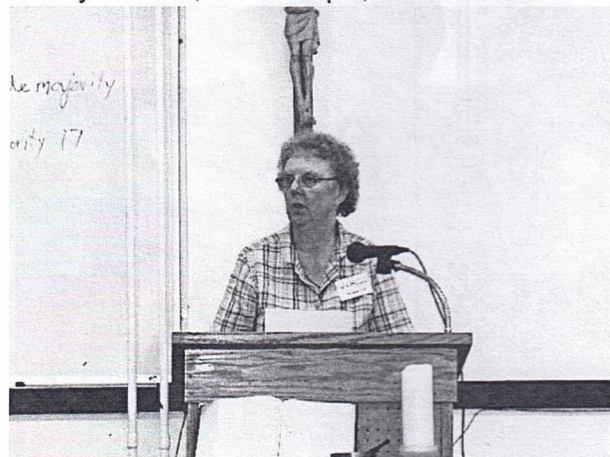
Francine Fosselman, St. Clare, Greenfield



Marilyn Smet, St. Joseph, Fond-du-Lac



Valeria Knier, Holy Innocents, Manitowoc

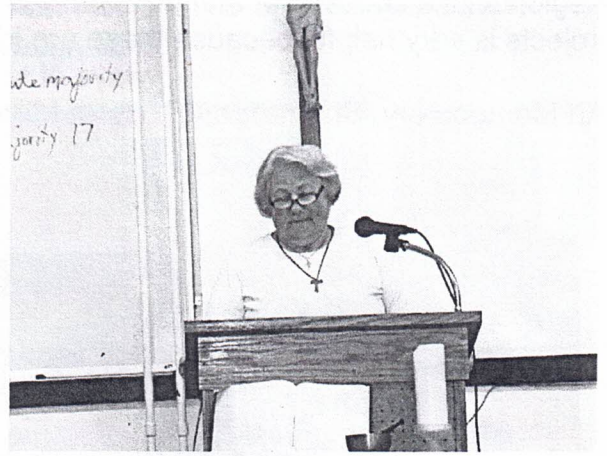




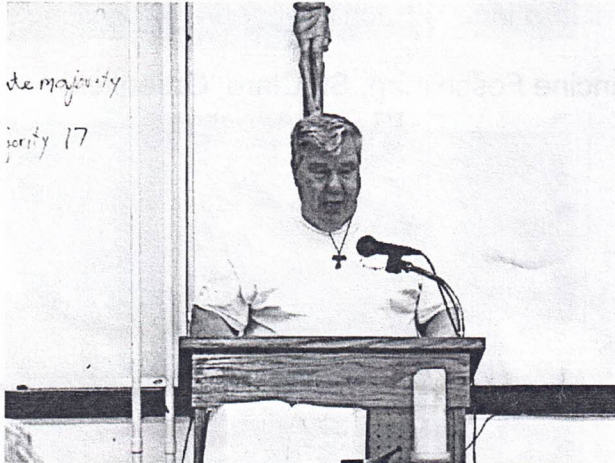
Richard Hoffmann, St. Anthony, Marathon



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Barb Studener, Sacred Heart, Oshkosh





Sally Crane, St. Peter, Stevens Point



Patrick Reusch, Queen of Heaven,  
Wisconsin Rapids



Audrey Ricard, St. Paschal Baylon, Wind Lake



Celebrating Fr. Bach's 14 years of service





## "We Have Failed at Christianity."



*Peering through the U.S.-Mexico border, August 2005. Photo by Jason Miller*

On Sunday after running to catch the bus in order to make it to Church on time, I hid in the back row, still trying to catch my breath. But when the homily started, what the priest said nearly made me jump out of my seat. He started off by saying that "We have failed at Christianity." I found my head nodding in agreement to this startling revelation when he noted that when angry mobs confront busses of children from Central America telling them to go back to their home countries[1] as they did in California recently, we're forgetting about what it means to be Christian.

The priest went on to say that we're comfortable with Christianity and even with helping others as long as it doesn't affect us directly. But anytime we have to get within the margins—leave our comfortable homes, or do anything more than write a check, we're unable to act. We fail as Christians. Powerful words that had folks in the pews clapping by the end, but as I sat there I wondered whether or not anyone on Capitol Hill would heed these wise words?

As someone who does advocacy work on behalf of Franciscans who are working with those outside of the margins of society—including undocumented immigrants and unaccompanied minors, I often wonder if anyone in Washington hears us. It's difficult to measure success in my line of work, and sometimes after the end of a hard day, I wonder if it's not time to try to find another job. I had these thoughts especially as I watched the news about the busses arriving to jeers in Murrieta, CA.

*Have we learned nothing from our own history of a nation—why it was founded, or how we have mistreated the "other" throughout our own history?*

*Have we forgotten about our own shared humanity?*

In Washington, D.C., one can become quickly cynical, as budgets must be balanced on the backs of those who need help the most, and political games are played to score points, rather than serve the people that officials were elected to serve. But when I saw the scenes from Murrieta, I was shocked and ashamed.



How desperate must a parent be to send their child on a dangerous journey, perhaps to die in the desert, not knowing whether or not that their child will survive? Tens of thousands have done that since the end of last year alone. That's sheer desperation, and a full-blown humanitarian crisis—not an “illegal” immigration problem.

Collectively as a nation, as Christians, and as human beings, we have failed the least of these. Rather than caring for these children at the border, we don't know what to do, engulfed by partisan hypocrisy, we are even unable to treat them with basic human dignity. Jesus is at our doorstep, and we have slammed the door in his face. Each of us should be ashamed of our inability to act. Financial cost or political points should no longer matter—but rather as Christians, we should do what the Gospel compels us to do and answer the call by caring for the children who have arrived at our front door.

Instead, we have failed as Christians and as human beings. And each and every one of us would be wise to heed the words of Thomas Merton who experienced a conversion one day on the streets of Louisville:

“In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world, the world of renunciation and supposed holiness...I have the immense joy of being man, a member of a race in which God Himself became incarnate. As if the sorrows and stupidities of the human condition could overwhelm me, now that I realize what we all are. And if only everybody could realize this! But it cannot be explained. There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.”[2]

I pray that our nation wakes up from our dream of separateness and that we realize our shared humanity and help the least of these—the children at our border, because we are indeed all shining like the sun.

*Jason Miller is FAN's Director of Campaigns and Development. Follow him on twitter @419in703*  
Used with permission

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## **Forecast of Snow!**

On a bitterly cold winter morning a husband and wife were listening to the radio during breakfast. They heard the announcer say, "We are going to have 8 to 10 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the even-numbered side of the street, so the snow plows can get through."

So the good wife went out and moved her car.

A week later while they are eating breakfast again, the radio announcer said, "We are expecting 10 to 12 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the odd-numbered side of the street, so the snow plows can get through."

The good wife went out and moved her car again.

The next week they are again having breakfast, when the radio announcer says, "We are expecting 12 to 14 inches of snow today. You must park...." Then the electric power went out.

The good wife was very upset, and with a worried look on her face she said, "I don't know what to do. Which side of the street do I need to park on so the snow plows can get through?"

Then with the love and understanding in his voice that all men who are married to blonde's exhibit, the husband replied, "Why don't you just leave the car in the garage this time."



On May 3<sup>rd</sup> the third and final District Gathering was held in the Central District in Oshkosh, WI.



Meeting with old friends and making new friends.



The food is prepared by the hosting fraternity is always superb. And then back to listening to another presentation. Is this a happy group or what!





## Get Out Of The Car!

This is a true account recorded in the Police Log of Sarasota, Florida:

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! GET OUT OF THE CAR!"...

The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad.

The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then she realized why. It was for the same reason she had wondered why there was a football, a Frisbee, and two 12-packs of beer in the front seat.

A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down. She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake. The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a carjacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun.

No charges were filed.

Moral of the story?

If you're going to have a senior moment...make it memorable!

~~~~~  
Dear Franciscans,

May the peace and goodness of our Lord be with you.

At our recent June 27 – 29 Chapter of Elections, I handed out a School for Spiritual Assistants Workshop flyer to the local fraternity ministers or their appointed delegates. I know some of you were unable to attend our Chapter, so I wanted to email to you the same flyer and registration form. The attached flyer asks for your attendance or to share information about our upcoming October 22nd SA workshop held at the St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon, WI. Our first gathering was held at the Monte Alverno Retreat Center on September 14, 2013. That workshop proved to be very successful, and it prompted regional spiritual assistant Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS and me to schedule our next workshop at the St. Anthony Spirituality Center.

Please join us, along with your brothers and sisters, in attending the October 22nd workshop. Together we will pray and joyfully assist each other on how to walk the journey and the dream with Franciscan spirituality.

Fraternally yours,  
Ed Boss, OFS, La Verna Regional Spiritual Assistant



# The La Verna Region School for Spiritual Assistants

presents

## SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS' WORKSHOP

October 22, 2014

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

For those currently serving as spiritual assistants, students in training,  
and all interested Secular Franciscans/Religious  
at the **St. Anthony Spirituality Center**,  
300 East Fourth Street, Marathon, WI



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## AGENDA

**10:00 am**

### WELCOMING AND OPENING PRAYER

La Verna Regional Spiritual Assistants,  
Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS and Ed Boss, OFS

### Group Introductions

**Goals: What you want to get out of the time together**

**Information – Formation – Collaboration** - Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS and Ed Boss, OFS

– Initial and ongoing formation materials (We will bring books and materials for you to review)

1. Handbook Spiritual Assistance to the Secular Franciscan Order (2012)
2. OFS Essential Documents
3. The SA role as fulfilling Altius Moderamen

### Reflection: "The Journey and the Dream"

- Where is your fraternity?
- What can we do to assist you?

**12:00 pm**

### Lunch

**How to assist with *group* spiritual support within your fraternity** – Ed Boss

- You don't need to be an OFS to follow St. Francis, but you do need to be an OFS to have fraternity.
- How Virtues interplay with OFS Rules 20 - 26 and strengthen fraternity by Gaze, Consider, Contemplate, and Imitate

**Open Dialogue**

**Spiritual Assistant's Team Problem Solving Process** - group participation

**3:00 pm**

### Closing Prayer

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## REGISTRATION FORM

### Spiritual Assistants' Workshop – October 22, 2014

at the St. Anthony Spirituality Center, 300 East Fourth Street, Marathon, WI

Please complete the following –

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Fraternity \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code Phone (Cell & Home)

E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of the workshop **with** October 21 overnight accommodations: \$53 + \$20 = \$73.00

- Total \$73.00 cost includes: Tuesday overnight single guest room, Wednesday breakfast, lunch, and SA workshop registration fee

Cost of the SA workshop **without** overnight accommodations: \$20

- Total cost includes: Wednesday SA workshop registration fee and lunch

Do you wish overnight accommodation? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete where needed:

Time of arrival: Tuesday, October 21 for overnight guest room: arrival time: \_\_\_\_\_ PM

Bedroom accommodation for only October 21: cost: per night

Single room \_\_\_\_\_ Couple sharing single room \_\_\_\_\_

Meal on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 Not available: On your own

Meal on Wednesday, October 22, 2014 breakfast

**Make out your personal check to "La Verna Region"**

**Note:** Please return this registration form with your check by October 1, 2014 to:

**Ed Boss, OFS**

**W222 N8172 Plainview Parkway**

**Sussex WI 53089**

Phone: 262-250-9251 ... e-mail: [ed-joann@att.net](mailto:ed-joann@att.net)



## La Verna Regional Executive Council and Formation Team

Minister, Jim Carlson, OFS (262) 473-3130  
[james.carlson@wicourts.gov](mailto:james.carlson@wicourts.gov)

Vice Minister, Jeff Gumz, OFS (920) 866-2005  
[jagumz@gmail.com](mailto:jagumz@gmail.com)

Secretary, Kathy Sutliff, OFS (715) 369-3367  
[ksut517@charter.net](mailto:ksut517@charter.net)

Treasurer, Elsa Ruscoe, OFS (410) 961-2129  
[eruscoe@yahoo.com](mailto:eruscoe@yahoo.com)

Councilor, Peter Bekkers, OFS (920) 757-9027  
[taxmannatp@gmail.com](mailto:taxmannatp@gmail.com)

Councilor, Sharon Dale, OFS (715) 423-4136  
[shadale@wctc.net](mailto:shadale@wctc.net)

Councilor, Teri Doughty, OFS (920) 231-4838  
[doughtytm@live.com](mailto:doughtytm@live.com)

Councilor, Bob Crane, OFS (715) 204-9671  
[bobcrane.ofs@gmail.com](mailto:bobcrane.ofs@gmail.com)

Spiritual Assistant – North –  
Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS (715) 356-1009  
[lamniebuhr@gmail.com](mailto:lamniebuhr@gmail.com)

Spiritual Assistant – South –  
Ed Boss, OFS (262) 250-9251  
[ed-joann@att.net](mailto:ed-joann@att.net)

Provincial Spiritual Assistant,  
Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap  
(608) 222-6238 [lbofmcap@aol.com](mailto:lbofmcap@aol.com)

Formation Team  
Barb Spies, OFS (262) 250-1556  
[BSSPIES@STRITCH.EDU](mailto:BSSPIES@STRITCH.EDU)

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The La Verna Region of the Secular Franciscan Order in the USA consists of Eastern ¾ 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.

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. For further information about the La Verna Region and the Secular Franciscan Order, please go to the internet site: [www.lavernasecularfranciscans.com](http://www.lavernasecularfranciscans.com).

The La Verna Vision newsletter is published three times a year. Deadline for submitting articles are as follows: spring issue—March 1; summer issue—July 1; winter issue—November 1.

La Verna Vision editor: Bob Henning, OFS, [bmjhsfo@aol.com](mailto:bmjhsfo@aol.com)

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### 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 : ELSA RUSCOE, OFS, La Verna Regional Treasurer, 201 W. ARROWHEAD LN., APPLETON, WI 54913. Telephone number is (410) 961-2129 or email Elsa at [eruscoe@YAHOO.COM](mailto:eruscoe@YAHOO.COM)

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

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**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: ELSA RUSCOE, OFS, 201 W. ARROWHEAD LN., APPLETON, WI 54913

PHONE: (410) 961-2129

E-MAIL: ERUSCOE@YAHOO.COM

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



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

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

LESTER BACH OFM CAP  
4123 MONONA DR  
MONONA, WI 53716-1661

314  
9



### Calendar of Events: Spring/Summer 2014

**September 26-28, 2014** – Franciscan Retreat at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon, WI.

**October 22, 2014** – Spiritual Assistance workshop at St. Anthony Spirituality Center at 300 East Fourth Street, in Marathon, WI.

**October 24 – 25, 2014** - Regional Executive Council planning meeting at Marywood Spirituality Center, Woodruff, WI.

**February 7, 2015** - Regional Executive Council meeting at St. Peter Church, Stevens Point, WI.

**May 23, 2015** - Regional Executive Council meeting at St. Mary of the Angels Friary, Green Bay, WI.

**June 26 - 28, 2015** – LaVerna Region Chapter at St. Anthony Spirituality Center, Marathon, WI.

**August 22, 2015** - Regional Executive Council meeting at St. Peter Church, Stevens Point, WI.

**October 24, 2015** – Profession of the Beaver Dam candidates (tentative).

**October 30 to Nov 1, 2015** – Regional Executive Council planning meeting at Marywood Spirituality Center, Woodruff, WI.