

# JOY OF FRANCIS

Secular Franciscan Order—St. Francis Region #52— Southern California

*May 2018*

*If all the tenderness in this world could reflect  
From my eyes, would you accept  
That love?*

*If all  
The forgiveness  
The heavens have known could be offered  
From one  
Face,*

*Would you accept that divine pardon?*

*In His sublime sanity —  
Every moment God offers  
That  
To us:*

*Anything that might  
Comfort.*

(A Poem Attributed to Saint Francis)  
( Found in *Love Poems from God*, Daniel Ladinsky, Translator)



## Secular Franciscan Order - St. Francis Region #52

### MINISTER'S MESSAGE

#### Regionalization

by Judith B. Mussatto, OFS.

What is Regionalization? When and why did it begin? Who were some of the people involved? To find the answers to these and a few other questions on this topic I turned my attention to the work of William Wicks, OFS. In Vol. III, 1979 – 2007 of *A History of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States*, he dedicated Chapter 12 to the topic of Regionalization. You can also find his writing on the World Wide Web and in the FUN Manual. To get you started here is a brief quiz. Answers can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

#### THE QUIZ

1. Regionalization is the geographical
    - A. appointment of ministers to lead the Order.
    - B. restructuring of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States
    - C. arrangement of the friar provincial Jurisdictional structure.
  2. The process of Regionalization began in
    - A. 1912
    - B. 1961
    - C. 1987
  3. Restructuring was called for by
    - A. The Rule of 1978.
    - B. The Ritual
    - C. The International Constitutions.
  4. Secular Franciscans derive their charism from
    - A. The Friars.
    - B. St. Francis
    - C. St. Joan of Arc.
  5. The foundational argument for regionalization was presented by
    - A. Fr. Stephen Gross, OFM, Conv.
    - B. Fr. Terence Pescatore, OFM, Conv.
    - C. Fr. Victor Abegg, OFM, Conv.
  6. The idea of Regionalization first surfaced in
    - A. 1968
    - B. 1221
    - C. 1982
  7. Which one of these Franciscans was not a member of the regionalization committee founded in October 1987?
    - A. Richard Morton, OFS
    - B. Rock DeSpain, OFS
    - C. Mary Mazotti, OFS
  8. Regionalization was a good idea because it would
    - A. help raise the consciousness that we are one organic family
    - B. provide better leadership within the order.
    - C. Result in fewer meetings.
  9. The interaction between self-governance on the part of the seculars and guidance on the part of the religious is the
    - A. Altius Moderamen
    - B. Modus Operandum
    - C. Rigor Mortis.
  10. Regionalization in the United States was completed in the year
    - A. 1997
    - B. 1999
    - C. 2009
  11. Member of the steering committee for the West Coast Progress towards Regionalization
    - A. Michael Coughlin, OFS
    - B. Robert Murray
    - C. Sylvia Paoli
- (Answers are on Page 15 of this Newsletter)

Peace and All Good,  
Judith Mussatto, OFS



# Conference of Regional Spiritual Assistants

## MORE ON PRAYER

If you missed the previous article on prayer, in the last issue of Joy of Francis, please go back and read it first, as this is a continuing message.

One good prayer form is based on scripture. Take one of the stories that Jesus told, such as the prodigal son. Read the passage from the Bible. Then take a few minutes to allow everyone to absorb what was read. Read the passage again. Ask each person to pick a character in the story with which they can identify and then mediate on the story and the meaning of the story with themselves as the character they chose to be. After about 10 minutes of silent meditation, reread the passage, and then ask those who wish, to share something from their meditation.

You will be surprised how alive a passage that one has known one's entire life can become. Sometimes a person may choose to be a person on the outside looking in, viewing the scene from nearby but not actually being one of the characters. This is a very good way to begin a fraternity gathering, especially if you can choose a scripture passage that relates to the topic of the ongoing formation for the day.

In future articles, we'll talk about other types of prayers. In the meantime, feel free to be creative, but above all, strive to do more than just "say" a printed prayer at the beginning of your gathering.

Peace and joy to all!

Sylvia Paoli, OSF  
President-in-turn, CRSA



# Pray the Rule

A Note From the Editor of Joy of Francis

One of the Council members of the Immaculate Conception Fraternity found this beautiful prayer on a Franciscan websites and offered it to the fraternity, We send it along to you, our dear sisters and brothers, that it may become part of your daily prayers, especially during this Year of Jubilee.

## PRAY THE RULE Liam McCarthy, OFM

O Lord, our God, we intend to make present the charism of our Seraphic Father Francis in the life and mission of the Church, in various ways and forms but in life-giving union with one another. By our profession, we pledge ourselves to live the Gospel in the manner of St Francis by means of our Rule approved by the Church (Arts. 1-3). Help us, we pray, so that daily we may:

- observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St Francis, going from gospel to life and from life to the gospel (Art. 4);
  - seek to encounter the living and active person of Jesus Christ in our brothers and sisters, in sacred scripture, in the Church and in the Eucharist (Art. 5);
  - go forth as witnesses and instruments of the Church's mission among people, proclaiming Christ by our life and words (Art. 6);
  - conform our thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by the radical interior change which the Gospel calls "conversion", making use of the sacrament of reconciliation on the way to renewal (Art. 7);
  - let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all we are and do (Art. 8);
  - imitate the Virgin Mary's complete self-giving in her openness to your every word and call (Art. 9);
  - faithfully fulfill the duties proper to our various circumstances in life (Art. 10);
  - seek the proper spirit of detachment and purify our hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power (Art. 11);
  - acquire the purity of heart needed to set ourselves free to love God and our brothers and sisters (Art. 12);
  - accept all people as your gift, Lord, and an image of Christ (Art. 13);
  - exercise our responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service (Art. 14);
  - be in the forefront of promoting justice by the testimony of our human lives and by courageous initiatives (Art. 15);
  - esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption and service of the human community (Art. 16);
  - cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity and respect for life in our families, striving to make it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ (Art. 17);
  - respect all creatures, animate and inanimate "a s bearing the imprint of the Most High" (Art. 18);
- be bearers of peace and messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, as immersed in the resurrection of Christ, we serenely tend towards Sister Death and our ultimate encounter with you, our Father (Art 19).

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Brother.  
Amen.



## Saint Clare Fraternity Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Canonical Establishment

On April 15<sup>th</sup> 2018, Saint Clare fraternity celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canonical Establishment at Vietnamese Catholic Center in Santa Ana. Fr. Steve Gross, OFM, Conv. presided at the Thanksgiving Mass. Concelebrants included Fr. Thong Do, OFM, Fr. Khoa Nguyen, OFM, Fr. Tuan Tran, OFM, Fr. Hung Nguyen, OFM cap and Fr. Hien-Linh Cong Bai



From left: Fr. Hung Nguyen, OFM cap, Fr. Tuan Tran, OFM, Fr. Thong Do, OFM, Fr. Steve Gross, OFM, Conv, Fr. Khoa Nguyen, OFM, Fr. Hien-Linh Cong Bui, OH.  
Photo by Tuan Cao, OFS

Members from various branches of Franciscan Family near and far all came to attend this joyous event. The honored guests include priests from all three obediences of the Franciscan First Order (listed above). Also in attendance were President-in-Turn of the Conference of Regional Spiritual Assistants, Sylvia Paoli, OFS, Regional Minister, Judith Mussatto, OFS, Orange County District Liaison, Trudy Weigel, OFS, Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters from Saint Anthony of Padua Fraternity, San Diego, and former Franciscan Seminarian Organization members were also in attendance. Altogether, approximately 120 guests attended including friends and family of Saint Clare Fraternity and Vietnamese Martyrs Emerging Community's members.



**Saint Clare Fraternity Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Canonical Establishment  
(Continued)**



St. Clare's Council and Guests



St. Clare's Fraternity and Guests  
Photography by Tuan Cao, OFS

## Saint Clare Fraternity Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Canonical Establishment (Continued)

During the reception, a video presentation highlighting St. Clare Fraternity's history was on view. Saint Clare Fraternity began in 1990 as Newly Forming Group with only 5 professed members. Through the hard work and dedication of these charter members, it became a vibrant Secular Franciscan fraternity with more than 50 active members today.



Although some progress has been made since the fraternity's infancy, we realize that there is much to be done at St. Clare Fraternity as Saint Francis often admonished his brothers "Let us begin, for up to now we have done nothing".

Peace! Tinh Le, OFS

(Photography by Tuan Cao, OFS)

## NEWS FROM SAN DIEGO DISTRICT

On February 3rd the St Anthony of Padua Fraternity, following the Vietnamese tradition, celebrated the Lunar New Year, the year of the Dog. We had Mass before the meeting to say thank you to God for the blessings that our Fraternity received in 2017 and to ask for protection for the new coming year. After the regular meeting we celebrated the event with plenty of foods, music and story-telling. Everyone was very happy! On May 5th, Tuan Cao, OFS, District Liaison for the San Diego District, did a Pre-Visit with the fraternity in preparation for the fraternal visit on July 7, 2018.



2/ On April 4th ,2018 The Immaculate Conception Fraternity had elections for the new Council for the term 2018-2021. Bill Mussatto ,OFS, delegated Spiritual Assistant, was the Church Witness, The Presider for the election was Regional Minister, Judith Mussatto, OFS.

The new Council members are:

Minister: Patricia Elizabeth Grace, OFS  
Vice-Minister: Margo Raynes, OFS  
Formation : Becky Ann Taylor, OFS  
Secretary: Maria Teresa Perez, OFS  
Treasurer: Sarah McTimmonds-Langlois, OFS  
Councilors: Peggy Botte, OFS, and Genevive Fabian, OFS

3/ On May 6<sup>th</sup> the San Luis Rey Fraternity celebrated Professions into the Secular Franciscan Order for Joe Cannon and Connie Collins. Please see the pictures of this profession on the next page.



Profession of Connie Collins and Joe Cannon on May 6, 2018  
San Luis Rey Fraternity



Profession of Connie Collins and Joe Cannon on May 6, 2018  
San Luis Rey Fraternity



(Photography by Tuan Cao, OFS)

## NEWS FROM TRI COUNTY REGION

Congratulation to the members of St. Louis the King Fraternity on the election of a new Council

Minister: Gregg Garrison, OFS

Vice-Minister: Linda Whitman, OFS

Formation Director: Sandy Hornick, OFS

Secretary: Ginny Petrini, OFS

Treasurer: Grace Given, OFS

Councilors: Maria Reagan, OFS, Thomas Connors, OFS



Standing. Left to right. Thomas, Grace, Gregg, Sandy and Maria. Seated: Linda and Ginny.



# NEWS FROM RIVERSIDE/SAN BERNARDINO

## St. Padre Pio Fraternity



Padre Pio Fraternity professed Maureen Smith, OFS and David L'Anson, OFS at Mission San Luis Rey. Three people entered Candidacy and there are two more in Inquiry.

## Holy Spirit Fraternity



Regional Minister, Judith Mussatto, OFS, Pastor, Rev. Henry Sseriiso, Dr. Juanito Garlitos, OFS, Father Stephen Gross, OFM, Conv, Regional Spiritual Assistant Sylvia Paoli, OFS, flanked by members of St Padre Pio and Holy Spirit Fraternities.

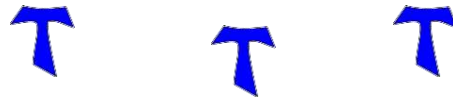
Holy Spirit Fraternity: Dr. Juanito Garlitos was Professed into the Secular Franciscan Order during the regular Saturday Vigil Mass at St. Peter and St Paul Catholic Church in Alta Loma, CA. The Secular Franciscans present at the Profession had the opportunity to greet the parishioners after Mass, answer questions, and hand out written information about the Order.



# NEWS FROM RIVERSIDE/SAN BERNARDINO



The fraternity has two candidates, one of whom should be professed shortly. The fraternity held Come and See meetings after morning Masses at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Chino and is planning similar meetings in other local parishes.



On May 18th Bruce McAdams, OFS, Vice-Minister of Immaculata Fraternity in Riverside was awarded the St. Bernardine award by Bishop Gerald Barnes in a ceremony at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral in San Bernardino.

This award is given for at least 10 years of meritorious service within the Diocese of San Bernardino and during which time you have been an inspiration for others.

Bruce has worked on Bishop Barnes staff for 10 years, serving as a Master of Ceremonies for Confirmations and special events within the Diocese.

Saint  
Bernardine  
Of  
Sienna



O  
F  
M

# INTERFAITH OUTREACH

*“Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.”*

Rule: Art. 91.

On Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> members of Holy Spirit Fraternity were among the many guests in attendance at Baitul Hameed Mosque in Chino, CA for a presentation. *The Blessed Status of Mother Mary and Jesus in our Respective Faiths*. Presenters were Fr. Michael Miller, Pastor, St. Margaret Mary Church, Chino, Rev. Alexei Smith, member of the Spirituality Commission of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Imam Irshad Malhi, Baitul Hameed Mosque, Chino. The purpose of the gathering as stated by Ahsan M, Khan, President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Los Angeles East Chapter was to address the prevailing misconception about the status of Jesus and Mary in Islam.

Muslims recognize Jesus as one of the Prophets. Jesus is mentioned 20 times in the Qur’an. Chapter 19 of the Qur’an is dedicated to Mary who is the only woman mentioned by name in the Qur’an. All the speakers highlighted the importance of a little known and very important letter from the Prophet Muhammed to the Monks of St. Catherine Monastery, Egypt on Muslim’s relations with Christians. Here is a quote from that letter, the full text of which can be found at <http://www.cyberistan.org/islamic/charter1.html> *“Verily I. The servants, the helpers, and my followers defend them, because Christians are my citizens and by Allah! I hold out against anything that displeases them.”*

Both Islam and Christianity are Abrahamic religions, we honor Mary, Pray, Fast and Give alms. Here are two opportunities for dialogue and fellowship with people of religious traditions other than our own.

Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m. An exhibition on the Qur’an, an interfaith discussion on fasting, and a collective breaking of the Muslim fast at sundown (around 7:50 p.m.) followed by dinner.

Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30p.m. Interfaith IFTAR Dinner. Learn about Ramadan, Benefits of Fasting & Tolerance for Other Religions. RSVP Imam Irshad Malhi: 925-595-4156. [irshad.malhi@ahmadiyya.us](mailto:irshad.malhi@ahmadiyya.us) or Faheem Ahmed:951-675-7507. [faheem.ahmed@ahmadiyya.us](mailto:faheem.ahmed@ahmadiyya.us)

**Baitul Hameed Mosque. 11941 Romona Ave. Chino, CA91710.**

If you know of Interfaith events in your local areas please share that information with you sisters and brothers.



From the left to right: Ahsan M. Kahn, Father Michael Miller, Imam Irshad Malhi, and Rev. Alexei Smith

Secular Franciscan Order - St. Francis Region #52

**Important Announcements**

**Jubilee Year**

Minister General Tibor Kauser, OFS, recently announced the celebration of a Jubilee year beginning June 6, 2018 and concluding June 6, 2019, to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our current Rule approved by Pope Paul VI on June 24, 1978 with the apostolic letter Seraphicus Patriarcha.

What are your fraternity's plans for this celebration? Please share your ideas with our Newsletter Editor Patricia Elizabeth Grace, (formerly Patricia Dervish). Your ideas and suggestions will be shared through the Regional Newsletter.

On the new NAFRA website [www.secularFranciscansUSA.org](http://www.secularFranciscansUSA.org) you can find *Celebrate the Rule Cards* accompanied by reflection questions. NAFRA theme for 2018: *Renewed and Confirmed: Live the Treasurer! Celebrating 40 years of our OFS Rule.*

**Note from Your Editor**

My name has officially changed to Patricia Elizabeth Grace. I can receive emails at [patriciaelizabethgrace7@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaelizabethgrace7@gmail.com)

We are trying a new format for our Joy of Francis. The new format permits more and larger pictures, which we all enjoy. I look forward to any comments or suggestions.

Our next Joy of Francis will be published in August. Please send any articles or pictures to me by August 1. I look forward to reading them and hearing how all of my Franciscan sisters and brothers are faring. We are so blessed to keep alive this beautiful way of life and share it with all around us. It is an awesome and wonderful duty and privilege to share the Charism of our Beloved Saint.

Peace and All Good, Patricia

**Important Announcements**

**Last Will and Testament**

Each of us can play an important role in preserving and extending our Secular Franciscan way of life, in our own fraternity, and at the regional level. This can be accomplished in many ways, including a bequest in our will.

Suggested beneficiaries:

Your FRATERNITY  
Your REGION

Suggested wording for your bequests:

1. A BEQUEST FOR GENERAL PURPOSES:  
"I give and bequeath the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_% of my disposable estate) to: (name and address of fraternity, or region).
2. A RESIDUARY BEQUEST OF INDEFINITE AMOUNT:  
"After payment of expenses, debts and specific bequests, I direct that the residue of my estate be given to: (name and address) or "I bequeath to (name and address) any part of my estate that other beneficiaries are unable to receive because of death or other reasons."

THE ADDRESS OF ST. FRANCIS REGION IS:  
276 E. Green St.  
Claremont, CA 91711



**Answers to quiz:**

1-b, 2-c, 3-a-b, 4-b, 5-b, 6-a, 7-b, 8-a, 9-a, 10-a, 11-a.

# CALENDAR

## May:

[25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Regional Retreat. Serra Retreat Center, Malibu.](#)

## June:

[2<sup>nd</sup> REC Council Meeting, Claremont](#)

3<sup>rd</sup> Elections. St. Clare Fraternity (V) Santa Ana. Presider: Frank Miller, OFS. Church Witness: Sylvia Paoli, OFS

10<sup>th</sup> Fraternal Visit. St. Padre Pio Fraternity, Moreno Valley. Visitor: Judith Mussatto, OFS

23<sup>rd</sup> Fraternal Visit. Immaculata Fraternity, Riverside. Visitor: Judith Mussatto, OFS

## July:

7<sup>th</sup> Fraternal Visit. St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, (V) San Diego. Visitor: Judith Mussatto, OFS.

8<sup>th</sup> Elections. St. Clare Fraternity (K) Westminster. Presider: Judith Mussatto, OFS. Church Witness: Rev. Christopher Thiel. OFM, Cap.

14<sup>th</sup> Elections. San Juan Capistrano Fraternity, Presider: Judith Mussatto, OFS. Church Witness: TBD.

22<sup>nd</sup> Elections. St. Joseph Fraternity, Los Angeles. Presider: Frank Miller, OFS. Rev. Christopher Thiel. OFM, Cap.

## August:

12<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Visit. St. Clare Fraternity (K) Roland Heights. Visitor: TBD

19<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Visit: Immaculate Heart Fraternity (S) Santa Ana. Visitor: TBD.

22<sup>nd</sup> Fraternal/Pastoral Visit. St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity Woodland Hills. Visitors: TBD.

29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> RSA Workshop. Kansas.

**August 30<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> Formation Visioning Workshop. Kansas.**

## September:

2<sup>nd</sup> Pastoral Visit: Nuestra Signore de Los Angeles, San Diego. Visitor: TBD

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Gathering, San Diego

9<sup>th</sup> Elections. Holy Spirit Fraternity, Claremont. Presider: Lucy Ibarra, OFS. Church Witness: Sylvia, Paoli, OFS.

9<sup>th</sup> Fraternal Visit, St. Diego Fraternity, San Diego. Visitor: Frank Miller, OFS.

16<sup>th</sup> Fraternal Visit. St. Francis (K) Anaheim. Visitor: Frank Miller, OFS.

23<sup>rd</sup> St. Maximillian Mary Kolby (K) Torrance. Visitor: Judith Mussatto, OFS.

## October:

14<sup>th</sup> Fraternal Visit. St. Francis of Assisi, Los Angeles. Visitor: Margarita Rodriguez, OFS

28<sup>th</sup> Fraternal Visit. St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Los Angeles. Visitor: TBD.

*PEACE AND ALL GOOD  
FROM YOU  
YOUR REGIONAL COUNCIL*

*Judith Mussatto, OFS  
Minister  
St. Francis Region*