



The Joy of Francis

Together for the Gospel!

Summer/Fall, 2006 - Vol. 14, No. 2

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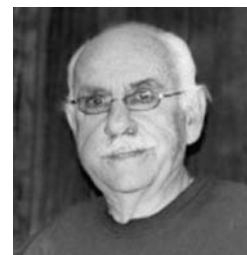
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Canonical establishment of the SFO Fraternity of San Lorenzo Ruiz. For the full article see page 4.

To my Franciscan Family:

by Rock DeSpain, Regional Minister



Fr. Steve we will miss you.....

In 1992, when I was serving our Order for the first time as the Treasurer of St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity in Hemet, I met Fr. Steve Gross OFM Conv. He soon became our Spiritual Assistant. It was during these 2 ½ years that I learned how much I still had to learn about our Order. His knowledge about the SFO and his approach to our fraternity discussions had me sitting on the edge of my chair. During that time,

it was clear to me that I had professed to something I did not know well. So, I promised myself that I would take the time to study, roll up my sleeves and become a Franciscan. In 1995, I was elected Minister of our fraternity and right after that. He left us. I am still not sure if it was me or the obedience to his Order. So, for almost all of the time I served as Minister, we had no

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Spiritual Assistant. That definitely was Baptism under fire. We survived and grew in numbers.

But Fr. Steve was still around somewhere, Reno, San Francisco and St. Francis Region. In January 2000, I was elected Vice Minister of St. Francis Region and what a blessing it was to have an OFM, OFM Cap., and Fr. Steve in and out of the picture.

I became Regional Minister in October 2000. The first years, he was there but in and out, plus having three Regional Spiritual Assistants was a pure delight. In 2002, we lost Fr. William our OFM RSA and Fr. Jim Cleary, OFM Cap. was ill. So Fr. Steve and I became constant companions for visitations and elections. You cannot imagine what it is to have Ongoing Formation,

one-on-one with Fr. Steve as mentor. Going and coming from the visitations and elections. The discussions at the visitations with his comments were mind-boggling. The Pastoral Visitation approach is different from the Fraternal Visitation approach, he taught me well.

Fr. Steve, there are not words to express my personal gratitude and thank you for all you have done for our Order. Your guidance to the Regional Executive Council was so right on. Your mentoring to those of us who earned our Certificates as Lay Spiritual Assistants under your tutorage was truly exceptional. The time you gave to our Order to do so many visitations, elections, and Masses of Profession on top of everything else you do, was a blessing top all of us.

We will miss you Fr. Steve, but we all know that wherever you are, God's work will be done, and done well.

I love this job,

Peace, love and prayers

Rock DeSpain, SFO

Minister – St. Francis Region



Letter from Rome

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On April 6th, 2006, we have finally accomplished a long lasting dream: that the International Council may have a headquarters from where it might be able to achieve its service to the International Fraternity. It is a very simple headquarters, it is a modest apartment in a Rome suburb, with good transportation to the center of Rome.

The moment has come to assume the responsibility among all of us, members of the Secular Franciscan Order to make financial contributions to be able to carry on the signed commitment of paying our headquarters in a six year loan. Some of you have already contributed but I am sure you will continue supporting this need. We trust that all brothers and sisters share the responsibility on his/her own as on behalf of those who are not able to bear it in a fair sharing of goods. Thank you in advance and let's have the courage to fulfill our dream! We need you all!

We will place on our Website current information on the outcome of our new headquarters.

Encarnación del Pozo
Minister General OFS



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

In your fraternity are YOU an intentional or an associational member?

There are two types of members which make up all church communities and pretty much all organizations. They are: intentional and associational members. Both types of members are drawn to and believe in what the community or organization stands for. The difference is that the intentional member is willing to make sacrifices for the community and the associational member participates when it is convenient or when it is something about which they agree. The healthy and vibrant future of the community is dependent upon the number of intentional members outnumbering the associational members. If the opposite occurs, the vibrancy and vision of the community could be greatly affected to the extent that it could lose its' identity all together.

So, simply said, each of you help to define the Franciscan identity of your fraternity.....it is not an automatic given.....y'all have to work at it !!

+Blessings!

Fr. Steve Gross, OFM Conv.
Regional Spiritual Assistant



Combined Profession at Holy Spirit

We enjoyed a combined Profession of brothers and sisters into the Secular Franciscan Order on Saturday, May 20, 2006, at Holy Spirit Church in Hemet. Fr. Steve Gross, OFM Conv., shown above, celebrated.

The names of the newly professed were Godwin Milner from Holy Spirit Fraternity in Claremont; Patty Fleming and Louise Schook from San Damiano Fraternity in Palm Springs; and Agatha Borne from St. Padre Pio Fraternity, Moreno Valley.



Canonical Establishment of the Fraternity of San Lorenzo Ruiz

On June 11, 2006, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, the Fraternity of San Lorenzo Ruiz was canonically established. Fr. Steve Gross, Regional Spiritual Assistant celebrated, and together with the Regional Officers, signed the final paperwork to make it all official. Fr. Steve told those members of the Fraternities present that the establishment of a Fraternity is a wonderful, marvelous and magnificent thing, but it is only a start and not an end. In the day's Gospel reading for Trinity Sunday, Jesus gave his disciples a mission to continue his Church. As it was with the new Church, so it is with a new Fraternity: it has great potential, but it shines forth in its continuing service to the mission



Fr. Steve Gross, OFM Conv., together with the Regional Officers, sign the founding documents for the San Lorenzo Ruiz Fraternity



The new Secular Franciscan Fraternity of San Lorenzo Ruiz



of Christ and the Church.

The new Fraternity remembers San Lorenzo Ruiz of Manila, who is very special to Filipino Catholics as the first canonized Filipino martyr. Lorenzo was Chinese on his father's side and Filipino on his mother's. He was a member of the *Confraternity of the Holy Rosary*,



a calligrapher, a sacristan, and the father of two sons and a daughter.

Implicated in a murder, he was shielded by the Dominicans friars from the unjust charge and joined a mission to Japan during a time of tremendous persecution. Lorenzo and others of his party were captured, tortured for over a year and on September 29, 1637, death released him to the mercy of God.

Pope John Paul II called San Lorenzo Ruiz "the most unlikely of saints" at his canonization on October 28, 1987. Members of the San Lorenzo Fraternity mentioned that it was especially appropriate that the Fraternity which bears his name was brought into being at the Parish Church of Saint Francis Xavier, Apostle to the East, in Little Tokyo.



Manuel Graciano, Minister for the Fraternity of San Lorenzo Ruiz



The Filipino Youth Group Folk Dancers added to the celebration in both artistic and athletic ways.



RACISM—POVERTY—WAR **What's the Connection?**

- Ray Hardwick, SFO

Those who stand for justice in any area soon find, no matter their concern, that there is no piecemeal work. If you are concerned about racism, then you will find that it involves economic injustice resulting in the marginalization of peoples of color. And the pursuit of war results in funds that could alleviate poverty being drained off to feed the beast of war making. To paraphrase 1John 4:17-18, "When you have the means to alleviate the need of your brother and sister and you refuse them compassion, how can the love of God be in your heart? Let us then love, not in word or speech only, but in truth and action."

When I sat down to write this column about poverty in America I began to realize that it is all tied in with war and racism. What triggered my understanding was something I read that Martin Luther King, Jr. said in 1967, "In the days ahead we must not consider it unpatriotic to raise certain basic questions about our national character. We must begin to ask, 'Why are there 40 million poor people in a nation overflowing with such unbelievable affluence? Why has our nation placed itself in the position of being God's military agent on earth? Why have we substituted the arrogant undertaking of policing the whole world for the high task of putting our own house in order?'"

I began to see that the pursuit of war, not just Afghanistan and Iraq, but any war is to rob the poor of bread. In all the calls to arms down through the years to defend our freedom and liberty, many young men and women have risked, and given their lives. Despots have been vanquished, nations freed from oppression and yet other despots pop up, nations are still under oppression. Perhaps the answer to protecting freedom and liberty are where it has always been—in the Gospel. Jesus urged us to love one another as he loved us and to love our enemies and to pray for them. To paraphrase Gilbert Chesterton, "Love has not been tried and found wanting, it just has never been tried, except in rare cases." One such rare case comes instantly to mind—St. Francis of Assisi who thought the way of Jesus was the only way to true peace and joy.

Yet the history of the Christian world, sad to say, has been a history of every possible kind of warfare. The 20th century witnessed two world wars with Christians killing Christians. The atomic bomb came from a Christian country. Christian countries have initiated the massive arms sales to peoples and nations in need of food and medicine. And Christian countries produce the most powerful armies in the world. It seems the greatness of the human being is measured by his ability to kill other human beings. We seem to glorify the destructive forces of the world.

The killing of babies in a woman's womb scandalizes us, yet we sacrifice many more people on the altar of technological warfare without batting an eye. We are told it is for freedom and the American way. And we don't seem scandalized by 35,000 human beings dying every day from hunger and hunger related diseases.

We say our country is in good order and committed to equality, justice, brotherhood, science, technology, progress and human development, but the masses continue to suffer exploitation and die of hunger. We call ourselves civilized and our victims uncivilized. We worry about the disappearance of the Amazon rain forest but we do not worry about the disappearance of its human inhabitants.

To bring it closer to home, we spend billions, soon trillions, on the "War on Terrorism" while we spend a few million on the "War on Poverty." I have heard it said that "poor people are poor because they are lazy, they just need to get a job to raise themselves out of poverty." The poor are not lazy, in fact most have jobs and they work very hard but they work for minimum wages. Minimum wage has become a poverty wage instead of an anti-poverty wage, with damaging effects throughout our economy. Minimum wage sets the wage floor. As the floor has dropped below poverty levels, millions of workers at or above mini-



mum wage--\$5.15 an hour—can't make ends meet.

The poverty rate in the U.S. increased from 12.5% in 2003 to 12.7% in 2004, bringing the total to 37 million people living in poverty. There are additional millions of people referred to as the "working poor" who live on incomes just above the poverty threshold. This at a time when millionaire households grew to 8.9 million.

We began with what's the connection between Racism—Poverty—War? Need I mention our national response to Hurricane Katrina versus our continuing response to the "War on Terrorism?" Thomas Merton said, "Our job as Christians is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy." I ask how have we loved the Iraqis, the Iranians, the North Koreans, and the victims of Katrina?

I will end with something Rabbi Abraham Heschel said, "God will return to us when we are willing to let him in—into our banks and factories, our congresses and clubs, our courts and investigating committees, our homes and our theaters. For God is either everywhere or he is nowhere, the Father of all peoples or of no people, concerned about everything or nothing. The mountain of history is over our heads again. Shall we renew our covenant with God?"

Remember brothers and sisters, God doesn't shout, He whispers, and the whisper is the Way.



The Miracle of Fr. William Brand, OFM

It was during March, 2004, that I visited Fr. William Brand, OFM, at the infirmary at Old Mission Santa Barbara. He was really out of it, not very coherent at all. He was taking the highest dosage of Morphine that they could give him. Another complication was that he had broken a bone in his upper leg near his hip. He was so bad that the doctor decided not to operate on the break because he would lose Fr. William on the operating table. When I left my visit with Fr. William, I couldn't help thinking that he did not have long to live. I sent a message out to region explaining what I had seen and asked for prayer. Based on the responses I received from all of you, I knew that Heaven was being stormed with prayers.

The next word I received about Fr. William a few months later was that his cancer was gone. They

couldn't find it anywhere. I had an opportunity to visit with Fr. William in the fall of 2004, but he was so out of it from the medication he had been taking, so the visit could have been better. The doctor said that in time, his mind would improve. The doctor was right. I was in Santa Barbara for a visitation and stayed at the house of Bob and Lyn Carman. They asked Fr. William to join us. He joined us for dinner and he was his old jovial self. It was almost impossible to believe that he had improved so much. He is walking with the aid of a walker, but it is only for balance. Fr. William is now free of cancer for 2 years and has taken the position as Chaplain for the Infirmary at Old Mission Santa Barbara. The doctor said he didn't believe in miracles, but also stated that he had no explanation for this. Hey doc Duh!!!!

Please keep Fr. William in your prayers. Peace, love and prayers
Rock



Franciscan Print Resources

Franciscan Resources

P.O. Box 350 Menahga, MN
56464 800-772-6910

St. Anthony Messenger Press

1615 Republic St. Cincinnati,
OH 45210 800-488-0488

Barbo- Carlson

P.O. Box 189 Lindsborg, Ks
67456 785-227-2364

Padre Pio's Book Shelf

2096 Main St. Cambria, CA
93428 805-927-7209



Local Fraternity News



St. Joseph's Staff, St. Joseph's SFO Fraternity, Los Angeles

Minister: Michael Sanchez, SFO, Editor: Mike Sanchez, SFO

NEWS: St. Joseph's prayer for the San Lorenzo Fraternity:

Dear good God and loving Father, it has pleased you to create a new wonder on earth - *San Lorenzo Ruiz Secular Franciscan Fraternity!* Called to follow in the footsteps of the poor, simple man, Francis, (as well as San Lorenzo, a faithful disciple) they with joy, wish to proclaim, with their lives and words, the glorious Gospel to the world! We pray that You bless them as they sing and dance, as they pray and preach, as they love and serve! We pray You bless their gatherings, their service to the poor, their teaching/learning, their giving of resources and of themselves, and all they are and do... for You. We

praise You for the joy and honor of knowing, loving and sharing our lives with these wonderful people. Lord Jesus, bless San Lorenzo Fraternity, and may they ever be a blessing to You and the world! We ask this through Your blessed son and servant, Francis, who willed to be last and least so that You would always be first and greatest in his heart and life. Be Glorified Forever, Jesus! AMEN.

The Cord, San Luis Rey, Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside, CA

Minister: Karron Esmonde, SFO
sfokarron@yahoo.com

NEWS: Fr. Ben Innes invited us to discern what kind of leaders we are, and using a circus analogy, suggested a few possible categories: roustabouts, lion tamers, ring masters, or clowns. Father indicated that the Franciscan-style of leadership - the style for which Francis was famous - is to challenge the status quo. He emphasized that important aspects in leadership are responsibility, balance, motivation and time as we go forward to change things for the better.

The Echo, St. Anthony Fraternity, Long Beach

Minister: Clara Samson, SFO, Editor: Doris Salcido SFO

NEWS: We received the Casa Franciscana Outreach, a newsletter which covers the activities of Casa Franciscans in Guaymas, Mexico. The newsletter tells of their plans for the future, et. It is most interesting and helps to understand the problems they face in trying to help the poor and children and how the monthly donation helps them.

St. Louis the King Fraternity Fraternity, Santa Barbara

Minister: Lyn Carman, SFO,

NEWS: As we were finishing our Fraternity Visitation Mass and praying for our infirmed member, Viola Valenzuela, we received a call from her son that she had died that morning. It seemed the working of the Holy Spirit that her passing would coincide with this special mass and with the presence of our members and our Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Alberic Smith.

When asked about becoming a Franciscan, Viola said, *"I was a Franciscan at heart before I knew anything about St. Francis. In 1979 I was invited to a SFO meeting led by Franciscan, Fr. David Temple. For awhile I didn't know if I was there because of Fr. David or because there was something special about being a Secular Franciscan. I decided on the later and have been a Secular Franciscan ever since."*

We are thankful to have had Viola's gentle, intelligent, inspiring presence with us these many years. She continues to be with us in our memories and in our hearts.



Viola Valenzuela





Regional Multi-cultural Day, April 29, 2006 at the St Francis Korean Center in Torrance. We had opportunities to share with our brothers and sisters of many cultures. There were beautiful examples of traditional clothing from the many diverse heritages represented in our Franciscan Family.



**Share the Joy: Holy Spirit Fraternity of the SFO, Claremont, CA
Minister: Judith Mussatto SFO**

NEWS: Judith and Bill Mussatto had the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of St. Paul, all the way to Ephesus, Turkey! This photo was taken outside of "Mary's House" near Ephesus. The sister in habit is from Chicago, and her Order is St Maximilian Kolbe. The other lady is Sr. Feliz, a Falician and a member of our parish. Both are Third Order Regular Franciscans. Fr. Tom, our pastor, is beside them. Most of the nuns we met in Turkey were Franciscan-related.

A reminder for all of us from Mike Morris SFO, our web master for our Region web page

If you know of any events we might be able to attend together, let me know. Also, if you have access to the Internet you can look at our Regional Calendar located on our Regions website,

<http://www.stfrancisregion.org>

for upcoming events in other fraternities. We are all part of a big Franciscan family. All are welcome to attend these gatherings



By Kata Tan, SFO

The recent Serra Retreat weekend had been a very meaningful experience. It dealt with issues we face everyday. We came to gather as a Multi-cultural community, but we left as one community faced with one challenge: to have one culture ...**a culture of peace.** 'United by their vocation as "brothers and sisters of penance," and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, **let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls "conversion."** Human frailty makes **it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.**"An ongoing change of heart or a continual spiritual re-newal is the first condition (Rule #7) for modeling one's own thoughts and deeds on those of Christ. As Francis himself points out in his letter used as the prologue, if we love the Lord with all we are, build a Eucharistic community, and remove those things that prevent such union, we become one with him, fulfill the Father's will, and project his image onto the world. Thus, our daily conversion becomes a primary means for putting on Christ and conforming ourselves to him. The sacrament of reconciliation, then, is a privileged means & practical assistance for achieving this objective. Conversion cannot be restricted to external acts of mortification. Nor can we reduce it to a mere change of interior attitude or outlook, such as a new way of thinking. It implies something much more broad and profound. A true conversion is a complete change in person, so deep and intimate that it can transform his or her external behavior as well. Conversion means the complete surrender of our whole being to God...¹ But what should I surrender? Is what I am willing to surrender truly what God is asking me to surrender? Where do I light the candle? From the bottom? Around the rim? I must look at where a candle is lit...**at the center**once the center is lit, all the darkness around will be receive light....then I, too, shall be enlightened....aware....then I shall have PEACE....then I can share that peace with those around me..... towards a **CULTURE OF PEACE.....**

¹ The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order with a Catechism and Instructions, by Fr. Cornelio Mota Ramos OFM and translated by Fr. Felipe Baldonado OFM, Instructions compiled by Capuchin Friars and Secular Franciscans of the province of St. Mary & edited by Fr. Zachary Grant OFM Cap. Copyright 1980, Franciscan Herald Press, Chicago, Illinois 60609.



Franciscans Welcome the Stranger

from Franciscans International
www.franciscansinternational.org

19 May 2006

WASHINGTON, D.C. — *More than 50 Franciscan priests, brothers, sisters and secular lay persons released a letter calling for “the immediate passage of humane and comprehensive immigration reform legislation.” The letter represents the largest number of religious leaders ever to sign a joint statement as members of the U.S. Franciscan family.... The Franciscan leaders hope that by joining their voices to the outcry for reform, articulated by countless other faith-leaders, civic leaders, and persons of good will, a comprehensive reform of the broken immigration system will be realized.*

Letter below:

Dear Senator:

We write to you today as the leadership from Catholic Religious Orders and Congregations following the spirit of Saints Clare and Francis of Assisi. Collectively, we serve in every state of the United States in several hundred distinct ministries. We write to express our desire for the immediate passage of humane and comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

Many of our ministries serve

immigrant populations. We have come to know these persons to be active and hardworking members of our neighborhoods and communities, whose chief concerns are care for their family and the betterment of their society. As religious communities, our interest in comprehensive immigration reform arises from the reality that the current immigration system is severely broken. Immigrants, both documented and undocumented, entering into the U.S. are suffering in the current system. As religious leaders, as pastoral ministers and simply as persons of conscience, it is our moral duty to voice this call for reform.

As the full Senate enters into this debate on immigration reform, it is our sincere hope that the resulting legislation and amendments that might be added will adhere to a basic set of social justice principles. For us as Catholics these are the same as our U.S. Bishops have delineated:

- 1. Persons have the right to find opportunities first in their own homelands.*
- 2. Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families.*
- 3. Sovereign nations have a right to control their borders.*
- 4. Refugees and asylum seekers must be afforded protection.*
- 5. The human rights and human dignities of undocumented migrants must be respected.*

To adhere to these moral standards, at a minimum, the legislation to be passed by the Senate should:

- Establish a fair and manageable process for immigrants, documented and undocumented, to establish legal permanent residency and U.S. citizenship.
- Include provisions that work to maintain and/or restore immigrant family unity
- Provide opportunities for young immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to attend college as well as move towards legal permanent residency and citizenship
- Not have enforcement mechanisms, like those found in HR 4437, The Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005, that attack the human dignity of immigrants, by “criminalizing” undocumented immigrants and those who provide them with humanitarian assistance.

In the past 30 years, our communities and congregations have been transformed from being immigrant groups of primarily European origin to being ones that are strongly diverse and multicultural. We have had our own difficulties with U.S. Immigration and Naturalization/U.S. Homeland Security Department in being able to welcome our own brothers and sisters, especially those that come

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from Africa, Asia and Central and South America.

Welcoming these members into what were formally European groups has not always been easy. However, in the process of building multicultural and diverse communities, we have become stronger and better in our service to others. We believe that by extension, the United States will become a stronger and better nation, if we find ways to help immigrants enter onto a pathway to citizenship and fuller participation in civic life.

In the past months, we have witnessed with joy millions of people protesting peacefully in the streets across our nation seeking justice for immigrants. Our hearts have been uplifted by their message proclaiming themselves to be human beings with dignity and not "criminals." We are humbled that we have been able to stand in solidarity with them as they assert that their human rights be recognized.

We are proud to continue this stance of solidarity by expressing our sincere hope that you will cast a vote in the Senate that will welcome immigrants to take their rightful place in building our nation and world.

Be assured of our prayers for you as you discern and debate this most important legislation. May you be blessed with a heart of welcome and peace.



Youth

FRANCISCAN YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS of the SFO~USA

Prepared by the
National Youth/Young Adult
Commission of the
Secular Franciscan Order~USA



www.franciscanyouthusa.com

OR CALL:
1-800-FRANCIS

WHO ARE THE FRANCISCAN YOUTH?

"The Franciscan Youth is formed by those young people who feel called by the Holy Spirit to deepen their own vocation to share the experiences of the Christian life in fraternity in the light of the message of St. Francis of Assisi, deepening their own vocation within the context of the Secular Franciscan Order. The Franciscan Youth has a specific organization, methods of formation and teaching methods adequate for the needs of the world according to the existing realities in various countries."



Are you called to a deeper meaning of life? Are you called to deepen your Catholic Faith? Well... So was Saint Francis of Assisi!

St. Francis was a typical teenager at age 18. A spoiled, rich kid who had everything he wanted. At the age of 23 he had a conversion experience. This led his life in a whole new direction.

He became poor, to experience the richness of God. He became a servant to others, only to become their leader. He became one with all of creation only to be singled out as their saint.

The Franciscan Family invites you to come and experience the richness of the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi through works of charity, liturgies, formation, social activities, retreats, community building activities and special events.

St. Francis' life still speaks to the youth and young adults of today! Is he speaking to you???

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL
SECULAR FRANCISCAN
YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT
COMMISSIONER**



Stubenville West

Stubenville West is one of fifteen co-sponsored High School Youth Age conferences and is presented by Franciscan University of Stubenville and LIFE TEEN International, "Unchanging" is an exciting weekend for youth and their adult leaders - the atmosphere is filled with an abundance of energy, great music, energetic speakers, dynamic skits, and lots of time for personal and group interaction.

Highlights of the weekend include a powerful time of Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration on Saturday evening, the message given from the keynote speakers and the interaction with other Catholic youth from all over the country. Many youth have come to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit on these weekends.

How can you help:

We all know that our *Constitutions* dedicate Title VII to Franciscan Youth. Well here is an opportunity for you to support our youth. We do not have to have a Franciscan Youth program in our fraternity to support youth. We can do our best to support our Catholic Franciscan values by helping youth in many ways. One of which is to help send a youth that could not afford it to this conference. I mentioned

Seventeenth Quinquennial Congress

July 3-8, 2007

Franciscan University at
Stubenville, Ohio
*Without You, the family is
incomplete.*

A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ.
(SFO Rule, Article XIII)

this at Serra Retreat this year and followed up with an e-mail message to the region. As a result, with the donations we have received, St. Francis Region is paying the way for 15 underprivileged youth to attend the July 14-16, 2006 event at the University of Arizona campus in Tucson, AZ.

Franciscan University has a long range plan to have a Franciscan University in the west. There are at least three youth from the group we are helping that have an interest in attending Franciscan West University. What better way to recruit possible students than conferences like this with a Franciscan bias.

Peace, love and prayers,

Rock DeSpain, SFO
Minister - St. Francis Region



Letter from Franciscans International

Saturday, 8 April, 2006 was an important day for the CIOFS (the International Council of the SFO) and Franciscans International, as Encarnación del Pozo, SFO General Minister and Br John Quigley, Executive Director of Franciscans International met at the new CIOFS office in Rome.... The meeting also marked the beginning of official activities in the new office. It was a very open meeting, all participants being members of one family, and was an occasion to program common initiatives, cooperation and strategies which will make it possible for members of the SFO to make even more use of the services FI offers to the Franciscan family in the fields of work for the poor, for human dignity, peace and care for creation.

Br John will send out a letter inviting all members of the Secular Franciscan Order to cooperate more closely and to involve themselves more actively in FI's mission in line with their own vocation as Seculars.

We take this occasion to invite all National Councils to inform FI's Geneva office about activities and initiatives taken by their National Fraternities in the fields of interest to the organisation, so that these activities and initiatives may be known and supported by the entire Franciscan family.



Franciscan Calendar of Saints

July

8. Bls. Gregory Grassi, bishop, and companions, martyrs, I and III Order

9. Nicholas Pick, Priest, and companions, martyrs, I Order -- Memorial

10. Veronica Giuliani, virgin, II Order -- Memorial

12. John Jones and John Wall, priests and martyrs, I Order

13. Bl. Angeline of Marisciano, religious, III Order

14. Francis Solano, priest, I Order

15. BONAVENTURE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR, I Order -- Feast

21. LAWRENCE OF BRINDISI, PRIEST AND DOCTOR, I Order -- Feast

23. Bl. Cunegunda, religious, II Order

24. Bl. Louise of Savoy, religious, II Order

27. Bl Mary Magdalene of Martinengo, virgin, II Order

(For II and III Order nuns)

August

2. OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS OF THE PORTIUNCULA -- Feast

7. Bls. Agathangelus and Cassian, priests and martyrs, I Order

8. HOLY FATHER DOMINIC, PRIEST, FOUNDER OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS -- Feast

11. CLARE OF ASSISI, VIRGIN, II Order -- Feast

(For II and III Order nuns: SOLEMNITY)

14. Bl. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, priest and martyr, I Order -- Memorial

19. Louis, bishop, I Order -- Memorial

25. Louis IX, king, Patron of the III Order -- Memorial

September

1. Bl. Beatrice of Silva, virgin, II Order

(For the Conceptionists: Feast)

2. Bls. John Francis Burte, Severin Girault and companions, martyrs,

I and III Orders

4. Rose of Viterbo, virgin, III Order

17. STIGMATA OF OUR HOLY FATHER FRANCIS -- Feast

18. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO, PRIEST, I Order -- Feast

20. Francis Mary of Camporosso, religious, I Order -- Memorial

23. Finding of the Body of St. Clare

26. Elzear of Sabran and Bl. Delphina, husband and wife, III Order

October

4. OUR HOLY FATHER FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DEACON, FOUNDER -- SOLEMNITY

6. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds, virgin, III Order

10. Daniel, priest, and companions, martyrs, I Order

12. St. Seraphin of Montegrano, religious, I Order

20. Bl. James of Strepar, bishop, I Order

Bl. Contardo Ferrini, III Order

21. Bl. Josephine Leroux, virgin and martyr, II Order

22. Peter of Alcantara, priest, I Order -- Memorial

23. John of Capistrano, priest, I Order -- Memorial

26. Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza, priest, I Order

30. ANNIVERSARY OF DEDICATION IN CONSECRATED CHURCHES OF THE ORDER -- SOLEMNITY



Your Joy of Francis mailing team for the last issue: Maria, Richard, Ted (Editor), Bill (Publisher), Jackie, Claudia G and Claudia T, and Teresa.



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Obligations of a Secular Franciscan:

To observe the Commandments of God & the precepts of Holy Mother Church.

To attend the monthly Fraternity meetings.

To join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the

Church, preferably the Liturgy of the Hours.

To wear the SFO habit (the Tau Cross).

To reverently say Grace before and after meals.

To examine one's conscience daily.

To attend daily Mass if possible.

To contribute to the Fraternity's common fund.

To observe moderation of dress, recreation, food and manner of life.

To give good example, **avoid** disputes, and **minister** to the needs of

others, especially the poor.

The Joy of Francis



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