
The National Fraternity
of
THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER



Issue Number 5

THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Fall, 1994

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETS

The National Fraternity Council met October 19-23, at the Franciscan Center, Andover, MA. Eighty people attended, representing almost 20,000 secular Franciscans from regions/provinces throughout the U.S.A. Emanuela De Nunzio OFS, International Minister General, and Father Ben Brevoort OFM Cap, Conference of General Spiritual Assistants, came from Italy to perform pastoral and fraternal visits and to witness elections of National Fraternity Officers. Elected were: Minister-Richard Morton, SFO; Vice-Minister-Geraldine Rome, SFO; Treasurer-John Sanborn, SFO; Secretary-William Wicks SFO; Councilors-Jerry Friga, SFO and Kay Pelletier, SFO; International Councilor-Laura Haukaas, SFO, alternate- Consuela Smith, SFO. National Statutes, approved by the National Fraternity last year, arrived from International with suggested modifications. Other changes were added at this meeting. The whole package is being sent to Rome for final approval. Statutes are not in effect until

final approval is given from Rome. Regional/provincial ministers will receive official copies when they take effect. Major points were: 1) If a regional minister is impeded from attending a national meeting, the vice-minister acts as delegate; 2) Anyone elected to national office may not hold any other elected office at regional or local fraternity level; 3) Minimum age for perpetual profession is 21 years, and for temporary profession is 18 years; 4) The previous decision to have the first profession be temporary for one year has been stricken. Temporary profession remains optional as in the past.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

From the National Minister:



Section I is a summary of my personal activities for the year as related to the Order; the second summarizes significant happenings in the National Fraternity. Section 1: I have been very busy this year. Traveling is the top time consumer due to the number of regional fraternities having first elections.

Correspondence picked up this year with over 825 pieces of mail sent or received not including fraternity newsletters and advertisements. In addition 55+ faxes were sent/received. The telephone rang off the hook with 350+ phone conversations. In case you wonder where these statistics come from, I keep an activity log and a log to locate filed correspondence.

I attended my local fraternity's monthly meetings and local regional fraternity meetings whenever I was in town.

Section 2:

MEMBERSHIP: The latest count of active, professed members is 19,925, a slight decrease from last year's 20,539. There are 1057 candidates in initial formation. The number of canonically established local fraternities is 753 with 36 emerging fraternities.

FORMATION: Fostering quality formation programs is the most important activity of the National Fraternity. The National Formation Commission chaired by Ron Pihokker has taken an active role in promoting excellence through workshops, training sessions and the Formation Newsletter. The Commission has begun to develop goals affecting future formation activities at the national level.

APOSTOLIC COMMISSIONS: Chairpersons Carol Gentile, Family; Ron Michieli, Peace and Justice; Charles Spencer, Ecology; have been busy with various presentations, workshops and periodic newsletters. **The challenge facing us is**

to support chairpersons in their work by insuring that their information reaches local fraternity members in a timely manner.

Unfortunately, Alan Jordan, Work Commission Chair, found it necessary to resign due to illness of his wife, Eileen. We ask you to keep them in your prayers. We are searching for a new Work Commission Chairperson.

REGIONALIZATION: Regionalization is progressing at a steady rate. For the first time there are more regional than provincial fraternities. The northeast portion of the country is seriously involved in the process.

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER: Thanks to Patti Normile, Editor, The National Newsletter has been in regular publication the entire year. We are diversifying the newsletter by including articles from all aspects of our vocation. We want bi-lingual articles and reports from the International Fraternity published on a regular basis. Dolores Smelko from Anita, PA handles paid subscriptions. The next issue will be mailed to 475+ paid subscribers in addition to fraternity leaders who receive copies. **Please encourage members to have personal copies mailed to their homes. We must motivate fraternity ministers to see that news in the newsletter is disseminated to fraternity membership on a regular basis.**

With the closing of their provincial office, St. John the Baptist Province will donate a computer for use in managing subscriptions for The National Newsletter. A "Thank you!" goes out for their generosity.

PARTICIPATION WITH THE LARGER FRANCISCAN FAMILY: The participation of SFO members with all members of the Franciscan family is growing. U.S. Seculars were invited to an international conference in Assisi this summer to revise the on-going formation program, "Build with Living Stones".

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St. Anthony Messenger Press Acquires Franciscan Communications

Two organizations that began as endeavors of Secular Franciscans have united. St. Anthony Messenger Press, Cincinnati, has taken the mantle of another well-known Franciscan media enterprise, Franciscan Communications, Los Angeles, according to Publisher Jeremy Harrington, OFM.

It's a Franciscan-to-Franciscan transition. A year ago the Franciscan Friars of the West Coast decided to transfer operation of Franciscan Communications to a suitable publisher. Friars of the Cincinnati Province, owners of St. Anthony Messenger Press, made an offer in May to acquire name and inventory of Franciscan Communications. Negotiations were completed August 31.

"We want to continue the wonderful video, audio and print ministry of Franciscan Communications," comments Father Harrington. "We share the same mission of communicating the gospel in the spirit of St. Francis. What they have been doing very professionally will complement what St. Anthony Messenger Press does. We have just started our own video production department to add to our magazine, newsletters, books and audiocassettes. Now we'll market Franciscan Communications videos and publications along with our own." Operations will move to Cincinnati.

Santa Barbara Vicar Provincial Father Finian McGinn commented, "We are pleased that St. Anthony Messenger Press will continue Franciscan Communications' long tradition of evangelization through the communications media. It is quite difficult

for the Province to relinquish any apostolate, especially one like Franciscan Communications which has had such a rich tradition and successful history. However, the Province is pleased that the mission of Franciscan Communications will not cease, but be transformed to another Franciscan ministry that is very respected in the communications world."

For over 100 years the Franciscans in Cincinnati have published St. Anthony Messenger, a Catholic family magazine with a national circulation of 320,000 that began with Third Order assistance.. St. Anthony Messenger Press also publishes paperback books, Homily Helps, Catholic Update, Weekday Homily Helps, Youth Update, Exploring the New Catechism and Scripture from Scratch.

Franciscan Communications traces its start to the "Hour of St. Francis," in 1946. Father Hugh Noonan with a group of young Secular Franciscans (Third Order) started 15-minute radio dramas and convinced top Hollywood stars to perform. The Secular Franciscans nationally contributed 50 cents per member to produce the "Hour," which was broadcast on public service time by 500 stations in the U.S. and as far away as Australia.

In 1961 the radio "Hour" ceased and TV versions began. A professional motion picture studio was built on property owned by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Some 85 short films and videos related the story of Jesus' teachings in contemporary settings.

TeleSPOTS, catchy, brief TV messages begun in 1966, were broadcast by hundreds

(continued on p. 6)



SOYA INK

Sunset Remembrance

Not too long ago, I was reading a back issue of *National Catholic Reporter* when I noticed a story on a Vietnamese Buddhist monastery in France. It was founded by Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese monk exiled from his homeland in the late 1960s. Thich Nhat Hanh had incurred the wrath of the South Vietnamese government through his work for peace and justice at a time when any criticism was considered part of a communist threat. He is one of the founders of a movement which has come to be called "engaged Buddhism," a Buddhism which addresses not only concerns about individual liberation but also the social structures which hold people in bondage. Hanh was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Martin Luther King, Jr. After the fall of South Vietnam to the Communists, he was not allowed to return to his country--Communists have about as much use for engaged Buddhism as do right-winged dictatorships. Thich Nhat Hanh has relocated his monastery in France where he continues to write and speak about spirituality and social justice.

What impressed me most about the article was that while the reporter was interviewing one of the monks, a bell tolled in the distance. The monk stopped the interview for just a few seconds, recentered himself through a moment of meditation on his breath, then resumed the interview. The monk explained that the main thrust of Buddhism, particularly Thien (Zen) Buddhism, was mindfulness, being aware of the present moment. Any time they hear a bell, they take a moment to recenter.

What a wonderful spiritual practice, I thought. It reminded me of the now almost forgotten practice of ringing the Angelus bells, at 6 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. so that Christians might stop what they were doing and pray the Angelus in honor and memory of the Incarnation. It was a way of recentering, of being aware of the Incarnation throughout the day. And I thought, wouldn't it be a wonderful practice if Christians would not only revive the ancient practice of praying the Angelus, but would stop every time they hear a bell just to recenter, to become aware that God is present here and now. It would not take long, just a few seconds. Perhaps to say the Angelus, utter an Our Father, Holy Mary or Glory Be, or just to breathe or silently repeat the name of Jesus. And I decided to try to incorporate that practice into my own life. Whenever a bell rings: a clock, classroom bell, phone, I try to remember to take a moment to recenter myself. It does not substitute for daily morning and evening prayers, but it helps us carry that awareness throughout our busy days.

Then a short time ago I was involved in a discussion on a computer network to which I belong. The purpose of the group is to discuss the thought of Thomas Merton and more broadly, "Mertonesque" topics such as contemplation, social justice, interreligious dialogue. What began as a group of scholars has expanded to include a wide variety of people. Unlike other discussion groups on computer, this one has begun to take on the characteristics of a true spiritual community: members not only discuss ideas and respectfully allow for diversity of opinions

on topics, but have also begun to ask others on the network for prayers. As one who is immersed in academia, I must say that to see scholars actually asking, "Please pray for my brother; he is ill," is quite rare and a true spiritual gift.

As this group continued to interact through what can be a very anonymous medium, personalities began to emerge. People began to share their hopes and frustrations. Friendships began to form. During one set of exchanges in which several were expressing their frustration at having found no supportive local community, it became apparent that for many of us the discussion group had become a type of extended community. I suggested that many of us find ourselves in the mode of "secular hermit." People began to write in identifying with that category. We then began to suggest that we were in some way a surrogate community, or in computer terms, a "virtual monastery." I half jokingly asked how we would do Vespers.

This touched a chord, as several began to write in with suggestions of how group members could pray together. Some suggested a means through a rather advanced computer technology to which most did not have access. Some began to suggest that at sunset we all pray Vespers from the *Book of Common Prayer* or *Prayer of Christians*. Some suggested an ecumenical liturgical calendar; it was truly ecumenical as we have Buddhists on the list as well as Christians.

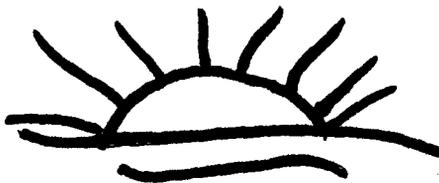
I suggested that we learn a lesson from Thich Nhat Hanh's community: that at sunset, wherever we are, we take a few seconds, each in whatever way we felt

comfortable, and remember the members of the Merton list and all their intentions, and leave the rest in God's hands. This was the course of action which was adopted.

I was sharing this with SFO National Minister, Dick Morton, who thought this would be a very beautiful way for Secular Franciscans across the country, indeed, around the globe, to come together at a particular time to pray for and remember each other. We all, of course, already do Vespers in some fashion, but not necessarily at sunset itself. Sunset seemed to be a very natural reminder to pray, to remember God and our Franciscan family. How Franciscan to actually get back in touch with the rhythms of the Earth: sunrise, sunset (indeed, the roots of the Office go back to these natural rhythms). "Praise be to you, O Lord, for our Sister, the Sunset, who gently guides Brother Sun to his rest and prepares the way for our Sister Moon."

We all have our own favorite ways of praying outside the Office: meditating on the works of the Lord in Creation, quietly fingering our Rosary beads, sitting in the silence of Centering Prayer. Let us all agree that at sunset, we shall become mindful of the Presence of our God, and mindful of our connectedness to all of God's Creatures, particularly our Franciscan family. Let us take a few seconds to pause, to recenter, to remember. A short Hail Mary, repetition of the Name of Jesus, a few silent breaths. "Be still, and know that I am God."

by Edward L. Shirley, SFO, PhD in Theology
Professor St. Edward's University, Austin, TX



FRANCISCAN MISSION SERVICE:

A Well-Kept Secret



How many Secular Franciscans, friars or sisters know about a national office which sponsors lay women and men in Franciscan missions overseas?

For four years the Washington, D. C. based Franciscan Mission Service has screened, prepared, placed and supported Catholic laity in the order's missions as far-flung as Siberia, Zambia, the Philippines and South Africa. The missionaries teach, run cooperatives, engage in jail ministry, work with refugees. They are LAY MISSIONERS. They carry laypersons' skills and lay spirituality to the Franciscan world abroad.

Today fifteen FMS missionaries serve in six countries, bringing to thirty-one the number sent out since 1990. At present six candidates are going through twelve weeks of training in Washington prior to their November departure to Zambia, Guatemala and Bolivia.

Where do these modern missionaries come from? A few are Secular Franciscans though not nearly as many as we would like. Others hear about FMS from returned missionaries while many find out about this program in the useful little directory of volunteer opportunities called "Connections" (St. Vincent Pallotti Center, Washington). Missioners range in age from mid-twenties to late forties. Most are from the U.S.; one couple hails from Canada.

A fascinating dimension of Franciscan Mission Service will unfold as the first missionaries return from their three years

overseas. After a ten-day reentry program, they will return to their families, cities and parishes to take up life in the U.S. once again. What they will do with the incredible experiences of the past three years is anybody's guess. The board and staff at FMS are convinced that they will make a significant impact on society and church here at home. There is less assurance that U.S. society and church are ready for these dynamic men and women with their newly acquired view of American culture.

One dream of the national staff involves Secular Franciscans. It would be most appropriate to draw the mission vocations mainly from SFO brothers and sisters. To do this Franciscan Mission Service must cease to be a well-kept secret in the various branches of the Franciscan family. Spread the word!

*by Joe Nangle, OFM
Franciscan Mission Service
Executive Director
P. O. Box 29034
Washington, D.C. 20017
FAX 202/832-1778*

St. Anthony Messenger (continued from p.3)
of TV stations. AudioSPOTS reached millions on radio. Various branches of the Franciscan family supported the SPOTS and Teleketics with personnel and money.

Franciscan Communications and St. Anthony Messenger Press, Father Harington notes, "have been motivated by St. Francis of Assisi who said in the 13th century: 'For what are God's servants but minstrels, who must inspire the hearts of people and stir them to spiritual joy.'"

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

January 15, 1995

Send copy to:

**Patti Normile, SFO, Editor
The National Newsletter
609 Amherst Avenue
Terrace Park, Ohio 45174**

ELECTRONIC FRANCISCANS

from articles by Jim McIntosh, SFO (jim@american.edu)

Our fraternity has made great strides in creating a Franciscan presence on the Internet--the global collection of computers and networks which forms the basis for the "Information Super-highway."

Among resources available are Franciscan files including an introduction to the SFO, Rules, Constitutions, selected writings of St. Francis and an electronic "mailing list" for the discussion of Franciscan topics. The list is simply an electronic address (*ASSISI-L@american.edu*) to which people can send electronic mail (*e-mail*). Copies of e-mail sent to that address go to those on the list.

The list is open to anyone who has a computer and modem and subscribes to an on-line service such as CompuServe, America On-Line or Peacenet from which they can send e-mail to Internet. To subscribe, send a piece of e-mail to *listserv@american.edu* and in the body of that e-mail have as the only line:

SUBSCRIBE ASSISI-L *Your Name*

You can request that a copy of Franciscan files be sent to you through e-mail or obtain the files yourself if you have direct access to Internet.

If you have a program called *gopher*, point it to *auvm.american.edu*. If you have *ftp*, you can transfer the files from *ftp.american.edu*.

A report written for Richard Morton, SFO, National Minister, discussing computer networking options for the SFO has been reprinted by Franciscans International--the Franciscan NGO at the United Nations--and sent to the OFM Curia in Rome.

HOW TO DO IT

To subscribe to the special electronic mailing list set up to discuss how Franciscans might better use computer networking, send the command:

SUBSCRIBE FRNET-L Your Name

as the first and only line on an e-mail message to *listserv@american.edu*.

Electronic copies of the directory of Franciscans available through the Internet e-mail can be obtained over the Internet through *ftp* from *ftp.american.edu* or by sending the command:

GET FRANCIS.DIRECT

as the first and only line in an e-mail message to *listserv@american.edu*. (To have your name and e-mail address added to the directory, follow the instructions at the end of the directory.)

Copies of the report on Franciscan Computer Networking are available by sending two dollars to:

Fr. Mike Surufka, OFM
Franciscans International
151 Thompson Street
New York, NY 10012

or

Jim McIntosh, SFO
420 Seventh Street, NW #1009
Washington, D. C. 20004-2215

or electronically by sending e-mail over the Internet to *jim@american.edu*.



Evangelization 2000

Fraternity Ministers, please duplicate this article and distribute to your fraternity. Ask them to consider it and write their views to elected officials. Informed members consider U.S. Bishops Public Policy interests and their impact on Social Justice and Family Life.

Mary C. Lahiff, Evangelization 2000 Chairperson

This is being written as the 103rd Congress is winding down to go home to campaign for the November election. Congress may reconvene in a lame duck session after Thanksgiving to implement GATT, the global trade accord. Powerful interests and popular fears were at work in undermining the common good in debates on health care, the crime bill, welfare reform and a number of others. The U.S. Catholic Conference congratulates Catholic dioceses on their efforts on health care reform which resulted in an unprecedented mobilization of the Catholic community. At least two-thirds of U.S. dioceses were active on this issue. I hope that members of our fraternities joined this effort.

1995 Priority Issues

HEALTH CARE REFORM is scheduled at the top of the agenda of the new Congress in January. Quite likely some bipartisan coalition in the Senate and House will draft a health reform bill which addresses only those items for which there is consensus support. All current "bipartisan" discussions fail to exclude abortion from the standard benefits package. Without specific exclusion we can presume that abortion will be included under the heading of "medical necessity or appropriateness." No proposal would actually move toward universal coverage. The proposals would encourage younger, healthier Americans to put off buying coverage until they become seriously ill. As a result, the population with coverage would become on average older and less healthy. Insurance rates, averaged across this population would go up, making coverage less rather than more affordable for millions of Americans. Employers would be faced with higher premiums. As a result, many would drop or reduce coverage for employees.

We must continue to advocate the exclusion of abortion coverage for universal coverage. Contact representatives while they are home during the break. Make your views known.

WELFARE REFORM's reshaping should not only strengthen the economy but should nurture and sustain human dignity. Welfare Reform should not be financed on the backs of the poor and vulnerable. Child exclusion/family cap, arbitrary time limit and inadequate resources show the failure of current proposals to address the broader social, economic and moral forces which undermine individuals and families.

FOREIGN AID REFORM: The primary area for improvement is human rights conditioning for all forms of military assistance.

ANTI-HUNGER, FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS: Before adjourning for the August recess, the House and Senate passed the 1995 agriculture appropriations bill including the Women, Infants and Children supplemental food program and the Farmers Market Nutrition program which assures fruits and vegetables. The 1995 appropriation keeps WIC on course for 1996. It includes the 1995 appropriation for Food Stamps, the largest, most widely used food assistance program.

I suggest that fraternities appoint a fraternity member interested in public policy and the Gospel impact on it to get information from in the National Newsletter to members. The purpose is to prevent something contrary to Gospel principles from being enacted into law. Our duty is to be alert so that we are not a part of society which ignores the common good and focuses on selfish desires.

The Holy Father has chosen "Woman: Educator for Peace" the 1995 World Day of Prayer for Peace message. World Day of Peace is commemorated each year with a Mass at St. Peter's Basilica.

THOUGHTS FOR THE SHOWER

Colourless Christians

Great deal of our Christianity is colourless, and a great many of our alleged Christians are colourless... Religion is for so many a colourless thing, a thing of negatives... Would that there were more Christians who gave the appearance of really enjoying themselves.

"Christians who are really remembered, and the kind of Christians who really attracted men and women into the faith, were the laughing cavaliers of Christ like Francis of Assisi, who lives in a world in which God had made all things well, and in which a man could not help singing for joy. Let Christians stop being colourless and start being colourful, so that [all] may see again the sheer radiance of the Christian faith."

by William Barclay via Rev. Felix Lorenz, Jr. and
The Joyful Noiseletter



Or travel to Portugal and Spain. Five Franciscan Martyrs Regional Fraternity is organizing a pilgrimage to the lands from which Christopher Columbus sailed-- Spain & Portugal.

Spiritual Assistant, Tom Murphy, OFM will conduct.

For dates and cost contact:

Pam Nagle, SFO

9200 Park Blvd. #206

Seminole, FL 34647-8760

!! ANGER !!

There is so much Anger in the world today. Anger is like a fire that burns brightly and destroys everyone in its path. We Franciscans must remember to pray for those who are frequented with the Demon called Anger. It can lead to murder. It can destroy families. The only cure is prayer which brings peace. We have heard the song's refrain, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me." We must not allow the Demon of Anger to jump from person to person. We must become peaceful and gentle. How do we do that when an angry man or woman is screaming in our face?

A holy priest once shared his method of avoiding anger. First, he would try to flee, but if escape was impossible, he would passively stand nodding in a sympathetic way, thinking thoughts of love while the person shouted at him. He found peace many times. The secret he thought was to remain calm and sympathetic. Never escalate and remember one never needs to defend the truth.

by Ken Milner, SFO in "The Visitor"

How about a pilgrimage?

FRANCISCAN PILGRIMAGES

Go to Assisi on a pilgrimage with special SECULAR FRANCISCAN focus.

March 23 - April 3, 1995

Assisi, Rome, La Verna, Greccio/Rieti

For information on this and other pilgrimages contact:

Fr. Roch Niemer, OFM

Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs

1648 S. 37th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53215-1724



A READING LIST

We received requests to print a reading list of materials of interest to Franciscan readers. The following is gleaned from SFO newsletters received from around the country. Most are about Franciscan matters. Some written by Secular Franciscans. Please send any suggestions you have to the Editor.

BOOKS:

The Assisi Underground, Alexander Ramati, 1978. Assisi during World War II was a town with its life on the line. Led by a parish priest, the town defied the German army to save strangers.

(The following list of books about Clare was published in Franciscan Mustard Seed, 8/93)

The First Franciscan, Margaret Carney, OSF, Franciscan Press, Quincy, IL 62301. "Clare as a threshold figure among medieval women of the Spirit."

Clare of Assisi: A Biographical Study, Ingrid Peterson, OSF, Franciscan Press. Clare's lifelong formation.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT CLARE

Ramona Miller, OSF, Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure, NY 14778. "The sacred places of Clare."

CLARE OF ASSISI: LIGHT FOR THE WAY, Mother Bentivoglio Federation, c/o Helen Weier, OSC, 8650 Russell Av., S. Minneapolis, MN 55431. History of Poor Clares, how Clare was perceived by contemporaries.

GUIDELINES FOR THE STUDY OF ST.

CLARE, Roberta McKelvie, OSF, & Helen Budzik, OSF, Franciscan Federation, PO Box 29080, Washington, DC. "based on the needs of all who want to meet Clare on the level of their everyday experience."

CLARE CENTENARY SERIES, Mary Francis Hone, OSC editor, 8 volumes available from Franciscan Institute.

CLARE, A LIGHT IN THE GARDEN,

Murray Bodo, OFM, St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1615 Republic St., Cincinnati, OH 45210. Revised. "Inspirational account of Clare's spiritual journey."

CLARE OF ASSISI, A WOMAN FOR ALL TIMES, Elizabeth Dreyer, PhD, Regis Armstrong, OFM Cap, Mary Francis Hone, OSC, "blend of scholarly research and refreshing insight and wisdom." St. Anthony Messenger Press.

MAGAZINES & NEWSLETTERS:

SFO INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN \$10/qu

Bollettino CIOFS

Via Pomponia Grecina 31

00145 Roma, Italia

LETTER FROM ROME TO ASSISTANTS \$10

Ufficio Dell OFS

Via S. Maria Mediatiece 25

NATIONAL FORMATION NEWSLETTER \$5

Carlson's

P. O. Box 364

Lindsborg, KS 57456-0364

THE CORD \$15/11 issues

The Franciscan Institute

St. Bonaventure, NY 14778

THE ANTHONIAN \$10/quarterly

St. Anthony's Guild

P. O. Box 2948

Paterson, NJ 07509-2948

ST. ANTHONY MESSENGER \$16 monthly

1615 Republic St.

Cincinnati, Ohio 45210-9989

SECULAR FRANCISCAN COMMUNICATION

3310 Biscayne Blvd.

\$5/bi mo.

Arnold, MO 63010-4040

BOOKS BY SECULAR FRANCISCANS:

WARRIOR'S CHILDREN, Trisha Arms, SFO. Addresses Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), disorder contracted by Viet Nam veterans and rape victims. This is a children's book to give hope to children whose parents are affected by PTSD. Published by Pacific Center of PTSD, Honolulu, HA.

VISITING THE SICK: A Guide for Parish Ministers, Patti Normile, SFO. St. Anthony Messenger Press.

NATIONAL ASSISTANTS PLAN FOR LAY SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS

In August the four national spiritual assistance for the SFO in the United States drafted a plan to prepare laity to be spiritual assistants for SFO fraternities. The plan was pursued by provincial/regional spiritual assistants at their September meeting. The proposal will be reviewed by the Conference of General Spiritual Assistants in Rome. It addresses concerns regarding the shortage of Franciscan friars and Franciscan women religious to assist lay members.

To qualify to provide pastoral care and spiritual guidance to Secular Franciscans, the lay person must: 1) be a professed Secular Franciscan; 2) have a degree in theology or diocesan certification as a lay minister or equivalent experience in Franciscan spirituality; 3) have participated in a proposed national course on spiritual assistance; and 4) receive a series of recommendations. Qualified Secular Franciscans would be listed on a national register of candidates available for appointment by the friars' major provincial superiors.

Two new national spiritual assistants were appointed by the national conferences of friar provincial ministers of their respective orders: Fr. Fabian Sheganoski, TOR, will replace Fr. Adalbert Wolski, TOR; Fr. Michael Suszynski, OFMConv, replaces Fr. Steve Gross, OFMConv. Each will serve a 3-year term with possible appointment for 3 additional terms.

The Conference of National Spiritual Assistants finalized texts of guidelines for establishing new SFO fraternities and for re-activating, de-activating and suspending existing fraternities. Also discussed were new international statutes on spiritual assistance from Rome; new job descriptions for spiritual assistants on provincial/regional and local levels; and expectations of lay leaders around the country for spiritual assistants.

National assistants celebrated the Feast of the Portiuncula with Minneapolis Poor Clares. They met artist Mark Balma who produced frescoes of the seven virtues of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. He will create a fresco of St. Clare in her basilica in Assisi.

from Benet Fonck, OFM., Executive Secretary of CSNA

We, as Secular Franciscans, must be Triple E people of God:
Ecclesial - loyal to our Church,
Evangelical - living the Gospel, always, and
Eucharistic - thankful people, always.

("The Troubadour" on a talk by Fr. Donan Paskey)

NETWORKING EVANGELIZATION

"All authority is given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teach them to observe all of the commands I gave you and know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time."

(Matthew 28:18)

Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone "who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself" let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service. (Rule 14)

The harvest is ready, the laborers are few.

Will you come with me into the fields?

I would like to establish a "Network for Evangelization." Through networking the possibilities for spreading evangelization, proclaiming the Gospel multiply--newsletters, magazines, workshops, instruction in evangelizing one-on-one are great potentials. I invite you to share your ideas on "Networking Evangelization."

by Sandra McConnell, SFO (address-p.14)

National Meeting (continued from p. 1)

Eleven new regions were given full status bringing the total number to 22. Full regionalization is expected in the U.S. by 1996. Business discussion included: Franciscans' computer communication on Internet; Leadership Handbook available through Carlson's Printing (address on back page); \$10,000 donation from Sacred Heart Province, \$5000 of which will be spent on books/materials to share with other English-speaking countries; concern for multi-cultural and handicapped brothers and sisters; Commission and Franciscans International reports.

All who attended left with memories of inspirational words by Emanuela De Nunzio OFS and Fr. Ben Brevoort OFMCap; outstanding liturgies and homilies; the paddlewheel boat ride to see fall foliage; the clambake and wonderful meals; the early morning walk to the river with ecology chairman, Charlie Spencer; the joy of praying the office together; and other wonderful recollections.

by Diane Halal, SFO

From the Editor:

Ed Shirley's "Sunset Remembrance" (p.4) happened in our family last week. We celebrated my Mom's birthday in a cabin overlooking a lake at a state park. As we finished dinner on the screened porch, the sun set drenched the lake and autumn trees with a deluge of gold and purple and aqua light. We sat in awe at the wonder of God's creation. Then our son (who is not known to burst into song like Gene Kelly in "Singing in the Rain") began to sing softly, "...when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made." We joined in to praise God for sunsets, for Mom--"How Great Thou Art!" It was a hallowed moment.



"Sunset Remembrance" challenges us to make such praise not the unusual happening of our day but an ongoing hymn of praise spoken in the quiet of our hearts or in a prayer spoken aloud each time we are reminded to respond to God's goodness. We might be reminded by the ringing of a bell, the song of a bird, or the laughter of a child. Sunrise and sunset are bookends of each day providing us with heaven sent opportunities for praise. Even when we cannot see these daily events due to clouds or other hindrances, we know the sun does rise and set just as we know God is present even when we cannot see evidence at the moment.

We might ask our parishes to ring church bells that may be silent morning, noon and night. An item in the parish bulletin may encourage others to adopt praise at the sound of the bell or at sunrise or sunset. A letter to the editor of your local paper may touch another to respond to the bells or the sunrise or sunset in praise. Our world needs reminders to recenter on the Lord.

Peace and praise be yours.

The 1-800-FRANCIS telephone is operational. Please remember that this number is for prospective members and not for business with the National Minister.

(National Minister *continued from p.2*)

Cathy Miltz, Ron Pihokker, Edward and Mary Zablocki were part of the Secular Franciscan representation at the conference. The purpose of the gathering was to update the BWLS program and emphasize Secular Franciscan spirituality and the role of women in the Franciscan family.

Jim McIntosh, Washington, D.C. has written a handbook "Franciscan Computing Network." The handbook is being circulated internationally and will result in networking the entire Franciscan family on a world-wide basis through Internet.

Charles Spencer, Ecology Commission Chairman, will participate in an all-Franciscan family conference on ecology and feminism sponsored by the North American Council of Justice & Peace & Integrity of Creation. He will be one of 6 representatives from North America and the only secular.

Franciscans International is a Franciscan family endeavor worthy of support. Annetta Duveen has been acting liaison for many years. We need more secular support of Franciscans International at local levels as well as around New York City.

Unfortunately, Franciscans Network recently decided to dissolve as an organization when debts are paid. Franciscans Network was a noble experiment that failed to receive grass roots support throughout the entire Franciscan family. Perhaps it was an idea ahead of its time.

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANCE: With regionalization progressing smoothly, conferences of spiritual assistants on the regional level have been organizing. It is a good sign that the friars will continue to provide a high level of spiritual assistance to the SFO.

The Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA) conducted a workshop for spiritual assistants in September in St. Louis. Approximately 40 participated including 3 seculars: Jerry Rome, Bill Wicks and myself. (See "National Assistants, page 11.)

by Richard Morton, National Minister

Letters from you:

This is a great newsletter and it is so good to keep up with national news on the Franciscan scene and to be updated on issues important to us. Keep up the good work!



Sincerely yours in Francis and Clare,
Barbara Barnett, SFO

I am very happy to see the Newsletter back in print. I've enjoyed reading it very much and I pray for its continued success in years to come. [Enclosed from the old Tertiary's Companion is] a prayer that we prayed at every monthly meeting.

"I hereby resolve to observe the sanctifying Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order not only in part, but as fully as human frailty will allow; so as to work...for the spiritual and temporal welfare of all peoples.

"I will participate in Holy Mass and Communion as much as possible as well as the Divine Office of the Church, and examine my conscience each night.

"I will humbly receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a month, regularly attend the fraternity meetings and contribute as I can with my time, talent and treasure to the charities of our Franciscan Family and Church.

"I will carefully observe the commandments of God, strive to go from Gospel to life, and life to Gospel, honorably wear the Tau cross of our Order and to care for the sick and disadvantaged of the world.

"This I resolve through the help of the Virgin Mary and St. Francis, by the grace of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen"

Fraternally, Jeff Majewski, SFO

Was I surprised when I read the summer edition of the National Newsletter. I had worked late and when I arrived home I sat down to read the mail. The National Newsletter was in the pile on the dining room table. I noticed the article titled: SFO Deacon Ordained. The title "Rev. Mr." is commonly given to permanent deacons. However, I feel that title does not accurately reflect the ministry of a deacon in the Catholic

Church In Acts 6:1-7 we are told of the first deacons who were ordained to wait on tables. As a deacon, I view my ministry of the People of God as servant. I have been fortunate enough to serve the SFO in a variety of ways in the past and hope to continue to serve in the future. As your servant I do not feel comfortable with titles, so just call me Larry.

Peace and Good, Larry Herbert.

I receive the National Newsletter and I enjoy every page I read. "Communication is a blessing of God."...Most of us like to know what is going on among us Secular Franciscans. Sincerely, Serafina Sena

++++++

THANKSGIVING

For all your ordinary
Monday morning miracles,
I give thee thanks, O Lord, my God.



For children's laughter, gladdening my heart,
for the steadfast love and loyalty of dogs,
for friendship, true and constant through the years,
for selfless volunteers, who stand prepared and proud
to do their part,
for all these things and more, O Lord,
I give thee thanks and praise.

For watermelon pickles, cool and sweet and tart,
for wild geese in flight across a blue October sky,
for your Rocky Mountain's grand, eternal presence,
and the fecund bounty of your sprawling plains,
for all these things and more, O Lord,
I give thee thanks and praise.

For life itself, the sweetest gift of all
(made dearer by expending it in service),
and for Your sacrifice to save me from
eternal death and raise me to Your side,
I take this day (and every day)
to give Thee thanks and praise,
O Lord, my God.

by John M. Petric, SFO, St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity
(from The Secular FOCUS)

HAPPENINGS

SFO NETWORKING CORNER

Below are names and addresses of Seculars interested in networking with other Seculars of similar interests. If you wish to meet and correspond with Seculars in your field of interest, share ideas, techniques, creativity, here is your chance. With courtesy and love, doors can open to new and rewarding friendships. Give it a try! If you wish to be listed, send your name, address and interest/profession, etc. to:

Mrs. Mary K Mazotti, SFO Networking
P. O. Box 2571
Arnold, CA 95223-2571

Names will be printed once. Save lists.

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Sterling, CO 80751
(continued on next page)



SECULAR FRANCISCAN RETREAT

MARCH 3-5, 1995
directed by Greg Friedman, OFM,
FRIARHURST RETREAT CENTER
8136 Wooster Rd.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45227
513/561-2270 Cost \$65

The Lampstand



"You do not light a lamp and put it under a bushel basket. You set it on a stand where it gives light to all the house. In the same way your light must shine before others so they may see your goodness and give praise to your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:15-16)

Cathy Miltz, former SFO Provincial Minister and an organizer of the 1992 Quinquennial Congress in Dayton, Ohio, was honored on August 15, by Friars of the First Order. In a ceremony at St. Francis Center for Peace and Renewal in Cincinnati, Cathy was made an affiliate of the First Order of St. Francis. A reception and dinner followed for friars and other friends.

Cathy's activities with the Secular Franciscans and her devotion to the friars in the Cincinnati area prompted the OFM Provincial Board of St. John the Baptist to submit her name for affiliation to the Franciscan Curia in Rome. The petition was approved on June 27 and Cathy became a sister in the First Order of St. Francis.

Cathy also serves as full-time provincial nurse for friars in the Cincinnati area. Congratulations, Cathy! You are truly a light for all to see.

Editor's Note: Marie Amore suggested the "The Lampstand" as a way to tell the stories of Secular Franciscans who live Gospel to life and life to the Gospel. Tell about a Secular you know. Send articles to: Patti Normile, Newsletter Editor, 609 Amherst Ave., Terrace Park, OH 45174.

(continued from p. 14)

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

PEN PALS

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Chicago, IL 60610

Franciscan Family Apostolate

Interested in supporting a family in India through the Franciscan Family Apostolate?

Receive information by returning the following to: Alan Ouimet, SFO

Franciscan Family Apostolate

303 Church Street

Guilford, Ct. 06437

Dear Alan: Please send me information on joining the Franciscan Family Apostolate.

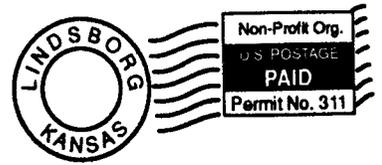
Name _____

Fraternity _____

Address _____

Experience the celebration of the Transitus at St. Francis Center for Peace & Renewal. Order a tape of this year's celebration for \$5 from Fr. Noel William, OFM, 10290 Mill Rd., Cinti., OH 45231.

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Secular Franciscan Order
c/o Dolores Smelko, SFO
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