

FROM MY CORNER OF THE WORLD

ANNE MULQUEEN, SFO

INTERNATIONAL COUNCILOR, USA

Amulqueen.icusa@gmail.com



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Lord give you peace.

In this letter I want to focus primarily on one topic—Franciscan youth.

If you visit the *Youfra* website: www.ciofs.org/youfra.htm you will see **this** definition of who they are:

WHO ARE WE?

- We are Franciscan Youth. • We are young. • We feel attracted by St. Francis of Assisi.
- We try to share the experience of Christian life in Fraternity.
- We deepen our vocation within the context of the Secular Franciscan Order.
- We have our own specific organization, YOUFRA. • We are present in many countries.

First, I must admit, I am not an authority on youth, nor do I have all the answers on how to attract young people to form fraternity. What I do know is that the charism of our founder is just what spirit-filled, optimistic young people need and are looking for.

As I begin to write about this Third Priority of the International Fraternity, I feel inadequate and a bit overwhelmed. Those who work with youth know the difficulties encountered establishing youth initiatives in the United States better than I do.

What I want to do is start a dialogue and gather the wisdom of the SFO body. You may remember, in my last letter I set up an email address so that you could write to me:

Amulqueen.icusa@gmail.com

The obligation to involve and assist young people in the Franciscan family was voted the third priority during the Int'l. Chapter in 2008. Since her election as Youfra Presidency Councilor, Ana Fruk, has established a council to help her with this enormous task. That council consists of youth representatives from various geographical areas of the world, a fraternal animator and a general spiritual assistant. The representative for North America is Ana Catarina Santos.

The regional ministers were contacted recently about what is being done throughout the USA in regard to youth. Now I am asking you, as individual Secular Franciscans, to let us know your thoughts and how you are working with youth.

TAU-USA space is limited, and I know I can't present all the information and issues in the space allotted; therefore, I will use bullets to start a discussion on what we might do to fulfill our responsibility to youth. I believe we must be creative and, perhaps, think *outside of the box*.

- Working with youth is **not an option**. It is an article of our Rule. *Article 24* states: "... the council should organize ... meetings with other Franciscan groups, especially with youth groups."
- We need to **pray** that the Lord of the Harvest will show us the way to fulfill this priority and follow our Rule.
- We need to be aware that the CIOFS Youfra website has many **resources** to help us start the process and develop initiatives.
- We need to acknowledge that what may be successful in other parts of the world may not be the way to approach American youth.
- We need creative initiatives to attract young people who are drawn by the Holy Spirit to the Franciscan charism.
- We need Secular Franciscans who are called by the Spirit and have the gifts to work with youth.
- Finally, if you feel called to work with youth or young adults, test the call in prayer, and then if you still feel led to this ministry, gather some like-minded Secular Franciscans to support and work with you.

Now for a little information about what's on the horizon for youth in the coming year.



The Twenty-sixth World Youth Day ("WJD") will be held in August 2011, in Madrid, Spain.

The theme will be "Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith" (cf. Col 2:7).

The International Commission of the Franciscan Family and the Commission of the Franciscan Family of Spain will set up a "Franciscan Village" so that our family will be able to celebrate this event together.

This "Village" will be active and used from August 16-19, 2011, in a space around the Church of San Francisco el Grande. World Youth Day ends on Sunday, August 21, 2011, with 9:00AM Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI.

Specific programs for all WYD participants will be available. You might call the "Village" a universal fraternity. Among the activities will be concerts, performances, testimonies (*The Festival of Joy*), Franciscan prayer, catechesis and Eucharist, plus participation is all the major events of World Youth Day.

So much more to say, but I will save it for next time. I look forward to hearing from you. And until we correspond again, I send fraternal affection to each of you.

Peace and all good,
your sister

Anne

SAVE Quinquennial XVIII July 3-8, 2012 Chicago, IL July 3-8, 2012 Chicago, IL

THEME: WHY FRANCIS? CLAIM THE GIFT!

The SFO of the United States will be gathering to explore the gift of our vocation as Secular Franciscans, and to discern as a family how we are to fulfill this vocation today. Each day has a sub theme:

Day 1: Who are You, O Lord?

An exploration of the Franciscan view of God.

Day 2: And what am I? The human person in God's design, our relationship with God.

Day 3: Who are we?

A review and revelation of the history of the Franciscan Family and the SFO's place in it.

Day 4: Discerning the Call of the SFO today.

WE ARE PRIVILEGED to have **Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF**, and **Brother Bill Short, OFM**, as our featured speakers, as well as our own **Ed Shirley, SFO**, and **Pat Brandwein-Ball, SFO**.

We encourage every fraternity to send at least one person to participate (*which means starting planning now*). It's also our intention that people who have to stay at home will still be able to participate by means of the Internet. More details later. Actual costs for the Q have not been determined.

Quinquennial Logo Contest

We are asking for submissions for a possible logo for the Quinquennial. It will be used to promote the Q.

The winning logo will find it's place on materials and mementos of the occasion (T-shirts, bags, etc).

LOGO THEME: It should reflect the joy in responding wholeheartedly to God's call to us through our vocation as Secular Franciscans, as a body. The winning design will entitle its creator to registration fees for the "Q" (including the meal plan).

DEADLINE:

Send submissions to one (or both) of the Co-Chairs below by May 1, 2011. (E-mail submissions are fine, or hard copies if necessary).

Clare McCluggage, SFO and
Patrick Mendes, SFO
Quinquennial 2012
Planning Committee Co-Chairs

Clare McCluggage SFO
10407 NE 70th Ct.
Vancouver, WA 98686
claresfo@comcast.net

Patrick Mendes, SFO
pmendessfo@gmail.com