

Regional Roundup

Please send Regional News to Frances Wicks, SFO, Editor.

Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha Region

SFO Receives Anti-Racism-Diversity Award

Mary Stronach, SFO, of Marcy, NY, was honored in April by the YWCA of Syracuse and Onondaga County for opposing racism with a spirit of “peace, justice, freedom and dignity,” and was inducted into the YWCA’s Academy of Diversity Achievers. Mary is JPIC chair for Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha Region, formation director for St. Joseph Fraternity in Utica, PR co-chair for the National Fraternity, and an Italian and Spanish translator for CIOFS.

St. Maximilian Kolbe Region



L to R: Fr. Bob Sieg, OFM, Kathryn Robankowski, SFO, Carol Jeanne Phillips, SFO, and Fr. Bill Bouhall, Pastor of St. Thomas More Church

Kathryn Robankowski, SFO, and Carol Jeanne Phillips, SFO, are two newly professed members of St. Francis Fraternity. “We are especially proud since this was our first profession in many years,” writes Marcella Bina, SFO. “Our fraternity was established in 1868, at St. Joseph (Franciscan) Church in Cleveland, OH. At one time the membership numbered over 1,000. However, one hundred plus years of building progress in the area forced St. Joseph Church to close and the fraternity moved three times. Currently, the fraternity is gathering monthly in the chapel of the OFM friary of Sacred Heart Province in Cleveland. With the support of the friars and St. Thomas More Parish, which is adjacent to the friary, our small SFO group can come together and grow once again as a vibrant Franciscan family.”

Juan de Padilla Region



Members of Little Portion Fraternity are shown: front row, left to right: Marie Easton, Edith Bunch, Marty Barnett, Gloria Lafferty, Dinora Reyes, John Witosky. Back row: Bucky Rodkin, Mary Mead, Steve Lafferty, Janice Keeley, Mark Keeley. Not pictured is Dee Hrankaj, who is now Spiritual Assistant for Little Portion Fraternity.

The canonical establishment of Little Portion Fraternity, in St. Brigid Church in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, was celebrated on April 18, 2009. It all started when Edith Bunch moved to Cookson, Oklahoma, from New Mexico, where she had begun her Secular Franciscan formation. She contacted Sts. Stanislaus/Adalbert in Broken Arrow and professed in 2001. She eventually recruited several people in Tahlequah, who in turn recruited people in Little Rock and Fort Smith, Arkansas. The first ones from Tahlequah to profess there (2003) were Marie Easton, Marty Barnett, Mark Keeley, Janice Keeley, and Mary Mead. Father Felix Petrovsky, OFM Cap., Regional Spiritual Assistant, had celebrated their profession. Ann Marie Neuok and Dee Hrankaj (respectively Minister and Formation Director from Sts. Stanislaus/Adalbert) traveled over 70 miles one way each month to provide formation. Four times a year they drove even further to Fort Smith, Arkansas, to provide formation to those located there, and the ones from Little Rock drove to Fort Smith so that all could benefit together from the formation and gathering there.

Frank Carpinelli, Regional Minister, reports that the region has three more emerging fraternities, with one more being established in the very near future.

Santa María de las Montañas Region

Phoebe Eaton, SFO, former regional minister, went to be with the Lord on February 4, after spending many years in a nursing home. Her funeral Mass took place in Holy Family Church in Pueblo, CO.

Franciscans of the Prairie Region
**Ordination of Secular Franciscan,
 Ron Hilt, into the Byzantine Rite**



Pictured are from left to right, Fr. Benet Fonck, OFM (Sacred Heart Province), Ronald Hilt, SFO, his mother Martha Hilt, SFO, Fr. Jeffrey Holtman, OFM (Sacred Heart Province)

Ronald H. Hilt, Jr., SFO – member of Our Lady of Angels Fraternity in Edwardsville, Illinois, and former sacristan and social worker at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in St. Louis, Missouri - was ordained a priest for the Romanian Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of St. George (whose cathedral is in Canton, Ohio) on June 28, 2009, by the hand of his bishop, the Most Reverend John Michael Botean, D.D.

His ordination took place at St. Basil Church in Trenton, New Jersey, during the Divine Liturgy marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of that parish and the conclusion of the eparchy’s annual convocation.

It was appropriate that the ceremonies happened at St. Basil’s for two reasons: the eparchy’s very first vocation to the priesthood, many years ago, came from that parish; and, after having celebrated all the other sacraments in that parish over 100 years, it was time for an ordination to the priesthood.

Father Ron served his Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving there on Sunday, July 12, 2009, where he is assigned as the associate pastor.

Present were the parishioners, his family (including his mother Martha Hilt SFO), and a representation of the total Franciscan Family (two friars, a Poor Clare, three Franciscan Third Order Religious, and five Secular Franciscans).

For about eight years before his priestly ordination, Father Ron has been associated with St. George’s Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church in Aurora, Illinois, first as catechist, then as reader and subdeacon, and finally as deacon for over three years.

Father Ron, 38, actively began his preparation for priesthood about 15 years ago. His theological studies were done at Aquinas Institute in St. Louis, with a special emphasis on the Byzantine Liturgy and the Eastern Fathers of the Church. Fr. Benet Fonck, OFM, served as his academic mentor, spiritual advisor, and liaison with the bishop for his formation while he was also spiritual assistant for Our Lady of Angels Fraternity.

Father Ron is also a theology teacher at Aurora Central Catholic High School.

St. Francis Region

St. Louis the King Fraternity celebrated 125 years of establishment recently. Their fraternity was the first on the West Coast. Members held their first meeting on May 18, 1884. During the decade of the founding of the fraternity, 1880 to 1890 these things occurred: The first motion picture was made; The first skyscraper, a ten story building of all metal frame, was completed; His Holiness Pope Leo XIII issued the Encyclical “Auspicato” ardently commending the Venerable Third Order be propagated and fostered; the bacteria causing TB was discovered; Jesse James was shot by a member of his own gang; The first Andrew Carnegie library opened; The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn was published; Ramona, revealing the plight of American Indians was published; And the Statue of Liberty was given to President Grover Cleveland by France. Canticle, Newsletter of St. Louis the King Fraternity.

Sylvia Paoli, Regional Minister, and her husband, Peter, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 6, 2009 at St. Gregory the Great Church in Whittier, CA with family and friends, including many Secular Franciscans, who participated in the Mass and helped with the reception. Mass was followed by a reception attended by 100 people.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region
Election Results:
 Minister: Jacquelyn Walsh, SFO, Minister
 Miriam Kennedy, SFO, Vice Minister
 Susan Ronan, SFO, Secretary
 Patricia Gagnon, SFO, Treasurer:
 Councilors: Sarah Anderson, SFO, District 1
 Ray Raboin, SFO, District 2
 Joe Makley, SFO, District 3
 Roselle Neely, SFO, District 4
 David Amara, SFO, District 5
 John Sheridan, SFO, District 6

Five Franciscan Martyrs



Six newly professed members of Holy Spirit Fraternity in Port Richey, FL from left to right are: Brian Brewster, SFO, Marlene De Santis, Peter Zeppero SFO, Kathan Neal, SFO, Michael Maiorano, SFO, and Mary Jo Artura, SFO

At Holy Spirit Fraternity's Day of Recollection on May 2, six new members were professed and three inquirers became candidates. The newly professed are pictured above and the new candidates are pictured below:



Left to right: Rev. Thomas K. Murphy, OFM, Regional Spiritual Assistant, Anita Jo Behan, SFO, Minister of Holy Spirit Fraternity, Peggy Stahlman, SFO, Formation Assistant, and the three new candidates: Stanica Mech, Mary Walsh and Maria Berrios.

In San Damiano Fraternity, Lucas Amato, SFO, from Sun City Center, Florida has written a booklet, Scriptural Meditations for the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Franciscan Crown, Seven Sorrows, and Rosary published by Acta Publications (Greg Pierce is the contact person for the booklet). (See www.actapublications.com).

Luke is also involved in promoting Rosary Rallies. On Saturday, October 10, 2009 at Noon, Rosary Rallies will be held in the Public Square all across the U.S., from

Florida to Alaska, and from Maine to Hawaii. Last year over 3,500 distinct groups, large and small, prayed the rosary publically. It is sponsored by "America Needs Fatima" to commemorate the 92nd Anniversary of Fatima and to pray for our own United States.

He says, "All that is necessary is that one take the initiative to form a small planning group, pick a very public location in their area, invite others and then pray the rosary publically. One easy way to publicize it, although by no means the only way, is to include a notice in one's parish bulletin, if the pastor so permits. For further information call America Needs Fatima on weekdays between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM, toll free at (866) 584-6012 or see www.ANF.org on the web."

Queen of Peace Region

On October 4, the Fraternity of the Sacred Heart in St. Paul, MN will celebrate its 100th Anniversary of canonical establishment with Mass at Sacred Heart Parish followed by a special dinner at Steak House. Special guests will be Richard Morton, SFO, former National Minister (emcee) and Fr. Michael Perry, OFM, Provincial Minister of Sacred Heart Province. Also included in the celebration will be the special occasion of Jim and Sis Hein, SFO, who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, having been married at Sacred Heart Church on September 12, 1959. Jim's mother, Mary Magdalene Moriarty, was professed into the fraternity in 1927. The group is looking forward to another 100 years of prayer, sacrifice and good works.

St. Clare Region

The "Padre Pio Newly Forming Group" in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, continues to thrive. Celeste Obermiller, SFO, their leader and the only professed member, so far, has worked diligently to form this group. They now have six candidates and two inquirers. They continue their initial formation using both "Catch Me A Rainbow, Too" and the SFO Rule with commentary. The Forming Group has a wonderful newsletter and the monthly meeting includes: prayer, music, a "Saint Minute," formation and social time.

Lady Poverty Region

The Interim JPIC Team (Cyl Maljan, Joe Terlesky, Vickie Snyder, Mary Lou Kreider, and Fr. David Moczulski, OFM) have been in the midst of laying the foundation for JPIC in the region. Using the Rule and Constitutions as a foundation, with the guidance of the National Justice, Peace and Integrity team, Lady Poverty Region is developing an Action Plan similar to those of other branches of our Franciscan family.