

# Oh Breath of God, Unite Us in Action

## Continued



### The Holy Spirit unites us in action!

Fraternities from around the country share stories of how the Holy Spirit is uniting them in action to welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, console the sorrowful, help the poor, reach out to the lonely, or care for the earth.

## Faith Award

by Eileen Mantz, OFS

Holy Cross Fraternity presented its first Faith Award to Aaron Brown at Our Lady, Queen of the Americas Church in Conneaut Lake, PA on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Aaron has an impressive list of achievements, many involve volunteer work in the community. He is in the Physician Assistant Program at Gannon Catholic University in Erie Pennsylvania.

Holy Cross Fraternity made the award available to all nine churches in Crawford County and received six applications, all were stellar students which made the selection process difficult and required the entire fraternity's participation. The fraternity prays for Aaron and all students as they spread their wings in the academic world.



Aaron Brown with parents, Robert and Rhonda

## St. Josaphat Fraternity Outreach Programs

by Kurt Keidl, OFS



The brothers and sisters of St. Josaphat Fraternity in Milwaukee, WI volunteer regularly to serve the hungry, poor and homeless at two different free meal program sites twice each month.

Each Christmas our fraternity also assembles 350 birdseed packages. Our **Christmas Birdseed Project** has a three-fold purpose: to continue the venerable tradition of our founder, St. Francis, of feeding the birds on Christmas Day; to give a gift to family, friends, parishioners; to engage in vocation promotion to our Order.



## Faith Award

by Mary McSteen, OFS

St. Clare fraternity, Lady Poverty Region Punxsutawney, PA. Following in the footsteps of Saint Francis, we allow the gospel of Matthew 25:31- 46 to guide our fraternity members in numerous ministries in the parish and the community.

The sharing of our time, love and gifts are always appreciated but it is we who are the recipients of a greater love from those we serve.





# Servants of God Secular Franciscan Fraternity

Canonical Establishment Mass October 21, 2017  
St. Elizabeth Church, Oakland, California



It truly was a beautiful ceremony. The bilingual aspect of the Mass was subtle but very beautiful. Some of the songs and readings were in Chinese, but Father Franklin has always emphasized that we not celebrate their culture and language as something that separates them...instead we should celebrate the commonality that brings us together.

A group of us were visiting at the reception and one of them mentioned "I thought we would just have cookies and tea." One of the Servants of God fraternity members laughed and said, "That is not the Chinese way." They roasted a whole pig and fixed many side dishes. We sat while they graciously served us then invited us to get seconds (and thirds and fourths) because they had so much food.

It was a wonderful event.

Kathleen Molaro, OFS  
St. Junipero Serra Regional Minister

## Establishing a Chinese Fraternity in the United States

by Joana DaRosa, OFS  
Servants of God Fraternity Minister

In recent years the Bay Area has been a popular destination that Asians have chosen to resettle. According to the 2012 Census estimates, the three metropolitan areas with the largest Chinese-American population were:

- \* Greater New York Combined Statistical Area at 735,019 people,
- \* San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland Combined Statistical Area at 629,243 people, and
- \* Greater Los Angeles Combined Statistical Area at about 566,968 people.



In the post-1965 era, 1st and 2nd generation immigrants include those from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan. Ethnic Chinese from Malaysia and Vietnam who might identify themselves as Chinese, are also included in the Chinese-American population. This increased number of brothers and sisters, whether they are Catholic or non-Catholic, creates a great demand for serving their needs both spiritually and socially.

Since our location is centrally located in the Bay Area, Piedmont-Oakland, our Servants of God Fraternity serves brothers and sisters whose mother tongue is Chinese. This is a very important time of sharing for our brothers and sisters, as they feel more comfortable sharing their personal insights with others who have a similar cultural background and who speak the same language.

Through the teaching given by Fr. Franklin Fong, OFM, our Spiritual Assistant, we learn the three "Hs" process. As Franciscans, we learn through the senses in our "head," like seeing and hearing. We integrate the information in our head and we develop compassion and love in our "heart." From there, we take action through our "hands," like going out to serve and letting our light shine before others as the *Servants of God*.

Bishop Joseph Ha, OFM came from Hong Kong for a visit. He knew that our group is the first group in North America and he met with the newly established Servants of God Fraternity. Here he is pictured with Fr. Franklin Fong, OFM.

