



The Holy Father

Pope Benedict, XVI

By Frances Wicks, SFO, Editor



The Pope and his flock

Americans welcomed Pope Benedict with excitement and warmth on his April 16-21, visit to Washington, DC and New York. He, in turn, brought fatherly love and hope to crowds reaching the thousands. His homilies at Masses showed deep understanding of the complexity of life in these times. He spoke with compassion and reconciliation, reaching out to Catholics, who have been hurt or estranged from the Church. We found that peace begets peace, love begets love and hope lies somewhere in-between as the Holy Father offered his hand in peace and blessing to all.

Pope Benedict's homilies and speeches may be found on ZENIT.COM.

Bob Fitzsimmons, SFO, is Appointed National Formation Chair

The new National Formation Commission Chairman is Bob Fitzsimmons, SFO. He and his wife Patty live in Kennewick, WA. They were professed together in 1996, and are members of Holy Trinity Fraternity in Pasco, WA. Bob has served as Fraternity and Regional Formation Commission Chair for many years and has been extremely active in the life of his parish.

When asked about goals as the National Formation Chair, Bob states, "It is my goal to provide Secular Franciscans with a means via DVD presentations to receive practical support for their formation processes, initial and ongoing. These tools will be geared at incorporating and presenting a deliberate focus on both Franciscan Spiritual Tradition/Heritage and the Nature of the SFO. We must step into the 21st century and use existing technology to get the message of Gospel living out and accessible to all our brothers and sisters, not just the few lucky enough to be able to travel to a gathering. I am committed to some form of implementation of a "certified" formation process, since I believe before we need look to certifying local Formation Chairs, we need to establish a solid program along with modern teaching assists, to support their activities.



Bob Fitzsimmons, SFO