



Working With Youth

Cathy Maley, SFO, Secretary
St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity
Oakville, Missouri

In early spring, a group of students from Padua High School in Cleveland, Ohio, journeyed with their chaperone to St. Louis to assist the Friars Minor in their ministry with the Franciscan Connection. They were also assisted by two young Vincentian Lay Volunteers.

The “Connection” ministers to low-income individuals/families in sprucing up their homes/apartments. The students painted, spackled walls, and cleaned. Their exuberance in sacrificial love is truly inspiring! The St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity provided dinner and dessert for them. Brother Donald, OFM, shared a local news video report about the Poor Clares, who live in our area. The SFO’s also shared the meaning of their vocation with the visitors. The Church of the future looks bright in the hands of the young, dedicated to meeting challenges with their faith and witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus in the world.

Please continue to pray for Haiti and the victims of the Earthquake.

As of Tuesday, Mar. 30, 2010, \$15,907 has been donated. Thank you for your generosity. Donations may be sent to Dennis Ross, SFO, National Treasurer. Make checks payable to NAFRA and note **For Haiti Relief** on the comment line.

MAIL CHECK to:
Dennis Ross, SFO
8933 Trailwood Court
Mentor, Ohio 44060-2131

Franciscan Family Apostolate

Submitted by Patricia Nealon, SFO

The Franciscan Family Apostolate was founded by Alan Ouimet, SFO, as response of the Secular Franciscan Order (S.F.O.) to the plight of the poor in the Third World. Following its founder, Saint Francis of Assisi, the poor Christ is found in the faces and lives of the poor and oppressed of the world. The Franciscan Family Apostolate's mission is to encourage a witness to the Gospel life preached by Jesus – the care and concern for the stranger in need regardless of race, color, religion or country of origin.

In 1987 the Franciscan Family Apostolate became an independent 501(c)3 charity upon receipt of its tax exempt status from the IRS with the following stated goals:

1. To alleviate poverty, provide financial support and assistance to needy individuals and families in the Third World through outreach programs and related activities;
2. To develop and implement similar outreach programs in the United States;
3. Lastly, to develop and implement educational programs in Third World countries and in the United States to provide occupational training.

The Franciscan Family Apostolate presently assists over 900 destitute families in the district of Alleppey, Kerala, South India with monthly food subsidies, housing, medical attention and self-development programs. For more information please look at the web site www.openhearts.org.

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The true lover is the one
who on your final day
opens a thousand doors

Rumi