

Regional Roundup

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



Blessed Junipero Serra Region

“The Franciscan family...unites all members of the people of God - laity, religious, and priest, who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi.” Article 1 of the Rule

On September 5, Franciscans in the Region gathered to celebrate the **800th anniversary of the approval of the Franciscan way of life by Pope Innocent II.**

Close to 400 Franciscans from all parts of our family attended: Franciscan Priests, Brothers, Sisters and Seculars; Franciscan Anglican Friars, Sisters, and Seculars; Affiliates; Franciscan Youth; and “Franciscans at heart.”



Bob “Fitz” Fitzsimmons, SFO and Bob Brady, OFM

listen to and act on the Gospels, the more we become in tune with God's will for us.

Bob Fitzsimmons, who currently serves as the Formation Chair for National, opened our day with the question “What is this legacy we follow?” St. Francis asked, “Who are you, oh God? And who am I?” Franciscans are still asking that question, 800 years later. We must live without chasing anything other than God. The more we empty ourselves and



Fr. Kenan Osborne, OFM

Father Kenan Osborne, OFM, theology professor emeritus at Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley remarked that the Rule as seen by St. Francis and St. Clare was **“To observe the Gospel - period.”** He suggested we ask daily, “How can I observe the Gospel today?” To know God intimately, we should spend time reading three important 'books' - the books of Creation, the Gospels, and our Inner Heart. When we do, we will hear God speaking to us.



Sr. Maria Elena Martinez, OSF

Sister Maria Elena Martinez, OSF, a Sister of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, encouraged us to stand firm in our beliefs, with a generous and humble attitude, like St. Clare. Sister reminded us that Jesus reaches through the messiness of our lives into the deep core of who we are, embracing our “not yetness.” We can transform our world by loving others with the same respect.

These are only a few thoughts gleaned from a day full of inspiration. Father Augustine Kim told our Korean brothers and sisters to “Trust in God's love and just go forward like Junipero Serra did.” Gathering our Franciscan family together provided a step in that direction.



Regional Minister Cindy and Jim Wesley, SFO and the choir

Blessed Junipero Serra Region continued:



Blessed Giles of Assisi Fraternity of Twain Harte, CA celebrated its first profession, as an emerging fraternity in Blessed Junipero Serra Region. The profession occurred during the 11:00 AM Mass on Sunday, September 20th.

In the above picture being professed are **Shirley Dodson, SFO** and **Sara Ingalls, SFO**, (who is hidden by Shirley). The others, witnessing the profession are Sharon Gianelli, vice minister, Kathleen Molaro, minister Little Portion Fraternity, Mary Mazotti, spiritual assistant, Chuck Brewer minister, and Fr. Ken Laverone, OFM, celebrant.

The sponsoring fraternity is Little Portion Fraternity in Auburn, CA. At present there are twelve members in Blessed Giles with some inquirers about to be received.

Tau Cross Region

After many years of thinking about a regional picnic, the dream became a reality on Aug. 22nd. Despite a gloomy and dire forecast, the day started with a huge rainbow, and we knew that God was smiling upon us. In fact, the over 56 Franciscans gathered on the Feast of the Queenship of Mary and celebrated the day with nary a drop of rain. The organizers, Frank Harnos, Gene Gurney and Peter D'Amato, started it off with coffee and Dunkin' donuts. Master Griller, Jack Hack took over the brick bar-b-que and grilled the hot dogs and hamburgers to perfection. All the fixin's were there as well as music, soda and salads.

Some joined in for a round of bocce. The children enjoyed the playground. We also thank Fr. Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap., our Regional Spiritual Assistant, and Fr. John Murphy for joining us. Everyone enjoyed the company, as we shared our stories under the covered pavilion. How could we not? When Franciscans come together for fellowship, it is guaranteed to be a good

time! Eight fraternities (New Pentecost, Poor Clares, Bl. Raymond Lull, St. Michaels, Holy Child of Jesus, Bl. John XXIII, St. Lawrence of Brindisi, and Our Lady Queen of Angels) were represented.

Divine Mercy Region

Roger Ensign, SFO is the new regional minister of Divine Mercy Region.



L-R: **Marge Lanzi, Candidate, Raymond Sox, SFO, Minister, and Sandra Harrington, SFO, Secretary of Solanus Casey Fraternity**

On the feast of St. Clare (Aug. 11), the Solanus Casey Fraternity of Roseville, Michigan celebrated the 800th Anniversary of Franciscan Order and the 5th Anniversary of their fraternity.

Fr. Ronald Victor, Pastor of St Athanasius Parish, was the celebrant of the special Mass. Marie Amore, SFO, from the Troubadours of St. Clare Fraternity was guest speaker. She spoke on the history of the Franciscan Order. Organist, Christine Duffy and her husband assisted in the celebration by leading the congregation in joyful music. A reception followed in the parish hall.

Fraternity members from St Bonaventure, St. David and Troubadours of St. Clare attended the festivities. Family and friends were in attendance. The celebration offered a renewal and strengthening of their Franciscan commitment for those present.

La Verna Region

A new chapter of our SFO family is being formed at Cardinal Stritch University, in Milwaukee Wisconsin. This is a Franciscan University, and a new cell is being formed from the Portiuncola Fraternity in Franklin Wisconsin, with the assistance of Paul Salerno and Ken Beatie, our regional minister. Presently, there are six to eight students in the inquiry stage, which includes instructors, former students and current students. It is thrilling to have new candidates interested in becoming Secular Franciscans, as you know that recruiting has

always been a slow process, and so many of our current members in all of the La Verna Region are older more mature adults. Our spiritual director and chaplain at the University, Fr. Jim Gannon, OSF, noted that the community responds so well, and continues to pray together as a community, participates in communal prayer, individual prayer, and further studies in Franciscanism. Paul Salerno says "this is an exciting time in the church because we have a hunger for spirituality and many find the Franciscan way of spirituality as a way to feed their souls." Barb Spies, a communication arts professor, is interested in this life style, and has done much reading about the Secular Franciscans. Jude Longrie, a current student at the University in the Lay Ministry Program, and professed SFO member, is glad to have a fraternity much closer to her home, as she was traveling 140 miles just to get to the closest SFO chapter for monthly gatherings and studies. The Region looks forward to this active and vibrant new cell.

St. Clare Region



In September, St Francis of Assisi Fraternity of St. Louis, MO sponsored an art and essay contest for the pre-kindergarten through 8th graders at St. Francis of Assisi School in St. Louis, MO. In celebration of the 800th anniversary of the Franciscan way of life, we wanted to encourage the children to learn more about Francis and Clare through their own talents. It was a huge success! There were 396 participants, both enrolled students and PSR students, with a wide variety of talents. We received unique artwork with good imaginative skills, a manger scene made of straw and cut-out pictures and the essays were well researched and quite interesting. Some of the subjects of the coloring pages for the younger ones were St. Francis and the wolf, the San Damiano Crucifix, receiving the stigmata and St. Clare and the Blessed Sacrament. As prizes they received T-shirts, crib sets, and statues. All who

contributed received bookmarks or holy cards. The winners were announced on October 5 to commemorate St. Francis's feast day on October 4. We pray that this contest will serve as an apostolate to encourage parents and parish members to consider learning more about St. Francis and Clare, becoming Secular Franciscans and planting early seeds in the children also.

Holy Trinity Region

Three newly professed Seculars in St. Stephen's Fraternity in Hamilton, OH are:

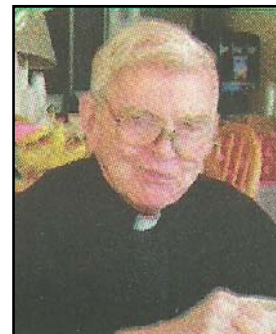
Diane Blume, SFO (11-30-09)

Mary Richter, SFO (6-28-09)

and Ray Richter, SFO (6-28-09)

Our Chapter's recent project is reporting the "St. Francis Pledge" information to parishes at the local level. We have created the "St. Francis Corner" segment that is published in Queen of Peace and St. Julie Billiard's monthly newsletters. Included in these articles is information on the "Pledge" and simple environmental tips. Our hope is to have our church communities understanding and involved in environmental issues which impact future generations and also the poor.

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Region



+Fr. Leon Dicks, OFM Conv,+

Fr. Leon Dicks, OFM Conv, who was Spiritual Assistant to the region for many, many years, has gone to his eternal reward in heaven. He died on the feast of St. Francis, Oct. 4. His wake was on Oct. 6, at St. Francis in Staten Island. The funeral Mass was on Oct. 7, at St. Francis in Staten Island as well. His service to the Region will be remembered. He was a devoted Regional Spiritual Assistant, since regionalization created the Blessed Kateri Region. He stepped down in March 2005 at the age of 79. While celebrating his last regional council meeting, he offered the parting words: *"I call myself a Secular Franciscan – because my heart is with the Secular Franciscans."*

Our Lady of Guadalupe – Empress of the Americas

On Oct. 21-26, the Region hosted the National Fraternity for the Chapter of Elections in New Mexico. Regional Minister Christine Imislund, SFO and her multitude of helpers shared their culture and hospitality to make it an unforgettable event. The fire of the Holy Spirit was passed from Patrick Mendés, Former National Minister to Deacon Tom Bello, National Minister and a ready and able National Executive Council. Honored guests were Doug Clorey, Vice General Minister, who presided at the elections and Fr. Ivan Matic, OFM, General Assistant, the witness for the Church.

John Mares, SFO, of Jesus the Morning Star Fraternity, celebrated 70 years as an SFO on Oct. 4. See “Our Stories” in the next issue for John’s story.

Juan de Padilla Region



**The Holy Eucharist Fraternity
Independence, Missouri**

A New Fraternity Canonically Established or A Second Generation from Our Lady of Sorrows

In 1910, Our Lady of Sorrows Fraternity began at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Kansas City, Missouri, under the direction of the Franciscan Friars from Cincinnati, Ohio. In 2003, this fraternity, now located in Olathe, Kansas, undertook the task of forming a new fraternity in Independence, Missouri. On Sunday, October 4, 2009, after a Mass celebrated by Father Felix Petrovsky, OFM Cap, the Secular Franciscan Fraternity of the Holy Eucharist, Independence, Missouri, received its final signature confirming its canonical membership in the Secular Franciscan Family of the Juan de Padilla Region.

This fraternity currently has 49 professed members and 15 inquirers who come from 25 parishes from the metropolitan areas of Kansas City, Missouri, and Kansas City, Kansas. The first group made its profession during the Year of the Eucharist. There have been four classes of profession to date. Two members of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Eucharist, Sisters Josephine and

Dorothy, serve as Spiritual Assistants. The photo includes some of the members of the fraternity, as well as Father Felix Petrovsky, OFM Cap, Regional Spiritual Assistant, and Frank Carpinelli, Regional Minister, Juan de Padilla Region (front row, left).

The “passion” for the gospel has deepened as they spread an “infectious joy” that comes from a union with the Most High and Glorious God who still calls to His people: “Rebuild My Church.”



The Breitenstein's, SFO

Angeline (Jeanne) and Paul Breitenstein celebrated sixty years of being professed in the SFO on August 8, 2009, at Mass in their parish, where they renewed their commitment. They were professed in St. Elizabeth Fraternity, Kansas City, Kansas, on August 7, 1949. They are still active members of St. Elizabeth Fraternity (now located in Leawood, KS), coming to almost every gathering and fraternity function. An amazing couple!



Anthony Effertz, SFO (front row, center)

Anthony Effertz, SFO celebrated 25 years of being professed in the Secular Franciscan Order on September 26, 2009. He had professed in St. Francis Fraternity, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on September 29, 1984, and is now a member of the St. Elizabeth Fraternity, Leawood, Kansas. Several fraternity members, their family members, and two Franciscan Sisters from the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Eucharist from Independence, Missouri, helped him celebrate at a Mass in his parish where he renewed his commitment.