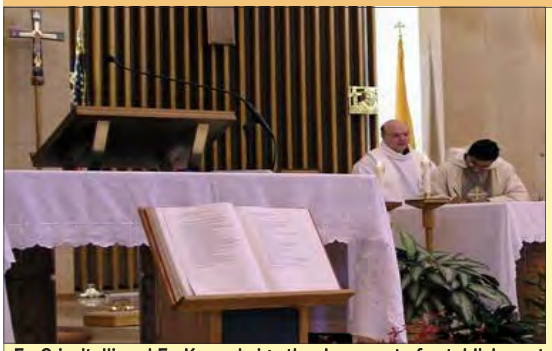
SECULAR FRANCISCANS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST FRATERNITY
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

The Son of Justice and Mercy shown brightly Sunday morning, October 10, as the Secular Franciscans of the Holy Eucharist gathered at the Franciscan Prayer Center for their first triennial election. Father Felix Petrovsky, OFM Cap, our Regional Spiritual Assistant had driven from Colorado Springs, CO to preside at and confirm the election, assisted by Alice Crews, SFO, our Regional Secretary who chaired the election.

Father Felix opened the election process with prayer and a solemn admonition to professed members that they should give serious thought before declining a nomination to serve. After Clarissa Grill, nomination chair, read the name for each position then, nominations were taken from the floor for the position. Our fraternity is a recognized body of the Catholic Church and as we moved through the election process, we followed a process similar to elections held by religious communities around the world.

Congratulations to the Council commissioned by the professed members to animate the fraternity.

Minister Claudia Kauzlarich; Vice Minister Stanley Sikorski; Secretary Elizabeth Dietrich; Treasurer Alice Goergen; Formation Director Cheryl O'Neil; Councilor Mary Belanger; Councilor Clarissa Grill; Councilor Carol Sikorski; Councilor Trini Velasquez; Councilor Donna Weathers.



Fr. Criscitelli and Fr. Kunnel sign the document of establishment

SAINT ALPHONSA FRATERNITY CANONICALLY ESTABLISHED

Fraternity members with Father Tom at the reception

On October 10, 2010 after seven years of preparation, discernment, candidacy and profession, the emerging fraternity of Saint Alphonsa was accepted into the Secular Franciscan Order of the United States. At a Mass concelebrated by Fr. Thomas Kunnel, TOR and Fr. Anthony Criscitelli, TOR, the document of canonical establishment was signed by the celebrants and the Minister Teresa Ecker, SFO. Fr Criscitelli, as the Delegate of the Provincial Minister of Immaculate Conception Province, Fr. Patrick Quinn, TOR, welcomed the fraternity into "Life Giving Union" with the Third Order Regular at a small reception after Mass. St Alphonsa Fraternity is part of the Queen of Peace Region and holds their meetings at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Columbia Heights, Minnesota. They have 15 active members and six inquirers. Fr. Thomas Kunnel, TOR is the Spiritual Assistant.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, TEXAS FRANCISCAN RETREAT

The St. Francis Mission Sisters hosted a retreat for the SFO in West Texas this past June 12, 2010. The peaceful Our Lady of the Angels Convent by Lubbock, TX, was the site of this uplifting event attended by fraternities from Midland-Odessa, Plainview and Lubbock. Sr. Celine Thames, OSF, and Sr. Mary Ann Mishurda, OSF, were the presenters on "Living as Pilgrims: Fixing our Gaze on Christ." Both of our presenters have made pilgrimages to Assisi, and their insights were a blessing to us. Sr. Mary Ann shared the differences between a mere journey and a pilgrimage. The biggest lesson of the day was that as SFO we are on a life-long pilgrimage. As pilgrims in ongoing conversion, we are called forth with expectations of finding meaning in all that we do. We are awed by the presence of the Holy as we go forward towards our Heavenly home.

REGIONAL ROUND UP—FRATERNAL SHARING

Spirit and Life Team (SALT)

Journey for Growth

Over the weekend of September 10—12, approximately sixty members of various fraternities throughout the **Blessed Junipero Serra Region** participated in the S.A.L.T. formation experience to enliven and strengthen fraternity life. The focus of the Spirit and Life weekend was to take an inward look at profession and fraternity life, and to discover how to let go of what is not life giving (conversion) and to embrace that which enhances life (the spiritual journey). The weekend's three major themes were:

1. Relationships – with God and each other
2. Conversion – relinquishing what is not of God
3. Giftedness – the realization that we already have everything we need

We began by revisiting our profession experiences and from there, recognizing changes over time that are a natural part of our spiritual journey, a "journey for growth." The presenters pointed out that keeping fraternities alive takes work. One might say it is like a pot of soup, where all the goodies have sunk to the bottom. It is the fraternities work to stir the pot, bring back to the top all the goodies – talents, gifts, and dreams. It was pointed out that a fraternity was like a jigsaw puzzle. Each piece (person) is different, but together make a beautiful picture.

One of our challenges is to explore how the values of Francis and Clare can be lived in our secular lives in the world today. Secular Franciscans are called to be in the world for others, not just on a personal spiritual journey. We are called to rekindle that fire that was so evident at our profession and to help reenergize the Order.

The weather fortunately had cooled off somewhat for the weekend of August 27-29 in Independence, Missouri, at the Franciscan Prayer Center. The SALTeam (Rev. Steve Gross, OFM Conv, Richard Morton, SFO, Pat Brandwein-Ball SFO, and Patti Reynolds, SFO) was rarin' to go, ready to meet the crowd of almost 50 Secular Franciscans from all three states (plus Arkansas) in the **Juan de Padilla Region**.

One idea was presented in several different ways, but the advice was the same: THE STATUS QUO IS NOT WORKING; WE HAVE TO CHANGE! God gives each of us the gifts we need, and He gives us the strength to use these gifts. Each person in a fraternity has a special gift—that gift should be used to serve the fraternity to the fullest extent possible. "Expect to be used, humbled, and canonized."

One question popped out: "What does the Church want of me as an SFO?" What is the fraternity leadership asking me to do? And it all boils down to one thing: FORMATION—the stuff that makes us different from other baptized Christians! The inquirer/candidate is telling us: "I am here to be fed and you're not feeding me!" Several attendees expressed dissatisfaction with their initial formation; some felt cheated.

All four members of the team emphasized using the international web site **www.ciofs.org** and checking the monthly ongoing formation project. Each month's write-up has three parts: theme, spiritual insight, and social doctrine. The current topic, begun in June 2010, is "A Sense of Belonging to the Secular Franciscan Order." Check it out.

Regional Round Up—Fraternal Sharing

Recognition and Congratulations

Mother Cabrini Region

This past August 22, 2010 was a joyous day for our fraternity. We celebrated the professions of **Christine Konie** and **Kathleen Michalek. Marita Finley, SFO,** celebrated her Golden Jubilee.

The celebration was held at St. Germaine Church in Oak Lawn, IL. Fr. Larry Dreffein, OFM was the Celebrant. Many family and friends attended this joyous occasion.

Sr. Janet Corcoran, OSF

Sr. Janet celebrated her Golden Jubilee on November 10 at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Santa Maria, CA. Sr. Patricia Rayburn, OSF, Provincial Minister of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, gave the welcoming address. Monsignor Emigdio Herrera was the celebrant at the Mass.

Sr. Janet is Vice President of Mission Services at Marian Medical Center in Santa Maria. In 1940, the Sisters responded to the call for a need for a hospital in Santa Maria with the opening of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hospital.

In 1967, the Sisters opened what is presently Marian Medical Center, a member hospital of Catholic Healthcare West.

Sr. Janet is politically active, especially in the areas of peace and justice, and environmental issues. You may know her as the Green Franciscan Sister who has had articles published in the *TAU-USA.* Sister also sponsors a Peace Week in Santa Maria that includes the local religious community, the local government and the local school children.

Franciscan Mission Service Celebrates 20 Years

The *FMS* marked 20 years of international lay mission on October 23, 2010, with a celebration that began with a morning retreat led by Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM, renowned speaker and author. He discussed "Fostering a Contemplative Practice for Compassionate Servant" and gave the keynote address "How To Be in a World that Does" at the awards dinner. The event which attracted some 400 people featured music by Andinay, a silent auction and closing blessing.

Franciscan Mission Service established its first lay missioner formation program in 1989 and in 1990 sent its first class of lay missioners to Africa. The evening was both a reunion for returned missioners and former staff, and an opportunity to introduce FMS' rich history and vision to a wider audience.

Transitus 2010

St. Francis Parish, Colorado Springs, Colorado

L-to-R: **DJ Walker, SFO, Cathleen Campaigne Candidate, Sr. Carmela Trujillo, OSF, Phil Peloquin Candidate, Mary Blair Candidate, Laura Hughes, SFO, and Tony Valerio, SFO**

October 3rd, St. Francis Parish, the Sisters of St. Francis, the Order of Friar Minors, and the Secular Franciscan Order of Colorado Springs celebrated the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi. The *Transitus* celebrated by Franciscans and Franciscan hearted people around the world each year, was celebrated the evening prior to the Feast of St. Francis. The evening included readings about St. Francis, Holy Scripture, a procession on the grounds of St. Francis and a shared meal.

All gathered at the celebration witnessed the Rite of Admission for three Candidates of the Secular Franciscan Order. These Candidates will continue their Franciscan studies for another eighteen months before making their final profession and permanently entering the Secular Order.

Regional Round Up—Fraternal Sharing

Franciscan Pilgrimage

by Joanne Gardner, SFO
St. Elizabeth Fraternity, Chippewa Falls, WI

Front-Seated, L-to-R: Veronica Willand, Karen Edstran, Judy Paquette, Minister; Jeanne Picotte
Back-Standing: Judy Kucera, Mary Jane & Terry Griffin, Joanne Gardner, Formation; Sister Frances Elizabeth, and Joe Oberweis

On August 12–15, 2010, ten St. Elizabeth Fraternity members journeyed by bus to the Hospital Sisters' Health System in Springfield, Illinois as part of the 125th year celebration of the arrival of the Sisters to St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls, WI. Sr. Frances Elizabeth Schmitz OSF, welcomed our arrival at the CHIARA CENTER, a Franciscan place of spirituality to discover God's healing presence and peace.

Deane Rubenzer was our hostess on the bus with about 50 passengers making the journey. They were present and former hospital employees, 'Friends of St. Joseph's and Sacred Heart Hospital' in Eau Claire, WI, and our Secular Franciscan group. We attended/toured the following places of interest: • Mass at St. Clare of Assisi Chapel • Tour of the Church and Motherhouse grounds • Bus visit to Mission Outreach • Tour of St. John's Hospital • Tour of Abraham Lincoln Museum and Presidential Library. Many of the group had worked with these now retired Sisters and everyone enjoyed dining with them, sharing stories, memories and laughter!