

YOUTH

FYYA CHALLENGE

by ELAINE HEDTKE, SFO

INTERIM CHAIR

FYYA

(Franciscan Youth and Young Adults)



I had the opportunity to share this message with the National Fraternity in Scottsdale this past October. I thought it might be well to bring it to all of you also. The importance of the need to find that very special person who will rise to the challenge of accepting the appointment as Chair for the FYYA Commission was noted by our National Minister when he opened nominations in July.

"We are ideally looking for a 'young' adult who can advise fraternities at all levels on how to attract and motivate young people to the Franciscan charism. Youth Ministry experience would be a big plus."

In the previous visitation report from our International visitors (2004) the General Minister's recommendations had this to say about Franciscan Youth:

"It is a road to a vocation that can end, or not, in the SFO. We must work with enthusiasm and conviction — and offer freely to the youth what we freely have received. Let us leave the rest to the Lord.

Try to establish programs and methods that are adequate and suitable to reaching the youth.

When you get involved in the field of youth, it is important that the Councils prepare the Fraternities to welcome them with generosity and an open mind and heart — aware that they will live and express their vocation in a different way according to the necessities of the organization and with the appropriate methodology.

We also exhort you to begin in the field of the children as well."

This is where you come in... We know from what your regional ministers have shared with us that some of you have very active youth groups in your regions. We know through your responses to our requests for information on how your members "Celebrated Youth" in your regions during this past year that many of you have some very imaginative folks out there "mixing it up" with young people.

We need you to actively look for possible candidates or possibly become a candidate yourself for this important appointment. I know someone is out there. We need to find them.

On a somewhat different topic, Kathy Taromina, SFO, has again graciously agreed to coordinate the Lenten H²O project for 2011. See page 7 for details. I encourage all to participate as you are able. Let the Holy Spirit be your guide!



THE SFO—FRANCISCAN YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS LENTEN PROJECT 2011



THE PROBLEM:

Women and children walk 2 hours each way to fetch water (hauling dirty water back to their families).

They have no time or energy left for education or small business, and many of them die.

Preventable water related diseases kill one child every 15 seconds. That's 8,000 every day (and that's just the children). Imagine if that many precious ones were dying in the U.S.!

THE SOLUTION:

Take the H²O Challenge!

- For 2 weeks (or the time of your choosing) make water your only beverage.
- Contribute the money you would have spent at the soda machine and coffee shop toward the drilling of clean water wells.
- Is it a sacrifice to give up your milk, coffee, soda, etc. for 2 weeks?
- Will you be changing someone else's life forever? Absolutely.
- What does The H²O Project get out of it? Financially, absolutely nothing, but they get the joy of knowing they have helped you (and many like you) make a difference.

THE PROCESS:

Pick one 14-day period during Lent.

Start fasting...Start Saving...

Save the children!

TO SEND THE MONEY COLLECTED:

- Make all checks payable to: NAFRA.
- You must note on the check memo the name of the Fraternity and the name of the Region.
- Mail ALL checks by May 1, 2011 to:

NAFRA – H²O PROJECT

920 Whitney Drive

Apple Valley, MN 55124

Dear Franciscan Youth and Young Adults,
Secular Franciscans and all those interested,

Peace be with you!

Many of you throughout the USA have participated in this project to bring clean drinking water to youth around the world, especially those in most need. We collected \$20,831.54 in 2010 by fasting and donating! National and International tragedies only underscore the world's need for clean, safe drinking water. This one project can be our way of providing some of that needed water. The recipient of the 2011 Lenten H²O Project donations is the *Catholic Relief Services (CRS)*, specifically for clean drinking water in Haiti.

We challenge you and your fraternities to not only donate—but to participate in this project. By actively fasting from all beverages except water, we'll get a truer idea of how important clean water is to our brothers and sisters around the world. We who participate in the project experience solidarity with the poor, a solidarity that is called for within our Franciscan Charism.

There are two new ways to donate to the H²O Project. The first new way is to give monthly or quarterly. Donations received after June 1, 2011 however, will be donated as part of the 2012 H²O Project.

The second way to donate is to "Donate in Memory". This program allows a donation to be made in memory of a person, group or event. A certificate stating this donation will be mailed to the address you provide.

We ask you to consider joining us in this time of sacrifice. To find out more information on *The H²O Project*, or if you have questions, email: SFO-H2O@hotmail.com

Do it, so you can say..."We all gave it up so we could all give it away!" Help our Council to give it away this year to those who need it the most!

Please pray for *The H²O Project* and the many communities waiting for a well.