

A Theatrical, Multi-media Presentation

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HISTORY OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER IN THE UNITED STATES

Written and Produced by Bill Wicks

The annual Summer Seminar held at St. Francis University in Loretto, Penn., in July 2013 will present a theatrical, multi-media presentation of the highlights of our OFS history in the United States. The cast will include five Secular Franciscan “actors.” The audience will be invited to participate in the historical reenactments.

Segments of our history that will be presented are:

1. Immigration from Europe and the forming of fraternities.



2. The genesis of our national organization. At the 1921 Congress in Chicago, delegates decided to form a national organization. Dialogue recorded at the 1921 Congress resulted in the formation of a national organization. Attendees at the seminar will represent those delegates and read a script taken from the records.

3. Third Order Promotion: Did you ever hear of the Third Order? — 1916, 1945 and 2012 dialogue

4. The Hour of St. Francis — the most popular religious radio show of the 50s and 60s. Movie actors volunteered their talents. We will play a recorded episode taken from those shows and entertain you with an updated version.



5. The Peace Award Presentations — highlighting the award given to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Again members of the audience will represent those who received the award and provide a one or two sentence description of the awardees achievements.

5. The Modesty Campaign (Ladies in the audience will be asked to take the Modesty Pledge that the High School students took in the 50s).

6. The formulation of our Rule (taken from Fr. Bob Stewart OFM Cap.’s dissertation) — emphasizing the Assisi Congress where Third Order members were finally invited. Seventeen essential elements were the keystone of our new Rule. Members of the Audience will be asked to read each of the elements.

7. You will sing along with Jim and Cindy Wesley, OFS, the official song of the Third Order of St. Francis, which was sung in the past at regular meetings and other significant events. See “Hail St. Francis” below.



**The Summer Seminar will be held from July 5 (afternoon) to the 7 (noon), 2013**

St. Francis University, Loretto, Pennsylvania

Contact Cyl Maljan, OFS, ([cylmaljan@earthlink.net](mailto:cylmaljan@earthlink.net))

for information regarding registration and transportation.

## Hail St. Francis

Hail St. Francis, our father and patron, Seraph Saint of love divine.  
 Bless they children in prayer assembled, true and trusting at thy Shrine.  
 Teach us O Francis like thee to surrender.  
 All to our savior with hearts pure and tender.  
 Father dear, they love to share, Seraph of love, O hear our prayer  
 Hail St Francis, Our father and patron, saint of calv’ry glorified  
 Lead they children in tearful repentance, unto Christ who for us died.  
 Teach us O Francis in life’s bitter trial.  
 Like thee to glory in pain and denial  
 Father dear, our cross to bear, knight of the cross, O hear our prayer.

