

# Sharing The Vision

## NAFRA Executive Council Updates

by Jan Parker, OFS

### **Being the Bridge**

I can't remember a national theme ever having such a profound effect on my life as "Be the Bridge". This theme challenges me daily whether I'm working with our fraternity council, or building relationships at the office. To be a bridge, I try to keep the two ends of a bridge in my mind. One end is openness to others – taking the time to listen and value, and not judge. But this acceptance of others is only possible as I open myself to the other end of the bridge - God's goodness and love. Allowing God's love to come across to others makes me a happy bridge! Writing this column is another opportunity to be a happy bridge – a bridge of communication between the National Executive Council and you. In that light that I happily share the following news.

### **National Priorities Communication**

We are very close to establishing our communications committee and are currently fine-tuning its shape and membership. Our best means of communication is the TAU-USA and many have complimented Editor Jim Wesley's great first issue. Translation efforts have increased thanks to our current team of translators - Cindy Wesley, Willie Guadalupe, Martha Arellanos, Margie Rodriguez, Ileana Mattison and Genaro Gonzalez. They create a bridge of understanding for our non-English speaking members. See the TAU Table of Contents for a list of translated articles. Future issues of TAU-USA in will arrive in June, September and December of 2013.

### **Formation**

Our Formation Commission (NFC) Chair, Bob Fitzsimmons, has announced new commission members: Stephen Berry, Diane Menditto, Patti Reynolds and Spiritual Assistant, Anne Mulqueen. As they move forward we will see that the FUN has only begun!

### **Spiritual Assistance**

By way of fruitful discussion between the NEC and our national Spiritual Assistants, the Holy Spirit is leading us in an interesting new direction for the proposed Spiritual Assistance Development Committee. The next step will be a "Think Tank on Spiritual Assistance" meeting facilitated by Cyl Maljan-Herbelin. This is exciting...stay tuned!

### **JPIC / Franciscan Youth (FYFA)**

Plans are finalized for a national gathering for those interested in JPIC and Youth. See the flyer for the "2013 Fran-

ciscan Summer Confab" in this issue of the TAU. For Rob Breen's vision and future plans for Youth see his article on page 12. Mary Frances Charsky has coordinated a group to attend World Youth Day and the International YouFra gathering. Please pray for these courageous efforts as we "put out into the deep" to engage our youth and support JPIC efforts.

### **Vocations**

The priority of Vocations is being addressed. We are in the early stages of setting up a separate "think tank" for this topic. Again, stay tuned.

### **Other Updates**

#### **Demographic information requested by CIOFS**

Our International Council (CIOFS) has requested a new demographic survey for our Order. This survey will be part of this year's annual report from each region. CIOFS uses this important information to report to the wider Church, as well as to help meet our needs and aid in the promotion of the OFS.

### **Donations**

Our National Family has shown amazing generosity! H2O Project: Our 2012 H2O collection of \$7093.50 was donated to Catholic Relief Service for water projects. Our 2013 H2O collection is currently underway. Hurricane Sandy Relief: \$2,050 was contributed to the Donor Fund specifically for Sandy relief efforts and NAFRA contributed \$2,000 from the Donor Fund for a total to \$4,050. Franciscan International (FI) Appeal: \$7752.00 was contributed to the Donor Fund specifically for FI and NAFRA contributed \$1,000 from the Donor Fund for a total of \$8752.00.

### **Bequests**

In light of recent bequests to the OFS, Cyl Maljan-Herbelin and Mary Frances Charsky will co-chair a committee to deal with bequests, endowments, funding and promotion of gifts to the Order.

### **National Calendar**

NEC Meetings: June 20-23 and October 11-14, 2013  
Summer Seminar at Loretto University - July 5 to 7, 2013  
JPIC / Youth Commission Gathering "Franciscan Summer Confab" - July 25-28, 2013  
NAFRA Chapter at Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kansas, - October 15-20, 2013