

# Sharing The Vision

## News from the National Executive Council (NEC) to the National Fraternity (NAFRA)

Just one year ago, more than 600 Secular Franciscans experienced an amazing revival in the Spirit at our 2016 Quinquennial Congress (Q). The next thing we knew, we were given a new theme, “*O Breath of God, unite us in action! Bo ruach Elohim!*” What happened next? The Lord answered. God’s Breath blew like a Pentecost wind across our National Fraternity, igniting little flames everywhere, and uniting us in action.

This is truly the vision your national servant leaders see as we look back on these past 12 months. We see and experience the fire of the Holy Spirit in our visits with you, and in our visits to the many Regions and local fraternities. We should not be surprised that the Breath of God is stirring us internationally as well! The members of the International Council of the OFS (CIOFS), some of whom you met at the Q and some of whom were pictured at work in the last issue of *TAU-USA*, are also on fire with new ideas and new directions. Our worldwide Order is *united in action!*

You can see much of this for yourselves in the pages of this *TAU-USA*. There are reports from every level of fraternity. Yet we know this is only the tip of the iceberg. Unseen, unheralded works of Love and Perfect Joy abound. This too,

is the Breath of God stirring in the lives of our brothers and sisters.

Thanks to each of you for being such beautiful instruments for the Breath of God – what music we hear! Thank you for sharing your reports of God’s music-making in the pages of this newsletter, but even more importantly for letting God’s song be written on the pages of your lives.



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*Note:* If you missed seeing all that happened this past year, just look back over the last three issues of the *TAU-USA*, easily downloaded from our website: [www.nafra-sfo.org](http://www.nafra-sfo.org)

## ✱ ANNOUNCEMENTS ✱

*We joyfully announce the following, and thank our new servant leaders!*

### **New 2021 Quinquennial Chair**

Susan Simeone, OFS, of the St. Thomas More Region will chair the 2021 Quinquennial Congress. Susan co-chaired our very successful 2016 “Q” in St. Louis, Mo., and we welcome her back! She will now lead us in the first steps of forming a committee, finding a venue and setting the date.

### **New Website Development**

Lee Potts, OFS, of the St. Katharine Drexel Region will take the lead in developing our new NAFRA website. Lee will work with Vickie Klick and the Computer Committee in a transition to a new look, a new web address, and a debut of a new national OFS-USA logo.

### **New National Multicultural Councilor**

One of the recommendations from our CIOFS Visitors was regarding the appointment of a Councilor *“to lead ways to follow up everything regarding the ‘multicultural’ fraternities, where other languages besides English are being used. It is not only a matter of translating documents, but it should aim to promote among these fraternities, the sense of belonging to the one and only OFS in the USA.”* In response the NEC has appointed Willie Guadalupe, OFS, to the position of Multicultural Councilor. Willie is eager to work with our Regions to insure unity in our diversity.

### **New National Guidelines Task Force**

Over the years our National Councils have written guidelines to address a variety of issues and circumstances, as well as guidelines for elected officers and events. Many of these guidelines are unknown to our membership until a question arises or a problem develops. The NEC has appointed Kathleen White, OFS, to lead a task force on National Guidelines. The goal is to collect the guidelines that have been approved, bring others forward for approval and post all of these on our website for easy access.

### **New National Historian**

Dianne Ambrose, OFS, of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region is our new Historian. This spring Dianne joined National Archivist Sharon Deveaux for a work session at our National Archives at St. Bonaventure University in New York. Dianne will continue the work of Bill Wicks as she begins Volume 4 of our OFS-USA history. If you missed Volumes I-III, don't miss the History Book Sale going on now! See related article in this TAU-USA.

### **Appeal from Nigeria – Outreach Coordinator Needed**

We have received a request for assistance from Br. Bonaventure Nwokike, OFM Cap, Guardian of Padre Pio Clinic in Nigeria. We are praying for someone to come forward to be a coordinator of this outreach.

If you can assist, please email Mary Stronach at [stronach@kateriregion.org](mailto:stronach@kateriregion.org) or Jan Parker at [jansfo@yahoo.com](mailto:jansfo@yahoo.com)

### **2017 NEC / NAFRA CALENDAR**

- T** Thursday, July 27 – Sun. July 30 - JPIC Retreat & National Gathering on Youth in St. Louis
- T** Thursday, Aug. 17- Sun. Aug. 20 - Regional Formation Directors Gathering in St. Louis
- T** Saturday, Sept 23 - Mon. Sept. 25 - NEC meeting at Mount St. Francis, Indiana
- T** Tuesday, Sept. 26 – Sun. Oct. 1 – National Fraternity Council Chapter at Mount St. Francis, Indiana