

THE PORTIUNCULA

the newsletter of

Franciscans of the Prairie

Secular Franciscan Order



Spring 2010

Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Executive Council

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A Letter from your Regional Minister....

Brothers and Sisters:

As we enjoy beautiful warm days, may we prepare for the Regional Election and Visitation that will be held on May 22, at the Chiara Center. We were hoping our newly elected National Minister, Deacon Tom Bello would be able to oversee this process that occurs every three years, but unfortunately, at this time, it does not look like Tom will be able to get away from Washington, DC for the two days. Fr. Steve Gross will be the Friar Witness for the Election and Visitation, and Fr. John Sullivan will be there as our Regional Spiritual Assistant. Because we have a region that is blessed with talent, I hope you have all prayed and considered what you can give to the Secular Franciscan Order in the coming months. Those who possess leadership ability and talent, should allow their names to be placed in nomination for office. Others can re-commit their works and prayers for the good of the Order. Every member should pause and consider how to be most effective in their local fraternity and the region. In choosing to join the Secular Franciscan Order, we committed ourselves to do this.

I would like to sincerely thank all of you for the terrific cooperation you have given me during the past six years. It has been a pleasure to serve as your Regional Minister, and I thank the Executive Council of the Region for their time and expertise. Everything is possible with God, and I know the Holy Spirit will bless and protect our growth in the coming years.

As always, my prayers will remain with you and your families.

Peace to all,

Sue Nelson, Regional Minister
Franciscans of the Prairie Region



News From Around The Region:

St. Elizabeth Fraternity in Quincy:

We celebrated the profession of Lynn Carter of Kirksville MO on April 18, 2010. The profession was held during the 11am parish Mass celebrated by Fr. Don Blaeser, OFM. A luncheon followed in St. Francis School.

We will be celebrating 150 years in 2011, plans are in process.

The Franciscans of the Tau Calhoun County Establishment

The Franciscans of the Tau of Calhoun County of the Franciscans of the Prairie Region became an Established Fraternity on Sunday, November 22, 2009 at St. Norbert's Church of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Hardin, IL at 1:30 pm Mass.

Secular Franciscans from the fraternities of the Franciscans of the Prairie Region attended. St. Elizabeth of Hungry Fraternity of Quincy was the sponsoring fraternity. Phyllis Maxwell was the Minister. Father John Sullivan, OFM is the Spiritual Assistant and is the Provincial Spiritual Assistant for the Sacred Heart Region. The Council of the Franciscans of the Tau are Marcy Klockenkemper: Minister, Wayne Wallenderf: Vice Minister, Mary Ann Bailey: Secretary, Tom Droste: Treasurer, Marian Hagen: Formation, Catherine Wallendorf: Councilor, and Jean Lorton: Councilor. There are thirteen members.

A catered meal followed mass and the Franciscans had a time to visit with each other on this important day of Establishment of the Franciscans of the Tau.



New officers of Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity in Decatur:

Minister - Mike O'Brien

Vice-Minister - Mary Epping

Formation Director - Carolyn Stewart

Secretary - Libby Melhorn

All members of the Franciscans of the Prairie Region are encouraged to submit the names and addresses of their family and friends who are serving in the military at this time. We will publish these names and addresses in the Regional Newsletter. If you can take time to mail a letter of encouragement to them, it might be nice to mention that you are a Secular Franciscan and we have them in our prayers. Including a Holy Card, might just be the support someone needs. We all like to receive mail, and you do not need to know the person, but will quite possibly "Make their day!"

Recent request from St Elizabeth Fraternity in Quincy: SSGT. Melissa Mendoza
332nd EFFS
ATO. AE 09315

REMINDER:

The Regional Retreat by Lester Bach, OFM, will be held September 10, 11, 12th at the Chiara Center in Springfield.

A Thank you from Our National Minister

From: Tom Bello

To: NAFRA-L@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2010 10:39 AM

Subject: Re: [NAFRA-L] Relief for Haiti

Dear Sue,

Wow! Your Region is matching our entire NAFRA donation from our Donor Fund!

That's most generous, and the needs in Haiti are certainly incredible.

The reason we can all draw from the Donor Fund (and donate to the Donor Fund) is precisely because local and Regional fraternities are not expected to have great funds to donate to, say, international emergencies like the current situation in Haiti.

Thus, together, through our NAFRA Donor Fund, we might make a larger contribution than we could individually.

Yet when one local or Regional fraternity comes forward like your Region has, this generosity is an added blessing to the people in need, and I pray to you as well.

Whatever funds we may or may not have, none of us lacks the resource of prayer! Let us continue to pray for all those in need and for all the caregivers serving in harm's way.

Peace and love and thanks again, Tom

find a copy the TAU-USA online at: <http://www.nafra-sfo.org/tau-usa.html>

You Know you're a Secular Franciscan when:

- Your eyes fill up when you hear about a trip to Assisi
- Christmas is for you the greatest feast day
- "Little Red Book" means "Holy Rule" to you not something by Chairman Mao
- You could open up your own Franciscan religious goods store with all the Franciscan memorabilia you have
- Your rosaries have seven decades

- You hug people a lot, especially other Franciscans
- All your gatherings are noted for having too much & wonderful food
- You take off work on October 4

Help us to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Brotherhood

A Prayer for Priest

*Keep them, I pray Thee, dearest Lord, keep them, for they are Thine -
Thy priests whose lives burn out before thy consecrated shrine.
Keep them, for they are in the world, though from the world apart;
When earthly pleasures tempt, allure, shelter them in Thy Heart.
Keep them, and comfort them in hours of loneliness and pain,
When all their life of sacrifice for souls seems but in vain.
Keep them, and O remember Lord, They have no one but Thee,
Yet they have only human hearts, with human frailty.
Keep them as spotless as the Host, that daily they caress;
Their every thought and word and deed, deign, dearest Lord, to bless. Amen*

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