



# THE JOY OF FRANCIS

Secular Franciscan Order | St. Francis Region #52 | Southern California



St. Francis Regional Annual Retreat, May 27-29<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Serra Retreat Center, Malibu, CA.

## RE: Newsletter

Planned publication dates for *The Joy of Francis* are Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, Aug 15<sup>th</sup>, and Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. **Submission Deadlines** for information to be included must be received by Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, and Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Local Ministers, as well as District Liaisons, are encouraged to submit information about their fraternity's activities. Information should be sent to **Patricia H. Dervish, OFS, 743 Third St. Unit F, Encinitas, CA 92024** or as a Word document to [patriciadervish@yahoo.com](mailto:patriciadervish@yahoo.com) **NEW!!!**

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## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Judith Mussatto, OFS, Regional Minister

### The Simple Life

On our Regional Executive Council's (REC) meeting agenda item 2 is Ongoing Formation. In February the REC chose the book *Eager to Love* by Richard Rohr for the council's Ongoing Formation.

Rohr begins each chapter with a thought provoking quotation. Here is the one he used for his Preface.

*"Something Old and Something New"*

Yearning for a new way will not produce it.

Only ending the old way can do that.

You cannot hold onto the old, all the while declaring that you want something new.

The old will defy the new;

The old will deny the new;

The old will decry the new.

There is only one way to bring in the new. You must make room for it."

The temptation, after reading those words by Neale Donald Walsch is to put the book aside because "I am not ready for this." Fortunately, members of the REC chose to go beyond the first page and at this June's meeting we were discussing Chapters III and IV. In Chapter III there is a section titled *The Gift of the Simple Life* which summarizes the transformative gifts of 'leaving the world.'

Many of us struggle with our Franciscan call to live simply. Maybe Rohr's summary of the transforming gifts of 'leaving the world', an abridged part of which is presented here, could help clarify what we have professed to be.

"When you agree to live simply you put yourself outside of other's ability to buy you off, reward you falsely, or control you by money, status, salary, punishment, and loss or gain of anything...

When you agree to live simply, you have little to protect and no desire for acquisition, even for acquisition of any 'moral capital.' ...

When you agree to live simply you can understand what Francis meant when he said, 'A brother has not given up all things if he holds onto the purse of his own opinions.' ...

When you voluntarily agree to live simply, you do not need to get into the frenzy of work for the sake of salary or the ability to buy nonessentials or raise your social standing. You enjoy the freedom of '*not climbing*'...

When you agree to live simply, you have *time* for spiritual and corporal works of mercy because you have renegotiated in your mind and heart your very understanding of time and its purposes...

When you agree to live simply, you can easily find a natural solidarity with all people on the edge and the bottom --- the excluded, the shamed, and the

forgotten----because you stop idealizing the climb and finally realize there isn't a top anyway...

When you agree to live simply, you have little energy to 'circle the wagons' around your group, your ethnicity, your country, your money, and your religion...

When you agree to live simply, all the ideological "isms" lose their pull and attraction...

When you agree to live simply, the ethics and economics of war reveal themselves in all their evil and stupidity...

When you agree to live simply, people cease to be possessions and objects for your consumption or use...

When you agree to live simply, there is no long-standing basis for any kind of addiction. You are free to enjoy, but you never let any enjoyment become your master. *You practice non-addiction every day by letting go, not needing, and not desiring anything in particular.* Fasting, detachment, and simplicity were the original words for non-addiction in the spiritual tradition."

The journey into a simple life can begin only when we cease to demand that others change in fundamental ways. We make that journey step by step when we begin to change ourselves.

### Thank You

Robert (Bob) Herbelin was first elected to the Regional Executive Council (REC) in the year 2000. He has served as Secretary, Vice-Minister and currently serves as Treasurer. Bob was a fixture at Chapters, Seminars, Regional Gatherings, and Spiritual Assistant/Formator Classes. Our *go to* person for all things technological.

Three years ago Bob surprised us all when he announced at one of our Regional Gatherings that

he was engaged to be married to Cyl Maljan, then treasurer for our National Fraternity (NAFRA). After their marriage they settled in San Jacinto. Cyl accepted the position of Communications Coordinator for St. Francis Region's online newsletter.

Bob has surprised us all again. He and Cyl will be moving to Washington State in early July and both will be resigning their positions with St. Francis Region at the end of June.

St. Francis Region says "Thank You, Bob" for your many years of dedicated service and Cyl for your brief and fruitful service to the Order on the West Coast.

Our Prayers and Love are with you as you embark on a new chapter of your life's journey.

*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields  
and until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

(Traditional Gaelic blessing).

Your Sister in Christ  
Judith

**FROM THE CONFERENCE OF REGIONAL  
SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS**

Sisters and brothers,

I want to share two thoughts with you: (1) to explain how the CRSA operates, and (2) to make a plea for members to begin spiritual assistant training when the next class starts, so that we can give every local fraternity a spiritual assistant.

The Conference of Regional Spiritual Assistants, like the Regional Executive Council, is here to serve you. The three appointed regional spiritual assistants are Rock DeSpain, Armando Lomeli, and Sylvia Paoli. All three were appointed by all three Provincial Ministers of the first Orders. Dan Abalos has been serving as secretary to the CRSA for some time, and Fr. Steve Gross, OFM Conv., serves as a mentor and adjunct member.

We try to have quarterly meetings with all of the local spiritual assistants in the region. We share issues, have ongoing formation, discuss questions that have arisen, and make plans for future events. A spiritual assistant is part of every Profession. If your fraternity does not have a spiritual assistant, then call one of us and we will arrange for one to be present to assist you. Also, don't forget that when you do final interviews of those in initial formation (1) to move from inquiry into candidacy, and (2) to be professed, you are required by our Constitutions to have a spiritual assistant present as part of the interviewing team. Again, if you do not have one, call us and we will make sure someone is there to assist you.

Despite our efforts over the last ten years, there are still several fraternities without spiritual assistants. On the positive side, however, ten years ago we hardly had *any* local spiritual assistants, and many who were occupying that position were not "suitable and well-prepared." So we have made great strides, but more is needed. We are revamping the spiritual training class. Hopefully we will be able to start again sometime in the fall, and will not meet every month as we have for the past four classes. It will probably be a combination of four or five week-ends over a two-year period of time, with some one-day meetings and/or telephone/Skype, or similar conferences in-between. It is extremely important

for every member of every fraternity to seriously pray and discern about the possibility of training to become a spiritual assistant. It is *our* Order, as we were told in about 2003 by Fr. Michael Higgins, T.O.R., (who just gave a wonderful retreat at Serra), and we must provide our own spiritual assistants, he said, as the friars simply do not have men to provide to us.

So please discuss the need in your councils and fraternities, and pray earnestly about it, asking the Holy Spirit to inspire those brothers and sisters who have the ability, with training, to take on that very important task. The need will never disappear, because several of the local spiritual assistants will not be able to serve even a full 12-year term, due to age, health, etc. There must always be people in training to replace those who have to retire – a category that includes your three regional spiritual assistants.

Perhaps you can have an ongoing formation session on what is involved in being a spiritual assistant, or maybe one of us can even come and make a presentation to your fraternity. But please, let's all pray about it!

Sylvia Paoli, OFS  
President-in-Turn, CRSA

### JPIC NEWS

#### Sanctuary Churches

By Br. Mark, OFM Conv

*A "Justice, Peace and Safeguarding Creation" article submitted by Fr. Stephen Gross, OFM Conv*

If a mother from Guatemala showed up at your church door with a little kid in her arms and said, "Can you help me?" how would you respond?

There has been a history in California of churches offering sanctuary to undocumented immigrants.

Back in the 1980s, several hundred churches became sanctuary churches, primarily for Salvadorian refugees. Sanctuary churches are exactly that: houses of worship where undocumented people can go who fear deportation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Christian leaders across the country are outraged with the recent rise in immigration raids. The Church World Service group for refugees has built a network of sanctuaries for Central Americans targeted by ICE. Check out this creative and courageous way to provide rapid response accompaniment and unarmed civilian protection called "[sanctuary in the streets](#)".

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network focuses on legalizing non-legal residents, but that is a process that could take months. What if you already have a deportation notice in hand? It is unofficial ICE policy to avoid entering public schools, hospitals and churches to apprehend people who are in the country illegally. Perhaps that is where we can help.

As the long wait for immigration reform continues, we Franciscans can always find more stable footing in what God teaches us: "You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:34).

### DISTRICT NEWS:

#### Orange County:

On April 17<sup>th</sup> Immaculate Heart of Mary Fraternity, Santa Ana, had a Chapter of Elections with Regional Vice Minister Frank Miller, OFS, presiding and Sylvia Paoli, OFS, serving as Church Witness.

Their newly elected council is:

- Minister: Remigio Guzmán, OFS
- Vice Minister: Martha Sanchez, OFS
- Secretary: Juana Ollervides, OFS
- Treasurer: Jesus Rodriguez, OFS
- Formation Director: Leopoldo Arana, OFS

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, Margarita Rodriguez, OFS, conducted a Fraternal visit of St Clare Fraternity in Santa Ana. During the visit Tinh Le was installed as their spiritual assistant.

**San Diego County:**

On March 6th, 2016 Tuan made a pre-election visit to Our Lady of Angels (Nuestra Senora De Los Angeles) Fraternity.

On March 19, 2016, Tuan made a pre-visit to Immaculate Conception Fraternity to prepare them for Judith Mussatto’s Fraternal visit on May 15, 2016.

On April 10, 2016, The Rite of Profession was celebrated for Violette Rhodes and Becky Taylor at Immaculate Conception Fraternity.



A Pre-visit was made on May 1<sup>st</sup> for the Chapter of Elections scheduled for August 7, 2016 for San Luis Rey Fraternity.

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, a Fraternal visit to St Anthony of Padua Fraternity was made by Rock DeSpain, OFS, Regional Spiritual Assistant.



The St. Francis Region held its annual retreat at the Serra Retreat in Malibu, CA. This year’s speaker was Fr. Michael Higgins, TOR from the Franciscan School of Theology. The topic was "Servant Leadership." Fr. Michael presented attendees with information on *The Ten Principles of Servant Leadership*, as proposed by Robert Greenleaf; *Characteristics of Artful Leadership* from Max DePree; and *10 Characteristics of Franciscan Life and Leadership* from Sr. Margaret Carney, OSF, the first full time woman President of St. Bonaventure University. He also presented other thoughts on leadership from St. Francis, St. Claire and Pope Francis. It was an excellent presentation, I would recommend for all the Servant Leaders. (DVD of the presentation will be available for purchase.)

Anthony Tuan Cao, OFS  
Regional Councilor/San Diego District Liaison

**Los Angeles County:**

On April 24<sup>th</sup> Regional Vice Minister Frank Miller, OFS, presided over the Chapter of Elections at Blessed Luchsius and Bounadonna Fraternity. Armando Lomeli, OFS served as Church Witness.

The newly elected fraternity council is:

- Minister: Augustin Park, OFS
- Vice Minister: Angela Kim, OFS
- Secretary: Mathilde Kim, OFS
- Treasurer: Maria Goretti Lim, OFS
- Formation Director: Romana Yang, OFS
- Councilor: James Roh, OFS

**San Bernardino/Riverside District**

On June 5th, members of Holy Spirit and Padre Pio Fraternities in the District went to Mission San Gabriel to celebrate the Year of Mercy by attending Mass in the mission church, pass through the Holy Door and then had lunch. St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity is planning a similar pilgrimage to Sacred Heart Church in the Low Desert later this summer. Holy Spirit has two Candidates and two Inquirers; one will enter candidacy soon. Immaculata Fraternity has two people in Initial Formation. St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity has two Candidates in Initial Formation. Members from all our Fraternities were able to attend the Regional Retreat this year. The annual district picnic will be in August in Claremont.

On June 12, Bob Herbelin conducted a Pastoral Visit of Padre Pio Fraternity. Armando is scheduled to do a Pastoral visit of Immaculata Fraternity in Riverside on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

William R Mussatto, OFM  
District Formator/Liaison

**Tri-County:**

Regional Minister Judith Mussatto, OFS did a Fraternal Visit with St. Louis The King Fraternity at Santa Barbara on May7th.



For names of and contact information of Regional Council members, appointed Chairs and District Groups go to:  
<http://www.stfrancisregion.org/About-St-Francis-Region/Executive-Council>

**CALENDAR**

June	19 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup>	Korean Language Fraternities Retreat and Profession, Temecula Pastoral Visit: Immaculata Fraternity, Riverside
July	9 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> 24 <sup>th</sup>	Pastoral Visit: San Juan Capistrano Elections: St. Clare, Rowland Hts. Profession: Old Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside @ 2:00 p.m. Fraternal Visit: St. Joseph, Los Angeles
August	7 <sup>th</sup> 14 <sup>th</sup> 28 <sup>th</sup>	Elections: San Luis Rey, Oceanside Pastoral Visit: St. Francis of Assisi, Los Angeles Pastoral Visit: St. Maximilian Kolbe, Torrance
September	11 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup>	District Picnic: Los Angeles Fraternal Visit: Holy Spirit, Claremont Pastoral Visit: St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Los Angeles
October	8 <sup>th</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> 16 <sup>th</sup>	Regional Gathering Elections: San Lorenzo Ruiz, Los Angeles Pastoral Visit: St. Francis of Anaheim
November	13 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup>	Fraternal Visit: St. Maximilian Kolbe, Los Alamitos Pastoral Visit: St. Diego, San Diego