

# Up to Now

Newsletter of the St. Margaret of Cortona Region of the Secular Franciscan Order

Covering the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia,  
and portions of West Virginia and Pennsylvania



Fr. Philippus Philippus, OFM/Cap

Volume 19 Issue 2

*Let us begin again, for up to now we have done nothing.*

November 2015

**National Executive Council of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States**



Front, from left: National Vice Minister Mary Bittner, OFS; National Minister Jan Parker, OFS; National Secretary Mattie Ward, OFS.  
Back, from left: National Councilor Joan Geiger, OFS; National Councilor Awilda Guadalupe, OFS; National Treasurer Jerry Rousseau, OFS;  
International Councilor Mary Stronach, OFS; National Councilor Mary Frances Charsky, OFS; Br. Bob Brady, OFM, president-in-turn of the Conference  
of National Spiritual Assistants. Pray for our new leaders of NAFRA!



Otto Perez, OFS, Regional Vice Minister, St. Margaret of Cortona Regional and designated representative to the NAFRA national chapter.



Deacon Tom Bello, OFS, outgoing national minister and regional spiritual assistant, St. Margaret of Cortona Region.

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## Regional Minister's Message



### BE THE JOYFUL FACE OF CHRIST TO ALL FRANCIS THE PILGRIM

Recently, I was blessed to go on pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. It was a spirit-filled and sacred time for me and my wife. Among other things, it allowed me to reflect on the life of Saint Francis as I traced the path he walked 801 years ago.

Scholars disagree whether Saint Francis actually walked the Camino, but in *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*, Chapter 4, we read, "In the beginning of the Order, when there were few friars and the Places had not yet been occupied, Saint Francis, to satisfy his devotion, went to visit Saint James in Galicia, and he took with him some companions . . . ."

And at the end of Chapter 4, "When they arrived there and spending the night in prayer and adoration in the Church of Saint James, God revealed to Saint Francis in that church that he should found many Places throughout the world, because his Order was destined to spread and grow to a large number of friars. Consequently, as a result of this divine command, he henceforth began to accept Places in various lands."

Whether Francis walked to Camino in 1214 or not, a Franciscan most certainly did arrive in Santiago de Compostela in the early 13th century, and the ruins of the Franciscan convent there serve as proof. There is still a Franciscan presence in the city, and we were blessed to attend Mass at the Church of Saint Francis, and stay at the hotel that now occupies the site of the original convent.

It seems as if Saint Francis spent his entire life on pilgrimage. He was constantly in motion, travelling all over Italy, taking ships across the Mediterranean, attempting to go to Morocco and Syria, journeying to Egypt during the Fifth Crusade, and perhaps going to the Holy Land. He was a life-long pilgrim and the world was his pilgrimage.

A pilgrim faces many challenges and difficulties. Perhaps the most frequent challenge is to leave our comfort zone and trust that God will take care of us. For Francis, that involved travelling to far-off places during a time when such travel was especially difficult and dangerous. As Secular Franciscans, we are called by our Rule to "follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi." While most of us cannot follow in his exact footsteps, we should each strive to go spiritually where he went, to embrace our own personal lepers and to be a presence to the outcast and the poor. Don't be afraid to leave your comfort zone; God was with Francis, and God will be with you.

Patrick Martin  
Regional Minister



## Mark Your Calendar



**December 5 — Regional Chapter.** St. Camillus Church, 1600 St. Camillus Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20903. The minister of each fraternity is required to attend or to send an official delegate.

**April 2, 2016 — Seventh Annual Day of Reflection for Inquirers, Candidates and Newly Professed.** St. Anthony Shrine, Ellicott City, Md. (See registration form on page 6.)

**April 22-24, 2016 — Regional Retreat.** PriestField Retreat Center, Kearneysville, W.Va.

**June 30-July 4, 2016 — Quinquennial Gathering/National Congress.** Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel, St. Louis, Mo.. (See registration form on page 10.)



In the winter, the most energy-efficient setting on your thermostat is 68° during the day – and lower at night, if possible. By turning your thermostat back 10° to 15° for 8 hours, you can save 5%-15% a year, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. That's a savings of as much as 1% for each degree. And technology is available now ([www.nest.com](http://www.nest.com)) that automatically adjusts your thermostat settings according to your comfort and energy-savings needs.

## Regional Formation Director's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Peace of Christ! I hope this note finds you well. During the month of November, we remember our dearly departed loved ones in prayer, as well as those who have no one to pray for them. The Holy Souls are very close to us and need our prayers, since they cannot pray for themselves. In thanking; however, they will continue to pray for us when they enter into their heavenly glory!

I would like to thank all those who responded to the survey I sent out during the summer. For those who have not yet responded, I would ask all Ministers to please email me to let me know if your formation director did not receive it. The survey helps me to know your needs and how best to accommodate them. I can be reached at [vspalding@md.metrocast.net](mailto:vspalding@md.metrocast.net). Thank you!

On November 14th, I will be meeting to form a Regional formation team to assist the area you are in better. Please email me any thoughts or ideas that you feel would be helpful in assisting the Region with your formation needs. Above all, please pray that we have the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in guiding others!

Recently, I sent out a few PowerPoint presentations on different Franciscan topics that I would be happy to email to all those who request them. As fraternities, let us share our resources with one another! If you would like to share some of your ideas, please email me. Formation is a group effort to promote the welfare of the Franciscan family of which we are a part.

On our NAFRA website (<http://www.nafra-sfo.org/>), there are many helpful tools to assist with formation and to help with implementing and strengthening our Franciscan spirituality. Please take the time to research the materials that are there. They will be extremely helpful in guiding your fraternity and in answering any questions you may have about the phases of formation or our articles of the faith.

To all Formation Directors; a short while ago, your Minister received an OFS booklet that contained some helpful letters that can assist with the stages of formation. Please ask your Minister if she or he received it. If not, I would be happy to have our Fraternity Minister resend it. Just let me know!

On Saturday, April 2nd, we will once again hold our Annual Day of Reflection for Inquirers and Candidates in the Region. The location will be the St. Anthony Shrine in Ellicott City. Time is 9am-4pm. The theme will be "Commitment to Fraternal Living in Imitation of the Gospel". We are asking all Inquirers/Candidates to please come and join us. The cost is \$45. If the cost is an impediment for you, please talk to your fraternity council. I'm sure they would be happy to assist with your needs!

I would like to close this letter to you by wishing you all a very safe and beautiful Thanksgiving and Christmas Season! May St. Francis and St. Clare and all the Franciscan Saints continue to walk with you and lead you closer to your eternal goal.

Pax et bonum!

*Vicky Spalding, OFS, Regional Formation Director*

### Thoughts About God's Mercy

Being the merciful presence of God is familiar to us as Secular Franciscans in the United States because our national leadership chose the phrase "Be the Merciful Presence of God" as the national theme for 2014. (See our National Minister Tom Bello's message in the *TAU-USA*, Winter 2013, No. 78.) As we know, Pope Francis has declared an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy from December 8, 2015, through November 20, 2016. Here are some thoughts about mercy that I prepared for our fraternity's ongoing formation.

The dictionary definition of mercy is straightforward and probably familiar to most people. Mercy is kind or forgiving treatment of someone who could be treated harshly. It is showing compassion or forbearance to an offender or someone subject to your power. It is kindness or help given to those in need. It is a blessing that is an act of divine favor or compassion.

Our faith is based on God's mercy in sending Jesus to die for us. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven and for our sake he was crucified and through

Him we have forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. So through faith we receive the mercy of God. Pope Francis said in a homily in April 2013, "What a beautiful truth of faith this is for our lives: the mercy of God! God's love for us is so real, so deep; it is an unfailing love, one that always takes us by the hand and supports us, lifts us up, and leads us on.... Let us never lose trust in the patience and mercy of God." He also said in his Apostolic Letter *Evangelii Gaudium*, "God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy."

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "The Gospel is the revelation in Christ Jesus of God's mercy to sinners. (¶1846)" We've received His mercy and should have a desire to share this gift with others—all others! We've been shown mercy, so we must show mercy to others. In Luke 6:36 Jesus says, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." If we understand how merciful God has been with us, we should experience joy in receiving his mercy and naturally be moved to share this gift.

(Cont'd. on page 4)

(Cont'd from page 3)

How do we share the gift of mercy? Sometimes with words, but more often with the example of our lives and our actions to and for our neighbors. And who are our neighbors in this context? The hungry, the homeless, the naked, the sick, those who need instructing, advising, consoling, or comforting. According to the *Catechism*, these corporal and spiritual works of mercy are the ways we can show God's mercy to others. And there are some benefits that go along with showing mercy to others. In the New Testament, Jesus first mentions mercy in the Sermon on the Mount, and you know that verse very well. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." So not only are we granted immense mercy by God in Christ Jesus through his Passion, death, and resurrection, but we receive more mercy when we do mercy. Saint Francis mentions mercy in his Testament when he says, "The Lord led me among the lepers. And I showed mercy to them. And when I left them, what had seemed bitter to me had turned to sweetness." Haven't we all experienced the sweetness of mercy as a fruit of the charity we have shown to others in our lives?

On the other hand, there is a downside to not being the merciful presence of God. Again, I turn to Saint Francis, who says to the secular order in his *Later Admonition to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance* (as we were known then): "Let whoever has received the power of judging others pass judgment with mercy, as they would wish to receive mercy from the Lord." Quoting James 2:13, he continues, "For judgment will be without mercy for those who have not shown mercy." Even though Francis may have had in mind kings and judges or those who employ workers when he says we should be merciful in passing judgment, I think it is more fitting to interpret this warning as applicable to anyone who judges anyone — and that includes all of us, doesn't it?

Finally, mercy is mentioned in Rule 7 of the *Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order*. It is a clear call for us to make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in living out our vocation as outlined in Rules 6 and 7. In Rule 6, we are called "to go forth as witnesses and instruments" of the Church's mission to proclaim Christ by our lives and words, and, like Francis, to build up the Church. And in Rule 7 we are called "conform [our] thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls 'conversion.'" Then the Rule states that our "human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily." Rule 7 concludes by saying, "On this road to renewal the sacrament of reconciliation is the privileged sign of the Father's mercy and the source of grace." So not only do we receive more grace from God when we do mercy, we receive even more when we stumble and fall and seek and receive forgiveness in the sacrament. Think back to the definition of mercy above in the context of this wonderful sacrament. "Mercy is kind or forgiving treatment of someone who could be treated harshly." That sounds

like God's action in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. "It is showing compassion or forbearance to an offender or someone subject to your power." We offend God when we sin and are always subject to His power as His creation; fortunately, the depth of his love causes him to grant forgiveness not judgment in the Sacrament. "It is kindness or help given to those in need." We are in need of His mercy when we have sinned. "It is a blessing that is an act of divine favor or compassion." We live in hope through this Sacrament of His mercy. And renewed in the Sacrament, we can continue to do the work he has for us of spreading the joy of His mercy.

Lastly, here is a quote about mercy from a secular source. This is Portia's description of mercy in the courtroom scene from Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, and it includes most of the ideas discussed above.

The quality of mercy is not strain'd, it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath. It is twice blest; it blesseth him that gives and him that takes....

Mercy...is an attribute to God himself; and earthly power doth then show likest God's when mercy seasons justice.

Therefore...consider this: that, in the course of justice, none of us should see salvation. We do pray for mercy, and that same prayer doth teach us all to render the deeds of mercy."

In conclusion, we receive mercy from God in the salvation brought by Christ, receive more mercy as we do mercy, and receive God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sounds like a plan worth following, doesn't it? Let us follow the lead given us by the National Fraternity, not only in 2014, but every year, every day. How are you doing in being the merciful presence of God and how will you grow in that aspect of your Franciscan life in the Year of Mercy?

Pat Tyrrell, OFS, St. Conrad fraternity (Annapolis)



Deacon Tom Bello, OFS, was privileged to serve at the canonization Mass during Pope Francis's visit to Washington.

## *Franciscan Mission Service*

### **CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF TENDERNESS: ADVENT STORIES OF COMFORT AND JOY**

When I traveled to Guatemala last year, I was incredibly impressed by Valley of the Angels, a boarding school run by Franciscan friars. The school was originally founded as an orphanage under the motto, “Give the best to the poor.”

The students today still come from extreme poverty, and the school approaches them not with pity but with love. They want to create opportunities for these kids to have full and productive lives through access to a great education.

Valley of the Angels is a loving, beautiful, healthy environment where the kids can realize their own self-worth and thrive. It is an oasis of peace and learning where kids who would have never had the opportunity to live out their full potential can heal from past experiences and flourish.

Franciscan Mission Service is honored to have two lay missionaries serving at the school this year. The missionaries help with recess, spiritual formation, arts and crafts, and teaching English classes.

When the fifth-grade English class was learning family member vocabulary, missionary Amanda Ceraldi, 23, made her own family tree and described her relatives and all of the fun she has with them during holidays. As the kids started to make their family trees and describe their own families, one of the students began to well up with tears.

Usually Lucy has a big smile on her face. The strong-willed, determined, kind and fun-loving 11 year old excels in school and helps to tutor her classmates. It was unusual — and difficult — for Amanda to see such a usually happy girl be so sad.

After class, Lucy said she was sad about her family tree because she doesn’t have a mother or father. They both passed away. On school breaks she lives with her aunt



*Amanda and Lucy*

and uncle. Lucy said that she loves being at Valley of the Angels because it’s then that she really feels like she has a family. “Gracias por ser como una mamá para mí - thank you for being like a mom to me,” Lucy said, and she and Amanda shared a hug.

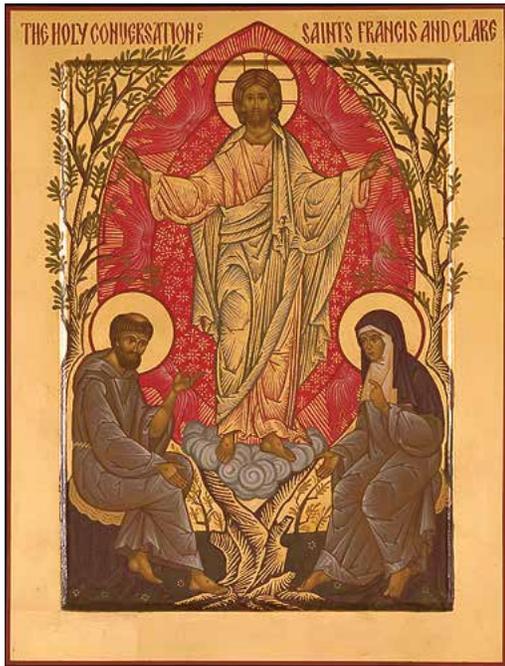
It is this kind of moments of comfort and joy that Franciscan Mission Service celebrates in this year’s holiday blog series. Through compassionate service and mutual relationship, we strive to keep tenderness from being something we see only at Christmas.

We’ve asked missionaries, volunteers, alumni, staff and friends of Franciscan Mission Service to share reflections honoring this gift of tenderness. Bookmark our page and join us each day starting Nov. 29 for a new story: [www.franciscanmissionservice.org/blog](http://www.franciscanmissionservice.org/blog).

And, as always, thank you to the Secular Franciscan family for prayerfully supporting our work, which makes it possible for Franciscan-hearted lay people like Amanda to answer God’s call to love our brothers and sisters on the margins.

*By Kim Smolik, Executive Director*





# Commitment to Fraternal Living Franciscan Day of Reflection For Inquirers and Candidates Easter 2016

Saturday, April 2, 2016, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Shrine of St. Anthony  
12290 Folly Quarter Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
(410) 531-2800

Sponsored by the St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Formation Team

They have been made living members of the Church in Baptism.... Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words." Art. 6 of the Secular Franciscan Rule  
Come and learn with your Franciscan brothers and sisters what it means to be committed to Fraternal Living in imitation of the Gospel.

**(Formation teams and newly professed are also invited.)**

Cost: \$45.00 per person.

Yes! I plan to attend the Franciscan Day of Reflection for Candidates and Inquirers.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Fraternity \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am an Inquirer  I am a candidate  I am newly professed

I am a member of the formation team

Please complete this form and return by March 25 with check payable to

**St. Margaret or Cortona Region**

Send form and payment to:

Peter Noyes, ofs  
2917 Shepperton Terrace  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
pnoyes@aol.com

**My heart is ready, oh God; my heart is ready.**

*Psalm 57:7*

[Directions to the Shrine of St. Anthony](#)

## ***Around the Region***

### **RECEIVED AS CANDIDATES**

John Downing, St. Clare Fraternity, Millsboro, Del.  
Joe Smith, St. Clare Fraternity, Millsboro, Del.  
Cho, Mi Soon (Theresa), St. Bonaventure Fraternity  
(Korean), Fairfax, Va.  
Susan Zell, Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity, Washington, D.C.

### **NEWLY PROFESSED**

Cho, Heung Ren (Christina), OFS, St. Bonaventure  
Fraternity (Korean), Fairfax, Va.  
Laraine Hofmann, OFS, St. Clare Fraternity, Milford, Del.  
Celine Mallonee, OFS, St. Clare Fraternity, Milford, Del.  
Ouida Morrison, OFS, Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity,  
Washington, D.C.  
Jim Mullen, OFS, St. Clare Fraternity, Milford, Del.  
Mary Okumu, OFS, Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity,  
Washington, D.C.  
Jeri Pierce, OFS, St. Clare Fraternity, Milford, Del.  
George Ramsey, OFS, Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity,  
Washington, D.C.  
Mildred Wray, OFS, Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity,  
Washington, D.C.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity, Baltimore, Md.**

Minister: Cynthia Evans, OFS  
Vice Minister: Cathy Polkowski, OFS  
Secretary: Marguerite A. Stiemly, OFS  
Treasurer: Nancy Rollinger, OFS  
Formation Director: Tony Sarcone, OFS

### **LOSSES IN THE FAMILY**

James Dimond, September 15, 2015. St. Thomas More Fraternity James Dimond, OFS, who entered eternal life at 89 on September 23, was professed on December 10, 1961, a joyful Secular Franciscan for 54 years. He helped to establish St. Thomas More Fraternity in 1977, with Mount Saint Sepulchre Fraternity as its sponsor, and he was a past Minister of St. Thomas More Fraternity in Arlington, Va.



Loretta Catherine Stewart died on September, 21, 2015 at a local nursing home. Portiuncula Fraternity, She was born October 4, 1921 in Shelby, NE, the daughter of the late John and Martha Zimmerman Jaax. Mrs. Stewart was a volunteer with Blue Ridge Hospice. She also was an active member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church serving as an eucharistic minister and was a member of the SFO, professed in 1938



*St. Bonaventure (Korean) from left: Cho, Heung Ren (Christina), OFS, newly professed; Fr. Francis Kim, OFM, Spiritual Assistant; Cho, Mi Soon (Theresa), temporarily professed.*



*Joe Smith and John Downing, St. Clare Fraternity, Milford, Del.*



*St. Clare Fraternity, Milford, Del.: Jim Mullen, Jeri Pierce, Celine Mallonee, Laraine Hofmann; Presider: Fr. Bill Gore, OSFS.*



*Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity: Corky Hart, Ouida Morrison, George Ramsey, Mary Okumu, Fr. Ed Flanagan, OFM, presider, Mildred Wray, seated.*

## Young Adult Update

For our regional members, a brief update on the work with the young adult meetings at the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City. I am helped by Mike Huether, former regional formation minister, and, when available, by Akisha Townsend Eaton. We are still in the very early stage of development and only have three young adults who make as many meetings as possible. We are looking for ways to attract more young adults and any suggestions would be welcome.

One or two of us attend the monthly meeting of young adult leaders sponsored by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and this meeting gives us a chance to interact and exchange information and ideas with other young adult groups throughout the Archdiocese.

At our September meeting, we received permission to show the film *Monsenor*, the last journey of Oscar Romero

without having to pay any viewing fee. This was a nice gift to us.

In October, a discussion was held about Catholics and the death penalty with a national speaker and leader of Catholics Against the Death Penalty, Vickie Schieber.

The Senior Center in Catonsville run by the Little Sisters of the Poor was visited by some of our young adults and we hope to go back again.

At some point in the future we want to present information on Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'* encyclical.

If you know of any young adults (18-35) send them our way! The Shrine of St. Anthony has been very helpful and supportive in our work, and we are grateful for all they do!

*Harry Ford, OFS, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity and member Franciscan Youth Subcommittee*



## Websites of Interest

You may be surprised to find out people who were Secular Franciscans

<http://www.skdregion.org/well-known-or-maybe-not-secular-franciscans/>

Thank you, Bob Longo

Christopher Columbus was a Secular Franciscan, and his journeys were filled with a Catholic spirit.

<http://www.returntoorder.org/2014/09/catholic-spirit-christopher-columbus/#.VDIVPRkztkl.email>

Thank you, John Klem

Dan Horan, "Understanding Laudato Si" Series

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLO2W1tFFtdJn9V9\\_DvEbz9Bygt7XsYXRj](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLO2W1tFFtdJn9V9_DvEbz9Bygt7XsYXRj)

Thank you, Dan Mulholland

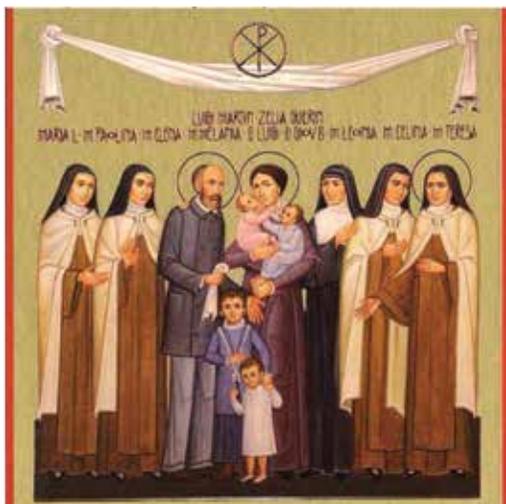
More than 30 objects on the moon are named after the Jesuits who mapped it. A Jesuit was one of the founders of modern astrophysics. And four Jesuits in history, including Ignatius of Loyola, have had asteroids named after them – Brother Guy Consolmagno and Father George Coyne being the two living men with this distinction. In a conversation filled with friendship and laughter, and in honor of the visit of Pope Francis to the U.S., we experience the spacious way they think about science, the universe, and the love of God.



"Monk at Computer" from the Centre for the History of the Book, University of Edinburgh

<https://soundcloud.com/onbeing/guy-consolmagno-and-george-coyne-asteroids-stars-and-the-love-of-god?in=onbeing/sets/guy-consolmagno-and-george-coyne-asteroids-stars-and-the-love-of-god>

Thank you, Donna Kocian



*We are thankful for our new saints, especially our two new Secular Franciscan saints, Louis & Zelle Martin. This is a new icon of the entire Martin Family, of which three are saints, and one sister is in the process toward beatification. (Four children did not live beyond childhood.)*



## Secular Franciscan Order XIX QUINQUENNIAL

### “Reviving Our Spirit”

June 30 to July 4, 2016, Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel

### General Information Sheet

**Date:** Welcoming session begins on Thursday, June 30, late afternoon. The Congress concludes with a closing Mass after dinner on July 3. Monday, July 4, is a travel day. No meals will be provided that day. Hotel restaurant hours will be posted on arrival.

**Registration:** Registration begins at 11:00 am Thursday, June 30. Registration fee includes meals beginning with dinner on Thursday evening, breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and snacks at breaks, plus the cost of materials and other Quinquennial expenses.

**Registration deadline: June 9, 2016      No refunds after May 1st**  
 Registration form and check, made out to **NAFRA**, are to be mailed to:  
**Judy Haupt, OFS, 204 Abbey Glen Way, Hardeeville, SC 29927**

Registration Rates Register By	Program and Meals	Single day meals (no room)
<b>April 15, 2016</b>	\$320	\$125
<b>April 16 to May 31, 2016</b>	\$370	\$125
<b>June 1 to June 9, 2016</b>	\$420	\$140

**Rooms:** Reservations for lodging must be made **prior to June 9** with the **Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel**, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO, 63134.

Mention date and NAFRA to get the special rate. Phone: 1-888-340-2594 or 1-314- 429-1100  
*You can also use the following link to make reservations .*

[Book your group rate for NAFRA \(Includes Complimentary Self Parking and Basic High Speed Internet:\)](#)

**Room Rate:** \$89 per night **per room** plus taxes and fees for 1 to 4 people. Room charges must be paid upon arrival at the hotel. The rooms have 2 Queen Beds or 1 King Bed.

**Note:** In the event that a guest checks out prior to the guest’s reserved checkout date, an early departure fee of **\$75.00** will be charged to that guest’s individual account. To avoid this fee, please advise the hotel at or before check-in.

**Transportation and other amenities:** The Hotel provides free shuttles to and from the airport, free parking and high-speed Internet. See their website for a complete list: [www.renaissancehotels.com/stlsa](http://www.renaissancehotels.com/stlsa)

**Accessibility Needs:** Limited number of rooms available. **Notify Hotel of needs when registering.**

- τ Wheelchair access is **required:** Uses a wheelchair or scooter and needs roll-in shower.
- τ Easy access is **requested:** Difficulty walking. Needs a room located near the elevator and/or walk-in shower.

**Note:** Special dietary needs and requests for a roommate must be noted on registration form.

**Miscellaneous:** Please consider bringing personal care items to be donated to the Franciscan St. Anthony’s Food Pantry in St. Louis. Some ideas are toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, and so on.

Questions? Find us on: *web-* [the2016q.org](http://the2016q.org), *e-mail* the2016q@gmail.com, *Twitter* #the2016q



## Franciscan Saints, Blesseds and Feasts

(click on the name to go to a Web link)

### NOVEMBER

- 17 [St. Elizabeth of Hungary](#), widow, Patron of the Secular Franciscan Order
- 18 [Bl. Salome](#), virgin, II Ord.
- 19 [St. Agnes of Assisi](#), virgin, II Ord.
- 25 [Bl. Elizabeth of Reute](#), virgin, III Ord.  
Commemoration of all the Deceased of the Franciscan Family (I, II, III Ord.)
- 26 [St. Leonard of Port Maurice](#), priest, I Ord.
- 27 [St. Francis Anthony Fasani](#), priest, I Ord.  
Manifestation of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (OFM Conv.)  
[St. Umile de Bisignano](#), religious, I Ord.
- 28 [St. James of the March](#), priest, I Ord.
- 29 All Saints of the Franciscan Order ([We pray the Franciscan Litany of the Saints.](#))

### DECEMBER

- 2 [Bl. Maria Angela Astorch](#), virgin, II Ord.  
[Bl. Rafal Chylinski](#), priest, I Ord.
- 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron and Queen of the Franciscan Order



Crypt, St. Francis Basilica

- 25 Celebration of the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ

### JANUARY

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
[Ven. Teresa Gardi, OFS](#)  
(Feast not assigned)
- 3 Most Holy Name of Jesus
- 6 [Bl. Diego José of Cádiz](#), priest, I Ord.
- 7 [St. Angela of Foligno](#), religious, III Ord.



Celebration at Greccio

- 8 [Bl. Eurosia Fabris](#), III Order
- 12 [St. Bernard of Corleone](#), religious, I Ord.
- 14 [Bl. Odoric of Pordenone](#), priest, I Ord.
- 16 [Sts. Berard and Companions](#), protomartyrs of the Order
- 18 [St. Charles of Sezze](#), religious, I Ord.
- 19 [Bl. Thomas of Cori](#), priest, I Ord.  
[St. Eustochia Calafato](#), virgin, II Ord.
- 20 [Bl. John Baptist Triquerie](#), priest, martyr, I Ord.
- 23 [St. Maryanne Cope](#), virgin, II Ord.
- 24 [St. Francis De Sales](#), bishop, doctor, III Ord., founder
- 27 [St. Angela Merici](#), virgin, III Ord., founder
- 29 [Bl. Roger of Todj](#), religious, I Ord.
- 30 [St. Hyacintha of Mariscotti](#), virgin, III Ord.
- 31 [St. John Bosco](#), priest, III Ord., founder

### FEBRUARY

- 1 [St. Veridiana](#), virgin, III Ord.  
[Bl. Andrew of Segni](#), religious, I Ord.
- 4 [St. Joseph of Leonissa](#), priest, I Ord.
- 6 [Sts. Peter Baptist, Paul Miki, and Companions](#), martyrs [Martin of the Ascension, Francis Blanco, priests; Philip of Jesus, cleric; Francis of St. Michael, Gonsalvo Garcia, religious; 17 tertiaries], I and III Ord.
- 7 [St. Collette of Corbie](#), virgin, II Ord.
- 8 [St. Giles Mary of St. Joseph](#), religious, I Ord.
- 15 [Transfer of the Body of St. Anthony of Padua](#)
- 17 [Bl. Luke Belludi](#), religious, I Ord.
- 19 [St. Conrad of Piacenza](#), hermit, III Ord.
- 27 [Bl. Sebastian of Aparicio](#), religious, I Ord.

*The entire Regional Executive Council wishes you a blessed Advent and a holy and joyous Christmas season. Peace and all good to you.*

