



The LaVerna Vision

Easter Blessings

Growing Fraternity ❖ SPRING 2012

RULE 11 REFLECTIONS

by Jean McKnight, OFS

“Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs.”

The world is full of examples of people attaining the simple life, most notably John the Baptist, St. Francis, and St. Clare.

Above all, Christ is the ultimate example. His life was clutter free of extraneous possession and bad attitudes, enabling his entire focus to be about his ministry.

How does one move to a life of simplicity? First, realize it is truly a sacred journey. Seculars are all in different places on the path to simplicity, but with patience, sharing, and prayer, they find their

right place. The second thing is to remember to take small steps, and if something doesn't work today, there is tomorrow and even the day after. There is no need for frustration or self-anger.

Sometimes the smartest step taken on a journey may be a step back, a detour, or even in some cases, full out retreat. Our merciful Lord is happy just seeing that a step has been made. Having fellow travellers on this journey makes it more fun and insightful.

One way to take the first step is to make a short list of four or five things that are most important in life. This list becomes a guide for sifting out what is the clutter in life. The final destination being a simplified life of time, commitment, possessions and habit that all contribute to the short list or Rule 11 - “a particular manner of living evangelical poverty.”

Start with your possessions. Pick a room, a closet, or just a drawer. Empty it and sort. What things add value and are important to your short list? Get rid of the rest—trash, a charity, or to someone you think might use it. Some items are harder to get rid of than others are.

That is where prayer and reflection come in. One may even go through a process of mourning as some of the clutter leaves our lives. The things we get rid of, either material or immaterial, at some point in our lives were highly valued. It is perfectly all right and healthy, both mentally and spiritually to mourn those losses. As the burden of possessions lifts, a freedom grows.

Editor's note: Jean McKnight is Minister of St. Francis Xavier Fraternity, Menasha, WI.

Jean has written an addition to her Reflections titled “The Simple Life,” and her article will run in the upcoming summer 2012 *LaVerna Vision* edition.

FORMATION TEAM PRESENTS SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS TO TIME, PLACE, AND HEART



“Growing in Fraternity and Scattering Seeds” marks the theme to the 2012 LaVerna Region district gatherings that began in Wind Lake on March 17, and with April gatherings held in Rhineland and Fond du Lac. The LaVerna Formation Team met on St. Patrick's Day in Wind Lake and addressed their talks to 53 Secular Franciscans, religious and formation students that attended the meeting at St. Clare's Catholic Church.

“Within the theology of the church, high Christology is associated with Church structure and low Christology is associated with the believers and the community,” JoAnn Boss, OFS formation team member, said in her morning presentation. High Christology echoes Scripture and highlights Jesus' divinity; low Christology amplifies gospel stories as Jesus incarnate: Jesus dines with people, weeps over losses, feeds the hungry, cures the sick, heals the sinners, and teaches the crowds. Low Christology is Christ-centered which includes people in our parish, humility, and simplicity in solidarity with the poor, marginal living, and the Secular Franciscans. JoAnn said.

Exploring our relationship with Christ enters us into a priestly, prophetic, and royal role, which comes to our profession and through baptism, she added. These three roles are outlined in the *For Up to Now* (FUN) manual prepared by the

Please see TIME, PLACE AND HEART, page 5

Minister's Message

Building a More Fraternal and Evangelical World...

...is this year's theme from NAFRA as well as the theme for this year's Quinquennial. Our District Meeting formation this year will focus on Growing in Fraternity.



Our Formation team has been working diligently, implementing materials from the new FUN manual. One important theme that will be developed is that good formation leads to action—impact on our world. The format calls for discussion by those attending, including an open forum.

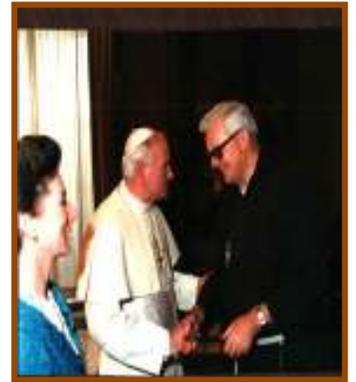
In addition, Fr. Bach Bach has provided our Regional Executive Council with a summary of important items that we as a region need to work on this year to help animate our fraternities.

They include (1) District Meetings—having members attend and participate (2) Reaching out to our “elder” members—including them in fraternity (3) Vocations—bringing in new people (4) OFS family, our fraternal, national and international identity (5) Formation and re-formation—following up on the Fun Manual (6) Training new Spiritual Assistants, including laity. Officers will be addressing these matters in the afternoon of District meetings. We hope to provide an opportunity for council officers meeting with those of like office from other fraternities.

We also hope that discussion of items will lead to members with certain gifts signing up on district-wide committee to address the item of concern [collaboration]. An example: histories/archives. Where would we be if someone hadn't collected Jesus words and the Acts of the apostles? Although our new rule fulfills post conciliar aggiornamento, it is rooted in the spirit of St Francis and the Gospel [Prologue]. Reading William Wick's *A History of the*

Secular Franciscan Order in the United States, puts what we are trying to accomplish today in perspective, in my opinion a “must read.”

We now have histories from 12 of our 18 fraternities. Some are complete; some are admittedly only partial. In mulling through our regional archives, I came across a picture of the late Fr Ulric Buening, OFM Cap, International Minister Manuela Mattioli, and Pope John Paul II. On the back of the photo was dated “June 14, 1988.”



Unfortunately, that's all the information there is left to go on with this important meeting with the pope.

Will we learn why Fr. Ulric and Manuela meet with John Paul? How did their acquaintance with the Holy Father affect them and Secular Franciscans? Maybe those answers are important to our Franciscan family history and future research.

I will need a committee to sit down and help me sort regional, national and international archives and further sort, per guideline, what needs to be kept and what needn't be kept. There will be sign-up sheets for people to sign up for committees where they have an interest and perhaps a gift, like patience, in sorting through archives! Hope to see as many of you as possible at the District meetings.

Peace,

*Jim Carlson, OFS
Regional Minister*

Reflections

Regional Spiritual Assistant - Lester Bach OFM Cap
La Verna OFS Region



You're kidding!?

No, I'm afraid not. I got a total of one response to my request for fraternities to begin to recommend people to be their spiritual assistant. But then I recalled that fraternity councils are to collaborate with the Regional Spiritual Assistant in this matter. I will wait patiently for that collaboration. Then we will prepare people to serve fraternities without a SA. That happens when your SA has served a 12 year term or is transferred or whatever!



Who's responsible?

(Hint - Councils)

Opportunities for fraternities to meet together for the purposes of common ongoing and initial formation shall occur whenever possible at all levels of fraternity. (cf. National Statutes - article 19-5c; Constitutions 40.1) Fraternities in proximity are encouraged to join each other in formation programs. Individual fraternities are unique, but their OFS identity does not grow in isolation. If collaboration can be done, it is expected to be done. Working together is an expectation wherever it is possible.

GO FOR IT!

Bits and Pieces

Almost every branch of knowledge has specific measuring units to evaluate success. Attendance, yards, cubic centimeters, gallons, pounds, dollars, food baskets, calories, toys, and sundry groupings of clothes all become statistics in annual reports.

However, how can we measure spiritual values? Gratitude, for example, is an attitude not locked up for safekeeping. Love, faith, and generosity are not saved in a closet until needed. They are not calculated by mathematics, but are acquired by personal experience.

They possess the unique power of fashioning our personalities, a participation in the creative process that began with the "big bang" at the beginning of time. They are revealed in every smile we share, every prayer we utter, and every fault we forgive.

You are generous, we are grateful, God is merciful. Together we define the meaning of love that still radiates through time.

Fr Matthew Gottschalk OFM Cap - Dove Notes - *The House of Peace* bulletin - February, 2012

A Franciscan understands Matthew's words. Moreover we don't lock up gratitude for safekeeping. We express it. For us that means a direct illustration of gratitude in all of life. We don't keep love, faith and generosity in a closet for use now and then. It is so much a part of who we are that it shows itself as a natural quality of our lives. In short, this thing we call the OFS Rule is not words on a page but values in our lives - or they ought to be. Where they are lacking we stand in need of conversion. So make a list of spiritual values living or lacking in your life. The list may help you recognize where conversion is needed.

E.g. - arrogance, I-know-it-all-ism, I'm always right-ism, are not good spiritual values. Open-heartedness and open-mindedness are good spiritual values. Go through your own list to see where you can grow. Growth may require leaving some things behind and embracing fresh things. They may not be comfortable at first. But if they are the Spirit's graced values, we need to embrace them and let them change our lives.

OFS are new initials for us to use. Wherever we now use the initials SFO, we change them to **OFS** - which translated means *Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis*. The International Chapter of 2011, in Brazil, voted for its use so that we have common initials to identify ourselves throughout the world. Documents will be changed gradually. If you use SFO in your e-mail or other places, use common sense about changing it. But generally, when you identify yourself as a secular Franciscan, use the initials **OFS** as the initials of our common identity. When we spell out the term *Secular Franciscan Order*, it can be used as is. If we use initials we use **OFS**.

The International Chapter hopes it will be another step towards a common way to identify ourselves throughout the world - whatever language is spoken.

SHALOM



OUR ENVIRONMENT

Seeds for Spring

by Judy Stouffer, OFS

If you're a gardener, it seems like a bewildering number of terms are now used by seed companies to describe the kinds of seeds they sell. Here's a quick guide to the most

common terms used on seed packets to describe the seeds.

1. Certified Organic seeds: In order to be "certified organic" the seeds must come from plants grown under the USDA's legal standards for organics. Those standards require that the plants were grown without the use of synthetic fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides, and were not artificially genetically modified.



2. "Coated" seeds: Coating is a fuzzy term when used to describe seeds. Coated seeds can be seeds that have been dipped in an agent like clay to make each seed larger and easier to handle, or to help it retain moisture. Coating can also refer to a coating of synthetic pesticide applied to the seeds. Sometimes, coating can mean that the seeds were dipped or coated with an inoculant to help them germinate properly.

3. GMO or GE seeds: These are seeds that have been created via genetic engineering, by taking genes from one species (plant or animal) and inserting them into another species. For example, scientists have experimented with taking genes from the arctic flounder (a fish) and inserting them into the DNA of tomatoes to create genetically engineered tomatoes that can withstand cold. It is unknown how 'true' each successive generation of genetically engineered seeds is to the previous generation. Genetically engineered plants have many question marks around them still regarding their long-term effects on the environment and their safety. Church authorities have specifically decried a subset of genetically engineered plants, such as some types of genetically engineered corn, which have been created by inserting human genes into them.

4. Heritage or Heirloom seeds: These are seeds of plant varieties that are at least fifty years old--and many are much older than that. Heritage seeds are often varieties of plants that our grandparents and great-grandparents raised.

5. Hybrid seeds: These are seeds, which were produced by naturally cross-pollinated plants of two different varieties. Hybrid varieties are often great improvements over their 'parent' plants. However, the seed produced by a hybrid may not reproduce itself, or the hybrid plant may only produce seeds that are sterile. Hybrids that produce seeds that are like themselves are labeled as "true to type."



6. Open-pollinated seeds: These seeds are naturally pollinated by insects, birds, bats or the wind. They produce plants that in turn have seeds that can reproduce themselves. Seeds produced by open-pollinated plants can be saved and used for planting the next year.

7. "Treated" seeds: these seeds have been coated with a synthetic pesticide, usually an insecticide or a fungicide after harvesting.

Happy Gardening!

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OFS National Formation Commission in 2011. Our identity is seeded and grown by our Secular Franciscan character of Priest, Prophet and Royal. “The faithful are by baptism made one body with Christ and are established among the people of God,” JoAnn said. From her Power Point presentation, JoAnn pointed out to the group that the priestly function asks us to be competent lay Franciscans. The prophetic role is witnessing to our Christian faith. And the royal purpose means proclaiming the reign of God so as to bridge the Word, the Church and the world, she said. In one of his metaphors, Jesus described the children of the kingdom of God as being like seeds sown in the world.

PREMEDITATED MERCY

People see the kingdom whenever we show mercy instead of judgment. Lee Ann Niebuhr, OFS Formation Team speaker, talked on Premeditated Mercy and said, “I can’t think of a better time in our history than now to discuss this topic.” She said, “Premeditated Mercy asks each of us to look into our hearts and to know that we are a walking tabernacle.” If each of us realizes that the body of Christ is inside others then we should pay reverence to each person, especially those who disagree with us. Premeditated Mercy is the parallel opposite of premeditated murder. Mercy implies deliberate, thoughtful, and willful acts to give life: to forgive, to be reconciled, to live at peace with others, even those who betrayed us. Lee Ann wears her Tau cross daily, and by doing so, she understands how radical Jesus’ call for mercy really is. She asked that Franciscans to “force yourself to wear daily the Tau cross because it will change you.”

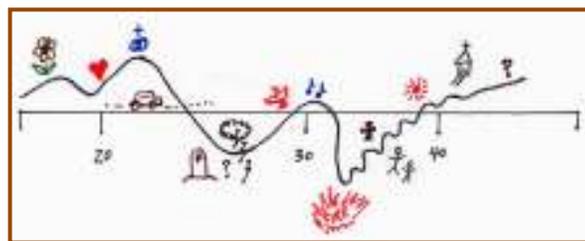
Lee Ann handed out to the members a copy of the *Prayer for Premeditated Mercy*. The prayer asks that before we break bread and pass around a cup we meditate and ask Gracious God to “give us the grace to face whatever anger, resentment, or disgrace we may hold in the fragile chalices of our hearts.” Premeditated Mercy, Lee Ann added, demands that we pray for those who hurt us, as if he or she is atonement. The prayer asks us to meditate on God’s mercy and remember His mercy and to radiate that mercy and love to everyone we meet. Can we drink from this cup of mercy as we approach the tables of our lives?

YOUR OWN ILLUSTRATED LIFE LINE

Pauline Riedl, OFS Formation Team member, spoke about creating our own illustrated lifeline to track the important events that required personal discernment and process. The enclosed FUN manual illustration can be found under “Franciscan Movement” on page 6. This lifeline illustration is merely a sample to help you get started.

You can begin by drawing a time-line representing your life, indicating different stages and times. You might use different colors that reflect how you felt at certain times. Indicate your difficulties and plateaus by the curves or angles of your line.

Lines can also show times when you might have taken a “detour,” etc. Draw symbols, if applicable, at significant points along your line, i.e., a rain cloud at a sad time, a flower for growth, a tombstone for the loss of someone, a cross for an especially difficult time, etc.



Pauline displayed a screen projection of an illustrated timeline of St. Francis, and how his spiritual journey may be used as a reference as a formation class project.

PATHWAYS TO PROFESSION

LaVerna Regional Formation Director Carol Bekkers talked about the structure of the OFS formation process. She outlined the main points for each level (Orientation, Inquirer, and Candidate) and their requirements in forming prospective members for a lifetime commitment.



Franciscan Media Radio Programs via the Internet



American Catholic Radio (ACR) is designed to help you know your faith, so you can grow in your faith. It's a weekly half-hour of information and inspiration, in the popular style of the Franciscans. Each week's ACR draws its inspiration from the liturgical season, current events and enduring Catholic topics.

Here you'll find the wisdom of the saints, the rich tradition of the Church's liturgy and practice, moments of reflection, daily-lived faith of modern Catholics and the thoughts of contemporary Church leaders and thinkers--all presented in harmony with Church teaching. Each program is built around two extended interviews. Other segments offer continuing features. A weekly program that helps you *know your faith*, so you can *grow in your faith*.



CURRENT PROGRAM and **PROGRAM ARCHIVES**

Hear **Franciscan Fr. Greg Friedman** give a 90-second homily based on the Scriptures from this Sunday's Mass or a 90-second reflection based on the Scriptures from today's Mass.



How do you manage today's media? How can we find God in our media-saturated world? Direct from Hollywood, American Catholic Radio presents Sister Rose Pacatte from the Daughters of St. Paul, to help us understand what we're seeing and hearing all around us. She's trained in media literacy and pastoral communications, is an author of books, articles and movie reviews for the Catholic press, and has won numerous awards for her passion to illuminate seeds of the Gospel in today's popular culture.

To enjoy these and other Franciscan Media internet listening, go to www productions.franciscanmedia.org and click on the links to the programs of your choice. Many audio programs may be downloaded to your computer.

Secular Franciscan Wake Services booklet available

This completed form on file will enable your fraternity to be prepared and work in union with surviving family members during a time when decision-making may be difficult.

The Secular Franciscan Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Region, located in Upstate New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania, has issued a free wake service booklet and wake/burial wishes form to assist all fraternities in carrying out the final requests of their Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters who have embraced Sister Death.

Using the Wake and Burial Wishes Form, along with the Wake Service Booklet, can lay a foundation for a well-thought out plan for fraternities and members with the peace of mind that preparedness brings. Duplicating the forms in ivory or pastel-toned paper, and having plenty of copies on hand, may be an uplifting way to ensure all those present are able to participate.

It is the Blessed. Kateri Tekakwitha Regional Council's hope that the form and booklet will be a source of comfort and hope as Secular Franciscans gather to console one another at a time of loss and to honor the memory of one who now enjoys and shares in the triumph over death, which has been won by the Lord.

You may easily download the *Wake Services for Secular Franciscans* booklet in Word or PDF format by going to www.kateriregion.org and click on the links to obtain the free application form you may wish to use.

**WAKE SERVICE
FOR
SECULAR
FRANCISCANS**



**BL. KATERI TEKAKWITHA
REGION**

BOOK REVIEW

My Brother, The Pope by Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, brother of Pope Benedict XVI and co-author Michael Hesemann. The book also contains 47 illustrated photographs. Published by Ignatius Press, 2012

“From the beginning, my brother has been a guide for me,” says the elder brother of Pope Benedict. It wasn't always the case that Msgr. Georg Ratzinger lived in the shadow of his younger brother, Joseph. Georg was an accomplished musician, who for over 30 years directed the Regensburger Domspatzenchor, the world-famous boys choir of Germany's Regensburg cathedral. Brother Joseph was a brilliant young professor, but mostly known in German academic circles. This book is not so much a historical study but memoirs from the brother of the pope,” said Michael Hesemann, 47, a historian and German Catholic. “It is the most intimate biography of the pope.”

Georg writes about the close friendship that has united these two brothers for more than 80 years. *My Brother, The Pope* is a unique window on an extraordinary family that lived through the difficult period of National Socialism in Germany. Those interested in knowing more about the early life of Benedict XVI will not be disappointed. They will also learn of the admirable character and inspiring example of the parents, and see how the Catholic faith can shape not just a family, but an entire culture—in this case, that of Bavaria.

“I am convinced that the lack of traditional piety in many families is a reason why there are too few priestly vocations today,” says Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, who writes about growing up in the Catholic faith. “In our family it was not only Christmas that was marked by the deep faith of our parents and the religious customs of our homeland. From our parents we learned what it means to have a firm grasp of faith in God. Every day we prayed together and in fact before and after each meal (we ate our breakfast, dinner and supper together). The main prayer time was after the mid-day dinner, when the particular concerns of the family were expressed.”

The monsignor writes that he and his brother Joseph served at the altar usually on Sundays and during the week, while his mother and only sister went to another Mass. Their father was a police officer who worked at night. When Mr. Ratzinger did not return home on time because he was on police patrol, the mother, sister and two brothers would become worried about his personal safety and prayed that nothing had happen to father.

“This piety, which was lived and put into practice, defined our whole life,” Msgr. Ratzinger writes. “When we were children, our parents put us to bed and prayed our evening prayers with us. They used a very special form of blessing and repeated it three times. Unfortunately I do

not remember the wording today. This was followed by another somewhat expansive blessing.”

“Msgr. Georg Ratzinger's evocative portrait of the Bavarian Catholicism in which he and his brother, the future pope, were raised, offers 21st century readers an intimate glimpse of a lost world that clearly lives on in the minds and hearts of a great musician and a great theologian. The scenes sketched so ably by Msgr. Ratzinger also shed new light on the experiences that shaped some of the thinking of Benedict XVI about the reform of the Church and the future of Europe,” writes George Weigel, Distinguished Senior Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center. Writer and historian Michael Hesemann spent months interviewing Msgr. Georg Ratzinger.

“Many people in our time practice a form of atheism rather than the Christian faith,” Msgr. Ratzinger writes. “In some respects, they may maintain a sort of vestigial religiosity; perhaps they still go to Mass on the major feast days, but this rudimentary faith long ago ceased to permeate their lives, and has no bearing on their everyday routine. It starts with sitting down at the table and beginning a meal without even thinking about prayer, and it ends with no longer coming to church regularly on Sundays.”

LaVerna Region - Obituary

Margaret Senzig, age 80, a resident of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, entered peacefully into eternal life on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at North Ridge Medical and Rehabilitation Center in Manitowoc while in the presence of her family.



Margaret was born on September 1, 1931, in the Township of Kildare, Juneau County, WI at

the Senzig Farm. She was the daughter of Frank and Josephine Schneider Senzig. Margaret was baptized, made her first Holy Communion and was Confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lyndon Station, WI. She was a graduate of Mauston High School and received her Bachelor of Education Degree at Viterbo College in LaCrosse, WI. She taught primary grades for 30 years in Wisconsin, Iowa, Washington, Idaho, and Vancouver, B.C.

For 11 years she was a Child Care Teacher in Idaho,

Milwaukee, Manitowoc and Two Rivers. Margaret was a Secular Franciscan and Minister of Holy Innocents Fraternity, member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Manitowoc, the St. Clare Society, and a Hospice volunteer at Holy Family Memorial Medical Center. She lovingly helped care for members of her family, the sick and elderly of her community and took part in numerous church activities. Margaret loved her garden and her flowers and successfully made things grow.

Surviving is her sister, Franciscan Sister Zita Senzig F.S.E. of Assisi, Italy; three sisters-in-law: Marjorie Senzig, Lyndon Station, WI; Elaine Senzig, Milwaukee, WI and Adoree Senzig of Caledonia, WI; nephew, Dr. Joseph (Rhonda) Trader, Manitowoc, WI; also many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Margaret was preceded in death by her parents, her sister and brother-in-law: Dorothy and Edgar Trader; five brothers: Francis, Walter, James, Joseph, and Donald; and one sister-in-law: Jeannette.

Plans Continue on the Interfaith Meditation Room at Mitchell Airport "Come, Rest, Renew"



Suzanne McKinney, OFS

In the spring 2010 *LaVerna Vision* newsletter, an article featured Suzanne McKinney's passion to find a quiet space for prayer and reflection at Milwaukee's busy international airport. After the 162-year old St. Stephen's Catholic Church was razed, Suzanne had decided that General Mitchell International Airport needed a chapel. In the past, airport visitors had visited the old St. Stephen's church, which was located near Mitchell airport. Suzanne had read about the Franciscan "mobile ministry" at truck stops, airports and other nontraditional stops, and felt that Mitchell needs an airport chapel for its travelers, visitors, and employees.

There were many obstacles pointed in Suzanne's direction that would make the faint-hearted throw their hands up and quit. To stay the course, Suzanne needed a burning commitment that seeks the blessing of the Milwaukee County Board, thick skin to withstand opposition from the Madison-based Freedom From Religion Foundation, marketing skills for chapel fundraisers, understanding at interfaith group meetings, insight to approve architectural chapel illustrations, and earnest prayers. On April 21, 2011, the Milwaukee County Board voted 18 – 0 approving an Interfaith Room at Mitchell Airport, thus adding to the 150 worldwide airport chapels and meditation rooms. Plans will now continue to raise the money to build the chapel.

"Travelers are often under stress, and they need a little time for peace," said Suzanne McKinney, OFS and member of Portiuncula Fraternity in Franklin, WI. McKinney has founded a nonprofit organization, Interfaith Airport Chapel of Milwaukee, to promote and fund the chapel. This chapel, as well as those throughout the world, welcomes people of all faiths. The group is looking at about 600 square feet. She hopes to incorporate in the meditation room some elements of the old St. Stephen's Church. "We've received some stained-glass windows, some marble from the sanctuary, a few pews," said McKinney, and the chapel will have a beautiful blend of the new and the old. The interfaith group is seeking donations to cover the estimated \$300,000 cost to furnish the chapel. Once the chapel is built, it will become a permanent fixture inside the airport.

For more information, contact The Interfaith Airport Chapel of Milwaukee at P.O. Box 402, South Milwaukee, WI 53172, or phone: (414) 570-9906. Please visit their YOU-TUBE video presentation at www.mkeairportmeditationroom.org

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The La Verna Region of the Secular Franciscan Order in the USA consists of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. The region geographical area is divided into four districts: Southeast, Central, Fox Valley and Upper Michigan. The La Verna Vision is a communication vehicle with the LaVerna Region, and presents a forum for information and insights that relate to the Secular Franciscan Order way of life.

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The La Verna Vision newsletter is published three times a year. Deadline for submitting articles are as follows:
spring issue—March 1; summer issue—July 1; winter issue—November 1.

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PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL

We value our life as Secular Franciscans and wish to have our way of living the Gospels continue through future generations. If you as an individual feel strongly about this, we ask you to remember the La Verna Regional Secular Franciscans in your will. Please advise your attorney to have the request read: "I give and bequeath the sum of \$_____ unto the La Verna Region of the Secular Franciscan Order for the purpose of furthering the ideals of the Secular Franciscan Order."

Correspondence can be mailed to Peter Bekkers, OFS, LaVerna Regional Treasurer, W6855 St. Mary's Dr., Greenville, WI 54942. Telephone number is (920) 757-9027 or email Peter at taxmannatp@gmail.com

Your Franciscan Way of Life and generosity will be remembered for years to come.

National OFS

Quinquennial CONGRESS

WHY FRANCIS? CLAIM THE GIFT!

July 3-8, 2012

Holiday Inn North Shore
Skokie, IL



You've read or seen their books. Now experience their passion for God and Francis in person.

Keynote speaker/author/theologian

Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF and Br. Bill Short, OFM

REGISTER TODAY. Registration info:

<http://www.nafra-sfo.org> or see *LaVerna Vision's* "Calendar of Events," on page 12

International OFS



Croatian Secular Franciscans run an active shelter and magazine for homeless and marginalized

The Croatian local fraternity of Tersat coordinates a stellar project that publishes a magazine called *Ulicne Svjetiljke* (*Street Lights*) and runs a shelter for homeless men, women, and children. In a country whose laws still ignore the existence of homelessness, the Roses of Saint Francis homeless shelter in Rijeka is a vital resource. The shelter established by the Secular Franciscan Order is open 24 hours a day. Together with the help of volunteers, the Secular Franciscans help raise public awareness about the problems of the socially marginalized. The local fraternity believes their magazine is a good mission opportunity for evangelization – helping the “lepers of our time,” and see Christ in the face of the suffering.

Street Lights is the first Croatian magazine that addresses related social problems concerning the homeless. Financing for the magazine is based on sustainability, i.e., its price is 8 kn (a little more than 1 Euro Dollar); half of the money is set aside to publish the next issue of the *Street Lights* magazine, and the other half goes to the homeless who sell the magazine. The Roses of Saint Francis is a night shelter, a social super market of ideas and programs, as well as the activity center of *Street Lights*. Those who find themselves homeless through addiction, poor psychological or physical health, lack of family and social support, are helped to become valued members of society again.

The principal objective of publishing *Street Lights* is to help the homeless, children without adequate parental care, war veterans deprived of civil rights, former prisoners, drug addicts, and adults with psychological problems to socialize and to raise awareness in the public about the growing problems of marginalized groups living inside Croatia. All of those who work on the publication of *Ulicne svjetiljke*, including the editor, are volunteers. The homeless distribute the magazine on the streets of Rijeka, Zagreb, Osijek, Vinkovci and other large Croatian cities. Contact person: Sinisa Pucic, e-mail: romanista43@yahoo.com

LaVerna Regional Fraternity
APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FOR 2012 FRANCISCAN RETREAT FEES

APPLICANT _____ PH # (____) _____ - _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ / ____ / _____

FRATERNITY: _____ PROFESSION DATE: ____ / ____ / ____

RETREAT LOCATION _____

RETREAT DATE ____ / ____ / ____ FEE _____

IN ORDER FOR YOU TO QUALIFY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, WE NEED TO HAVE SOME INFORMATION.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN FAMILY LIVING AT HOME _____

TOTAL MONTHLY HOUSHOLD INCOME \$ _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

THESE GUIDELINES WILL HELP US TO DETERMINE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

<u>FAMILY SIZE</u>	<u>MONTHLY INCOME</u>
1	\$ 1,490.00
2	\$ 2,004.00
3	\$ 2,518.00
4	\$ 3,032.00
5	\$ 3,547.00
6	\$ 4,061.00
7	\$ 4,575.00
8	\$ 5,089.00
9	\$ 5,604.00
10	\$ 6,119.00

RETURN TO: PETER BEKKERS, OFS E-MAIL: TAXMANNATP@GMAIL.COM
W6855 ST. MARYS DR. PHONE: (920) 757-9027
GREENVILLE, WI 54942

NOTE: IF FOR SOME REASON YOU CANNOT ATTEND THIS RETREAT,
PLEASE RETURN THE ASSISTANCE MONEY TO "LAVERNA REGION OFS"

LAVERNA REGION
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
236 ELIZABETH STREET
WHITEWATER, WI 53190

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
GREEN BAY, WI
PERMIT 460

Calendar of Events: Spring/Summer 2012

April 21 **Fox Valley LaVerna Regional District Gathering**, Community Center, 280 Garfield Street, North Fond du Lac, WI. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., lunch provided by host, St. Joseph Fraternity, Fond du Lac, WI.

May 24 – 27 **Cultivating Compassion: A Spirituality for this Millennium, retreat at the Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center, Arbor Vitae, WI.** What is life's big question? The answer depends on our understanding of the story of the universe and the relationship that the self occupies within that primal story. This retreat gently invites us into inter-related and compassionate spirituality for this millennium. The \$310 retreat fee includes room in a shared lakeside cabin and all meals. Commuters: \$190 includes noon and evening meals.

Retreat directors: Sr. Corrina Thomas, FSPA and Sr. Marla Lang, FSPA. Call Sr. Kathy Lentsch (715) 385-3750 or e-mail Marywood.center@gmail.com Retreat presentations will be given in the a.m. Afternoons are free for personal reflection and evenings will include guided sharing.

June 22 – 24 **LaVerna Regional Chapter, St. Anthony's Retreat Center, Marathon, WI.**

July 3-8 **The 18th Quinquennial of the Secular Franciscan Order, "Why Francis? Claim the Gift!"**

Holiday Inn Chicago North Shore Hotel, 5300 Touhy Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 (toll free number: 866-750-3369. Open Liturgy: Bishop George J. Rassas, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Chicago, Bro. Bill Short, OFM, Tom Bello, OFS, and keynote speaker, Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF. For more information, contact Cecilia Maljan, SFO: cylmaljan@earthlink.net

August 10/11 St. Clare's 800th anniversary celebration. St. Clare's Transitus to be held on the Cardinal Stritch University campus in Milwaukee. A keynote speaker will present Clare's role for the Franciscan family. This open invitation is for students, community, and members of the Franciscans family. The event includes music, keynote speaker, and liturgy. More information will be coming out this summer.