



Franciscan Federation Musings

Volume 7: Number 6, June 8, 2009

Welcome to the monthly Newsletter of the Franciscan Federation

Please send news items to the National Office, franfed@aol.com by the 15th of the month.

NEW ON THE WEBSITE: WWW.FRANFED.ORG

- 2009 AFC Exhibitors with links to their websites (go to Annual Conference/Exhibitors)
- Brother Sun, Sister Moon – Franciscan Mountain Retreats 2009 (go to Region 6 webpage)
- The Image of St. Francis Over 800 Years- St. Peter's in the Loop, July 8 & 9th (go to Region 3 & Region 4 webpages)
- (To be posted soon!) Upcoming retreats at the St Francis Spirituality Center, Tiffin, OH (go to Region 3 webpage)

SPONSORS – AFC CINCINNATI

Thank you to those who have donated a sponsorship for the conference coffee breaks and printed material. All coffee breaks are covered, as are the Conference folder and the Reflection booklet. We welcome shared sponsorship and invite you to consider sharing a continental breakfast, the opening social or the banquet, for example if 10 communities donated \$1,000 each toward the banquet or if 4 communities donated \$1,000 each toward a continental breakfast. Forms have been mailed to congregational leaders. For more information please contact the National Office 202-529-2334 or franfed@aol.com.

EXHIBITS – AFC CINCINNATI

We have received a great response from exhibitors for the AFC in Cincinnati. We welcome those who have been with us for past conferences and look forward to meeting and networking with many new exhibitors. Visit the Federation website, www.franfed.org, Annual Conference section for the list of exhibitors with links to their websites. Check them out before coming to Cincinnati.

A CHANCE TO WALK ON HOLY GROUND

“There is always another chance to walk on Holy Ground.” Once again, thanks to the generosity of the Franciscan Pilgrimage Program, we are sponsoring an Assisi Lottery. The lucky winner has the opportunity to participate in a two week pilgrimage program to Assisi, holy ground for all Franciscans, or receive a cash prize of \$500.00. There are two second prizes of Registration to the Annual Federation Conference or \$100.00 and three third prizes of a Franciscan Prayer Book or \$50.00. Please download the chances and sell as many as possible. All the proceeds go to the Franciscan Federation. **TAKE A CHANCE!** Chances are posted on the Federation website at www.franfed.org

NEW LEADERSHIP ELECTED

The new Leadership Team for the **Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross, Green Bay, WI** were elected in January and will be installed on June 15, 2009. Newly elected members are: Sister Donna Koch, Community President, Sr. Sally Ann Brickner, First Vice President, and Sr. Jane Riha, Second Vice President.

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The **Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception, West Peoria, IL** announce their newly elected Leadership for 2009-2013: Sr. Paula Vasquez, President, Sr. Diane Marie VandeVoorde, Vice-President, Sr. Kathleen Ann Mourisse, Councilor, Sr. Jean Marie Ciuffini, Councilor, and Sr. Betty Jean Haverback, Councilor

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The **Felician Sisters of North America** are pleased to announce the sisters chosen by the members to lead the new Our Lady of Hope Province. Provincial Minister, Sr. Mary Christopher Moore, Provincial Vicar, Sr. Danat Marie Brysch, Provincial Councilors, Sr. Nancy Marie Jamroz, Sr. Constance Marie Tomyl, Sr. Mary GERALYN Mroczkowski, Sr. MaryAnne Olekszyk,

Sr. Mary Jolene Jasinski, and Sr. Judith Marie Blizzard. The newly elected will take office on November 21, 2009.

2010 FRANCISCAN PILGRIMAGE PROGRAMS

Attached with this issue of *Musings* is a PDF file from the Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs with the listing for 2010 Pilgrimages. Please share this PDF and its information with the members of your community, with Secular Franciscans, and with partners in ministry who might be interested in deepening their spirituality through a pilgrimage experience. For more information contact the Franciscan Pilgrimage office 414-427-0570 or www.FranciscanPilgrimages.com

NEWS FROM FEDERATION REGIONS

REGION ONE

The following sisters were elected to serve in Region One. Region One Chairperson, Sr. Patricia Larkin OSF (Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities), Secretary, Sr. Pauline Sweeney SFP (Franciscan Sisters of the Poor) and Treasurer, Sr. Mary Frances Mills OSF (Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities). Their term will begin after the Cincinnati Annual Conference in July.

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#### **REGION TWO**

At a recent meeting of the Region Two Steering Committee, the following members were elected or re-elected: Chairperson – Sr. Betty Kane, OSF, Vice-Chairperson – Sr. Jeanine Morozowich, CSSF, Treasurer – Sr. Althea Anne Spencer, OSF, Secretary – Sr. Pat Brennan, OSF. We also welcomed Sr. Patricia McAlpin, OSF, to the steering committee as the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi representative. Welcome, Sr. Pat!

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#### **NEW VATICAN AMBASSADOR**

Miguel Diaz has been nominated to serve as ambassador to the Vatican. Miguel is an associate professor of theology at the College of Saint Benedict/St. John's University in Minnesota. Many may remember Miguel was one of our keynote presenters for the 2005 AFC *Return to the Mission* held in San Diego, CA.

We have copies of Miguel's two books available for purchase: *From the Heart of the People* and *On Being Human*. If you are interested in purchasing copies please contact the National Office. A limited number of copies will be available at the AFC in Cincinnati.

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#### **FRANCISCAN PROGRAM –THE IMAGE OF ST. FRANCIS OVER 800 YEARS**

Wednesday, July 8 and Thursday, July 9, 2009 - 12:15 PM at St. Clare Auditorium  
Maurice Carmody OFM, author of *The Franciscan Story*, a comprehensive history of the Franciscans from the beginning of the brotherhood to the present day, will give three presentations at St. Peter's, including an evening presentation, The History of the Friars Minor, 7:00 PM Wednesday July 8 at St. Peter's in the Loop, 1110 West Madison St, Chicago, IL 312-853-2376

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#### **WELCOME SISTER DEATH**

Dr. Ewert Cousins, Professor Emeritus of Theology, Fordham University and noted expert in Christian spirituality, died peacefully in his home on Saturday, May 30th, 2009 surrounded by his family. He was 81 years old.

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#### **NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY**

The book *Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth* by Ilia Delio, Pamela Wood and Keith Douglass Warner has recently won two awards from the Catholic Press Association: 1st Place for best book on social concerns, and 2nd Place for best book in Spirituality. Publisher: St Anthony Messenger Press and Franciscan Communications.

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#### **PRESIDENT OF CRISTO REY**

Sister Jeanne Bessette, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, Joliet, IL and a member of the Implementation Task Force, has been selected as the President of the newly

forming Cristo Rey High School in Cincinnati. After one-year feasibility study, the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, the Cristo Rey Network Board of Directors and Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk approved a new model of secondary education in Cincinnati. The newly approved De Paul Cristo Rey High School will offer opportunities for economically disadvantaged high school students to afford a college preparatory education.

The Cristo Rey (Christ the King) model provides for students to attend school four days per week and work one day in local business; earning more than 70 percent of their tuition. The students fill entry-level clerical positions in local companies and non-profit organizations.

Jeanne's educational philosophy states: "Great education, for both the student and the educator, is never for the timid, but it is always for those with the profound hope that people can change the world and the sublime faith that every individual has the right and responsibility to try."

Congratulations Jeanne!

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### **PROVINCIAL CHAPTER**

The USA Province of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God are preparing for their Provincial Chapter. This chapter will address their "Transformation as Gospel Women through Fire, Water and the Cross." The Chapter of Affairs will take place June 22-25 and will address key issues regarding the future direction of the Province. The Chapter of Elections will take place August 28-30 to elect Leadership for the next four-year term. Please hold our sisters in your prayers during both the Chapter of Affairs and Chapter of Elections as they seek to respond to where Providence may lead them.

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### **IFC-TOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The International Franciscan Conference of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular (IFC-TOR) was held in Assisi on May 16-21, 2009. The theme of the Conference was "Becoming a Disturbing Presence in Today's World: Christ Through Francis, Clare and ...Me!" The Franciscan Federation was well represented by: Diane Marie Collins OSF, president; Ramona Miller OSF, vice-president; Ann Lyons FSSJ, Executive Director and a number of our brothers and sisters representing various Franciscan Communities in the United States.

The keynote speaker was Anthony J. Gittens, author of **A Presence that Disturbs: A Call to Radical Discipleship**. Anthony emphasized that you and I must ask to be disturbed and become a Godly disturbance. We must be part of God's plan and stand up and defend the muted or silenced groups of people who are uncared for and unrepresented. We were asked: "How do we bring life today—re-inspire, re-invigorate our Franciscan way of life?"

The final statement of the Conference is being sent as an attachment and will soon be posted on our website.

Elections were held for the IFC-TOR Council. James Puglisi, SA was elected president along with the following council members: Janet Gardner, Xavier Bomberger, Louise Hembrecht, Doreen D'Souza and Jessy Payappilly. Congratulations to the four Americans, James, Janet, Xavier and Louise that are now members of the IFC-TOR Council.

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### **LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends,

I kept my promise – I prayed for you inside of the Portiuncula while I was in Assisi for the IFC-TOR international gathering. I hope you felt the divine energy.

There is a matter that weighs heavy upon my heart and greatly concerns me. Ann and Margaret have informed me that while we have approximately sixty-eight member congregations in the Federation, there are only about thirty communities represented by leadership who are currently registered for the AFC in Cincinnati.

I know the economy is a factor. We have tightened our belts and made choices regarding those events that we will attend. We do this as good stewards of our congregations' resources. I ask you to reconsider and send at least one member from your leadership team to represent your congregation. This is truly a historic moment in the life of the Federation and the presence of leadership is critical to the future of the Federation. We are counting on you to assist in setting the direction for the Federation. Your input and your presence are extremely important as we work toward transformation.

I am sure many of you recall our gathering at St. Bonaventure last April with its energy, enthusiasm and hope. Let us come together once again with the same enthusiasm as we continue to fire the flames of new birth. Cincinnati was selected because of its central location, affording us the opportunity to drive to the AFC and share expenses.

Many of us have examined and given feedback on material provided by the Implementation Task Force. We have read and responded to the work done by the by-law committee. Arlene McGowan and Kathy Warren, co-chairs of the planning committee, continue to work with their committees to prepare for the conference. The office staff and the National Board have worked diligently to accomplish their goals and have kept the membership well informed. Coming to the AFC gives us a chance to meet face-to-face. Personal presence and interaction is extremely important. We come together to celebrate what has been done and in mutual love commit ourselves to the future. We need your presence, your wisdom and your creativity as we tend the Third Order charism.

Come represent your community. Encourage and support the attendance of the members of your congregation. Thank you for the many things you do each day in your ministry of leadership to faithfully live out our charism. Come to Cincinnati!

Peace,

Diane Marie Collins OSF  
President  
Franciscan Federation