



Franciscan Federation Musings

Volume 7: Number 5 May 7, 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 ITEMS ON THE WEBSITE: WWW.FRANFED.ORG

- Franciscan Federation Revised Structure (go to Implementation Task Force tab)
- AFC'09 Immigration Resolution (go to Annual Conference section/09AFC Resolution tab)
- Franciscan Artist Sr. Stella DeVenuta OSF (go to Franciscan Art section/SanctuStar tab)
- Updated Cincinnati City/Restaurant Map (go to Annual Conference section /City Map tab)
- Job Listing Mission Effectiveness / Volunteer Coordinator (go to Job Listing/Franciscan Outreach)
- Job Listing Director of Spiritual Care (go to Job Listings/Dir Spiritual Care)

CALL FOR MUSICIANS - CINCINNATI

Sr. Jeri and Sr. Noella, co-chairs of the Liturgy Committee for the AFC are looking for musicians to play for some of the liturgies. If you play an instrument and can transport it to the conference, please contact Sr. Jeri at fuhrmann_j@yahoo.com. Jeri or Noella will contact you BEFORE the Conference to give you some idea of when you are needed.

Practice will take place on Friday, July 10th at 3:15 P. M. in the Pavillion Ballroom.

SPONSORS – 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.

WORDS OF FRANCIS AND CLARE

Twenty-six mantras taken directly from the writings of Francis and Clare on two CDs, background information and a 16 page booklet explaining each chant are available from the Franciscan Pilgrimage Office. These beautiful mantras are designed for personal, individual prayer leading one to contemplation; small community groups, prayer groups, retreats, and to enhance communal prayer and public liturgy where hymns and responsorial antiphons are used. Suggested donation is \$25 plus \$4 total shipping for orders of 1 to 9 CDs, free shipping for orders of 10 or more. Your purchase is a donation to Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs' Scholarship Fund. You can order on-line at www.FranciscanPilgrimages.com CDs will also be available at the AFC 2009 in Cincinnati at the Franciscan Pilgrimages table.

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 attached with this issue of *Musings*.

CALLING FRANCISCAN ARTISTS

We are in the process of updating the Franciscan Art section of our website and hope to feature more Franciscan artists. If you or the artists of your congregation are interested in posting art,

cards, and crafts please send a short bio and contact information, description of your works with a price list. For more information please contact Margaret at the National Office 202-529-2334 ext. 13 or ffmagee@aol.com.

ST. FRANCIS PLEDGE

The St. Francis Pledge is a promise to live our faith by protecting God's creation and advocating on behalf of people in poverty who face the harshest impacts of global climate change. By taking the pledge you commit to act on each of five elements: pray, learn, assess, act and advocate.

Act now to protect our planet and those in poverty who are most impacted by climate change by honoring our obligation toward God's gift of creation. Take "**The St. Francis Pledge**" which is strongly supported by all U. S. Bishops. Please go to: catholicclimatecovenant.org and click the St. Francis Pledge at the top of the website.

SOA WATCH

Congress prepares to consider several important actions that will determine the fate of the School of the Americas (SOA/WHINSEC). In May, the Latin America Military Training Review Act will be introduced in the House of Representatives. This legislation would stop the operations of the SOA/WHINSEC and set up a commission to investigate the past and present abuses of the school and U.S. foreign military training. Congress will also introduce an amendment to the Defense Authorization Act that would force the Pentagon to release the name of all SOA/WHINSEC graduates and instructors.

The success of these legislative efforts depends directly upon grassroots supporters like you. Please ask your Representative to be a cosponsor of the Latin America Military Training Review Act. Also ask that they cut funding to the SOA/WHINSEC. It is of particular importance this year that you additionally call your Senators and stress that the Pentagon must be made to release the names of all SOA/WHINSEC graduates and instructors. Research has already found several recent graduates who participated in human rights abuses, and the Pentagon must not be allowed to cover up their continued training of these abusers. Go to www.soaw.org to get updated details on the upcoming vote, the timing and the message that needs to be conveyed.

FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK PEACEMAKING RETREATS

The Franciscan tradition of peacemaking is an integral part of the larger global peacemaking experience. Franciscans and Franciscan-hearted people bring more than 800 year of peacemaking practice to conflict and violence. In this two-day retreat, participants will explore and deepen their commitment to being "instruments of peace," through prayer, faith reflection, and skills training.

June 12-14, 2009 Franciscan Retreat Center, Colorado Springs, CO

July 8-10, 2009 Marydale Retreat Center, Erlanger, KY (15 minutes from Cincinnati - prior to AFC) FAN will help coordinate travel from the Marydale Retreat Center to the Hilton hotel for the AFC. More information and registration can be found on FAN website

www.franciscanaction.org/peace and on the Franciscan Federation website www.franfed.org

NEW LEADERSHIP ELECTED

The **Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart** are pleased to announce the election of the following new leadership team members: Sr. Judith Plumb, General Superior, Sr. Norma Janssen, Vicaress, Sr. Judith Davies, Councilor, Sr. Nancy Roberta Schramm, Councilor, Sr. Debrah Funfsinn, Councilor. These sisters will serve a 5 year term with their installation celebration on June 14, 2009 at Queen of Angels Chapel, St Francis Woods, Frankfort, IL.

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In blessing and affirmation the **Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother U. S. Caribbean Province** celebrate the call to leadership of their newly elected Provincial Council 2009-2013: Sr. Marilyn Vollmer, Provincial, Sr. Julie Marie Peters, Assistant Provincial, Sr. Frances Renn, Councilor, Sr. Jeanine Retzer, Councilor. New leadership will be effective July 1, 2009.

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## **MISSION EFFECTIVENESS / VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**

Franciscan Outreach Association is a homeless service organization with a 246 bed overnight shelter, a soup kitchen, and case managers who help the homeless find whatever they need to build a better life. We are in search of a Mission Effectiveness/Volunteer Coordinator to work with our full-time volunteers who live and work with us for a year at a time, most of whom are young persons from around the US and the world, coordinate part time volunteers for two sites, and plan and direct the process of making the FOA mission more tangible for all FOA employees and supporters. Salary is \$20,000 and is provided by a one year grant from a foundation which may be renewable. Position begins on or about June 1, 2009. Send resume and cover letter by mail or fax. Resumes will NOT be accepted by email. Send resume and cover letter to Diana Faust, Franciscan Outreach Association, 1645 W. LeMoyné, Chicago, IL 60622 or fax to (773) 278-7120. Our website is [www.franoutreach.org](http://www.franoutreach.org)

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## **DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL CARE**

St. Joseph Hospital Health Center, a 431-bed acute care hospital sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities and located in Syracuse, New York, is currently seeking a full-time Director of Spiritual Care. This individual would be responsible for program development, fiscal management, planning, organization, implementation, direction and evaluation of spiritual care services to our patients, families, and staff.

Qualifications: NACC Board Certified with an M.A. in Theology, 3-5 years experience in a healthcare setting, excellent management, clinical, interpersonal and leadership skills, and a strong commitment to the mission of St. Joseph Hospital and to the Franciscan Values.

Send your resume to: St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center, Human Resources Dept. 301 Prospect Ave., Syracuse, NY 13203. Fax 315-448-5580 Email: [jobs@sjhsyr.org](mailto:jobs@sjhsyr.org). Pre-employment drug screening is mandatory. We are a smoke-free campus.

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends,

It's May and the Easter alleluias, are growing faint on most of our horizons. Here in Illinois, it is finally spring and signs of God's presence in the beauty of creation are bursting out all over. This time of year helps us to realize the reality of new life that we hope for in the dead of winter. I believe that the stirrings of new life are also making themselves known in the Franciscan Federation. There has been much planting and nurturing and tending throughout this year. You have all been a part of this process and I am grateful. We will soon have a chance to experience the result. The Implementation Task Force, Steering Committees of the Commissions, the staff of the National Office, members of the National Board and the AFC 2009 Steering Committee continue to assist us in generating our future. Encourage all of your members to go to the Federation web page and learn more about the new structure.

Some items in this month's newsletter call us to show the mutual love that will generate not only the future of the Federation, but, the future of our world. We are invited to take the St Francis Pledge promising to live our faith by concrete actions that will protect our planet and the poor most affected by climate change. More information can be found in the April 20 – 27 issue of [America Magazine](#) in addition to the website noted in *Musings*. The opportunity to impact legislation that will determine the future of the School of the Americas and those who were trained there is also offered. Once again we need to take the time, make the phone call or write the letter that can make a difference.

I know that some of us will soon travel to Assisi to participate in the General Assembly of the International Franciscan Conference of the Sisters and Brothers of the Third Order Regular. The theme: **Becoming a Disturbing Presence In Today's World: Christ, Through Francis, Clare**

**and . . .Me”** will surely stir some embers and evoke thought that will lead to action. Let us all pray that the Holy Spirit will be present and that the impact will be universally felt. Pray also for safe travel for all. I promise to carry you in my heart and bring you to the Portciuncula with me in prayer.

Perhaps those Easter alleluias have not faded as we continue growing in mutual love through our actions, we will not only hear them but become alleluias of praise to our God.

Your sister in God's peace,

Diane Marie

Diane Marie Collins OSF