



Franciscan Federation Musings

Volume 7: Number 10, October 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 ON THE WEBSITE: WWW.FRANFED.ORG

- Job Listings (go to Job Listings page for the following)
Executive Director for Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (tab AFCU Executive Director)
Vice President Student Development, Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, IA (tab VP BCU Development)
- Region 1 - Membership Renewal (go to Region 1 web page)
- Region 2 Membership Renewal (go to Region 2 web page)
- Region 3 - Updated Webpage (go to Region 3 web page for the following)
 - Retreats at St. Francis Spirituality Center, Tiffin
 - Steering Committee names and emails
 - Pottery Classes and Experiences in Prayer and Meditation, Tiffin, OH

RESPONSE TO APOSTOLIC VISITATION – CEL INPUT

The five-member executive committee of CEL met to begin carrying out our functions and responsibilities as listed in the Franciscan Federation bylaws. We spent time at this first meeting getting to know one another and sharing some personal interest details about our background and that of our congregations.

In reviewing the AFC evaluations, we noted the concern of the participants regarding the amount of time spent dealing with structure. We recognize the need for a business meeting but we want you to know that in the future we are determined to concentrate on our charism and find inspiring speakers to help us deepen our Franciscan heritage.

Much time was spent in discussion of the Apostolic Visitation and we would like to suggest a Franciscan response to the questionnaire that was sent to each congregation. Sisters Elise Saggau, Mary Elizabeth Imler and Louise Hembrecht are working on a resource that will help you place our Franciscan Rule along with our Congregational Constitutions side by side as we seek to respond to the questionnaire. We noted that at the LCWR national conference in August, a suggestion was made to use our individual Constitutions in graphing our response. This is a further resource to help us look at the questions from a Franciscan viewpoint. This resource will be sent to all major superiors in October. Watch for this important letter.

At our August meeting we were also given two articles as another resource to prepare for our visitation response. We want to pass on this helpful information to all of you. The first article is taken from **CORD**, November, 1994 entitled “Response to the *Lineamenta* in light of the 1944 Synod of Bishops on Consecrated Life in the Church”. The second article is also from **CORD**, November, 1994 entitled “The Prophetic Heart: the Evangelical Form of Religious Life in the Contemporary United States” by Joseph F. Chinnici, OFM. If you do not have a subscription to **CORD**, these articles can be obtained through the Franciscan Institute.

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COMMISSION OF CHARISM SERVICES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

September 16th, the Executive Committee of the *Commission of Charism Services* held their initial meeting by conference call. Great energy!

Grateful for the special links to the 2009 AFC on Federation's Web Page, the Committee recommends that members consider the keynote addresses as well as Reflection Booklet as they hope to integrate the Federation experience in so much that touches our lives. If anyone has difficulty accessing these resources, please notify the National Office. Any sharings from the use of these resources are most welcomed by the Charism Services. They would readily pass these along. Please e-mail these to Arlene McGowan, chairperson of the CCS, at arlenemcgowan@msn.com.

Kathleen Moffatt found a source for PRAYERBOOK COVERS. It is the DEMCO Company, at 500 E. North Street, DeForest, WI 53532. 1-800-962-4463

#13500130 slip on book cover **8&3/4 "H #222 .69 cents each** [this size is a perfect fit]

If more room for cards, etc. is needed - the 9# size is also appropriate (13500150 9# 228)

FRANCISCAN MORNING AND EVENING PRAISE – Copyright Permissions

We have received several requests at the National Office for permission to make copies of sections of the Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise. At the suggestion of the National Board and the chairperson of the Prayer Book Committee a lawyer was contacted to check whether we had the legal right to grant such permissions. Upon consultation with the lawyer, we learned that our copyrights apply only to the prayer book itself and do not allow us to grant permission for copies to be made for individual or group use. Regretfully, all such request must be denied.

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### **REVIEWS of Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise**

As our congregational leadership gathers each morning for prayer we have often expressed our gratitude for the wonderful resource we have in the Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise book which we recently received.

We are delighted with the layout of the book, the inclusion of the Franciscan values as the theme for each week of the Psalter and the selection of readings each day that draw from scripture and our Franciscan sources. Having this resource also joins us with other Franciscans around the world in common prayer. On behalf of all of our sisters and Cojourners, we say “thanks”. Know our gratitude comes from the heart.

Sister Tierney Trueman, Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester, MN

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WOW! ALLELUIA!

The new prayer book is truly a work of ART and definitely a work of LOVE! Thank you and God bless!

Sister Irene Yosick, Joliet Franciscan

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### **SHARING OUR GIFT**

Many of you have referred to the Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise as a “gift” in the many notes of thanks that we have received at the National Office. Sr. Suzanne Fondini, USA Minister, of the Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception gifted Cardinal Sean O’Malley, a Capuchin and the Archbishop of Boston, with a copy of the Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise. Cardinal O’Malley sent a letter expressing his gratitude and said the prayer book would be most helpful to him for his own prayer and meditation.

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### **THIRD ORDER REGULAR FRANCISCAN COMMON NOVITIATE**

On July 7, 2009 the Third Order Regular Franciscan Common Novitiate was given official approval by the Vatican. The new entity is a merger of two regional common Franciscan novitiates, one in the Eastern part of the country, and the other in the Midwest. Since the early 1990s, religious congregations of Franciscan TOR women have discovered that by pooling their personnel and financial resources, they have been able to provide a high quality canonical

novitiate experience for their new members. The TOR FCN immerses novices in a rhythm of prayer, study, leisure, community service, common living, inter-congregational learning and personal growth. An on-site novice minister is in frequent communication with the home congregational novice minister, and great efforts are made to strengthen ties to the home congregation, while simultaneously providing the novices with a peer group. Currently, thirty-one TOR congregations of Franciscan women participate in the Franciscan Common Novitiate. To learn how your Franciscan TOR congregation might benefit from membership, contact Sister Patricia Burkard, OSF or Sister Diana Lynn Eckel, OSF  
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Syracuse, NY 13208 Sylvania, OH 43560  
ph. 315-634-7000 ph 419-824-3601  
[pburkard@sosf.org](mailto:pburkard@sosf.org) [dleckel@sistersosf.org](mailto:dleckel@sistersosf.org)

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### **TOR FRANCISCAN COMMON NOVITIATE - Hires On-Site Novice Minister**

The Governing Board of the Third Order Regular Franciscan Common Novitiate is pleased to announce the appointment of the on-site novice minister: Sister Rosalie Wisniewski, OSF. Sister Rosalie is a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Help, St. Louis, MO. Her ministerial background as an educator, spiritual director and religious formator in poor and multi-cultural settings eminently qualifies her to accompany novices as they begin their journey into consecrated religious life. Sister Rosalie will assume her duties January 1, 2010. She will be setting up the novitiate house in St. Louis, MO, securing presenters for the various classes, choosing the formative community of professed Sisters who will live with the novices, etc. The TOR FCN will receive its first group of novices in August, 2010.

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### **FRANCISCAN INTER-NOVITIATE PROGRAM – New York**

The next program will be held at Graymoor, Garrison, NY from November 3 to 6, 2009. This is open to Novice Ministers and Novices of all three Orders. For more information please contact Sister Mary A. Maloney 845-987-7706 or [fransrs@optonline.net](mailto:fransrs@optonline.net)

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### **NEWLY ELECTED LEADERS**

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, USA Province, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania are pleased to announce their newly elected Provincial Minister and Council 2009 – 2013, Sr. Joanne Brazinski OSF, USA Provincial Minister, Sr. Barbara Zilch OSF, Assistant USA Provincial Minister, Sr. Althea Anne Spencer OSF, USA Provincial Councilor, Sr. Elise Mora OSF, USA Provincial Council. Effective October 1, 2009.

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### **THE WHEATON FRANCISCAN HERITAGE**

The Wheaton Franciscans, celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of founding in Paderborn, Germany, have recently published a history. This is the story of the Wheaton Franciscan sisters as they overcame misfortune and poverty in America to establish a variety of ministries, chief among them health care and housing. Today they constitute the American province of an international congregation founded by Mother Clara Pfaender in Germany in 1860 known as the Franciscan Sisters, Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. The first health care and housing ministries they founded continue to flourish as Wheaton Franciscan Services. The sisters also continue their service through their peace and justice activities as well as spiritual development ministries. The book is available from Arcadia Publishing at [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com) or [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)

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### **CELEBRATING A NEW CONSTITUTION**

The Franciscan Sisters of Allegany joyously celebrate their new constitution which was approved on February 11, 2009. At their fall Congregational Assemblies the sisters celebrated and ritualized the event as each sister received the constitution which clearly reflects our Franciscan values and ideals, especially stating, “As Franciscan women, the sisters are dedicated to living the

evangelical life.” For more information contact Mary Lou Lafferty OSF, [mlafferty@fsallegany.org](mailto:mlafferty@fsallegany.org).

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**JOB LISTING - Executive Director, Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities**

The Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities is accepting applications for a part time Executive Director. The successful candidate will assist the Board in developing a vision for AFCU and managing the work of the organization, facilitate and lead the strategic planning process, explore and make recommendations for future development of Catholic Franciscan higher education, oversee the newly developing Leadership Academy, act as a liaison between the board and institutional members and constituent groups and encourage communication between and among institutional members. Master’s degree required with a minimum three years administrative experience and knowledge of higher education. Catholic Franciscan background and understanding and familiarity with Web sites and their advantages preferred. Send letter of interest, resume and three references, or apply on-line [ekriss@sf.edu](mailto:ekriss@sf.edu), by October 30, 2009 to: Sister M. Elise Kriss, University of Saint Francis, 2701 Spring Street, Fort Wayne, IN, 46808.

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Franciscans and friends,

During the Transitus celebration on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we were reminded not only of Francis’ passing over into the eternal embrace of God’s Love, but also of our own longings for that peace that the world cannot give. Our desires motivate our behaviors to build a society where all peoples can live without fear of walls, barriers, and prejudicial unacceptance. In his encyclical *Charity in Truth*, Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that “the human community that we build by ourselves can never, purely by its own strength, be a fully fraternal community, nor can it overcome every division and become a truly universal community. The unity of the human race, a fraternal communion transcending every barrier, is called into being by the word of God-who-is-Love.”

We are conscious that living the Franciscan Evangelical Life provides God a means for bringing about the unity of the human community. After all, it is the Spirit of God at work within us that sparks embers of love response in others, *Mutual Love Generating a Future*. Many of our members are actively engaged in the futuring of the Franciscan Federation by their service on the various committees of our new organizational structure. During these days of meetings, plannings, and program development, I invite us to live with gracious gratitude for all those who have brought us to where we are today. Praying from *Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise* tangibly expresses a prayer unity among us while reminding us that this book is the fruit of many who labored with love.

May your autumn days be noticeably blessed with the fruits of the land and those fruits of God’s Love that you most desire.

Your sister, Ramona

Ramona Miller OSF  
Franciscan Federation President