



Franciscan Federation Musings

Volume 7: Number 9, September 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

- AFC Reflection booklet (go to Annual Conference section/Reflection Booklet)
- Region 4 Fall 2009 Newsletter (go to Region 4 web page)
- Retreat Program 2009-2010 Shalom Retreat Center, Dubuque, IA (go to Region 4 web page)
- Approved Bylaws (go to the Organization section)
- National Board contact information (go to the Organization section)
- Sample pages of the Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise (go to Prayer Book section)

FUTURE ANNUAL CONFERENCE DATES – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2010 in Buffalo, NY at the Hyatt Regency Hotel from July 28 -31st

2011 in Milwaukee, WI at the Hyatt Regency Hotel from July 27 -30th

REVIEW OF FRANCISCAN MORNING & EVENING PRAISE

Words cannot convey how grateful we are for all the time, skill and effort you extended to create a most exceptional Franciscan prayer book. Specifically, we are delighted with how well the Scripture and Franciscan readings compliment one another. The inclusive language is an added bonus as well as the print and spacing so easy to follow. The colored ribbons and antiphons are most helpful as well as the book structure itself making for easy handling.

We are particularly impressed with the ordo going to 2030. (Past our lifetime!) The Rule at the end and the charism commentaries before the Psalter add inspiration for our reflection. Given the music and marvelous index, nothing has been left out. Truly, it is a great gift given to enhance our prayer and Franciscan life.

(Allegany Franciscan Sisters, Snyder, NY—Rosa Mystica Niedda, Susan Buckley, Sharon Radice, Rita Frances Guaracsi, and Mary Therese Maher)

HOUSE OF CONTEMPLATION, WARWICK, NEW YORK

Anyone interested in forming community and ministry in the House of Contemplation, located in beautiful Warwick only 1 hour and a half from N.Y.C.; please contact Sister Mary A. Maloney at 845-987-7706 or fransrs@optonline.net. This could be full time or part time ministry.

The House of Contemplation is sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor.

I would be happy to send you more information and possible ministry opportunities for employment in this area.

NEWLY ELECTED LEADERS

In a recent Chapter of Elections held in Aachen, Germany, Brother Mark Gastel was re-elected as General Minister of the **Brothers of the Poor of St. Francis** for a term of six years. Brother Joel Stern was re-elected to the General Council and as administrator of the USA Region of St. Joseph for a term of six years.

FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL

Save the dates! Franciscans International offers two programs in 2010: (1) from February 26-28 prior to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), and (2) from May 1-2, prior to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), both programs at the FI New York Office. **The theme of the CSW and our program** is a review of the Beijing Platform for Action. Our speakers will also update us on trafficking and the world financial crisis and include a presentation on the spirituality of the Franciscan NGO. **The CSD program** will focus on

climate change, the Millennium Development Goals, poverty, and human rights. Both programs will conclude with the NGO Consultation Day held on the eve of the Commissions. Application deadline is Dec. 15. For further information, e-mail Kathie Uhler at uhler@fiop.org or phone: 1-212 490-4624. N.B. The Annual UN NGO Conference will be held in Melbourne, Australia in September 2010; dates TBA.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND FOR FRANCISCANS

Next May 3-12, 2010, Barbara Leonhard OSF (Oldenburg) and Chuck Faso OFM (Sacred Heart Province, St. Louis, MO) will be leading a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land for Franciscans.

St. Francis of Assisi was inspired to greet every person with the blessing:

May the Lord give you Peace!

As we Franciscan Pilgrims visit the places where Jesus lived and died, where Francis walked and prayed, we will reflect together on our Franciscan Spirituality and on how the Gospel calls us to be Peace Makers in our world today. Come on this journey as Gospel Brothers and Sisters. Join us on this adventure to become the people we have promised to be—**Instruments of Peace/Shalom/Salaam for all peoples**. To view the brochure with all the information click on: <http://www.amitravel.com/sitePage.aspx?pageID==355>

If you have any questions, contact Fr. Chuck: cfaso@earthlink.net or 773-276-3386.

THE NINTH NATIONAL FRANCISCAN FORUM

THEME: Dying, as a Franciscan: Approaching our *Transitus* to Eternal Life
Accompanying Others on the Way to Theirs

DATES: June 17-20, 2010

PLACE: Regis University, Denver, CO

Start making plans now to be present for this signal event with a group of distinguished presenters, among whom will be: Tom Nairn OFM, Mary Petrosky FMM, and Dan Sulmasy OFM. Watch for more detailed information on topics, presenters, registration, and travel arrangements at: <http://Franciscaninstitute.sbu.edu> (tab: Franciscan Forums).

Attached with this issue of Musings is as PDF flier for the Forum.

NEW RESOURCE AVAILABLE

Br Bill Short OFM has a new CD series, *The Franciscan Intellectual Tradition*. For more information or to purchase this resource, go to www.NowYouKnowMedia.com or call 1-800-955-3904

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Franciscan sisters and brothers,

The Goodness of God has been obvious in the first meeting of the newly elected board of the Franciscan Federation, September 3-4, in Washington, DC. The personal gifts and life experiences brought “to the table” offered a richness and great confidence to the members in their deliberations for the future of the federation. The enthusiasm generated for AFC 2010 ran high when confirmation was received from the two keynote presenters, - Br. Bill Short OFM and Sr. Clare Andre Gagliardi OSC. We invite everyone to begin planning now to attend the AFC in Buffalo, New York, July 28-31, 2010.

The month of September provides poignant meditation themes through the feasts of the exaltation of the Cross and Francis’ reception of the stigmata. Our Franciscan lens for consideration of Jesus’ suffering views Love that stretches out and overflows without counting the cost. Like Francis, we desire to emulate Jesus’ self-giving by our daily activities done with Love. Thomas of Celano wrote that after Christ crucified spoke to Francis from the San Damiano cross, “*compassion for the Crucified was impressed into his holy soul. And we honestly believe the wounds of the sacred Passion were impressed deep in his heart, though not yet on his flesh* (2 Cel

10). So too, what is on our hearts will be known by our lives of loving service. During this year's commemoration of the stigmata of Francis, may we continue to celebrate and incarnate our AFC conference challenge of "mutual love generating a future".

Ramona

Ramona Miller OSF
Franciscan Federation President