

Volume 6: Number 2 February 13, 2008

Monthly Musings: Letter to the Minister

Welcome to the monthly email Newsletter for Leadership Members of the Franciscan Federation. If you have information you'd like to share with the leadership please send it in an email to the National Office (Franfed@aol.com) by the 15th of each month.

NEW ITEMS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE: WWW.FRANFED.ORG

- '08 AFC Schedule (go to Annual Conference section)
- '08 AFC Keynote Reflection by Joanne Schatzlein OSF (go to Annual Conference section)
- Adam's Mark Hotel information and reservation link - **Register for the hotel through our Federation website** (go to Annual Conference section, click on Hotel Reservations)
- New retreat opportunities in Region 5 (go to Region 5 page)
- Retreat with Bill Short OFM, *Francis of Assisi -A Saint for Everyone?* - Aug. 3-9, 2008 (go to the Events page, Ring Lake Ranch and also to Region 4 & 6 pages)
- Franciscan Spirit Tours (go to Events page, Franciscan Tours)
- Allegany Art Lenten Booklets and other resources (go to Publication section)

GRAND OPENING OF FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK (FAN)

The official opening of FAN is slated for **Saturday, March 8th** at 7 PM in conjunction with the Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, DC. FAN is a sponsor of this ecumenical gathering. This year's theme is "Claiming a Vision of True Security." The goal of the Ecumenical Advocacy Days is to strengthen the Christian voice and to mobilize for advocacy on a wide variety of U.S. domestic and international policy issues. For more information on FAN and its role in the Ecumenical Advocacy days, or to RSVP for the FAN kickoff event, contact FAN Director, Russ Testa at testa@franciscanaction.org

Also check the FAN website at www.franciscanaction.org

FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL

Franciscans International's Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Sr. Denise Boyle FMDM as the organization's new Executive Director. Sr. Denise will assume her role on March 1, 2008. Sr. Denise is an Irish Franciscan and human rights advocate, who brings 30 years of experience in education, social justice, and development.

Congregation of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, TOR of St. Francis

Oshkosh, Wisconsin -- On February 16, 2008, the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi, opens a year-long celebration of their 125 years of service to God and the Church. The U.S./Caribbean Province of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, with offices in Oshkosh., Wisconsin, announces that a variety of events celebrating their 125th anniversary will occur throughout the province during the year of celebration--within the Dominican Republic, Grenada, St. Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago and the United States

FESTIVAL OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RULE

Registration is still being accepted for this April 18-19, 2008 Festival at St. Bonaventure University. Registration is available online at www.franciscaninstitute.sbu.edu or contact Suzanne Kush CSSF at 716-375-2358

'08 AFC PEACEMAKER BANQUET

The Peacemaker Banquet letter, Honoree form, and the instructions for sending in pictures and information for the PowerPoint presentation was mailed on February 1st to the Congregational or Provincial Leaders. If you have not received this mailing please contact Margaret Magee OSF at ffmagee@aol.com or call 202-529-2334 x 13. This is an opportunity to honor a member of your

province or congregation at the Peacemaker Banquet held the evening of Saturday, July 26th during the Annual Federation Conference in Denver.

REMINDER FROM THE TASK FORCE ON TRANSFORMATION

Members of the Federation Council have received the information for the special meeting of the Franciscan Federation Council on April 20, 2008 at Saint Bonaventure University. As the Federation Council Member, if you are not able to attend you are able to designate a member of your congregation/province who will be able to cast a vote for your congregation. We are hoping for a quorum to be able to take the necessary next steps for the future of the Franciscan Federation. If you have not already done so, please send your response regarding participation in this important meeting as well as the name of the person who will be voting for your congregation/province to S. Joanne Brazinski. **Responses are due by March 1, 2008.** If more information is necessary, please feel free to get to anyone of us. Thank you for your energy, interest and presence at this important moment in the Federation's history and transformation.

Members of the Federation Task Force on Transformation

Joanne Brazinski OSF	sjbrazinski@osfprov.org	Eleanor Granger OSF	egranger@aol.com
Mary Elizabeth Imler OSF	mary.imler@provena.org	Kathleen Moffatt OSF	Skmoffatt@aol.com
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every moment is sacred but often what catches our attention are those moments of transition. Your warm welcome expressed through emails and cards has certainly made my transition a joy as well as a challenge. The staff and the board have been most helpful. As the Federation journeys to the next phase of transformation I ask for your prayers and support as we work together with the help of the Transformation Task Force to envision something new. I have no doubt that God will bless our generosity and bring our work to completion.

Peace,
Ann Lyons, FSSJ

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As Christians, we begin with a sign of ash, a reminder of both the origin and demise of the human condition. Tragically, for some, this Ash Wednesday could be taken literally as our sisters and brothers in the southern states have been cast into desolation and bewilderment, while mourning the loss of life. Picking through rubble which once signified the familiar, the Christian human condition is resilient. Fueled by grace and faith, it is impelled to move toward hope. Accounts of courage and survival and the determination to rebuild permeate the news. There is much we can do to help our hurting family, not the least is to keep them in prayer.

How often crisis helps us with perspective. What we deemed important loses value in light of other values. Here at the Franciscan Federation, we strive to be about Mission, yet it is easy to be distracted from our reason for being, when we are often focused on finances, resources and personnel. Like the people who lost so much in the tornadoes, we are called to trust that God will provide us with what we need. Let us remind each other of this as we begin to allow the theme of the AFC 2008 to take hold of our spirit: *Pilgrims and Strangers: Eyes Fixed on Christ.*

Peace and all good.
Linda Tan, OSF