

Franciscan Federation Musings

Volume 6: Number 3 March 5, 2008

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 POSTED ON THE WEBSITE: WWW.FRANFED.ORG

- Annual Conference Schedule (go to Annual Conference)
 - Conference Registration Form and Registration Fees (go to Annual Conference)
 - Updated National Board page (go to Organization)
 - Earth Charter through the Lens of Francis & Clare with Eleanor Goekler SMIC - March 30, 2008 at Stella Maris, Elberon, NJ (go to Region 1 webpage)
 - Job Opening for an Aftercare Specialist at Southdown Institute (go to Job Listings)
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NEW MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL BOARD

We welcome new Board Member, Sr. Betty Kane OSF, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. Betty is the new Region 2 Chairperson replacing Ann Lyons FSSJ. Thank you, Betty!

EMAIL

The new office email for Ann Lyons FSSJ is alyonsfranfed@aol.com

“SELL THE STORE!”

To paraphrase Proverbs 1:13, “All kinds of precious wealth shall we gain, we shall fill our treasury if we but sell what we have in store.” There are several thousands of dollars in inventory at the National Office. If we could sell these goods, which have been expensed in past budgets, we could realize monies that could go towards the production of the prayer book that is presently being edited for printing. In addition, the profits from the raffle, which will take place at the AFC, are earmarked for the prayer book fund. If each congregation could help in moving these two initiatives, the prayer book for which we have all waited so long, could become a reality. The sale item flier is being sent as an attachment with this *Musings* email.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS

Many of you have probably read the “Green and Clean” special section of the National Catholic Reporter, February 22, 2008. Three of our Federation Members: Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in Milwaukee, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia and the Wheaton Franciscans were sited for their efforts at “Going Green.” These communities have not ignored the fundamental and ethical dimensions of the environmental challenge--Care for the Earth is a requirement of our faith. In mutuality we know that we are cared for by our sister Mother Earth and we must love and care for her in return. We rejoice that these three communities are a living example to the wider community of Francis’ Canticle of Life. Congratulations!

REGION SIX STEERING COMMITTEE APPEAL

Region 6 is in need of new members for the steering committee. If you have Sisters residing in this region and can appoint someone to represent your congregation/province please contact Agnes Kaczmarek OSF, Region 6 Chair at clareak@msn.com for more information.

Region 6 Steering Committee members focus on building "Franciscan Presence" in the Western United States through our Newsletter *Make Me An Instrument Of Peace in Our World* and promoting local events. A big "Thank You" to all the congregations who have assisted and participated on the Steering Committee over the years.

REQUEST FROM SPIRIT AND LIFE

In planning for some upcoming projects, Spirit and Life is looking for people interested and available to work on sub-committees and work groups. Upcoming projects include updating the Rule and Commentary, planning a national program, and updating resources. Please submit the names of your members who would be interested and available in helping with these projects. Please send the names and contact information to Margaret Magee OSF at ffmagee@aol.com FAX: 202-529-7016 or mail the National Office to Margaret's attention.

150th ANNIVERSARY - FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE POOR (1858-2008)

Founded by Blessed Frances Schervier on Pentecost Sunday, May 11, 1845 in Aachen, Germany, the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor arrived in Cincinnati to begin their care of the poor German immigrants on September 10, 1858. This was the beginning of a vast healing ministry that stretched from New York/New Jersey to Illinois. Over the 150 years in the United States, the Sisters founded 24 Hospitals, 9 Long Term Care facilities, 6 Social Service Agencies, and 9 other facilities. In 1999 the Sisters divested of their Health System (The Franciscan Health Partnership) but their healing ministry continues to flourish in a variety of settings which includes wholistic health care, social services and pastoral /spiritual ministries.

NEW LEADERSHIP

Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus

Sr. Antonia Cooper OSF (Regional Minister), Sr. Dominic Ritter OSF (Regional Vicar), and Sr. Lucia Murtaugh OSF (Councilor) were elected at the Regional Chapter held on January 17, 2008 for a three year term.

Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis

The voting members of the 25th General Chapter selected and joyfully announce the Central Board: Sr Jane Blabolil SSJ-TOSF, President, Sr Michelle Wronkowski SSJ-TOSF, First Vice President, Sr Dorothy Pagosa SSJ-TOSF, Second Vice President, and Sr Linda Szocik SSJ-TOSF, Third Vice President. These sisters will assume office on July 1, 2008. Our prayers and blessings are with all of you!

STEWARDSHIP AND REGISTRATION FOR THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

If you will be registering for the Annual Conference in Denver please consider paying by check. Through the current budgeting process it came to our attention that last year we paid over \$7,000 in credit and PayPal processing fees. We will discontinue our PayPal account on the Federation website. We will continue to accept and process credit cards for the conference registration, for resources and general sale items but if possible we ask that you pay by check.

ASSISI LOTTERY

If you have not taken chances for our next drawing in the Assisi Lottery the flier and chances are available and can be printed from our website (go to Assisi Lottery). The next drawing will be held during the Annual Conference in Denver.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Have you ever counted the many times we use the word “**peace**” particularly as Franciscans? I use it so frequently that sometimes I have to stop and remind myself that it's not just a greeting or a way to end an email or a letter. It's a wish, a yearning that between us there is a bond underwritten with a sense of good will, harmony, serenity, freedom from strife and all the many other meanings listed in the computer thesaurus. So I say,

Peace be with you, National Office—as you work at reclaiming stability and tranquility by facing truths and challenges that continue to surprise you each day!

Peace to you, Prayer Book Task Force—as you plumb the depths of scripture and music, and seek to bring the richness of Franciscan prayer to book!

Peace is with you, National Board—as you grow in your understanding of what it is to lead, to listen and to act in accord for the good of the family!

Peace Brother and Sisters of the Task Force for Transformation—as your work continues in helping us to give new birth and understanding of our mission!

Peace and all good to you, Members of Spirit and Life and Freeing the Fire — as you meet in committees, fan the flame, and infuse life into the Federation through your insights!

God give us all peace that surpassing understanding!

Linda Tan, OSF