



Franciscan Federation Musings

Volume 7: Number 11, November 9, 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

- 2010 Assisi Drawing flier and chances (go to 2010 Assisi Drawing)
- New Links to the Commission on the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition (CFIT) and Franciscan Intellectual Tradition (CFIT) Forum (go to Links/Franciscan Links)

- Job Listings

- Executive Director St. Anthony Foundation, San Francisco (go to St. Anthony Exec Dir)
- Rector Notre Dame University (go to Notre Dame Rector)

COMMISSION OF ELECTED LEADERS (CEL)

The ITF met in Chicago on Oct 30-31 at the Felician Motherhouse in Chicago. We identified our role as more of a background, supportive type of presence and resourcing to the commissions and the national board.

The three task force members who have served as liaisons since 2008, Ss. Candice Tucci and Marlene Kline and Fr. Giles Schinelli continue to work in a mentoring role with the commissions. We received reports of their work to date and addressed several questions raised by their Executive Committees.

Our meeting overlapped with the meeting of the National Board, which provided time for us to work together on several issues. The ITF and National Board discussed the importance of a communication plan to facilitate networking and the flow of information throughout the Federation. This plan would be activated during the year and would be presented at the 2010 AFC. We also brought recommendations regarding a Reconciliation Committee to the National Board; work on this committee would take place during this coming year.

COMMISSION OF CHARISM SERVICES (CCS)

The Commission of Charism Services will have a two day meeting in Aston, PA in November. We will be reviewing all the input we received at the 2009 AFC sessions in addition to planning for future work of the CCS. Since our Conference call in September we have been busy with a few projects to prepare for our meeting together. With the assistance of the National Office we have compiled several mailing lists which we will be using as our data base. If you wish to receive information from CCS please send your contact information, including your e-mail address to Margaret Magee OSF at franfed@aol.com to make sure that we have you in our database.

The Special Interest Group lists we have so far are: JPIC Coordinators, Vocation Ministers, Formation Ministers, Artists/Musicians, Communication Directors, Directors of Associates, Franciscan Colleges and Universities, Sponsorship/Mission Effectiveness Leaders, Directors of Franciscan Sponsored Retreat Houses, and Spiritual Directors, in addition to the CCS listing from the 2009 AFC.

May the Fire of our Charism burn deeply in your hearts! We have much to be thankful for as that special day for "Thanksgiving" arrives.

COMMISSION OF REGIONS (COR)

On October 28, 2009 the executive committee met for the first time. Because we all participate in our regions, we came prepared with ideas, possibilities, and hope-filled plans. In November we will contact both congregational leadership and chairs of regions to assist us with pertinent information. Yes, a survey! The results of this will really guide us in both helping and involving all the members of the regions.

FRANCISCAN COMMON NOVITIATE (TOR FCN)

The TOR FCN is preparing to receive the first group of novices in August 2010. Newly appointed Novice Minister, Sr Rosalie Wisniewski OSF will assume her duties January 1, 2010 and will begin setting up the novitiate house in St. Louis, MO, securing presenters for the various classes. The novitiate 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: Sr Pat Burkard OSF, pburkard@sosf.org or Sr Diana Lynn Eckel OSF, dleckel@sistersosf.org

THE NINTH NATIONAL FRANCISCAN FORUM

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

This year's Forum opens with a creative celebration of the Franciscan *transitus*. Day One addresses our own mortality, as seen and experienced from our own Franciscan tradition, historical and contemporary; Day Two deals with how we accompany others towards their death and through their death, emphasizing best practices and practical issues. Join Tom Nairn OFM, Dan Sulmasy OFM, Mary Petrosky FMM, Kate McCarron OSF, Thomas Lynch, David Haack OFM, and others who will help us delve into this mystery from our own unique Franciscan perspective.

Dates: June 17-20, 2010 **Place:** Regis University, Denver Colorado.

<http://www.sbu.edu/FranciscanInstitute.aspx?id=25902> (for more information)

REVIEWS of Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise

I feel impelled to express my thanks for the Franciscan prayer book. I see from the introduction that many, many were involved in its preparation and I can understand why. It is inspired and hopefully will lead all of us who use it to a greater understanding of our mission and a deeper participation in our call to follow the gospel. Thanks to all who were inspired to initiate it and to all who brought it to fruition.

Eleanor Horneman OSF
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

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May you rejoice in the wondrous gift of the Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise. We are so grateful that the dream of so many Franciscans has been so richly fulfilled. There have been positive comments as our sisters discover the "treasures within." Please extend our prayerful congratulations to all whose hard work brought about the book.

Sr. Emily Ann, Congregational Historian  
Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia

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I am writing to tell you how delightful it is to pray from the new Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise. It was a long wait, but I'm glad they're finally here. Our community is already using them on a daily basis. The language is so refreshing. I know the project was difficult and I want to extend my thanks and appreciation for the perseverance of the committee who was responsible for its production.

Sr. Jean Sliwinski CSSF
Buffalo, NY

CLOSING THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS

- The SOA graduate-led military coup in Honduras and the increasing U.S. military involvement in Colombia put a renewed focus on the School of the Americas (SOA/WHINSEC) and the policies it represents.
- Thousands from across the Americas will converge on November 20-22 at Fort Benning, GA for a vigil and civil disobedience actions to speak out against the SOA/WHINSEC and to demand a change in U.S. policy.
- The vigil will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 1989 SOA graduate-led Jesuit massacre in San Salvador, and the many other thousands of victims of SOA/WHINSEC violence.
- Let us pray for all those who gather at Fort Benning that their actions may lead to the closing of the School of the Americas (SOA/WHINSEC) and the end of violence against innocent people.

2010 ASSISI DRAWING

Your next opportunity to win an Assisi Pilgrimage, an AFC Registration or a Franciscan Prayer Book will take place on July 30, 2010 in Buffalo, NY during the Franciscan Banquet at the Annual Conference. We had many happy winners at the banquet last summer, but you don't have to be present to win! A flier with chances is available as an attachment with this issue of Musings. Download and print chances from the Federation website, go to 2010 Assisi Drawing, scroll to the bottom of the page for a printable copy. Good Luck!

We are sincerely grateful to the Franciscan Pilgrimages Program, Franklin, WI for the donation of the Assisi Pilgrimage. Check out their wonderful programs at www.FranciscanPilgrimages.com

COMMISSION ON THE FRANCISCAN INTELLECTUAL TRADITION (CFIT)

CFIT is an excellent resource which explores a variety of Franciscan topics and provides information on upcoming events and conferences. Add the web address, www.franciscantradition.org to your list of favorites. Also check out their Forum, "A community of scholars, students, pastors, retreat directors, and those interested in resources and education about the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition" at <http://forum.franciscantradition.org>

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Charity goes beyond justice, because to love is to give, to offer what is "mine" to the other; but it never lacks justice, which prompts us to give the other what is "his", what is due to him by reason of his being or his acting. If we love others with charity, then first of all we are just towards them. Justice is inseparable from charity and intrinsic to it.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, 2009

Action: Read the Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55 and ponder what Mary teaches us about charity and justice.

FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL

The attached documents UPR brochure-English, UPR brochure-Spanish, and UPR Letter, Nov2, 2009 has been sent to all Congregational and Provincial Leaders. FI is requesting the feedback on the following: 1) From your particular standpoint, what are the human rights situations that need priority action in the US? 2) Which issues might be overlooked in the UPR without Franciscan's input? They are also requesting names of contact persons. Replies should be sent by November 20th to Michael Mutzner, Mutzner@fiop.org or Kathie Uhler OSF, uhler@fiop.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Franciscans and friends,

November offers us a reflective moment to remember our loved ones who have entered eternal life, and to celebrate those whose example stirs our energies to continue to "run the race" (cf. Heb 12:1). Traditionally the Franciscan family celebrates all saints of the Franciscan order on

November 29, the day that Francis' form of life was approved in 1223. Our vocation to living the Franciscan form of life is a pathway toward wholeness, toward fullness of life in God.

The Franciscan Federation exists to tend the charism of our form of life. Charism is a free God-given gift for the purpose of building up the Christian community, the Body of Christ. Just as there are different spiritual gifts given to individuals (1 Cor.12:4), so there are permanent charisms held by communities within the Body of Christ. A vocation to a specific community is a calling to participate in that community's charism. *The 1982 Rule and Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis* states that those who follow this form of life desire "to live this evangelical conversion of life in a spirit of prayer, of poverty, and of humility" (TOR Rule #2). Living these four values—ongoing conversion, prayer, poverty and humility—comprises our charism. Each day our commitment in word and actions to live these values "brings about the body's growth and builds itself in love" (Eph.4:16).

Many are discovering in the use of the new *Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise* a new awareness of living our charism. The four week themes are the four values: Week 1-Conversion of Heart, Week 2-Poverty, Week 3-Contemplation, and Week 4-Minority. Overarching these values is the profession to "observe the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ", hence we say that we live an evangelical life. Franciscan evangelical life is engendered in us by the Word of God and lived in the spirit of Francis and Clare of Assisi. It is with great gratitude that we praise God for our calling to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ in the spirit of those Franciscan saints who have gone before us. Happy Thanksgiving!

Your sister, Ramona

Ramona Miller OSF
Franciscan Federation President