



## Planning 2011 AFC Conference In Milwaukee

### *Becoming a Sacred Flame*

Mark your calendar now and join your Franciscan Sisters and Brothers at the Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee for the 2011 Annual Conference. The theme is *Becoming a Sacred Flame: Francis, Clare and St. John's Gospel*.

**July 27-30, 2011**  
**Hyatt Regency Hotel**  
**Milwaukee, WI**

Keynote Presenters are Michael Blastic, OFM, and Nancy Schreck, OSF. Using the Gospel of St. John, they will connect it to the everyday life of the broth-

ers and sisters and to the writings of Francis and Clare, in order to suggest a Johannine connection to Franciscan living, as we meet the challenges we face as Franciscans living in North America today.

In an all-day Planning meeting at the Hyatt, on January 10th, the Directors and Team from the National Office met with an on-site team from Region IV to plan the schedule and hotel details. Ann Kelly, Phyllis Wirtz, and Lorita Gaffney will be chairing the Liturgy Committee,

the Environment Committee, and the Federation Resource table Exhibit respectively. Stella DeVenu-ta, OSF, has designed a "flame" logo to appear on all conference materials.

We hope that many of you in Region IV will be able to attend the AFC this year, and you are invited to join any Committee.

Visit the Franciscan Federation website at [www.franfed.org](http://www.franfed.org) for more information and registration materials coming soon.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- ◆ The AFC in 2011 will be in Milwaukee, on July 27—30th. Theme is Becoming a Sacred Flame as we Live St. John's Gospel as Franciscans in the 21st Century.
- ◆ Nominees Requested to serve on National Board and COR Executive Team
- ◆ Suggesting Human Trafficking be the subject of the JPIC Resolution at the AFC 2011
- ◆ Check out the January Newsletter of *Musings* at the [franfed.org](http://franfed.org) website for many retreat opportunities coming soon.

## Against Human Trafficking

### *JPIC Invitation*

We are invited by the JPIC Coordinators to submit a resolution for the AFC in Milwaukee in 2011. We propose that Region IV support a resolution on Human Trafficking as a priority. In a recent article from the Catholic Spirit (Diocesan paper) it highlights the plight of a Minnesota girl caught up in the shadowy underworld of human trafficking. It is a story of

human bondage and a desecration of human dignity. The stories of victims are horrendous, yet the stories of their survival and transformation bring out the strength and resiliency of the human spirit. If you are already involved in Human Trafficking issues, let us share what we are doing. - Judy Chiodo

Franciscans International is producing an

advocacy campaign to raise awareness about the trafficking of women and girls based upon first hand knowledge received from Religious Communities. If you know about cases in your community or what is working in your community to combat trafficking, contact Heather Metcalfe at [h.metcalfe@fiop.org](mailto:h.metcalfe@fiop.org).

Check this site out: [www.stopenslavement.org](http://www.stopenslavement.org)



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## Spiritual Programs

**Chiara Center, Springfield, IL** For registration and information, [www.chiaracenter.org](http://www.chiaracenter.org); or call 217-523-0901

\* *Networking Seminar for Spiritual Directors from the perspective of the Franciscan Tradition*; April 5-8, 2011. Director: Renita Brummer, OSF. The title is: *Discernment - Storytelling- Beauty* with presentations by Ed. Coughlin, OFM and Nary Beth Ingham CSJ.

\* *Directed Retreat* with Franciscan and Dominican Sisters as Directors: June 19-24, or Oct. 23-28

**Shalom Retreat Center, Dubuque, IA.**, 563-583-3592; or [info@shalomretreats.org](mailto:info@shalomretreats.org)

\* *Deepening the Contemplative Attitude*, April 3—8, 2011; Director; Don Bisson FMS

\* *The Sermon on the Mount: Plan for a New World Order*, June 3-10, 2011; Director:

Chuck Faso, OFM

\* *The Uniqueness of John's Gospel*; June 27- July 3, 2011; Directed by William Burton, OFM

\* *8-Day Retreat*, July 7-13, 2011; Directors: Scott Bullock, Liz Cummins, Ginger Anderson-Larson, Dorothy Schwendinger.

**St. Francis Institute, Milwaukee**

[www.sfim.org](http://www.sfim.org); 414-374-8841

\* *Panel Discussion on Milwaukee Civil Rights Struggle of the 60's*; Feb. 5 8:30-noon

**Franciscan Spirituality Center, La Crosse**

[www.franciscanspiritualitycenter.org](http://www.franciscanspiritualitycenter.org)

\* *Awakening the Soul of the Writer*, March 10-12, 2011; Presenter: Novelist Anne Hood, author of *The Red Thread*, *The Knitting Club*, *Grief*.

## Requesting COR Representatives on National Board & COR Executive Com.

### COR Rep on National Board

By February 15, 2011, Region IV is looking for at least one nominee as the Commission of Regions representative on the National Board. This is a 3-year term renewable once. Responsibilities and a Nomination profile form have been sent to your Congregational Steering Committee Person and to your Leadership. This person needs to demonstrate leadership and organizational skills, and receive financial support from one's congregation. Some of the responsibilities of the Board include: set direction for implementing the vision and mission of the Federation, elect the President, Vice-President, and Secretary; meet annually at the AFC and other times as determined by bylaws; develop and implement

Strategic Plan; oversee programs and resource development.

### COR Executive Committee Member

By February 15, 2011, Region IV is looking for at least one nominee as a Commission of Regions Executive Committee Member. This is a 2-year term renewable once. Responsibilities and a Nomination profile form have been sent to your Congregational Steering Committee Person and to your Leadership. This person needs to be active in the Federation, able to participate in the AFC, be available for monthly phone conference meetings, exhibit leadership and organizational skills, promotes the Franciscan charism, can strengthen the mutuality of exchange among all members, and exercise collaboration and capability for working as a team member.

### Region IV Steering Committee Serving You

Judy Chiodo, OSF— Sisters of St. Francis Rochester Assisi Heights; Regional Co-chair  
 Mary Louise Dolezal, OSF- Franciscan Sisters of St. Paul  
 Rose Margaret Firkus, SSJ-TOSF, Sisters. of St. Joseph- of the Third Order of St. Francis, Kimberly  
 Lorita Gaffney, OSF - Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, Regional Co-chair, Newsletter Editor  
 Ginny Heldorfer, OSF- Dubuque Franciscans  
 Kathleen Holland, OSF- Clinton Franciscans, Secretary.  
 Mary Kabat, OSF- Bay Settlement Franciscans  
 Mary Jo Kahl, fsm - Fran. Sisters of Mary; Treasurer  
 Ann Kelley, OSF, Sisters of St. Francis, Milwaukee  
 Kay Klackner, OSF, Fran. Sisters of Christian Charity  
 Joanne Klinnert, OSF- Little Falls Franciscans  
 Mary Beatrice Knipple, CSSF- Felician Sisters, Mke  
 Lucy Ann Myer, FSPA—Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, La Crosse  
 Mary Anthony Menting, SCSC. Sisters Of Mercy of Holy Cross, Merrill  
 Nancy Miller, OSF - Dubuque Franciscan  
 Mary Jo Palma, SSM—Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, Oshkosh  
 Melanie Pradis, OSF—Wheaton Franciscan  
 Marilyn Shea, OSF- Clinton Franciscans  
 John Marie Simien, SCSC- Sisters Of Mercy of Holy Cross, Merrill  
 Phyllis Wirtz, SSSF—School Sisters .of St. Francis, Milwaukee