

SPRING NEWSLETTER

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2009 AFC in Cincinnati

Mutual Love Generating a Future

These are exciting times as our Third Order Franciscan Family moves ahead into the future with a new vision for the Federation. Be in on the action! Mark your calendars now and reserve **July 10—13, 2009**. Join us at the Hilton Netherland Plaza in Cincinnati, Ohio, for our Annual Federation Conference.

The National Board and the Implementation Task Force are working hard to

collate all the input and prepare us for this conference.

There will be two Keynote Speakers who will assist us in the reflection and decision-making aspects of the new directions that we are implementing.

Father Michael Higgins, TOR, of Sacred Heart Prov-



ince, and Sister Pat Smith, OSF, of Aston, Pennsylvania.



Check out the Federation website at www.franfed.org for more information and registration materials as they become available soon.

Immigration: Pilgrims & Strangers

Immigration: Pilgrims and Strangers was the theme of the Regional Day of Reflection held in Dubuque, IA, on Sunday, January 25th, 2009. It was a grand day for the 100+ people who participated.

Bill and Joanne Lange, with the *Voces de la Frontera* and New Sanctuary Movement in Milwaukee, gave an insightful presentation on Sanctuary from a Biblical perspective as well as practical experience. They led into the two Mexican women's personal witness stories by telling us that the economy in Mexico fell apart when NAFTA moved in. NAFTA does not pay a Mexican living wage. Thus, poverty has

increased, workers are exploited, and farm land has been displaced for the United States factories built there. The government did not provide adequate housing for the workers.

Guadalupe shared her story, her marriage, being left with no money, leaving her children with in-laws, and walking to the US because of hunger. She settled in Milwaukee, has a job, and brought her children over. She has hope, her family, and faith in God. She begs us to do what we can for immigration reform: that people here can be documented.

Azucena shared her hor-

ror of crossing the border, being raped, burned by an exhaust pipe, and being abandoned in Las Vegas by those who were to get her to Chicago. On finally reaching Chicago, her American born father living there did not want to help her anymore. Her brother, who lives in Milwaukee, rescued her.

Having shared their stories, they responded to questions & comments. They pray they'll 'make it' in the U.S., and not be deported. They ask for a stable Mexican economy so their people won't need to migrate!

-by Ginny Heldorfer, OSF

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- ◆ AFC '08 Resolution: That as Franciscans we are called : to contribute to the solution of immigration issues and concerns; to strive to change attitudes and laws so that immigrants can support their families in dignity; to witness to the respect of persons and affirm an open and diverse United States culture.
- ◆ The Council of Regions is studying the purpose and structure of regional organization..
- ◆ Restructuring is Focus of AFC



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 FEDERATION
 ACTIVITIES AT
 WWW.FRANFED.
 ORG**

Retreat Programs

Holy Spirit Retreat Center, Janesville, MN,
 507-234-5712 retreat@frontiernet.net

* *Living in Communion with All Creation*, June 14
 — 20, 2009; with Lucy Slinger, FSPA

* *Silent Directed Retreat*, June 28-July 4, 2009;
 Directors: Charlotte Hesby, OSF, JoAnn
 Haney, OSF, Linda Weiser, OSF, Monique
 Schwirtz, OSF

* *The Evangelical Life*, June 20-26, 2009; by
 Andre Cirino, OFM, & Ann Bremmer, OSF

Shalom Retreat Center, Dubuque, IA., 563-
 583-3592; email: DBQShalom@aol. Com

* *Conversion: A Life Long Journey*, March 22-27,
 '09; directed by Don Bisson, FMS, D.MIN

* *The Passionate Love of God*, June 5-12, '09;
 by Bro. Michael Laratonda, FMS

* *From Here to Hope: Six Degrees of Reconcilia-
 tion*, June 14-20, '09, by Joe Nassal, CPPS

* *Tending the Mystery*, June 28-July 4, '09; by
 Elizabeth Cummins, OSF

* *The Holy Spirit & Evolution of Consciousness*,
 July 5-11, '09; by Don Goergen, OP

Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Little Falls,
 MN, 320-632-0668; franciscanlife@ fslf.org;

* *Silent Walk for Peace ...Outdoor Stations of the
 Cross*, Good Friday, April 10, '09; 9:30 a.m.

* *Earth Day Celebration*, April 26, 1-4:30 p.m.;
 speaker: Bernie Evans

* *A Single Branch of Flame: Meeting the Discerning
 Hearts of Francis & Clare*, August 14-20, '09;
 directed by Clare D'Auria, OSF

Report from the Council of Regions

Judy Chiodo, OSF, represents Re-
 gion IV on the *Council of Regions*. The
 focus of this Coordinating Commit-
 tee is to study regional structure and
 membership, and is part of the study
 being done this year toward the new
 proposed governance structure of
 the Federation.

Toward this end, Judy sent the fol-
 lowing questions to the Steering
 Committee for regional feedback
 prior to their February meeting :

- ◆ Are regions serving a purpose?
 If so, should they be reconfig-
 ured in some way to serve this
 purpose better?
- ◆ Is the Steering Committee effec-
 tive? Why or why not? Is this
 the preferred way to coordinate
 the region?
- ◆ Do you have questions on the
 authority of the three commis-
 sions of the new structure?
- ◆ Do you consider the Federation

a “grass-roots” or a “leadership”
 organization? Or Both?

- ◆ Should congregations plan their own
 programs? Are steering committees
 planning annual events because they
 want to? or do they feel obligated to
 do so?
- ◆ Should regions be defined by geo-
 graphic population rather than by
 states?

The focus of the January 29th conference
 meeting was the number of regions, the
 question of regional dues (some regions
 have dues and others do not), and com-
 munication with regional chairs and the
 steering committee members.

This Committee has been meeting by
 conference calls since January, 2009.
 Other members of this Council include:
 Marlene Kline, OSF (chair), Michelle
 Craig, MFIC, Wilma Kramer, OSF, Jo-
 sepha Schaeffer, HSSF, Kathleen Re-
 chert, OSF, and Kathy Wood, OSF.

- by Judy Chiodo, OSF

Region IV Steering Committee Serving You

- Jolynn Brehm, FSPA—Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual
 Adoration
 Judy Chiodo, OSF— Sisters of St. Francis Rochester
 Assisi Heights
 Lorraine DeVehbo—Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual
 Help
 Mary Louise Dolezal, OSF- Franciscan Sisters of St.
 Paul
 Rose Margaret Firkus—Sisters. of St. Joseph-tosf
 Lorita Gaffney, OSF - Franciscan Sisters of Christian
 Charity, Newsletter Editor
 Ginny Heldorfer, OSF- Regional Chair, Dubuque Fran-
 ciscans
 Kathleen Holland, OSF- Secretary, Clinton Fran.
 Mary Kabat, OSF- Bay Settlement Franciscans
 Mary Jo Kahl, ofm - Treasurer, Fran. Sisters of Mary
 Angie Keil, OSF - Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin, Ohio
 Kay Klackner, OSF, Fran. Sisters of Christian Charity
 Joanne Klinnert, OSF- Little Falls Franciscans
 Mary Beatrice Knipple, CSSF- Felician Sisters, Mke
 Jo Lambert, FSO , St. Paul, MN
 Mary Jo Palma, SSM Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother,
 Oshkosh
 Melanie Pradis, Wheaton Franciscan
 Marilyn Shea, OSF- Clinton Franciscans
 John Marie Simien, SCSC, Srs. Of Mercy of Holy Cross,
 Merrill
 Angela Spence, OSF - Srs. of St. Francis of Assisi, South
 Lake Drive, Milwaukee
 Phyllis Wirtz, SSSF—School Sisters of St. Francis,
 Milwaukee