

FRANCISCAN MIRROR

AUTUMN 2006

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Region
covering most of Upstate New York & Northwestern Pennsylvania



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Members of two fraternities took part in an All-Commissions Workshop. Among them were: Millie Houck, Kathy Cima and her seeing-eye dog Jewel, Gail Ahern, Mary Anne Baker, and Carol Beecher.

SFOs Examine Commissions as Ways to Live Rule

Secular Franciscans from two fraternities got to explore practical ways of living the Franciscan Rule at an All-Com-

missions Workshop facilitated by the region's apostolic commissions chairs. The workshop was

hosted by Holy Family Fraternity in Vernon, NY.

For full story, turn to page 6.

Franciscan Day at Fonda Hails Heritage of Living the Gospel

Attracting Secular Franciscans from across New York State, the annual Franciscan Day at Fonda celebrated the order's heritage of living the Gospel. That was the

theme for Friar Kevin Kenny's message at the event, held at the National Shrine to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

For full story, turn to page 8.



Youth group from Sacred Heart Church in Tribes Hill provided music for Franciscan Day.

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MIRROR**
AUTUMN 2006

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By BILL HEINZ, SFO

Minister's Message

YOUR LEADERS...

Much is talked about in the Region for the need of Leadership. We are in a year where leaders are elected on the National, Regional, and Local levels. I have been your Minister for almost five years and have never sat down to think about what leadership skills I possess. When I thought about it, the only things I could come up with was my love and compassion for others, remembering always that I am your servant, and listening to what everyone has to say. The very last thing that I have learned in my five years was not only to listen to ideas but make sure that some action was taken on those ideas. So often we talk things to death and never get much accomplished. When we get done talking, then it is time to act one way or the other.

It is time to pray very seriously for your next leaders. They will hold the future of our Fraternity in their hands. We are an Order, The Secular Franciscan Order, and we have a great responsibility to maintain quality leaders and members. This is not a time to squabble. This is a time to pray for guidance. This is a time to be loving and compassionate. This is a time to listen, and then act appropriately.

I know that your Fraternity and the Region will grow abundantly in love, compassion, and that this Franciscan spirit for Family will prevail.

St. Irenaeus Fraternity: From Dream To Reality

By ANITA DUTCHER, SFO

St. Irenaeus Fraternity became a reality on October 15, 2006. This is the path we followed.

Mt. Irenaeus is a Franciscan Retreat that was nestled on top of one of our Allegany Hills in the Southern tier of Western New York in 1985.

Four women not only worked with the Friars to establish the “Mountain Retreat”, but considered their needs and those of other lay individuals. Led by these Friars, in 1992 during a “dream session” about “what might there be?”, a Secular Franciscan Fraternity was among the thoughts listed.

The women started to meet and pray on a regular basis along with Father Lou, one of the friars. Over the time one woman died (God Rest Her Soul), another’s health failed and a third retired and moved away.



Front row, from left: John Dutcher, SFO; Fr. Dan Hurley, OFM; Bonnie Orsini, SFO; Connie Horan, SFO; Agnes Brush, SFO; Anita Dutcher, SFO. Middle row: Don Watkins, SFO (green sweater), Fr. Bob Struzinski, OFM; Fr. Dan Riley, OFM. Back Row: Tim Schaeffer (lay minister), Michelle Marcellin, SFO; Larry Orsini, SFO; Br. Joe Kotula, OFM; Fr. Lou McCormick, OFM.

There was but one of the original four remaining, yet others came to the retreat center and gathered up this dream of Fraternity. They and the one original carried the dream. Some searches and letter writing bore no fruit, yet the group continued to meet and pray. Frustration and faith is a strange combination, yet it produced energy to continue.

Finally Patti De Witt as Regional Formation minister came to meet with us. Patti advised that a fraternity was possible. Our first officers were elected and an official

Regional Visitor came. Our Pre-fraternity status occurred in 1992.

I wish I could say it was an easy road after that. It continued to be a struggle, yet one worth it. At times we questioned our own endurance, did we really want Fraternity enough to continue, yet Father Lou and our original member encouraged that pressing on was the way to go. So we persevered along with the Regional minister and the Visitor.

Finally, we set a date for our Canonical Establishment for October. I can remember as a child

looking forward to a party, a birthday or Christmas thinking, “would time ever pass?”. Then I became frightened, reminding me of just prior to my wedding day. The weather grew bad --SNOW and Mud. Would those poor Regional people make the two-hour drive, and our country dirt roads to be with us to change our dream into reality? The answer was YES.

Praise be to God. We are the St. Irenaeus Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order. We are in West Clarksville, Allegany County, NY, just off Interstate 86. All are welcome.

Wall of Honor

In Memory Of

Marie Ridikas, SFO

remembered by

St. Agnes of Assisi, Afton, NY

Mary Pariser

remembered by

St. Stephen's Fraternity, Croghan, NY

Mary E. Frank, SFO

remembered by

Betty Frank, SFO, Utica, NY

Marion Kaluzney, SFO

remembered by

Thomas Pontzer, SFO, & Cela Pontzer, Ridgway, PA, of St. Bonaventure Fraternity

Helen Mary Lynch

remembered by

Immaculate Heart of Mary Fraternity

In Honor Of

25 Years Professed

Patti and David DeWitt, SFO

Judy Martin, SFO

from St. Francis Fraternity, Buffalo

Nuala Catherine Breen

Born July 27, 2006 to Rob & Meghan

A loving, warm, Franciscan welcome

from Mary Smith, BKTR Council Secretary

How to participate in the Wall of Honor – Page 14.

AROUND THE REGION

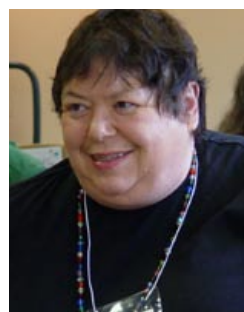


Mary Ann Voorhees

PROFESSED

Mary Ann Voorhees of Buffalo became a professed member of Little Portion Fraternity in October during a profession ceremony and mass at St. Ambrose Church, 65 Ridgwood Road, Buffalo.

With the profession occurring on the Feast of St. Francis, Minister Dorothy Gavin, SFO, said, "we rejoice with all the Secular Franciscans" and "congratulate Mary Ann."



Mary Pariser

SISTER DEATH

Mary Pariser, 61, an inquirer with St. Stephen's Fraternity in Croghan, NY, unexpectedly embraced Sister Death July 28. Mary attended the 2006 annual regional gathering. "In the spirit of Francis, Mary searched and was finding a sense of peace and justice in the Seculars," reports Tom Schneeberger, SFO.

FINAL CALL: NOMINATE FAMILY OF YEAR

Submit nominations for Regional Family of Year by Jan. 15, 2007 to: Mary Stronach, SFO, Apostolic Commissions chair, PO Box 232, Marcy, NY 13403. Include a brief description of why the family should be honored, and contact information for both nominee and nominator.

Utica Getting Shrine to Mother Marianne

Betty Frank, SFO, saw a dream come true Nov. 1 when St. Joseph-St. Patrick Parish in Utica, NY broke ground for a shrine to parish daughter Blessed Marianne Cope, Franciscan missionary to the lepers of Molokai.

“Mother Marianne is coming home,” said Betty, coordinator of the shrine committee and Mother Marianne Prayer Group, and a founding organizer of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Betty is a member of St. Joseph Fraternity, Utica.

Hundreds of people turned out for the groundbreaking, including Utica Mayor Tim Julian who presented a proclamation in the form of a plaque. The mayor joined four others to ceremoniously lift shod and officially break ground for the

AROUND THE REGION



Groundbreaking for Mother Marianne Shrine at home of St. Joseph Fraternity.



Betty Frank, SFO, welcomes friars to the groundbreaking. They are Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate from Maine, NY.

shrine. The other four were Fr. Richard Dellos, pastor; contractor John Sullivan, whose firm is constructing the shrine; parish trustee Robert Bick, and Rita Firsching, representing the Mother Marianne Prayer Group.

In announcing the

groundbreaking, Father Dellos said the Syracuse Diocese had “approved the design and construction of our outdoor shrine to Blessed Mother Marianne Cope.” He also said that a custom-made sculpture of Mother Marianne had arrived at the parish and

was in storage awaiting placement in the shrine. The life-size, off-white sculpture, commissioned by Betty and the Shrine Committee, shows Mother Marianne sitting on a bench. The sculptor is Bob Jackowski, a retired Florida artist who used to work for the Franklin Mint and Disney World.

Betty said (in an Observer-Dispatch story) that when Jackowski was completing the sculpture, he told her he felt Mother Marianne whisper in his heart, “I can’t wait to go home.”

Blessed Marianne, who was born in Germany and came to Utica as an infant, grew up in the parish, then known as St. Joseph’s, where she received her religious calling. She led a contingent of Syracuse Franciscan sisters to Hawaii in 1883 and spent the next 30 years there caring for leprosy patients until her death in 1918. She was beatified by the Vatican on May 14, 2005.

SFOs Examine Commissions as Ways to Live Rule

Holy Family Fraternity in Vernon, NY hosted an All-Commissions Workshop in May, which included members from St. Elizabeth-St. Bonaventure Fraternity in Syracuse.

Facilitated by Mary and Bob Stronach, SFO, apostolic commissions chairs for the Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha Region, the workshop was geared to immersing Secular Franciscans into the concept of the various commissions as practical ways to bring the SFO Rule to life. The commissions include Ecology, Family, Peace and Justice, Work, and



Tutti Wagner



Bill Geary



Mary Collins

Youth/Young Adult.

After an ice-breaker exercise, the attendees broke into five small groups. Each group tackled a different commission, discussing its mission and overall goals, and delving into what fraternities and

individuals are or could be doing to live the Rule via that particular commission.

A spokesperson for each group summarized the discussion for the whole gathering, and then, in a closing prayer ceremony, offered up to

to be conscious of our own wastefulness, and set a better example by our actions,” Tutti Wagner, SFO, reported for the Ecology group. Individuals and the whole fraternity should recognize the sacredness of all of God’s creation, leading to better recycling efforts and to reminders at each fraternity gathering to conserve, and to live the Rule distinguishing between our wants/desires and our needs.

Keep abreast of social changes that could affect family life, Family group spokesperson Bill Geary, SFO, offered. “Be a good citizen and vote on issues that involve family.”

Another action for fraternities, he said, is to look into helping one-income families.

“In order to bring Peace and Justice to the world, we need to first begin with ourselves,”

Mary Collins, SFO, noted on behalf of the
Continued on next page.



The workshop began with a get-to-know-you icebreaker.

Continued from previous page
 Peace & Justice group. That means building “an atmosphere of prayer, support and encouragement in our fraternity – giving each other strength to live out the Gospel. That way peace and justice can flow from the members to the world.”

Citing prayer as priority number one, she recommended recruiting new members, involving more members in formation, and conducting more spiritual activities and discussions in



Shirley Witchley



Pat Brophy

in conjunction with fraternity gatherings “when most of our members are present.”

The group tackling the

the activity of the whole creation. A person is more precious for what he is than what he has. The Christian finds in

Work Commission saw a life of prayer as vital to witnessing to the Gospel in the workplace – to minister by example, spokesperson Shirley Witchley said. “In the image of God, we share in his work, in

human work a small part of the cross of Christ and it’s our right and dignity to accept and share His cross for us.”

Pray for youth and be an example for them, offered the Youth/Young Adult group. Spokesperson Pat Brophy went on to recommend showing the video, “Brother Sun, Sister Moon”, in Catholic schools and to confirmation classes and church youth groups; and to recruit youth to participate in Franciscan ministries that bring them into contact with the poor and needy, such as a soup kitchen.

Workshop participants included: from St. Elizabeth-St. Bonaventure, Gail Ahern, Ceil Beard, Michael Boucher, and Kathy Cima; from Holy Family, Mary Anne Baker, Carol Beecher, Pat Brophy, Mary Collins, Martha Collins, Delores Faulkner, Bill Geary, Millie Houck, Mary LeForest, Tutti Wagner and Shirley Witchley.



Ceil Beard provided music for the closing prayer service.



Secular Franciscans at Bl. Kateri Shrine during Mass celebrated by Kevin Kenny, OFM Conv., right.

Franciscan Day Celebrates Heritage of Living the Gospel

“We’re celebrating not only the Eucharist, but also our Franciscan heritage,” Kevin Kenny, OFM Conv., began his homily during the annual Franciscan day held Aug. 20 at Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha National Shrine in Fonda, NY. Members of fraternities from across New York State attended, sharing at lunch, mass, recitation

of the rosary and stations of the cross.

Father Kevin, shrine director, continued: “We welcome Secular Franciscans, and representatives of the first and third orders...everybody who loves St. Francis and St. Clare.”

He noted that when pointing to Francis and Clare, “I’m talking about Jesus ... (because)

nobody followed in the footsteps of Jesus like St. Francis and St. Clare.”

When asked what was his rule of life, Francis “just pointed to the Gospel.” Noting that Francis was “very compassionate towards the differences of people,” he said “the Gospel is meant for everybody...a way of life which Jesus meant

for all of us to follow.”

Noting that John’s Gospel uses words like “bread from heaven” and “flesh for the life of the world,” he quoted theologian Karl Rahner: “Jesus gives his flesh because we often don’t know how to come to Him.”

With Francis and Clare, he added, “how fortunate we are to have two models who are totally catholic” to help the faithful in coming to Jesus. Friar Kevin concluded: “Let us thank Him today for our Franciscan vocations...in the home of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.”



Line winds along hillside for Stations of the Cross, led by Julian Davies, OFM.

Order Elects New Minister

The Secular Franciscan Order in the U.S. has a new national minister -- J. Patrick Mendés, SFO, of Oakbrook, IL. He was elected for a three-year term during the annual national gathering and triennial chapter of elections held Oct. 24-29 at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Marathon, Wisconsin. Mendés, who holds a doctorate in adult education, recently retired as parish coordinator of ministries at St. Colette Parish in Rolling Meadows, IL. He is a former university professor and healthcare



Patrick Mendés, SFO
National Minister

system vice president.

Other officers are:

• National Vice Minister: Deacon **Tom Bello**,

SFO, of McLean, VA, teacher to adult immigrants and refugees.

• National Secretary:

Sarah Mulholland, SFO, of Bend, OR, free-lance editor for American Psychological Assn.

• National Treasurer:

Dennis Ross, SFO, of Mentor, OH, retired high school math teacher and junior high assistant principal.

• National Councilor:

Pat Brandwein-Ball, SFO, of South Berwick, ME, staff nurse with Rochester Pediatric Assn., Rochester, NH.

• National Councilor:

Mike Carsten, SFO, of Fenton, MI, construction superintendent.

• National Councilor:

Clare McCluggage, MD, SFO, of Vancouver, WA, family physician.

• International Councilor: **Anne Mulqueen**, SFO, of Kingsville, MD, certified spiritual director.

At the same time, Fr. Bart Karwacki, OFM Conv., of Ellicott City, MD, began serving as President-in-Turn of the order's Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA).

SFO Affiliates Approved

Spouses and friends, who, in the past, felt they could not participate because of a different faith or inability to make a full commitment to the order, can now share in the charism of Francis as non-voting SFO affiliates.

An amendment to the National Statutes adopted at the national gathering in October states that those who wish to participate in the order's life and activities "may be welcomed by the local fraternity, so as to make their communion living and effective."

Local councils may grant affiliate status after interested individuals express their desire in writing. The number of affiliates is limited to 40 percent of active professed members. Regional councils may establish guidelines for accepting affiliates. The amendment was similar to one adopted by the International Fraternity.



Regional Apostolic Commissions Chair Mary Stronach, SFO, congratulates Patrick Mendés, SFO, upon his election as national minister.

LISTENING TO GOD'S CREATION

Urgent Time for 'Universal Kinship'

By ROB BREEN, SFO
Ecology Commission Chair

Our Franciscan charism calls us to listen to what St. Bonaventure called "The Book of Creation" as a way of discovering more about God the Creator. By listening to Creation, we enter into a closer relationship with God. Furthermore, our Rule calls us to "respect all creatures, animate and inanimate," moving from "exploiting creation" to "universal kinship" (#18) and to "be in the forefront in promoting justice" by "courageous initiatives" in our public life (#15). We have never been in a more urgent time where the Franciscan ecological



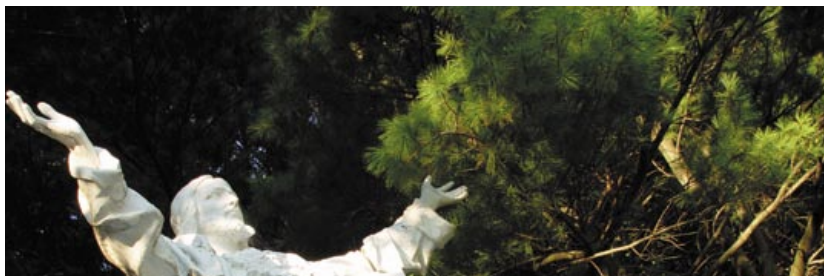
voice is needed to protect God's Creation and those who suffer the most when the environment is exploited. For the first time in the history of civilization, the collective actions of humans have been able to actually transform the climate of planet Earth. Only a transformed way of seeing will help us deal with Global Warming, followed up with collaborative community action.

Franciscan Ecology calls us to protect the

environment not only because of its intrinsic worth -- God creates nature and calls it good -- but also because when societies make bad environmental decisions, it is the poor, the children, the elderly, and those with frail health who suffer most. Recently, the documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" was released in movie theaters, and will soon be on DVD for home viewing. The documentary looks at Al Gore's attempt to educate people and communities in the U.S. and around the world on the realities of Global Warming. Global Warming is not a theory, and it is not a

future possibility. Global Warming is here now, and it is already having impacts on oceans, forests, wildlife, water, farming, weather patterns, storms, and poor people here and around the world. The greatest impacts of Global Warming will not impact most SFOs alive today, but will impact their grandchildren and the next generation of SFOs. Pope John Paul II was emphatic that addressing the environmental crisis is a moral imperative, and now the Catholic Bishops have echoed this by calling Global Warming a major moral issue of our time. This is both a time of crisis for us, and an exciting time of opportunity. The world needs to hear the vision of Franciscan Ecology, and it is up to the Franciscan Family to make it available.

Our Ecology Commission has received a copy of "An Inconvenient Truth" to screen within fraternities. To host a showing and discussion of Franciscan Ecology, please contact me.



Listen to creation to discover and come closer to God.

CONTACT: RobBreenSFO@kateriregion.org, 518-269-5013

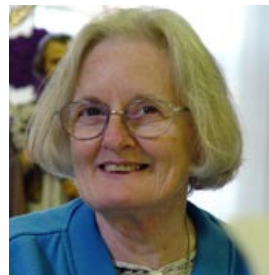
I'm Ready to Hit the Road!

By SANDY McCOY, SFO
Peace & Justice Chair

Please invite me to your fraternity to present, discuss, or do a workshop about any of the following topics or a topic that your fraternity is concerned about.

- *We Are Called to Justice*
- *Death Penalty*
- *Poverty*
- *What Is This Option for the Poor?*
- *Let's Talk About Racism*
- *What Is Justice?*
- *The Franciscan Way of*

- Life Is Counter-Cultural*
- *Where Did Commissions Come From?*
- *Nonviolence: The True Way to Peace*
- *Who Are Our Brothers And Sisters?*
- *Just And Unjust Structures*
- *Immigration*



Please call or e-mail me (814-848-9772; sjmccoysfo@verizon.net).
Peace.

God's Plans for Us

By MARIE DIEHL, SFO
Family Commission Chair

Each of us, by our profession, has given our life to God in whatever He may make us aware. As in any family, we differ widely from each other. God realizes this and has His own plans to make use of these differences. These are all needful in dealing with our world.

We may not even be aware of the qualities or potential traits which He has given to each, but He knows and will use us in ways known only to Him. Is this an unfathomable mystery and too difficult for us?

Not if we stay close to Him completely, relying on Him. Let us not live in, "Who me?" and "No, I can't." Remember, with Him we can. His sublime love is with us always, both as individuals and in all that He may lead us.

There may be times when He may make us aware of what His plans are, but there may be others when we may not see or realize until later or not at all. The important thing is for us to "be there" for Him and to trust the results to Him. Just be sure that it is He, not you, doing the leading. Trust Him and be

confident in Him.

SUGGESTIONS for SFOs:

- Personal -- (guided by the Holy Trinity). You may question or "share" problems. Listen for His answers, or other guidance. Examine yourself. See how you check up.
- Your family -- (if you have one) (or close associates). How do you and they "stack up?" Sharing may help. Check this out with God. If He wants any changes, go His way.
- Fraternity -- (yours and others). Notice any outstanding differences. Are they for "better or



worse"? Do not be critical of others' differences. Listen (or observe) and consult for Jesus' opinions. Keep an open, and Scriptural, mind.

Community -- Be respectful of others' views, but don't hide your Franciscan ideals.

If you or your fraternity have some great ideas or accomplishments, share them with us. Let us be family.

‘SMOKE SIGNALS’

Holy Poverty and Secular Franciscans

By ED CZAPLA, SFO

Over the years, much has been written about the Franciscan virtue of Holy Poverty as it relates to *religious*, which is to say, the Friars, Poor Clares, and various congregations of Third Order Regular of both genders, who live in community and make solemn vows. Relatively little, however, has been formulated on the distinctive poverty proper to the lay state. There are, to be sure, valid reasons for this – it is probably best determined by the seculars themselves as they go from gospel to life and life to gospel.

Poverty itself, without any hint of spiritual roots or motivation, is not a desirable commodity. Only when voluntarily chosen for the purpose of attaining or being a catalyst for greater good, does it become an ideal worthy of adoption.

St. Francis’ virtue of



Ed Czapla, left, is advisor to the Regional Executive Council and author of the periodic newsletter, Smoke Signals.

poverty was this kind of lofty ideal because he chose it in loving imitation of the poor Christ who first had chosen to be poor so that He could best minister to the poor, the lowly and the down-trodden. In this context Francis, in great love for Christ, espoused it naming it his *Lady Poverty*.

This espousal, however, was more than his brother Friars were able to accept because, even before his death, there were signs of unease with this tenet of Francis’ teaching – and persists even in our time. Apparently, only Francis and a small circle of his first Brothers were able to accept its austerity.

In the case of the Secular Franciscans, the ideal of St. Francis is even less feasible. They who live in the secular world and who would have commitments to secular pursuits of family responsibility – and who are directed by the Pauline Rule to remain in the world for the purpose of its sanctification -- must express their dedication to poverty in other ways.

Poverty in spirit assumes many other forms beyond avoiding the use and accumulation of money. The following is a short list that readily comes to mind – and may be just as readily extended:

- Keeping wants simple,
 - Avoiding accumulation of unnecessary material goods,
 - Living within one’s means,
 - Placing wishes of others ahead of one’s own,
 - Avoiding luxuries,
 - Listening respectfully to the opinions of others, and compassionately to their misfortunes,
 - Considering one’s accomplishments to be God’s doing rather than one’s own and being thankful for God’s gift,
 - Lending money to those in real need even when repayment is unlikely,
 - Contributing money to relieve dire hardship in a spirit of charitable stewardship.
- Normally, the Secular Franciscan cannot avoid involvement in money matters owing to the nature of the lay state. In spite of this, however, he/she will not allow money or financial matter to *dominate* or to erode the spiritual in their lives.

Several Ways to Reach Out to Young People

By ROB BREEN, SFO
Youth/Young Adult Chair

It is no secret that the Order needs to reach out to a new generation who is hearing God's Call to the Secular Franciscan vocation. It is not just a need for new blood. There are young people gifted with the Charism of Francis and Clare, but do not know what to do.

There are several ways to reach out. One is to develop Franciscan youth clubs for children, sharing our spirituality, stories, and apostolic life of service. We also have a formal organization called Franciscan Youth ("YouFra" throughout the rest of the world), where teens

and college age young people organize into their own fraternities, taking a renewable annual promise to observe the Franciscan lifestyle described in the SFO rule. For young adults who feel a Call to live out their Franciscan vocation as a Secular Franciscan, they may participate in initial formation and enter the SFO. (Minimum age for *temporary* profession in U.S. is 18, and for *perpetual* profession, 21.)

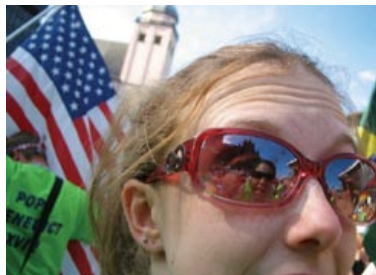
Of course, there are generational differences between today's typical SFO, and the next generation of young inquir-



ers. It will be important for fraternities to provide a meaningful and age-appropriate initial formation experience that speaks to younger people. To keep young SFOs engaged and active, it is also important to offer a fraternity experience that speaks to the needs and lifestyle of young people. We have the ability to create "sections" within fraternities to foster charisms, ministries or projects, without

requiring the entire fraternity to participate. An example might be a contemplative prayer section, or an urban missionary section. A fraternity could create a young adult section, where a couple of senior fraternity members meet with young fraternity members periodically, and help them develop activities and gathering times that reflect their generational needs. It is always important, however, to preserve fraternal community and unity when developing a section in a fraternity.

According to research by CARA at Georgetown University, 40% of U.S. Catholics are young adults (age 18-40), and only 3% of them attend a Catholic
Continued on next page



American Franciscan youth at 2005 World Youth Day in Germany

Continued from previous page

college or university. Five million Catholic students are enrolled in colleges and universities, and 4.5 million of those attend a non-Catholic college or university. Only 20-25% of those attending a Catholic college or university are involved in campus ministry programs, and the most common activities are Mass, service projects, and retreats. Of the Catholic young adults, 48% are Anglo, 44% are Hispanic, 3% are African American, 4% are Asian or Pacific Islander, and 1% are Native American.

In order to assist fraternities in reaching out to this next generation of Franciscans, the Youth and Young Adult



YouFra

Commission is developing an initial formation process and curriculum for young adults (as part of a pilot young adult group hosted by Holy Family Fraternity in Vernon, NY). If you're interested and want assistance in reaching out to young people, contact me at fec@anamduan.org, or call (518) 269-5013.

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Mail your message/ad, with check made out to BKTR, to Franciscan Mirror, PO Box 232, Marcy, NY; or contact Mary Stronach at 315-796-9284, or at stonach@kateriregion.org.

YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE WALL OF HONOR

A Wall of Honor page offers a way to remember, honor or thank Franciscans, family members, friends, business associates. Fill out the form and mail it along with a \$10 donation. Funds will be used by the Regional Fraternity to help pay for publications aimed at benefiting the region's fraternities (such as The Mirror and formation materials).

WALL OF HONOR FORM

Name of Person Submitting Form _____

Name of Person/Group Doing the Honoring (if different from above) _____

Contact info: Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name of honoree _____

Select one: ___ in memory of ___ in honor of

List reason/occasion _____
(e.g., profession anniversary, gratitude for service, etc.)

Donation: \$10 per name.
Please make checks payable to Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha Region (BKTR).

Send completed form with check to:
The Franciscan Mirror, P.O. Box 232, Marcy, NY 13403

Continued from
back cover

Law, an Episcopal priest, has written numerous books on the subject.

Other general sessions:

- *Caregiving and the Elderly* by Patti Normile, SFO, a former hospital teacher and retreat director. She has written several books, along with “Caring with Faith” video series.

- *Spirituality in Today’s Secular World* by Ed Shirley, SFO, religious studies professor at St. Edward’s University, TX.

- *Secular Franciscans and the Catechetical Ministry* by Ron Pihokker, SFO, director of the Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ and chairman of the Religious Education Division of the National Catholic Education Association.



P. Normile



E. Shirley



R. Pihokker



J. Orozco

- *Francis, Divine Providence and our Secular Life* by Javier Orozco, SFO, chaplain at DePaul University.

The Quinquennial Congress is open to anyone who loves Francis of Assisi – his spirituality, his ability to think outside of the box, his dedication to church (despite its faults), his willingness to ‘embrace the lepers’ of society, and his kinship with the world and its creatures.

Besides the general sessions, there will be

Youth and Young Adult sessions for those between the ages of 16 and 26; and sessions for Spiritual Assistants.

Youth and Young Adult sessions will include a “Love Walk,” a two-mile pilgrimage to an off-site facility; an urban renewal restoration project, dances and workshops. The Spiritual Assistant track will provide hands-on training and formation for those religious and lay who are serving as spiritual assistants.

For more info about the Congress, go to www.NAFRA-SFO.org.

Registration form will be in *Tau-USA*. As of January, Franciscan University plans to offer online registration at franciscanconferences.com.

Member Categories

There are two categories of professed fraternity members: **active** (which includes *active-excused*) and **lapsed**.

Active excused members are those who, for valid reasons of health, family, work or distance, request the fraternity council to excuse them from regular gatherings – on a temporary or permanent basis. Those who are excused are expected to continue to follow the SFO Rule as fully as possible which includes financial fair share as far as possible.



PLAN NOW TO ATTEND QUINQUENNIAL CONGRESS

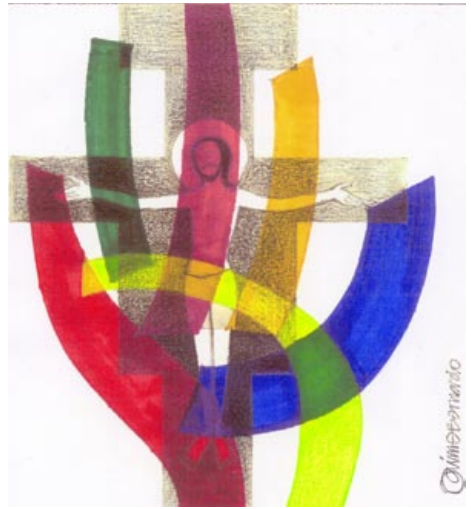
The growing presence of multiple cultures and ethnic groups within the United States is also found within the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO). This influence will be the topic and theme of the 17th Quinquennial Congress: ***Many Cultures - Through Francis - In Christ.***



Rev. Eric Law
Keynote Speaker

The Congress, which is held every five years, will convene on July 3, 2007 at Franciscan University, Steubenville, OH and run through July 8. The multicultural theme will be highlighted during liturgies and presentations, including the keynote speaker, the Rev. Eric Law, Missioner for Congregation Development in the Diocese of Los Angeles, noted John Sanborn, SFO, Congress chair and past national vice minister.

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Quinquennial logo, designed by Jaime Bernardo, SFO, symbolizes the theme of "Many Cultures through Francis in Christ."

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