Our HTR Minister’s Message:
This year’s Holy Trinity Regional Retreat will be one not to be missed. The retreat will be from Friday March 23-March 25; for those who wish to commute, you will have the choice of attending only Saturday, March 24, and breakfast lunch and dinner are included in the Saturday-only fee of $75.00. For those staying for the weekend, the retreat fee includes two nights lodging and six meals, for just $150.00 per person.

The retreat will take place at the Marydale Retreat Center, Erlanger, Kentucky. The center is ranch-style (all on one floor). The meals are prepared by the center’s staff, and the food has been given rave reviews by previous retreatants.

Our retreat master will be Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM. Fr. Trezza is a member of the National Formation Commission, and Regional Spiritual Assistant for two regions. The topic will explore profession as a lifelong journey. This will be a great “kick-off” for our trainings for the For Up Until Now or “FUN” Manual; therefore, it is vital that each fraternity in the region is represented by one or more members of their formation team. The manual will be a wonderful and exciting resource for each fraternity’s formation team. Three trainings will be held, in each of the three areas of our Holy Trinity Region (North, Central and South). We will ask for fraternities to agree to host a training session in their area, by providing a space to meet. It will be necessary for your fraternity to be represented at one of these three sessions, in order to obtain your copy of the FUN Manual. These sessions will be held in the Spring.

Fr. Richard is dynamic, inspirational and fun. His enthusiasm is contagious, and you will be blessed to catch it!

Please do not miss this opportunity, for all professed members of the Holy Trinity Region; we are all responsible for our lifelong formation, as well as that of each of our brothers and sisters.

For more information, please contact Rose Mary Menetrey, sfo, at 859-781-5196
E-mail: rmenetrey@zoomtown.com
Address: 13 N. Crescent Avenue, Fort Thomas, Kentucky 41075

ST. MICHAEL FRATERNITY

On Sunday, December 11, 2011, the St. Michael Fraternity, of the Holy Trinity Region of the Secular Franciscan Order, joyfully celebrated the Resurrection of their fraternity. Fraternity members and guests joined the parish congregation for the 10:00 a.m. Mass, at the beautiful Saint Francis Seraph Church, Vine and Liberty Streets, Cincinnati, Ohio. Father Greg Friedman, OFM, presided at the Mass. Fr. Greg is the pastor of St. Francis Seraph Parish, as well as the Spiritual Assistant of St. Michael Fraternity. Deacon John Gerke, sfo, Minister of St. Michael Fraternity, proclaimed the Gospel, and inspired us with his homily, challenging us to “Prepare the Way of the Lord”, by continually striving to establish His kingdom, and to proclaim it to everyone.

After the celebration of the Eucharist, everyone was invited to the Friary refectory for coffee and donuts; fraternity members had the opportunity to pass out “Come and See” brochures, and to answer questions about who we are, as secular Franciscans, and how we live the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We had the wonderful opportunity to tour the first floor of the friary, with the breathtaking display of Nativities from all over the world, the “Santa Land”, with an amazing collection of Santa Claus/Saint Nicholas figurines, and beautifully decorated Christmas trees, including ones with
portraits of our beloved OFM friars interspersed among the ornaments. An outdoor Nativity scene, in the cloister of the friary, featured live sheep, donkeys and goats, and life-sized figurines around the crib. What a special commemoration of our Seraphic Father Francis’ live Nativity at Greccio. Our celebration culminated with a delicious lunch, catered by Venice on Vine. The gourmet quality food was prepared and delivered by persons who were once considered to be unemployable. Please congratulate the members of St. Michael for the Resurrection of their fraternity. They have a warm and welcoming Franciscan charism, and have persevered for several years to renew their Canonical Establishment.

(Submitted by Steve White, SFO, HTR Minister)

Message From Our HTR Spiritual Assistant:
First of all a very Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to all our regional Secular Franciscans and their families. Recently I read an article in Spiritual Life magazine about busyness.

In our culture today busyness seems to be the norm rather than the exception. If we aren’t doing something, important or not, we are considered a lazy person or a “goof off”. When we are busy we tend not to notice our surroundings or other people. We lose our contemplative attitude, so deprive ourselves of moments of beauty, surprise, delight, or love. The article goes on to say, “we are actually being captivated by a ‘false’ consciousness that is largely generated by the culture outside of ourselves.” Our ego reassures that we are productive, accomplishing something worthwhile and important to the scheme of things.

Most work environments, including academic ones, reward participants not for the quality of their thought but the sheer quantity of published text or service to the institution. As they say, “More is better”. Even in our household work, the habit of busyness can be just as driven. Endless sets of dishes to wash, rooms to clean, or weeds to be eradicated from the garden. This problem is not one that infects only one group of people.

We have a tendency to fear idle moments, after all we have been told, “an idle mind is the devil’s workshop.” When someone calls, if they are thoughtful they will ask, are you busy. That usually means, “Are you alone or in the middle of a social event?” It almost never means are praying, thinking, writing, or journaling. If you happen to be alone and answer the phone, the assumption is that you can be interrupted, that you are not “busy”, and after all, having answered the phone, you have already been interrupted.

The bottom line is to try and develop a Contemplative attitude, creative leisure, recollection or mindfulness.

To end with a final quote from the article, called “Resisting the Demon of Busyness”;
“God is as present to us in the marketplace as in the cloister. But to find God in the marketplace and live in an open-hearted love requires a developed capacity of attentiveness. To do so, I need to cultivate a quality of heart that enables me to see the invisible - a quality of presence in the present that is aware of all that is really there but which I too easily miss if I am so in love with busyness that I cannot receive the deeper dimensions of my experience. I need to continue to struggle against this cultural and personal demon of busyness."

Prayer:
O God may I walk the fine line between busyness and mindlessness. May everything that I do or say redound to your greater glory. Make me pliable in your hands by practicing good work ethics and refreshing rest periods throughout the day. Guide my steps as You did the steps of St. Francis my model and guide. Amen.

Submitted by Brother Dominic Lococo, OFM. HTR Spiritual Assistant

Padre Pio
"Human beings – and particularly the most fragile among them – will still need to look at figures such as Padre Pio to get, if not miracles, then at least consolation and hope," Professor Luzzatto, according the The Sun.

Several weeks ago I sent out a post similar to the one below to my fraternity:

Italian saint Padre Pio reportedly used carbolic acid on his hands, feet and sides to "self-inflict" the wounds Christ endured during the crucifixion, according to a book by professor Sergio Luzzatto. In his award-winning account dubbed Padre Pio: Miracles and Politics in a Secular Age, the historian describes correspondence between Padre Pio and his pharmacist that suggest the saint used acid to mimic stigmata wounds, according to The Sun...
In an earlier book, *The Other Christ: Padre Pio and 19th Century Italy*, Luzzato examined the same documents found in the Vatican archive, but his claims were dismissed in 2007 by the Catholic Anti-Defamation League, according to The Telegraph.

According to *Smithsonian Magazine*, Francis of Assisi is believed to have endured the first documented stigmata wounds in 1224 in Italy. Since then, hundreds of stigmata cases have been reported, though the authenticity of the phenomena continue to be debated among scholars and researchers.

In a followup to that post I sent these thoughts:

I have been doing a lot of thinking and praying about Padre Pio and would like to offer my thoughts on the subject.

On March 4, 2008 *The Telegraph* from the UK reported: The Vatican exhumed the body of Padre Pio, who exhibited stigmata on his hands and feet throughout his life, died in 1968 and was laid to rest in the Santa Maria delle Grazie church in Puglia. The Vatican said the charismatic monk's corpse was taken from the church crypt on Sunday to conserve it "for generations of future worshippers" as it was under threat from humidity.

After a series of holy readings, eight monks lifted the casket, made from three layers of metal, wood and zinc, out of the crypt just before midnight.

"Right from the start we could see his beard," said Domenico D'Ambrosio, the archbishop of Manfredonia. "You could see his knees very well, his hands, his fingernails. If Padre Pio will allow me, I would say it was like he had been manicured."

He added, however, that it was not possible to see Padre Pio's stigmata, which were said to have disappeared just before he died without leaving any scars.

On November 11, 2011 *The Sun*, another UK newspaper reported: ... recently unearthed documents reveal he (Padre Pio) was a fraud who used corrosive carbolic acid to inflict his hand injuries on himself. The papers include a letter from an Italian pharmacist who had arranged to deliver the acid.

The documents, stored in libraries at the Vatican, were unearthed by Professor Sergio Luzzatto, an eminent Italian historian. In his book, "Padre Pio: Miracle and Politics in a Secular Age", he said many Popes had called into question Pio's claims.

The Sun article would seem to be a serious allegation but is the information being taken out of context. I am a pharmacist, and I did teach History of Pharmacy at the U. of Cincinnati, College of Pharmacy. I have worked with Carbolic Acid, and have been burned by it, we know it today as Phenol. This is a dangerous chemical, it is corrosive and causes burns.

So what was Padre Pio doing with this stuff? If Professor Luzzatto is an "eminent Italian historian," then he might have figured this out. You can't think about Carbolic Acid in the context of today's medicine. We have antibiotics, disinfectants and pain relievers. Penicillin and other antibiotics didn't come into common use till after World War II or the late 1940's. Padre Pio died in 1968, he wore gloves to protect his hands for 50 years, starting 30 years before antibiotics were available. Why is this significant you may ask. The Stigmata, open wounds on hands, feet and on the side of the abdominal area, exposes the body to infection and would have to be kept clean and covered.

I went to one of my father's old Pharmacy books, Remington’s Practice of Pharmacy. This was from the era we are considering and may give some insight to why Padre Pio was corresponding with his Pharmacist about Carbolic Acid:


Phenol was at one time widely employed as a germicide... In full strength, a few drops of liquified Phenol may be used to cauterize small wounds. Dilute aqueous solutions of Phenol (1 or 2 per cent) are antipruritic....

Phenol in Olive Oil Uses - An antiseptic oil for external use.

Liquified Phenol in Distilled Water Uses - Phenolated Water is an effective antipruritic. Liquified Phenol in Sodium Citrate, Distilled Water, and Glycerin Uses - Phenol Glycerite is miscible with water and is used in preparing antiseptic dilutions of Phenol, and as an addition to gargles and mouth washes.

Phenol in Glycerin and White Ointment Uses - An antiseptic ointment

So let's look again at the question, "What was Padre Pio doing with this stuff?" The literature of the time tells us that Carbolic Acid was accepted antiseptic and used to cauterize small wounds. This would probably have been the first choice as an
external drug to protect open wounds before modern antibiotics became available. Had Padre Pio been using Carbolic Acid to inflict wounds to mimic the Stigmata the scars would still be visible on the body today. To quote Archbishop D'Ambrosio, "You could see his knees very well, his hands, his fingernails. If Padre Pio will allow me, I would say it was like he had been manicured." He added, however, that it was not possible to see Padre Pio's stigmata, which were said to have disappeared just before he died without leaving any scars. This is proof enough of the true miracle of the Stigmata, self inflicted wounds do not disappear. I have more I can send you from various sources, scientific and liturgical, please request info on Padre Pio form StMargaretSFO@aol.com (Submitted By Jim Myres, SFO; Saint Margaret Of Cortona Fraternity)

**Dates To Remember/Calendar of Events:**

A World Day Of Peace Celebration will be sponsored by The SFO Our Lady of the Presentation Fraternity, at 1 P.M., on January 1, 2012; at the Presentation Ministries Center, in Cincinnati, Ohio. It will include the presentation of Pope Benedict XVI’s January 1, 2012 World Day of Justice And Peace Message; of Educating Young People in Justice and Peace; followed by individuals’ peace and justice intentions, and the praying of the Rosary. The Pope’s 2012 World Day of Justice And Peace Message, for the World Day of Peace Celebration, of January 1, 2012, of Educating Young People in Justice and Peace, is available at [http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/message_s/peace/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20111208_xlv-world-day-peace_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/message_s/peace/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20111208_xlv-world-day-peace_en.html) All are invited. For further information, contact Marvin Dickman, SFO, at 513-574-1091, or at dickmanma@aol.com

World Day Of Peace Masses will be celebrated, at 11 A.M., on Sunday, January 1, 2012; at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Chains, in Cincinnati, with Archbishop Dennis Schurr, as the celebrant; and at Saint Peter Church, in Huber Heights, near Dayton, Ohio, with Bishop Binzer, as the celebrant.

Chris Hickman, SFO and Francesca Wigle, TSSF are pleased to announce that Canticle Campus will be offering two classes beginning January 15, 2012. The 10-week classes will be based on two books by Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF. *Clare of Assisi, A Heart Full of Love:* "Although this is a small book on the spirituality of a medieval woman from a glorious past, it is also a book about Christian life today. Clare's decisive emphasis on the person of Jesus Christ is an emphasis on the human person as well, what we are and what we are called to be." - From the Introduction.

**Franciscan Prayer**

"By examining Saint Francis' doctrine of prayer through the twin lens of Saints Clare and Bonaventure, this book provides us with a long overdue spiritual and theological synthesis which will be treasured by all who love the Franciscan tradition. A significant contribution, beautifully presented." - Lawrence S. Cunningham. (Published by St. Anthony Messenger Press) To learn more about Canticle Campus, go to [http://www.canticlecampus.org/](http://www.canticlecampus.org/). For information or to register, e-mail hickmcm@hotmail.com or fwigle@gmail.com. All are invited and there is no cost to take the class.

**Eco-Film Series Continues:** The Dayton International Peace Museum will host environmental film presentations from 10 am until noon on the second Saturday of each month. Some of the films will be provocative, some controversial - all will be thought-provoking and inspire conversation and response. The Peace Museum is located at 208 West Monument Avenue, Dayton, OH 45402 and can be reached via telephone (937-227-3223) or internet, at [www.daytonpeace museum.org](http://www.daytonpeace museum.org), for more information. Free parking is available next to Holbrooke Peace Hall. Cosponsors of the series include the Peace Museum, Ohio Interfaith Power and Light, and Creation Connection of the Greater Dayton Christian Connection. For full information, click [here](http://www.daytonpeace museum.org).
The National Right To Life March, in Washington, D.C., will be on Monday, January 23, 2011. A bus leaves Our Lady of Lourdes parking lot, near Cincinnati, Ohio, at 7:00 am on Saturday, January 21, 2012; returning: 2:00 or 3:00 am, on Jan. 24. We will be staying at the Best Western Hotel. Saturday evening we will be attending Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Monday, January 23rd is the March. Prices for rooms: 4 in a room, $164.00 each; 3 in a room, $183.00 each; 2 in a room, $220.00 each; 1 in a room, $330.00 each. Price includes sleeping and bus ride; and, one meal, the day of the march. If you have any questions please call Janet Tuchfarber, at 514-451-0331; or e-mail at mad8031pag@yahoo.com.

The Precious Planet Ministry of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Centerville, Ohio, invites Secular Franciscans to hear Father John Quigley, OFM, to speak on Sunday, February 5, at 7:00 PM. His talk will focus on St. Francis’ life as it relates to our Catholic call to be stewards of creation. He will share his perspective on the impact of environmental issues, including climate change on the poor of the world. (Submitted By Michael J Monseur, Secretary: Saint Leonard Fraternity)

Deadline for Submissions For the March - April, 2012 Edition of The Trinity Trumpet is February 15, 2012. News items and articles should be sent in black and white emails, or attached black and white Word documents; and, color, or black and white, photos, should be pasted on an email; and sent to Marvin Dickman, SFO, at dickmanma@aol.com

The Multi-Fraternity Council Meetings, of Our Lady Of Mercy Fraternity, of Springfield, Ohio; Saint Elizabeth Fraternity, of Dayton, Ohio; and Saint Leonard Fraternity, of Centerville, Ohio; continue on Saturday, February 18, 2011, at St. Joseph Parish Center, on Kenton Street, Springfield Ohio. Coordinating Franciscan Feast Day Mass schedule, sharing profession dates, retreats and other events is an item on the agenda. For further information, contact Lillian White, SFO, at sfo-pax@mindspring.com.

The SFO Holy Trinity Regional Fraternity Retreat will be held Friday evening through Sunday morning, on March 23 – 25, 2012, at the Marydale Retreat Center, in Erlanger, Kentucky; with Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM, a member of National Formation Team, as the retreat moderator. There was an article on Fr. Richard attending the NAFRA meeting in the Holy Name Province newsletter, at http://www.hnp.org/publications/hnp_today_view.cfm?id=188&aid=3900 The Retreat’s theme is: “Formation - FUNdamentals - Orientation to Profession and Beyond”. (Plan to have one or more formation team members attend from each Fraternity.) Over night stay is available, for the three day event; or, you can attend Saturday only. Information is fore coming; or, you can contact Rose Mary Menetrey, HTR Councilor, Central Area, for more information, at rmenetrey@zoomtown.com.

A Day With Fr. Don Halpin OFMConv. will be on Saturday, March 17, 2012, from 9am-4:30pm, at the Mt. St. Francis Center; 101St. Anthony Dr.; Mt. St. Francis, Indiana.47146 The Theme is “Life, Wisdom, and Writings of St. Clare”. Conference in am followed by Mass, at 11:45; and lunch, conference, and ending, with Franciscan crown and benediction. Cost: $8.50 for lunch. Must have a reservation by March 3, 2011. Contact Bette Dries at 502-893-3203; or e-mail at driesbette@bellsouth.net.

The NAFRA-USA Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Rally will be at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, in Belleville, Illinois, on April 12-15, 2012. It is for JPIC Commission members, regional fraternity JPIC Point People and
friends of JPIC. Since our move from the Apostolic Commission Model to our present JPIC Model, we have not had such a gathering. The Rally focus is bringing together people to sustain and enliven our JPIC efforts. We Rally! To build fraternity, give guidance, direction and formation to JPIC Point People, to build new Commission leadership and to prepare for the Quinquennial. One of the major purposes/outcomes from the Q is to discern "What IS our gift; what is God asking of us NOW in the 21st Century?" as an Order. Because the “Q” will ask this question, and because the answer will come from those attending the “Q”, we really, really need the JPIC folks to attend the “Q”. We need JPIC input and direction at the “Q”. We need a critical mass of people at the “Q” who can speak knowledgeably and persuasively about JPIC as part of this discernment process. We need a substantial number of people who have the heart and vision for JPIC issues to attend both the “Q” and this April 2012 JPIC Rally. The Rally! will have prayer and faith sharing, sessions on Catholic Social Teaching and our Rule, strategies from going from word to action, celebration of JPIC efforts undertaken and planning for the future (the Q, the Commission, a national JPIC gathering). Room and meals at the Shrine will be $275 for a double room, $375 for a private room, by 2/15/12. For more information, please contact Jan Parker, National Fraternity Secretary at jansfo@yahoo.com; or, Kent Ferris, JPIC Chair at kentferris45@yahoo.com.

The HTR Spring 2012 Full Ministers’ Council Meeting will be on Saturday, April 21, 2012, at 11:00 AM: All Fraternity councils expected; all members welcome. Meeting will be at St. Thomas Church, Activity Center, Fort Thomas, Kentucky. Contact rmenetrey@zoomtown.com

SFO Quinquennial Meeting will be on July 3-8, 2012, at the North Shore Skokie Holiday Inn., in Chicago, IL. (Opening liturgy evening of 7/3, closing liturgy evening of 7/7) We are encouraging every fraternity, that is able, and every region, to send at least one representative. This is not meant just to be a "come and feel good" or even "come and be edified/educated" (although those things will happen) but a Chapter of Mats--a time of discerning together! If you visit www.nafra-sfo.org today, you will notice a not-so-subtle banner at the top announcing the Q and linking to a page to learn more, where we have the registration form, the prayer, the travel form, and the tentative schedule. If you want to go direct to the page, it's www.nafra-sfo.org/q2012.html. For further information, see TAU-USA Winter Issue #69 page, 9, or contact Steve White, at sfo-pax@ mindspring.com.

All Franciscan Day will be Saturday, August 4, 2012; at, Saint Vivian Parish, near Cincinnati, Ohio.

The NAFRA Visitation of our Holy Trinity Regional Fraternity will be at the Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, in Norwood, Ohio, on November 16 - 18, 2012. For further information, contact Steve White, SFO, at sfo-pax@ mindspring.com.

The Holy Trinity Regional Fraternity Spiritual Assistant Training program will begin. Please pray for the mentors, for those participating in the course and for discernment for yourself for the next time the course is offered. For further information, contact Lillian White, SFO, at sfo-pax@ mindspring.com.

Justice, Peace, And Integrity Of Creation:

Message From Anne Wolf, SFO, HTR JPIC Co-Chair:

November is the month that many of us remember those who gave their lives for our country. But we should also remember them during the rest of the year. It is a shame that it was necessary for men and women to disrupt their lives so they could kill other people. Imagine what it would be like if everyone followed the commandment of love without any killing. Saint Francis, the peacemaker, met with the Sultan, with the idea of converting him to Christianity. He did this with words, not a killing machine. We all need
to promote peace and love in our families, neighborhoods, and the world. Saint Francis said that “we have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way.” Maybe we should start with ourselves. Thomas A. Kempis said, “First keep peace within yourself, then you can bring peace to others.” Please promote peaceful existence with others, through prayer.

Submitted By Anne Wolf, SFO, HTR JPIC Co-Chair

Message From Kent Ferris, SFO: NAFRA JPIC Chair:
What a great NAFRA Gathering in October! Each session, each day, built on the previous one! By the time we made it to Thursday, the stage was set for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation! We began with prayer and then celebration of the faithful example of this year’s JPIC Award recipient, Father Louie Vitale, OFM. We then had the review session for the webinar series, Catholics Confront Global Poverty, and had CRS Community Organizer, Chris West join us in person. Then we presented a year-in-review of the Franciscan Action Network, and were again fortunate to have guests join us, this time Patrick Carolan and Christy Elliott. Finally, we talked about the USCCB Spotlight Programs project. Wait, that wasn’t the end of the day! In the evening, there was the prayer service commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Day of Prayer for Peace! And then, the multicultural entertainers! And for the next day, a small group worked on the NAFRA Statement to the Super Committee! (Even though I stop in summarizing on Thursday, please don’t take it as a slight to our efforts and discussions on Friday and Saturday. The level of energy remained high for the duration…)

I hope people came away from the Gathering saying, “wow, there is a lot of energy and enthusiasm for the Order, our way of life and for our responsibilities, including those relating to JPIC! And I know for a fact that there are at least another 50-100 brother and sister Secular Franciscans who were not part of the Gathering, but who are equally enthusiastic and committed to all things JPIC. I see them in emails, regional newsletters and by way of FAN Action Commissioner calls. I would love to organize a workshop for JPIC here within the next 10 months. There is so much to discuss, so many notes to compare, and selfishly, so many of you that I would love to finally meet in person! **Would you be interested in attending a JPIC workshop? If so, send me an email**, at ferris@davenportdiocese.org!

Back to the Gathering for a second. Our beloved National Secretary, Jan Parker, was so inspired by the JPIC session, hearing of the work of Catholics Confront Global Poverty and the creation of the Statement by the National Fraternity to the Super Committee, that she has in turn written a letter to the editor highlighting the need for careful deliberation of the budget by the Super Committee. Finally, I want to let you know of JPIC Commission member, Sandra Thompson. Sandra is both a fellow Secular Franciscan and a fellow Catholic Charities worker. Sandra is the Life and Resources Coordinator for Catholic Charities in Portland, ME. And she has recently share with me a Power Point presentation that she has uses for her two sessions, FUN Workshop presentation on JPIC. I have a copy of it. It is a 3MB document, so I hesitate in sending it in this letter, but if you have interest in it, let me know; at 563-264-0120, or at ferris@davenportdiocese.org.

Post Script: Console. Understand. Love. I had mentioned to some recently that these are the words that jump out at me when I reflect on the Prayer of St. Francis. It seems as though no day goes by when I don’t have an opportunity as a Secular Franciscan to do these three things. In four successive days, I’ve had the following
experiences: Day #1: Attending a training for Occupy Iowa City provided by Peter Daugherty of the Michigan Peace Team. The young woman who so passionately feels the need to speak of injustice and cries when she hears from others in the movement that they want to move indoors in anticipation of the bitterly cold winters typical for Iowa.

Day #2: The friend who weeps when she shares the heartache of grandchildren caught between separating parents.

Day #3: The refugee from Myanmar who works in the Iowa meat plant who lived in a refugee camp for 20 years, then travelled through several countries to find his way to the United States. And who has no way of receiving any information about the loved ones he left behind.

Day #4: My own tears when I read in the newspaper that my friends who are both Methodist ministers here in the Quad Cities, and who learned Monday morning that their 26 year old soldier son was seriously injured in a roadside attack in Afghanistan, losing both legs. Heavenly Father, help us continue to be courageous in our efforts for peace and justice, but continue to give us the calmness to “just be” for our brothers and sisters who daily endure enormous heartache and tragedy in this imperfect world. Amen.

"The demands of justice must first of all be satisfied; that which is already due in justice is not to be offered as a gift of charity." Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Decree Apostolicam Actuositatem, 8: AAS 58 (1966), 845; cf Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2446.

(Submitted By Kent Ferris, SFO: NAFRA JPIC Chair)


The Pope’s 2012 World Day of Justice And Peace Message, for the World Day of Peace Celebration, of January 1, 2012, of Educating Young People in Justice and Peace, is available at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/message/pope/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20111208_xlv-world-day-peace_en.html In the document, dated December 8, 2011, Benedict XVI highlights the importance of young people in the quest for justice and peace, but states that the fundamental question that must be asked to educate young people is "who is man?" He calls upon all types of educators to understand the beings they are educating. He states that "The first step in education is learning to recognize the Creator's image in man, and consequently learning to have a profound respect for every human being and helping others to live a life consonant with this supreme dignity," explains the importance of considering "every single dimension" of the person, including the transcendent one. His statements speaks of educating in freedom, in justice, and, finally, of educating in peace.

The pope teaches that “Freedom is a precious value, but a fragile one; it can be misunderstood and misused”; but he warns that authentic freedom is "not the absence of constraint or the supremacy of free will, it is not the absolutism of the self. When man believes himself to be absolute, to depend on nothing and no one, to be able to do anything he wants, he ends up contradicting the truth of his own being and forfeiting his freedom."

Benedict XVI’s message points out again the errors of relativism, stating that "nothing as definitive, leaves as the ultimate criterion only the self with its desires"; and, thus "sooner or later, every person is in fact condemned to doubting the goodness of his or her own life and the relationships of which it consists, the validity of his or her commitment to build with others something in common."

The Pope teaches, regarding justice, that "since what is just is ultimately determined not by positive law, but by the profound identity of the human being. It is the integral vision of man that saves us from falling into a contractual conception of justice and enables us to locate justice within the horizon of solidarity and love."

Regarding peace, the Pope teaches us that "Peace for all is the fruit of justice for all, and no one can shirk this essential task of promoting justice, according to one’s particular areas of competence and responsibility. To the young, who have such a strong attachment to ideals, I extend a particular invitation to be patient and persevering in seeking justice and peace, in cultivating the taste for what is just and true, even when it involves sacrifice and swimming against the tide."

Pope Benedict XVI concludes with his appeal that "All you men and women throughout the world, who take to heart the cause of peace: peace is not a blessing already attained, but rather a goal to which
each and all of us must aspire. Let us look with greater hope to the future; let us encourage one another on our journey; let us work together to give our world a more humane and fraternal face; and let us feel a common responsibility towards present and future generations, especially in the task of training them to be people of peace and builders of peace….With these thoughts I offer my reflections and I appeal to everyone: let us pool our spiritual, moral and material resources for the great goal of 'educating young people in justice and peace.'" (Source: Zenit.org)

(Submitted By Marvin Dickman, SFO; HTR JPIC Co-Chair; Minister: Our Lady of The Presentation Fraternity)

USCCB Position/Church Teaching: Unemployment Benefits:
“Church teaching is clear: during times of economic pain and high unemployment, there is a moral obligation to ensure unemployed workers and their families have a basic level of security. Last week, Bishop Stephen Blaire, Chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote to Members of Congress to urge them to extend unemployment benefits. The full text of the letter can be found here: http://bit.ly/rCDRGj. “ (Source: U.S.C.C.B. Action Alert: Dec. 19, 2011: Dept. of Justice, Peace and Human Development, US Conference of Catholic Bishops; 3211 4th St. NE, Washington, DC 20017-1194: (202) 541-319; JPHDmail@usccb.org www.usccb.org/jphd

The War in Iraq Comes To An End:
In the early morning, of December 19, 2011, the last of our troops left Iraq. As we honor and reflect on the sacrifices that millions of men and women, of our country made for this war, I wanted to make sure you heard the news. PEACE. http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/16/world/middleeast/pa netta-in-baghdad-for-iraq-military-handover-ceremony.html?_r=3&ref=global-home

John Paul II Institute Starts a New Free Online Review On Humanum: Issues in Family, Culture and Science: The first issue is now online, on the theme of “The Child”. http://www.humanumreview.com (Source: Zenit.org)

Russia Today:
As a young child in Catholic grade school, we were taught to pray for the conversion of Russia. We wondered if anything could ever be done to change the situation. As adults, we can affect the daily lives of Catholics in today’s Russia. Our fraternity, St. Joseph of Cupertino located at Mt. St. Francis, Indiana, adopted a program as one of our outreaches. Fr. Ivan J. Rohloff, OFM Conv., serves as a full-time missionary in Russia. He works with the poor, and is spiritual confessor for Mother Teresa’s sisters in St. Petersburg. He is also spiritual confessor for men from throughout the former Soviet Union who are attending the major seminary where Fr. Ivan resides. One of the largest hurdles he faces on a daily basis is funding parishes in Russia, which are very small and the people are poor. A weekly collection might consist of $10.00 to $20.00. Fr. Ivan lives with constant dangers and difficulties. He spoke to our fraternity during a visit to the U.S., and said that when he first arrived in St. Petersburg, there was no heat in the church. It would get so cold that the water in the cruets would freeze. Learning a new language, obtaining visas, and adjusting to different customs and traditions are just a few of the hardships. If you would like to send a donation please send it to: Instruments of Peace c/o Jeffrey J. H. Heitzman, 233 E. Fulton - Suite 224, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Checks should be made payable to Instruments of Peace. One hundred percent of your donation goes to Fr. Ivan for his missionary work. No portion is used for administrative costs. All donations are tax-deductible. Submitted By Joseph M. Smith, SFO; St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity; Mt. St. Francis, Indiana

Franciscan Simplicity from Non-Franciscans:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/12/09/life-editing_n_1138817.html?1323446551&icid=main-grid10%7Chtmlws-sb-bb%7Cid23%7Csec1%7C118911
Submitted by Steve White, SFO: HTR Minister
Profession:

St. Pio of Pietrelcina Secular Franciscan Fraternity, near Columbus, Ohio, welcomed new member Bob Chiodo (center left) in a Mass of Permanent Commitment to the Gospel Life on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at the St. Therese Retreat Center. The Profession Rite Mass was celebrated by Father Adam Streitenberger (far right) professed as a Secular Franciscan on April 20, 2008. Also pictured is Minister Jeff Baker, SFO (far left) Minister of St. Pio’s and Bob Contino, SFO, (center right) Formation Director, both elected to these council positions in January 2010. Joyfully, St. Pio’s Fraternity has experienced a slightly more than 40% growth in size since its canonical approval in October 2006.

Secular or Third Order Franciscans vow to live their lives according to the Gospel and the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order founded by St. Francis of Assisi in the 13th century. St. Pio’s Franciscans meet the 3rd Sunday of each month unless otherwise stated at St. Matthew Church, Gahanna at 3:00 pm. Meetings are preceded by Eucharistic Adoration at 2:00 pm in the Church – visitors and inquirers, welcome! Those interested in obtaining more information about the S.F.O. may contact Dave Orsborn, SFO, 614-282-4676 or email daveorsborn@gmail.com. Photo and caption by Victoria Dillon, SFO

Our Lady of Mercy Fraternity, of Springfield, Ohio, continued the outreach with St. Francis Christmas bird seed packets during Advent 2011, with the inclusion of Spanish for our Hispanic friends. All nine (9) parishes of our members were included. The Multi-fraternity council meetings continue on Sat. Feb.18th at St. Joseph Parish Center, Kenton St., Springfield Ohio. Coordinating Franciscan Feast Day Mass schedule, sharing profession dates, retreats and other events is an item on the agenda. Jim Hanna SFO, a Our Lady Of Mercy member, accepted one of the several HTR point positions, to the National Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation Commission. Jim offered his local fraternity the C4C program; and will be extending the offer to the other areas of Holy Trinity Regional Fraternity, if wanted. More info in March/April issue Our Spiritual Assistant, Rev. Fr David P. Vincent sfo, celebrated his 50th year Franciscan profession. We celebrate and thank God for Fr. Dave’s Franciscan influence of The WORD and his example and his words. (Submitted By Lillian White, SFO: Minister, Our Lady of Mercy Fraternity)

Photo of Jim Hanna, SFO; of Our Lady of Mercy Fraternity HTRF JPIC Co-Chair and a member of the National JPIC Commission

Our Lady of the Presentation Fraternity, of Cincinnati, Ohio wishes much happiness to Michael Halm, SFO, its former local fraternity’s Minister; in his relocation to Arkansas; and to his fiancé; in their plans to marry, in about six months, after the Church’s preparation. Mike served, for many years, as his local fraternity’s Minister, Vice Minister, Secretary, Ecology Chair, and Franciscan International; and was active in the activities of Saint Leo Parish, Presentation Ministries, and Transforming Jail Ministries. Michael Halm’s good works, energy, and kindness, will be greatly missed by all who worked with him. (Submitted by Marvin Dickman, SFO, Minister; Our Lady of The Presentation Fraternity)
Photo, From Left To Right, Of Bob Stockaer; and The SFO Our Lady Of The Presentation Fraternity’s Myles Kunkel, SFO, Michael Halm, SFO, And Marvin Dickman, SFO; Following Their Providing A Prison Ministry Sunday Service For Inmates At The River City Correctional Institution, In Cincinnati, Ohio, On Dec. 4, 2011:

Fred A. Kvidera, SFO, of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity, Riverside (Dayton), Ohio was born into eternal life December 4, 2011. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Fr. Earl Simone at St. Peter Catholic Church, Huber Heights, Ohio. Several secular Franciscans from different fraternities prayed the Franciscan Crown at the church.

Prayer for Quinquennial 2012:
Dear and gracious, loving Lord and Father,
We bring to you the upcoming Quinquennial.
We thank you for the gift of our vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order, and for our brothers and sisters whom you have also called.
Thank you for the example and inspiration of Francis and Clare, and grant us a new understanding and vision of their calling, and ours.
Prepare our hearts to hear your call anew, and enkindle in us a new spirit of conversion and dedication.
Bless those who will share with us,
Bless those who will attend in person,
Bless those who will attend in spirit.
Let your Holy Spirit be poured out on our entire National Fraternity,
That through this Congress we may together discern your heart, and become all that you want us to be,
In order “to bring about a more fraternal and evangelical world,” bringing to life more fully the Kingdom of God.
We pray in the Holy and Blessed Name of Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

The Trinity Trumpet Editorial Staff:
Managing Editor: Marvin Dickman, sfo: dickmanma@aol.com
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Bro. Dominic Lococo, ofm

Francis Lehman SFO, Celebrates 67 Years of Profession as a Secular Franciscan:

Ed Bucnis, SFO Minister of Saint Elizabeth Fraternity, near Dayton, Ohio, wrote, regarding Francis Lehman SFO, “One thing I'd like to see is Francis' wish ‘before I die, I hope to see a fraternity here in Piqua.” The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Tom Grilliot at St. Mary Church, Piqua, Ohio.

(Submitted By Steve White, SFO: HTR Minister)

Obituaries:
Maryann Monseur, SFO of St. Leonard Fraternity, of Centerville, Ohio, went to Our Lord at 5 PM, on December 19, 2011. There was a minister and a Secular Franciscan who led prayers.
Visititation was on Friday in St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Wilmington Ave., in Centerville, Ohio. Mass was at 12:30 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Wilmington Ave., in Centerville, Ohio. Community meal, after the committal, was at the church.