



Pace e Bene

Peace and Good

Volume 5 Issue 2

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How Did that Happen?

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Sometimes things take on a wonderful life of their own. Our unscripted noontime meetings on the Piazza Communale and our afternoon "Happy Hours" on the front portal of the Windsor Savoia were two of those lovely events. I don't recall a discussion about the onset of either, but God's blessing on however they took root and became a staple forming us into a bonded, happy group of pilgrims sharing our lives with each other.

It seems that our happy band of pilgrims commandeered, at least once a day, the tables under the umbrellas next to the fountain on the Piazza Communale and we shared more than one delightful noon repast learning first-hand of the customs of the citizens of Assisi by observing their comings and going in this shaded spot. From the warm smell of "chestnuts roasting on an open fire", to the happiness of the bridal pair and their entourage coming out of the city building following their wedding, to the folk singer shar-

ing his lovely voice and agile guitar fingers each late morning, to slowly sipping at all to the soothing taste of limoncello or amaretto, to . . . well, this was our immersion into the Italian culture of these warm and welcoming Assisians right in the heart of town.

I suspect that Francis of Assisi would have been more than comfortable with these lovely Italian customs of sharing life on the piazza of Assisi, and he wouldn't have objected sharing the tasty treats we ordered from the menus from gelato, to pizza, to all forms of pasta, to a myriad array of pastries beyond description to snippets of Perugian chocolate, etc . After all, wasn't Francis known for his joyous capers in the midst of his friends 800 years ago right here in front of the Temple of Minerva and on these streets? How better to understand what he and his friends might have experienced than to imitate his story?

As we prayed in all the significant the churches of the

city, and as we visited each of the places important in the lives of Francis and Clare, telling their stories in the hopes that somehow what we learned from them would impact our lives by imitation, I suspect Francis wouldn't have minded our imitating our enjoyment of the very special characteristic life of his native city.

Any one for a limoncello on the Piazza?



News & Views

God Bless the new grandparents, Diane and Dennis Kreager; Jim and Kathy Fuchs; and Monica and Joe Higginbotham and God Bless their families!

Please continue to pray for Elizabeth Topash, she gets stronger each day!

Thanks for all the prayers for Sr. Agnes Marie, let us continue to pray for her speedy recovery!

Let us remember our elderly fraternity members that aren't able to participate in person but are with us in spirit. Let us pray for all the fraternity members that couldn't be with us this month.



February Fraternity Meeting Schedule

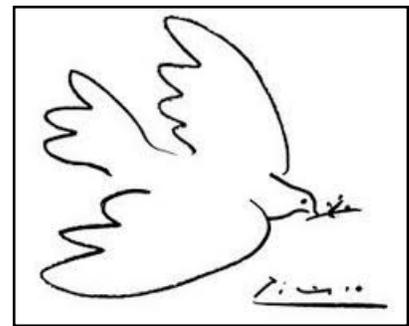
- 7:30 Doors open, welcoming conversation,
Drop off and set up of food items**
- 8:15 Liturgy of the Hours
and the Rite Of Admission**
- 8:45 Both Formation and On-Going Formation**
- 10:15 Business Meeting in the Auditorium**
- 11:00 Go upstairs for Quiet Prayer**
- 11:15 Mass in the Main Chapel**
- 12:00 Lunch in the Auditorium**

Annual Franciscan Family Gathering

This is the unique once a year gathering of all our Franciscan family for Mass and Dinner. In addition to our formation sessions, we gather in unity of our Franciscan charism. Our fraternity is a sacred place of joy, renewal, and support. We miss you when you are not here. For those of you who have been absent, we are looking forward to your return.

Calendar of Events for February, March, and April 2015

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| February 9, 2015: | Feast of Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel, OSF, Foundress of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration |
| February 21, 2015: | Monthly Fraternity Meeting in the Auditorium 4th Annual "Franciscan Family Gathering" Sisters, Friars, and Secular Franciscans |
| February 23, 2015: | Serve Breakfast at Our Lady of the Road: 7:00—11:00 a.m. |
| March 5, 2015: | Meeting of the Council at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Louis Parlor |
| March 14, 2015: | Regional Meeting for Formators in Kokomo at St. Joan of Arc Church |
| March 21, 2015: | Monthly Fraternity Meeting in the Auditorium Annual Retreat: details TBA |
| March 22, 2015: | Serve Breakfast at Our Lady of the Road: 7:00—11:00 a.m. |
| April 2, 2015: | Meeting of the Council at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Louis Parlor |
| April 11, 2015: | Regional Chapter of Mats at St. Joan of Arc in Kokomo |
| April 16, 2015: | Annual Day of Renewal of Vows for all Members of the Franciscan Family |
| April 18, 2015: | Monthly Fraternity Meeting in the Auditorium |
| April 25, 2015: | Regional Study Day II: for SAs and those attending for Enrichment 10:00 a.m. at St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo Speaker: Fr. Maurice Richard, OFM, Conv Topics: "Fraternity and Francis" and "Penitence and Conversion" |
| April 26, 2015: | Serve Breakfast at Our Lady of the Road: 7:00-11:00 am |



We should seek not
so much to pray
but to become
prayer.

St. Francis Of Assisi

Who's the Radical Now?

Tim Short, OFS Formation Director

So, I just read an essay in Time written by Susanna Schrobsdorff. She has a daughter about to leave for college. She finds herself "unable to stop reading the headlines about sexual assault and bungled rape investigations at some of the best universities in the country" and she is concerned. Rightly so.

I was with her, right up until she wrote this in the second to last paragraph:

"I always defend your right to wear what you want and have just-for-fun sex if you want."

At that point I went from empathy to astonishment. How could an assistant editor at Time not understand the connection between the moral breakdown she bemoans on the one hand, and the moral flippancy she embraces on the other?

As Franciscans we learn to understand the world from an incarnational point of view. Everything in creation points not just to the Creator, but to the immense, unimaginable love that He exhibited when he chose to Create. We look at Creation and hope to gain guidance about the intentions of our Creator in what we find there.

In His wisdom, God chose to share His Creativity with me. Sharing in that creativity brings me so close to Him that I experience ecstasy. This is no accident. It's also no accident that I found that ecstasy replaced by emptiness when I experienced it outside an environment of love.

Reflecting on Creation, and on the role of our own creativity within that Creation, ought to teach us, if we're paying attention, that sex is sacred. When we miss that message, when we turn the sacred into the "just-for fun," when we ignore the nature of Creation and what we are supposed to be observing and learning from it, what results do we expect?

Will everything be ok? Or will the problems grow the farther we get from the Truth?

Francis was a radical. He set out to rebuild the Church and he impacted the world around him. As his heirs, we should follow in those footsteps. We live in a time when rebuilding is not only needed, but desperately necessary.

But I can't help but wonder, is radical enough?

I fear, when I read something like this, that the only answer might be revolution.



Our Lady of the Road Volunteer/Community Outreach Report

We had a very successful "first try serving" at Our Lady of the Road (OLOR) on Sunday, January 25th, 2015. Many volunteers (18-20) from the fraternity along with their children came to make breakfast and serve approximately 85 to 100 meals.

A big "Thank-you" to Tim Martin who cooked the special orders and to Randy Thomas for organizing and taking care of the dishes. Randy even cleaned the grease trap!! Great Job Randy and Tim!

Our next serving date is Sunday, February 22nd. All are invited. Please note that cooks should arrive at **7:15am** and everyone else at 8:30am. Cooks should be ready to leave at 9:30am. Because we want to get out by 10:30am so people can make it to 11:00am Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

Throughout the week I received a number of e-mails concerning the morning and every one of them was positive. People expressed how much they received by giving to others, whether it was serving coffee or food, cooking, cleaning-up or just sitting with people and listening to their story. I believe most of us got more out of it than what we gave that morning. It was a fulfilling experience! And definitely a "Franciscan Moment"!

Thanks everyone and see you Sunday February 22nd at Our Lady of the Road at Bronson and Main Street!

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For more
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Check out the Brand New Website— Ready February 21st!

On February 21, 2015 the Immaculate Conception Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will present it's new and fully functional website.

As a form of constant communication and information our website will showcase pictures taken by our members while on pilgrimage or while in fraternal activities. Also featured will be our event calendars, newsletters, monthly readings, links to our Regional, National and International fraternal sites.

Our website will be deep and full of content from many different sources. Prayer intentions will be taken and transferred to our prayer book. Links to our members apostolates will be provided.

Sr. Agnes Marie has worked with Diego to provide the content. We were able to work with a company that created the shell website and provided many of our links but as a fraternity we have the content to fill many times over. Diego hopes to be able to keep the website up to date and be able to give everyone a voice.

Our website will be a good opportunity to show to any person you would like to invite to join us and hopefully it will help in our growth.

Suggestions will be taken because like every endeavor in life can always be improved on.

E-Mail DiegoND@gmail.com if you have any suggestions or any links you want promoted.

February Birthdays & Profession Anniversaries

Feb 4- Julie Scalise

Feb 5- Peg Salkay

Feb 5-Joella Carll

Feb 9-Deacon Bill
Gallagher, OFS

Feb 17-Bill Schmitt,
OFS



Feb 6— Patricia Bellm,
OFS