



# *Pace e Bene*

Peace and Good

Volume 6 Issue 11

November, 2015

## "A Parkbench, A Leper, and Crickets"

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Sometimes the question is posed, "How can I keep the memory of God awake in my everyday life when so people, places, things, noises, and distractions come at me from all sides?" Perhaps the answer to that question is not so much in what you can do as in learning to see how God is continually showing Himself to us in everything around us. Yes, even in the sometimes mucky things that life throws at us. Remember the lady on the park bench by the Lake in Chicago that we reflected upon last month? Admittedly, my first impulse was to say, "Nooooooo, please no." But a sudden "Franciscan" flashback about the meeting of St. Francis and the leper reminded me of the multiple ways Jesus manifests his presence in the most unexpected and unusual places. Giving credit where credit is due, I must admit that my bench partner would periodically stop, look out over the Lake where lovely cumulus clouds hovered over its blue depths and she would say, "Here's where I find God. Isn't that beautiful. Can you see? Isn't that lovely? He's here!" So despite cigarette butts, beer cans, and a few other character flaws, here was a woman who was still looking for God in one of the loveliest of places on earth. St. Francis of Assisi was surely a model of one having the ability to sense God's presence everywhere: a worm

along the path, the songs of his sisters the larks, "Brother Sun and Sister Moon", the chirping cricket that he silenced while he prayed, the rabbit who sat by him with great loyalty, and all the other creatures that made his heart soar in love, praise, and adoration of God, in his brothers not all of whom were warm, cuddly, and loveable and lastly, in all the ways the marks of Jesus' Passion was manifest in his life long before it became visible on his body. I suspect that all too often we seek God's presence in all kinds of places, in different kinds of experiences, in various and sundry external events and we fail to see Him where He is: right here! Remember! God is the one who said, "I AM!", meaning of course, that there can't be anyplace where God does not exist. The problem is with our dulled and limited sense of seeing Him in the commonplace existence of life. On our last pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi, we were on the shuttle from the Fiumicino Terminal to the waiting aircraft on the tarmac which would bring us back to the States. A woman standing next to me excitedly began listing all the places in the world where she had been to shrines, churches, alleged appearance sites, etc. I suspect my reaction should have been, "Wow, all those wonderful places!" But that affirmation didn't come from my lips. How sad that some folks spend all their time and money running

around the world about "alleged" encounters with the divine and the spiritual, but they never settle into finding God where "I AM" is — namely, within their own hearts and all around them. It doesn't cost a thing to "tune in" to God's wavelengths all around oneself! In his wonderful Encyclical on the Environment, Pope Francis wrote the following: "The Universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul but also to discover God in all things. St. Bonaventure teaches us that 'contemplation deepens the more we feel the working of God's grace within our hearts and the better we learn to encounter God in creatures outside ourselves' ("Laudato Si', #233)".

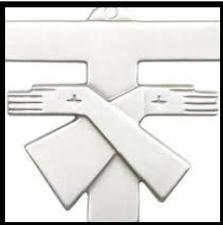
-Sr. Agnes Marie



## Calendar of Events for November, & December 2015

November 1, 2015                    Franciscan Enrichment "God as Found in the Media" Diego Delgado Auditorium 1:30-3:00pm  
 November 5, 2015:                Council Meeting at 6:00pm in St. Louis Parlor- Convent  
 November 14, 2015:              Chapter MATS in Kokomo  
 November 21, 2015:              Monthly Gathering of the Fraternity and Election of New Council  
 November 22, 2015:              Serve Breakfast at Catholic Worker House –On hold till further notice

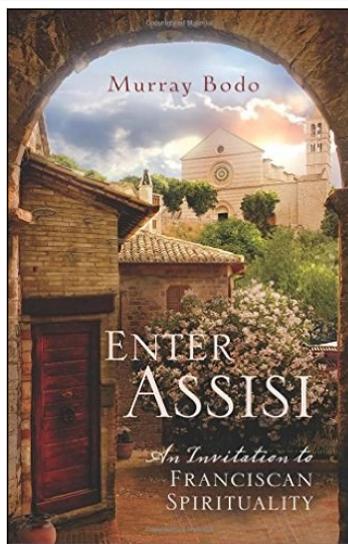
December 3, 2015:                Council Meeting in St. Louis Parlor: 6:00 p.m.  
 December 6, 2015:              Franciscan Enrichment: Auditorium: 1:30—3:00 p.m. Deacon Jim Kitchens: "The Trinity in Franciscan Theology and Spirituality"  
 December 19, 2015:              Monthly Gathering and Annual Celebration of "Christmas at Greccio"  
 December 25, 2015:              **Solemnity of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ**



**Orientation: Meet 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium**  
**Inquiry: Presently no class**  
**Candidacy I: Meet 3rd Friday at 4:00pm– St. Louis Room in Convent**  
**Candidacy II: Meet 3rd Saturday at 8:30am– Auditorium**  
**Candidacy III: Meet 3rd Saturday at 8:30 a.m.– Auditorium**

## Our Lady of the Road Outreach

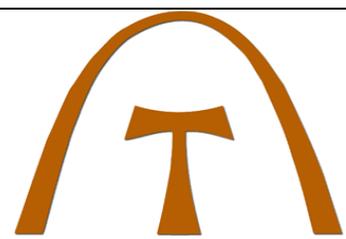
Serving dates have been suspended until further notice. Due to vandalism serving has been suspended. Once a new plan is in place Dan will let everyone know. Until then please contact Dan with questions. He can be reached at 574-231-8823 or 574-265-4857 or [dnkreager@gmail.com](mailto:dnkreager@gmail.com) At all Fraternity meetings we will be accepting monetary donations in the Red Box that will be going around the room when the Brown Bag is circulating. If you are unable to participate please



**Enter Assisi:  
 An Invitation to  
 Franciscan  
 Spirituality  
 by Murray Bodo  
 O.F.M.**

Go on a spiritual pilgrimage to Assisi with Fr. Murray Bodo.

**"Read it today!"  
 says Sr. Agnes Marie!**



**Secular Franciscan Order**

**2016**

**Quinquennial Congress**

**St. Louis, June 30 to July 4**

For more information visit:  
**The2016q.org**

Visit the Immaculate Conception fraternity website at: <http://immaculateconception.sfousa.org>

## Franciscan Enrichment Series

Sunday: December 6, 2015 in the Auditorium 1:30-3:00pm Deacon Jim Kitchens—The Trinity in Franciscan Theology and Spirituality

### FRANCISCAN ENRICHMENT SERIES

A Study of the Life of St. Francis of Assisi  
As found in the Writings of Blessed Thomas of Celano  
By Bro. William Short, OFM  
1:30—3:00 in the Auditorium

**IMPORTANT:** All participants will need **ONE** of the following:  
Volume 1 and Volume 2 of Francis of Assisi: Early Documents  
OR  
"The Francis Trilogy"

January 3, 2016: "Introduction to Thomas of Celano's Life"

February 7, 2016: "The Life of St. Francis — The First Book: Conversion, Fraternity, Rule of Life"

March 6, 2016: "The Life of St. Francis — The First Book: Formation of Friars, etc."

April 3, 2016: "The Life of St. Francis — The Second Book: The Charity of the Passion"

May 1, 2016: "The Life of St. Francis — The Third Book: Canonization and Miracles"

June 5, 2016: "The Remembrance of the Desire of a Soul"

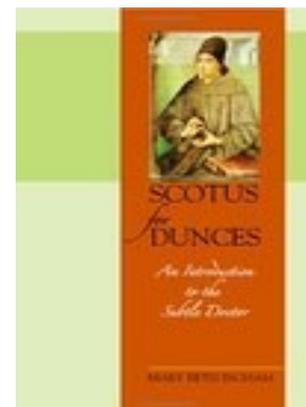
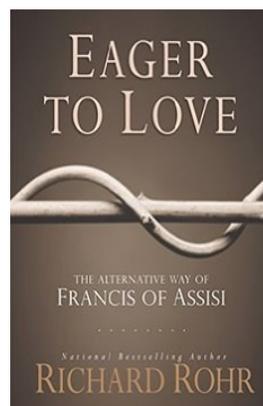
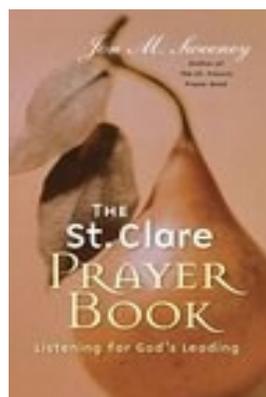
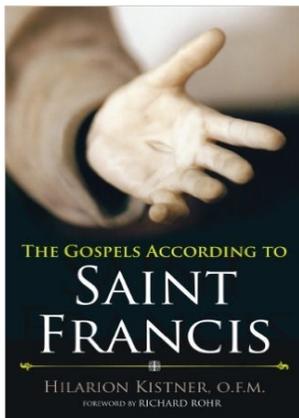
NO FRANCISCAN ENRICHMENT during July and August

September 11, 2016: "The Remembrance"

October 2, 2016: "The Remembrance: Prayer, Poverty"

November 6, 2016: "The Treatise of the Miracles of St. Francis"

December 4, 2016: "Using Franciscan Texts Today: Suggestions for translating the examples of Francis and Clare in our Lives"





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St. Francis  
Convent,  
1515  
Dragoon Trail,  
Mishawaka,  
Indiana  
(across from  
Marian High  
School)

For more  
information please  
contact any  
council member.

Simplicity of Life

Heavenly Father, You are the source of all wisdom,  
You designed everything from galaxies to flowers, all exhibiting great beauty,  
You are calling me to a new realization, a new consciousness,  
You are drawing me on the one hand, to a repugnance of needless complexity,  
And on the other hand, to an eager longing of simplicity.  
I seek your guidance to help me bring this about in my life,  
To do this as a spouse, a father, as a Secular Franciscan.

This much I do know; you are pure love.

You created me to be like you.

It is my fervent prayer, my hope, my desire to love you as You love.

I realize this will leave me vulnerable, as many do not return Your love.

Never the less, it is my hope to be transformed by You into this new kind of being.

St. Francis of Assisi came to this same realization, responding to your grace,

He loved as near as he could to how You love.

Please break down the barriers in my own heart and mind to accomplish this,

I seek Your graces, to put aside the violence in my heart,

Help me to be the created being You want me to be.

Amen.

—tim martin sfo 2015

**November Birthdays, Profession Anniversaries, Death Anniversaries**

**Birthdays:**

Nov 15 Julie Jarvis OFS; Nov 18 Lilia Barriga OFS; Nov 22  
Diane Martin OFS; Nov 22 Andre Thangam; Nov 23

Kathy Fuchs

**Anniversaries:**

11/16/2002 Sharon Brockman; Liz Dettmer; Mary Ann  
Kendziora; Harry Verhiley; Joanne Verhiley

11/15/2014 Julie Jarvis; Lillian Leap; Mary Ann Pajot  
11/16/2013 Mary Andrews; Lilia Barriga; Donna Manzuk;  
Pam Walerko

**Our Regional Prayer  
a Gift from St. Francis**

*Holy Virgin Mary, among all  
women born into the world,  
there is none like you. Daugh-  
ter and Handmaid of the Most  
High, sovereign King, the  
heavenly Father, Mother of our  
most holy Lord Jesus Christ,  
Spouse of the Holy Spirit.  
Pray for us with St. Michael the  
archangel and with all the pow-  
ers of the heavens and with all  
the saints together with your  
most holy beloved Son, Lord  
and teacher.*

**Karen Gunter, OFS is the  
2015 recipient of the William  
D. Reynolds Award from the  
University of Notre Dame!**

Established in 1985, the William D. Reynolds  
Award is conferred on an alumnus/alumna  
(living or deceased) doing exceptional work  
with youth for the betterment of the quality  
of life.

**Congratulations, Karen!**

**Remember in Prayer:** Contin-  
ued prayers for all those who are sick  
and suffering. 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 and for those mem-  
bers that have asked for our prayers.