



Pace e Bene Peace and Good

Volume 7 Issue 5

May, 2016

"Finding a Treasure in the Field"

Immaculate Conception
Fraternity
PO Box 132
Mishawaka,
Indiana 46546

[http://
immaculateconception.sfousa.org](http://immaculateconception.sfousa.org)

Fraternity Council

Linda O'Neil OFS
Minister
574-250-3688

Mary Andrews, OFS
Vice Minister
574-288-0888

Timothy Short, OFS
Formation Director
574-298-8981

Frank Vargo, OFS
Treasurer
574-262-3923

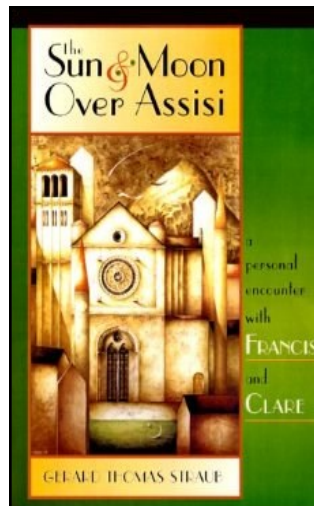
Diane Martin, OFS
Secretary
574-252-5385

Cyndi Pilot, OFS
Infirmarian
574-

Mary Andrews, OFS
Communications Councilor
574-288-0888

Dan Kreager
Apostolic Coordinator
574-265-4857

Agnes Marie Regan, OSF
Spiritual Assistant
574-259-5427



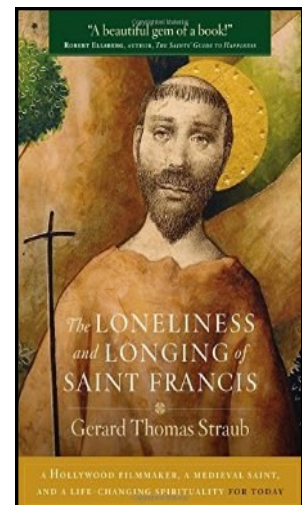
The spiritual journey shared by Gerard Straub in his first book, "Sun and Moon Over Assisi" was mesmerizing! It was honest, forthright, and bluntly open about his fall from grace and his "refounding" by the grace of God when he visited Assisi some twenty years ago. I found myself wishing the book would never end as he chronicled his conversion from atheism to the Catholic Faith and on to becoming a dedicated Franciscan. Gerard's second book, "The Loneliness and Longing of St. Francis" is likewise worth a prayerful reading as the author learned from life itself how to "go from the Gospel to life, and life to the Gospel (SFO Rule, #4)". With wonderful perception Straub writes: "Even the most ordinary moments of the day are charged with mystical possibilities. To see the mystical in the ordinary, we need to pause often during the day and be attentive to what is

really happening all around us and inside us . . . St. Francis of Assisi was one of the many mystics who reached a place of wholeness that enable him to see God in all things (Gerard Straub, The Loneliness and Longing of Saint Francis, 23rd Publications, New London, CT, ©2014, p. 174 -175)".

After Straub followed the call to become a Secular Franciscan, he continued using his prize-winning, filmmaking skills to bring the story of the poorest persons on the planet to the awareness of those capable of reaching out to assist them. Like St. Francis, he found in the dirty, scarred "lepers" of the world the face of Jesus! Thus his reflections about where he has found the Lord in the "poorest of the poor", the marginalized, the need, and seemingly forsaken persons ring so true for those called to live in the midst of the world's chaos and desperation. He gives his readers a blueprint for ever deepening conversion. Amidst the beauty of the story, one of the most helpful things about this journal, is the author's willingness to share his own spiritual struggles as he walks the path of daily conversion. There isn't any claim to "having arrived", but only an honest sharing of how challenging conversion can be in our everyday lives as we move forward and sometimes backward on our journey. For all of us still trying to figure out what our professed commitment to conversion as a Franciscan means, this book is a *must*. The practical suggestions offered by the author from his own life experiences are a treasure and it offers the reader some very positive guidelines to his or her own path to continuing conversion. This is not a book you would

want to read quickly, but rather slowly, prayerfully, reflectively savoring the depth of Straub's spiritual journey and message. Sometimes just a few carefully savored paragraphs are all one needs to reconnect with the "one thing necessary" . . . or is that, the only ONE who is necessary! The book is a treasure in the field!

A final sharing of sampling Straub's words read as follows: "*God is here in this moment, waiting with open and outstretched arms, waiting to embrace and caress you with endless love. Kiss this moment, for in it is perfect joy and all good. Love is the symphony of life. It needs to be practice and played every day. God is the composer, Christ is the conductor, and we are the performers* (Op. cit., p. 286)".



News and Views . . .



Congratulations to **CHARLIE MAICHEN, OFS**, on his having been selected as "Taxi Driver #1" by the Morris Inn for picking up and delivering guests to their various points of arrival and / or departure from Notre Dame. Give them the ride of their lives, Charlie! We're proud of you!

Kudos also to **LILLIAN LEAP, OFS**, for having been awarded the "Colleague of the Month" award by St. Joseph Regional Medical Center. The award gives the leadership team an opportunity to recognize and say "thank you" to colleagues who demonstrate the Mission and Values of SJRMC.

An efficient cavalcade of SFOs in the trusty vehicles helped **RUTHIE CARRILLO, OFS**, move her belongings from the apartment in Autumn Lakes to her new home on Monmoor Street in South Bend — a quiet, lovely neighborhood we are referring to as "Francisville". Other members of the Immaculate Conception Fraternity have expressed some interest in this lovely residential area as a form of "communal" living.

If you're really curious, you might ask Sister Agnes Marie, however, how she almost got picked up for car theft as she put forth efforts to join the cavalcade.

If you haven't had an opportunity to see her absolutely awesome scrapbooks of the history of the fraternity, be sure to check in with **LUCY WARGO, OFS**, who is using her finely honed scrap-booking talents to create a visual history of our Immaculate Conception Fraternity. We are grateful to Lucy and future generations will also be in her debt. Lucy has also updated the fraternity's "Book of Memories (Necrology)" paying tribute to deceased past members.

JOHN CHEESEMAN, OFS, has also offered his talents in writing the "chronicles" of the fraternity

as this is also an important reference for those following in the footsteps of the present Franciscan generation.

A little update from **KAREN GUNTER, OFS**: When Sandra and I go to Africa we observe each classroom to evaluate how the children are being taught and their responsiveness in class. We evaluate the school for any needed repairs. We meet with the people in charge to assess future needs. We meet formally to see where the school management is in relation to the self sustainment projects outlined on the previous visit. We also hug 350 kids at least once. Also in our visit we evaluate the needs of the poor coming to the Canossa Dispensary. We make home visits with Sister Cynthia, the nurse in charge of the dispensary. Sometimes we see patients with the Doctor or nurse to give input. We take needed supplies and equipment with us. This year we are taking oxygen tubing, bandages etc. In addition we are taking about 450 Rosaries that will be given to each child for First Communion and Confirmation and to anyone who does have their rosary.

Our brother **JIM KITCHENS, OFS**, shares a "Franciscan moment". Recently he received a call from a French-accented priest in southern Indiana who wanted to connect to a family in Fort Wayne who had a small kitten that caught his fancy. The priest called the Fort Wayne Diocesan Chancery to locate the parish and the deacon who had been identified in the article. He called Jim to find out how he could give a "forever home" to the furry little grey creature. Jim said the occasion made him feel like a REAL Franciscan — besides, of course, all the other gifts of fraternity and grace that have come his way since beginning his journey to Franciscan life. How's that for a TAU moment and an opportunity to be a Servant-Deacon and a Servant-Franciscan! You go, brother!

An enthusiastic group of fraternity members met on May 1, 2016, to enjoy the scholarly reflections of Bro. William Short, OFM, in their new assembly room, the Leo Center. Access was much easier and everyone could sit around a couple of table for sharing and reacting to Brother Short's wonderful messages about the life of St. Francis as found in the lives written by Thomas of Celano



Calendar of Events for May, June, and July 2016

- May 1, 2016 FRANCISCAN ENRICHMENT: Auditorium 1:30—3:00. "The Life of St. Francis: Session 5: The Third `Book: Canonization and Miracles". Bro. William Short, OFM
- May 21, 2016 Regular Monthly Gathering— Recitation of Franciscan Crown Rosary
- May 22, 2016 Serve breakfast at Our Lady of the Road
- May 24, 2016 Dedication of the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi: Fest
- May 24, 2016 Council Meeting: 6:00 p.m. in the St. Louis Parlor
- June 5, 2016 FRANCISCAN ENRICHMENT: Auditorium 1:30—3:00. Celano: Session 6: "The Remembrance of the Desire of a Soul" Bro. William Short, OFM
- June 11, 2016 Regional Executive Council at St. Joan of Arc Kokomo 10:00am
- June 18, 2016 Regular Monthly Gathering
- June 26, 2016 Serve breakfast at Our Lady of the Road
- June 28, 2016 Council Meeting St. Louis Parlor 6:00pm
- June 30-July 4, 2016 Quinquennial St. Louis Missouri-see newsletter for more info!
- July & August No Franciscan Enrichment— will resume in September
- July 9, 2016 Regional Retreat for all Candidates in Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity at St Francis Convent Mishawaka, More Information to come
- July 16, 2016 Regular Monthly Gathering
- July 19, 2016 Council Meeting St. Louis Parlor 6:00pm
- July 23-24, 2016 Weekend Retreat at Marytown Libertyville— Depart Convent at 7:30am Eastern
- July 24, 2016 Serve Breakfast at Our Lady of the Road

Formation Schedule:

Ongoing Formation: Monthly Gathering at 8:15 a.m. Auditorium
Candidacy I and II: Monthly Gathering at 8:15 Auditorium
Candidacy III: 3rd Friday at 4:00 p.m. in the Leo Center
Inquiry: 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Leo Center
Orientation: TBA: Starting in June

New Orientation Group forming in June!

Anyone interested should contact
Tim Short or Sr. Agnes Marie for
more
information.



Our Lady of the Road Outreach

Serving dates are the 4th Sun-
day of each month.

For more information please
contact Dan Kreager.

He can be reached at

574-265-4857 or

dnkreager@gmail.com

At all Fraternity meetings,
monetary donations will be ac-
cepted in the Red Box that
goes around with the Brown
Bag. If you are unable to par-
ticipate on the 4th Sunday
please feel free to make a do-
nation toward the food.

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

**Plan to attend the 19th
Annual Quinquennial
Congress Thursday
June 30-Monday July
4th in St. Louis Mis-
souri.**

Fraternity members are making plans to be there. Contact Sr. Agnes Marie for more information.



**Regional Retreat
Saturday July 9th**

All Candidates who will be professed in November are to attend. Formation Teams are invited and encouraged to come as well.

Volunteers needed to help with hospitality—welcoming and name tags— help with food – coffee and donuts in the morning and soup and bread for lunch- Please contact Mary Andrews for more information.



Pilgrimage to Marytown in Libertyville, Illinois July 30-31, 2016

Nestled on 14 acres of peaceful grounds, Marytown Retreat House & Conference Center is owned and operated in the spirit of Franciscan hospitality by the Conventual Franciscan Friars of St. Bonaventure Province.

95.00 per person— Limited space available— Contact Sr. Agnes Marie for more information.

**FRANCISCAN ENRICHMENT
SERIES**

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

June 5, 2016

"The Remembrance of the Desire of a Soul"

After the June session with Bro. William Short, OFM, Franciscan Enrichment Series will resume in September-

Watch for announcement of topics to be discussed in the next newsletter!

Profession of 15 candidates into the Immaculate Conception Fraternity
Saturday November 19, 2016
11:00am Bishop Kevin Rhoades
presiding
Music by the Queen of Peace Choir

Contact Mary Andrews to be on the committee to handle all of the arrangements for this exciting event— need folks to help with set up and clean up as well as kitchen help. Also need hospitality help— thanks in advance!





Immaculate
Conception
Fraternity
POBox 132
Mishawaka,
Indiana
46546

[http://
immaculate-
conception.
sfousa.org](http://immaculate-conception.sfousa.org)

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

For more
information please
contact any
council member.



**May Crowning and praying
the Franciscan Crown
Rosary at the May
Fraternity Gathering
Saturday
May 21st**

May



Birthdays-

May 3-Amy PorterOFS
May 4- John KuehnOFS
May 6-Wendy Summers
May 8- Fred KagelOFS
May 11- Henry JosephOFS
May 25- Laura MallozziOFS
May 30- Karen Gunter

Anniversaries -

May 14, 2011-Ruthi Carrillo OFS
May 14, 2011- Melisa SchluntOFS
May 18, 2013-Charlie MaichenOFS
May 18, 2013 -Sandy MaichenOFS
May 18, 2013- Linda O'NeilOFS
May 19, 2001- Cindy GillisOFS

Death Anniversaries-

May 1, 1966- Stephana GrzeskOFS
May 4, 1969-Elizabeth KunkelOFS
May 7, 2002-Nathaline BattaniOFS
May 10, 1969- Arthur SiegOFS
May 29,1970-Lillian NagelOFS
May 31,1985-Mary KnepperOFS

Francisville Presentation

**Bridge of Hope @ Hannah's
House is a proud Program
Site for Bridge of Hope, a
national organization that is
helping us empower church-
es in our community in a
ministry of friendship with
homeless single mothers
and children.**

**Hear more at the May
Gathering**

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.*

Remember in Prayer:

All the special intentions that are so
dear to each one of us- for our families
and friends and for the world that
peace may seep into every heart and
that the love of God may permeate
every soul.

In loving thanks for the many gifts that
we have and for those that we don't
realize we have...
Let us pray to the Lord...