

## Annual Franciscan Federation Conference

June 17-20, 2016

Hilton Milwaukee City Center  
509 West Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee WI 53203  
414-271-7250



*Celebration 2016*

*Fifty Years of God's Love and Mercy*



Presenters: Mary Elizabeth Imler OSF,  
Edna Michel OSF & David Couturier  
OFM Cap

## Mary Elizabeth Imler, OSF



Sr. Mary Elizabeth Imler, OSF Vice President for Mission Integration and University Ministry University of St Francis, Joliet, IL Vicarress/First Councilor Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Time permitting she enjoys ministering as retreat director, facilitator and Franciscan resource and annually leading pilgrimages in Assisi for FPP. Since 1991, she had been serving as Co-Director of the Portiuncula Center for Prayer.

Responsibilities included directing, planning and coordinating retreats and workshops in areas of growth for adult and high school programs. Responsibilities in the corporate realm have included teaming for mission integration as well as serving on the Board of Directors for the Franciscan Sisters Health Care Corporation, University of St. Francis, Chairing St. Joseph College of Nursing and two terms as Board President for Retreats International. Sister served in the Presidency for Franciscan Federation of North America in 2002-03.

Spiritual Development was enhanced by coursework through Retreats International and Ignatius College in Guelph, Ontario. She completed a Master's degree at the International Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University, NY in the summer of 1999. Her thesis was printed in 2002: A Franciscan Solitude Experience and the Pilgrim's Journal. Other programs of development were attended in conjunction with the Franciscan Sisters Healthcare Corporation Board of Directors in areas of leadership, communications, TQM and Healthcare Issues as well as in areas for formation including midlife, massage and Franciscana.

Lover of community In the stories of the past and in the personalities of today In what we can be for others and what it can be for our own conversion.

Mary Elizabeth's presentation will a framework for looking at the last 50 years as decades in which the Spirit of the Lord has guided this Federation to operate from its evangelical core and to hold up a light—internationally—of the specific charism of the Third Order Regular.

## Edna Michel, OSF



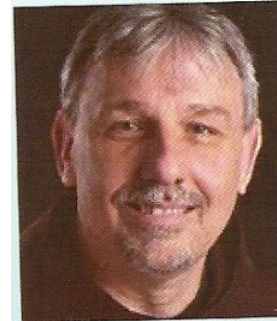
Born in a rural community in northwest Ohio, Edna joined the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Charity, Tiffin, Ohio and has been a member of that community for 48 years. She served in a variety of ministries including elementary and secondary education, parish director of religious education, pastoral associate and retreat ministry before being called by her community to become Vocation Director, Novice Minister and General Council member, consecutively.

After two terms in congregational leadership she served as Pastoral Leader in a 200-family parish in Ohio for eight years (Wakeman, St. Mary) before being called once more to congregational leadership as a member of the General Council. (2010-2014). She served as a member of the Spirit and Life Committee of the Franciscan Federation in the 1980s and on the National Board of the Franciscan Federation from 2012-2014, first as vice president and then two years as president. She currently serves as the Director of the St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin, OH. She holds a Master's degree in Theology from St. Bonaventure University, New York, and a certificate in spiritual direction from the Institute for Spiritual Leadership, Chicago.

Besides reading and companioning people in spiritual direction, Edna enjoys gardening, cooking and traveling.

Edna's presentation is an invitation to participants to make memory together by recalling the past in the present so as to summon the future. We will do this by (1) a joyful, grateful, and realistic examination of significant milestones in the Federation's fifty year history; and (2) by exploring the helpfulness of understanding how biblical authors and our liturgical tradition "tell time" and "make memory."

## David Couturier, O.F.M. Cap



**David Couturier, O.F.M. Cap.**, is dean of the School of Franciscan Studies and executive director of the Franciscan Institute, at St. Bonaventure University as well as the Executive Director for "Franciscan Connections: The Cord – A spiritual Review."

David is the author of "*Franciscans and their Finances: Economics in a Disenchanted World*" and "*The Fraternal Economy: A Pastoral Psychology of Franciscan Economics.*"

Fr. Couturier has worked as an organizational consultant for congregations, religious communities and dioceses throughout the United States, Latin America, Europe and Asia. His many publications span the fields of psychology, pastoral care, social justice and organizational development.

David's Presentation:

### ***Poverty Beyond Our Means: Millennials and the Hopes for a New Franciscan Economy***

Research indicates that young adults are worried about a financial system stacked against them. This talk will explore how the development of new experiences of fraternal or relational economies in Franciscan life can inspire hope and build exciting partnerships between Franciscan communities and young adults in the Millennial and Mosaic generations.