



## National Board

*"The Mission of the Franciscan Federation is to promote exploration and study of Franciscan Evangelical Life and its implication for these times and for our world."*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

A couple of months ago we completed a very inspiring Annual Federation Conference in Milwaukee. The speakers were very dynamic and challenging. We also faced a very difficult challenge presented to us by the ad hoc Dare To Image Committee. This Committee had worked for two years on a proposal to be presented to the Franciscan Federation. Even though the proposal was not accepted we still have the challenge to move forward. We want to express the thanks to this ad hoc Committee for all their work and effort.

The National Board still has the challenge to promote the continuity of the Franciscan Federation that includes leadership, Commissions and finances. This also includes streamlining, where possible, the current structure since our numbers are diminishing. The National Board has met last month to begin this process and will also meet in September to continue to work on this challenge. We will also be reviewing the evaluations of last summer's Annual Federation Conference. Please feel free to

send the Board your comments and suggestions.

We cannot do this alone. We need all of your help. How can you assist your National Board? You can assist us by sending in your comments and suggestions on streamlining to the Federation National Office in Brooklyn. Regional Chairs and Chairs of the Commissions can also send in to the National Office activities that you are currently undertaking and have completed.

Moving forward into the future and being faithful to our mission can happen with all of us working together.

Peace and All Good!

The Franciscan Federation Board

Kathie Uhler OSF, Eleanor Granger OSF, Eileen Golby OSF,  
Sue Ernster FSPA, Louise Hembrecht OSF, Frank Scornaienchi  
TOR, Joyce Shanabarger OSF, Carol Woods SFMA & Damian  
Novello OSF

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## **Franciscan Federation Annual Conference**

**Stay tuned for information on  
AFC 2017**

**June 16 - 19  
Adams Mark Hotel, Buffalo**

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## **Federation National Office**

For many of our congregations steeped in a traditional ministry of education, September is a time for new beginnings. As a

Federation, we are looking at ways to renew and revitalize our relationships with each other and with the world in the face of the challenges and opportunities that our God sets before us. Our new office is up and running, and we are brainstorming with the Commissions and the Executive Board. Kathie Uhler has even given us a plant, which we will diligently try not to kill. All signs of hope!

We Franciscans are unique in that our Third Order Rule, inspired by our Holy Father Francis, and written by both women and men from varied apostolic perspectives, is a source of great inspiration and guidance as we chart our course for the future. It is with this in mind that we would like to offer a short reflection each month on our Rule and Life in relation to the task set before us.

Carol Woods SFMA & Damian Novello OSF

#### *Our Identity*

*1. The form of life of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis is this: to observe the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ by living in obedience, in poverty and in chastity. Following Jesus Christ after the example of St. Francis, let them recognize that they are called to make greater efforts in their observance of the precepts and counsels of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Let them deny themselves (cf Mt 16:24) as each has promised the Lord.*

From the very start, our Rule tells me that I do not walk the Gospel path alone. The admonition to “make greater efforts” and “deny” myself seem like terrible burdens unless I am aware that there is a great multitude of men and women who are attempting, in many different ways, to joyfully live our life. Each is striving to challenge the world in the way that Francis did. The connection

we have transcends ages and even cultures as I have learned to interpret the world through relationship rather than power. It doesn't make us more important, but it makes us different than other religious and clergy.

Damian Novello OSF

Please have your Congregation's page friend us on

Facebook

**New Office Info**

*Address:*

135 Remsen Street

Brooklyn NY 11201

*Phone:*

718-858-8819

*Emails:*

franfedoffice@franfed.org

franfedofficec@franfed.org (*Carol*)

franfedofficed@franfed.org (*Damian*)

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**COMMISSION OF ELECTED LEADERS**

As the Fall of the year is quickly approaching, I would like to review what has taken place in the Franciscan Federation over the past couple of months. The National Office has moved to

Brooklyn, New York and our co-executive directors, Carol Woods, FMSA and Damian Novello, OSF, have been working diligently organizing the office. We certainly welcome them and pray that God will continue to bless them in their work. We had a very successful and thought provoking Annual Conference in June in Milwaukee. Our Commission of Elected Leaders (CEL) meeting was well attended and informative. The Executive Committee of the CEL will certainly need suggestions, collaboration, and input from the members of the CEL as we go forward with the stream lining of the Franciscan Federation. Your input will be sought and needed.

With the resignation of Marie Puleo, MFIC, due to the fact that she has been elected General Vicar and will be moving to Rome, Italy, the Executive Committee of the CEL now has only three members. They are Theresa Darga, OSF, Margaret Mary Kimmins, OSF, and Frank Scornaienchi, T.O.R. I want to congratulate and thank Marie Puleo on her election and her service on the ECCEL and also thank Mary Jo Mattes, OSF, who completed her term, for her service on the ECCEL.

**I would ask that you consider service on the Executive Committee of the CEL. It would be beneficial to have at least one or two other members on this committee.** We usually meet by ZOOM Video Conference. If you would be interested please contact the Franciscan Federation National Office.

The ECCEL will be reviewing the evaluations of the Annual Conference in Milwaukee and try to rectify any issues that were mentioned. Thank you for your service to the Federation and pray that as we continue to move forward we will be able to strengthen and grow.

**- Frank**

## Scornaienchi, T.O.R.

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### JPIC

#### JPIC – SING FOR PEACE

As September rolls in, so does *THE CONCERT ACROSS AMERICA TO END GUN VIOLENCE*. On Sunday, September 25, 2016, we are invited to remember the forgotten victims of America's gun violence epidemic with a series of live music events of all sizes from coast to coast. At worship services across the country, we are encouraged to hold our own music event, be it at an already established liturgy or prayer service, or an entirely new concert, to raise the volume on the national effort to save lives from gun violence. Simultaneously throughout the nation, in villages, towns, small and big cities, we can raise awareness of lives lost through gun violence. In support of our AFC Resolution to prevent gun violence, let us sing for peace by integrating a peace-themed hymn into our already planned service, or sing with other faiths in a "unity" concert, or host a watch party of streamed events. Pledge participation at [CONCERT.FAITHSUNITED.ORG](http://CONCERT.FAITHSUNITED.ORG)

#ConcertAcrossAmerica to

#EndGunViolence

Submitted by:

Sister Dominica Lo Bianco, OSF

Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia

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### Regions

#### *Region 1*

The region will host ***Francis and the Sultan***, presented by Sister Kathy Warren

on **Saturday, October 15, 2016** at Felician University in Lodi NJ. The presentation will be from **9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**. Registration is \$25.00 before September 24. For brochure contact [plarkin@sosf.org](mailto:plarkin@sosf.org).

Region 1 is also looking for a new Chairperson. Anyone interested should contact Sr. Pat Larkin at [http://plarkin@sosf.org](mailto:plarkin@sosf.org)

#### *Region 5*

St. Louis area Region 5 Gathering will be **Saturday, September 24, 2016**, featuring Paul Coutinho PhD: *Journeying With the Divine, Receiving God's Gifts: Compassion, Mercy, Gratitude, and Joy*. **8:30 AM to 2:30 PM**, cost \$30.00, registration deadline is September 9. The Brochure (PDF) with more information, directions to the meeting location, and registration form will be on the Region 5 Website page soon.

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## **Next Generation Franciscan Mentors**

We sponsor an annual conference for those who are helping form our next generation of Franciscans. This conference is for you if you help in the formation of

- Franciscan vowed religious
- Secular Franciscans
- Associates/affiliates/co-journers
- High school or university students
- Volunteers in Franciscan-based service programs
- Those with a Franciscan heart

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**The Christine Center**

W8303 Mann Road  
Willard WI 54493  
Telephone: 715 267 7507  
[christinecenter@tds.net](mailto:christinecenter@tds.net)  
[www.christinecenter.org](http://www.christinecenter.org)

**Nurturing the Sacred Within**  
September 18-23 (Sunday-Friday)  
with Corrina Thomas, FSPA

Tuition: sliding scale \$200-250, plus meals and  
lodging

Come learn the chakra system, a God-given gift placed within our bodies, like a compass to guide us on our life's journey. It provides a map to follow on the path to personal growth. We may be focused on rising above the limitations of our lives to better understand spiritual realms, or we may be on a path to bring spiritual concepts that we know are true into the actions of our everyday life. We will learn how to nurture the sacred that is within each one of us in a way that is practical and direct, and profound.

Corrina Thomas is a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration. Her ministry background includes spiritual direction, retreats, and workshops. Corrina is passionate about the *New Universe Story* and an evolutionary spirituality which sees the Divine as the primary causality for all creation; and evolution as a manifestation of that same Divine creative energy.

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**St. Anthony Spirituality Center**

**300 E Fourth Street**  
**Marathon, WI 54448**  
**715-443-2236**  
**info@sarcenter.com**  
**www.sarcenter.org**

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## Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center

3560 Hwy 51 North  
Arbor Vitae, WI 54568  
715-385-3750  
[marywood.center@gmail.com](mailto:marywood.center@gmail.com)  
[www.marywoodsc.org](http://www.marywoodsc.org)

For more information on these retreats  
see [marywoodsc.org/retreats.php](http://marywoodsc.org/retreats.php)

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### Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs

#### TOR Pilgrimage

**“We are Penitents of Assisi - Coming Home”**

#### **The Franciscan Pilgrimage**

**Program**, experiencing incredible gratitude and yes,  
the ongoing conversion that unfolds in Assisi’s journey,  
is pleased to ANNOUNCE a new pilgrimage

- **Assisi, November 8-17, 2016** (new dates)
  - **Cost: from NY \$3600.00**
  - Leaders: **Mary Elizabeth Imler OSF,**  
**Suzanne Kush CSSF**
    - **with Peter Lyons TOR**

**This** Pilgrimage will celebrate the richness of **TOR heritage and Rule and Life**. It particularly **WELCOMES** all TOR Franciscans together with their Companions, Associates, Cojourners AND co-workers in sponsored ministries.

For more information click to go to [www.franfed.org](http://www.franfed.org)

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## Franciscan International Study Centre

Giles Lane  
Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NA,  
United Kingdom  
=44 (0) 1227 769 349  
[www.franciscans.ac.uk](http://www.franciscans.ac.uk)  
[info@franciscans.ac.uk](mailto:info@franciscans.ac.uk)

Programs for 2016-17 Academic Year:

**Sabbatical Programme** - Integral to our mission at the Franciscan International Study Centre is the welcoming of guests seeking spiritual renewal in the form of a sabbatical. Each term's sabbatical offerings centre on a specific theme, and a sabbatical can last from one to three terms.

**Certificate in Franciscan Studies** - Through the Certificate in Franciscan Studies the Franciscan family passes on its spiritual heritage to its members - lay and religious - from around the world. It is a comprehensive programme that studies the foundation, history, spirituality and intellectual legacy of the Franciscan movement. It provides the opportunity to deepen one's own understanding of what it means to be a Franciscan, either at the outset of the journey or at an integrating moment later along the way.

**Certificate in Training for Franciscan Formation** - The Certificate is a unique programme designed to help prepare religious men and women for the ministry of initial formation entrusted to them by their Franciscan religious institute. Candidates for this Certificate have the opportunity to deepen and expand both theoretical and practical areas of expertise needed to be involved in initial formation.

For more information on these three programs, visit [www.franfed.org](http://www.franfed.org) under the *Notifications tab*, *Upcoming Events* or follow the link to the Study Centre above.

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## Holy Spirit Retreat Center

3864 420th Ave

Janesville, MN 56048

Phone: 507-234-5712

E-mail: [retreat@frontiernet.net](mailto:retreat@frontiernet.net)

Web: [www.holyspiritrc.org](http://www.holyspiritrc.org)

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## The Franciscan Spiritual Center

609 S. Convent Rd.

Aston, PA 19014

[fsc@osfphila.org](mailto:fsc@osfphila.org)

[www.fscaston.org](http://www.fscaston.org)

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## Shalom Spirituality Center

(formerly Shalom Retreat Center)

1001 Davis Street

Dubuque, Iowa 52001

[www.shalomretreats.org](http://www.shalomretreats.org)

Saturday, September 17th — *Embracing Life After The  
Death Of A Spouse Or Significant Other*

8:30AM

Gather with others to share experiences of loss, grief,  
and healing.

\$40 [includes a lunch]

Monday, September 19th — *Faith Sharing: Bridges To  
Contemplative Living*

7PM

A Thomas Merton-based reading and prayer group, the  
first of eight weeks.

\$40

Monday, September 19th — *Centering Prayer*

7PM

Monthly contemplative prayer group. Newcomers

welcome.  
Free

Tuesday, September 20th — *Shalom Fall Breakfast:  
Praying, Gathering, And Letting Go*

7AM

A delicious breakfast and early morning socializing,  
reflection on the Autumnal season.

\$10

Wednesday, September 21st — *Days Of Quiet & Prayer*

9:30AM

Reflective, silent days, based around the book  
'Inclusivity: A Gospel Mandate', the first of four weeks.

\$85 [includes a breakfast and lunch each week, the  
book, and a private reading room]

Saturday, September 24th — *Autumn On The Prairie:*

*A Walking Mini-Retreat*

10AM

A morning walk through a prairie, reflecting on the  
beauty of creation, and the colors of the season.

\$25 [includes a lunch]

Friday, September 30th to Sunday, October

2nd — *Midlife: What Do I Do? Where Do I Go?*

5:30PM

Exploration of your midlife qualms, uncertainties, and  
indecision.

\$195 Overnight Guests / \$110 Daily Commuters  
[includes 2 lunches & 2 dinners]

Neal Patten  
Director of Marketing and Public Relations  
npatten@shalomretreats.org

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**Franciscan School of Theology**

Franciscan School of Theology  
[www.FST.edu](http://www.FST.edu)

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## **Center of Renewal Retreat & Conference Center**

4421 Lower River Road  
Stella Niagara, New York 14144  
(Only 10 miles north of Niagara Falls)  
(716) 754-7376, Ext. 2

NEW

WEBSITE: [www.stellaniagararetreats.org](http://www.stellaniagararetreats.org)

NEW E-

MAIL: [centerofrenewal@stellaosf.org](mailto:centerofrenewal@stellaosf.org)

*Contact us for detailed fliers & information.*

- **(2016) Advent Retreat Weekend by Fr. Tom Hartle, OFM:** December 1-4, 2016. Fee: \$295 per person (3 nights). Advance reservations required w/\$90 non-refundable deposit due by 11/17/16 @ 3:00 pm.
- **(2017) Easter Triduum Retreat by Fr. Michael Crosby, OFM:** April 12-15, 2017. Fee: \$325 per person (3 nights) with possible added stay-over through Easter Sunday. Advance reservations required w/\$95 non-refundable deposit by 3/29/17 @ 3:00 pm.
- **(2017) Directed Retreat Week:** August 21-27, 2016. Fee: \$575 per person (6 nights). Advance reservations required w/\$175 non-refundable deposit by 8/7/17 @ 3:00 pm.

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## **Tau Center**

26W171 Roosevelt Road  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
630-909-6805  
[www.taucenter.org](http://www.taucenter.org)

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## **MINISTRY OPENING**

The Board of Directors of The Upper Room Crisis Hotline is seeking an Executive Director for a new and unique ministry serving the spiritually poor of various faiths and some with no faith. In this Year of Mercy this ministry is based on the Catholic values and Franciscan spirituality of services, offering skilled listening, Information and Referral, Crisis Intervention and Reassurance for elderly priests. Trained volunteers minister in mercy and compassion to those searching for God in their desire for a deeper spirituality and suffering from various spiritual maladies. Many callers are brought back to the Church often after many years absence; some need prayers and others request support in their spiritual difficulties and needs.

The Executive Director, with support from the Board, will plan, execute, strengthen, and advance the ministry to serve both the callers and the Church in the promotion of faith in Christian values.

This position requires an academic background and work experience in Theology, Social Work, Psychology, Mental Health or an equivalent field.

If interested in a new and unique ministry in the Catholic Church, please contact the following:

Sr. Mary Frances Seeley, OSF, Ph.D.

P.O. Box 3572

Joliet, IL 60434

815-341-9124

[turch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:turch@sbcglobal.net)

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## **Inter-Franciscan Formation Programs**

This program gathers Franciscan men and woman in formation (all levels) twice a year at Graymoor in Garrison, NY. Workshops are presented on Franciscan themes led by Franciscan men and women. The next program:

**November 8-11, 2016 Dan Horan, OFM**

**March 7-10, 2017 Sr. Kathy Warren, OSF**

The programs all take place at Graymoor, Garrison, NY

**The contact information is;**

Ron Pecci, OFM

**frrjpp@gmail.com**

201/456-2055

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