

WINTER NEWSLETTER

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AFC Conference 2016 In Milwaukee

Join Us for The Federation's 50th Anniversary!

Mark your calendar now and join your Franciscan Sisters and Brothers in Milwaukee on **June 17-20, 2016**

The theme for the 2016 conference is:

Celebration 2016: Fifty Years of God's Love and Mercy

The Federation looking back in gratitude, embrac-

ing the present with joy, and anticipating the future with hope.

The keynote speakers for this conference are Margaret Carney, OSF, who will reflect on the history, Rule project, and reflections and intuitions of the Franciscan TOR movement in the US. Giles Schinelli will review history over time period as prologue with a view to Federation's present and future. David Courtier will project life

and ministry of Franciscans in the 21st century including global perspectives.

We will connect with the Pope's Year of Love and Mercy, as well as the 800th Anniversary of the Assisi Pardon or Portiuncula Indulgence and Document on the Pardon endorsed by branches of the Franciscan Family to be presented at the conference.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- ◆ The AFC in 2016 will be in Milwaukee on June 17-20. Theme is: Celebration 2016: Fifty Years of God's Love and Mercy
- ◆ Regional clustering in progress
- ◆ Retreat Opportunities in 2016
- ◆ Portiuncula Indulgence

Federation News

Regional Clusters

It is proposed that the regions divide into "natural clusters" and establish a communication plan connecting clusters within regions. Currently Region IV has established contact persons from each congregation, so that, when programs are planned by congregations, this information and invitation is passed on to other communities for their participation.. Community contacts

pass on this information to the Federation.

At this point, the Region IV Steering Committee members ARE the Contact persons for each of the Congregations except for the following two Communities.

For the SSJTOSF Sisters in Stevens Point, the contact person is Sister rose Grabowski and her email is rosegrbwsk42@gmail.com.

For the Rochester Franciscans, the contact person is Martha Mathews,

and her email is martha.mathews@roche-sterfranciscan.org.

As your Congregations plan Spiritual Enrichment events, please notify nearby communities to join you as you have room.

Region IV Steering Committee Meeting

A Meeting of the Steering Committee is planned for **May 21, 2016 in LaCrosse**. Details and Agenda later. Mark your calendar.



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ACTIVITIES AT
WWW.FRANFED.
ORG**

Spiritual Programs

Shalom Spirituality Center, Dubuque, IA., 563-582-3592; info@

www.shalomretreats.org

- * *Dying with Christ, Rising with Christ* with Fr. Don Georgen, OP; Feb. 10-12.
- * *Mysticism from a Cosmic Perspective* by Fr. Diamuid O’Murchu; June 21 and 23, 2016.
- * *Imaging God, Deepening our Prayer* by Carolyn Osiek, RSC; Sept. 16 and 18.

Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center, Arbor Vitae, WI 715-385-

3750 www.marywoodsc.org

- * *Directed Retreats* with Janet Mallak, SSND; June 5-11; with Joyce Heil. August 12-18;
- * *Mary: A Second Look through Art, Literature & Faith*, with Niebuhr, Heil and Amman; April 29—May 1.

* *Watercolor Retreats* with Karen Kappell; May 29-June 3; June 26-July 1.

* *Retreat: Praying the Psalms* with Marla Lang, FSPA; July 8-12.

Holy Spirit Retreat Center, Janesville, MN. 507-234-5712; for info: retreat@frontiernet.net.

* *Quiet Retreat; July 5-12*; several directors available.

* *Franciscan Retreat*; June 27-July 3 ; by Ramona Miller, OSF

Chiara Center, Springfield IL 217-253-0901 www.chiaracenter.org

* *Directed Retreat* June 9-24, 2016

* *Message from the Mystics* with Kathleen Davis; July 17-22, 2016.

Check Monthly **Musings** on the franfed.org Website for more retreat opportunities.

The Portiuncula Indulgence (The Great Pardon)

800th Anniversary

The Portiuncula (small portion) outside of Assisi is where St. Francis founded his Order, received Lady Clare, and where he died commending this spot above all others to the friars.

On a night in July, 2016, Francis was praying in this little church devoured by love for God and a thirst to save souls. He prayed for the forgiveness of sins of human kind.

Suddenly a brilliant light shone about. In great splendor Jesus and Mary appeared in a dazzling cloud surrounded by radiant angels.

Then Jesus said to him: Francis you are very zealous for the good of souls. Ask me what you want for their salvation. Regaining his courage, Francis said: “Lord, I a miserable

sinner beg you to concede an indulgence to all those who enter this church, who are truly contrite and confess their sins...”

Francis was asked to go to the Pope to ask for this indulgence. The Pope granted his petition and this indulgence has been extended to all parish churches throughout the world.

The date was set from Vespers on August 1st to sundown on August 2nd, the feast of Our Lady of the Angels, because the Feast of the Chains of Peter celebrated on August 1st is the day Peter was released from prison and his chains removed. This is an extraordinary demonstration of God’s Mercy in removing the chains of sin from the faithful!

(The above is from a brochure by Susan Tassone. See also franciscanfriarstor.com...portiuncula indulgence.

Region IV Steering Committee

Serving You

- Mary Louise Dolezal, OSF- Franciscan Sisters of St. Paul
- Rose Margaret Firkus, SSJ-TOSF, Sisters. of St. Joseph -of the Third Order of St. Francis, Kimberly
- Lorita Gaffney, OSF - Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, Regional chair, Newsletter Editor
- Ginny Heldorfer, OSF- Dubuque Franciscans
- Kathleen Holland, OSF- Clinton Franciscans, Secretary.
- Mary Kabat, OSF- Bay Settlement Franciscans, Treasurer
- Mary Jo Kahl, fsm - Fransiscen Sisters of Mary;
- Ann Kelley, OSF, Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, Milwaukee
- Kay Klackner, OSF, Fran. Sisters of Christian Charity; COR Chair
- Joanne Klinnert, OSF- Little Falls Franciscans
- Mary Beatrice Knipple, CSSF- Felician Sisters, Mke
- Martha Mathews—Rochester Franciscan
- Alberta Frances McBride, SSM—Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, Oshkosh
- Lucy Ann Myer, FSPA—Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, La Crosse
- Melanie Pradis, OSF—Wheaton Franciscan
- Marilyn Shea, OSF- Clinton Franciscans
- Phyllis Wirtz, SSSF—School Sisters .of St. Francis,