

THE PORTIUNCULA

the newsletter of

Franciscans of the Prairie

Secular Franciscan Order



Fall 2008

Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Executive Council

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the summer comes to a close, and we look forward to the beautiful fall scenery, it seems like the appropriate time to re-evaluate what we have achieved so far this year, and what we have yet to offer to our God.

We definitely have an increase in interest in the Secular Franciscan Order. It is so important that we give the proper welcome, support, and information, to help those who are asking about our way of life, to discern if their vocation is truly Franciscan. Occasionally, I feel that our Edwardsville fraternity needs a person to focus on the new Inquirers to see that they receive the attention needed, in addition to the work done by the Formation Director and team. All members of each fraternity should be involved in the welcoming of new members. Let us give thought to how we can improve our interaction with new prospects.

Some fraternities faithfully report their meeting times in the Catholic Times (Springfield Diocese) and The Catholic Post (Peoria Diocese). Perhaps each fraternity council could try each month to submit their meeting schedules to the proper diocesan paper. By listing the local minister's name and telephone, let us see if we have even more visitors to our meetings.

Father Benet Fonck, OFM, and Fr. Jeffrey Holtman, OFM, are preparing a very good retreat for us. We will gather at the Chiara Center in Springfield, on Friday, November 7, 2008, for a light supper, and have our first session immediately following. The Retreat will conclude after lunch on Sunday, November 9. As Secular Franciscans, we are asked to make a retreat every year, what a wonderful opportunity to slow down and listen to our God. We will again have a book exchange, and this year we will be blessed with more religious books than usual. Please bring books to exchange. We will again have a Silent Auction, and we ask each fraternity to bring one or two items for this project. All profits defray our retreat expenses.

By attending the Annual Regional Retreat, you give yourself the gift of meeting new members of the Franciscans of the Prairie Region, renewing past friendships, and greatly enriching your spirituality.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Regional

Minister,

Sue Nelson, SFO



Save The Date!!

St Elizabeth Fraternity's Day of Recollection "What Makes the SFO Unique & Different"

by

Fr. J Carlos Ruiz, OFM
Current Chaplain of Quincy
University

**When: Feast of St Francis of
Assisi, Sat. Oct 4, 2008**
**9:00am – 3:00pm Full Lunch
Provided**

**Where: Quincy University's
North Campus Retreat Center,
Quincy, IL**

Many have benefitted from the Day of Recollection by Fr. Sullivan with the Franciscans of the Tau. Minister Marcy Klockenkemper and her fraternity have been the epitome of hospitality at their gatherings. The Day of Recollection for next year will be March 7, 2009 at Meppen, IL

ps Fr. Sullivan's Birthday was August 25th – wish him a belated happy b-day next time you see him.

On Sunday September 21st at 6 p.m., we are invited to attend a presentation of "The Journey of St. Paul", a production of the Theatre of the Word. Following the show, there will be refreshments and a brief talk on the importance of St. Paul to Franciscans. The location is St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church in Granite City, IL. There will be no charge, but a good will offering will be collected. Invite your friends and family to attend with you. Questions? Contact Tami Mitchell@ 618-709-3902

The Pro-Life Comm. at St Mary's in Alton will be hosting a **Novena of Rosaries** for the upcoming election. Hopefully you'll be able to join us for as many Sundays as you can. Our intention for the next 9 Sundays (started 9/7) is to pray for our elected and our to-be-elected officials on this lead up to the 2008 Presidential Election. Now that both major parties' conventions are over and the tickets are set, we will pray for our officials and for a culture of life for both our born and yet-to-be-born citizens.

Details:

- Meet at the Grotto immediately after the 6pm Mass to pray the Rosary for Life -- so about 7:00pm
- Every Sunday up to the elections, beginning Sept. 7 thru Nov. 2 -- 9 Sundays in a row, a novena of rosaries
- Invite your relatives and friends, let's make this a BIG turnout!

LIFE CHAIN is Sunday, Oct 5

Please call Cathy McNamee 792.2286 with questions



The Minister of the Rock Island Fraternity, Kent Ferris has established a website for the fraternity. Please take time to visit the site www.blessediohnxxiiisfoblogsnot.com

All members of the Franciscans of the Prairie Region are encouraged to submit the names and addresses of their family and friends who are serving in the military at this time. We will publish these names and addresses in the Regional Newsletter. If you can take time to mail a letter of encouragement to them, it might be nice to mention that you are a Secular Franciscan and we have them in our prayers. Including a Holy Card, might just be the support someone needs. We all like to receive mail, and you do not need to know the person, but will quite possibly "Make their day!" Sue

A Saint

A third-grader got it right.
"A saint is someone that
the light shines through."
She was looking at a
stained-glass window
the one St. Francis
inhabits.

Every morning the light
comes and St. Francis lets
it pass through.
Saints are bearers of light
and love and life.
Just ask any third-grader.



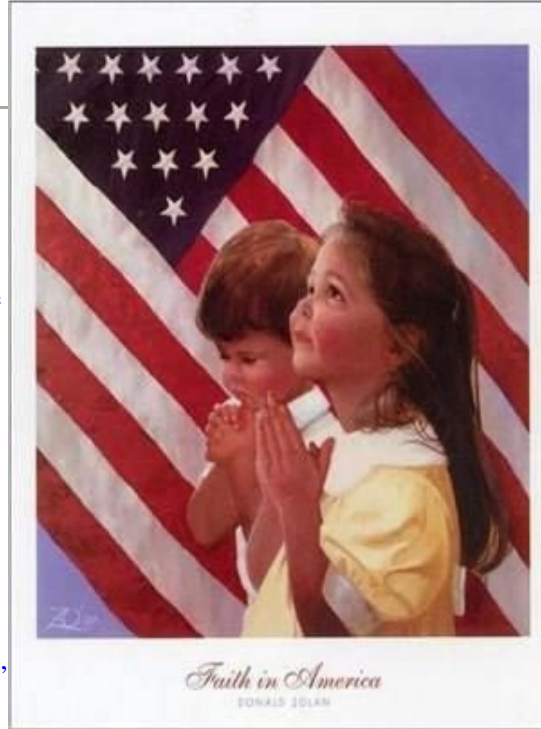
**A Prayer for our Nation
as we Prepare to Elect our Leaders**

O God, we acknowledge you today as Lord,
Not only of individuals, but of nations and
governments.

We thank you for the privilege of being able
To organize ourselves politically
And of knowing that political loyalty does
not have to mean disloyalty to you.

We thank you for your law, which our
Founding Fathers acknowledged
And recognized as higher than
any human law.

We thank you for the opportunity that this
election year puts before us,
To exercise our solemn duty not only to vote,
But to influence countless others to vote,
and to vote correctly.



Lord, we pray that your people may be awakened.
Let them realize that while politics is not their salvation,
Their response to you requires that they be politically active.

Awaken your people to know that they are not called to be a sect fleeing the world
But rather a community of faith renewing the world.

Awaken them that the same hands lifted up to you in prayer are the hands that pull the lever
in the voting booth; That the same eyes that read your Word, are the eyes that read the names
on the ballot, And that they do not cease to be Christians when they enter the voting booth.

Awaken your people to a commitment to justice
To the sanctity of marriage and the family,
To the dignity of each individual human life,
And to the truth that human rights begin when human lives begin,
And not one moment later.



Lord, we rejoice today That we are citizens of your kingdom.

May that make us all the more committed
To being faithful citizens on earth.



We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

'To get something you never had, you have to do something you never did.'
When God takes something from your grasp, He's not punishing you, but merely opening
your hands to receive something better. Concentrate on this sentence...

'The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you.'

The Portiuncula
2059 Alby St
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In Memory of Mother Teresa



In Honor of the anniversary of her death
9/5/1997

February 1997 - National Prayer Breakfast in Washington attended by the President and the First Lady. "What is taking place in America," she said, "is a war against the child. And if we accept that the mother can kill her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another."

"Any country that accepts abortion, is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what it wants."

"It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."