

The Humble Servant

ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS
St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity
 St. Mary's Church
 527 W. Jackson St.
 Bloomington, Illinois 61701



Volume 41 Issue 9

September 2015



Fra Junípero Serra Canonization: Sept 23, 2015

Serra was born Miguel José Serra in Petra, Majorca, Spain, on Nov 24, 1713. He later took the name of "Junípero" in honor of Saint Juniper, a disciple of Saint Francis.

Serra joined the Franciscans and entered the Order of Friars Minor in 1730 and entered the priesthood in 1738. He traveled to Mexico City in 1749 and worked as a missionary and preacher in central Mexico until 1767. As Spain moved to claim what is today California, he led a group of Franciscans there, where he founded Mission San Diego and eight additional Franciscan missions. He and his fellow friars together founded 21 missions in all, converting a large proportion of the local Native Americans, strengthening Spain's control of the area.

Fra Serra is remembered both for his effective missionary work and his courageous insistence on the rights of Native Americans in Alta California. A supporter of human rights, Serra was often in conflict with Spanish military leaders over their treatment of his converts. In 1773, Serra brought a successful case against the military governor of New California on grounds of corruption and abuse.

Serra was beatified by John Paul II in 1988, and will be canonized by Pope Francis on Sept. 23, 2015.

Catholic Online



Calendar Notes

Fri, Sept 25 – Sun, Sept 27

Regional Retreat ... Chiara Center (Springfield)

Sunday, Sept 27

3:00-3:30pm ... Fraternity Gathering (Franciscan Crown in chapel)

Next Month

Oct 3 ... 7:00pm Transitus celebration (St. Mary's)

Oct 4 ... 11:00 Mass for deceased Secular Franciscans (St. Mary's)

Oct 11 ... 3:00pm Mass on the Prairie (Fall Potluck)
 -- 2:00 carpool from St. Mary's ... [See flyer for more info](#)

Oct 25 ... Gathering ... and Pastoral visit by Fr. John Sullivan, OFM (Regional Spiritual Assistant)

Additional Dates

Future Council Meetings ...

Oct. 1, Nov 5, Dec 3, Jan 7, Feb 4

Future Fraternity Gatherings ...

Nov 22, Dec 12 (Christmas potluck), Jan 24

National Quinquennial Gathering

June 30-July 4, 2016 ... St. Louis, MO

Inside this issue:	
Formation News	2
August Gathering Recap	2
Fraternity Notes	2
Pray for Fallen Away Catholics	2
Regional Retreat	3
Note from the Minister	3
Our Vision & Mission	3
Lifting Up in Prayer	3
Fraternity Council Members	3
Pope's Prayer Intentions	4
Prayer of the Month	4

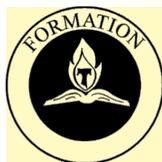


Phyllis Taylor	Sept 9
Barbara Crabtree	Sept 10
Rosalie Phelan	Sept 10
Leo Grimes	Sept 22
Cathy Roszhart	Sept 22
Diane Genseke	Sept 23
Mary Ellen Obehin	Sept 26
Martha Jones	Sept 30
Jerry Gorges	Oct 6
Todd Lanzotti	Oct 11
Diane Schraufnagel	Oct 14
Donna Williams	Oct 15
Pat Pence	Oct 25



Congratulations on your 10-Year Profession Anniversary (October 23, 2005): Jean Barkoviak, Paula Hager, Pat Pence, Sue Sears, Theresa Witte

Formation News ... Sunday, September 27



Due to the Regional Retreat at the Chiara Center in Springfield occurring on the same weekend as our normal Gathering, and due to the large number of our members attending the Regional Retreat, we will not hold a typical Gathering in September. Instead, we will have a "mini-Gathering", with a communal praying of the Franciscan Crown from 3:00-3:00pm in the Chapel. We will be offering prayers for the Pope's journey in the states. Pam Smith will lead the prayer with Brother Kevin.

Everyone is asked to attend if possible.

August Gathering Recap

St. Clare

In honor of her Feast Day of Aug 11, a brief reflection was shared at the start of Ongoing Formation on one incident in St. Clare's life.

In 1244, at the age of 50 and in poor health, St. Clare carried the Blessed Sacrament to the walls of San Damiano and prayed for the safety of her community.

The attacking invaders were seized by a sudden terror and fled in haste.

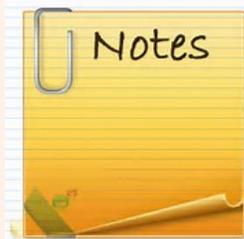
Uganda

John Grillot shared a few thoughts about his recent trip to Uganda, and the challenges to consider as it relates to Justice Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC). Although the first missionaries arrived in Uganda only in 1877 (12 years after the end of the U.S. Civil War), it is now the most Christian country in Africa. Much of the country is rural with limited access to transportation, medical services, running water, and electricity ... many of the things that we take for granted. In the countryside, most of their food is from their own gardens and fields ... which are often located an hour or two walk away from their home, along dusty and hilly roads. Hauling water in 5-gallon yellow tanks is a common sight, often with a couple of tanks strapped to a bicycle being pushed along the road.

The highlight of the trip was the dedication of the new church in the mountain village of Noozi ... nearly 4½ wonderful hours of 2,000 people joyfully celebrating and singing and praising God. The church dedication mass was

Fraternity Notes

- T FRATERNITY WEBSITE** ... Our new fraternity website will initially be accessed via a link to the St. Mary's Church website. We will evaluate having a standalone website over the next six months or so.
- T ATTENDANCE** ... Please inform a Council member if you are unable to attend our monthly gathering.
- T PERSONAL INFO SHEET** ... If you haven't already, please complete the Personal Information Sheet that was previously handed out (and also sent via email). Give completed form to Carol Burroughs.
- T NEWSLETTER NAME** ... Based on member input, our newsletter now has a name ... see page one!
- T 40 DAYS FOR LIFE** ... The Annual "40 Days for Life" Peaceful Prayer Vigil by our Fraternity will be held on Saturday, October 31 from 9:30-11:00 at the abortion mill in Peoria. More info to follow.
- T AFRICAN TWINNING** ... Based on recent input from both national (NAFRA) and international (CIOFS), and also from a personal encounter with a Franciscan friar during John Grillot's recent trip to Uganda, our fraternity Council is starting to explore how we might develop a "twinning" relationship with a Secular Franciscan fraternity in Uganda. How will this develop? We don't know, but will be guided by the Holy Spirit. Stay tuned.
- T MASS ON THE PRAIRIE** ... see attached flyer for additional info and for special directions (detour required due to road closures).



Pray for Fallen Away Catholics

Although Lent is over, St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity will continue prayer in the chapel throughout this year for those who have fallen away.

Fr. Ric asked the Fraternity organize this; we are following his lead of this practice, which asks the Parish to spend one hour a day, a week, etc. in Chapel prayer. Of course, you can meditate and offer your hour in your Parish, or if your unable to go to church to use a dedicated time at home.

"St. Francis is said to have affirmed that a religious man ought to desire above every other gift, the grace of prayer, and believing that without it no progress can be made in the service of God, he labored by every means in his power to excite his brethren to its exercise."

The Life of St. Francis of Assisi by St. Bonaventure

Regional Retreat – September 25-27, 2015



The annual retreat for the Franciscans of the Prairie Region will be held at the Chiara Center in Springfield from Friday, Sept. 25 at 5:00pm thru Sunday, Sept. 27 at 10:15am. All fraternity members (professed members and those in initial formation) are encouraged to attend.

To help those with limited resources, an anonymous donor has again offered to cover half the registration fee for two of our members; please contact Jeannine if interested.

Retreat Directors: **Sr. Anna Marie Covely, O.S.C.** and **Sr. Vickie Griner, O.S.C.**; Poor Clare sisters from the Monastery of St. Clare, Cincinnati, OH.

Retreat Theme: **Clare: Teacher of God's Action, Praying through the Words of Clare**

We are all looking forward to this special time not only with our brothers and sisters, and to listen to the spiritual upliftment from the Poor Clare Sisters, but most importantly it is our private time away with Jesus. This is what Father Francis did, he retreated to the cave, to pray and mediate. If you have not been able to decide for financial reasons, there are resources that we can share with you to support your attendance. Car pooling can be arranged for transport. It's not too late to sign up to attend a part or all of the retreat! Contact Jeannine Montgomerie.

Note from the Minister

Dear Brothers and Sisters ... Thank you for your support of our fraternity. Some of you give once a year, some every month. This is to remind you that we will be preparing our contribution to the Region, called "Fair Share". If you happen to only give once or twice a year, please budget for your donation in the coming months. The amount of \$35 is requested, if you can afford to do so. As in the past, some give more than others to offset those who cannot give, and this is in the spirit of Francis. Everything comes from God, so when we give back and help with our gifts, it is one way we say "Thank you, God."

Thank you for support of the fraternity and all the ways you selflessly serve. Pax et Bonum, Linda



Lifting Up In Prayer

Please pray for all Franciscans, especially for our future candidates & inquirers, our professed members, deceased members, those with chronic illnesses and our sisters, priests, brothers, deacons, and seminarians.

At our monthly Gatherings, we update our prayer requests with slips of paper at the tables. Please make sure to take one home with you for your prayerful intention over the next month.

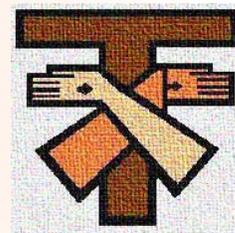
All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle. St. Francis of Assisi

Our Vision & Mission

VISION: To walk in the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare by living the Rule of Life and maintaining the Promises of our Profession: observe the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ in community through a life of penance, evangelical simple living, a life of prayer and charity, justice and peace.

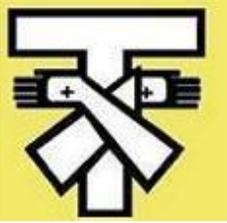
MISSION: We, the Fraternity of St. Margaret of Cortona, inspired by the vision of St. Francis, commit ourselves to the Gospel as our Way of Life, going from Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel. We resolve:

- To be more active spiritually by attending Mass frequently and deepening our prayer life
- To grow in our relationship in community with our fraternity
- To develop our apostolic relationship and opportunities for ministry



Fraternity Council

Spiritual Assistant:	Bro. Kevin Duckson, OFM		
Minister:	Linda Howley-Skuby, ofs	309-663-2449	lmhowley@aol.com
Vice Minister:	Jan Emmert, ofs	309-665-0714	emmert.jan@gmail.com
Secretary:	John Grillot, ofs	309-696-4846	grilljw@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Rosemary Danaher, ofs	309-808-0635	rtdrpt@comcast.net
Formation Director:	Jeannine Montgomerie, ofs	309-310-5315	jmntg.1229@gmail.com
Councilor 1:	Carol Burroughs, ofs	309-452-8220	bfp@a5.com
Councilor 2:	Theresa Witte, ofs	309-828-8500	theresawitte1@gmail.com



ORDO FRANCISCANUS
SAECULARIS

St. Margaret of Cortona Fraternity
St. Mary's Church
527 W. Jackson St.
Bloomington, IL 61701

Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis

September

- ❖ **Universal:** That opportunities for education and employment may increase for all young people.
- ❖ **Evangelization:** That catechists may give witness by living in a way consistent with the faith they proclaim.

October

- ❖ **Universal:** That human trafficking, the modern form of slavery, may be eradicated.
- ❖ **Evangelization:** That with a missionary spirit the Christian communities of Asia may announce the Gospel to those who are still awaiting it.

Prayer of the Month

Pope Francis visit to World Meeting of Families

God and Father of us all, in Jesus, your Son and our Savior, you have made us your sons and daughters in the family of the Church.

May your grace and love help our families in every part of the world be united to one another in fidelity to the Gospel.

May the example of the Holy Family, with the aid of your Holy Spirit, guide all families, especially those most troubled, to be homes of communion and prayer and to always seek your truth and live in your love.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!



Popefrancisvisit.com