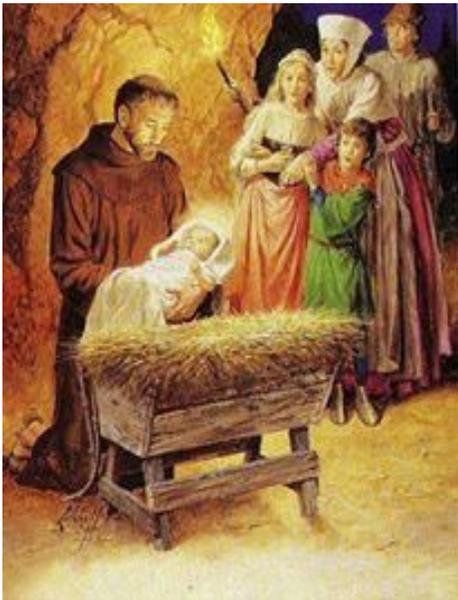


FIDDLESTICKS

Issue 117

Epiphany 2016



Rejoicing in The Little Things

John Michael Longworth, OEF

I have a confession to make. I am a notorious Christmas Crank. I'm not an Advent snob, who wants to maintain the liturgical purity of the season of holy waiting. This challenge began before my seminary days. It's not that I can remember when Christmas (in the child-like sense) peaked for me (1985 incidentally- I got the Castle GraySkull playset). It's not even my own deep spiritual frustration with the flagrant consumerism of the season.

I think that what frustrates me about the season leading up to the twelve days of Christmas is that the growing night time and the dwindling days of the year puts an introvert and contemplative like me into the mindset of reviewing the blessings and the challenges of the year, yearning for a fresh start, and even a longing to embrace the dark hours in listening for what God has in store for the year to come. Yet, such time for deep meditation is hard to find.

The period from September through early December offers an overly ambitious effort to sell tinsel and sparkly things. The general Christmas Muzak that appears around Thanksgiving offers the hollow comfort of nostalgia for Christmas past. Even Advent can feel rushed, over-programmed and like one more thing to endure before I can get to the three parts of the celebration that really feel like joy for me; Christmas Eve Eucharist, Christmas Eve dinner with my wife, and seeing the hopeful joy on the faces of my nieces and nephews as we do our Christmastide visiting.

It's even harder for me when I get overly focused on the difficult question of "what do you want for Christmas?" There are only impolite true answers to this question. The sort of things I could really use: a new car (preferably EV),

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- Will You Take Time?

Rejoicing in the Little Things ... continued

new oil tanks for the house, a fatbike with snow tire option,

a magic elf to clear up my remaining student debt, are well beyond the realm of Christmas gifts. When it comes to my basic needs, what I already have fulfills the necessary and sufficient, if anything I would like to simplify my possessions further. When it comes to spiritual needs, the infant Christ, cradled in my hands at communion is my God and my all.

As a part of my growth as a Christian, I have resolved to seek joy in Advent and Christmas, and so far it is working because God is working on me. Here's what's made the difference this year.

1. I took the initiative and began bringing out the Christmas boxes and put up the Advent Wreath at home right away. Fake it until you make it!
2. I made sure to celebrate with all of our Little Lambs families at their annual Christmas Program.
3. Our families agreed that instead of stressing about gifts for adults, we'd focus on the children. I took an active part in picking out the gift for each one.
4. With the extra money, we honored our beloved families with donations to charities they care about, and were a very active in fulfilling the wishes on the Church's Angel Tree.
5. I put mostly charitable donations on the one secret Santa group I'm taking part in.

By focusing my energy on giving and receiving for others, I not only feel more ready for my favorite parts of Christmas, but I have been finding joy hidden in the solemnity of Advent this year.

Blessings to everyone for a Happy Advent

Brother Rat's Christmas Message

It is Christmas Day next week and I can't wait to see what presents I will get. Helen says not to expect too much because Christmas is not about presents but about celebrating the birth of Jesus. Does that mean Jesus gets all the presents? I hope not, I do like getting presents.

It is summer here and it feels all wrong to be having Christmas in warm weather along with barbeques and picnics. I much prefer dark evenings and snow outside. But then again it is not all that bad being warm. Perhaps someone has a nice warm closet for me for next year?

Happy Christmas everyone!

Love



Brother Rat



TOWARDS GREATER PARTICIPATION OF GIVING/SHARING AS MEMBERS OF THE ORDER OF ECUMENICAL FRANCISCANS

A Message to the Professed Members of the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans and those living under the Vows of Novice within the OEF, greetings! in the Name of Jesus whom we follow.

As an Order, we have expenses that enable us to be who we are, that we might stay in communication with each other, that we might travel as necessary to further our coherence as an Order, especially those we have elected or appointed to Servant Roles within the Order, and that we might enable participation in Chapter/Convocation for those who do not have the means to travel/eat/& shelter at those gatherings. A separate Chapter donation/registration is required, so that we can pay for everything needed to bring off a Chapter/Convocation (site, food, speakers, presentation material, worship accoutrements, song sheets, and transport). Added to this by our collective choice is standing with other Franciscans in being Franciscan. Thus do we give a portion of our collective resources to FAN (the Franciscan Action Network) and to the Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity.

In the Tales of the Hasidim, the story is told: *Once on the Great Sabbath (before the Passover) the rabbi of Roptchitz came home from the house of prayer with weary steps. "What made you so tired?" asked his wife. "It was the sermon," he replied. "I had to speak of the poor and their many needs for the coming Passover. Unleavened bread and wine and everything else is so terribly high this year." "And what did you accomplish with your sermon?" his wife asked. "Half of what is needed," he answered. "You see, the poor among us are now ready to receive in accord with their need. As for the other half, whether those who have are ready to give,I don't know about that yet."*

We, Brothers Coyote Gary Nabhan & Michael Vosler have agreed on behalf of all of us to pursue "the other half" of this equation, that we might in fact have sufficient resources from which those we've assigned or elected might do what has to be done, and those who must necessarily be assisted in their participation receive that aid.

The basic principle we seek to fulfill is that we are all giving to the Order, all participating in assuring the resources for our obedience to the necessary.

What we know and what we ask is:

- some have virtually nothing to share, yet from them we ask at least \$1 a month, please consider \$5 a month, every month of the year. Beg for it if you must, on behalf of the Order and in accord with our Franciscan history.
- some are just getting by financially, and from them we ask something on the order of \$10 a month.
- some have been given more than sufficiency demands, and from them we ask \$20-\$30 a month.
- some, despite their Franciscan calling, have abundance (it happens!), and from them we ask \$50 each month.

Obviously any figure you settle upon as appropriate, among those suggested amounts or between those amounts or exceeding those amounts, is between you and God. As covenanted Members of this Order, we ask that you allow us, Gary and Michael, or one of the Council, to ask the question of what might be appropriate for you.

We're all in there, somewhere, and the poor among us welcome the assistance, especially in gathering us for Chapter/Convocations. The dutiful among us are prepared to go under assignment to where they must go to fulfill the duties we require of them. And you and us and them, we make it happen as God has given resources for each of us to steward.

God bless you as we all together be the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans.

And peace! Brother Coyote Nabhan
and Brother Michael Vosler

How to make our contributions?

1. <https://oef.wildapricot.org/Donate> There's a button there for indicating this is part of your pledge -- the amount you've decided to give monthly or annually.
2. PayPal utilizing your credit card: send to "friend" Petra Strand <oeftreasurer.registrar@gmail.com>
3. A Check made out to OEF, c/o Treasurer, Sr. Petra Aleah Strand, 895 Perry Lane, Teaneck, NJ 07666



FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK STANDS WITH MUSLIM BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Submitted by, Masud Ibn Syedullah, TSSF



As Franciscan and Muslim leaders we join together in calling for an end to vitriolic hate speech, attitudes and actions against Muslims. We condemn acts of hatred and violence committed by any group against another. Zechariah 7:10 declares that the word of the Lord said: "...do not plot evil against one another in your hearts. But they refused to listen; they turned their backs and stopped their ears so as not to hear." The Koran 25:63 states: "The servants of the Compassionate are they who walk upon the earth humbly, and when the ignorant address them, they answer, 'Peace!'"

Some who are ignorant, who have closed their hearts and ears, have hijacked both the Christian and Muslim faith traditions by preaching hatred and promoting violence, thus acting against the Word of God. We urge them to look deep into their hearts to find the peace and love of God. In 1928, Adolf Hitler said: "We tolerate no one in our ranks who attacks the ideas of Christianity. Our movement is Christian." Adolf Hitler no more represented Christianity in 1928 than Daesh represents Islam today.

We join other faith based organizations in decrying current rhetoric that is contrary to our religious traditions, scriptures, and values. Core to all major faith traditions is love of God and neighbor, i.e. all our sisters and brothers of every race, culture, country and religious belief. Welcoming the stranger is called for in our scriptures. The rhetoric of exclusion, religious testing, hatred and violence is also anti-American. Whether shouted from the rooftops or more subtly expressed, especially by candidates for public office and legislators, such language is both morally abhorrent and dangerous for maintaining our identity as United States citizens. History has shown us that whenever we dehumanize a group of people whether through our words or actions it could lead to war or terrorism.

We not only express our solidarity with all our brothers and sisters, we pledge to advocate on their behalf and to educate others. Franciscans have a particular responsibility to act on behalf of the Muslim community, because we have in our history and tradition the meeting of St. Francis of Assisi with Sultan al-Kamil in the 13th century during the Fifth Crusade. Both Francis and the Sultan took the risk of meeting during this violent time in an effort to foster peace and mutual understanding.

Together as Franciscan Christians and Muslims, we call for an end to hateful, divisive language, we condemn acts of violence against Muslims, and we appeal to our government

to generously welcome refugees from Syria and Iraq fleeing Daesh violence. We stand together; drawing on the teaching of our faith traditions that fear is overcome by love and compassion.

Signed in faith and solidarity,
-Patrick Carolan
Executive Director
Franciscan Action Network

-Naeem Baig
President
Islamic Circle of North America

-Br. Clark Berge, SSF
Minister General
Society of St. Francis

-Imam Taha Hassane
Islamic Center of San Diego

-Dianne Kaimann, OSF
Executive Director
Franciscan Federation, TOR

-Fr. Mike Lasky, OFM Conv.
Newman Center
University of North Carolina

-Sr. Margaret Magee
Board President
Franciscan Action Network

-Cheikh Ahmed Mbareck
Executive Director
Majlis Ashura (Islamic Leadership Council) of NY

-Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid
Chair Board
Parliament of the World's Religions

-Sayyid Syeed
Islamic Society of North America
Office of Interfaith & Community Alliances Director

-Kathleen Uhler, OSF
President
Franciscan Federation, TOR



A JOYOUS ANNOUNCEMENT AND INVITATION!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!
I have not done one of these Christmas letters for years. But, Christmas 2015 is an extraordinary time here for me, for us, in Altoona. It marks working as a drug and alcohol rehab counselor for over 15 years at Pyramid Healthcare of PA. It marks 25 years as an HIV prevention educator. Most of all, it marks the beginning of a new & amazing time in my/our life.

You see, on December 2, Yoseph Widirahmaya picked up his life in Cilacap, Indonesia, and moved in with me... lock, stock and barrel as our pioneer ancestors used to say. He moved from a tropical climate to whatever you want to call this crazy weather we're having in Pennsylvania! We have been getting acquainted for nearly 3 years and will mark that first meeting on Facebook with a marriage celebration at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, January 30 at 2PM. Yoseph taught English to high school students before his move and he has already learned that textbook English is a whole different bird compared to what we really speak, at least in PA! The biggest challenge he's facing is the climate, of course, but he is not complaining as he wears his winter hat and layers, even in the house. Seriously, though, Yoseph is a wonderful man, with a great sense of humor and dedication. He has to have those qualities to make such a radical move. When I visited him in January, 2014, I met many of his family who loves us and supports Yoseph so beautifully. I hope you will have the chance to meet him very soon!

Like maybe at the wedding! The ceremony is January 30 at 2PM in Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Jones & Allegheny Streets, Hollidaysburg, PA, 16648. The reception will follow in the church 'undercroft' (as Anglicans call it!) Sorry we can't get any fancier than this, but here is your invitation. If you can come, please email me your response at: dawired@yahoo.com

Let us know how many will be in your party. This is such short notice but we're dealing with a government-imposed deadline!! As for gifts, I'm sure Yoseph will want more long johns! And we're not done with federal issues and will need to ante up another set of fees to change Yoseph's status to permanent residency later this year, so anything you might offer will be a great help.

May the immeasurable love of our God and Savior bless you richly this Christmas and always!

David Delacroix, OEF



Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Submissions for the Lent/Easter 2016 issue of "Fiddlesticks" are being accepted immediately.

Deadline for submissions is March 15, 2016.

Send submissions to Sister Chris at capoef@solarus.biz

or snail-mail to:

Christine Petersen, OEF
853 Norwich Ct.
Nekoosa, WI 54457

Thank you!





A Message From Our Co-Minister General



November, 2015: I fly to Mexico the day after the Paris Bombings.
While there, I stay with a Mexican host family.
They speak no English. I speak little Spanish.
But we live in the same world. We watch the same news.
We feel the same fear. "París. Triste. Horrible."

"Así es la vida", says the lady of the house.
"En solo un minuto, todo cambia."
("That's life. In one minute, everything changes.")

.....

I watch a news video of a father in Paris speaking to his young son before a growing "altar" of flowers:

"They have guns, they can shoot us, because they're really, really mean, Daddy."

"It's ok. They might have guns, but we have flowers."

"But flowers don't do anything. They're for...
They're for..."

"Look -- everyone is putting flowers. It's to fight against guns."

"It's to protect us?"

"Exactly."

"And the candles too? The flowers and the candles are here to protect us..."

"Yes."

.....

The days of November pass through Thanksgiving,
step into December, enter into Advent.

"What do the people of Mexico think of Chapo Guzman?"

"The response is mixed. There is much poverty and suffering in our country.
Some look to the drug lords for help. The drug lords maintain a code of ethics.
When they move into a town, they build hospitals, schools, roads.
Things can seem better. But once you're in, you are in. You cannot leave - alive.
Our troubles are driven by poverty."

"What do the people of the United States think of Señor Trump?"

"The response is mixed. There is much fear in our country.

Some look to Trump for protection, for strength. Many others fear the vision he holds -- a dangerous vision of division, exclusion, rejection, racism and discrimination. Our troubles are driven by fear."

.....

The days of December are warm and sunny. 80 degrees, flowers in bloom.

Plastic Santas appear with plastic reindeer.
Plastic snowmen with plastic snowflakes.

I walk through the crowded outdoor marketplace at sunset, climb the high steps, and enter into a small chapel.
The chapel is brightly and colorfully decorated.

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A Message From Our Co-Minister General... continued

Lights (more wildly flashing than twinkling) surround la virgen y Jesús crucificado.

Two women up front sing and pray the rosary. The rest of us stay further back, kneeling in silence.

It is a world of contrasts:

Silence and flashing lights. Warm sunlight and plastic snowflakes.
Chapo Guzman and Señor Trump. Poverty and sharing. Fear and hope.
Bombs and flowers. Flowers and candles -- here to protect us.
.....

December 9, 2015:
I must leave Mexico five days early -- suddenly, abruptly, unexpectedly.
Our daughter is in the Intensive Care Unit in New York City.
She made an attempt to end her life.

"En solo un minuto, todo cambia."

She took many, many pills. Too many.

Then she got scared. Or she got hope.

Or maybe it was purely on impulse, but, whatever the impulse, she went to the Emergency Room. Thankfully. She reconsidered. Thankfully.

The doctors, the medicine, the staff, friends and family -- each did their own very special very small part. Thankfully.

Our daughter is alive. She is surrounded by love without end.

"Así es la vida. En solo un minuto, todo cambia."
.....

Bruce James and I are now back at home in Connecticut.

It has been a long journey from November to December through Thanksgiving into Advent.

I am not quite ready for Christmas. But I am very much at home in Advent. In the darkness, in the waiting, in the longing. In the hope -- with the candles and flowers that protect us. In the trust in the Word that becomes flesh and walks among us.

"Así es la vida. En solo un minuto, todo cambia."

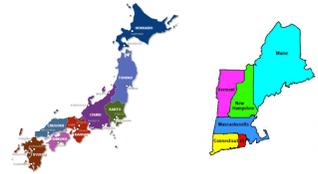
... and the Light shines in the darkness....

~ Shoshanah Kay, December, 2015





Regional News



FELLOWSHIPS REPORT, DECEMBER 2015 Michael Vosler, Fellowships Coordinator

New Zealand: With Reg Weeks, now a Novice among us, moving from the South Island to the North Island, and to Eastbourne, Lower Hutt just across the Wellington Harbor from Wellington itself, he and Helen now comprise a true Fellowship. We'll await their naming of who they are -- Kiwi Fellowship? Fitzroy Bay Fellowship? North Island Fellowship?

We rejoice that Brothers Pacificus and Ian Vincent share proximity in **Japan**. We look forward to hearing how they structure time together.

We've heard nothing but good reports on September-into-October's **Lighthouse Fellowship** and Great Lakes Regional retreat with Christine Petersen from Wisconsin, Kathleen Dlugosz & Keith Downey from Minnesota, Craig Robert from Illinois in attendance, and Inquirer, David Hottinger. That gathering was touched by Ireland by way of Brother Craig Robert's Irish-made challis and paten.

The Piedmont Fellowship centered on North Georgia gathers monthly for coffee or lunch, and is open to participation from the Carolina's. Brothers James Schwarzlose & David Rensberger are the stalwarts there.

The Tropical Troubadours in Florida have gathered for lunch about 3-4 times during the FALL. And just before Christmas ["Sing ye Troubadours!"] the Southeast Sorority of the tropical troubadours (Kathleen, Carole, & Lorraine) had their first formation station gathering at Lorraine's home.

The Northeast Fellowship gathered in Hartford, CT

this December, coming from Boston, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York City, and New Jersey to check-in with each other to share a meal, to pray and reflect together. We had a TSSF presence there as well.

And since the Order goes where "we" go, Bruce James & Shoshanah will be in Cuba with a Quaker Friend during the month of January.

The Juniper Fellowship has ranged from San Francisco to Olympia, Washington to south of San Francisco Bay. To gather requires one full day of travel for some, two days for others. A gathering was planned for October in Eugene, OR, with Sister Sophie Elisa Dale as host -- until her family was hit with very difficult health challenges.

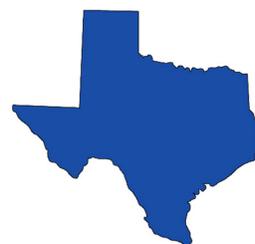
As Fellowships Coordinator, I suspect we're maturing towards two Fellowships here in the NW corner of the nation: Oregon & Washington & one day Vancouver as one and perhaps will keep the name **Juniper Fellowship**.

Then to their south, North California centered on San Francisco Bay, probably to be **the Golden Gate Fellowship**. Next step: Getting the Golden Gaters together from Sacramento, San Juan Bautista, Oakland, Sonoma County, and San Francisco.

The Mariposa Fellowship that centers around the Ohio River is in need of a new catalyst to sustain the energy there, and they may know who it is. We await the sharing and the dates of their gathering "next year".

The Bluebonnet Fellowship is looking to gather around Epiphany to receive the Novice Vows of Neal Dunnigan, of Oklahoma. Sisters Katie Cook and Magdalena Stebbing are taking the lead there. And Katie and honorary Bluebonnet James Scharzwlose were able to visit with Sister Louann O'Bannion in (or near) Thorndale, TX

(Continued on page 9)



Regional News... continued

Rendezvous:

A Rendezvous took place late July with the Voslers & Craig Robert & John George meeting on short notice for a lunch in the Glen Canyon neighborhood of SF. It is noted that Brother John George Juniper was able to visit with Brother Scott Peddie in Ireland, last spring. Those "long reaches" towards one another are important and so blessed!
If you visit or are visited by Sisters & Brothers of the Order, let me know. We're a mobile lot and every such visit blesses us all!

**Editor's interjection: I had a wonderful visit in November with Sister Ione in Sun City, AZ!*

A GATHERING OF THE POST OAK DIVISION/BLUE BONNET FELLOWSHIP

Where two are three are gathered... in a Franciscan vein -- there we have an OEF fellowship meeting.
 And so it was that, on December 4th, I met with Sisters Louann O'Bannion n/oef and Katie Cook, oef in Greater Thorndale, TX, to rub shoulders (gently -- see below), encourage one another in living out our rule and tell stories that strengthen our Franciscan quest. (Those were some of the parameters suggested in our recent oef-I listserv discussion on "Recent Rhetoric" and they best describe our simple meeting.)
 Fellowship for us in our Diaspora will most likely take place in such happenstance ways as this. I was bound for a family Christmas reunion in Zorn, Texas (Google it!) with an invitation from a long-time friend to visit in Austin (the Peoples' Republic of...). So, with a good deal of e-mail exchanges, we arranged to meet; Katie converged from the north, I from the Austin airport in the south, with a rendezvous at the at the highly Franciscan abode of Louann and Tom O'Bannion.
 To say "highly Franciscan" is not to exaggerate. My native Texas education learned to say "Tom and Louann live '**ouf**'"! Far out. Recall the stories of the first small band of Francis and friends finding shelter in the rude confines where pigs dwelled. Exchange longhorn cattle and the post oak savannah of Texas for Umbria and you get the

picture. Louann is plagued with a condition that causes her physical being to react negatively to many of the chemical emissions and electronic/ electromagnetic factors that pervade our modern existence. (Look around at what is unseen; breathe in and smell and sense them; they are there as you read!) That means stuff we wear and even eat (hence the careful rubbing of shoulders.) It has meant fellowship for her is, to say the least: difficult.

Nonetheless, we met; we encouraged each other; we hugged each other (again, gently) and the Holy Spirit did the rest. Peace and All Good on the Plain.

James Schwarzlose oef

P.S. In the small world category: When we met, with Tom also present, he revealed that a co-worker of his in Austin, one Alicia who happens to share my last name, was also going to a family Christmas reunion the next day! Yup! (as we native Texans might say) she turns out to be married to a second cousin, neither of whom I had never met.

BACK HOME in the PIEDMONT -- Atlanta

Division: Three of us, David Rensberger, Dave Miller and I (James) met for one of our irregular, regular gatherings in Metro Atlanta on December 11th. With the Spirit again in charge, we also rubbed shoulders, encouraged one another in living out our rule and told stories -- over bagels. We also planned a hopefully larger, more focused gathering for Martin Luther King Jr. weekend.



left - right: Louann, Katie, James



Formation Station



You have a right to experiment with your life. You will make mistakes. And they are right too. No, I think there was too rigid a pattern. You came out of an education and are supposed to know your vocation. Your vocation is fixed, and maybe ten years later you find you are not a teacher anymore or you're not a painter anymore. It may happen. It has happened. I mean Gauguin decided at a certain point he wasn't a banker anymore; he was a painter. And so he walked away from banking. I think we have a right to change course. But society is the one that keeps demanding that we fit in and not disturb things. They would like you to fit in right away so that things work now.

ANAIS NIN

It's a funny thing, this subject of vocation. Of the work we feel in our hearts, extended onward to those who we share the planet with, within the context of Time.

Time, always being a prized and valued Gift, is fleeting and transitory-taking us from one event to another. Late summer and early fall had proven to be extremely busy for me both personally and professionally as I began a new but familiar ministry working for a large senior living community. While getting my bearings in a new place, meeting new seniors, their families and a new staff, the Call came from many of you, asking me to consider returning to an Office, I previously held: Formation Counseling.

Having been present at the vast majority of Chapter/Convocation meetings this past summer, I've been deeply inspired/challenged by what the we are doing, as well as where we are going as Franciscans. United in the common charism of joyful service, easy going, never contrived.

Why return as Interim Director of Formation Counseling when clearly the Holy Spirit had multiple folks within our family to competently serve us in this manner? All I can say is, it's "a God Thing" rooted in what has been successful and maybe less successful, in my own contributions as your former DFC.

Committing to the Call, I return to the Office, bringing with me a refreshed view of what we as The Order of Ecumenical Franciscans have done well, and the areas in which we have failed in our pursuits. It's in this vein, that I write to you today, to share the news, that the Office is taking on a Team Approach, with Brother Louis Canter serving as Minister of Postulants, and Sister Helen Bathurst, Minister of International Formation. The projected hope here is to balance how we "do" formation. These ministers will serve as a greater link between the person entering formation and the OEF at Large. I hope you will offer each your prayers and support, as we search ways to share in the work of formation and in the Love of Jesus.

Peace and All Good,

David Luke., O.E.F.



Formation Station ...continued

Introducing...

Carole Turano

Hi All,

I feel so blessed to be joining this little Order of Franciscans. St. Francis's authenticity and commitment to Christ compel me to seek a deeper walk at this life stage. As a woman in ministry and a Spiritual Director for many years, I have a sincere passion for personal spiritual formation and being present to ones seeking to grow in the Lord.

Presently, I live in Jupiter, FL with my husband of 50 years. Together we have three children and seven and a half grandchildren! My church denomination is United Methodist, and it is there that I am developing a holistic healing center which will be open this winter to serve the parish and local community.

I look forward to getting acquainted with as many of you as possible.

Peace to all...

And...

Rebecca Christian

Many of you met Rebecca at Chapter in July. She hails from Waco, TX, land of the Bluebonnets. She writes:

Although my life has been difficult, I feel that God has blessed me. I long to make a difference in this world. I want to use my gifts to help whomever I can, no matter how small the scale. I yearn to belong to a true Christian community and hope that The Order of Ecumenical Franciscans can be one of those places.

I have worked with at-risk kids and I am continually touched by their stories of survival. I (also) volunteer on a regular basis at Gospel Café. . I enjoy serving the people and treating them with love and respect.

Brother Rat's Rule Report

November 2015

Helen told me that chasing non-existent pests from her house was not good enough and I had to try some other form of mission. She took me down to the Thrift Shop where she works and made me work on the counter all day. My job was to guard the EFTPOS machine.

A few customers admired my good looks but most took an instant dislike to me. I can't imagine why!

I think I'll stick to pest eradication for my mission. It's so much easier, especially when there are no pests.

Anyone want a nice pest free closet next year?

Brother Rat



Fiddlesticks
 c/o Christine Petersen, OEF
 853 Norwich Ct.
 Nekeosa, WI 54457
 U.S.A.



WILL YOU TAKE TIME?

HELEN BATHURST, OEF



Mince pies, pudding, Christmas cake
 What a lot of food to bake.
 I wonder what did Mary eat.
 What would she have thought a treat?

Christmas bells on trees and holly.
 "Tis the season to be jolly"
 What adorned the stable walls
 or decorated cattle stalls?

Crackers, jokes and party hats,
 Paper serviettes and mats.
 How did they amuse each other,
 Joseph, infant son and
 mother?



Cousins, barbecues and wine.
 Hope the weather will be fine.
 Christmas time. For what it's worth.
 Are you enjoying Peace on Earth?

Buying gifts is not too hard.
 Put it on the credit card.
 Will you take time from all the fuss
 To think about what God gave us?

