

FIDDLESTICKS

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Inside this Issue:

- How Laudato Si Intersects with Our Life as Franciscans in Christ, Clare and Francis
- Prayer and Physicality
- A Message From Our Council
- Summer Road Trip
- Graduating From Living School, Launching Daily Reflections
- A Note From the Editor
- Siblings Discuss: Muslim Relations
- Regional News
- Some Musings on Deep Listening
- Formation Station
- A Prayer For Leadership

How Laudato Si Intersects with Our Life as Franciscans in Christ, Clare and Francis

Reflections from the Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity
Retreat, August 5-6, 2016

When the Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity met August 5-6, 2016 at the Franciscan Spirituality Center in Aston, Pennsylvania, our Ecumenical Franciscan Order was well represented and soulfully engaged in our shared discussions with three other Franciscan orders, TSSF, OFS, and OLF. We were also well prepared to discuss how Pope Francis's Laudato Si encyclical on Caring for Our Common Home intersects with our daily contemplative life, our values regarding baptism, our vocations, our charism and our prophetic voices. Those were the themes that the organizing committee selected through which the four Franciscan orders could discover common ground as well as respect cultural differences in our approaches to contemplative action.

To be sure, the focus of all the orders present for the retreat in Aston remains grounded in Christ-centered spirituality, perhaps enhanced and richly colored by our inspirations from Saints Clare and Francis. But the prophetic and deeply interfaith vision of Pope Francis's encyclical have, in ways, "upped the ante," by demonstrating the relevance of the Franciscan traditions to dealing with the profound challenges facing our planet, as well as all of its creatures, cultures and faiths. Thus, reflections on Laudato Si were a perfect springboard for us in finding common ground among the diverse orders present.

Representing OEF were Sister Shoshanah, Sister Nancy, Sister Markie, Brother Elijah, Brother Louis and Brother Coyote, such that we composed the largest delegation of any order present at the retreat.

(Continued on page 2)

REFLECTIONS FROM THE JOINT COMMITTEE RETREAT, CONTINUED...

Brother Elijah played a special role (and a profoundly moving one) in facilitating our guided reflection on Laudato Si's vision of baptism, the sacredness of water, and the unalienable right of all humans and creatures to clean water, which Pope Francis suggests underlies all other human rights necessary for our survival as a species. Sister Shoshanah also offered an elegant summary of our order's social history and unique charism among all the orders assembled. It should be noted that while all the orders had extraordinary voices represented at this retreat on Franciscan Unity, participation in Franciscan vocation has declined over the last two to three decades by as much as 30% among the largest orders. Our hope is that the interest among young people of all faiths in the Franciscan underpinnings of Laudato Si might inspire some of them to join our ranks and continue to renew the vitality of our orders.

The five guided reflections we shared—on baptism, on vocation, on charism, on Christ-centered spirituality, and on prophetic voice—were wisely guided by Father Masud ibn Syedullah, along with Anne Mulqueen (OFS), Joan Verret (TSSF), Patrick Martin (OFS) and Brother Elijah (OEF). Following each guided reflection, groups of 4 from every order engaged in animated discussions of how we see our shared values regarding prayer and contemplative action.

We live on a planet with more refugees fleeing from military violence, political unrest, economic disparity and climate-aggravated social injustices than ever before in human history. And yet, we also live in an era when more Christians (and those of other faiths) are thirsty to incorporate Franciscan sensibilities in their

daily lives, prayer practices, consumptive patterns and social actions to soulfully deal with these challenges. We all agree that the cries of the poor and the deep groaning of the earth itself are deeply and inextricably connected. How do we build on the insights offered by Pope Francis to more deeply engage ourselves and others in healing the wounds found on earth and in the most vulnerable individuals, genders, ethnicities, races, classes and faiths we share this earth with? To restore our common home—not just the walls of San Damiano—was the call that God challenged not only Francesco di Bernardone, but all of us, to respond to.

**Seize the moment.
Andiamo!**

Br Coyote Nabhan, OEF



Prayer & Physicality

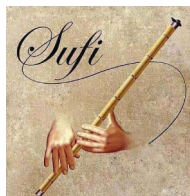
On Sunday, Aug. 28, 2016, Anne Nancy and I participated in a super-marvelous Interfaith Event. One of the workshops offered was an offering by the Sufi community called “Dances of Universal Peace: All In The Circle” — simple moving prayers from Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Sufi sources.

A band in the center, a dance contesteer and leader, dancers/us in the circle around with coordinated movement and shifts of partner...each one dances with more than half of those present, simple songs including Dona Nobis Pacem, Salaam/Shalom repeated with movements for each phrase, bowing to and honoring the other — very moving. Some cried, and others of us cried at/with those crying.

Tell me peace isn't possible — it just SO IS!

The whole event including the invitation to be spectator or participant in the Muslim Prayer Time and a vegetarian potluck meal was wonderful.

- michael v.



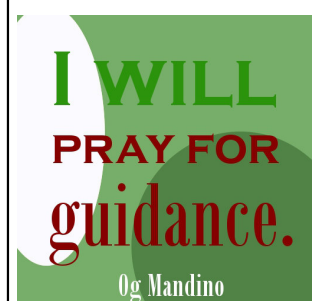
A Message From Our Council



Shortly after Chapter/Convocation, the Council appointed a Formation Team of three coequal Professed members to oversee all aspects of the formation process of the order. These Formation Coordinators are Sr. Helen (Kiwi) Bathurst, Br. John Michael Longworth and Sr. Anjelika Morse. Their specific duties are: Anjelika responds to all inquirers and has oversight of Postulants; Kiwi shares oversight of Novices with John Michael and has undertaken revision of the Formation Counselors Manual; in addition to sharing the oversight of Novices with Kiwi, John Michael takes care of our electronic presence on the web and handles our record keeping.

Since the Formation Team assumed its duties it has been very busy getting up to speed. There are inevitable glitches in transitions and we have been working our way through these as quickly as possible. There has been a steady flow of inquiries about the order coming in through the website. Many of these inquiries have progressed to requests for applications for Postulancy.. Two new Postulants have been accepted and assigned to Formation Counselors.

In the near future we plan to be in contact with current Postulants, Novices and Formation Counselors to assess how things are going with them and to discern how best the Formation Team can provide them with support and resources





Summer Road Trip

By Markie Oliver, OEF



Remember when we were kids and people asked this question "what did you do on your summer vacation"? Or maybe you had to write an essay to share in class during the first week of school. Well I don't remember ever writing such an essay but I do remember the question. So here is my attempt to write the essay on "What I did on my summer vacation".

Eleanor and I, along with our housemate Angela and her boyfriend Patrick traveled for 2 weeks visiting friends and hiking. We did day hikes in CO, WY, and SD, visited friends in CO, NE, WI, and saw Angela's grandmother and cousin in IL. We found a great campsite in SD (Custer State Park) and spent a night in a hotel at a casino. We spent July 4th watching a parade in Greeley, CO, where longhorn cattle are the head of the parade. Later in the day, we were visiting with Ron Nuss-Warren who gave us the tour of the sights and shared a great evening picnic with us with all the traditional foods and homemade ice cream.

While in Chicago, seeing Angela's family members, Eleanor and I took a walk to the site of next year's Chapter. The Cenacle is within walking distance of the lake shore, a zoo and many really cool places to eat.

I went there to see for myself what kind of place this is. Based on that I saw on the website I had lots of questions. While waiting for my tour of the center Eleanor found a pamphlet, and it answered all of my questions. While on the tour, I got even more good information. For example, the question about bathrooms and showers. On each floor the bathrooms with showers are in the center of the floor plan, so there are rooms directly across the hall (so they are not at the end of the hall). There are a few rooms with full bathroom and shower. By Dec. there will be a couple of rooms where you can roll a wheelchair right into the shower. All we need is to tell them how many people need to these full bath and shower rooms and how many need to be as close to a bathroom as possible. I hope this arrangement can meet our needs. I saw the centrally located bathroom/shower room and

they are private (even for me, and I am a little picky, too!)

For those of us who have diet needs and choices (I'm a veggie who does eat fish on occasion) the center just needs to know how many people and what we need. The center seems to be very open to accommodating our needs.

By the way, there are two chapels, one large and one small, several small meeting rooms and a couple of larger meeting rooms. There are lounges and a courtyard for our use. And again, within walking distance of many interesting sites and cool places. I foresee several adventures at our next Chapter meeting!

I hope my report about the center in Chicago answers many of your questions. My visit did help me know more about the center. If you have more questions, please contact me at markie.oliver@comcast.net

What did you do on your summer vacation?



Graduating from Living School, Launching Daily Reflections: Restoring Our Common Home



By Br. Coyote Nabhan, OEF



Brothers and Sisters,

Rhett Engelking of FAN and I are among the graduates tomorrow (8/25/16) at the Living School "end Off" in Albuquerque; keep us in your prayers. To try to integrate what I've learned from Cynthia Beragault., Richard Rohr, James Finley, Mary Evelyn Tucker and others over the last couple years, I'm launching a daily reflection called *Restoring Our Common Home*, with the first four installments as "samples" below. If you care to follow them, they will be paired with photos or drawings on both my Facebook page and through a listserve that you can register for through the email portal on <http://www.garynabhan.com> managed by my cousin Tim Tracy. The first one is up on Facebook already. Most will be focused on reconciling science and faith to restore creation and human communities. I welcome your responses.

*Restoring Our Common Home:
daily reflections by Brother Coyote*

Reflection 1:

Eight centuries ago, a young dreamer from Assisi named Francesco di Bernardone heard a voice say to him, "Francesco, va', ripara la mia casa che, come vedi, è tutta in rovina." The voice of the Creator was telling Francis of Assisi to "Go, repair my house which, as you can see, is all in ruin." At first Francis thought the voice was referring to the chapel of San Damiano, so he and his friends rebuilt its walls. Then, he sensed that the Catholic church needed to be revitalized to heal and help the most wounded and marginalized people in its midst, so he founded an order of *poverelli* who went out to restore hope among humankind. Finally, he urged his followers to care for all of Creation, not just humankind.



This is the first of what I hope will be many daily reflections to see how natural science and faith can come together to heal the world, its many people and species at a time when so much is at risk. I pray that you can share in these reflections and make your own comments in response to them every day. Pace e bene.

Reflection 2:

On November 29, 1979, Pope John Paul II declared St. Francis the Patron Saint of Ecology, but perhaps we should more properly recognize him as an Ecumenical Saint of Restoration Ecology, Environmental Justice and Endangered Species Recovery. He not only lived in and cared for the wildest habitats of his time, but made peace with imperiled wolves, birds, invertebrates and marginalized cultures. Recently, Pope Francis has drawn upon the inspiration of St. Francis in his Caring for Our Common Home encyclical, a poetic vision that has been widely celebrated by faith leaders, social justice advocates and conservation biologists alike. That's why these reflections are called Restoring Our Common Home—to daily inspire us to go out and do the humble work of restoring landscapes, watersheds, foodsheds, communities, species, neighborhoods and food-producing capacity among degraded places and peoples.



Reflection 3:

Saint Francis of Assisi is but one of many charismatic earth-keepers that had the "peripheral vision" to see what was coming over the horizon in order to head off more unnecessary death, destruction and degradation of our homelands and scared places.

(Continued on page 6)

Graduating from Living School, continued...

He made peace with wolves, with sultans, with Assisi's political foes, and with his own vagrant soul. But let us now praise other men and women who shared his vision for restorative justice both for human and other-than-human species: Thomas Merton, Rachel Carson, Aldo Leopold, Eleanor Roosevelt, Nelson Mandela, Dorothy Day, Leonardo Boff, Snyder, Winona LaDuke, Richard Rohr, Vandana Shiva, Wendell Berry, Freeman House, Stephanie Mills, Eric Enos, W.S. Merwin, Vernon Masayesva, Will Allen and David Orr, among so many others. Let them motivate us to do the same on our own home ground and in our most sacred sanctuaries. Peas and Beans!

Reflection 4:

The grassroots ecological restoration movement--not the habitat mitigation engineering profession---has shifted the paradigm in the American Conservation Movement from one of "lock-it-up protectionism" to joyous hands-on participation in the restorative processes of natural, self-renewing communities. We do not feel the isolation of the bitter and lonely environmentalists of the past; we feel that sensuous satisfactions of getting our hands in the dirt to plant trees or sow seeds, to re-meander streams or harvest rainwater off slopes. We are co-creators with Nature, that is, with the Creative Spirit of the universe---not passive victims or fatalistic bystanders anymore. "Each time we plant a seed, we plant ourselves in place."



A Note from the Editor

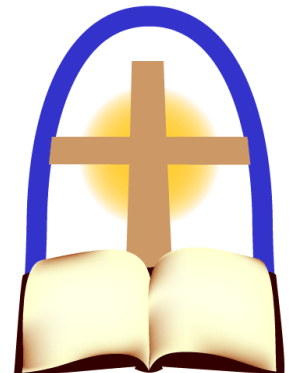
Attention, professed and novice members of OEF:

I will begin working on the updated address book in September or October. If you have moved, changed your phone number or changed your e-mail address, please send me the updates! We tend to be a vagabond bunch, and I often lose track of some of you, so please keep me informed!

Also, I am considering adding third round of devotionals to our book, so I need lots and lots of contributions! Inspirational poems, reflections, Bible meditations and prayers are all welcome! The more variety we have, the more inspirational and meaningful our book will be. If I receive enough submissions, the new section will go out with the address book updates this Fall.

So, summon up your creative juices and start scribbling!

Peace,
Sister Chris





Siblings Discuss... Muslim Relations



From the OEF Chat List:

Sr. Nancy wrote:
Friends and siblings,

Many of us are interested in dialogue and fruitful, mutually supportive interrelationships with our Muslim neighbors. Many of us would say our Franciscan witness would call us to that. If you are interested in Christian-Muslim dialogue, you may be interested in the report available for free download here: <http://bridge.georgetown.edu/danger-dialogue-american-catholic-public-opinion-and-portrayals-of-islam/>

While the report focuses on American Catholic opinions about Muslims, I think others in the Christian family (beyond the Catholics among us) might also "see" themselves and their religious communities in this report. I'd be interested to hear your responses.

Sr. Betty Lou:

Wow, I read the report, and I am flabbergasted. Looks like there is much education to be done. Clearly, Islamophobia comes from a huge lack of knowledge. Nearly half of Catholics cannot name any commonalities between Catholicism and Islam (or think there is nothing in common)? Wow...

How about (just for starters):

- Most of the Hebrew scriptures
 - The Old Testament prophets
 - Jesus
 - God (yeah, not the Trinity...)
 - The source of creation
 - Heaven and the continuation of life after death
 - Mary (yes, there is great devotion to Mary)
 - Burial of the dead
 - The ethical principles behind the Ten Commandments
- Judeo-Christian ethics are at work in Islam, too (though phrasing it that way would create some pushback) the rules of behavior laid down by Paul and other apostles (e.g., women covering their hair, how widowhood is handled, etc.) -- yes, we ignore those passages today in Christianity, but the "rules" came from Middle Eastern Society times and the Muslims continue to follow those rules, while Christians have moved away from them though they are in our New Testament
- The list goes on and on and on, including many of the same stories...

Sufis and Catholic mystics have even more in common; the list of differences is a much shorter document than the very long list of similarities

A Muslim friend who is a professor of political science observed that Islam is 400 years younger than Christianity and asked, "What did Christianity look like 400 years ago?" Not all that different from Islam today -- in terms of civil society/behavior, crusades that assume one's own religion is the only right one and everyone else is an infidel, the church-state, etc. Something to think about, anyway. I thought it was an interesting observation.

My personal reaction...

Sam (Guest):

Are any siblings engaged in this inter-religious work?

Sr. Nancy:
Sam,

I teach Islam to students at Ithaca College (a private, secular, non-profit college). I am also the contact person within my United Church of Christ congregation for questions related to two local Islam-related community organizations: (1) "Islamic Community Outreach Services" (<http://icosithaca.org/>) and (2) "Ithaca Welcomes Refugees" (<http://www.ithacawelcomesrefugees.org/>).

Br. John Michael:

Hey Sibs,

I was the Ecumenical and Interfaith representative in my region for four years, so I had the opportunity to do a variety of engagement work. As a campus chaplain at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, I was part of the team that created a Muslim prayer room in the religious center when the students lost their space. Most of the Muslims I encountered there were Sunni from south Asia. The local Imam from Somalia was a great help in providing information on how to move forward with our project.



Regional News



One is never certain one has all the information as Sisters & Brothers gather about this nation and world.....but, what we know is:

The Bluebonnets in Waco, TX met all the way back in February, but those flowers swayed back and forth to greet Dale Carmen and her husband Ken who were welcomed by Sisters Katie Cook and Rebecca Christian, in mid-September as all together they nourished body and spirit over a shared table.

The Northeast Regional Retreat is gathering at the Immanuel Retreat Center in Bellows Falls Vermont, on Thursday the 3rd of Nov., late afternoon, and will be together through lunch on Saturday the 5th. That's a big region from New Jersey to Maine. We hope y'all make every effort to get up (or down) into Longworth country!



The Fellowships that gather on occasion or could (in addition to the 2 above, and the 4 who have reported in to follow):

The Kiwi Fellowship, the Japan Fellowship, the Piedmont Fellowship, the Tropical Troubadours, the Mariposa Fellowship, The Desert Fellowship, The Juniper Fellowship and The Rocky Mountains Fellowship.

We gather in Fellowships to deepen our sense of walking together as the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans. We gather to share joys and woes and our love for God, for Creation, for this place and these places where we live and minister. And in our gathering, some meet us for the first time. In fact, shaping a Regional or local "Meet the



OEf" event for Inquirers is encouraged.

As the Youngbloods would sing it for us:
"Come on people now Smile on your brother, Everybody get together Try to love one another Right now!"



Brother Michael V., Fellowships Coordinator and Sister Markie Oliver from the Council.



The Golden Gate Fellowship On September 17, Michael and Anne Nancy Vosler, Betty Lou Leaver, Elijah LeFevre, Thom Longino and Kathy and Karen Lawler all gathered at the Lawler residence in Elk Grove, CA, just south of Sacramento for a day of reflection, sharing our lives and journeys through conversation, art, prayer and meals. Michael led our opening pray with song and reflection, particularly around the healing of the Gadarenes demoniacs as told in Matthew 8. Thom closed our time together with a goddess rosary service adapted from the one used at Herchurch. We then enjoyed dinner together at a local Afghan restaurant. Betty Lou's husband Carl joined us for the dinner festivities.



The weather was cooperative so the opportunity for meditative walks on the paths along the local creek and through the nearby rain garden was part of the day. Several of the siblings spent reflection time creating of Soul Collage cards. We all participated in making Fellowship braids consisting of threads from each of our lives and a bead representing ourselves as individuals. We carry home with us a full, rich time together, plans to gather again in

Regional News, continued...

February and one of the Fellowship braids for ongoing connection. It was a wonderful day!

Submitted by Kathy Lawler n/OEF



Those in The Great Lakes area gathered as The Lighthouse Fellowship, September 29th through to October 1st in Rochester, MN, and some shared some cruise-time on that Friday. Others attended a religious art exhibit at the retreat center Saturday afternoon. It was a time to reconnect and to welcome new friends, sharing about our lives in OEF. Hosting this gathering were Sister Chris and Sister Kathleen D, with Brother Ron and Sister Dale presiding over worship. Also in attendance were Brother John, Son of Syvert, Brother Joseph Thomas (Keith) and Brother Ron's lovely wife, Carolyn. They were also joined by inquirer Judi Magnus and Brother Dick Beal, SFO.



September 9th through the 11th, I participated in a meeting with one of my denominations' national Boards. It was in San Antonio, Texas; which was sweltering for us North Dakotans. My husband, Ken, and I drove down so on our return north we were able to stop at Waco, Texas, and visit sister OEFers Katie Cook and Rebecca Christian.

There is much that is discouraging these days, from political polarization to moral darkness; yet it was heartening to hear our sisters' stories of courageous involvement, spiritual growth, and sacred fellowship among all who are the Franciscan Bluebonnets.

The Holy Spirit is alive and well among us. Thanks be to God

Dale Carmen, OEF



On Saturday, March 5, a small but intrepid group of Bluebonnet Franciscans converged in Waco, Texas for their somewhat annual Gathering. Alyssa (Magdalena) and Colin (Thomas) Stebbing came northwest from Huntsville, Texas. Neal Dunnigan came all the way from Kingfisher, Oklahoma. Rebecca Christian and Shannon Malburg, Wacoans, were also present.

The group met at Seventh & James Baptist Church for fellowship and late morning prayers and then headed to the World Hunger Relief Training Farm for a long, enjoyable lunch. At the Hunger Farm, we met up with Louann (nOEF) and Tom O'Bannion, who drove to the farm from the Texas savannah country near Austin for that part of the schedule.

(Continued on page 10)

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Submissions for the Epiphany 2017 issue of "Fiddlesticks" are being accepted immediately.

Deadline for submissions is December 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!



Regional News... continued

We lingered for quite some time at a picnic table on that beautiful spring day, visiting with the O'Bannions before they returned home. Then we returned to the church, where Neal's wife, Virginia Giglio, joined us for communion and Neal's novicing ceremony. Afterward the ceremony, the group caravanned to my house in Woodway for supper, and then dispersed into the vastness of Texas and Oklahoma. In the photo, from left: Colin (Br. Thomas) Stebbing, OSFM; Katie Cook, OEF; Neal Dunnigan, brand new OEF novice; Rebecca Christian, nOEF; Shannon Malburg, "Friend of the Bluebonnets"; Alyssa (Magdalena) Stebbing, OEF. Photo by Virginia Giglio.

Submitted by Katie Cook, OEF



Some Musings on Deep Listening

Br. John-Michael wrote:

Deep Listening is an expression of our contemplative charism. How do you practice this listening: in your home? Work? Ministry in daily life? What ways are you listening to God? What ways are you listening to your neighbors? Are you doing anything presently to further develop this gift.

Sr. Sharon, n/OEF responded:

Listening for me comes out of the practice of silence. Turn the TV off, unplug from all the electronics, do not answer the door, talk to anyone. Turn all words off in the mind and return to the chosen focus of just being. It is an amazing place deep in the arms of the divine. My dogs, the oak tree outside my window, live there all the time. They just are. I taught my dogs hand signals so I could join them. For me silence is the empty canvas on which everything is painted. It is the creative void in which all things are possible. When I am in a forest the silence is so living I can hear it. The silence of the stars in the mountains is so present I feel as if I can reach out and touch it.

Without inner silence I cannot listen. Words are dreadfully noisy things. My God lives in the living silence.

"Tell me, can I die tonight
From my darkness into light
Die but just a little way
Beyond myself into the day
Ageless angel who has formed me
To this fledgling, sheltered, warmed me
With your wisdom, help me me now
To hatch myself-----reveal me how
I can leave my littleness,
Pierce thought's thin, smooth brittleness,
Crack apart my sentient she'll
That holds me in this magic spell
And clamber through my own rim out
Into the stillness all about-----
Cause my selfish noise to cease
And enter your revealing peace."

---Arvia Mackaye Ege



LISTEN



Formation Station



Some new faces!

Stephan Gerhardt:



Stephan

I am a connoisseur of cloud-scapes, red wine, and all things romantic, especially Christmas. My greatest joy comes from serving others especially if it involves cooking or sharing my home with them.

At present, I am retired and living in Seattle, Washington with my wife Muriel and our cat, Buddy.

My spiritual life is centered around a church with a UCC affiliation called All Pilgrims Chris-

tian Church. My service at All Pilgrims includes facilitating the Spiritual Companion Team, caring for our communion servers and otherwise providing heart and hands where needed. I come to the OEF because I believe in my heart of hearts that you are the Franciscan community I have been longing for; a community that can embrace the idea that there is no one right religion; that in fact, there are many ways to relate to God and be of service in the world.



David Stofleth, of The Woodlands, TX, has been received as a Postulant in the OEF, as has his wife, **Billie**. They together are members of Trinity Episcopal Church, where our own Sister Magdalena Stebbing lives her ministry. As self-introduction, he offers:

I was introduced to OEF by Sister Magdalena Stebbing (OEF) via co-membership at Trinity Episcopal Church - The Woodlands, Texas. My most direct influence for desire of Franciscan Spirituality has been function of extensive study of Father Richard Rohr materials and morning email meditations via Father Richard through the C.A.C foundation.

I retired from my mainstream profession March 1st, 2012. I had been in aeronautical



David

technology since 1967. Worked as a line maintenance technician until 1983, then I transitioned to aircraft systems technical instruction specializing in avionics / electrical until said retirement.

I was born and raised near Evansville, Indiana, attended college in Saint Louis, lived and worked same places plus Chicago and Kansas City before moving to Texas in 1996. Worked and lived near San Antonio until 2000. Then came to Houston to work until retirement, and live in The Woodlands area and still here.

Br. Michael Vosler is serving as his Formation Counselor.



Billie Stofleth:

Hi! Billie here, actually my baptism name is Evila. A short bit about me...was born in Texas, moved to the Midwest with parents when I was four, (Detroit Michigan and around Mankato Minnesota, moved back to Texas when I was around ten, moved back to Midwest when I married - at nineteen, - Belleville IL.

I have two sons one stepson, and 7 grandchildren.

My last "paying" job was as a Certified Occupational therapy assistant, specialized in biofeedback, pain/stress management, and several hands on type of therapy. Also worked part-time as a massage therapist. Retired in 2010 to take care of my mother, who came to live with us then. She departed in 2011. I fell in Love with St. Frances in the 60's reading a novel called *A Joyful Beggar*. Have read several books about him since then, also took a workshop, listened to CDs' read Richard Rohr, etc. Last year did some "research" on the different types of Orders, settled on pursuing the one that seems to fit the best, talked to Alyssa Stebbing and her husband, Colin who gave us more information for us to pursue.



Billie

Sr. Anjelika Morse is serving as Billie's Formation Counselor.

Fiddlesticks
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A PRAYER FOR LEADERSHIP

BY JOAN CHITTISTER



Give us. Oh God,
 leaders whose hearts are large enough
 to match the breadth of our own souls
 and give us souls strong enough
 to follow leaders of vision and wisdom.

In seeking a leader, let us seek
 more than development for ourselves--
 though development we hope for,
 more than security for our own land--
 though security we need,
 more than satisfaction of our wants--
 though many things we desire.

Give us the hearts to choose the leader
 who will work with other leaders
 to bring safety
 to the whole world...

