

Saint Anthony Fraternity *Peace and All Good*  
Secular Franciscan Order  
Our Lady of the Rockies Region  
Western Area

May/June 2009  
Missoula, Montana  
USA  
Information :406-240-5249 (Jay)

#### Renewal of Professions

Three Franciscans professed years ago, received a Tau Cross after renewing their profession. They are: Alvina Cyr SFO, Mike East SFO and Sarah (Sally) Rehmer SFO. A Tau is worn daily and publicly as a sign of our promise to Christ to fully live and evangelize the Gospel. Like priests and sisters who wear robes other form of habit, wearing the Tau is the Franciscan laity habit.

#### Raffle Contest

Congratulations to Monica Doll, SFO, who won the raffle contest for a beautiful afghan blanket. The afghan was made by Alvina Cyr, SFO. Thank you Alvina!

#### Saint Anthony Bread

Saint Anthony Fraternity in Missoula will sell home-baked bread the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of June. Ministry Day. Please contact Chef Mike East SFO and Jane East SFO at 406-370-5395 for Fraternity baking time information.

#### Cedar Walk in Glacier

On Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup> anyone can attend our Franciscan Fraternity of Saint Anthony in a prayer walk in the Cedars in Glacier Park. We will meet at Saint Richards Parish in Columbia Falls at 9 AM. Please bring an item to share in a potluck picnic. Thanks go to Kitt Adams SFO of Dayton MT for her coordination of this walk. Contact Kitt at 406-240-9698 or Roseanne Jones at Immaculate Conception Parish 406-883-9698 for information.

#### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Debbie Sullivan SFO has returned from Israel. Many of her experiences there were at Franciscan sites and Mass was led by Franciscan Priests.

#### Mini-Retreat

In Dayton Montana overlooking beautiful Flathead Lake a half-day retreat is planned for July 11<sup>th</sup>. The theme for the retreat is "trustful surrender". A lunch will be available. Please phone Kitt Adams at 406-883-9698 or Roseanne Jones at Immaculate Conception Parish for more information and for costs. Thanks again go to Kitt for opening her home for this prayerful retreat. Those attending last year's retreat remember what a meaningful retreat it was. It promises to be very worthwhile to attend this retreat. If you wish to get a ride from Missoula, please contact anyone in the Saint Anthony Council for car pool information.

#### News from Hamilton

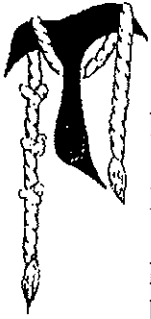
Saint Anthony member Rod Neilson SFO invited potential inquirers in a booth at the Hamilton Saint Francis of Assisi parish ministry day. He had materials to hand out to interested inquirers into the Franciscan way of life. Would any of our fraternity members ten parishes be interested?

#### Assisi Talk

A talk and movie entitled "A Pilgrimage to Assisi" was held at Blessed Trinity Parish Tuesday 19 May 12, 2009. John Neumann SFO spoke.

Wish a Happy birthday to:

Sister Judith Ann on June 2, Joan Lefler on June 19, Jane East on June 20, Margaret May on June 24



## National Visitation and Our Lady of the Rockies Region Elections

On May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, We held Our Lady of the Rockies Regional visitation from National Ministers, Patrick Mendes SFO and Fr. Stephen Gross OFM Comvenctual (Our National Spiritual Assistant Visitor) was held in Billings Montana at Saint Bernard Parish. The visitors explained Initial Formation and the Role of Spiritual Assistants. Both said "We are the largest Catholic world-wide Christian Family. We are, like all Christians in the process of being converted to following Christ more lovingly. Our Franciscan Family is made up of many parts all contributing something unique both individually and in our Fraternities." Spiritual and Formation Direction is about being loving servant leaders. Yet, they said that new training is needed so there are directives from Rome: There is some news on Formation of new and professed Franciscans: The National Formation Commission Chair Bob Fitsimmons SFO is on a team writing a new standardization of Formation guidelines. On June 26, 2009 each SFO Region will go to Lorretto Pennsylvania for training. OLRN will also host Bob Fitsimmons SFO in our Regional Retreat August 28-30 2009 in Great Falls.

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The result of the Regional Election:

Minister: Randy Heinz of San Damiano Fraternity in Billings	2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Vice Minister: John Neumann of St Anthony Fraternity in Missoula	1 <sup>st</sup> term
Formation Director: Bruce Ellis of San Damiano Fraternity in Billings	2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Treasurer: Kathleen Majerus of San Damien Fraternity in Billings	1 <sup>st</sup> term
Secretary: Janice Smith of Queen of Angels Fraternity in Billings	1 <sup>st</sup> term
Councilors:	
Western: Jay Gilmartin of Saint Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Missoula	1 <sup>st</sup> term
Central: Kathryn Poelman of St. Charles Borromeo Fraternity in Helena	2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Eastern: LeeRoy (Lee) Schouviller of San Damiano Fraternity in Billings	1 <sup>st</sup> term



**REMEMBER: Mark your calendars for the Regional Retreat August 28-30 at the Ursuline Center in Great Falls.**

## Similar Traits of St. Anthony and St. Francis

by Friar Jack Wintz, O.F.M.

In approximately two weeks, we celebrate the feast of St. Anthony of Padua on June 13. This is the date on which he died in 1231, some five years after the death of St. Francis. Because we are still celebrating the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan Order in 1209, it is a good time to reflect on the many traits that Anthony and Francis hold in common. In this edition of *Friar Jack's E-spirations*, I would like to single out five of these similarities:

1. Both Francis and Anthony are sometimes seen with the baby Jesus in their arms.

St. Francis once celebrated the feast of Christmas in a cave near the town of Greccio. Legend tells us that during Midnight Mass, the baby Jesus appeared in the straw-filled manger set up nearby and that St. Francis held the infant in his arms. Similarly, we often see statues of St. Anthony with the child Jesus in his arms. According to one legend, St. Anthony was praying in a little hermitage one night and a passerby saw the little cell where Anthony prayed fill up with light. And he saw Anthony holding the little child and talking to him. For several centuries, the image of Anthony holding the Christ child has been popular in many countries around the world. The basic message of the child held in the arms of Francis and Anthony is that our loving God, through the mystery of the Incarnation, has come to serve us as a humble human child. As we contemplate God's amazing generosity, we are inspired to do the same.

2. Both saints display great humility.

We can think of many times in Francis' life when he exhibited humility—for example, when he embraced the leper or when he shared his cloak with a beggar. Anthony's humble spirit, on the other hand, was revealed by the fact that he never boasted about the sublime level of education he had imbibed as an Augustinian friar in Portugal. He kept that hidden. In fact, most of the friars in Italy were not even aware of Anthony's great knowledge of Scripture. As we read in "First Life" of St. Anthony, he seemed to his Italian confreres "more skillful in washing kitchen utensils than in expounding the mysteries of Scripture." We remember, for example, the story of how Anthony and a few other Franciscan friars went to the little town of Forlì, Italy, to attend an ordination ceremony. The local superior could not find a friar willing to preach, so he finally turned to Anthony and insisted that he share with the invited guests whatever the Holy Spirit inspired him to say. Anthony humbly accepted the superior's request and preached brilliantly on the scriptures—to the amazement of all his listeners. Anthony's example helps us remember the instructive gospel passage: "All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (Lk 14:11).

3. Both Francis and Anthony preached to God's creatures.

St. Francis preaches to the birds in this fresco by Giotto. (CNS/Octavio Duran)

We are very familiar with the story of Francis preaching to the birds as well as the story of how he preached to and tamed the wolf of Gubbio, which had been viciously attacking the people of that town. There are other stories of Francis talking to creatures. We remember, too, his wonderful canticle to "Brother Sun" and "Sister Moon." I don't know if St. Anthony ever spoke to the birds or other animals. But there is a famous story that occurred in the town of Rimini near the sea. On that occasion, Anthony stood on a pier and preached to a large school of fish because the people of the town refused to pay attention to his sermon. Thanks to the profound respect that great friars like Francis and Anthony have shown to God's creatures, we are also inspired to do the same. Both saints help us come to realize that all creatures—along with humankind—make up one great family of creation.

4. Both Francis and Anthony felt called to preach the gospel to Muslims.

In the year 1219, while Christian Crusaders were in bloody combat with Muslim forces, St. Francis traveled to Damietta, Egypt, where he met with Muslim Sultan Malik al-Kamil. He tried to engage in peaceful dialogue with the sultan. He fearlessly sought to persuade his Muslim brother that Christ was the true way to salvation. Though Francis failed in this attempt, the sultan became his friend. It was not long after 1219 that St. Anthony left the Augustinians in Portugal to become a Franciscan friar and expressed his desire to preach the gospel to the Muslims in Morocco. In Francis and Anthony's desire to go among the Muslims, we see the beginning of the Franciscan charism of seeking to build bridges—rather than walls—between differing nations, races and religions. May we be inspired to imitate their example!

5. Both Francis and Anthony often sought to live the hermit's life.

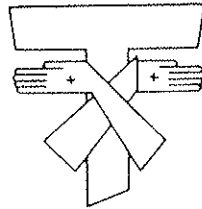
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Though Francis and Anthony were both highly effective preachers of God's word, they also tried to steal away to solitary places where they could find contemplative union with God—and thereby renew their love for God. There is evidence, for example, that Anthony followed St. Francis' example in searching for God as a contemplative in at least two different mountainside settings in Italy. One was in the hermitages near Monteluco high above the town of Spoleto. It is recorded that both saints spent time there. The other was at the more famous site of Mount La Verna, where St. Francis received the stigmata. Even today, pilgrims at La Verna can visit a cave known as the Oratory of St. Anthony as well as caves that St. Francis frequented. This mixture of the active and contemplative life as exhibited by both Francis and Anthony is still an ideal of Franciscan women and men today, not to mention the spiritual ideal clung to by many others seeking the face of God through contemplation.

**To learn more about St. Anthony, see our special offer on how to order an autographed copy of Friar Jack's book, Anthony of Padua: Saint of the People.**



*LORD, make me an  
instrument of your peace.*

#### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday June 10

Prayer Walk of the Cedars in Glacier Park. Phone Kitt or Rosanne for information

\*See article on front of this newsletter

Saturday June 13--Saint Anthony of Padua Feast Day

Fraternity Prayers at Loyola Chapel @ 9:30 sharp

Fraternity Social Gathering and Potluck @ Knights of Columbus 310 East Pine Street

\* note--avoid the Farmer's Market traffic!

Tuesday June 16th or by appointment--Formation and On-going Formation.

\* an opportunity to learn about Francis of Assisi

Saturday July 11th "Trustful Surrender"

\*Our annual retreat near Dayton.

\* see Article on page 1 of this newsletter

\* (important!) Phone Kitt or Rosanne for information