

Peace and All Good

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Blessed Luchesius and Buonadonna Franciscan Community of the Fountain Valley

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This newsletter is published for the membership of the Blessed Luchesius and Buonadonna Franciscan Community and Secular Franciscans of the greater Colorado Springs area who belong to our sister Fraternities of St. Francis de Sales or St. Anthony of Padua.

Community Status

Currently there are fourteen active professed members: Mary Champion, Pene Hargis, Sam Hargis, Andrea Jones, Cathy

King, Lewis King, Sharon Lammert, Steve Lammert, Cathy Snodgrass, Jim Snodgrass, Lynnette Snyder, Dennis Speer, Robin Speer, and Sharon Williamson.

There is one dispensed professed member: Freddy 'Kato' Kinhofer.

There are three Candidates in formation: Sandy Bower, Gladys Dierks, and Mary Schmitt.

We have no Inquirers in formation at this time.

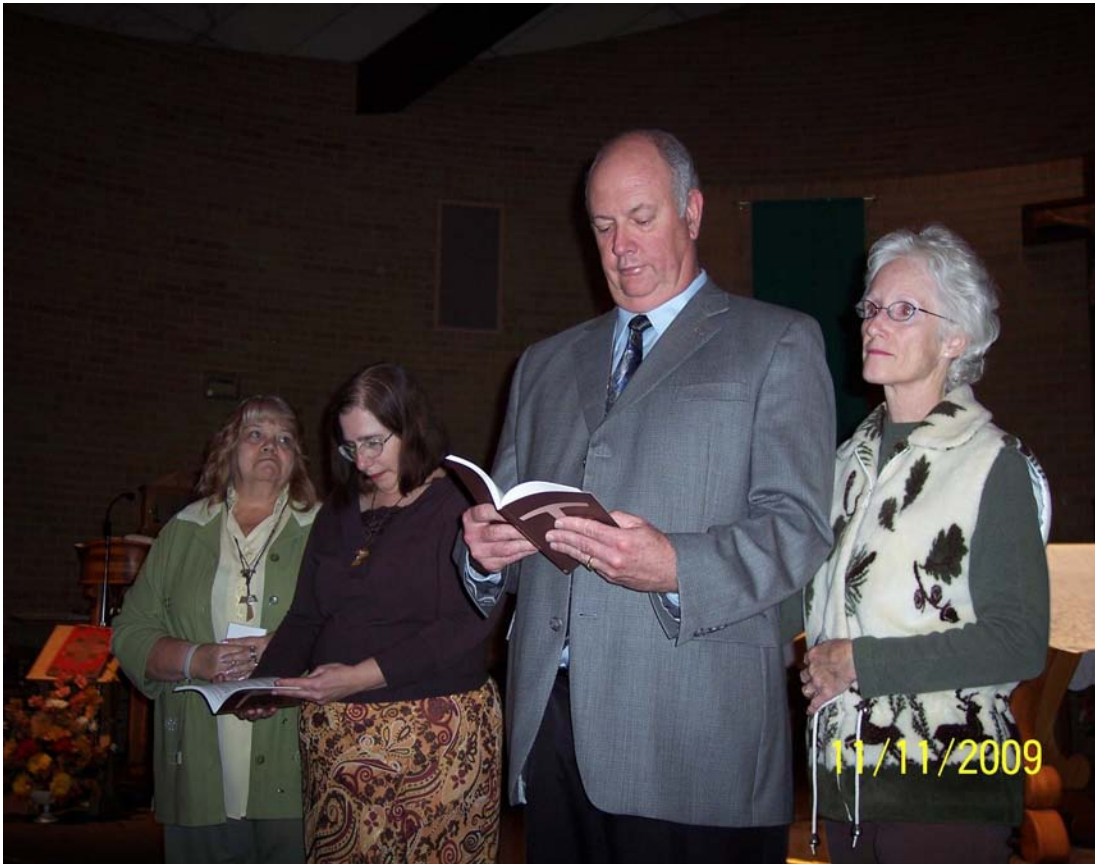
Community Council

Members of our Community's council are:

Jim Snodgrass, Minister
Robin Speer, Vice-Minister
Sharon Williamson, Secretary
Mary Champion, Treasurer

Cathy King, Formation Director
Pene Hargis, Councilor at Large
Fr. Bill Carmody, Spiritual Assistant

Formation Report



Rite of Profession was held on November 11 for Andrea Jones and Dennis Speer.

Pictured (L to R) during Profession Mass: Sharon Williamson, SFO, Sponsor; Andrea Jones, Candidate; Dennis Speer, Candidate; and Robin Speer, SFO, Sponsor.

A Word from the Minister

As we near the end of our current liturgical year, I take time for reflection upon this year of 2009. We had three Inquirers become Candidates, two Candidates who were professed. We've had several people attend our Visitor Orientation, so I am excited about the possibility of a new Inquiry formation group starting after the beginning of the year.

We continue to participate in many diocesan and parish activities bringing our Franciscan spirituality to those activities. It also allows us to grow in our spirituality together.

Our emerging community was approved by our Regional Fraternity, Santa Maria de las Montanas, for canonical establishment. See related article.

In this issue of the newsletter there is a page submitted by our sponsoring fraternity, St. Francis de Sales. They have decided that after several years of not publishing a newsletter to begin doing so this coming spring.

So let us approach 2010 with a spirit of optimism. May the Holy Trinity and the blessings of the Lord be with each of you.

Submitted by: Jim Snodgrass, SFO

Community Activities

Members participated in the following activities between July and December 2009:

July 17-19	Regional Retreat at St. Malo.
Aug 25	St. Louis IX of France Memorial Mass at the Catholic Center.
Sept 13	Parish Picnic.
Sept 17	Feast of the Stigmata Mass at the Catholic Center.
Sept 26	G 008 Candidate Retreat.
Oct 3	Transitus at Mount St. Francis.
Oct 4	Life Chain.
Oct 10-11	St. Dominic Ministry Fair.
Oct 29	Interfaith Hospitality Network – Franciscan night.
Nov 11	G 008 Profession Mass.
Nov 17	St. Elizabeth of Hungary Memorial Mass at the Catholic Center.
Dec 8	Immaculate Conception Hour of Grace at St. Dominic.

Financial (July 1 to Nov 30, 2009)

	Common Fund	Special Fund	Total
Beginning Balance	\$765.50	\$450.05	\$1215.55
Contributions	\$781.00	\$0.00	\$781.00
Expenses	\$257.22	\$444.19	\$701.41
Ending Balance	\$1289.28	\$5.86	\$1295.14

Approximate Current Tithe to St. Dominic Building Fund \$78.10

Approximate Yearly Tithe to St. Dominic Building Fund \$150.00

Final figures are dependent upon December's contributions.

Submitted Articles

Submitted articles are published in their entirety without being edited and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Blessed Luchesius and Buonadonna Franciscan Community, the officers, the membership as a whole, or the editor.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is a network of area churches that host homeless families for a week supplying these folks with meals and a place to sleep. As a participating member, St. Dominic Catholic Church hosted the families from October 25 through November 1. Candidate formation group 9 was assigned this apostolate for the night of October 29. Their reflections follow.

Since we hosted the three homeless families at our parish I have a picture of them in front of my mind and it does not leave me. I still think of them. I wonder where they are now and what they are doing. Are they any better than where we left them that Sunday morning? Have they met someone that can help them more than we were able to? Is the world really going to change for the better? How would those children grow up when their beginning is so severely harsh? How do those single mothers feel every moment of the day? Mother, help guide me where should I go from here?

Submitted by Mary Schmitt, Candidate

I am grateful our parish is involved with the IHN program and I had a chance to help with the dinner. I realize without this program families would be split apart and possibly living on the street. The IHN program gives them a chance to stay together and move toward a more stable and productive life.

Submitted by Sandy Bower, Candidate

This is my first experience with the IHN program. My understanding was that our church was going to provide people in the IHN program food and a place to stay for a week. The Franciscans were providing the meal for Thursday night. Mary, Sandy and I were asked to set out the food and later do any necessary clean up. Setting out the food took very little time at all, so I found myself sitting around with the other Franciscans. While sitting there several questions came to my mind about the IHN program. For instance, who qualifies for this program? Where do they get food and shelter the rest of the time? Who provides them with the other necessities of life? How long can they be in the program? Our Minister of the Franciscans kindly provided us with the answers to many of these questions. Meanwhile, I kept thinking that I should introduce myself and talk with the ladies in the IHN program, but I wasn't comfortable enough to do so. The program appears to be successful for what it is intended. It provides a helpful hand for those temporarily in need. And, is in line with the philosophy of the Franciscans.

Submitted by Gladys Dierks, Candidate

Tri - Fraternities Summer Gathering

Sunday, August 9, the Blessed Luchesius and Buonadonna Franciscan Community hosted the second annual southern Colorado Franciscan gathering. All secular Franciscans in the Colorado Springs and Pueblo area along with the Capuchins of the Catholic Center, the Sisters of St. Francis of Mount St. Francis, and Third Order Episcopalian Franciscans were cordially invited to attend.

Coordinating this effort for the Blessed Community was Steve Lammert, SFO. Sister Dorothy Schlaeger, OSF gave a wonderful presentation on the TAU cross. It was a special time for all to share themselves with others.

Transitus of St. Francis

On October 3, 2009 our community gathered at St. Francis of Assisi parish to celebrate once again the Transitus of St. Francis. Each time I have celebrated the Transitus of St. Francis I have felt even closer to the truth of him. I see him fully human with all of our frailties and graced with all of the strength needed to go to God in peace. Francis' unique character was and is transformative. His witness continually transforms me. I can hear him saying, "My daughter, I know where you need to go. Trust me. I know."

Submitted by: Cathy King, SFO

Annual Life Chain

It has been a busy weekend for our community. Those who could gathered together from 2:30pm to 3:30pm on Academy Blvd and Austin Bluffs Parkway to stand for life from the womb to the tomb. We stood with prayers in our hearts and love for all those who do not understand. We stand as light to the world. All life is pure gift. This truth will never change.

Submitted by: Cathy King, SFO

Canonical Establishment

On July 26, 2009, representatives of our Regional Fraternity, Santa Maria de las Montanas visited us in response to our request to become a canonical established fraternity. We had been an "emerging community" for the required three years and were eager to move forward in our community's development.

Visiting us was Fr. Felix Petrovsky, OFM Cap as spiritual visitor and Mary Anne Lenzi, Regional Minister as fraternal visitor. It was nice to welcome them back since they had last visited us three years earlier in response to our request at that time to move from a "newly forming group" to "emerging community" status.

Our visitors recommended our current request and the Regional Fraternity's Executive Council approved it on September 18, notifying me the next day.

On December 16, members of our community and representatives of the Regional Fraternity meet with Bishop Sheridan to sign the formal paperwork. Representing the Bl. Community were Mary Champion, SFO, Cathy King, SFO,

Sharon Lammert, SFO, Steve Lammert, SFO, Dennis Speer, SFO, Lynnette Snyder, SFO, Sharon Williamson, SFO, Mistin Williamson, and Jim Snodgrass, SFO. Representing the Regional Fraternity in addition to Fr. Felix and Mary Anne were Tom McMahan, Councilor at Large, Julieta Bauserman, Treasurer, and DJ Walker, Formation Director and Minister of our sponsoring fraternity St. Francis de Sales.

Submitted by: Jim Snodgrass, SFO.



Seated (l to r): Fr. Felix Petrovski, OFM Cap, Bishop Michael Sheridan, and Monsignor Ricardo. Standing (l to r): Mistin Williamson, Sharon Williamson, SFO, Dennis Speer, SFO, Jim Snodgrass, SFO, Cathy King, SFO, Sharon Lammert, SFO, Mary Champion, SFO, Steve Lammert, SFO, and Lynnette Snyder, SFO.

Upcoming Community Gatherings

Jan 24, 2010

Mar 28, 2010

May 23, 2010

Feb 28, 2010

Apr 25, 2010

Jun 27, 2010

Upcoming Community Activities

- Jan 3 Canonical Establishment of Bl. Luchesius and Buonadonna Franciscan Community at St. Dominic, 7:00 PM.
- Jan 16 Rosary for Life and Mass at Planned Parenthood.
- Jan 18 Bishop's Respect Life Mass at St. Mary Cathedral, Rally at Acacia Park and march to Planned Parenthood.
- Jan 30 Franciscan Retreat, *Padre Pio*, at St. Dominic.
- Lent 40 Days Vigil for Life at Planned Parenthood.
- Lent Friday night fish dinner followed by Stations of the Cross.
- Apr 2 Living Stations of the Cross at St. Dominic.
- Apr 3 RCIA Elect Luncheon at St. Dominic.
- Apr 28 Bl. Luchesius & Buonadonna Mass at St. Dominic.
- May 8 Mother's Day Rosary for Life and Mass at Planned Parenthood.
- June 15 Father's Day Rosary for Life and Mass at Planned Parenthood.



Seated (l to r): Fr. Felix Petrovski, OFM Cap and Bishop Michael Sheridan.

A New Beginning
DJ Walker, SFO
Minister, St. Frances de Sales

“The central fact of our lives today is the absolute certainty that our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives in a way which is indeed miraculous. He has commenced to accomplish those things for us which we could never do by ourselves.”

Big Book, pg. 25

We know that we can begin a new life on any day of the year, at any hour or moment for that matter. Still, the changing of the seasons or the beginning of a new year often challenges us to look differently at what we are about, and make decisions for healthy change.

Why is it that taking time during this busy season to reflect on the past year's accomplishments is important? I believe it is because we often discount the many, many small steps of progress that go into a finished project. We can share easily all the stumbles and falls, trips and false starts, bruises and blemishes, but we find it harder to truly see the miraculous work of God in our past year's journey.

Recently I was privileged to sit in a conference room with a room full of Franciscans and Bishop Sheridan. The occasion was the signing of the canonical establishment of Blessed Luchesis and Buenadona Secular Franciscan Fraternity, better known as BL&B. It only took a moment to complete the task of signing the papers. It took years to reach the culmination of this simple act. I thought about the ups and downs, struggles, successes and tenacity to look for this small group of devoted followers of Francis. Immediately my mind went to Francis, barefoot,

dressed in rags, WALKING to Rome to seek approval for his radical ideas. And yet he persevered.

While I was not around at the beginning of this idea for a new fraternity in Security, I am very blessed to be around for the official announcement and send off from St. Francis de Sales. Growth can be “scratchy” as my business partner, Margo, says, and requires the ability to heal, grow, and forgive. Being a part of that process, has been good for me, and hopefully good for all involved.

Let us bring in this new year with a spirit of transformation. As St. Bonaventure stated, “All things are said to be transformed in the transfiguration of Christ...For as a human being, Christ has something in common with all creatures. With the stone he shares existence; with plants he shares life; with animals he shares sensation; and with the angels he shares intelligence. Therefore, all things are said to be transformed in Christ.” How about you? Will you open yourself to His desire to transform some part of Your life this new year? Or will you stand firm in old ways of thinking, praying, caring, sharing? Afraid of change, afraid to forgive, afraid to put yourself out there because new experiences can be scary.

Welcome with me the new year in a spirit of courage for the experiences yet unknown to us but for which God will bring us through, and for the triumphs, also unknown, that may be hard earned and won through the process of praying with tenacity.

We are Franciscans! We will prevail! We are united with millions of brothers and sisters throughout the entire world, who together will sing the praises of God, the joy of the Blessed Mother, and the humility of Francis and Clare. Happy New Year! Alleluia!

2009 De Sales' Formation Tales

A New Formation Team



In June 2009, a new formation team was developed for the St. Francis de Sales fraternity. It consist of (left to right) Chris Hickman sfo, Jim Dikes sfo, Sr. Carmela Trujillo OSF, and Richard Gladfelter sfo.

Ongoing Formation



June 12 and 13, 2009, the Franciscan Action Network brought the team of Ken Preston (right), and

Peter Sloan (left) to Mount St. Francis in Colorado Springs to conduct a Franciscan Peacemaking retreat.

The Franciscan tradition of peacemaking is an integral part of the larger global peacemaking experience. Franciscans and Franciscan-hearted people bring more than 800 years of peacemaking practice to conflict and violence.

The conference was attended by individuals from around the country. Participants explored and deepened their commitment to being "instruments of peace," through prayer, faith reflection, and skills training.

The St. Francis de Sales formation team continued the momentum started by the peacemaking retreat. The fraternity has continued exploring this

predominant Franciscan charism in their ongoing formation and at October's day of reflection.



October Day of Reflection: (left to right) Richard Gladfelter, SFO, Phil Peloquin (visitor), and Don Bishop (inquirer).

Initial Formation

The fraternity was proud to welcome Sandi Grey into candidacy on November 1st.



Rite of Admission Nov 1: (left to right) Richard Gladfelter, SFO, Chris Hickman, SFO, Sandi Grey (candidate), DJ Walker, SFO

The fraternity also has the following 2009 aspirants participating in formation:

Dennis Markle, inquirer
Don Bishop, inquirer
Phil Peloquin, visitor

Notes from the Editor!

Dennis Speer has graciously accepted the position of Newsletter Editor effective January 1, 2010. Please continue to support Dennis with contributions as you have me.

Our sister Fraternity of St. Francis de Sales is going to start publishing a newsletter. You may submit articles of interest to them. They will publish the spring and fall issues while we continue publishing the summer and winter issues.

Your comments and suggestions about this newsletter are always welcomed. Also any pictures, stories, or items of interest to the Franciscan community of the greater Colorado Springs and Pueblo areas. Please submit via e-mail to Dennis Speer at dennis@ietpinc.com.

Have a safe and joy filled spring and summer.

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