



Issue No. 1

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## A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

**T**homas More, the patron saint of our fraternity, was born in London in 1478. He attended Oxford University and went on to distinguish himself as a great English author, scholar and renowned humanist of the Renaissance. His career in politics and government service had even more luster. Under the patronage of King Henry VIII, his friend and favorite, he rose through the ranks of the royal court to become a royal councilor, and an ambassador.

More was a devout Catholic. He attended daily Mass and Communion and was often pleased and proud to assist the priest with the service. He was also a member of the Third Order of Saint Francis.

When Henry VIII divorced his wife, Catherine of Aragon and married Anne Boleyn he was excommunicated by the Church. Those who speculate about such matters suggest that a slight wink and a nod from Sir Thomas could have kept the King in fine fettle with the Church. More, however, was not so inclined though he remained

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*I die the King's good  
servant, and God's first.*

—St. Thomas More

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silent about the situation in public.

When Henry set himself up as head of the Church of England, More refused to take an oath of loyalty to the King and resigned from his position. He was sent to

prison, convicted of treason and beheaded. His final words as he stepped onto the scaffold were: "I die the King's humble servant but God's first." Following his death, Robert Whittington tenderly summarized his life as a man for all seasons—a creative way of saying he was a true believer in fair weather and foul.

More was canonized, in 1935, 400 years after his martyrdom by Pope Pius XI. In 2000 he was designated "... the heavenly Patron Saint of Statesmen, Politicians and Lawyers" by Pope John Paul II.

In 1961, the virtuous life of Thomas More was portrayed in a play by Robert Bolt: *A Man for All Seasons*. Bolt, an avowed agnostic, was awestruck by the courage of this noble man. A year later, a film adaptation of the play won an Academy Award for Best Picture of the Year.

Pat Carr, *osf*  
Editor

**XX Quinquennial Congress Set for Phoenix – August 19-21, 2021**

# FRANCISCAN FRATERNITIES

## In Action Across The Region

### SAINT FRANCIS

A group of fraternity members regularly prays outside an abortion clinic in Phoenix. Others support *Helen's Hope Chest* serving children in foster care. The fraternity also supports the Friars of the Holy Spirit on the Gila River Indian Reservation and is starting a *YouthFra* group for the youth in St Mary's Parish. Some are involved with ministries in their parishes.

**Rosemarie LeClercq, ofs**, said she is involved in the Peace Day celebration at the Casa and helps the San Carlos and White River Apaches sell their crafts so they can pay their utility bills. **Nancy Brady, ofs** reminds us of upcoming *40 Days for Life* campaigns in Phoenix, Tempe, Glendale and Flagstaff. They will begin with a Mass presided by Bishop Olmstead on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 P.M. in St. Mary's Basilica.

### SAINT ANTHONY

Minister **Richard Villamana, ofs** said the primary apostolate for the fraternity is the Poverello House - a program serves 10 men, five days a week out of a small house in Tucson. The apostolate serves not only in the spirit of St. Frances but also in the

Catholic Worker tradition of Peter Marin and Dorothy Day. The fraternity also supports *The Arms of Saint Francis*, a shelter for the homeless.

### POPE SAINT JOHN XXIII

**Don Sada, ofs**, fraternity minister, said that the Secular Franciscans are



very active in Yuma. "We have an annual Retreat. We provide music for other churches. We visit the infirmed and collect hats and scarves for cancer patients. We support the Crossroads Mission for the homeless and the Poverello House in Tucson. We pray for the needs of the community and spend quality time in the adoration chapel."

### BLESSED SOLANAS CASEY

A re-activating fraternity in Yavapai County by Secular Franciscans from fraternities in other locations. They are currently studying the Liturgy of the Hours, General Constitution and the Rule. "We love the Lord and believe He has brought us together," said

Minister, **Gerard Glab, ofs**. The fraternity is currently engaged in apostolates for homebound as eucharistic minister and Windhaven an in-patient mental health facility. Their gathering is held at St. Joseph's Mission Church in Mayer.

### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Minister **Bob Bundy, ofs** says the members are currently involved in making burial shrouds for people in Haiti. They make monthly collections of paper products and non-perishable food items for St Vincent de Paul at St Maria Goretti Parish. They also and make gift bags for the homeless at the André House in Phoenix.

### PEACE

The Franciscans are actively serving in many local apostolates as individuals. They are also serving parish ministries i.e. St Vincent de Paul. Minister, **John Mulligan, ofs** said that the Franciscans assist at Mass as ushers and lectures. They serve as volunteers at the André House.

### SAINT MARGARET OF CORTONA

"Franciscans are supporting parish ministries as lectors and eucharistic

ministers,” according to Minister **Loretta Klem, ofs**. They are also serving the local homeless and collecting clothing and necessities for the Poverello House in Tucson. On occasion they visit the Poverello House to prepare meals for their guests.

#### **SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGRY**

“Our fraternity is involved in two apostolates,” said Minister **David Esquivel, ofs**. We support the Poor Clare Nuns in Tonopah and Saint Vincent de Paul in Safford. We are a small fraternity, but we are active and meet on the second Saturday of the month, at noon, in Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Hall in Solomon.

#### **SAINT CLARE OF ASSISSI**

“The fraternity is active in many ways,” said their Minister **Nancy Krappitz, ofs**. We support families in Guadalupe with food, clothing and financial assistance. We also support an animal shelter in White River. And, we participate in many ministries in the Corpus Christi Parish. We recently celebrated the 10th Anniversary of our Canonical establishment. And, we are also supporting a forming group in Apache Junction.

#### **SAINT DAEGUN ANDREW KIM**

Minister **Lucia Schultz, ofs**, relates many activities near and far from home. Every month Franciscans support *Feed My Starving Children* activities in Mesa. They donate to Franciscan missionary charities in North Korea, Zambia, and the Francis Care

Center in New York with cans and coins. They support the St. Columba Kim Roman Catholic Mission by serving on the pastoral council, liturgical ministries, i.e. sacristans, Eucharistic ministers and singing in the choir. They also engage in funeral coordination and cleaning bathrooms.

#### **BLESSED FRANZ JÄGERSTÄTTER**

“Our fraternity is active in many ministries for the St Francis de Asia Parish in Flagstaff,” said Minister **Joan Nordstrom, ofs**. We assist St. Vincent de Paul with a monthly food collection for their pantry. We also provide them with a quarterly donation of 10% of our Fair Share collections. We serve a monthly Saturday-morning breakfast for the hungry and homeless. JPIC participated in Flagstaff’s Earth Day Celebration, this year, along with members of the St. Paul Street Evangelization.

#### **SAINT MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE**

“Franciscans are active in their parishes as sacristans, eucharistic ministers, ushers and lectors,” said Minister **Phyllis Smith, ofs**. They are involved with St. Vincent de Paul, Our Lady of Solitude Monastery and Michael’s House for pregnant women. They also proudly sponsor a *Transitus* service for their community.

#### **APACHE JUNCTION GROUP**

There is a newly forming fraternity in Apache Junction. **Carolyn Peterson, ofs** is coordinating the effort and is pleased by the support from the brothers and sisters from the St Clare of Assisi Fraternity. They are

still deciding on a group apostolate, and individuals are involved in personal apostolates, i.e. working with a cancer support group, the church choir, a prison ministry and daily support for neighbors in need

### **SHARING AND CARING**

There are many interesting and important things going on within our region. While each fraternity is different we all have something to contribute for the common good. The newsletter was designed and developed to facilitate communication within the region and enable us to accomplish things working together that we may not be able to accomplish working in isolation and alone. We tried to follow guidelines and suggestions provided in *A PR Manual for the Secular Franciscan Order*. It is intended for local fraternities, regional fraternities and the Catholic communities that they serve.

Also, please note well, this newsletter is the only source of news in the world that cares about Secular Franciscans in Arizona and Southern Nevada. We hope you will take advantage of the opportunity that it offers to share your thoughts, ideas and suggestions with our region.

**-The Executive Council  
St Thomas More Region**

For your convenience our Web-address, in the masthead of this newsletter, has a hot link to our Website. Check it out and let us know if you encounter any issues. Thank you.

## St. Thomas More Region – Executive Council



Jane DeRose-Bamman, Steve Roszhart, Linda Ressler, Julianne Hartzell, Bill Neu, Jane Lowell-Chroniak, Mary Esther Stewart, Patrick Carr, Brother Alexander Escalera, Brother Bob Brady.

### WHO ARE THE SECULAR FRANCISCANS?

According to our rule:

We are accepting of others (Art. 13)

We are promoters of Justice (Art. 15)

We are Peacemakers (Arts. 17 & 19)

We are lovers of all creatures and creation (Art. 18)

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