

# LA TILMA

NEWSLETTER OF OUR LADY OF GUADLUPE EMPRESS OF THE AMERICAS  
REGION OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER #75

Vol 4: Issue 6 FALL 2014



# 2014 NAFRA

**“ BE THE JOYFUL FACE OF CHRIST TO ALL”**  
(NAFRA Theme for 2015)

**NAFRA 2014**  
**Lake Dallas, Texas - October 21-26, 2014**

**Hosted by OLG Region and Los Tres Compañeros**

For 12 months there was much preparation and planning between the two regions. As Co-hosts we needed to ensure that the 2014 NAFRA meeting would run smoothly. Los Tres Compañeros Regional Minister, Josh Molidor, OFS, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Regional Minister, Donna Hollis, OFS, planned and worked hard to make sure this would be an awesome time for all participating.

There were many ideas to create and put into implementation. Our regions worked closely together with members of the NEC to coordinate everything. All the local Fraternity posters were posted on the walls of the meeting room. The National family was able to view them and were impressed with them. Our gifts were appreciated and they really enjoyed them.

The ambiance of the Center lent itself to places of reflection and tranquility. The peacefulness of the grounds helped everyone to relax and enjoy themselves. Many said that this NAFRA was the BEST time ever they have had together. Coming together from all parts of the United States was absolutely unifying and lovingly supportive. Of 30 Regions, 29 Regional Ministers or Representatives were present.

Because of the size of the retreat center, everyone was able to have their own room which was a plus for those who had late night meetings after the regular meetings, not to mention planning/setting up for the next day!

This was a time to get to know one another even more deeply and especially welcoming our new Regional Ministers. The National family is a large family but yet small enough to get to know each other personally and be supportive of the endeavors in the various Regions.

*(Continue on page 3)*





## FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER'S DESK



**Fall is the Season for changes; “There is an appointed time for everything and a time for every event under the heavens...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)**

Life is not about how long we live but a series of moments, marking our souls forever. Each time we begin anew, we enter a new phase of life intent on enriching our relationship with God through the inspiration of St. Francis, St. Clare and our Brothers and Sisters.

Our Fraternities go through changes and growths so we can continue to bear seeds of hope, faith, and direction for the future which we pass on to others. The Gospel life. We also go through a conversion which is opening up to God's Grace and allowing the Spirit to penetrate our hearts and the Spirit within us to be renewed. The Lord's response to our openness is to transform us into what He created us to be. It is a lifetime process.

In Ephesians Chapter 4, it states, “I urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the UNITY of the Spirit through the BOND OF PEACE....”. The Lord has given each one of us different gifts to use for the good of our Fraternities. May I encourage each and every one of you to accept one another's diversity and gifts. Don't allow divisions to create a chasm between one another. Remember who you are and what our calling is! To show love to one another! Can we be Jesus to one another in the midst of differences? When we find ourselves in a hurtful place with another member of the Fraternity, may we ask ourselves, how would Jesus treat them? How are we treating them? The Sacrament of Reconciliation opens our hearts to receive healing and allow the spirit of forgiveness to take hold.

May we seek to listen to each other, voice our concerns in trust and love so that we can begin to learn to dialogue with each other knowing that each person has a part of the truth that we need to hear. May we become the image of Christ to one another.

The foundation of the Franciscan way of life is Jesus Christ. To follow St. Francis' example is to strive with all our bodies, minds and spirit to go from 'Gospel to life' and 'life to Gospel'. To begin to accomplish that, we must know the Gospel of Jesus in order to live our lives in accord with it. To know the Gospel we must know the Lord personally.

**Lord make me an Instrument of your Peace.**

**Where there is hatred (division), let me sow love to those I am having a hard time with.**

**Where there is injury (hurt), let me sow pardon, forgiveness and repentance  
of my own actions to others and they to me.**

**Where there is doubt (no direction), let me sow faith in my belief.**

**Where there is despair (giving up attitude), let me sow hope,  
trusting that the Lord will see us through.**

**Where there is darkness ( can't see a way out), let me sow light,  
reflecting the truth/direction that will set us all free.**

**Where there is sadness (broken heart/grief), let me sow perfect joy  
with a heart full of consolation and acceptance in order to bring about healing.**



**We receive consolation, understanding and love by reaching out to others in our brokenness. May the Lord continue to transform us and in doing so transform our Fraternities into His living Presence of peace and unity.**

**My love and prayers remain with each of you, Donna**

The small group discussions were very helpful and insightful regarding the needs, issues and joys of our Fraternities. Donna said that across the board, all Regions are facing the ‘aging’ of members and the need to bring in new and younger members to our Fraternities in order to ensure the growth and stability of future members to lead the Secular Franciscan Order onwards. A Young adult Festival was to be held in Austin, Texas, on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Everyone was asked to send someone to the festival. Sofia and Arturo Villarreal, OFS, took some youth from our Region and attended this festival. The youth and young adult group (SHINE) are focusing on bringing the next generation of Catholics closer to Christ through Franciscan spiritual experiences. SHINE is creating local, regional and national experiences for Catholics under 35 in the United States to explore their spirituality and experience the Franciscan charism.

**National Challenge – Beginning 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent 2014 through February 2, 2016 – Pope Francis has declared a ‘Year of Consecrated Life (YCL)’.**

*It was suggested that we gather as Regions and do some kind of activity with our First, Second and Third Orders. Make known our presence and get to know our brothers and sisters living the consecrated life.*

(Continued on page 4)



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**A prayer with our Holy Founder Francis which is not the more famous prayer universally attributed to him. Francis lived this prayer, but never prayed According to Kajetan Esser, OFM. It is included among the oldest of his writings. Saint Francis gave it the name, *Oratio ante Crucifixum*, or "The Prayer before the Crucifix". It has been translated from the original Italian *volgare* of his day to:**

***Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out Your holy and true command.” We pray in Jesus’ name.***



2014 NAFRA

Priorities set for 2012-2015  
Communication, Vocations, Youth,  
Outreach.

National Minister, Deacon Tom Bello, of



(Continued on page 5)

# 2014 NAFRA



Co-Host Donna Hollis, OFS,  
Regional Minister,  
OLG Region #75 (*West Texas-New Mexico*)  
and  
Arturo Villarreal, OFS, National Councilor  
(from El Paso, Texas)



*(Continued on page 6)*

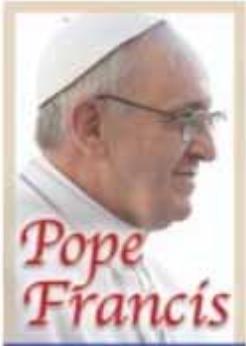


Co-Host  
Josh Molitor, OFS, Regional Minister,  
Los Tres Compañeros Region #67  
(*East and South Texas*)

# Indulgences for the Year of Consecrated Life

Vatican City, 28 November 2014

## **The Holy Father, on the occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life, concedes plenary indulgences.**



The Holy Father, on the occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life, will concede plenary indulgences, with the customary conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer in keeping with the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff) to all members of the institutes of consecrated life and other truly repentant faithful moved by a spirit of charity, starting from the first Sunday of Advent this year until 2 February 2016, the day of the closure of the Year of Consecrated Life. The indulgence may also be offered for departed souls in Purgatory.

*(continued on page 8)*



## **From Your Regional Formation Director's Desk — Chrystal Holley, OFS**



Every two years the Formation Directors in our region gather for training and discussion. This Biennial Formation Director Gathering happened this summer from June 20-22 at Roger Bacon Seminary in El Paso, Texas.

Since two years have passed that Formation Directors received FUN Training I over our new FUN manuals, the Formation Team along with the Region Executive Council, decided this would be the time to begin FUN Training II. This training covered how to use the FUN manual in different ways and more information about what is in it.

We especially included conflict resolution training and discernment training for councils on discerning whether a person should be professed with the fraternity. Eleven fraternities were represented with 5 fraternities unable to attend.

The Region Formation Team will concentrate this year on making sure newly elected fraternities have FUN Training I, and next year we will bring FUN Training II to the various areas.



# Regional Executive Council

## Elections are right around the corner.

Election of a new Regional Executive Council will be conducted at the Annual Regional Meeting to be held at Roger Bacon Seminary, El Paso, TX, on March 13-15, 2015. Our fraternity ministers will decide by secret ballot who the next Regional Executive Council members will be to lead our region for the next three years.

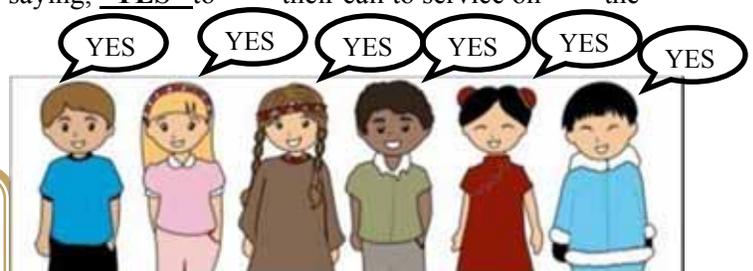
We have been so blessed with strong leadership in our Region. Our Regional Executive Councils have done a magnificent job. We have also been blessed with a strong presence in what is happening at the National and International level. We have a member of our Region who is currently on the National Executive Council, Arturo Villarreal, OFS, (*St Patrick Fraternity – El Paso, Texas*). In 2006, Victor Xuereb, OFS (*St. Anthony Fraternity – Albuquerque, New Mexico*) was nominated to the position International Councilor on CIOFS. Also, in the past one of our Regional Formation Directors, Rena Xuereb, OFS, (*St. Anthony Fraternity – Albuquerque, New Mexico*), was on the National Formation Team that put together the “FUN” manual we all use to help with formation. The Holy Spirit has truly guided our Ministers in selecting the members of our Regional Executive Councils.

Through the leadership of the current Regional Executive Council, our Minister, Donna Hollis, OFS (*Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity – Las Cruces, New Mexico*), and Vice-Minister, Cathy Pierce, OFS, (*St Anthony Fraternity – Albuquerque, New Mexico*), our Region has grown even stronger. They are the ones who have steered us in the right direction. It is through their leadership that we were blessed once again to co-host the National Executive Council meeting in Dallas, Texas, this year. We teamed up with the Los Tres Compañeros Region to co-host the NEC meeting. NAFRA 2014 went off smoothly and the positive responses that echoed from those who attended reached all the way back to us as a reflection of each of us in both regions. Our Regional Formation Director, Chrystal Holley, OFS, (*Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Fraternity – Plainview, Texas*), has built up the Formation Team in our Region who has been so important in the development of our Franciscan charism. She has worked long hours in developing a strategy to inform and train members in our region about their Franciscan vocation. Our new Regional Treasurer, Ruth M. Nevarez, OFS, (*Queen of Angels Fraternity—El Paso, Texas*) is working hard at keeping track of the finances in our Region, and she is developing a system that will help us understand and get a grasp of the in’s and out’s of the Region’s monies. It is a hard job, but she has truly done a great job for us. The Regional Council: Bonnie Hardwick, OFS, (*Saint Francis Fraternity – Santa Fe, New Mexico*) has been there not only in giving of her wisdom, time, and understanding, in all kinds of issues that have come up in our region, but has also helped by being an Area Representative. Our Regional Secretary, Bonnie Franco, OFS, (*Mary Immaculate Fraternity—El Paso, Texas*) has done an outstanding job in recording the official minutes of the Regional Executive Council, and has also provided valuable understanding in guiding our region. Our Regional Spiritual Assistant, Brother Gordon Boykin, OFM, has been the glue that holds all together.

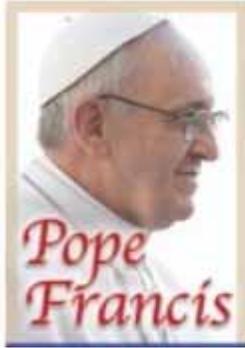
We have and are truly blessed with all those who have served and are now serving our region. They have given of their time and talents to guide our region and make it the success it is today. We all need to remember to thank them for their service to our region, and thank our Lord for their saying, “**YES**” to their call to service on the Regional Executive Council.

Let us all keep in prayer and ask that once again the Holy Spirit guide our Ministers in electing a council that will continue to build up our Region.

**Is the Lord calling you to serve on the next Regional Executive Council of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas?**



Who will say “YES” to the next Regional Executive Council of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas?



*Continued from page 6*

**The Holy Father, on the occasion of the Year of  
Consecrated Life,  
concedes plenary indulgences,**



Indulgence may be obtained:

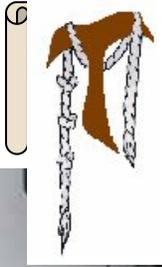
- In Rome, in participation in the International meetings and celebrations established in the calendar of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life, and pious reflection on for a suitable period of time, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate approved form, and invocations of the Virgin Mary.
- In all the particular Churches, during the days devoted to consecrated life in the Diocese, and during Diocesan celebrations organized for the Year of Consecrated Life, by visiting the cathedral or another sacred place designated with the consent of the Ordinary of the place, or a convent church or oratory of a cloistered monastery, and publicly reciting the Liturgy of the Hours or through a suitable period of time of devout reflection, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate approved form, and pious invocations of the Virgin Mary.
- Members of the Institutes of Consecrated Life who, on account of ill health or other serious reasons are prevented from visiting these sacred places, may nonetheless receive a Plenary Indulgence if, completely detached from any type of sin and with the intention of being able to fulfil the three usual conditions as soon as possible, devoutly carry out the spiritual visit and offer their illness and the hardships of their life to God the merciful through Mary, with the addition of the prayers as above.



**New Saint Patrick Fraternity Council - 2014**

L to R: Adelina Frisbie, Formation Director; Sofia Villarreal, Minister; Michael Avalos, Vice-Minister; Socorro Lopez, Treasurer; Rose Avalos, Secretary; Cecilia Telles and Richard Gutierrez, Councilors





# ELECTIONS



## SAN LUIS REY EL PASO NOVEMBER 23, 2014

**MINISTER:**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> TERM**

**EVA AGUILAR, OFS**

**VICE MINISTER:**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> TERM**

**CARMEN DE LA CRUZ, OFS**

**SECRETARY:**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> TERM**

**MARIA GUADALUPE SANCHEZ, OFS**

**TREASURER:**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> TERM**

**MARIA GUADALUPE AGUILAR, OFS**

**FORMATION DIR:**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> TERM**

**CARMEN AGUILAR, OFS**

**COUNCILOR # 1**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> TERM**

**ELENA REYES, OFS**

**COUNCILOR # 2**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> TERM**

**IMELDA AGUILAR, OFS**



# What has been happening at "your" Fraternity lately?



## Afternoon with St. Francis Our Lady of Guadalupe, Las Cruces

Sunday, August 3, 2014, was a day to remember St. Francis in Las Cruces, New Mexico, at Holy Cross Retreat Center. The two Secular Franciscan fraternities, Santa Isabel de Hungria and Our Lady of Guadalupe, welcomed everyone from various churches in the area to see what Franciscan life is all about. People came from Las Cruces, Truth or Consequences and



Alamogordo to eat, pray and learn about the 3 orders of Francis, stories, symbols and create birdfeeders and mobiles. Our various members recounted stories about Francis and the birds, fish and the wolf. We even danced to the Peace Prayer in the grassy area with members Donna Hollis and John Eric Munson. Father Vincent Peterson spoke about the way nature influenced his paintings. A fun time was held by all.

# Mary Immaculate Fraternity, El Paso, TX



## Mary Immaculate of El Paso Takes Time to Reunite

The Fraternity took time this year to focus on building a more united community. The main focus was getting to know each other better. Members brought a baby picture of themselves. Once they were all posted on the board, members tried to figure out who was who. It was a lot harder than you would think. Your newsletter editor was the only fraternity member that was guessed by all right off the bat. Vicka stood out for all.



Bridges were built by redefining common goals and purpose. Everyone was able to ask questions and the fraternity as a whole was able to respond. The main apostolate of “feeding the poor” was clarified and all agreed to continue it. The second apostolate of supporting each others individual calling to service was discussed and members shared their need to support each others second calling.



A lot of prayer, love, food for heart, mind, and soul with a touch of wine set the tone for a wonderful experience.



Sister Sheila  
Patenaude, FMM

## Why is the Franciscan Third Order also called “The Order of Penance”?

### Why is the Franciscan Third Order also called “The Order of Penance”?

When I heard the Order called “the Order of Penance” I used to cringe, because images of extreme groups of “Penitentes” near Taos, NM, or in travel documentaries of the Philippines brought up images that seemed almost masochistic to me. But these extreme aberrations were simply an outgrowth of well-intentioned cultural practices in Spain during the time of colonialism, practiced by Christians who sincerely thought they must inflict the same punishments on themselves as Christ endured. These practices did not last and were pronounced unacceptable by the Church.

The real reason we are called “The Order of Penance” is because this is how St. Francis envisioned himself and his followers. This title follows logically from the **poverty and humility of God** we are also called to share in and which is stressed so much in modern Franciscan theology and in our recent FUN manual of formation. This can include several things:

- recognizing our gifts and talents, but giving thanks to God for them
- recognizing our limitations and sins (these are our own!)
- being aware of our mistakes
- assuming our personal and social responsibility for evils, instead of always blaming others
- undergoing constant and ongoing “metanoia”, conversion, and transformation.

By our Rule and Constitutions we enter with full deliberation upon the Franciscan way of penance, undertaken with such love and generosity by our Seraphic Father. But even Francis himself did not get there all at once. His whole life was a gradual and marvellous ‘transformation’ into Christ; we can distinguish the successive stages he passed through from the moment when he bent to kiss the leper and ‘what had previously nauseated

him became a source of spiritual and physical consolation to him' (Testament), up to the receiving of the Stigmata. The refashioning of this man was by then complete – his whole being had undergone a metamorphosis. From a generous but worldly youth the 'new man' had been brought into being—the man of the Gospel, so deeply one with Christ that even in his flesh he bore the marks of the Crucified. "The secret of his conversion is told us by St. Francis himself. It began not with himself, but with God: 'God inspired me, Brother Francis, to embark upon a life of penance' (Testament). And yet this very same Francis would say to his brothers towards the end of his life: 'Let us begin brothers, to serve the Lord God, for up to now we have made little or no progress.' (I Celano, 103)." (quotation from *An Open Door to the Franciscan Way*, Rome: 1981, pp. 15-17). To close, I would like to cite an unusual, but very true definition of humility that I heard during my annual retreat: "Humility does not mean thinking less of ourselves, but thinking of ourselves less"! Perhaps we can think of at least one person in our life who has embodied this; would that we might do the same...

-Sr. Sheila Patenaude, FMM, Spiritual Asst., O.L. of Guadalupe Fraternity

P.S.

Dear family and friends, Please remember in your prayers, Sr. Mary Anne Williamson, FMM, one of our American Sisters who serves as a doctor in our East African province. Her request to volunteer to help with the Ebola epidemic in Liberia has been accepted, and she has now been missioned temporarily to our West African province of Liberia/Ghana, where she will help our five Sisters there who are working with the diocese and other religious congregations, as well as with Doctors Without Borders, to do what they can to cope with the crisis situation.

We received news that the Liberian Diocese has opened 18 clinics throughout Liberia to serve those ill with Ebola. Our Sisters in Kenya gave a big hug to say farewell to Mary Anne, because in Liberia everyone is required to stay 3 feet away from each other, so she won't get any hugs there for awhile!!!

Please keep all the generous, self-sacrificing health workers caring for Ebola victims in your prayers (both here and abroad), as well as the patients themselves. Many thanks.

Sr. Sheila Patenaude, fmm Spiritual Assistant,  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity, Las Cruces

## Let Us Pray

### Our sister Sophia Leyba:

*She lived in Domingo, Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Cuba, NM, where Sixto and she owned and operated the Town and Country Store for 25 years. She was a member of Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Santa Maria 317, a member of the St. Francis Fraternity and a member of the Golden Agers at Our Lady of Annunciation Church. Sophie had a love of travel and shared great times with friends or with Dorothy -- her camera was always ready to take another perfect picture.*

*A Rosary was recited Friday, September 19, 2014, 8:00 a.m. Mass was at 8:30 a.m. officiated by Monsignor Voorhies at Our Lady of The Annunciation Catholic Church at 2532 Vermont St NE 87110. Interment followed.*

*Arturo Olivas, ofs*



## Regional Prayer Line



Regional Prayer Line Coordinator  
Virginia Gregory - "Gigi"  
[gggregory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gggregory@sbcglobal.net)

Our Prayer Line is well and growing. More Brothers and Sisters are aware that their Regional Council provides this service for them.

Prayer request for illnesses, upcoming surgeries, deaths, life difficulties have been steady all year. Again, prayers were requested not only for our Sisters and Brothers but family members. Prayers also go out for Fraternity Elections and Visitations.

I request again if you send in a request, please send in the answers God has given to your prayer requests. I know that everyone would love to hear how their prayers were answered.

Also, I am requesting that new member's emails be submitted to me so I may add them to our praying emailing list. If at any time, you or any of your Fraternity members wish to be taken off the prayer list, please let me know.

Regional Prayer Line Coordinator, Virginia Gregory - "Gigi"

## Morning Star (Mary)

As the “morning star” shines brightly before the sun rises, so Mary as Mother of Jesus, who is the Light of the World (the Sun) preceded his coming.



*A LITTLE CHRISTMAS CLIP ART FOR YOU...Here and on page 17*



# Peace and Justice Ministry

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Peace and Justice -

## Blessed are the PEACE- MAKERS

**Responding to the  
VIOLENCE that threatens  
HUMAN DIGNITY**

**KINDNESS TO ANIMALS** Stories abound of how St. Francis of Assisi could communicate with animals and felt at one with all creation. Francis and the Birds, Francis, Rabbits and Fish, and the one known by most, Francis and the Wolf are just a few that come to mind.



# A Letter From The Editor



Pax et Bonum My Brothers and Sisters in Christ and Francis,

I would like to thank all of you who throughout the past have taken the time to send in articles for our La Tilma Newsletter. **Truly there would be no newsletter without your input.** I look forward to receiving information and articles from everyone on what has been happening in your fraternity. Remember everyone is welcomed to send in articles and information about your fraternity. Don't worry about the spelling or how it looks, we can polish it up. It is the information about your fraternities that shines and we would like to share with the other fraternities in the Region. Articles in Spanish are also welcome. We are a bilingual region and we would love to hear from all. We hope in the future to be able to share more articles in both languages.

I have some good news for you all. Currently we rely on our Ministers to pass on the La Tilma after receiving it. They send each member a copy either through email or paper copy. Thanks to all the Ministers for making sure everyone in your fraternity gets copies. Hopefully in the near future the region will be able to lighten the load on our Ministers by posting the La Tilma on our Regional Web Site.

Yes! A Regional Website is coming soon. We hope to have it set up by the time of the Annual Meeting in March. I plan to input the La Tilma Newsletter on our website for all to read, as well as posting our past issues of the La Tilma. I am so excited to get started working on this as soon as the website is ready.

Please remember to send in articles for the La Tilma, it is what you make it to be. Your articles not only inform our brothers and sisters about things happening in your fraternity, but is also part of our recorded Regional Franciscan History. Have a Blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Your Sister in Christ and Francis,  
Vicka



# THE CHRISTMAS GUEST

It happened one day near December's end  
Two neighbors called on an old friend  
And they found his shop so meager and lean  
Made gay with a thousand bows of green

And Conrad was sitting with face ashined  
When he suddenly stopped as he stitched a twine  
And he said, "Old friends, at dawn today  
When the cock was crowing the night away

The Lord appeared in a dream to me"  
And said, "I'm coming your guest to be"  
So I've been busy with feet astir  
Strewing my shop with branches of fir

The table is spread and the kettle is shined  
And over the rafters the holly is twined.  
Now I'll wait for my Lord to appear  
And listen closely so I will hear  
His step as He nears my humble place  
And I'll open the door and look on His face

So his friends went home and left Conrad alone  
For this was the happiest day he had known  
For long since, his family had passed away  
And Conrad had spent many a sad Christmas Day

But he knew with the Lord as his Christmas Guest  
This Christmas would be the dearest and best  
So he listened with only joy in his heart  
And with every sound he would rise with a start  
And look for the Lord to be at his door  
Like the vision he'd had a few hours before.

So he ran to the window after hearing a sound  
But all he could see on the snow-covered ground  
Was a shabby beggar whose shoes were torn  
And all of his clothes were ragged and worn.

But Conrad was touched and he went to the door  
And he said, "You know, your feet must be frozen and sore  
I have some shoes in my shop for you  
And a coat that will keep you warmer too"

So with grateful heart the man went away  
But Conrad noticed the time of day  
And wondered what made the Lord so late  
And how much longer he'd have to wait

When he heard a knock, he ran to the door  
But it was only a stranger once more  
A bent old lady with a shawl of black  
With a bundle of kindling piled on her back

She asked for only a place to rest  
But that was reserved for Conrad's Great Guest  
But her voice seemed to plead "Don't send me away  
Let me rest for awhile on Christmas Day"

So Conrad brewed her a steaming cup  
And told her to sit at the table and sup  
But after she left he was filled with dismay  
For he saw that the hours were slipping away

And the Lord hadn't come as He said He would  
Then Conrad felt sure he'd misunderstood  
When out of the stillness he heard a cry  
"Please help me, and tell me where am I!"

So again he opened his friendly door  
And stood disappointed as twice before  
It was only a child who had wandered away  
And was lost from her family on Christmas Day

Again Conrad's heart was heavy and sad  
But he knew he should make the little girl glad  
So he called her in and he wiped her tears  
And quieted all her childish fears

Then he led her back to her home once more  
But as he entered his own darkened door  
He knew the Lord was not coming today  
For the hours of Christmas had passed away

So he went to his room and knelt down to pray  
And he said, "Dear Lord, why did You delay?  
What kept You from coming to call on me?  
For I wanted so much Your face to see

When soft in the silence a voice he heard  
"Lift up your head for I kept my word  
Three times my shadow crossed your floor  
And three times I came to your lonely door"

"I was the beggar with bruised, cold feet  
And I was the woman you gave something to eat  
I was the child on the homeless street  
Three times I knocked and three times I came in  
And each time I found the warmth of a friend  
Of all the gifts, love is the best  
And I was honored to be your Christmas Guest"



"The Christmas Guest" was  
written by Mel Torme;  
Robert Wells.

[Reba McEntire -  
The Christmas Guest Lyrics  
MetroLyrics](#)



## Directory of Our Lady of Guadalupe Region #75 of the Secular Franciscan Order

**Donna Hollis, OFS:** Regional Minister

1900 Christine Court  
Las Cruces, NM 88001  
Cell: (575) 649-8265  
Email: donnadancerfeet@aol.com

**Cathy Pierce, OFS:** Regional Vice-Minister

P.O. Box 443  
St. Michaels, AZ 86511  
Home: (928) 871-4176  
Email: piercecsfo@aol.com

**Bonnie Franco, OFS:** Regional Secretary / Database Admin.

404 Wayne Way  
El Paso, TX 79915  
Home: (915) 772-3505 Cell: (915) 490-6105  
Email: yfranco@aim.com

**Ruth M. Nevarez, OFS:** Regional Treasurer

4643 RL Shoemaker  
El Paso, TX 79924  
Cell: (915) 276-1325  
Email: ruthmarta@elp.rr.com

**Chrystal Holley, OFS:** Regional Formation Director

P.O. Box 341  
Slaton, TX 79364  
Home: (806) 548-1138 Cell:  
Email: chrystalfrank@hotmail.com

**Bonnie Hardwick, OFS:** Regional Councilor

P.O. Box 2043  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
Cell: (505) 982-8505  
Email: bhardwick2@msn.com

**Bro. Gordon Boykin, OFM** Regional Spiritual Assistant

1350 Lakeview Rd. SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87105-6178  
Cell: (505) 249-5774  
Email: gordyboy45@aol.com

**Vickie Earl, OFS:** Newsletter Editor /  
El Paso Area Spiritual Assistant

404 Wayne Way  
El Paso, TX 79915  
Home: (915) 772-3505 Cell: (915) 780-9042  
Email: micasa@elp.rr.com

**Vacant:** Regional JPIC Coordinator

**Gigi Gregory, OFS:** Regional Prayerline Coordinator

11314 James Grant Dr.  
El Paso, TX 79936  
Home: (915) 595-0826 Cell: (915) 740-2293  
Email: ggggregory@sbcglobal.net

### AREA REPRESENTATIVES

**#1 Las Cruces—Our Lady of Guadalupe #113; El Paso—  
Mary Immaculate #106, St. Patrick #109; Mescalero—Santa  
Chiara #126**

**Yvonne Chacon, OFS**

4636 Loma de Cobre Dr.  
El Paso, TX 79934  
Home: (915) 821-1222  
Cell: (915) 227-9865  
Email: ychacon@sbcglobal.net

**#2 Las Cruces—Santa Isabel de Hungria #114; El Paso—  
Queen of Angels #107, Sagrado Corazon de Jesus #108, San  
Luis Rey #128, Sagrado Corazon de Maria #135**

**Ysela Sanchez, OFS**

10400 Shannon Pl.  
El Paso, TX 79925  
Home: (915) 598-4158  
Email: yselasanchez@att.net

**#3 Lubbock—St. Juan Diego #129; Snyder—St. Francis of  
Assisi #134 (Cell of St. Juan Diego); Plainview—Bros. & Sis.  
of St. Francis #130**

**Charlotte Amato, OFS**

3602 85th St.  
Lubbock, TX 79423  
Cell: (806) 543-5436  
Email: chamato@sbcglobal.net

**#4 Carlsbad—St. Margaret of Cortona #104;**

**Roswell—St. Francis #119**

**Sofia Villarreal, OFS**

5800 Johannsen Road  
El Paso, TX 79932  
Home: (915) 584-0507  
Email: sofiaofs@yahoo.com

**#5 Albuquerque—St. Anthony #101**

**Bonnie Hardwick, OFS—See Regional Councilor Contact Info.**

**#6 Santa Fe—St. Francis #121; Gallup; Espiritu Santo  
(Emerging) #133**

**Edward Dzienis, OFS**

4735 Golden Barrel Rd. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87114  
Home: 505-898-7338  
Email: taostales@aol.com

Return Mailing Address:  
404 Wayne Way  
El Paso, Texas 79915



Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas Region Quarterly Newsletter



***Local Ministers*** remember you are responsible for making copies or for emailing a copy of this newsletter to all your local fraternity members.

## Call For Articles 2014-2015

Articles for future newsletters must be received by:

Fall 2014	October 31, 2014
Winter 2015	January 31, 2015
Spring 2015	April 30, 2015
Summer 2015	July 31, 2015

Submissions may be mailed, faxed, or emailed. ALL fraternity members are invited and encouraged to participate and contribute fraternity news of events—past or present, election results, professions, activities, as well as articles, poetry, etc. Don't forget to state fraternity name and location, as well as your own name and address when making a submission. All hard copy photos, disks and original art will be returned upon publication completion.

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Mail articles to: Vickie Earl, SFO, Editor, *La Tilma*,  
404 Wayne Way, El Paso, TX 79915  
Email: micasa@elp.rr.com or  
micasaofs@outlook.com

