

# LA TILMA

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



Vol 1: Issue 1 WINTER 2019

## MESSAGE/GREETINGS

**Brother Gordon, OFM  
Regional Spiritual Assistant**

Dearest sisters and brothers in St. Francis --

I join each of you in the happiness of being able to update ourselves on the happenings of our huge (far and wide) region--- West Texas, the State of New Mexico, and Northeastern Arizona.

Have you met most, many, *any* of the sisters and brothers comprising the members of these sweet-16 Fraternities (plus an A-1 Forming Group). Like you, they are Gathering, praying, learning, singing, laughing, and living the Franciscan Way---which is "from Gospel to life, and life to Gospel." Although I (and the other seven Regional Executive Council members) have enjoyed meeting quite a few, there remains quite a few more to meet and greet.

It's difficult to share our joyful hearts and dedicated lives with so many of our Region. But, suppose there was something like a Secular Franciscan family reunion! Well, "the Q": quinquennial (held every five years) is fast approaching. Take my word for it, "the Q" is like a Secular Franciscan family reunion on steroids. It's the Holy Spirit on Geritol!

If you're down in understanding your Franciscan calling as a member of this wonderful secular Order, "the Q" is just what the Divine Physician ordered for your ailment; it's the Franciscan triad of Fraternity, Fun, and Food: Fraternity is enjoying prayer, Mass, and on-going formation together; Fun is enjoying a gathering together; and food is enjoying yummy meals and snacks together.

As I thank our sister, Vicka, for her past years of being the editor (*etc., etc., etc.*) of "*La Tilma*," I thank our sister, Naomi, for her present and future volunteering to be the new editor (*etc., etc., etc.*).

May you all continue to recognize the Franciscan JOY of Peace and Goodwill around you, and in the world.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**WHO:** Dr. Anthony Levatino, Speaker on Pro-Life  
– \*\*Former Abortionist\*\*

**WHEN:** **January 9, 2020 (THURSDAY)**  
7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

**WHERE:** **St. Clement Church**  
810 N. Campbell St., El Paso, Texas  
915-533-4915

Dr. Levatino appeared in the movie, "Unplanned", as the abortionist. Dr. Levatino was an abortionist in his former life; but now speaks out as an advocate for the unborn around the United States and in the world. Dr. Levatino has also testified before Congress regarding Pro-Life issues several times.

As followers of Christ, we are encouraged to come and learn more about why this is such an important "Life" issue for all of us to educate ourselves and practice proactive concern.

## Call for Articles for LA TILMA

**Naomi Trujillo, OFS**

Articles for future Newsletters must be received as follows:

Spring: By 3/30 for 4/30 publication

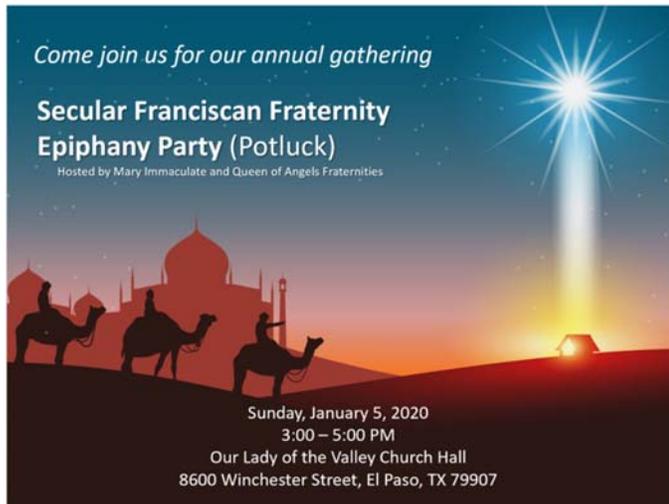
Summer: By 7/30 for 8/30 publication

Winter: By 11/30 for 12/30 publication

Submissions may be e-mailed. 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. Local Ministers are responsible for making copies for all their local fraternity members.

E-mail articles to: Naomi Trujillo, OFS, La Tilma Newsletter, Editor [trujillo.naomi@yahoo.com](mailto:trujillo.naomi@yahoo.com)



### **Epiphany Party Invitation** Regional Executive Council

Dearest Family:

As you all know, we will celebrate the Epiphany as a local family. It is a time to come together as a family as we are called to do as Franciscans. This is a tradition we have celebrated for many years.

We all may belong to different fraternities but we are all still one family and at this time of the year, we always gather to celebrate this joyous event. If you are scheduled for a gathering, please, instead, join all your brothers and sisters in this area.



### **Area Representative News Report** Regional Executive Council

Dearest Ministers and Area Representatives:

During the Regional Executive Council meeting on November 30, 2019, the Regional Council voted and approved the following NEW PROTOCOL:

Pedro Alvarez will be responsible for the English-speaking Fraternities.

Lety Briones will be responsible for the Spanish-speaking Fraternities.

An updated form will be provided twice a year (every six months) to each Fraternity Council in order to maintain and update the records for each Fraternity. The bi-annual updating will coincide with the Regional Executive Council meetings.

The Brothers and Sisters in Plainview and St. Juan Diego in Lubbock will not be affected by this change.

The Regional Council appreciates all the work the Area Representatives have done in the past. We hope this new protocol will allow you additional time and energy to serve your fraternity as needed in other areas.

### **Message From Regional Minister**

Sofia U. Villarreal, OFS

Dearest Franciscan Brothers and Sisters,

I send you all my love and admiration, Brothers and Sisters. I pray that all is well for all of you. May you continue to have the joy in your hearts to continue on this wonderful journey.

I have been well. But have been preoccupied with my mother's declining health. Everyone calls her MAMA LUZ. She has been hospitalized 8 times since December of last year. In fact, as I write this letter, I am with her at the hospital. She goes from looking great to completely not knowing who she is or recognizing anyone. Please keep her in prayers for this time that she is with us. I thank you for letting me share with you about my situation at this moment.

To continue on with my message to you:

**Oct 15-20** — All of you were aware we had our NAFRA Gathering in Corpus Christi and being one of the Regions' Hosting along with St. Joan of Arc and Los Tres

Companeros. Our Sister, Gigi, Regional Vice Minister represented our Region due to Mom's hospitalization at that time. A report will be sent to you on the items that were brought about for all our Fraternities

**Nov 28** — Thanksgiving Day is near and I know that we are all thankful for what we have, who we are and for all the blessings we have received from our Good Lord. May you enjoy this day with your loved ones.

**Nov 30** — We are scheduled to meet with Regional Council and we are here for you. If you have any concerns, please send them to your Representative Pedro Alvarez OFS 1st Councilor or Leti Briones OFS 2nd Councilor. Please let us how you are doing or any events, celebrations, professions, anniversaries, deaths etc. for we are here for each other.

**Dec** — Advent time to reflect on our Lord's coming. Take time for a retreat reflection and give the Lord your mind, heart and Soul in order to prepare to receive the Lord in our Homes, families and Life. Let him be the center of your life. Feast days also of Our Blessed Mother Immaculate, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Christmas Eve, Nativity of the Lord, the Holy Family Jesus Mary and Joseph and beginning a NEW YEAR! Let's live it to the fullest and rejoice in every way that we can. I send you this Christmas Wafer to break bread and for our salvation.

**Jan 5** — The Epiphany of our Lord is our gathering with our local fraternities and families come together for prayer, song, sharing and, of course, food. Our sponsoring fraternities are: Mary Immaculate Fraternity and Queen of Angels. They will be sending out information on our Epiphany celebration. Find time to have this moment to greet and celebrate together. Begin your Year knowing your God's Child and our Theme for this year "Journey Together with Love and Compassion".

Your Sister in Christ, Francis and Clare.

**Note from the editor:** *Since the submission of the above message, MAMA LUZ, Sofia's beloved mother entered eternal life in early December. Please keep Sofia and her family in your prayers.*

## **From the Editor**

**Naomi Trujillo, OFS**

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

According to the record, "yours truly" was appointed as the La Tilma Newsletter Editor on May 10, 2019. Due to the responsibilities as Minister of Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity, an edition of the La Tilma Newsletter has been on hold. I do apologize for this delay.

As part of the publications, I plan on interviewing and publishing all the Regional Fraternities. The purpose of these Fraternity interviews is to introduce each current Minister, and most important, to share our "Fraternal Life" with each other.

I have interviewed Barbara Stulce, Minister of St. Francis #110 Fraternity (Roswell) to gather "HAPPENINGS" of interest for presentation in this Winter edition of the Newsletter.

**WARNING:** "Yours truly" does not have any experience in putting together a Newsletter; however, I will do my best. In addition, my son-in-law (Eric) has volunteered to help with the "format" (and I did not ask, nor twist his arm!). Eric came to my rescue when my daughter asked, "why would you say you would do that?"; that is like me saying I would be a "lifeguard" when I don't know how to swim!!" Ha! Ha! Ha!

Advent Blessings of "Paz y Bien"!

## **"Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas Region #75"**

**Naomi Trujillo, OFS, Editor**

**"LA TILMA" Newsletter Interview**

November 13, 2019

**Fraternity:** St. Francis #119 / Roswell, NM

**Minister:** Barbara Stulce, OFS

The Fraternity, consisting of six (6) members "Gather" One Time Per Month, at 2:00 p.m., on the Second Sunday of Each Month, at St. Peter's Parish Library.

According to Barbara, she "has been a Franciscan for five (5) years, and this is her second term as Minister". Barbara stated she was elected Vice-Minister shortly after she was professed; however, the Minister relocated after one-year and Barbara moved-up as Minister for the last two (2) years of that term. Barbara was then re-

elected Minister for a second term on December 9, 2018. Thank you, Barbara for your Servant Leadership!!

Barbara commented the Fraternity is in need of more members. Although the Fraternity has been diligent in inviting by personal invitation and Flyers, recruiting members has been a challenge. According to Barbara, the Fraternity held a "Come and See" last year; but no one "Came to See".

Barbara will welcome any ideas or suggestions that have worked in recruiting new members in your Fraternities. As a matter of fact, all of our Fraternities welcome new brothers and sisters!! Let's put our "thinking caps on"!! Barbara's e-mail is [barrowsnm5@aol.com](mailto:barrowsnm5@aol.com).

Thank you Barbara, for taking the time to visit with me; please feel free to contact me at any time regarding news or suggestions for the Tilma Newsletter. I enjoyed having a pleasant conversation with you, and getting to know about you and your Fraternity. I can be reached at [trujillo.naomi@yahoo.com](mailto:trujillo.naomi@yahoo.com).

### **Message from Regional Vice Minister**

**Gigi Gregory**

Dearest Brothers and Sisters:

I am sending in my Regional Vice Minister Report since our last Regional Executive Council in June 15, 2019. Our Lord has sent us all on this servant leadership journey. And, I thank all of you for being on this journey with Sofia and myself. We couldn't have done it without your support and dedicated work.

I revised the Elections/Visitation Schedule for 2020-2021. After Sofia and I went over it, we realized that it had to include a day for an Election Retreat date. The new schedule includes these dates.

**July 13-14, 2019** — Queen of Angels Election Retreat and Elections, respectively.

I received a call from Willie Guadalupe, National International Councilor. I provided her with the names of the POCs for our Spanish-Speaking Fraternities in our Region. She sent out an invitation to a Zoom Conference on how National could better service these fraternities and also to get input from them in areas they had questions.

**August 3-4, 2019** — Sagrado Corazon de Maria's Election Retreat and Elections, respectively.

**October 15-19, 2019** — NAFRA Chapter Meeting, PAX Christi Retreat Center, Corpus Christi, TX

This was my first time attending a National Chapter Meeting and it was one of my items on my "Bucket List"! I was in the company of the Regional Ministers/Delegates of the different Regions in the United States of America. We celebrated Mass every day in the beautiful Chapel. We approved the 2018 Chapter Minutes. The 2020 Budget did not include an increase in our Fair Share. We had a presentation from the JPIC Commission Chair with the presentation of the JPIC Award to Kent Ferris, OFS. CNSA was well represented with Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR, President-in-turn Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM and Br. Alexander Escalera, OFM Cap. Also, Kathleen Molaro, OFS is the Youth/Young Adult Commission Chair gave a presentation. She was also assigned my "mentor". We had a "Rite of Remembrance" on Friday. I carried the names of the brothers and sisters of our Region that we had lost this year. After which, followed a Holy Hour/Adoration. Saturday for our closing we had a closing Roundtable.

Several items of interest that I drew from the meeting were the following:

The Duns Scotus Formation Fund — website information/forms

The 2020 Theme  
Revision of OFS-USA Statutes  
The Transfer Form

I will present some information on these four areas at our REC meeting.

**October 24-25, 2019**—Election Retreat and Elections at Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity, Las Cruces.

## Upcoming Elections

<u>Fraternity</u>	<u>Election Retreat (Saturday)</u>	<u>Elections (Sunday)</u>
#108 Sagrado Corazon de Jesus	6/6/2020	6/7/2020
#109 St. Patrick	7/18/2020	7/19/2020
#113 Santa Isabel de Hungria	11/14/2020	11/15/2020
#126 Santa Chiara	TBD	TBD
#128 San Luis Rey	11/28/2020	11/29/2020
#133 Espiritu Santo	2/8/2020	2/9/2020

## Upcoming Visitations

<u>Fraternity</u>	<u>Date</u>
#101 St. Anthony	8/23/2020
#104 St. Margaret of Cortona	9/5/2020
#106 Mary Immaculate	TBD
#107 Queen of Angels	2/9/2020
#109 St. Patrick	2/16/2020
#113 Our Lady of Guadalupe	8/2/2020
#133 Espiritu Santo	7/18/2021
#135 Sagrado Corazon de Maria	9/13/2020

## Future Local and National Events:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Dec. 9, 2019	Dec. 9, 2019 OFS Appreciation Event Dinner, 6 – 9 pm, Franciscan Studio 1204 Stinson SW, Albq. 87121, Pls call Br. Gordon Boykin for more information (505-249-5774)
Jan. 4, 2020	Canonical Establishment in Guam
Jan. 5, 2020	Epiphany Celebration hosted by Mary Immaculate and Queen of Angels Fraternities, information to follow
Jan. 25, 2020	REC Budget Mtg. 10 a.m.
March 5 - 8, 2020	Regional Chapter Meeting, HCRC, Las Cruces
May 18-28, 2020	Franciscan Pilgrimage to Italy, Rome, Assisi
June 5 – 8, 2020	Franciscan Federation, Denver, Colo.
July 4, 2020	3 <sup>rd</sup> International Assembly of Franciscan Youth, Mexico City
July 9 – 12, 2020	Summer Seminar, Loretto Univ., PA
16-Jul-20	Franciscan Mentors WS, Pallottine Renewal Center, St. Louis Mo. “From Anger to Joy: Our Emotions in the Process of Conversion”.
August 20 – 23, 2020	Formation Director Workshop, Kings House, Belleville, Ill.
Sept. 10 – 14, 2020	FY/YA Animator Training, Missouri
October 20 – 25, 2020	NEC/Chapter/Meeting, Detroit., Ill.
November 14-20, 2020	CIOFS/Chapter/Elections, Rome, Italy
2021 – August 18 – 22	“Q” – Phoenix, AZ, Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel
2021, March 25 - 28	REC/Elections/Chapter/Visitation
2021, October 26 -31	NEC/Chapter/Meeting