

\$201,000 Budget Approved for 2007

The National Council approved an operating budget of \$201,000 for 2007. It projects income of \$150,000 in Fair Share (\$10 x 15,000 members), plus \$48,000 in book sales and \$3,000 in interest. The budget calls for no increase in Fair Share, even though the U.S. contribution to the International Fraternity has more than doubled (from 50 cents to \$1.20 per U.S. member). The International Fraternity asked the U.S. and a number of other countries to step up contributions to help offset a lack of money in Third World fraternities and the expense of acquiring an international office.

Patrick Mendés Leads Order in U.S.

J. Patrick Mendés, SFO, of Oakbrook, IL, has been elected national minister for a three-year term.

The election took place during the annual national gathering and triennial chapter of elections held Oct. 24-29 at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Marathon, Wisconsin. Mendés recently retired as parish coordinator of ministries at St. Colette Parish in Rolling Meadows, IL.

Other new officers are:

- National Vice Minister & Substitute International Councilor: Deacon **Tom**

Bello, SFO, of McLean, VA, teacher to adult immigrants and refugees.

- National Secretary: **Sarah Mulholland**, SFO, of Bend, OR, freelance editor for American Psychological Association.

- National Treasurer: **Dennis Ross**, SFO, of Mentor, OH, a retired high school math teacher and junior high assistant principal.

- National Councilor: **Pat Brandwein-Ball**, SFO, of South Berwick, ME, a staff nurse at Rochester Pediatric Association, Rochester, NH.

- National Councilor: **Mike**

Carsten, SFO, of Fenton, MI, construction superintendent and carpenter.

- National Councilor: **Clare McCluggage**, MD, SFO, of Vancouver, WA, a family physician.

- International Councilor: **Anne Mulqueen**, SFO, of Kingsville, MD, certified spiritual director.

At the same time, Fr. **Bart Karwacki**, OFM Conv., of Ellicott City, MD, began serving as President-in-Turn of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA).

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Regional ministers lined up to congratulate the new national leaders during the installation Mass. Delia Banchs, SFO, embraces Patrick Mendes, SFO. Behind them Harry Harned, SFO, congratulates Deacon Tom Bello, SFO.

FACES OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP: NAFRA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



PATRICK



TOM



SARAH



DENNIS



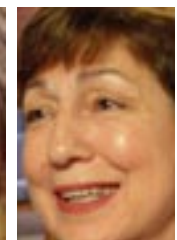
PAT



MIKE



CLARE



ANNE

LEADERS

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Mendés, professed in 1961, has been regional minister for the Chicago-area Mother Cabrini Region. He formerly was a university professor and chief nursing officer/vice president for professional services of a multi-facility healthcare system.

He holds master's degrees in nursing and education, a C.A.S. in gerontology, and a doctorate in adult education.



New national leaders during a reflective moment at their installation Mass.

NATIONAL SURVEY: STATE OF THE ORDER

Start Leadership Training Programs in Regions

Regions should start servant-leadership training programs, if they haven't already, and also look at starting train-the-trainer programs to spread the training.

That was one of outgoing Minister Carol Gentile's recommendations in her state-of-the-order report. She noted that the Executive Council had conducted an in-depth survey with regional ministers in order to establish a "baseline of what we're about...for the future of the order."

"We need to know if we're meeting the needs of our brothers and sisters," she said, adding: "We need to know who you/we are."

The national survey, which

had 100 percent participation by regions, "empowered everyone with the opportunity to have their voice heard."

Based on the survey, she recommended leadership training and offered the following suggestions and observations:

- Persons who feel a calling to leadership roles should, at their own expense, shadow the position for a reasonable amount of time.
- Continue open forums. Exchange and share good things happening in your region.
- Witness more, and you will have less conflict to deal with.
- Franciscan spirituality



Outgoing National Minister Carol Gentile, SFO, during her state-of-the-order address.

soars in places that have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament going on continuously at their meetings.

• Apostolic Commissions, in spite of the concern of the structure, are fulfilling a section of the Rule. It is working because of them, not the lack of them.

• Be unique and tailor Commissions according to your means and needs.

• Committees also help us live our Rule. Help them ex-

pand and grow.

- Continue to work with the Friars.
- Increase our relationship with the Poor Clares.
- Keep in mind the key to a family relationship is vital reciprocity.
- Continue to dialogue electronically.
- Treat each other with respect and put principles before personalities.
- Continue to work with/support International Fraternity.

HONORED

Outgoing Minister Carol Gentile gave awards for outstanding service to, from left, Marcella Bina, John Sanborn, Anne Mulqueen, Deacon Juan Lescano and Mike Carsten.



Carol Gentile with outgoing Secretary Elizabeth Allen.

NAFRA Urges Darfur Aid; Backs Bishops On Immigration

The National Fraternity, representing more than 15,000 Secular Franciscans across the nation, is calling on the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to grant immediate refugee status to people who have fled the genocide in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

In a statement adopted at their annual gathering, the Secular Franciscans said: "We urge that the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service grant prompt and just refugee status to the people of Darfur now languishing in refugee camps in Kenya and throughout Africa." Reiterating a statement adopted two years ago condemning the genocide, they also urged the U.S. to "firmly support the United Nations peacekeeping efforts in Darfur."

They approved sending \$2,000 from the NAFRA donor fund to Catholic Relief Services for Darfur refugees.

The National Council also addressed the issue of immigration, declaring support for the joint U.S.-Mexican bishops' call for expanded economic opportunities in the home nations and for facilitating the reunion of close family members separated by national borders as part of comprehensive immigration reform. The call came in a recent pastoral letter issued by the Catholic bishops of Mexico and the U.S., entitled "Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope."

Hold People of Darfur in Prayer

Clare McCluggage, MD, SFO, took the National Council's actions on Darfur one step further, asking all Secular Franciscans in America to "hold the people of Darfur in prayer for an entire year."

Secular Franciscans "don't have to feel helpless in what they can do for Darfur refugees," she said, "because prayer is action."

"Fraternities could take turns," she explained, "so

that we would hold them in prayer everyday of the year."

She composed a "perpetual" novena prayer and presented it to the regional ministers to share with their fraternities. She later organized a suggested monthly schedule, assigning each region to different months.

"Can you imagine 15,000 SFOs praying for these people, and what God can do with those prayers?"



Clare McCluggage, SFO

CLARE'S NOVENA PRAYER FOR PEOPLE OF DARFUR

Merciful Father, Prince of Peace, Spirit of Wisdom and Compassion, please look upon our brothers and sisters in Darfur. We humbly pray:

--For those who have been subjected to violence: women, children, young and old men, we ask for healing, consolation, and relief of further suffering.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

--For those who have done violence, we ask for healing, forgiveness, and the grace of conversion.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

--For those in authority throughout the world, we ask wisdom, creativity, compassion and courage in addressing this situation.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

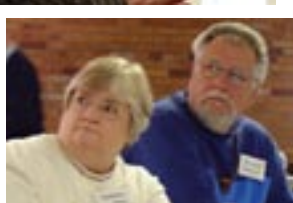
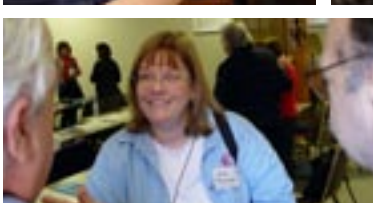
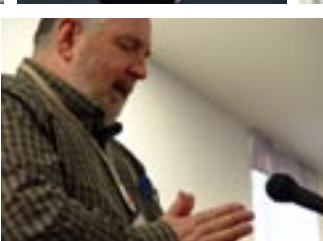
Lord Jesus, Your Sacred Heart burns for love of all your people. Please place in our hearts that same love and inspire us to have the courage, wisdom and ingenuity to take what measures we can personally to relieve the suffering in Darfur. We pray this in the Name of Jesus, our Lord, through the intercession of the sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Memorare: Remember oh most gracious Virgin Mary that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, oh Virgin of Virgins, my mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. Oh mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE FOR REGIONS TO PRAY FOR DAFUR

	Dec/June	Jan/July	Feb/Aug	Mar/Sept	Apr/Oct	May/Nov
Week 1	St. Elizabeth of Hungary	Bl Kateri Tekakwitha	Fr Solanus	The Tau Cross	Our Lady of the Angels	St. Katharine Drexel
Week 2	Lady Poverty	St. Margaret of Cortona	Bros. & Sisters of St. Francis	Five Franciscan Martyrs	St. Maximilian Kolbe	Holy Trinity
Week 3	Divine Mercy	Our Lady of Indiana	La Verna	Mother Cabrini	Franciscans of the Prairie	St. Clare
Week 4	St Joan of Arc	Queen of Peace	Juan de Padilla	Los Tres Compañeros / 3 Companions	Our Lady of the Rockies	Santa Maria de las Montanas
Week 5 or Week 1	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Troubadours of Peace	Bl. Junipero Serra	St. Francis	St. Thomas More	Ohana O Ke Aneunue

YOUR NATIONAL COUNCIL AT WORK



SFO Enhances Family with Addition of Affiliates

The National Council approved an amendment to the National Statutes that accepts affiliates into the SFO. It follows a similar action by the International Fraternity.

Spouses and friends of SFOs, who, in the past, felt they could not participate because of a different faith, or inability to make a full commitment to the order, can now share in the charism of Francis as affiliates.

The amendment states that “those, who, without belonging to the SFO, wish to participate in its life and activities according to Franciscan principles and teachings, may be welcomed by the local fraternity, so as to make their communion living and effective.”

Individuals must indicate their desire in writing and the local fraternity council will decide. Affiliates will not have the right to vote, but may “share the experiences and activities of the fraternity.” The number of affiliates is limited to no more than 40 percent of active professed members. Regional councils may “establish their own guidelines for the acceptance of affiliates.”

Jan and Clare Compose Quinquennial Theme Song

Inspired by a PowerPoint presentation about the 2007 Quinquennial, Jan Parker, SFO, and Clare McCluggage, MD, SFO, brought their musical talents to bear and, in a span of a day, composed a Quinquennial theme song with original music.

They performed the song, "One God of Us All," for regional ministers and delegates gathered for morning prayer on the last day of the national gathering, and received a standing ovation. The song will be incorporated into a new version of the PowerPoint presentation to help promote the "Q" to regions and local fraternities.

NAFRA's PR team, Mary



Jan Parker, left, and Clare McCluggage receive accolades from National Minister Patrick Mendes after performing their original "Q" theme song.

and Bob Stronach, announced that when the new presentation is ready, it will

be made available to regional ministers and possibly posted on the NAFRA website.

Geographic Groups: Keep 3 Councilors, Study Commissions

Regional ministers broke into geographic groupings to discuss issues of common interest. They also were asked to consider whether to:

- reduce the number of national councilor positions, from 3 to 2, or even 1;
- explore action on the Apostolic Commissions.

The consensus was to keep three councilors, and evaluate the Commissions. As a result, the assembly voted to form an ad hoc committee to review the Commissions and report back next year.



Kay Francis with Multicultural Committee.

Engage the Multicultural: Learn from One Another

With the 2007 Quinquennial having a multicultural theme, outgoing Minister Carol Gentle, SFO, pointed to the multicultural section of her state-of-the-order report as being "all about inclusion, not exclusion." She told the gathering of Secular Franciscan leaders: "We need to learn from each other...because we are all God's people...and if we come to know each other, we'll love one another."

Gentile praised the work of NAFRA's Multicultural Committee, chaired by Sonia Bernardo, SFO, and singled out a representative from the Syro-Malabar (India) Rite, Kay Francis, SFO. Francis took a moment to say she found a "spiritual connection and feeling of brotherhood" at NAFRA, and that she was thankful to be able to work with SFOs to set up a formation program for members of her rite.



Multicultural Chair Sonia Bernardo, SFO

NAFRA CHAPTER: A Journey of Prayer for Those Who Should Have Passion for the Gospel

Presider David Bouchard opened the Chapter of Elections with prayer, reminding everyone "that the whole process over the next few days is one

of prayer and reflection." Daily Mass enhanced that sense of reliance on prayer and movement of the Holy Spirit, thanks to the friar spiritual assistants who took turns celebrating the Liturgy.

Called to be itinerant people, on a journey, on a pilgrimage through life, "God has given us time to...live the Gospel," National Spiritual Assistant Bart Karwacki, OFM Conv., said in his homily. But, "are there things you haven't done in regard to your spiritual life...your spiritual journey?"

International Spiritual Assistant Mike

Higgins, TOR, noted: Like the blind man sitting on the side of the road in Mark's Gospel, Jesus "calls us out of blindness, out of darkness, out of exile, and says 'come follow me'.

"Let us have courage to get up and go to Him!"

National Spiritual Assistant Lester Bach, OFM Cap., issued a challenge:

"We can't really go to Mass, and then leave and step over the poor." Being Franciscan means having "passion for the Gospel and compassion for everyone."



Fr. Bart



Fr. Mike



Fr. Lester



Teresa Baker, SFO

FORMATION SESSION

With Profession, SFOs Enter New State of Existence

"Profession is a gift of the Holy Spirit...a declaration... a promise. It is a solemn ecclesial act."

Thus began the on-going formation session by National Formation Director Teresa Baker, SFO.

The spirit "consecrates and transforms those professing," she continued. "...they place their lives totally in God... (Profession) is not an act of the moment. It establishes a

new state of existence... a total transformation... a personal commitment for life."

We promise "to live the Gospel according to the charism of Francis in the Church." We are called to a Franciscan, evangelical vocation -- one in which we do not have an agenda," she said. "We must meet people where they are. Be open and aware; and then respond."

"Profession demands a

radical life... Francis did not set up norms, but a way of life," noted Baker. Like Francis, we are called to repair the world and bring it to where God desired it to be, but that can only happen if we have quiet time to hear God's wishes and to be obedient to them.

"Francis spent 62% of his life in prayer and solitude...Look what he accomplished."



FRANCISCAN CHEER

Secular Franciscans can be known for cheer and warmth, but a visit to Hsu's Genseng Enterprises sparked a dose of hearty laughter as a tour guide touted interesting physical benefits of using genseng products. Regional ministers and other national leaders got to spend an afternoon checking out not only the largest producer of American genseng, but also one of Wisconsin's largest dairy farms, a 3,000-head operation milking 500 cows an hour, and the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum featuring gardens of wood, stone and metal sculptures (below).



SYMBOL OF LEADERSHIP



Lee Ann Niebuhr, SFO, vice minister of the host La Verna Region, presented an African Massai Rungu (baton) to new National Minister Patrick Mendes. A symbol of power, respect and dignity accorded to respected leaders, she said, the Rungu was obtained by former La Verna vice minister Don Ryder, SFO, who has made several trips to Kenya and made a commitment to the Massai tribe to help raise funds for a village well.



JESUS RULES

Dave Bouchard, international councilor from Canada who presided at the elections, said he was going to take home outgoing Minister Carol Gentile's words:

"In this chapter, Jesus Rules...Don't trip over Him in your haste to get things done."