

## WORKSHOPS CHOICES FOR PROVINCIAL CONVOCATION

Note: please pick your top six choices. You will not be committed to these choices, but it will help us schedule workshops according to room size. Email your responses to Dianne Aid [wolfogubbio1@gmail.com](mailto:wolfogubbio1@gmail.com)

**Special Note:** During the workshop time slots for Wednesday night and Thursday night we will have the premier showing of two significant films.

6/21 Wednesday – FINDING SAINT FRANCIS

Facilitator: Paul Alexander, representing the European Province

Directed and narrated by Paul Alexander, *Finding Saint Francis* is a documentary drama film of a modern retelling of the life story of Saint Francis of Assisi. The movie gives a fascinating insight into how Francis went from a licentious youth, to being outcast from his family, to extreme poverty, to eventually, becoming one of the most popular saints of all time. In the *Finding Saint Francis*, Peter Stone, a high flyer in the city of London whose best friend has just committed suicide, has been pushed to the edge of a nervous breakdown. On the advice of his doctor he decides to spend a few days at a Franciscan friary deep in the Dorset countryside. But, on arriving, he finds that a film is being made on the life of Saint Francis there. When the lead actor playing Francis has to withdraw, Peter, with a past in amateur dramatics, is the perfect replacement. For Peter it's the first steps on an extraordinary journey that completely changes his life.

6/22 Thursday – THE SULTAN AND THE SAINT

Facilitators: Masud Syedullah and Patrick Carolan

The Sultan and the Saint film tells one of the great, lost stories from history. Set in a past period of East-West conflict, it speaks with urgency to our present. Two men of faith, one a traveling Christian preacher, the other the ruler of a Muslim Empire, bucked a century of war, distrust, and insidious propaganda in a search for mutual respect and common ground. It is the story of Francis of Assisi and the Sultan of Egypt, and their meeting on a bloody battlefield during the period of Christian- Muslim conflict known as the Crusades.

### 1) FAITH BASED COMMUNITY ORGANIZING FOR JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY IN CREATION

Facilitators: TSSF JPIC TEAM MEMBERS (Linda Watkins, Verleah Kosloske, Francesca Wigle, Dianne Aid) and Franciscan Action Network Director Patrick Carolan

This workshop will provide attendees with methods for Faith Based Organizing for local community and broad based public policy, determining when charity is appropriate and empowering communities through advocacy and justice as the appropriate response. We will also review the process which determines positions the Episcopal Church takes on Social issues and how to draft and submit resolutions to Diocesan and General Conventions.

### 2) PRACTICAL TIPS FOR "GREENING" IN THE CONGREGATION AND LOCAL

## COMMUNITIES

Facilitator: Linda Watkins

This workshop will review Green Faith and other programs for sustainability in a congregation including land use, sustainability practices, carbon footprints, prayer and worship resources with time for guided discussion.

### 3) SANCTUARY, A MINISTRY OF COURAGE, COMPASSION AND ACCOMPANIMENT

Facilitator: Dianne Aid

Sanctuary is rooted in our Biblical tradition and Christian history. This workshop will look at Sanctuary throughout history, the current state of churches networking to offer Sanctuary, and a variety of ways to be involved from offering physical sanctuary to being partner congregations with those offering Sanctuary. We will address the legal implications of being involved in Sanctuary work.

### 4) BEING A BEGGAR FOR GOOD: PERSUASIVE GRANTWRITING AND FUNDRAISING

Facilitator: Lynn Herne

Federal funding is drying up and our communities will be experiencing greater needs. Francis begged when there was a need. We can be beggars for good in our day. We have the power to tell the reality. Partnerships are waiting. This workshop will explore tips for effective grant writing and possible donor sources.

### 5) TOOLS OF TRANSFORMATION: THE TSSF RULE AND THE TWELVE STEPS

Facilitators: David Burgdorf and Dominic George

Several people in TSSF have experience of both the TSSF Rule and the 12 Step Programs (AA, AL-ANON, OA, ACOA, etc.) Practice in TSSF and the Twelve Steps can overlap and be mutually reinforcing. We will discuss the histories of the rule and the programs with the intention of showing how both come from similar Gospel roots. We will invite participants to share confidentially how both have helped their own transformation.

### 7) CITY OF IMMIGRANTS

Facilitator: Mike Maloney

Mike, a community organizer with several decades of experience working with Appalachian, African-American and migrating and immigrant populations, will discuss the migration to Cincinnati and the status of various communities today. Participants will have an opportunity to share their insights about how to provide assistance with migrants and immigrants. This workshop will be a good lead in to our visit to The Freedom Center.

## 8) FRANCISCAN BEEKEEPING: HEALING CREATION, HEALING YOURSELF, ONE BEE AT A TIME

Facilitator: Gordon Kubanek

When I started beekeeping 8 years ago I had no idea on how much the bees had to teach me. Together we'll explore the wonders of the beehive as we seek to become more human. Bees are messengers from Creation who have much to teach us. Just like canaries in the coal mines of old when they die, we too are soon at risk of perishing. Both the joys and lessons of beekeeping will be shared as well as the great challenges faced not only by beekeepers, but all how enjoy healthy fruits and vegetables requiring pollinators. As an extra treat you will learn all the health benefits of raw honey and associated bee products.

Take away: Wonder and amazement at the masterpiece of creation we call the Bee Hive, perhaps a desire to become a beekeeper and most certainly the desire to eat real, raw honey from a local beekeeper.

## 9) OUR BROTHER RUMI, THE GREAT MUSLIM POET.

Facilitator: Terry Rogers

Rumi was a contemporary of Francis and Clare, and we will read and discuss his poetry prayerfully, seeing in him a companion on our Franciscan journey.

## 10) POVERTY IS GOOD NEWS

Facilitator: Susan Pitchford

Both Francis and Clare placed poverty at the very center of their spirituality. Certainly their exaltation of poverty was consistent with the notion of the "upside-down Kingdom," in which the last shall be first. But perhaps it goes even deeper than that. What if Francis and Clare were devoted to poverty because they found it to be a way straight into the heart of God? The mystical experience of poverty transforms it from something to be borne into a path to greater intimacy with Christ. Participants in this workshop will have time to reflect on their own experiences of poverty and where they might find in them invitations into deeper communion with God.

## 11) TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST AND CREATION: JOURNEY TO WHOLENESS

Facilitators: Joyce Wilding and Diana Turner-Forte

Workshop participants will examine the biblical story of Jesus' Transfiguration "on a high mountain" and connect this with their spiritual longings and present-day concerns. These concerns will be addressed with blend of personal reflection and commentary on relevant theological and scriptural texts, literary works, music, and art. Transfiguration is central to the transformation of human nature, leading to not just a conservation or preservation of natural resources but a transfiguration of all creation. When Transfiguration is celebrated as "feast of beauty" it re-energizes current discussions of Christianity's relation to environmental issues. The wisdom of the writers of the early church and our current concerns for the environment, ecology, elevated levels of consciousness, and the transformation of society can

be connected. Attendees will learn how enhanced liturgical commemoration of Transfiguration can be dynamic Christian counterpart of Earth Day services currently held in some churches.

#### 12) PRAYER IN THE CAVE OF THE HEART: SILENCE AND SOLITUDE IN THE FRANCISCAN TERTIARY VOCATION

Facilitator: Charles McCarron

Tracing the stream of the pursuit of silence and solitude in the Franciscan tradition in general, and the Tertiary tradition in particular, through the use of early Franciscan sources, Franciscan places, art, and the biographies of Tertiary contemplatives through the ages. What can the tradition teach us, and what are the implications for our life as Tertiaries in the 21st Century? Attendees can take away a sense of silence and solitude as an integral part of the Tertiary path to contemplative prayer, and some shared strategies on opening ourselves to this facet of our spiritual life.

#### 13) ICONS, WINDOWS TO HEAVEN

Facilitator: David W. Holland

I am David W. Holland and I retired from full time ministry after almost 40 years of leading congregations in Nebraska and Texas. I have been writing icons for 20+ years and teaching people to write their own icons for 17 years in congregational workshop in Texas, Georgia and Tennessee. I also do commissions for individual and churches. The icons of Saints Frances and Claire that are part of our worship at this convention, were ones I was blessed to have written. Participants will learn about the history of icons, (condensed version) their place in our lives as pilgrims and Episcopalians and how my Icon Workshops are a time for doing practical theology and engaging in spiritual growth and renewal.

#### 14) FORWARD PUBLICATIONS

Facilitator: Scott Gunn

Scott Gunn, Executive Director of Forward Publications will share resources available to us and to our Franciscan Witness from this Episcopal based publication company located in the Cincinnati area.

#### 15) MEDIATIONS ON THE "COSMIC WEB:" THEOLOGICAL & SPIRITUAL INSPIRATIONS OF THE NEW COSMOLOGY

Facilitator: Anton A. Armbruster, Ph.D., TSSF

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Paleontologist and Jesuit Priest, so beautifully and simply frames the wonder and mystery of the incarnation as he writes: "*Matter is Spirit moving slow enough that it can be seen!*"

This workshop will focus on the ways in which the New Cosmology is giving us far more than fresh metaphors by which to articulate Divine Mystery. It is opening fields of wonder

that quicken our sensibilities and elevate our sights and thoughts to the sacred book of nature. It is a cornucopia of revelations that heralds a new chapter in our exploration of the Heart of the Cosmos.

We will address a range of questions to include:

1. What are the theological implications of what we are learning about the large-scale structure of the universe?
2. How does the idea of the evolutionary universe excite our conversations about the Cosmic Christ?
3. In what ways does the New Cosmology inspire new forms of prayer and contemplation?
4. How do the cycles of birth and death among stars mirror the passages of life and consciousness?
5. What is our response as Franciscans to the Call of the New Cosmology?

Join us for a meditation accompanied by Cosmic images and conversation about the exciting emergence of insights that build a compelling bridge between science and faith.

## 16) THE ROLE OF ANIMALS IN OUR FRANCISCAN LIVES

Facilitator: Kay Miller

Imagine what it would be like to volunteer your time with your best friend, like your pet. This workshop will offer foundational information about human interactions with animals — starting with historical roles, right up to recent research. Finally, we'll go into the nitty-gritty of Animal Assisted Therapy (working with our pets to help other people — like children learning to read, or patients struggling with physical therapy, or those incarcerated in our jails, or lonely folks in a nursing home.)

Expect to take away:

- St. Francis' connection with animals
- Some biblical and historical accounts of animals
- Research info about the effect animals have on our physical well-being
- How To Guide on including an animal within your ministry – using example of Pastoral Care Dog within hospital chaplaincy

## 17) HEROES OF THE THIRD ORDER: THEIR PICTURES, STORIES, AND POETRY A MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION OF FOUR CONTEMPORARY “SAINTS” FROM OUR DEVOTIONAL COMPANION (2015)

Facilitator: R. John Brockmann

*H. Baxter Liebler: Apostle to the Navahos* **(November 21)**

*Hugo Muller: On the Barricades with the Cree Indians in North Quebec* **(November 3)**

*John Dorman, Missionary Priest of Upper Mazaruni and Upper Cuyuni Region in Guyana:*  
*“My Choice For National Heroes”* **(to be established July 18)**

*Emily Gardiner Neal of Cincinnati: A Reporter Finds God Through Spiritual Healing*  
**(September 23)**

Attendees will come away with a contemporary model of heroic Third Order life in our Province updating the standard models of thirteenth century.

My topic is self-understanding and contemporary models of Third Order life.  
I will be there on all the days of the convocation.  
I will need a projector and large screen to present this.

? 18) A HANDS-ON INTRODUCTION TO THE ONLINE LENDING LIBRARY OF THE PROVINCE OF THE AMERICAS

Facilitators: R. John Brockmann and Janice Syedullah

PART I

We will offer an explanation about why there was a need to revise the old library system for the Third Order.

Janice and I will enact a side-by-side kind of contest. We will each realize we would like to read a particular book from the library—we will then set a timer and then see how quick it is to accomplish—do this with a bit of humor and flourish and the answer will be obvious.

PLUS the problems with the old way have probably undercut even the thought of accessing the new library.

This part will be fun accomplished on your side while the clock keeps ticking away on my side.

PART II

There will be a video presentation of the online catalog with a hands-on demonstration of how to use it.---How much more will be needed after our pseudo contest in Part 1?

PART III

**The future of the library:** (a) to grow it we need you to become virtual libraries—procedures and advantages

(b) to grow it we need the Wish List to be fulfilled so that the library grows and updates

(c) to grow it we need you to buy our de-accessioning books so that we can get new ones at no cost to the province (We need to have an up-to-date list of the books available—I will handle that—we can take orders and I can mail them out upon return to home

(d) to grow we need people to write online reviews so that people can better browse and more effectively choose

(e) our Province has created a treasured lamp with this online library that shall not be put under a bushel basket and wall-ed away from other Franciscans. We plan to grow the no-cost enrollment of the Library to other domestic 3<sup>rd</sup> Order groups—with the OEF to be first

We also plan to enable Tom when he meets with his fellow MPs this year at an IPTOC to offer our Province's expertise and experience in creating online libraries for other Provinces

Q and A

I will talk through a step-by- step guide (handout provided) for library access and procedures.