

# The Way of St. Francis

O U T R E A C H



Brother Ivo Toneck, OFM in Guaymas, Mexico

B U I L D I N G  
C O M M U N I T I E S  
O F P R O M I S E

### on the cover

Brother Ivo Toneck stands in front of his vintage pickup parked at the entrance of the Bellas Artes/School of Fine Arts which bears his name. (SEE ARTICLE, STARTING ON PAGE 10) In his work as a missionary in Guaymas, Mexico for more than 30 years, Brother Ivo has become an icon of the community's faith and hopes. This article about his efforts to build community is in *itself* a community effort by his Franciscan brothers. Brother David Buer interviewed our confrere extensively and provided the text, while the photography of Brother Richard (Dick) Tandy captures the spirit of the man and the people he serves. Thanks as well to other community members: Friars Tommy King, Gerard Saunders, and Hajime Okuhara for their contributions to this article.

PHOTO: ©BROTHER RICHARD TANDY 2017

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## Prayer, Fraternity, Joy, Service



The Franciscan Friars of the Province of Saint Barbara are members of a Roman Catholic religious order, from a diversity of backgrounds and cultures, dedicated to serving the poor and promoting justice, peace, care of creation, and reconciliation in the joyful and prophetic spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.



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Have a comment or suggestion?  
Let us know by sending an email to  
[TheWay@sbfofm.org](mailto:TheWay@sbfofm.org)



dear friends...



## The grace of slowing down

*A wise friend told me recently: "The only race you have to be involved in is the human race." He was watching me descend into a mode of hyperactivity. What was I trying to prove?*

*I chuckled at my friend's comment, but had to admit that I was overinvolved and mostly with projects, like this magazine, that carry the name of St. Francis. How ironic! Why? Because while having St. Francis as a patron probably means different things to different people, to me it really boils down to slowing down over and over again to do exactly what my friend suggested—join the human race. After all, Francis was completely captivated by the idea of God taking on human flesh in the Incarnation and humbly joining the human race. I'm speculating here, but this act of love on God's part must have involved a cosmic effort to slow down! When St. Francis called himself a pilgrim, he was pointing to the same approach to time.*

*Putting together the current issue, we realized we were presenting two of many "St. Francis-es" in the Province of St. Barbara: Francis Center, Portland, and St. Francis Elementary School in Sacramento. Even in the name of simplicity, our ministries and projects have a way of multiplying. With St. Francis as patron of so many places, are we overloading his seraphic plate along with our own?*

*As I fly through my life, I sometimes sense a tug, as though someone is reaching up to me from solid ground calling me back down to earth. Maybe it's St. Francis, trying to get me to pause long enough to meet a few of his friends and spark a little human care and compassion.*

*If so, well, as our patron would have it, that's our hope for you and the stories that follow. ❖*

**Father Dan Lackie, OFM**  
Editor

ORIGINAL PHOTO BY ©PETER JORDON PHOTO 2014



by the way

## JUNE

### **Silent Contemplative Retreat**

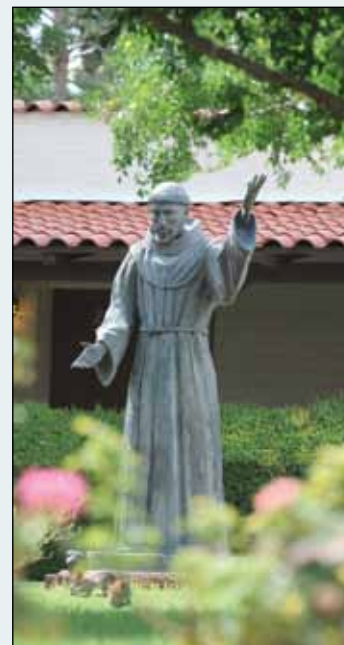
6/4–6/9 • San Damiano Retreat, Danville, CA  
Sister Ishpriya, world renowned spiritual animator & guide.

**More information:**  
www.sandamiano.org or call 925-837-9141

### **Touched by the Holy: Women in Watercolor**

6/4–6/10 • Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, AZ  
Sister Clare D'Auria OSF Intercommunity Sisters' Retreat. Explore stories of New Testament women.

**More information:**  
www.thecasa.org or call 480-948-7460



## JULY

### **La Alegria del Amor: Hispanic Couples Retreat**

7/7–7/9 • Serra Retreat, Malibu, CA  
Fr. Ray Tintle OFM & Carlos Obando

**More information:**  
www.serraretreat.com or call 310-456-6631

### **Growing into the Cosmic Christ**

7/23–7/28 • San Damiano, Retreat, Danville, CA  
Fr. Michael Crosby, OFM.Cap. 5-day Silent Contemplative Retreat. Developing a spirituality of discipleship.

**More information:** www.sandamiano.org or call 925-837-9141

### **2017 Annual Women's Retreat: (W)holy Listening: Journey of the Soul**

7/28–7/30 • St. Francis Retreat, San Juan Bautista, CA  
Sister Loretta Schraff

**More Information:**  
www.stfrancisretreat.com or call 831-623-4234

## AUGUST

### **Dreams Workshop Retreat Weekend**

8/4–8/6 • San Damiano Retreat, Danville, CA  
Jeremy Taylor, D. Min.

**More information:**  
www.sandamiano.org or call 925-837-9141

### **Senior Vacation Retreat**

8/6–8/11 or 8/14 • Old Mission San Luis Rey Retreat, Oceanside, CA  
Fr. Tom Herbst, OFM & Br. Mark Schroeder, OFM  
Eat, play, learn and pray! Daily schedule of activities and presentations. Flexible stay options.

**More information:**  
www.sanluisrey.org or call 760-757-3651

### **Feast of St. Clare Retreat Day**

8/11 • San Damiano Retreat, Danville, CA  
San Damiano staff

**More information:**  
www.sandamiano.org or call 925-837-9141

### **37th Annual Scripture Retreat**

8/11–8/13 • St. Francis Retreat, San Juan Bautista, CA  
Fr. Jim Nisbet  
Approaching Scripture through the eyes of faith and scholarly examination.  
More information:  
info@stfrancisretreat.com or call 831-623-4234

### **Men & Women's Serenity Retreat**

8/13–8/20 • Serra Retreat, Malibu, CA  
Fr. Tom Weston SJ  
Weeklong 12-Step Recovery Retreat

**More information:**  
www.serraretreat.com or call 310-456-6631



## snapshot

Ordination of Father Vincent  
Xuan Nguyen, OFM

March 25, 2017

Sts. Simon & Jude Parish,  
Huntington Beach, California

Photo taken by Khanh Vu



### An Ordination To Roar About!

Flanked by two ceremonial “lions” at the doors of Sts. Simon & Jude Church in Huntington Beach, California, newly ordained **Father Vincent Nguyen, OFM** extends his hands in blessing. A standing-room-only congregation packed the spacious sanctuary as The Most Reverend Kevin W. Vann, Bishop of the Diocese of Orange, laid hands on Vincent, conferring the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Family members, friends, and more than a score of friars attended the event, including **Provincial Minister David Gaa**, **Vicar Provincial Martín Ibarra**, and

**Pastor Daniel Barica, OFM**. The liturgy was marked by a number of special moments and gestures expressing the faith and culture of the Vietnamese Catholic community. These included a memorable Lion Dance (performed by several of Vincent’s nephews—shown here in costume), Scripture readings in Vietnamese, and even a few phrases in Vietnamese sprinkled throughout the bishop’s homily to the delight of all present.



# "The eyes of God are on those who fear him ...."

## Big Distinctions:

Sirach 15:19

By Father Warren Rouse, OFM

**Y**EARS AGO, our history professor pronounced these words of wisdom: "Never affirm, seldom deny, always distinguish." So let's do it with a simple statement:

*"The eyes God are on those who fear him...."*

Even ancient spiritual writers note that fear and fright are not the same. St. Hilary, a Doctor of the Faith, explained centuries ago:

*"We are afraid, or are made afraid, because of a guilty conscience, the rights of someone more powerful, an attack from one who is stronger, sickness, encountering a wild beast, suffering evil in any form. This kind of fear is not taught: it happens because we are weak. We do not have to learn what we should fear: objects of fear bring their own terror with them."*

While the emotion of fright is a basic instinct. Hilary then makes an important distinction:

*"But of the fear of the Lord this is what is written: 'Come, my children, listen to me, I shall teach you the fear of the Lord.' The fear of the Lord has then to be learned because it can be taught. It does not lie in terror, but in something that can be taught. It does not arise from the fearfulness of our nature; it has to be acquired by obedience to the commandments, by holiness of life and by knowledge of the truth."*

Our problem is that we confuse fear with fright, regardless of the fact that the word "fright" rarely appears in the Scripture. And this is a particular problem for most of us when we recall so many passages in the Old (Hebrew) bible that describe, sometimes in gory detail, the anger of God. That frightens us.

The Old Testament writers used words (such as "the wrath of God" and the like) that need to be understood, or better, translated by moderns. For example, what would a foreigner think when the sports announcer might say: "John was nailed on third base." Or "He was knocked before he even got to second base." We know what these verbs mean, but someone from another culture might think terrible things about an American baseball game.

So what does "the fear of God" really mean when we pray?

The answer is that we learn and pray for the grace to avoid anything that may weaken or harm our relationship with a good God. It's that simple and consoling. We find the idea even in the Lord's Prayer: "And lead us not into temptation." Fear, not fright.

St. Hilary again: *"For the fear of God consists wholly in love, and perfect love of God brings our fear of him to its perfection."* And the psalmist (Ps 128): *"O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways."* ♦

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Father Warren Rouse, OFM, is a former pastor, teacher, and retreat director, and is the author of Words of Wisdom. He lives at Serra Retreat in Malibu, California.

## donor profile

### Marjory Yeager:

a true Franciscan sister

By Father Dan Lackie, OFM

**Q**UIET, GENTLE, AND unassuming, Marjory Yeager has a unique perspective on the life and ministry of the Province of St. Barbara and the efforts she has supported so generously over the years. For those who knew Marjory's brother, the late Father Richard Purcell, no more has to be said. Well-known, well-loved, a Franciscan joker par excellence, Richard was a friar who knew well how to tap the Spirit to shake things up, always in the name of St. Francis and the poor ones he held so close to his heart.

"Honestly," says Marjory, "if it hadn't been for my brother I would have had no idea of the wide and colorful circle of Franciscans that I've gotten to know over the years."

Along with her brother Richard, Marjory grew up in Helena, Montana with five other siblings in an Irish Catholic clan. She was the oldest and Richard was second, and every day for years the two of them would walk together through the local Catholic cemetery—through the very cold Montana winter mornings—to reach their two-room schoolhouse. Remaining close over the years, Marjory ended up at Holy Names College in Spokane and watched as her brother Richard, already the gifted searcher with the creative heart, entered art school, later transferred to the diocesan seminary, sought out a vocation with the Trappists in Utah, and finally landed with the Franciscans.



Marjory Yeager (l) with her friend Chris Brannon (r) before Sunday Mass at Sts. Simon & Jude Church, Huntington Beach, CA

Meanwhile, Marjory was meeting and marrying her husband, Jim, falling in love with Gonzaga basketball and raising her own family. Jim, an engineer with Anaconda Aluminum and later Alcoa, had the family on the move from Montana, Alaska, Kentucky, and finally to California. On his own itinerant mission, Richard was living and serving in a unique series of ministries that took him from work with Native Americans in Arizona, all the way to urban street ministry in San Francisco where in the early 1990s he founded a residence—Marty's Place—to serve homeless men with AIDS. Marjory and Jim always kept tabs on Richard's adventures, supporting Richard and his brother friars wherever they could.

"Through Richard," she says, "I learned to accept everybody—as he was usually part of his own United Nations."

In 2004, Richard was diagnosed with ALS and slowly became less able to sustain his tasks at Marty's

*continued on page 25*

BROTHER IVO TONECK IS ...

"I'M  
GLAD I WAS  
HERE!"

BUILDING COMMUNITY IN GUAYMAS, MEXICO

By Brother David Buer, OFM

ALL PHOTOS: BROTHER RICHARD TANDY, OFM



I remember well a conversation I once had as a young friar with our postulancy director, Father Christian Mondor. As we walked together one evening after supper, he told me about the funeral he had attended of one of the friars, Father Hugh Noonan (d.1974). A recording was played of an interview Father Hugh had given just before his death. When asked what epitaph he would like for his tombstone, he answered, "Put down: 'I'm glad I was here!'" When people heard those words, there was not a dry eye in the church.

Here in Guaymas, our confrere, Brother Ivo Toneck, at the age of 89, has already given instructions for his burial and he has even had his coffin built! That said, he is not quite ready yet to meet Sister Death. First of all, he has made it clear that he wants to see his latest project, the three-story *Conservatorio de Música*/Conservatory of Music, completed first. Situated on a parcel of prime real estate in downtown Guaymas, the Conservatory has



The exterior (above) and interior (inset) of the Porciúncula Chapel (circa 1985), overlooking the city of Guaymas. Wendell Rossman, architect.

.....  
been a 20-year dream of Brother Ivo's. But it is only the most recent of a series of several significant construction projects in which he has been involved over the past three





Brother Ivo Toneck, affectionately known as “Fray Ivo,” intent in conversation. Brother Ivo has been responsible for the construction of a number of major civic building projects in the city realized with the assistance of benefactors in both Mexico and the United States.

decades of his life as a missionary in this seaport city in the state of Sonora, northern Mexico.

Shortly after he arrived in Guaymas in 1985, Brother Ivo was asked by Father Marty Gates, founder of the Casa Franciscana, to start two construction projects. The first was the beautiful Porciúncula chapel designed by Phoenix area architect Wendell Rossman. Perched on a hilltop site in the midst of a poor neighborhood, it provides a commanding view of the city. There were some serious challenges along the way to completion—concrete trucks had to navigate torturous

unpaved roads to reach the area, for example. But after a year’s effort, the chapel was ready.

Brother Ivo’s next project was an expanded food preparation and dining area at the Mesón de Jesús, the soup kitchen Father Marty had started in 1990. Father Marty wanted an enlarged facility to accommodate the Mesón’s growing list of hungry guests. So Brother Ivo—working again with Wendell Rossman—undertook the task. Today, the Mesón continues to serve the poorest of the poor in comfortable and dignified surroundings.



(Top left and middle) Workers and volunteers at the Mesón de Jesús prepare nutritious meals daily for local guests. (Bottom) The facility serves hundreds of meals each week to members of the Guaymas community.

Once the Mesón was completed, though, Brother Ivo just couldn’t seem to stop building things! From his early days in Guaymas, he had been working with youth, creating for them from scratch a center for the study of music and traditional dance. Initially, they used borrowed space at the Casa Franciscana and the Mesón. But in the late 1990s, Brother Ivo was given an abandoned building—an old fishing co-op—for his use. This was the start of a six-year renovation project that completely transformed

*continued on page 24*





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## friar profile

► **Father Pat Evard, OFM**

Francis Center  
Portland, Oregon

(opposite) Father Pat in the pantry of Francis Center, Portland, Oregon. (r) Street view of Francis Center, which has served local people in need since 1968.



**“I love** this funky old place. It reminds me of my grandmother’s house.” I turn to fellow friar, Father Richard Juzix as we pull to the curb outside Francis Center. Perched on a corner lot on a busy southeast Portland street, the modest wood-frame bungalow nevertheless manages to convey a sense of poise and welcome. Inside, we make our way through the kitchen, brushing past a tray of freshly frosted cupcakes on the table, on through the plant-festooned dining room, and into the main “office.” Two side-by-side desks face a long comfy sofa. The front window is framed by curtains, potted plants, and yellowing hand-pulled shades. Father Pat Evard, 84, shifts a bit in his chair, then rises, albeit carefully, to greet us. “They told me it would take two years for me to get over this stroke entirely,” he quips. “Well, we’ve got one more month to go before I’m officially cured, supposedly. ”

Father Pat is an old hand at the Center, which was started in 1968 by friars and lay volunteers, mostly from neighboring Ascension Parish where the Franciscans had served until recent years. Father Pat himself joined the Center staff in 1980 and has been there ever since. “We serve about 1,000 people a month now—ten times as many people as we helped when we first started,” he explains. “Originally, our clients were people in the area who were on welfare and needed help with food at the end of the month. But now, we are serving a great number of immigrants—including many elderly people from Asia—as well as the working poor and the homeless. We provide them with a lot of the things that food stamps won’t cover.” Father Pat leads me from one storage area to another: here is a place for hygiene products. The next room is for bedding, then infants’ clothing. In the basement is more clothing as well as a food pantry. Everywhere, simple hand-made signs indicate sizes, portions, and directions.

# MINISTERING FOR THE LONG HAUL

By Father Charles Talley, OFM

ALL PHOTOS: BOB KERNS



# "NO FUSS, NO MUSS, NO RED TAPE. IT'S THAT SIMPLE"



items as needed. The rules are clear: one three-day supply of food (based on three meals per day) each month for every person in a given household. Clothing may be selected from items donated and sorted. No fuss, no muss, no red tape. It's that simple.

"This is why I joined the Franciscans," reflects Father Pat, who left the edgy and frenetic world of Los Angeles advertising (think of a West Coast version of "Mad Men") to join the Franciscans at age 27. "This is a perfect job for a friar. I got tired of all the politics and bureaucracy. I always wanted to work hands-on, close to the poor, and to be able to help people directly." That's exactly what Father Pat and the rest of the Francis House folks do, every Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., shine or—since we're in Portland—more likely, rain.

"Everything here is so human—very homey and very kind," says volunteer Carlene Shuminski, who does the simplified intake while clients sit back on the sofa. Information is entered manually on large index cards in a matter of minutes: name, address (if the client has one), needs, etc. Each approved client is then eligible to come to the Center once a month to pick up foodstuffs and/or clothing, bedding, and personal



The morning of our visit, more than 40 people had already come through the Center before our arrival.

People come for help and they get help. They also get vital human contact and basic respect. Someone is always willing to bend an ear, stop to chat, share a cuppa. "It's a wonderful opportunity to serve—especially for a younger friar or someone who wants to re-focus from other kinds of ministry," Father

(both pages) Volunteers are the mainstay of the St. Francis Center's outreach, as they prepare and distribute donated clothing and essential food items to more than 1,000 individuals and families each month.



Pat remarks. As for himself, he is clearly at the Center for the long haul. While not at work, he lives in a simple, one-room houseboat moored on Multnomah Bay. Weekends, he is the Catholic priest moderator at the Mission of Atonement (At-One-Ment) faith community. Founded in 1975 under jointly sanctioned Roman Catholic and Lutheran auspices, it serves blended Catholic-Lutheran families. Father Pat also keeps in regular contact with the friars at St. John the Baptist Parish in nearby Milwaukie, but he doesn't own a computer or smart phone. True to his nature, he prefers to keep everything simple and basic; no complicated electronics, thank you.

As we leave, Carlene hands me a plastic storage bag of homemade peanut butter cookies. "Baked them this morning. Hope you'll enjoy them." Just the kind of thing my grandmother—and probably yours, too—would say and do. ❖

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*Father Charles Talley, OFM is Director of Communications for the Franciscan friars of the Province of St. Barbara.*





## Keeping the Franciscan Tradition and Vision

By Brother Mark Schroeder, OFM

ALL PHOTOS: SAMARA PALKO

Last fall, in the Basilica of St. Clare in Assisi, Italy, Ivan Hrga sat in prayer. In front of him was the famous San Damiano cross, “the cross that started an entire movement,” he says.

For Hrga (pronounced *her-ga*), principal of St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School in Sacramento, California, this reflective moment in the hometown of St. Francis and St. Clare was part of a pilgrim journey within a journey that started in the city of San Francisco, California, Hrga’s birthplace. “If you ask my wife,” he says, “she would tell you that the spirit of St. Francis has been with me all my life, but I admit that I don’t know if I can completely agree or see it at times.”

All through his childhood, Hrga was surrounded by relatives, all of whom were from Croatia, a place where the Franciscan spirit has been thriving for centuries. Junipero Serra—now St. Junipero—was the patron of Hrga’s Bay Area high school. Completing his academic career and pursuing professional work in education, Hrga served in administration at St. Francis High School, Sacramento, before coming to St. Francis Elementary School three years ago. There his Franciscan lineage was brought to bear on a new and

potentially daunting Franciscan challenge: unable to staff St. Francis Parish, the friars were turning over its pastoral care to the Bishop for the first time in its 100+ year history. The challenge became a question Hrga posed to himself and to his staff: “How do we keep Franciscan institutions *Franciscan*?”



Principal Ivan Hrga, with students from St. Francis Elementary School, in front of school mural.

Working together in the spring 2016 Hrga and the school staff added Franciscan language to the school’s Mission and Philosophy statements and to the School-wide Learning Expectations (required for accreditation). With the revisions in place the school was re-accredited by the Western Catholic Educational Association for a six-year term, no small feat! Striving to create a Franciscan environment and instilling Franciscan, Catholic values and traditions in the students continued to be the priority in sustaining Franciscan identity at the school.

Further steps now ensued toward the same goal, including a big one that led to Hrga’s time of prayer in the Basilica of St. Clare. Out-going Franciscan Pastor Ken Laverone suggested that Hrga consider taking

part in a pilgrimage retreat to Assisi sponsored by Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs. Soon Fr. Ken invited the newly appointed diocesan pastor, Desmond “Fr. Des” O’Reilly, to join the pilgrimage, too. Parish funds were secured and Hrga and Fr. Des traveled together to Assisi in October, 2016. Once home, Hrga

engaged in a series of presentations on his pilgrimage for parents, staff, and students. But he admits that sharing the Franciscan vision through his account of his time as a pilgrim was no simple task. In a recent reflection he wrote: “It was so hard to articulate what the experience was like! It was awe-inspiring to see, touch, and walk the same places as St. Francis and St. Clare. We walked more than 60 miles in 10 days, but that’s only a *glimpse* of the walk-

ing that Francis did his entire life.”

Hrga names that time in front of the original San Damiano crucifix as the highlight of the pilgrimage. “It’s the cross that Francis and Clare

*continued on page 25*





## "It's All About Just Showing Up!"

Marie Abernethy:  
lay volunteer in the  
Franciscan spirit

By Father Charles Talley, OFM

**"I**T'S ALL ABOUT showing up. I just say my prayers and see what God is asking of me." According to Marie Abernethy, former Franciscan Covenant member, and now a lay volunteer in Honduras, her whole life has been about just showing up.

Showing up was about being present to people in the hardscrabble Glasgow, Scotland of her childhood: "I grew up in The Gorbals, a pretty tough area, but everybody helped each other. I went with my mum to the washhouse to do the laundry. Every day there was shopping to do: from the green-grocer to the fish market to the bakery. People were waked at home. That's the way we lived."



Showing up was about starting a new life in the United States: "Hugh, my husband, took a job with United Airlines and together we moved to Chicago. Just three weeks later, I got a job as a nurse. Then, we had the kids and bought our first home. In 1988, my husband got sick—a ruptured aneurism. He never worked after that. I was really a single mom then, with six kids between the ages of 10 and 20, and working full-time."

Showing up was about joining the Franciscan Covenant Program: "It all happened so fast: I retired on a Wednesday, sold my house that Friday, and flew to California the following Monday! At Old Mission San



PHOTO: ©LA FINCA DEL NIÑO 2017



(above) The community at La Finca del Niño (The Farm of the Child) in Trujillo, Honduras. Staff, volunteers, and students shown in front of the chapel. (opposite top) Marie autographing souvenir shirt for student (opposite bottom) Marie Abernethy.

Luis Rey, I filled in wherever I was needed: museum, gift shop, garden, or Welcome Center. At the parish, I helped start a bereavement group and worked with Eucharistic ministers."

Showing up was about connecting with Franciscan spirituality: "We had prayers and meals with the friars and interacted with them. I saw such strength and goodness in them—so much light-heartedness and joy!"

Showing up was about moving on to our mission in Guaymas (Sonora, Mexico): "I stayed for eight months at the Casa Franciscana. I prayed in the morning, then served food in the dining room, the Mesón de Jesús where we fed 50-60 kids every day. I also helped out at the infirmary. I arrived with no Spanish at all, but it worked out fine. We just laughed an awful lot!"

Showing up was about working with women in recovery back in the US: "I got a call to return to Oceanside to help open a new residential program. With two houses close to the Old Mission—Martha and Mary—we served 25 women total. They had tough lives. But it was wonderful to see them healing, becoming whole as they worked on their 12 steps."

Showing up is now about helping orphans in Honduras: "I found the link on the Internet to La Finca del Niño (The Farm of the Child) in Trujillo, Honduras and applied. I've been here for a year now. We are eight volunteers along with three Franciscan sisters. A total of 32 kids live on our 22-acre compound, with another 125 day students. I am the grandmother! Mostly I try to spend time with the kids, gain their trust, and build relationships with them. I'm just doing small things for the kids like braiding their hair, or baking a cake, or giving them some crayons and paper. You know, the older I get, I just see God everywhere—I'm so grateful! As for myself, I just pray and try to show up!" ❖

*Father Charles Talley, OFM is Director of Communications for the Franciscan friars of the Province of St. Barbara.*



creative spirit

## Painted Psalms:

The Artwork of  
Howard Schroeder, OFS

Secular Franciscan (OFS) Howard Schroeder lives and works in the St. Louis, Missouri area. These works are painted tapestries he designs based on Franciscan themes.

### ARTIST STATEMENT

I have been a graphic artist by trade from the beginning, with only one detour. Like Francis, I tried being a soldier. I have since my youth largely explored spiritual themes in paintings beginning with romanticized notions and Native American spiritual themes. Around 2011, I began expressing Franciscan themes, as the creative ideas of St. Francis and St. Clare answered and fulfilled my relationship to Catholicism. I also believe this had something to do with my contact with the Sisters of the St. Clare Monastery in Oakville. I tremble to think what their prayers accomplish!

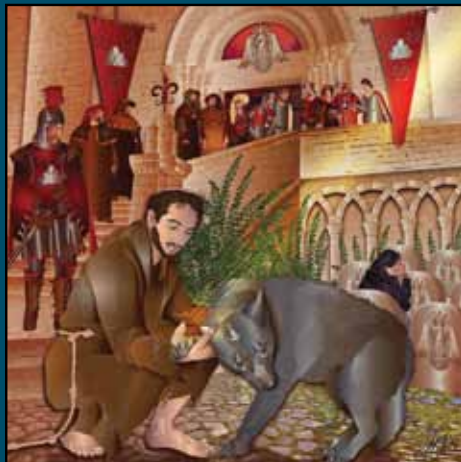
*For more information about Howard's work, visit:*  
[www.paintedpsalms.com](http://www.paintedpsalms.com) ❖



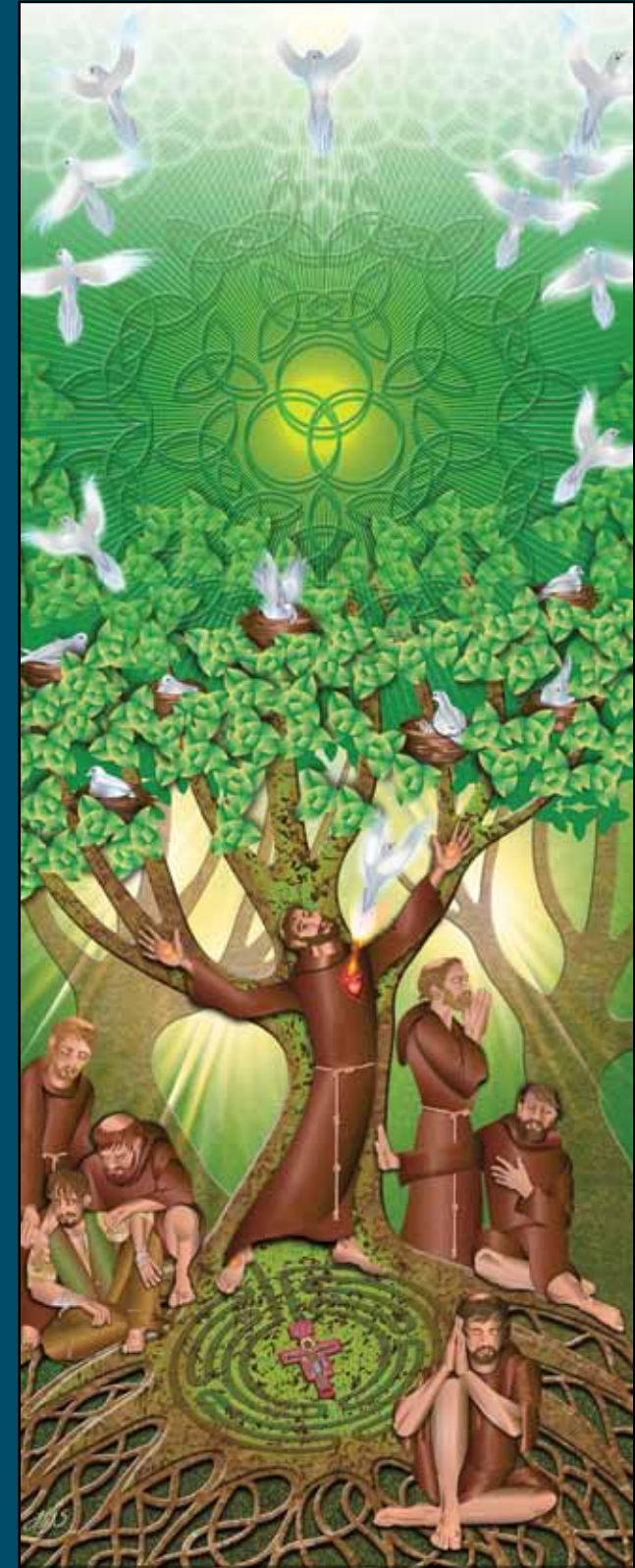
Living Stones



Path to Peace



Wolf of Gubbio



Band of Brothers





Facade of the Escuela de Bellas Artes Fray Ivo Toneck / School of Fine Arts, started in 1998 to serve the youth of Guaymas.

the site into a flourishing regional arts school. Providing arts training for children between the ages of four and 18, the Escuela de Bellas Artes Fray Ivo Toneck/School of Fine Arts now boasts a complete marching band in addition to a mariachi band and a full 160-piece youth orchestra. Several dance troupes performing in the area of classical, folkloric, and modern expression are thriving as well—not to mention the youth choir and classical guitar groups! Because of Bellas Artes, thousands of Guaymas youth have received an education in the performing arts that would be the envy of any city in the world. This arts education has enabled many students to go on to support themselves as artists.

Eight hundred years ago, Saint Francis of Assisi responded to the voice of the Lord calling him to “rebuild my church, which as you see, is in ruins.” Initially, Francis thought this call was to renew actual church buildings. Only later did he begin to realize that God was calling him to rebuild the “living” Church—a Church made of people, not just physical structures. In like manner, Brother Ivo has come to realize that there is far more at stake than the construction of material facilities.

Poised on its hilltop promontory, the Porciúncula chapel continues to be a powerful physical symbol and reminder to the people of Guaymas that God is present and among us—especially in the midst of His poor. The Mesón de Jesús is not just a feeding center; it is a sanctuary, providing the hungry with nourishing food served with love and respect. And Belle Artes comes fully alive each weekday at 4 p.m. as hundreds of eager and energetic young people stream in for their lessons and rehearsals.

As Brother Ivo reflects: “The buildings are just buildings, but what happens in these buildings is such a beautiful thing!” After his 30-plus years of building community in Guaymas, Brother Ivo, in the words of our confrere Father Hugh, can readily say: “I’m glad I was here!” So are we. ❖

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*Father Charles Talley, OFM is Director of Communications for the Province of St. Barbara.*

prayed in front of for 40 years. It was the cross that spoke to Francis and began his conversion.”

The San Damiano cross has now been incorporated into the new crest of the school, as a visual reminder of the school’s living roots. And in another move quite in keeping with the spirit of the art of Assisi, Hrga, along with colleagues and staff, helped design a mural to brighten the school’s three-story central stairway. “We were very intentional,” he says, “in laying out

the mural from the third floor all the way down to the ground floor. We wanted the mural to speak not only of St. Francis, but also to be a reminder of our tradition and our mission as a school.” The mural includes St. Francis’ famous poem, *Canticle of the Sun*, along with the *Prayer of St. Francis*, images of the parish church juxtaposed with the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, figures of students and teachers, and a depiction of St. Clare.

As it turned out, the *Prayer of St. Francis*

ended up on the wall right outside Hrga’s office. “Seeing the prayer right in front of me is that little voice in my head that keeps on pointing to how we should live.” ❖

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*Brother Mark Schroeder, OFM is Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) coordinator for the Franciscan provinces of St. Barbara and Our Lady of Guadalupe (New Mexico). He resides at St. Francis Friary, Sacramento, CA.*

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 donor profile: *continued from page 9*

Place. A host of volunteers stepped in to help and during visits to pitch in with her brother’s care, Marjory and Jim became part of the colorful and diverse community of Marty’s Place.

With Richard’s death in August 2011, Marjory and Jim were part of the procession of her brother’s casket from San Francisco to Sacaton, Arizona, an event that Marjory will never forget. The funeral was a Native ceremony presided over by members of the Pima nation that Richard had gotten to know over the years.

Three years after Richard’s death, Marjory lost her husband, Jim, after a short illness. The two had become active members of Sts. Simon & Jude Parish in Huntington Beach, CA where Marjory was exposed to yet another face of Franciscan ministry. Marjory was comforted by the presence of Chris and Wayne Brannon, who always sat in the pew behind them at church. She remembers very distinctly the first time she came to Mass following Jim’s death. “Chris spotted me and came right over saying

‘You’re sitting with us from now on.’” Marjory was now on the receiving end of the kind of support she herself had offered so generously over the years.

Through her brother, Marjory had a unique entrance into the Franciscan family. But the fact that she has entered so generously and with such an open heart, makes her every inch the Franciscan her brother was, a true Franciscan sister! ❖

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*Father Dan Lackie, OFM serves as editor of The Way as part of the Outreach Office of the Province of Saint Barbara.*

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at last

## Cave of the Heart

by Howard Schroeder, OFS



*You are my hiding place, O Lord; my protection and my refuge. You can see all my interior mansions, the darkest room, the furthest passage, all the secrets of my soul, in the cave of my heart. I sit at the door of this cave, my eyes deprived of the world outside: silence of heart, mind and soul. With my fingers touching the moist dirt, the humus, my heart groans in prayer totally turned to You. When I let You in, I see You are already there, no longer obscured by my dim vision. You light up this cavern in my heart the things I desire: the passions I wrestle with, the world I hold on to, the sin I would slide back into. I see the freedom I could ask for. And the humility to see Your will in freedom and hold on to it in devotion. You would have me emerge from this cave, this humus, this womb, to walk in the light, to be a light, to call me forth like Lazarus: Come Out! Unbind him!*

LET US ALL  
REMEMBER THIS:  
ONE CANNOT PROCLAIM THE  
GOSPEL OF JESUS WITHOUT  
THE TANGIBLE WITNESS OF  
ONE'S LIFE.

THOSE WHO LISTEN TO US  
AND OBSERVE US MUST BE  
ABLE TO SEE IN OUR ACTIONS  
WHAT THEY HEAR FROM  
OUR LIPS, AND SO  
GIVE GLORY TO GOD!



POPE FRANCIS • HOMILY

THE PAPAL BASILICA OF ST. PAUL OUTSIDE-THE-WALLS  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, APRIL 14, 2013



Franciscan Friars of California, Inc.  
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Oakland, CA 94601



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