

Behind the scenes at ARG

There are many perks one can receive from attending the ARG. Victoria Romero, OFS and Suzie Nelson, OFS attended the Formation session headed by Diane Ambrose, OFS Regional Formation Director. They brought with them information to share with our council. Louis Coker, OFS attended the Minister's Session with me. He said, "This was my second ARG Conference and it was another special session, not only because of Bill Short's presentations but I was also happy to spend some time with Ken Brooke, OFS, Regional Treasurer and Jerry Rousseau, OFS, National Treasurer. Also, spending time with our Fraternity's Brothers and Sisters was a treat. Most memorable was watching Jerry Rousseau taking special care of his wife, Madeline. The spirit of St. Francis in action!"

During Social Time, we gathered on the patio and discussed many things. Ellen Ferrone, OFS and I exchanged ideas about our JPIC apostolates. Joan Monti noted that they had good chats and discussions about the topic and many praises for Br. Bill. Lynn Oeser, OFS reflected, "Brother Bill himself became the perfect modern-day example of being the word made flesh during the breaks and social time when he mingled with the group. His presence, patience, peace and light gave reverence and kind attention to each one who stood before him. He is doing what is his to do."

There was time for bonding with roommates and brothers and sisters from other fraternities. When Jerry Rousseau, OFS passed by, we pulled him in and thanked him for the help he gave in getting our fraternity restarted. Another perk was to renew acquaintances with former brothers and sisters from other fraternities. For me, it's always a pleasure to talk to Jenney Taylor Johnson, OFS from the Maximillian Kolbe Fraternity in Charlotte or our Area 3 Counselors, Bob Pearson, OFS from the Greensboro fraternity and Carolyn Peduzzi, OFS from Morehead City, NC. And to meet new people such as Martha Roman, OFS and her husband, Frank Roman, OFS from the same fraternity and discuss their program on bi-lingual fraternity; it's always fun to talk to Willie Guadalupe, OFS National Multicultural Coordinated. She is so bubbly and enthusiastic. We thanked Joanita Nellenbach, OFS for her work on the ARG programs and the *Communio*.

Great experiences also happen on the shared rides to and from the ARG. Jeannie Casciere said she learned more about her sisters on that ride that she didn't know. Suzie Nelson, OFS said she, Dianne, and Marie discussed personal miracles that have happened in their lives. Who would have known?

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COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Gregory Spuhler,
OFM Conv

Minister:
Frank Peluso, OFS

Vice Minister:
Suzanne Nelson, OFS

Formation Director:
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BSSF Region

Minister:
DorothyAnn Rowland,
OFS

Area 3 Councilors :

Bob Pearson, OFS
Carolyn Peruzzi, OFS

NAFRA

Minister:
Jan Parker, OFS

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All in all, I was humbled and happy that the Padre Pio Fraternity from Raleigh had the largest turnout: Michael Hancock, OFS handled the audio-visual effects for Br. Bill; Lynn Oeser, OFS sang in the ARG choir; Mike Oeser carried our banner in the parade of fraternities; several people contributed to our display table; Louis Coker, OFS was our photographer; and, Deacon Phil Rzewnicki celebrated mass with Monsignor Bello and read the gospel on Sunday. I must add the picture albums on our table were beautiful, thanks to Lee Cunningham, OFS and her 100+ year old grandmother who helped embellish them. It warmed my heart to see Diane Greet, OFS sit with Michael's wife, Gail since she was alone as he worked the A-V equipment.

Some people signed up for Adoration, even for the middle of the night! Others spent time taking nature walks. I know Victoria's husband, John took an early morning walk and Ben and Gladys took their daughter, Ilene on a walk up the mountain to the prayer garden and chapel.

One sad moment was when Ann Hammers, OFS Treasurer from the Channel of Peace Fraternity had an accident, when the elevator door knocked her down. She was seriously injured and brought to the hospital. She would appreciate your prayers and perhaps a card. Her address is 4110 Mountain Creek Road Unit 36, Chattanooga, TN 37415 or e-mail chattanooga@comcast.net.

There were too many interesting experiences for my poor mind to remember. However, I noticed when our brothers and sisters were leaving they had a smile on their face and in their heart.

By F.E. Peluso, OFS

Franciscan Resources

Brother Bill gave us these web sites which included the Early Writings of St. Francis and St. Clare, free at: www.franciscantradition.org. Also, he mentioned Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis have added a sense of urgency to their call for Catholics to act on climate change. The US Bishops themselves have called for action. Go to: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org and a Franciscan voice at the United Nations is protecting the vulnerable, the forgotten, and our wounded earth through advocacy at: <http://franciscansinternational.org>. Franciscans Deliver is a ministry of service to the poor, elderly, shut-ins and anyone who has difficulty accessing services in their neighborhood. Their website is at <https://www.stfrancisbreadline.org>.



Left: Michael Oeser, Inquirer carries our banner in the Parade of Banners.

Right: A scene from David and Lordes Shick's room.





DorothyAnn Rowland, OFS



Deacon Phil Rzewnicki



Brother Bill Short, OFM



S. Lynn Oeser, OFS (in the middle) and the Choir



Gladys and Ben Whitehouse chatting

We thank our candidate, Michael Hancock, OFS for his diligent work with Brother Bill as he provided the audiovisual effects for the ARG.(Left)
Below: Msgn. Bello prepares for mass.

