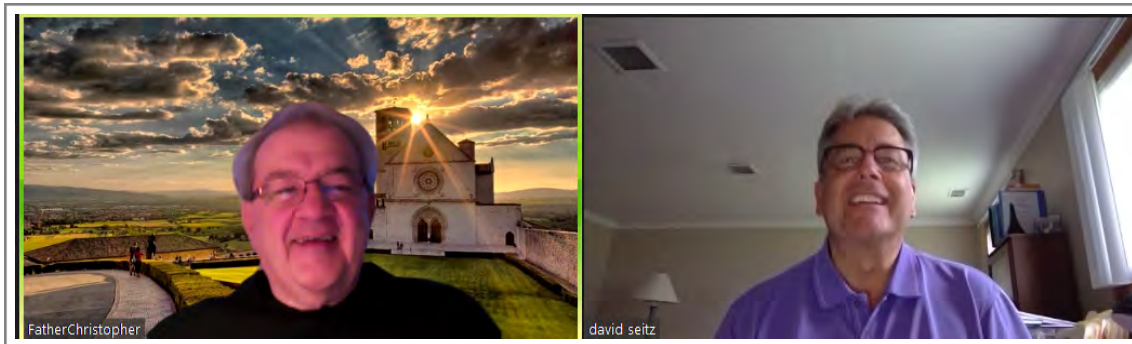




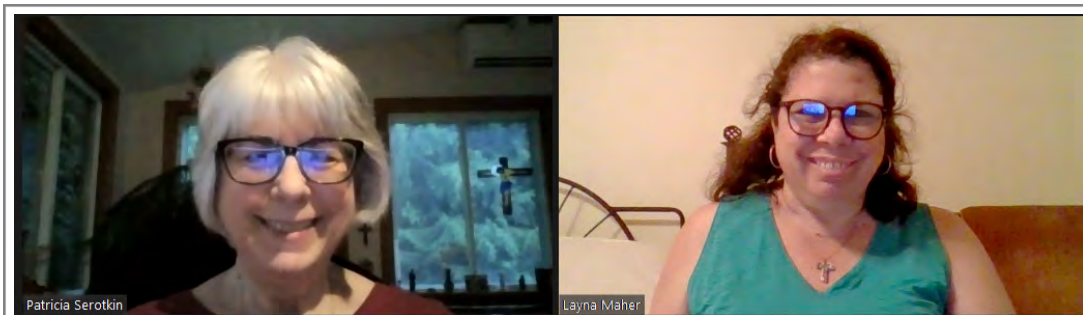
11th Summer Seminar for Secular Franciscans Focuses on Catholic Social Teaching

by Patricia Serotkin, OFS

The 11th Summer Seminar for Secular Franciscans sponsored by Saint Francis University, **“When Justice and Peace Kiss,”** was presented on July 8-10 via ZOOM. The presenters were **Father Christopher Panagoplos, TOR**, a Franciscan Friar of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance, Province of the Immaculate Conception; and **David Seitz, OFS**, who has served the order at all levels in various offices, and who currently offers programs on Franciscan spirituality and social justice. Information about David’s programs can be found at: <https://tauministries.com/>



Layna Maher OFS, formation director for St. Kateri Tekakwitha Region, provided technical support for the Seminar; and Pat Serotkin, OFS, minister of Lady Poverty Region and Seminar host on behalf of Saint Francis University, provided general information.



The Seminar consisted of six sessions, discussions, with breaks between sessions. Approximately 40 attendees participated over the duration of the Seminar.

Friday, July 9

Who Are We: Who Are These People Called Secular Franciscans? by David Seitz

The Church's Mission and Social Doctrine. Father Christopher

What Are We Called to Do? by David Seitz

Saturday, July 10

Social Doctrine and Commitment of the Lay Faithful. by Father Christopher

Pathways Forward by David Seitz

Personal and Societal Commitment: Love in Action by Father Christopher

The Seminar attendees were fully engaged in the seminar topics, evidenced by lively discussions in both the small breakouts and the large group. Of course, as with any Franciscan gathering, there was also quite a bit of socializing between the sessions. During the last small group discussion time, participants were asked to formulate a list of action items they would like to work on moving forward in their fraternities and regions. The list includes:

- Immigration work
- Race equity
- "Pray" *Fratelli Tutti*
- Help out homeless neighbors
- Help the housing crisis
- Become more inclusive
- Support a peace pole as a healing effort for our Native Americans and all involved
- Service, peace, and justice
- More service for those in prison
- Continue with formation and CST to be professed
- Help with food insecurity in our area and in the world
- Respect rights of all peoples
- Anti-racism work
- Inform citizens about the lack of reliable emergency medicine in small towns

The 2021 Summer Seminar planning team thanks all who attended this year's event, as well as those who contributed to its success. The Seminar presentations and prayer services are posted at the [Saint Francis University Office of the President](#) website. One final note: there will not be a Summer Seminar in 2022, because we will be attending the [Quinquennial Congress in Phoenix!](#)



May the Lord Bless Us and Give Us His Peace!