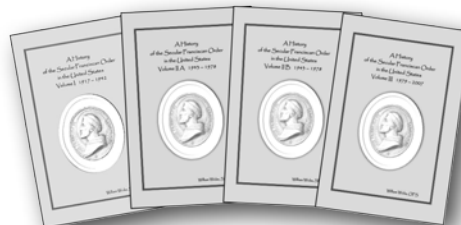


5TH SUMMER SEMINAR FOR THE OFS



FINDING OUR HISTORY

A Theatrical, Multi-media Presentation

Highlights of the History of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States

Written and Produced by Bill Wicks

The *Finding Our History* Summer Seminar was a three-day event consisting of five acts exploring a variety of pivotal topics important to the historical development of the Secular Franciscan Order. They included: formation of a national organization, promotion of the Third Order Franciscans, *The Hour of St. Francis* radio and TV programs, the Franciscan Peace Award, the Civil Rights involvement, the formulation of the **Rule of 1978** and more. The presentation used a variety of formats: skits, dramatic readings, music, PowerPoint, photographs, video and discussion. The follow is a recap of the highlights of the first day.

A BRIDGE TO EVERYWHERE

Seminar Reflection by Rodney Knier, OFS

July 5, 2013

On the second floor of the DiSepio Institute at the St. Francis University in Loretto, Penn., is “a bridge to nowhere” with the tree of Eve at its head. That’s just the opposite of what some 60 Secular Franciscan participants and five TOR Friars experienced on July 5 through 7.

As Ghandi once said, “To the good man the whole world is good,” and so the seminar participants saw how Bill Wicks’ *History of the Third Order* portrays the Secular Franciscans helping one another’s goodness to help foster a reformed world through gospel living.

We followed Bill Wicks and the cast of actors as they walked us through the formation of the National Organization. Through skits and dramatization we saw:

- the history of the Secular Franciscan order in the United States from 1917–2007 with the formation of a national organization
- how the vital reciprocity among the three major orders of the OFM and the TOR worked with the third order

Franciscans to influence society as correlated with major world events

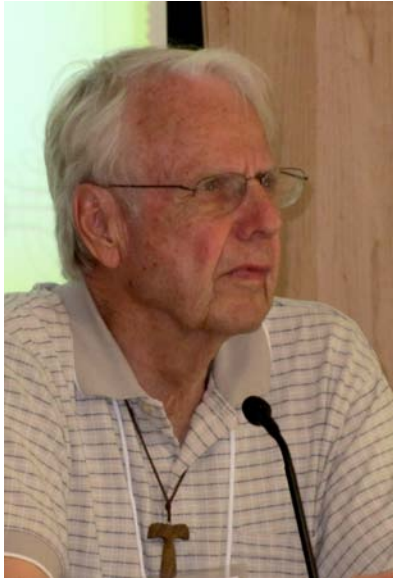
- how notable Franciscans helped the Tertiaries from their first national organization, which met in Chicago in 1921, to celebrate the 7th centenary of the forming of the Third Order on the feast day of the investment of the first Tertiaries, Blessed Luchesius and his wife Bonadonna, by St. Francis himself.
- how the Kulturkampf of Otto Von Bismarck of Germany effected a major immigration to the United States by exiling Franciscans Friars and Tertiaries from Germany, and how many Tertiaries helped the clergy escape severe persecutions at the time by holding secret meetings

The early Sacred Heart Province led the other major Franciscan Provinces to form the National Convention in 1921. *The Franciscan Herald* pioneered communication for Third Order members at Quincy, Ill., Teutopolis, Ill, Joliet, Ill and San Diego, Calif.

The evening of the first day featured viewings of *The Hour of St. Francis* as aired from the 1940s through the 1980s, morphing into major television programs and telespots.

*An Interactive Theater Presentation of the History of the Secular Franciscan Order
in the United States 1917-2007*

Presenters:



William Wicks, OFS
*Historian of our Order and
Former National Minister*



Cindy Wesley, OFS
*Minister, Bl. Junipero Serra Region
(Northern CA and Nevada)*



Jim Wesley, OFS
Editor, TAU-USA

Elizabeth Allen, OFS
Former National Secretary



*Seminar hosts from Lady Poverty Region including
Pat Serotkin and her late husband, Bob.*



*Bill Wicks
introducing
a skit with
a few dance
moves.*



*Participants has an opportunity to view historical
display boards and memorabilia.*



*Jim Wesley and TOR friars reading through a meeting
dialogue debating the civil rights issue.*