

QUINQUENNIAL 2016

REVIVING OUR SPIRIT

By Susan Simeone, OFS

By our profession, we consecrate our lives to God. We are fully His. We recited these words and have heard them at all professions: “live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its rule of life. May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy father St. Francis, and the fraternal bonds of community always be my help, so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love.” (Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order, 1985, page 24). Saint Francis, when surrendering his will to God, found himself living his life for Him. We are called to do the same.

The **Q 2016** gathering of our Franciscan family is led by the Holy Spirit to praise and honor our Lord, our God and Our All! St. Francis led us and continues to be our role model in this way of life of joy, humility and peace. Come, let us rejoice, let us *revive our spirit* at **Q 2016** and let us go forth into the world sharing our gifts.

A family, according to St. Francis in his “Later Admonition and Exhortation to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance,” is defined as various roles within one entity called a community. However, each of us, has opportunities to live the roles throughout our Franciscan way of life.

“We are spouses when the faithful soul is united by the Holy Spirit to our Lord Jesus Christ. We are brothers, moreover, when we do the Will of His Father who is in heaven; mothers when we carry Him in our heart and body through love and a pure and sincere conscience; and give Him birth through a holy activity, which must shine before others by example.”

Reviving Our Spirit, the theme of **Q 2016**, offers all brothers and sisters of Francis the opportunity to “re-create” ourselves and others as we refresh ourselves, renew our Franciscan spirituality, and discern how we can be better

spouses, mothers and brothers to all, in order to give birth to Him. We all need to return to the well, and the **Q 2016** offers a humble yet extraordinary experience of renewing our friendships within our Franciscan family members and gathering new friends to our family in an atmosphere of joy and peace.

Reviving Our Spirit plans to offer large and small group sessions in which speakers from different regions will share how they revive their spirits. Their gifts will be shared, and we will all benefit from witnessing them.

Please mark your calendar to be at this awesome Franciscan celebration, **Q 2016, in St. Louis, MO, June 30, July 1, 2, 3**, returning to your home to continue the work on July 4, 2016!

As Franciscans, we are called to be open to the many gifts the Holy Spirit gives us and to share those gifts with others. We are called to be merciful, to be patient, to be forgiving. Our work may be laborious at times but Jesus is with us. Our Seraphic father Francis is calling us to gather. The Holy Spirit is also calling us to be open to hear one another **Reviving Our Spirit!**



The
Reflective Questions
in Preparation for the
Quinquennial 2016
Reviving Our Spirit

- How do we live our faith through our profession?
- How can we serve one another in reviving our spirit?