

A Message from the President

Dear Fraternal Leader,

Throughout this year, you'll hear us reference the scripture passage, "Many Parts, One Body," which is the theme of our upcoming Triennial Convention. At the convention we will celebrate the diverse fraternal societies that are now united as one . . . Catholic Financial Life.

In the same way, you as fraternal leaders come together as individuals, each with unique talents and abilities to contribute to the activities sponsored by your chapter. As you and your officer team plan your next event and assign tasks, consider each person's strengths and interests. Encourage the flow of ideas by allowing volunteers to suggest new events and brainstorm creative ways to engage members.

Planning activities with neighboring chapters offers another opportunity for many parts to work together as one body. Collaborative events have the potential for greater attendance, while reducing the amount of planning time and certain costs when shared by more than one chapter. We often hear of chapters hosting dinners at the same restaurant on successive weekends - or sometimes on the same day only in different rooms! Why not get together and plan a joint member celebration or JOIN HANDS DAY project with the chapter down the road? Doing this can bring a fresh perspective to your events and reduce the risk of burn out among your volunteers.

Promoting collaboration among chapters is one of the goals of the training sessions being hosted by the fraternal department this year. More information on these sessions can be found inside this issue of *Fraternal Leader*. You'll also find minutes from the recent meeting of another collaborative team - the Fraternal Leaders Advisory Group (FLAG), and the results of our combined support for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 2011.



President Bill O'Toole with Dave Hawkins of Chapter 60, Janesville, Wis., at the recent training session in Milwaukee.

We all benefit from working, living, and praying together ("For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20). As we prepare to gather as one body at the Triennial Convention later this year, let's ask the Lord to help us appreciate the differences that add to our strength and the similarities that make us one. Together we'll accomplish great things for the good of our members and the communities in which they live, and ensure a bright future for Catholic Financial Life.

Fraternally,

Bill

P.S. If I can be of service to you, please feel free to e-mail or call me.

bill.otoole@catholicfinanciallife.org
800-927-2547

New FLAG Begins Busy Year with February Meeting

The Fraternal Leaders Advisory Group (FLAG) met via conference call on February 12, and laid the groundwork for its first official year. Highlighted at the meeting was FLAG's initial overview of the proposed revisions to the chapter funding system, the constitution of FLAG itself, and list of nominees for committees to the Triennial Convention to be held September 28-30 in Milwaukee.

With the creation of FLAG (formerly Branch Officer Round Table), existing members had been asked to consider serving staggered terms going forward. These were decided through random selection, with members eligible to serve for one, two, or three 2-year terms. (See side panel for a list of the 2012 FLAG members and term eligibility.) Joining the committee, as the first representative of the Society's New England membership, is Paul Plante of Woonsocket, R.I.

Prior to the meeting, FLAG members were asked to review a list of potential candidates to serve on the various convention committees. Names were generated based on those who expressed a willingness to serve, many with prior convention experience. Those selected are primarily current chapter presidents or secretaries, receiving automatic delegate status to the Triennial Convention. FLAG nominated two delegates per committee to the Credentials, Finance, and Grievance Committees and three each to the Judiciary and Nominating Committees.

Regarding chapter funding, FLAG's major focus for 2012, several topics surfaced that will be discussed more fully at both the May 10 conference call and the July 17 on-site meeting at the Home Office. These issues include:

- Types of chapter activities to be eligible for incentives;
- Role of chapter treasuries in providing direct donations to Catholic parishes, schools and other causes; and
- Payment of honorariums to fraternal leaders from both the home office and chapter treasuries.

The FLAG-proposed funding system will be presented to delegates at the Triennial Convention in September. Based on feedback from delegates, FLAG will revise its proposal, if necessary, and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

The meeting concluded with an overview of the Chapter Officer Training Sessions. These have been scheduled throughout Wisconsin and New England from February through April. A Webinar will be presented April 18 to those unable to attend any of the in-person meetings.

2012-13 Fraternal Leaders Advisory Group

OFFICER	CHAPTER	TERM ELIGIBILITY
Rita Brey	253, Plain, Wis.	2
Bruce Bultman	WI52, Milwaukee, Wis.	2
Jo Cook	137, La Crosse, Wis.	2
Vickie Eberle	267, Lake Wisconsin, Wis.	3
Tammy Gaszak	40, Waukesha, Wis.	3
Jack Gillis	21, Green Bay, Wis.	1
Martha Hartung	191, Eau Galle, Wis.	1
Jennifer Kaebisch	WI43, West Bend, Wis.	3
Doris LaBarre	82, Waunakee, Wis.	1
Heidi Lenski	216, Milwaukee NW, Wis.	2
Cheryl Parks	887, San Antonio, Texas	3
Paul Plante	N002, Woonsocket, R.I.	3
Ken Sabel	126, Johnsbury, Wis.	1
Debra Van Bogaert	WI15, Glen Haven, Wis.	2
Mary Wagner	MI02, Bay City, Mich.	1
Ann Wallander	225, Mishicot, Wis.	2
Al Wollner	315, West Bend, Wis.	1

Training Offered on Chapter Policies and Procedures

Over the last several months, representatives from Catholic Financial Life have been hosting training sessions for chapter leaders throughout the state of Wisconsin and in New England. The purpose of these sessions is to:

1. Offer training on updated chapter policies and procedures
2. Facilitate the collaboration of chapters for event planning and support
3. Give officers an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback

For those unable to attend a training session in their area, a Webinar is scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, April 18. All officers for whom we have an e-mail address will be invited to participate in the Webinar. Please contact Sally Krochalk at sally.krochalk@catholicfinanciallife.org if you are interested in participating in the Webinar but uncertain if we have your current e-mail address.



Officers and advisors participate in the Madison, Wis., training session.

Outstanding Support Shown for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 2011

The results are in, and 2011 turned out to be another outstanding year of support from Catholic Financial Life for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP). Here are the impressive figures:



	2011	Cumulative Support 2008-2011
Chapters Showing Support for SVdP	104 (Up 16% from 2010)	
Funds Raised, Matched or Donated to SVdP	\$156,194	\$442,816
Value of Non-perishable Items Collected for SVdP	\$11,646 (Up 83% over 2010)	\$29,825
Volunteer Hours in Support of SVdP	17,743 (Up 39% from 2010) (\$378,990 value)*	41,709
TOTAL VALUE OF 2011 SUPPORT	\$546,830 (Up 18% over 2010)	

*The Independent Sector estimates the dollar value of volunteer time at \$21.36 per hour.

We encourage you to share this information with your parish leaders and especially when planning your next project with representatives from SVdP.

And the Winners Are . . .

In the last issue of *Fraternal Leader* we asked chapter officers to send us their e-mail addresses for a chance to win one of ten \$25 Visa gift cards. Many of you responded, and winners were chosen from among those who entered earlier this year. Congratulations to our winners!

Winner	Chapter
Nancy Arntz	82, Waunakee, Wis.
George Bouffard	N035, Winooski, Vt.
Jacqueline Bouffard	N035, Winooski, Vt.
Patrick Frank	723, Winona, Minn.
Alice Hemesath	708, Decorah, Iowa
Heather Hoffmann	720, New Ulm, Minn.
David Ligman	11, Wis., Rapids/Stevens Point, Wis.
Lois Maurer	309, Marshfield, Wis.
Pierrette Sirois	N373, New Britain, Conn.
Jennifer Yetter	203, Stratford, Wis.

Catholic Financial Life Clothing and Promotional Items Available Online

A brand new line of Catholic Financial Life clothing and promotional items is now available for purchase from Lands' End Business Outfitters. Check out the website to see the many product choices available. Go to: <http://ow.ly/9OV6A>. Lands' End Customer Service is very helpful for those who need assistance when placing orders on the site. Contact (866) 711-2103 if you need help. And here's a money saving tip you may wish to consider: Those who register at the Lands' End site will receive e-mail notices of promotional discounts for things like free shipping or a percentage off their total order. You may wish to register at the Lands' End site prior to placing your first order, in order to be eligible for a discount.

If you have any questions regarding topics in this newsletter, please contact:

Sally Krochalk, Editor, *Fraternal Leader*
sally.krochalk@catholicfinanciallife.org



Catholic
Financial Life

1100 West Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233
(800) 927-2547 | (414) 273-6266

catholicfinanciallife.org