

# JTO Connect

## FRANCIS NOW ! Celebrating the Journey, Living the Dream

Date: July 29-31, 2016

Location: Bergamo Center, Dayton Ohio

### Participant Evaluation Results

The 2016 JTO Connect event brought 64 to the Bergamo Center in Dayton Ohio on the weekend of July 29-31. Most were previous JTO-ers but a few spouses and newcomers attended as well. Not everyone stayed the entire weekend, but the program was flexible to accommodate our special guests. Feedback from the Evaluation was very positive with participants rating 4.82 on the question, ***"This weekend was a good use of my time."*** See the rest of the results in the table below:

| Questions                                                                  | Average     | Rank      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 This weekend was a good use of my time.                                  | 4.82 G      | 1 Highest |
| 2 Keynotes were meaningful to me.                                          | 4.56 G      | 3         |
| 3 Activities were meaningful to me.                                        | 4.44 G      | 6         |
| 4 There was an adequate balance of program and free/social time.           | 4.22 G      | 7         |
| 5 The facilities adequately served my needs.                               | 4.45 G      | 5         |
| 6 I would come to another JTO Connect                                      | 4.63 G      | 2         |
| 7 I am willing to serve on a committee for a future JTO Connect gathering. | 3.38 Y      | 9 Lowest  |
| 8 I would tell others about a future JTO Connect gathering.                | 4.53 G      | 4         |
| 9 I'm interested in participating in a virtual JTO Connect community.      | 3.96 Y      | 8         |
| <b>Overall Average</b>                                                     | <b>4.33</b> |           |

The lowest scores were around willingness to serve on a committee for a future JTO gathering and interest in participating in a virtual JTO Connect community. This is not, however, a lack of interest in future JTO Connect gatherings. 38 participants indicated they would like to participate in future JTO Connect events, with 22 indicating they would like it to continue as an annual event versus 11 who indicated an interest in an event every other year.

Overwhelmingly, participants indicated that beginning of July (n=19) or end of July (n=17) were desired timeslots for future JTO Connect gatherings.

| Month          | May                     |                         | June                    |                         | July                    |                         | Aug                     |                         | Sept                    |                         | Other                   |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                | 1 <sup>st</sup><br>Half | 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>Half | 1 <sup>st</sup><br>Half | 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>Half | 1 <sup>st</sup><br>Half | 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>Half | 1 <sup>st</sup><br>Half | 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>Half | 1 <sup>st</sup><br>Half | 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>Half | 1 <sup>st</sup><br>Half | 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>Half |
| # of Responses | 4                       | 3                       | 10                      | 9                       | 19                      | 17                      | 13                      | 7                       | 8                       | 9                       | 2                       | 2                       |

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### Analysis of Open Ended Comments

The program was very well received as there were 39 positive comments made on the Evaluation survey and 14 Thank You's to the Planning Committee.

| Content Analysis of Participant Comments                           |  | Total # |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---------|
| # of respondents that provided comments                            |  | 37      |
| # of comments (counting each comment per person)                   |  | 75      |
| # of positive comments                                             |  | 44      |
| # of constructive criticism comments                               |  | 31      |
| # of Thank Yous                                                    |  | 15      |
| # of recommendations                                               |  | 14      |
| # of offers to help                                                |  | 5       |
| # of positive comments about Fr Greg's keynote                     |  | 3       |
| # of negative comments about <b>Food</b>                           |  | 2       |
| # of negative comments about <b>Facilities</b> and/or <b>Rooms</b> |  | 5       |

Five people indicated on the survey that they were willing to help with future JTO Connect events:

- Bernie Hayes
- Mary Lamping
- Nancy Huth
- Mary Bergman
- Father Greg

Constructive criticism (n=26) centered on the musty smell of the rooms (n=5) and comments about the poor food (n=2).

Participants provided 14 recommendations on the Evaluation survey.

| # | Recommendation                                                                           | Follow up from JTO Connect Team? (Yes/No) | Responsible | Status |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| 1 | email directions to make rope rosary (Ron)                                               |                                           |             | Open   |
| 2 | eMail a list of the books Fr Greg noted in his talk - call it <i>Fr Greg's bookshelf</i> |                                           |             | Open   |
| 3 | Show the movie, Brother Sun, Sister Moon                                                 | No                                        |             | Open   |
| 4 | More time for Jesus in Tabernacle. [I believe this is about creating a 24 hour vigil]    |                                           |             | Open   |

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|    |                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |      |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|------|
| 5  | Contact and chat with National Council of OFS minister, Jan Parker                                                                                   |  |  | Open |
| 6  | Connect with National Franciscan Fraternity website                                                                                                  |  |  | Open |
| 7  | For those not active, present the concept of "Franciscan Presence" in the world                                                                      |  |  | Open |
| 8  | Create a virtual fraternity                                                                                                                          |  |  | Open |
| 9  | Share things we did with Franciscan youth today                                                                                                      |  |  | Open |
| 10 | Share experiences (place, event, spirituality)                                                                                                       |  |  | Open |
| 11 | Launch virtual book discussion                                                                                                                       |  |  | Open |
| 12 | Conduct Eucharistic 'pilgrimages' to St Anthony for Mass and picnic.                                                                                 |  |  | Open |
| 13 | Connect to National Franciscan organizations to assist in current JTO youth - providing spiritual support for those who are currently in high school |  |  | Open |
| 14 | Conduct an Assisi pilgrimage                                                                                                                         |  |  | Open |

Additional recommendations for future JTO Connect activities and action items were provided from the Sunday discussion [Ken to provide].

Additional Call to Action commitments were anonymously submitted by participants – included in the second Appendix.

All in all, JTO Connect was a success! Participants' expectations were exceeded. Participants committed to many concrete actions to change the world, we connected with old friends and made new ones and most important, as Father Rey indicated, we gathered in God's name – ALWAYS a good thing to do.

We are blessed!

NOTE: This first draft of this report was prepared by Patrick. I take full responsibility for any errors or misrepresentations.

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### Appendix – All Comments

- 1 #7 and #9 - My work demands 60 hours of work per week right now. I travel every Thursday to take care of my elderly Mom. Time commitment is a real challenge as I need to give my time to my children and 9 grandchildren as well. Will pray about this. Thank you for everything (smiley face)
- 2 Betsy's volleyball team is busy in June and August 16 on through the Fall. Probably too many sessions. Other than that, wonderful gathering.
- 3 Cooler time of the year. I enjoyed and found fulfilling the activity in the small groups. But I would have liked more time also catching up with others who were not in my small group. But I was not here the whole time.
- 4 Drug out too long in the evening. Low water pressure, not very hot water. Perhaps social evening outside the center where it is held. (I'm getting too old for this!)
- 5 Every 2-5 years. Would love a pilgrimage with group to Assisi. Show movie, Brother Sun, Sister Moon. Thank you PLANNING COMMITTEE for making this weekend possible.
- 6 Everything was perfect, wonderful and time to reconnect. Felt like convention all over again.
- 7 Excellent!! More singing
- 8 Fabulous! Smiley Face
- 9 Facilities were great. Water pressure was poor.
- 10 Great retreat! I thought the liturgies and prayer sessions were great. Really enjoyed Greg's talk.
- 11 I cannot thank you enough for taking all your time to make this a reality.
- 12 I have a fairly flexible schedule. Some dates will be hit or miss. Weekend exceeded my expectations. Best part was re-connecting with several individuals that I haven't seen in a long time. Felt weekend will assist me in going back to my life with a renewed spirit.
- 13 I really appreciate how much time and effort you all put into this weekend. It was way more work than I thought it would be. It was very meaningful for me to hear from others the struggles and difficulties they had been through -- how the underlying thread of faith was always there.
- 14 I would like to be a part of this planning again.
- 15 I'm social media challenged. Spring/Fall are better but nothing is out of the question. Many thanks to the organizing committee. I am deeply grateful. I can help with clerical duties. Keep lists up to date, newsletter, etc.
- 16 It is always good to be able to gather in His Name.
- 17 Last group session was probably too much
- 18 Many thanks to the planning team for a well-thought out weekend. The prayer, worship and unity was amazing.
- 19 Maybe serve on a committee. Can't participate virtually - no computer. I'm not really a member of this group, although it became such a meaningful weekend for me.
- 20 More of the old Mass music

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### Appendix – All Comments (con't)

- 21 More time for Jesus in Tabernacle. Some things beyond our control (A/C too cold); No Jesus in tabernacle. A) Contact and chat with National Council of OFS minister, Jan Parker; B) National Franciscan Fraternity website, C) Have Ron email directions to make rope rosary, D) For those not active, concept of "Franciscan Presence" in the world, E) Create a virtual fraternity, F) Share things we did with Franciscan youth today, G) Have Fr Greg eMail a list of the books he noted in his talk - call it Fr Greg's bookshelf, H) Shared experience (place, event, spirituality). For July 31-August 16 contact by phone 513-922-5671. After August 17.18, data on sheet
- 22 More time for reflection / away from others. No preference on timing. Keynotes were the best! Time to discuss current issues (e.g. care of creation, social justice, etc in light of St Francis). Use both slides of liturgy papers - don't include readings.
- 23 musty smell, dated. Food was poor.
- 24 Musty smelling rooms. Less small group time. Social starting much earlier.
- 25 No specific time is better than another.
- 26 On Day 2, there was one too many sessions. Then social time starts a bit late. Thanks for all your hard work. I had doubts as a 'non-JTO' spouse and my expectations were exceeded. I am thankful.
- 27 Planning team did an awesome job! Facilities were great and things ran extremely smooth. Thank You!
- 28 Thank you
- 29 Thank you for inviting me to be a part of this weekend. Let me know how I can help in the future! Thanks for all the great effort to put this together
- 30 Thank you planning team for your dedication and hard work. Well done!
- 31 Thank you! I like the idea of the book discussion. Eucharistic 'pilgrimages' to St Anthony for Mass and picnic. Connect to National Franciscan organizations to assist in current JTO youth - providing spiritual support for those who are currently in high school.
- 32 The exercise after Fr Greg's talk was redundant.
- 33 Weekend was wonderful. Wouldn't change a thing.
- 34 Well done, great energy and pacing; hospitality was exceptional; kitchen staff was wonderful; food could be leaner
- 35 Wonderful Experience. Thank You
- 36 Would have preferred more speakers and reflection time. Fr Greg was exceptional. The music was amazing! A little less direction from Ken. The schedule in the packet was sufficient. Especially after liturgies it was quite distracting and disruptive to the spirit of the liturgy. Not sure we needed step-by-step instructions or details about how the weekend was planned, thought process, etc.
- 37 JTO Connect was a wonderful experience for me. So good to see you and everyone else who attended, both old and new. I would definitely come again to another event if at all possible. Thanks again to all the planning team for organizing an outstanding event. I look forward to hearing more about what happens in the future and will check JTO Connect site for updates

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### Appendix: Next Actions (brainstorm from Sunday session; all participants)

| #  | Action                                                                                                                                                               | Status                         |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1  | Create a prayer list <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pop G (from Glo)</li> </ul>                                                                            | Waiting for committee decision |
| 2  | Build a Resource Page                                                                                                                                                | Waiting for committee decision |
| 3  | Load the Friar Ap <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Join the prayer community</li> <li>○ Franciscan finder</li> </ul>                                         | Waiting for committee decision |
| 4  | Plug into the new JTO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The "Q"</li> </ul>                                                                                    | Waiting for committee decision |
| 5  | Start a newsletter                                                                                                                                                   | Waiting for committee decision |
| 6  | Keep the Facebook / webpage current                                                                                                                                  | Waiting for committee decision |
| 7  | Launch a mini fraternity                                                                                                                                             | Waiting for committee decision |
| 8  | Meet monthly at Mass                                                                                                                                                 | Waiting for committee decision |
| 9  | Connect with groups with Skype                                                                                                                                       | Waiting for committee decision |
| 10 | Create a book discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Example: Saint and the Sultan</li> </ul>                                                           | Waiting for committee decision |
| 11 | Share experiences from pilgrimages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ August / US / Cincinnati</li> </ul>                                                      | Waiting for committee decision |
| 12 | Share pictures                                                                                                                                                       | Waiting for committee decision |
| 13 | Add volunteer opportunities on webpage                                                                                                                               | Waiting for committee decision |
| 14 | Location of next JTO Connect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Near an airport</li> <li>○ Handicap access</li> <li>○ Possibly Fatima Retreat House</li> </ul> | Waiting for committee decision |
| 15 | Depends on the # of people attending                                                                                                                                 | Waiting for committee decision |

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### Appendix: Call to Action Statements (anonymously submitted; to post on website)

- Grow my relationship with God
- I will pray daily for those who impact my life and those whose lives I touch
- Reconnect with all established Secular Franciscan Group
  - ✓ Read Franciscan books
  - ✓ More structured prayer time
- Pray daily for people who do not agree with me morally or politically
- Simplify my life ..... declutter, toss away, recycle, give to those in need
- I will offer Mass once a month for members of JTO living and deceased. For the next year
- Renew my study of Francis and my Franciscan Way of Life using one of the books suggested by Fr. Greg
  - ✓ Study Laudato Si
  - ✓ Discern how to continue to be involved with JTO Connect
- Need to improve my prayer life
- Try to work with former fraternity members to meet spiritually and/or meet and volunteer once a month
- I feel called to more with my gift of music – singing and playing the drums, etc. Not sure if I need to take guitar lessons to make this possible or just continue as is – I expect God to make this clear
- Spirit leading me to:
  - ✓ Learn/read more about Francis and his Rule
  - ✓ Begin meeting, on a regular basis, with members of St. Anthony Fraternity
- Feeling the sense of community and after listening to my fellow group members I would like my fraternity to reconvene and start our monthly meetings again.
  - ✓ Prayer – Formation – Social – Service
  - ✓ Find my own social service to my fellow man
- To Jesus:
  - ✓ Grow more spiritually by saying the rosary
  - ✓ Review my activity with own church
  - ✓ Continue being a Eucharistic Minister @ hospital

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### Appendix – Call to Action Statements (con't)

- To simplify my life and belongings – donate to the poor via St. Vincent DePaul
- Contribute to weekly basket
  - ✓ Rosary or Morning Prayer
- I will commit to more time for daily prayer & listening to what the Lord is telling me, make an effort to stay connected with other JTO members. I feel a need to pray for our children. Many of us bemoaned the fact that our children did not have the opportunities that we had with JTO. Our collective prayer for them would be powerful. As in Fr. Greg's talk, Francis' focus was foremost to know God and His love – My FOCUS.
- Seek out volunteer opportunity to serve the homeless/poor.
- Maintain relationships re-established @ JTO Connect
  - ✓ Help Launch JTO Virtual
- I want to reunite with former JTO group. Maybe monthly with speakers, information, etc. and social time. Maybe start an outreach type program
- Look for a spiritual group or activity that my husband and I can attend as a couple
- Pray more frequently for fraternity members in need
- Be more patient with everyone I come into contact with and try to be more tolerant of those that might annoy me
- Read a book about St. Francis' life
  - ✓ Develop my daily prayer life
  - ✓ Discern whether to part of JTO planning team for upcoming JTO Connect Event
- Daily Rosary (up from several times a week)
  - ✓ More of a focus on relationships over duties – this includes Jesus and family
  - ✓ Just being more cognizant of Christ within me
  - ✓ Posting the refrain from the theme song at the office
- Organize a group gathering of St. Anthony's group
- Be more service oriented toward others
  - ✓ More loving and selfless for family members
  - ✓ Continue to build community and fraternity with SFO at home



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### Appendix – Call to Action Statements (con't)

- I promise with the help of God to a better spouse, listen more and pray more for my spouse. I want to learn to pray more and listen to God's answers, and to be open to where He leads me
- I feel called make a radical change in my lifestyle. As Robert shared, I also want to jettison those things that I do not need. I commit to living a simple, Francis-driven life where I live in community, one with God's creation. I commit to learn to live a contemplative lifestyle, one that is anchored by a strong and disciplined prayer life, with a ... social purpose, and in unity with God
  - ✓ Also – take guitar lessons
- Committing to reading the Saint and the Sultan
  - ✓ Committing to living intentionally in keeping the spirit of SS Francis and Clare
  - ✓ Committing during the upcoming election season to be a peacemaker – that is to speak the truth in love with vitriol to stem the tide of hate and divisiveness
- To try to live more like Francis
  - ✓ To focus always on Jesus and not myself
  - ✓ To make people more important than things and/or time – my greatest enemy
  - ✓ To see Jesus in the face of all human beings, even those I have “problems” with, or those I don't like
- Reconnect and Connect with Prayer & Mass on a daily and weekly basis
  - ✓ Re-establish better work-life balance
- I will be more patient with my family and listen better to family member needs
- Aspirations
  - ✓ Give mercy more freely
  - ✓ Pray more – taking time to be quiet
  - ✓ Read “33 Days to Morning Glory”
- Connect more with my siblings and other family
- Continue:
  - ✓ Daily Mass
  - ✓ AM Mary Undoer of Knots
  - ✓ 8 PM Divine Mercy
  - ✓ Increase Rosary
- Expand the number of people that I physically touch daily who are ill or terminally ill, bringing them the Lord's love and joy

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### Appendix – Call to Action Statements (con't)

- Pray the Rosary weekly for the JTO Connect experience to continue to grow and remain in each of us
- Will try to gather local JTOers for social gatherings
- Renew my learning from Francis Daily/Weekly reading and study
  - ✓ Pray Daily
  - ✓ Connect with at least one JTOer each week
- Pray for group every day in AM prayer
  - ✓ A Rosary and/or Devine Mercy praying for each on a bead @ Friday 2 – 3 AM Holy Hour
- Reach out more
- I will reconnect to my local Franciscan Fraternity
- I will be more present to my family as a husband and a father
  - ✓ I will more actively discern how God is calling me to serve Him
- I want to take the lessons I relearned this weekend and share with my own family that I can sustain my journey with Francis
- “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.”
  - ✓ These words have made a great impression on my life. From the time I first them, to the present, they continue to guide me to the person of God the Father, Jesus His son, and the most Holy Spirit. For as time goes by the words of the bishop become ever so more clearly, “That which man has started, let God bring to perfection.” All of this is a process not and event. Child of Francis
- I hope that the Lord helps me to PRIORITIZE my time better
- Regularly connect with nature in some meaningful way
- Get group together to meet regularly
- To ask for the Lord’s guidance re: reviving the Mt. St. Francis JTO group
- Walk a Labyrinth sooner than 15 years from now
  - ✓ Read a book about Francis that is current
- Resume Mass attendance
  - ✓ Connect with Fraternity
  - ✓ Reach out more

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- Send cards to all attendees
  - ✓ Attend Mass as many days during the week as possible and remember the intentions of all JTOers
  - ✓ Say a Rosary weekly for all attendees of JTO Connect and all who wanted to attend but could not
  - ✓ Spend time each day in front of the Blessed Sacrament in silence realizing that God usually talks to me in whispers