



CONNECTING OUR SECULAR FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE REGION.
 ELECTRONICALLY PUBLISHED ON A MONTHLY BASIS BY *OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS*
 REGIONAL FRATERNITY OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER IN THE USA.



**OUR LADY
 OF THE
 ANGELS
 2011-2014
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It is officially "count-down" time. The moment the cranberry sauce is wiped off our chins and cleaned off the tablecloth, Black Friday starts. After Black Friday comes Cyber-Saturday and the count-down of the diminishing days until Christmas. That tick-tock of passing time is supposed to induce us into a buying panic and jump-start our frenzied consumerism. It pretty much works.

However, the church has its own "countdown to Christmas." It is called "The Season of Advent." Instead of being a time of consumer manic panic, Advent is a time of preparation for the gift of a miraculous presence. This "preparation" is not about decking the halls or trimming the tree. This "preparation" is not about baking cookies, shopping, or wrapping packages.

Advent is an alarm clock, a moment of truth to rouse out of the "get-by and keep-going" stupor of this world and WAKE UP! Wake up to the impending gift of a new beginning. Wake up to the first baby steps of the Kingdom entering this world through a stable of animals and a cradle of straw. Wake up from our dogmatic slumbers into the new light of life. Wake up to the epiphany of Jesus in the world, and in us. A friend sent me this version of the 23rd Psalm that serves as a reminder. It is titled:

I SHALL NOT RUSH

The Lord is my pace setter . . . I shall not rush. He makes me stop for quiet intervals.
 He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity.
 He leads me in the way of efficiency through calmness of mind,
 and His guidance is peace.
 Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day,
 I will not fret, for His presence is here.
 His timelessness, His all importance will keep me in balance.
 He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity
 by anointing my mind with His oils of tranquility. My cup of joyous energy overflows.
 Truly, harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours.
 For I shall walk in the Pace of my Lord and dwell in His house for ever.

*A version of Psalm 23 as reprinted in Mother Teresa, Life in the Spirit:
 Reflections, Meditations, Prayers,
 ed. Kathryn Spink (San Francisco, Harper & Row, 1983), 76-77.*

Wishing you a peace filled Advent,

Anna

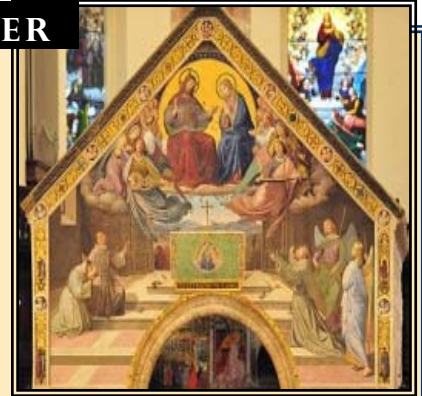


LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER

NOVEMBER 2013

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Well, with a great sigh of relief and a sense of satisfaction, Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity has concluded its recent Chapter and Triennial National Visitation.



The Chapter, of course, happens every year and is the ordinary meeting of our full Regional Council comprised of the Ministers of each of our local fraternities joining with the members of our Regional Executive Council in order to do the ordinary business of our Regional Fraternity, to set the direction and priorities, report on our activities and approve matters such as our annual budget.

The National Triennial Visitation, like our Regional visitations to each of our local fraternities within our Region, is an opportunity to experience communion with the larger Franciscan world and at the same time take a look at ourselves and our stewardship of the awesome responsibility which is ours to make the charism of our holy father, St. Francis of Assisi, present in our midst by our witness and through our apostolates and our fraternity life. Elaine Hedtke, OFS, National Vice-Minister, came from Port Angeles, Washington to be with us as our fraternal visitor and Father Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap., came from New York City as our pastoral and canonical visitor. We met at Our Lady of the Holy Angels Church in Little Falls, New Jersey, where the local fraternity of the Most Holy Name provided a wonderful welcome and hospitality for which I am deeply grateful. We prayed together, celebrated a truly beautiful Eucharist together and had a chance to enjoy one another in dialogue and friendship in the context of our sharing, our reflection and our decision-making for the Regional Fraternity.

One of the things that occurred to me in experiencing these days together (since our visitation began on Friday when the visitors met with our Regional Executive Council) is that we cannot afford to be “business as usual” people. We really need to resist the temptation to allow our Franciscan living to become ordinary, humdrum and taken for granted. We need to be excited and engaged because we are always and everywhere aware of who we are and what we are called to be and to do. We cannot allow our Franciscan vocation to become stale:

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.



LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER

... continued

There needs to be an urgency about our witness and a sense of forward momentum, of progress, if we are to make a difference and truly make St. Francis and St. Clare come alive for our Church and our world. I am reminded here, of a quotation I recently came across in my reading from C.S. Lewis, the famous Christian writer, novelist and poet. He said,

*“Christianity, if false, is of no importance;
if true, of infinite importance.
The one thing it cannot be
is moderately important.”*

So must it be with our Franciscan commitment—if Franciscanism is false, it too, is of no importance, if it is a true expression of Christianity-of Gospel living, then it is of infinite importance—to us and to our world. We cannot afford to allow our living of our Franciscan vocation to be of moderate importance.

That is the essence of our profession—our commitment to live the Rule. We cannot be lukewarm—we must pray every day to be on fire with the Holy Spirit as was St. Francis as we live out our Franciscan journey together.

May the Lord give you Peace!

Fraternally,



Ron Pihokker, OFS
OLTAR Regional Minister

November 29 – All Saints of the Franciscan Order



In addition to All Saints Day on November 1, the entire Franciscan Order celebrates a Franciscan All Saints Day. All the saints and blessed, in fact, all the members of the three orders of St. Francis, who have attained their goal in heaven, whether known or unknown, are honored in a special manner on this day.

November 29 was selected for this feast day because on that day in 1223 Pope Honorius III gave his approval to the final rule which St. Francis gave to the Friars Minor, a rule which pointed out a new way to sanctity.

By observing it faithfully, many have become saints, and by celebrating the feast of all Franciscan saints, we are inspired and encouraged to follow in their footsteps.

from *THE FRANCISCAN BOOK OF SAINTS*
edited by Marion Habig, ofm Copyright 1959
Franciscan Herald Press

OUR LADY OF
THE ANGELS
REGIONAL FRATERNITY
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ADMINISTRATOR
DIANE F. MENDITTO, OFS

REGIONAL WEBSITE

[www.ourladvofthe
angels region.org/](http://www.ourladvoftheangelsregion.org/)



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-Region-Secular-Franciscan-
Order/257320867672618](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Our-Lady-of-the-Angels-Region-Secular-Franciscan-Order/257320867672618)



REGIONAL DATABASE
ADMINISTRATOR
ANNA GERACI, OFS

PRAYERS

"Remember what God has done for you and give
thanks with all your heart. Praise the righteous Lord;
honor the eternal King." Tobit 13:6

BE GRATEFUL

Don't take anything for granted.
Be grateful for every sip of water.
Be grateful for every piece of bread.
Be grateful for your clothing.
Be grateful for the roof over your head.

Be grateful for your family and friends.
Be grateful for every good word.
Be grateful for every act of kindness.
Be grateful for every moment of your life.

Be grateful for the grace of Salvation.
And always remember Eternal Giver-
the source of all good things.

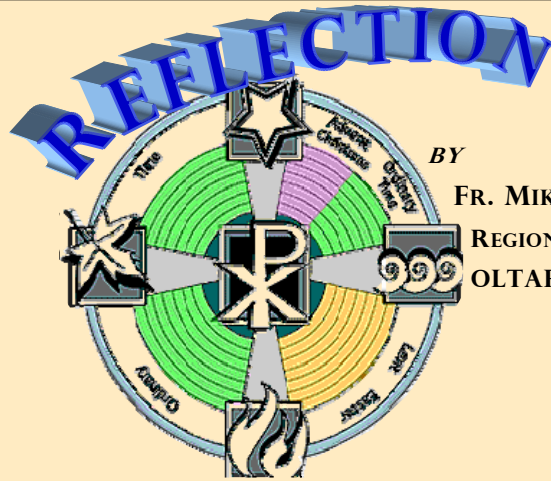
Anna Zielska, OFS
St. John Vianney Fraternity, Colonia, NJ

Remember
in your prayers
those devastated by the
recent tornadoes



PRAYER FOR THE
PHILIPPINES
from Catholic Relief Services

God, Who quiets great winds
and stills rough seas,
We ask Your protection for the
people of the Philippines.
Comfort them in their fear.
Stay close to them in their danger.
And we ask the intercession
of Your Blessed Mother,
That together with her and with
all Your holy saints,
we may stand in solidarity with our
Filipino brothers and sisters
through their darkest hour,
through their longest night.
Give us the courage
to remain steadfast,
To reach out to them
in their sorrow,
To hold them as closely
as You hold them.
To see them through to morning.
Amen.



BY

FR. MIKE TYSON, OFM
REGIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT
OLTAR REGION

A**DVENT** is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord.

Which coming? You may ask.

We certainly prepare for Christmas by buying gifts, sending cards, preparing the Christmas meal and many other things.

Always remember that whenever you do any of the above, you are giving Christ.

But again, which coming of Christ are we preparing for during Advent?

Definitely, His Second Coming in Glory! However, with the readings in the Liturgy, many of them predict a grim, even horrible day. Yet from those who follow Christ, it will be a joyous and wonderful day. Many of us think thoughts of doom when this day arrives, thoughts that perhaps are akin to knowing that one day we will die. But consider this example:

Picture an archer shooting his arrow at the target.

If he hits the target, that is a good work.

If he misses by a little, we can compare that to a slight transgression.

If he misses by a lot, we can call that a grievous transgression.

In all these three examples, the archer is living toward God.

She or he is trying their best to live as God wants.

But who winds up in hell?

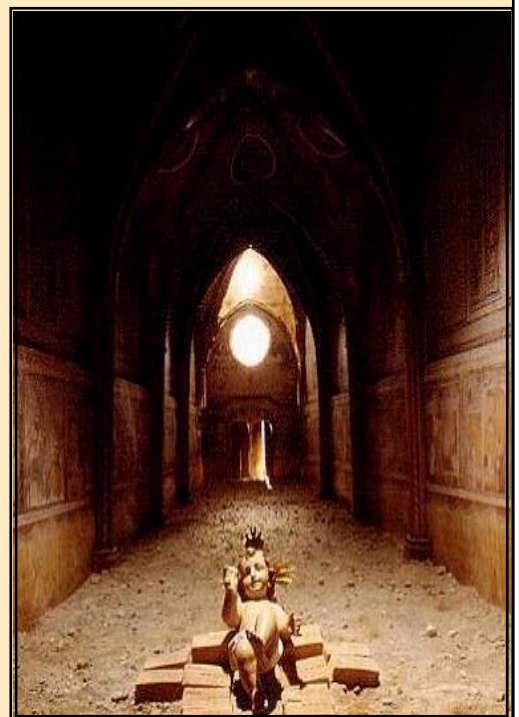
Again, the archer who shoots his arrow in the opposite direction to where the target is.

That is the person refuses to live her or his life in the direction.

Remember, for every sin you commit, you perform a hundred good works, and the gospel tells us:

if you give a cup of cold water to one who is thirsty, you will not go without your reward.

*Happy Advent and
Merry Christmas!*



YOUFRA



In our last issue of the *e-Troubadour News* we introduced our newly appointed region Co-Chairs of the Youth/Young Adult Commission (*YouFra*).

Beginning with our December issue, Dawn Rusinko, OFS, CLEM, and Celia Lourenco, OFS, will be sharing their thoughts, expertise, and news in a new column for *The Troubadour*.

In the meantime, look on our website for the new webpage for YOUFRA at:

<http://ourladyoftheangelsregion.org/YOUFRA.html>



In the United States, Thanksgiving Day is a holiday with special religious significance. Originally, it was celebrated by the Pilgrims and the Native Americans to give thanks to God after the harvest.

Ashley, Sarah and Maria Kiczek, ages 14, 10, and 6, decided to create a re-enactment of the First Thanksgiving and created a video and even made several of the outfits themselves. Proud Grampa is our own Alex Kiczek, OFS, of Cortesia Fraternity, Middletown, NJ.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIwQxvxC8_c



WORLD YOUTH DAY

Pope Francis has chosen the theme "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy" (Mt. 5:7) for the next International World Youth Day, scheduled to be held in Krakow, Poland, in July 2016.

He has also decided on two other Beatitudes as themes of the following two World Youth Days, which will mark a three-year itinerary of spiritual preparation culminating in the event in Krakow. The next year, the 29th annual World Youth Day, will be on the theme: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 5:3).

On the 30th World Youth Day, the theme will be: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God" (Mt. 5:8).



WHY DO WE CRUCIFY HIM AGAIN?

by **Brandy Cambell (12th grade)**

Can anyone see the Lord through me, or do they simply see my sins? Am I living the life Christ wants me to? Am I living the life of man?
--So I plunge in the spear.

And when I fail to pray, and my conversations with Him fade, does He patiently wait for my call, though it causes Him pain?
--And I place the thorns upon His brow.

I lead a life of double standards; one day good, the next one bad. Can He quietly stand by when He sees all I could have had?
--And I ridicule my Lord once again.

For you see, each time we turn our backs, and return to the world of sin, it is then that you and I, we crucify Him again.

I say something rude to someone who's lost, and I've ruined my witness, but they will pay the cost.
--So I nail in the nails.

**THE CATHOLIC ARTISTS SOCIETY AND THE THOMISTIC INSTITUTE ARE
PLEASED TO PRESENT:**

This 6-part lecture series exploring the nature and purpose of Art, Beauty and their place in the social order. This monthly, Saturday-night series will feature talks by six renowned philosophers, theologians and artists.

It is directed to professional artists in all disciplines, students and patrons of the arts, and to all those who take in interest in culture and artistic endeavor.

Attendance is free, but space will be limited.

For more information, please visit:

catholicartistsociety@gmail.com or
www.thomisticinstitute.org/nyartists



TIME: 7:30 p.m. Saturdays,
followed by a Reception and sung Compline.

PLACE: The Catholic Center @ NYU
238 Thompson Street, New York, NY 10012

The Art of the Beautiful

**FOUNDATIONS FOR A
CATHOLIC UNDERSTANDING
OF THE ARTS**

DECEMBER 14

BEAUTY AND THE REAL.

Alice Ramos, St. John's University

JANUARY 25, 2014

LOVE AND ARTISTIC GENESIS.

Anthony Esolen
Providence College

FEBRUARY 15, 2014

VIRTUE AND THE ARTISTIC
IMAGINATION.

Fr. Joseph Koterski, SJ
Fordham University



THE SINGING FRIAR

In 2012, the classical music world was shocked when a voice that rivaled some of the greatest tenor singers of all time emerged from a small friary in Assisi. Described as "a small man with a big smile and an even bigger voice" he is the first religious brother to sign an exclusive recording contract with a major record label.

Since his discovery, Friar Alessandro Brustenghi has continued to devote his life and talent to glorifying God. Br. Alessandro sees his talent as a gift, but not for himself. While he always enjoyed singing for its own enjoyment, now more than ever he believes that it serves a higher purpose. "Music," he stated in an interview, "is a direct line to God ... a way to communicate with Him." Singing is just another way of evangelization, of making people feel the love of God. A homily by a good preacher can do that, but so can a song when sung right." For this reason, the friars in his community have been nothing but supportive of him.

Br. Alessandro entered the Order as a 21-year-old postulant in 1999. After withdrawing from formation for a few years, he re-entered the religious life in 2005. After hearing some of his recordings, producer Mike Hedges offered to produce his album. Last year, the friar



released his debut album, "Voice From Assisi," where all proceeds from Br. Alessandro's music go to the Order to assist Franciscan charitable activities throughout the world. A sampling of Br. Alessandro's music can be found on his [YouTube channel](#)

An interview with him at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington, D.C. can be found on http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=f6h5szff-pU



A newly updated documentary, "Friar Alessandro: Voice of Joy," will be presented at 6:30 p.m. ET, **Monday, December 2** on EWTN!

FRATERNAL TIDINGS



2013 ELECTION

RESULTS

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FRATERNITY
SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ
JULY 14, 2013



- ITALIA R. TESTA, MINISTER
- MARY M. LARSEN, VICE MINISTER
- ROSANNA R. AYERS, SECRETARY
- WILLIAM PETIX, TREASURER
- SUSAN RAGUCCI, FORMATION DIRECTOR

ANNIVERSARY



FRATERNITIES CELEBRATING
THEIR ESTABLISHMENT DATE:

ST. ANNE'S FRATERNITY
Fairlawn, NJ
Established November 29, 1946



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY
Ringwood, NJ
Established November 26, 1950



ST. ANTHONY'S FRATERNITY
Butler, NJ
Re-Activation November 1997



If your fraternity celebrated their establishment date anytime between January thru November, and has not been recognized in this column, kindly send me your information.

—Anna Geraci, Editor



ST. ANNE'S FRATERNITY

Established on
November 29, 1946.
The fraternity is located
in Fair Lawn, NJ.

FRATERNITY MEETINGS ARE HELD

ON THE 3RD MONDAY
OF THE MONTH,
7:00-9:00 P.M.
ST. ANNE'S
CHURCH HALL AT
15-05 SAINT ANNE ST.
FAIR LAWN, NJ 07410

MINISTER
ANGELA G.C.RODIN, OFS
CONTACT:
ANGRAY@AOL.COM

On November 18, 2013, St Anne's fraternity in Fair Lawn, N.J., celebrated the 67th year of its founding. The meeting began with the recitation of Vespers, followed by a decade of the rosary for ill and deceased members of the fraternity. In addition, we also prayed for any special intentions the members might have.

Brother Dante DiNicola supplied the pizza and Italian salad as well as the cake – in brown and white of course! – and the rest of us supplied the sweets. It was a truly family party that was enjoyed by all.”

Photo credit: Tom Babich, OFS



FRATERNAL TIDINGS

congratulations

Photo credit: Br. Casey Cole, OFM



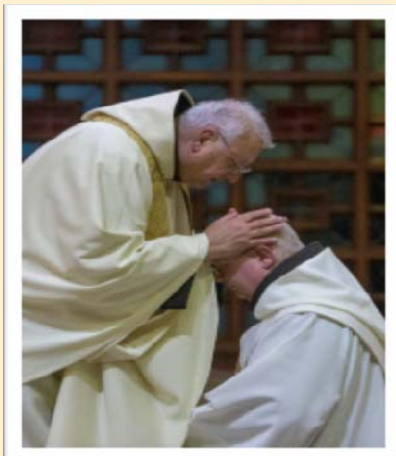
On November 9, Holy Name Province Celebrated the priestly ordination of **FATHER PAUL KEENAN, OFM**, at the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady Church in Wood-Ridge, N.J. Fr. Paul is Spiritual Assistant to the **Assumption Fraternity in Wood-Ridge.**



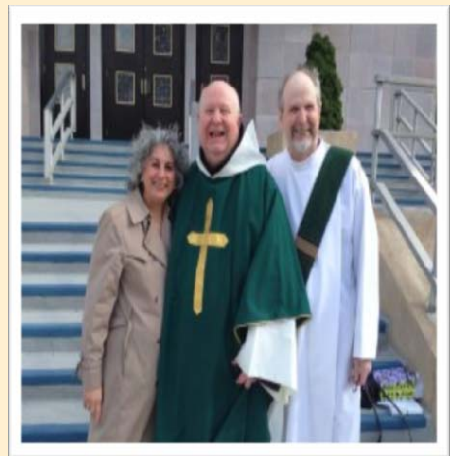
Before a packed church of lay people, and a bishop, roughly forty friars took part in the ordination mass. It was touching to see the presence of the friars who came from all around, on a Saturday evening, to support our brother Paul in his acceptance of his vocation. There surely cannot be a greater image than seeing four rows of friars coming up one-by-one to lay hands on the kneeling candidate, offering their blessing on him before he is officially ordained. The feeling of brotherhood was overwhelming and the emphasis on being a "Franciscan" was unmistakable.



Bishop John Flesey of Newark, N.J. ordains Paul Keenan to the priesthood.



Fr. Paul receives a blessing from a fellow friar during the Mass.



Fr. Paul celebrates his priestly ordination with his brother, who is a deacon, and his brother's wife.

FOOD DRIVE

St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity, New York City, sponsored a Food Drive to supplement the parish's food Pantry.

On the first Sunday of the Food Drive, members of the Fraternity were in the back of the Church after all the weekend Masses.

They helped hand out Bulletins, which included a flyer inviting people to bring their contributions the following Sunday.

Then, on the following Sunday, members were in the back of the Church to receive the food the parishioners brought and to thank them!

This year's Thanksgiving Food Drive was held on the weekends of **November 10 and November 16–17.**

Holy Name of Jesus Church, 207 West 96th Street, New York City.



2013 CHAPTER OF MINISTERS

Was held November 16, 2013, at Holy Angels Church, 465 Main St. Little Falls, NJ.

Visitation from National Fraternity: Fr. Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap and Elaine Hedtke, OFS.

It was wonderful to see so many Secular Franciscan brothers and sister at our Chapter. It was truly a joyful day!

Photos have now been posted to the website for your viewing pleasure. Many thanks to our photographers of the day, **DIANE MENDITTO, OFS**, Region Vice Minister; <https://plus.google.com/photos/107894385408068980693/albums/5948934142766461089?banner=pwa>

and to **ED WOJCIECHOWSKI, OFS**, from St. Anthony's Fraternity in Butler, NJ; <https://picasaweb.google.com/StAnthonySFO/ChapterOfMinisters2013>

LOOK FOR MORE DETAILS AND PHOTOS ON THE MEETING IN THE UPCOMING ISSUE OF *THE TROUBADOUR*.

CELEBRATION

Secular Franciscans invited parishioners to celebrate the Feast of Our Order's patron saints, Elizabeth of Hungary and Louis of France on **Saturday, November 9, 2013**, at the 11:00 A.M. Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 135 West 31st Street, New York City.

Light refreshments followed in the Clare Room of St. Francis House.



Photo credit: Diane Menditto, OFS



From November 12th through December 12th, the *Franciscan Action Network* (FAN) and other Franciscans and Franciscan hearted people will join members of various faith communities in D.C. on a month-long fast for comprehensive immigration reform.

We're looking for Franciscans Sisters, Friars, Seculars, Ecumenical Franciscans, and Franciscan hearted folks to join us on this fast, and to sign up for just one or two days-but you're free to sign up for as many days as you are able, including multiple shifts. If we get enough people to join, we can ensure that we'll have a Franciscan fasting and in prayer during the entire month.

DETAILS:

WHAT

Fast for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

WHEN

November 12th through December 12th

WHERE

The National Mall

Ready to sign up and join us in fasting and prayer?

Please email jason@franciscanaction.org

The members of the fast will spend their time in prayer and fasting in a heated tent on the Mall.

There will be a doctor on-site and additional tents for supporters and media.

Since no one is allowed to sleep on the Mall, fasters will sleep at nearby Washington Seminary Center.

Want to sign up and join us? Have more questions?

Please email jason@franciscanaction.org

If you're unable to join us by fasting in the Mall, there are other ways to participate:

by fasting in your own community, prayer, and by sending stories and photos of immigrants in your community that would benefit from comprehensive immigration reform.

A special tool kit can help give you some ideas. It can be found at:

<http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102213337338-612/Toolkit--Immigration+Fast.pdf>



Together we will make sure Congress hears our voices on this important issue.

Peace and All Good,
Patrick Carolan
Executive Director, Franciscan Action Network
www.franciscanaction.org/



VIGIL



Last December 14, 2012, the country and world were shocked and horrified by the massacre of children and their teachers in Newtown, Connecticut.

In remembrance of that terrible massacre, *Faiths United Against Gun Violence*, of which the *Franciscan Action Network (FAN)* is a member, is working with the Newtown Foundation on a day of kindness and a vigil to be held at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., on December 12.

The National Vigil for those who have been lost to gun violence will take place from 3:45 to 5:00 p.m.

FAN members are encouraged to hold similar vigils or prayer services or join one planned in your locale. A letter will also be sent to Congress urging gun legislation. We will urge our members to act on the letter, for example, with their congressional representatives, writing op-eds, etc.

A faith call-in day will be held on **December 13, 2013**. (Further details will be provided on their website after December 3rd.)



DECEMBER

ONE HUMAN FAMILY, FOOD FOR ALL

Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services are joining forces to support Caritas Internationalis' Campaign "One Human Family, Food for All." The campaign's focus will raise awareness and encourage action that addresses U.S. and international hunger.

Join them in prayer at noon, local time, **Tuesday, December 10, 2013** for the campaign kickoff.

Pope Francis will launch the worldwide movement to respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable in our midst by praying and acting to end hunger. At noon, local time, a global wave of prayer will begin in Tonga and will progress around the world until it reaches American Samoa some 24 hours and more than 164 countries later. Pledge your prayerful participation [here](#). Additional campaign resources will be available at the Catholic Charities website: <http://catholiccharitiesusa.org>



ST. ANTHONY RELICS



ST. ANTHONY RELICS FROM THE BASILICA OF SANT'ANTONIO IN PADOVA (PADUA) ITALY.

The Franciscan Friars invite you to join them in welcoming Saint Anthony of Padua on the occasion of the 750th anniversary of the discovery of Saint Anthony's relics by Saint Bonaventure in 1263.

Saint Anthony will be visiting our parish in the form of precious relics from his Basilica in Padua, Italy. The relic will be accompanied by Father Mario Conte, O.F.M. Conv. from Padua.

The relics will be venerated after a Solemn High Mass on Sunday, **December 8, 2013 at 11:00 A.M.**

St. Anthony of Padua Church, 154 Sullivan St. New York, NY 10012 212-777-2755.

NAFRA - USA

2013 NAFRA-USA JPIC AWARD WINNER DR. MARGIE C. SWEENEY, MD, OFS, CPC.



A visit to East Africa in 2001 changed Dr. Margie Sweeney's life. The poverty she saw, and the realization, she said that God was calling her, led this family physician to found the nonprofit charity, *Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc.* (HHHM) to help alleviate poverty in developing countries.

For her efforts and example, Dr. Sweeney received the Franciscan Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Award during the annual National Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order, held October 16-20 at Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kansas.

National Minister Deacon Tom Bello, OFS, presented the JPIC Award, a glass statue of a pair of hands enveloping the globe, along with a \$2,000 prize.



JPIC Chair Kent Ferris, OFS, cited several of her projects, such as assisting a school in Zambia with electrical hook-ups, starting a dairy farm in Tanzania to provide nutrition to 400 people, offering tuition assistance for various students in Africa, and more recently, making a series of medical mission trips to Haiti.

With her JPIC Peace Award money, she plans to return to Haiti in March 2014 and, like St. Francis before her, "to rebuild My Church." Here it's a Catholic Church in Haiti destroyed by the horrific 2010 earthquake.

A professed Secular Franciscan herself, Dr. Sweeney is the minister of St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity in Tampa, Florida. She resides in St. Cloud, Florida, with her civil-engineer husband, Michael. They have a son, Patrick, 27, and a daughter, Kelly, 24.

"I gained a new level of faith and trust in God," she told the 80 chapter attendees, representing over 13,000 Secular Franciscans throughout the United States, "I had a new attitude of gratitude."

Formerly known as the Peace Award, it was renamed to capture the significant inter-related efforts in the areas of justice, peace and the integrity of creation, noted Ferris, OFS.

"Our Franciscan Rule reminds us of our responsibility to 'individually and collectively be in the forefront of promoting justice by the testimony of our lives.'

The JPIC Award allows us to recognize those who have modeled such courageous efforts."





The annual award was revived in 2007 after a lapse of several years.

The 2007 award recognized the work of Dr. Tony Lazzara, an American physician and Secular Franciscan who operates a clinic and shelter for ailing children in Peru.

The 2008 award honored Secular Franciscan Marie Dennis, who directs the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns and who is immersed in advocating on behalf of people marginalized by society, poverty, abuse, war, violence, and human trafficking.

The 2009 award went to Don Ryder, a Secular Franciscan from Wisconsin who helped save the Maasai people in Kenya from disease and drought by drilling water wells.

In 2010 it honored Br. David Buer, OFM, for his work with the homeless and marginalized in Tuscon and Las Vegas.

In 2011 the award went to Fr. Louie Vitale, OFM, a Franciscan friar known for protests against war and torture and advocacy for the poor.

Last year Janice Benton, a Secular Franciscan from Maryland, was honored for her advocacy work for people with disabilities.



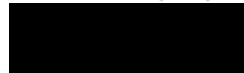
Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.

Matthew 6:33 (NAB)

Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc.

October 20, 2013

National Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order - USA
Deacon Tom Bello, OFS, National Minister



Dear Deacon Tom,

It is with much gratitude that I write this letter. I am honored and humbled to receive this year's JPIC award and \$2,000 stipend which will be used to further the work of Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc. It was a blessing to be among so many lovely Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters at the NAFRA meeting! We will be returning to Beau Sejour, Haiti in March, 2014 and this award will further poverty relief efforts in that area. We hope to be rebuilding the church at St. Gabriel Parish that was destroyed by the 2010 earthquake. To date, they have continued to worship in the dilapidated and unsafe church structure that remains on the parish grounds.

Please pray for our mission and work.

Again, I extend my gratitude for having met you and so many wonderful members of our Franciscan Family!

Love, joy, and peace,

Margie C. Sweeney, MD, OFS, CPC

Margie C. Sweeney, M.D., OFS, CPC
Founder and President
Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc.
Bringing hope and healing to the ends of the earth.

Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc.
P.O. Box 470879
Celebration, FL 34747-7037
U.S.A.


Internet: <http://helpinghandshealingministries.org>
E-mail: drmargie@helpinghandshealingministries.org
Telephone: 001-407-973-3366
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity

CIOFS

PRESENCE IN THE WORLD FORMATION PROGRAM



If the presence in the world is an imperative for all the faithful lay persons; it is so much more, for us secular Franciscans, a responsibility to be at the head of the builders of peace in the world, in view of the charisma, lived by Saint Francis, that we pretend to inherit. Being builders of a more fraternal world, indeed of a universal fraternity constitutes the ideal, sometimes placed in doubt even by some members of the Catholic Church, and has no alternative. A mission that we have been entrusted with by the Church, as a figure in our Rule (cf. art.14 and 19), but that must be realized with all the men of good will and in collaboration with the movements that promote fraternity between all peoples » (*Constitutions*, art. 18).

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Click on: *Presence in the World* • Available in English, Spanish, French and Italian.

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CIOFS MONTHLY DOSSIERS

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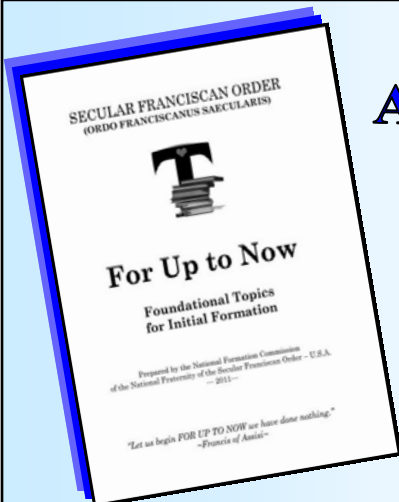
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NAFRA - USA

Attention ALL Fraternity Ministers, Formation Directors and Teams



Now there's another way you can obtain a copy of our Secular Franciscan Order's Formation Guide manual, "For Up To Now," by contacting the printer directly by phone or website.

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POPE DECLARES NEW SAINT, ADVANCES SEVEN CAUSES



Pope Francis has declared a new saint and advanced seven other causes for sainthood, including another secular Franciscan, Amato Ronconi.

A statement issued Friday, October 11, 2013, by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, said Pope Francis has recognized the sanctity of a 13th century Italian Franciscan mystic, **Blessed Angela da Foligno**, and “enrolled her” on the Church’s official “catalogue of saints,” declaring her a saint without a canonization ceremony. During the meeting with Cardinal Angelo Amato, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints, the Pope extended to the universal Church the liturgical cult of Blessed Angela da Foligno of the Secular Order of St. Francis, including her in the catalogue of saints of the Catholic Church.

Blessed Angela was born in a well-to-do family in Foligno, Italy, circa 1248; she died on January 4, 1309. A wife, mother and widow, she lived a deep spiritual conversion in 1285. Attracted by the ideals of St. Francis of Assisi, she joined the Secular Franciscan Order six years later. Her visions were recorded by her spiritual director.

The Pope also recognized the heroic virtues of 6 others – among them secular Franciscan, **Blessed Amato Ronconi**, *Italian founder of the Hospital-Hospice of the Poor Pilgrims of Saludecio, Rimini, now the “Casa di Riposo Opera Pia.*

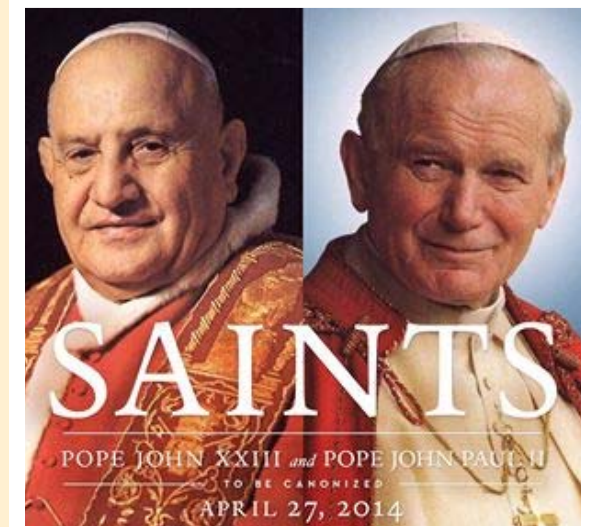
JOHN PAUL II AND JOHN XXIII TO BE CANONIZED

The Vatican has announced that former Popes John Paul II and John XXIII would be canonized together April 27, 2014 on the second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday.

Each achieved considerable international stature: Bl. John XXIII is most known for his encyclical “*Pacem in Terris*,” and for his calling of the Second Vatican Council, which ran from 1962 to 1965; the 50th anniversary of which is currently being celebrated during the Year of Faith.

Bl. John Paul II is perhaps one of the most well-known pontiffs in recent history, and is most remembered for his charismatic nature, his love of youth and his world travels, along with his role in the fall of communism in his native Poland and across Eastern Europe.

In recent months, the final steps paving the way towards Bl. John Paul II’s canonization, including the approval of the second needed miracle, have been completed. However, in the case of John XXIII, only one miracle has been formally approved by the Vatican, instead of the usual two. Although the decision to waive the second miracle is unusual, it is within the authority of the Pope to do so.



When the decision was announced earlier this summer, Vatican press office director Fr. Federico Lombardi, S.J. explained that since there was already one approved miracle allowing Pope John XXIII to be beatified, the canonization will still be valid, even without a second miracle.





SISTER



DEATH

Remembering Our OFS



ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY, Wood-Ridge, NJ
LAWRENCE P. WARD, *October 2012*

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY FRATERNITY, New York City
Francis X. O'Connor, *2013*
Sean Molloy, *2012*
Anna Murtagh, *2012*

KOREAN MARTYRS FRATERNITY, New York City
Helen Ki-Ok Na, *2012*
Juliana Yoon, *2012*

LITTLE PORTION FRATERNITY, Hastings-On-Hudson, NY
Joseph Giordano, *July 2, 2012*

PORZIUNCULA FRATERNITY, East Hanover, NJ
Gary Gerber, *April 5, 2012*
Sr. Dolores Alfone, OSF, *January 5, 2012*

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY, Yonkers, NY
Mary Cecilia Benza, *June 7, 2013*
Anne Broderick, *November 8, 2012*
Elizabeth D. Koskey, *August 2013*
Albert Martini, *March 22, 2012*

SAN DAMIANO FRATERNITY, Newton, NJ
Carl Ferriere, *2012*

ST. ANNE'S FRATERNITY, Fair Lawn, NJ
Catherine Patwell, *2013*
Vincenza Realmonte, *2013*

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FRATERNITY, New York City
Eleanor Giuffra, *May 13, 2013*

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FRATERNITY, Scotch Plains, NJ
Michael Kalinowski, *June 23, 2012*
Ann Walsh, *2013*

ST. ANTHONY'S FRATERNITY, Butler, NJ
June Taylor, *October 16, 2012*
Anneta Usinowicz, *January 17, 2012*



Brothers and Sisters



ST. CONRAD OF PARZHAM FRATERNITY, Hoboken, NJ
 Edith Ortolano, *June 3, 2013*
 Lucy Sheehan, *November 18, 2012*
 Joseph Tasca, *June 15, 2012*

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY, Jersey City, NJ
 William Prizlupsky, *January 2013*

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY, Ringwood, NJ
 Fr. Lawrence Burke, OFM
September 18, 2013

ST. JOHN'S FRATERNITY, New York City
 Carolyn Hartigan, *2013*
 Hertha Koorn, *2013*
 Alice Kwaan, *2013*
 Anna O'Reilly, *2013*
 Eleanor Tuohey, *2013*
 Valentina Vega, *2013*

ST. JOHN VIANNEY AND ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY
 FRATERNITY, Paterson, NJ
 Joseph Amecangelo, *2012*
 Vera LaMendola, *2012*
 Rose Locicero, *December 2012*
 Helen Saco, *December 2012*

ST. JOHN VIANNEY FRATERNITY, Colonia, NJ
 Dolores Koch, *March 3, 2012*

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY, New York City
 Ernestine Benizeau, *July 7, 2012*

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY
 Pompton Lakes, NJ
 Charles Priesing, *2013*

ST. STEPHEN'S FRATERNITY, Perth Amboy, NY
 Hieronim Wyszynski, *April 26, 2012*
 Mary Merski, *September 20, 2012*

ST. THOMAS MORE FRATERNITY, New York City
 Mary Anne Kelly, *March 18, 2012*

STS. ELIZABETH AND LOUIS FRATERNITY, New York City
 Nalva Chambers, *2012*
 Frank Karczmariski, *2012*
 Marianne Mankos, *2012*
 Rev. Thomas McDonald, *2012*



In Memoriam Benjamin (Ben) Quatrano, Affiliate, 84, passed away September 15, 2013 following a long illness. Ben became an Affiliate Secular Franciscan June 14, 2007. He served his fraternity faithfully for many years as a greeter and kept the attendance roster. Connie Quatrano, OFS, Ben's wife of 40 years, and member of the former St. Louis Fraternity in NYC, thanks all her fraternity members and friends for their support.

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS
REGIONAL FRATERNITY
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER



Francis go and repair
my house.



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS
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