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Secular Franciscan Order in the USA.



LETTER FROM OUR REGION MINISTER

March, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in St. Francis,

Your Region Executive Council has been stepping up and working very hard in the New Year. We meet once a month which is, in itself, a sacrifice in time and travel. Add to that Cluster gatherings, elections and visitations, committees, phone calls and emails, and you will see that our schedules are quite full. However, we serve you with great joy because this Council is a real fraternity—we enjoy being together, praying together and collaborating on the business that will make our region strong.

In thinking about what makes a council or an entire fraternity healthy and strong, I began to think about communications and communication—(No, *that's not a typo*).

What type of **communications** does your fraternity use? In my experience (and from what some of you have told me), fraternities communicate through:

Phone calls	Cards, notes and visits to sick and homebound members
Newsletters and e-mails	Facebook pages, websites and picture sharing
Opinion and planning surveys	Face-to-face conversation at our fraternity gatherings

Most of us have gotten pretty good at **communications**, although at times the news still doesn't get to everyone. I encourage Ministers and Councils to be sure that any news you receive from the Region, either by e-mail or surface mail, gets to all of your members. Please be judicious with your use of email. Our members are more likely to read what we send if they know that it is truly fraternity business.

Perhaps even more important, however, is **communication** with no s. One of my favorite saints (right after St. Francis and St. Clare), St. Teresa of Ávila, expressed the importance of **communication** beautifully: "*Christ has no body now but mine. He prays in me, works in me, looks through my eyes, speaks through my words, works through my hands, walks with my feet and loves with my heart.*"

Following this idea, true communication then, is how others encounter the person of Jesus through us. We encounter Jesus in prayer, but we should be looking for him everywhere and in everyone. How would Jesus communicate with us if he were here now? How did he communicate with those he met while he was here on earth? He reached out to others; he invited them to be with him and to collaborate in his work. He LISTENED. I am sure that when Jesus listened to those who spoke to him, they felt like they had his complete attention. He showed empathy for those he encountered, even when they were people who were not accepted by society.

As Catholics and Secular Franciscans, what communication skills should we be aware of and utilize?

Focused listening & eye contact	Body language	Empathy & mutual support
Collaboration & sharing	Invitation & outreach	No private agenda in discussions
Prayer with and for one another	Personal example	RELATIONSHIP

We must remember that Communication is a two-way street. When we think someone is not listening to us, let's be sure that we are listening to them. Sometimes needs are not being met on either side. Our Seraphic Father St. Francis was a great communicator in word and example. He reminds us that sometimes it takes great humility to listen to someone with whom we might not agree or someone who might be criticizing us.

continued on next page

LETTER FROM OUR REGION MINISTER *continued*

The story Francis told Brother Leo about “perfect joy” is an excellent case in point. In the account, Francis arrives at the monastery wet and cold and the porter turns him away. No matter how he begs, the porter abuses him verbally and turns him away. Yet Francis calls this perfect joy. Brother Bill Short, OFM, in his lecture on the Spirituality of St. Francis* tells us that the perfect joy of St. Francis arises, not in what we would consider joy or happiness, but in having humility and patience enough to listen and endure.

If we are quick to get angry when a discussion is not going our way, we need to remember the humility of Jesus and Francis. We should often remind ourselves that we need to be civil to one another both out in the world and in our fraternities. As St. Augustine said, “*Let us, on both sides, lay aside all arrogance. Let us not, on either side, claim that we have already discovered the truth. Let us seek it together as something which is known to neither of us. For then only may we seek it, lovingly and tranquilly, if there be no bold presumption that it is already discovered and possessed.*”

I would like to share with you an excellent item to meditate upon during Lent. It comes from the Franciscan Action Network** and is called:

“FRANCISCAN PLEDGE: COMMITMENT TO CIVILITY IN DISCOURSE.”

Facilitate a forum for difficult discourse and acknowledge that all dialogue can lead to new insight and mutual understanding.

Respect the dignity of all people, especially the dignity of those who hold an opposing view.

Audit myself and utilize terms or a vocabulary of faith to unite or reconcile rather than divide conflicting positions.

Neutralize inflamed conversations by presuming that those with whom we differ are acting in good faith.

Collaborate with others and recognize that all human engagement is an opportunity to promote peace.

Identify common ground such as similar values or concerns and utilize this as a foundation to build upon.

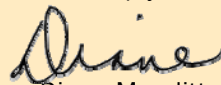
Support efforts to clean up the provocative language by calling policymakers to their sense of personal integrity.

Please remember the following “communications” items:

- The local fraternity statistics report, updated rosters and Fair Share should be returned to Richard Spana as soon as possible.
- The local fraternity Minister’s Report and the Demographic Survey is due to me by March 31st.
- Convivenza is April 25th at Most Holy Name Parish on 96th Street in Manhattan.
- Our Region Retreat will be held at Mt. Alvernia in Wappingers Falls, NY, on July 31st to August 2nd.

Thank you for all you do in your fraternities, your workplaces and your families. For some folks, you and your actions are the only message about Jesus and Francis that others will hear and see.

May our Lord bless you and keep you each and every day.



Diane Menditto, OFS

Minister, Our Lady of the Angels Region

REFERENCES:

*The Treasure of a Poor Man: St. Francis of Assisi and Franciscan Spirituality – #7 Brother William Short, OFM

<https://www.nowyouknowmedia.com/franciscan/the-treasure-of-a-poor-man-st-francis-of-assisi-and-franciscan-spirituality.html>

** <https://franciscanaction.org/franciscancommitment>

** https://lcrw.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/rta1-12_0.pdf





**OUR LADY
OF THE
ANGELS
2014-2017
REGION
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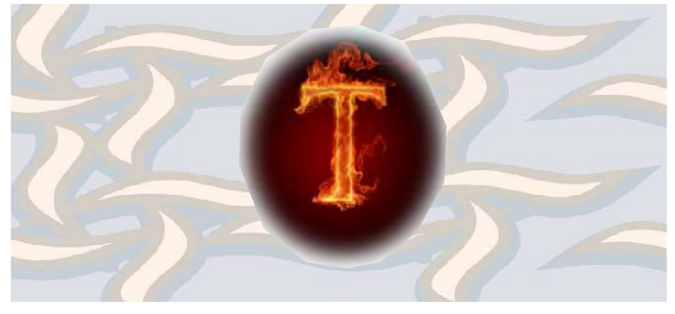
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**2015
REGION
CALENDAR**

*Mark your Calendars,
details will follow.*



O.F.S. GENERAL MEETINGS

2015 CONVIVENZA

- See page 9

Saturday, April 25, 2015
Holy Name of Jesus Parish
West 96th Street, New York City, NY

2015 REGION RETREAT

- See page 15

Friday, July 31 — Sunday, August 2, 2015
Mount Alvernia Retreat Center
Wappingers Falls, NY

2015 NAFRA ANNUAL CHAPTER

- See page 5

October 13-18, 2015
Our Lady of the Angels Region will host
the National Fraternity Annual Chapter.

O.F.S. CLUSTER MEETINGS

STATEN ISLAND / CENTRAL NJ CLUSTER MEETING

Saturday, March 7th — 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
St. Matthias Parish Office — St. Martin de Porres Room
168 JFK Blvd, Somers, NJ 08873-2230
Contact: Mary-Frances, OFS, SI/Central Jersey Councilor
Phone: 732-828-1400
Email: mfreavey@gmail.com

MANHATTAN CLUSTER MEETING

Saturday, May 2nd — 10:00 a.m.
St. Francis of Assisi Adult Education Center
Meeting Room # 4
135 West 31st St., New York, NY 10016
Contact: Pat Clayton, OFS, Manhattan Councilor
Phone: 917-502-9895
Email: Reap.clayton@gmail.com

SPECIAL EVENT

National Elective Chapter Coming to our Region

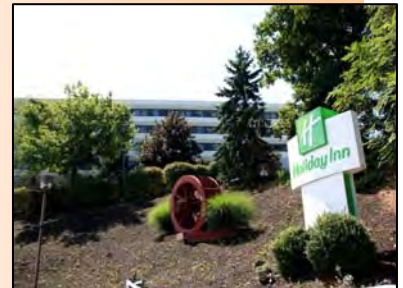
by
RON PIHOKKER, OFS
Chairperson
NaFra 2015 Chapter
Host Committee
rlpihokker@aol.com

This October 13 –18th, a very special gathering will be coming to Our Lady of the Angels Region.

The National Elective Chapter of our Order will take place at the Holiday Inn in Clinton, NJ and we have been given the great privilege of acting as the Regional Hosts. The Regional Ministers of the 30 Regions of the United States along with the National Executive Council and members of the various National Commissions will gather for these five days to do the business of the Order in the United States as they do yearly in different locations throughout the country.

However, this year, as happens every three years, it will be an especially notable meeting as we will also observe the National Elective Chapter which means that in addition, the new National Executive Council of the Order in the United States will be elected and installed, right here in Our Lady of the Angels Region.

This new council will set the direction of the Order in the United States for the next three years. The election will be presided over by one of our leaders from the General level of the Order, either our new Minister General, Tibor Kauser, OFS, or his delegate, as well as one of the General Spiritual Assistants from among their Conference.



So you see, this will be a momentous occasion for our Order throughout the United States and for us here in New York and New Jersey. Hospitality is one of the hallmarks of our Franciscan tradition and in true fraternal fashion we have been asked to roll out the welcome mat for our brothers and sisters to not only make them feel welcome and among their brothers and sisters in the Franciscan Family, but to also give them a taste of our part of the country, to help them get a bite of the “Big Apple” here in north Jersey!

Plans are already being discussed for a special liturgy to be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, and for an outing to show our sisters and brothers some of our spectacular part of the country. But, as you can imagine, this is a major undertaking and will require “all hands on deck!” As the chairperson of the Host Committee, Ron Pihokker, OFS, is appealing to all of our sisters and brothers of Our Lady of the Angels Region for three things:

1. PRAY. Please begin to hold the National Chapter in prayer both individually and as fraternities as you meet each month leading up to October.

2. PLAN TO PARTICIPATE. There is room for observers to attend this event so if you are free and wish to attend as an observer, please be in touch with Diane Menditto, OFM, our Regional Minister, who can pass along information on cost and provide you with the necessary paperwork. If you can, please plan to attend the Mass at the Cathedral Basilica.

3. HELP. We need willing folks to assist with the various details of hosting by volunteering your time on one of the various committees which will help to prepare a proper welcome for our sisters and brothers. If you are interested in helping, e-mail Ron Pihokker at: rlpihokker@aol.com or call him at 973-472-0889 and let him know that you are interested in helping out.



LOOK FOR FUTURE ARTICLES ON OUR PROGRESS AS WE PLAN TO WELCOME OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS.

LENT: 2015 A TIME TO REJOICE!

In stillness,
we seek the face of God

Photo credit: Ed Wojciechowski, OFS

by
ED WOJCIECHOWSKI, OFS
Formation Director
OLTAR Region
edwojo@yahoo.com

Growing up in the 1960's, the spiritual practices of Lent always involved a personal sacrifice on my part. My mother would insist that my sister, Debbie, and I 'give up' a special treat for the entire time beginning on Ash Wednesday through to Easter morning. No breaks for Sundays or special holidays were allowed in my mother's house!

The Lenten sacrifices were particularly difficult for Debbie, as her birthday is in mid-March. For Lent, I often 'gave up' special treats like candy or cashew nuts. I love cashews, and still do to this day, and giving them up for 40 days was nearly impossible. So between a subdued celebration on Debbie's birthday, and giving up cashews, Lent wasn't exactly a joyous time for me. All of that changed, though, when I became a Secular Franciscan and learned the true meaning of conversion.

Today, the Church urges all of the faithful to spend time and energy in repentance and turning our lives back towards God during Lent. To many people, this means making personal sacrifices by reducing our personal needs, but we should always conduct our lives with great joy and hope in the coming celebration of our Lord's resurrection on Easter.

As Secular Franciscans, we have our Rule as a guidebook for living our lives, as we go from "gospel to life and life to gospel."
(OFS Rule, Chapter 2, Article 4)

We are reminded that when we fast, we should follow the Gospel admonition to "anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who sees what is hidden and will repay you."
(Matthew 6:17)

Matthew's exhortation, then, is both a challenge and an opportunity for all Secular Franciscans, and transforms Lent from a time of personal sacrifice into a time of joy!

Lent is a challenge for Secular Franciscans as we pledge to reduce our personal needs "so as to be better able to share spiritual and material goods with their brothers and sisters, especially those most in need."
(OFS General Constitution, Article 15.3)

As Brothers and Sisters of Penance, we are reminded of our obligation to use our talents to:
feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, and care for those in prison.

Our works of charity must be performed with love and gratitude so that our sacrifices will be pleasing to God so that we may "inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."
(Matthew 25:34)

Lent is an opportunity for spiritual growth both in our person life and our life in fraternity as we use this liturgical season to "live in the spirit of continual conversion."
(OFS General Constitution, Article 13.1)

**BUT HOW
DO WE
TRANSFORM
OUR LIVES?**

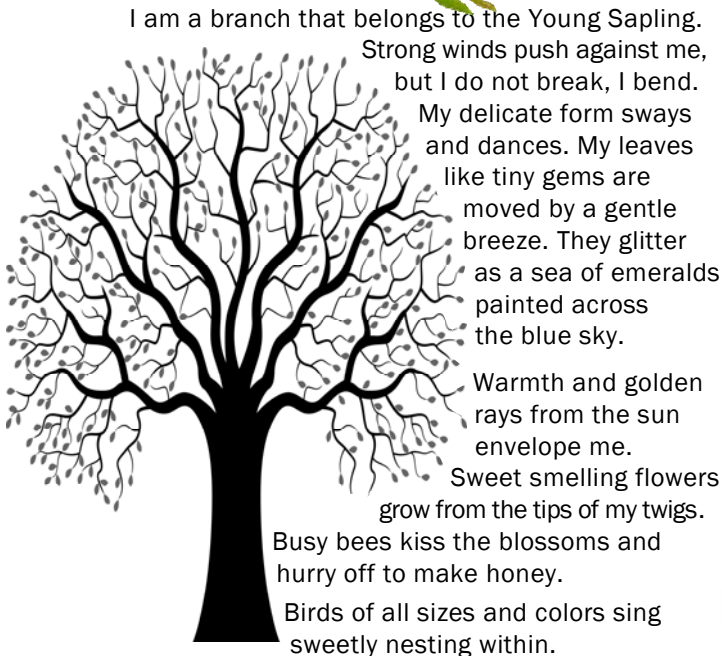
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The Young Sapling

- 7 -

Poem by
DIANE VITALE, OFS
San Damiano Fraternity
Newton, NJ

Dedicated to the memory of my dear friend,
Brother James Kearney, FMS † May 14, 2013



I am a branch that belongs to the Young Sapling.
Strong winds push against me,
but I do not break, I bend.

My delicate form sways
and dances. My leaves
like tiny gems are
moved by a gentle
breeze. They glitter
as a sea of emeralds
painted across
the blue sky.

Warmth and golden
rays from the sun
envelope me.

Sweet smelling flowers
grow from the tips of my twigs.
Busy bees kiss the blossoms and
hurry off to make honey.

Birds of all sizes and colors sing
sweetly nesting within.

I am adorned with living beauty! The seasons dress me in
many coats of colors, as an artist paints an ever changing
landscape. Sometimes I am invaded and fall prey to
parasites. They scar my tender bark.
Then the purifying rain comes in shining sheets
as clear as glass. And washes me clean.
My outstretched limbs rejoice and I am made new!

Snow weighs heavily on my modest frame.
Ice crystals form exquisite shapes on my dainty twigs.
I take on a mantle of brilliant white, I am beautiful!

My Creator knows every leaf and twig on my frame.
He loves me as though I am the only tree in the
forest. I belong to one tree in a forest of many.

We are connected by common ground and strong
roots. I am simple, secure and held firmly to the
earth. Unified, my branches are bound together.

The Young Sapling comforts me in the heat
of the day and the chill of the night. He feeds
me from the good earth and strengthens my
limbs for the weight I must carry. My thirst is
quenched on the sweetest nectar drawn from
a wellspring within.

Sometimes I am pruned to bring forth what
good is hidden inside me, what miracles could be.
Finally, when I am clothed in broken bark,
and wear deep rings of age, my branches
low and sweeping the forest floor,
no longer strong and straight,
I bow in submission to the elements.

Weathered from the storms of life
I leave but a few acorns scattered on the forest floor.
Farewell, I welcome peace and rest.
New life comes forth
from transforming death.

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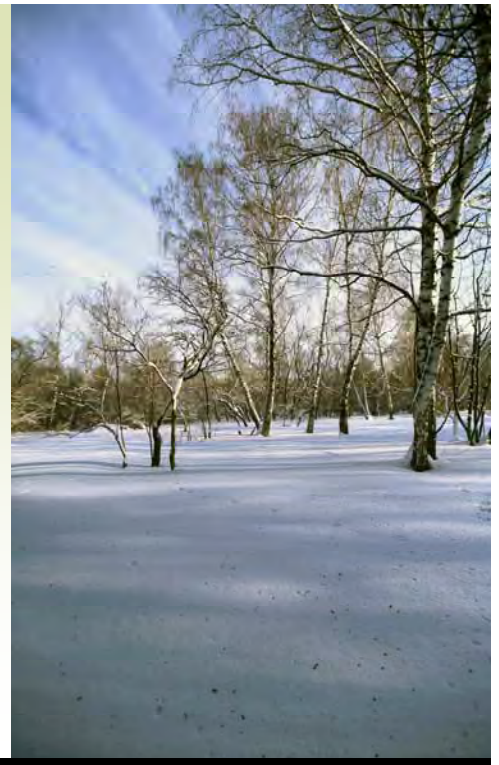
Once again, Article 13 of the *OFS General Constitution* gives specific guidance for spiritual growth by encouraging us to:

- Listen to and celebrate the Word of God - including regular attendance at Mass and spiritual practices such as *Lectio Divina*.
- Review our lives - An excellent opportunity for an examination of conscience is during Night Prayer (*Compline*).
- Participate in spiritual retreats Seek the assistance of a spiritual advisor.

- Participate in penitential celebrations - including the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Stations of the Cross and the celebrations of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

As we become full and active participants in the Lenten season, we transform our lives, the life of our fraternity and the life of the Universal Church. Our Lenten practices become a source of joy for Secular Franciscans so that on Easter Sunday our shouts of Alleluia will ring out beyond the confines of the physical church and become an agent of spiritual transformation heard through the world!

Pax, *Ed*





by
DEACON LUKE CONROY, OFS
St. Benedict the Moor Fraternity
New York City, NY

By hitting us again and again with demands which we not only fail to obey, but which we come to recognize as being quite beyond us, the Gospel passages are meant to trouble us, to confront our illusions about ourselves. "Remember, you are dust..."

As we enter the holy Season of Lent let us be active listeners of the readings that are proclaimed to us. They offer us so much!

In the cycle of weekday readings, Lent falls into two parts. In the first three and a half weeks, the Gospel texts are taken from the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark, Luke).

The message running throughout is a call to a life of Gospel conversion. The verses that we hear speak of beginning anew, of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving; of conversion; of mutual forgiveness; of hardness of heart; of love of enemies; of absolute claims of justice and love that transcends ritual and cult; and of the call to holiness. Collectively, this is the essence of discipleship. It is what Jesus asks of us if we are to follow him.

The readings for the second half of Lent are taken from the Gospel of John. It is clear that these readings from John do not constitute a kind of "crash course" in the life of Jesus, so much as a presentation of the mystery Jesus Christ, the Son of God, of whom John says that all who believe in him will have eternal life. Christ is presented as the healer and life-giver, as the one who gives life through his confrontation with death and gathers into one the scattered children of God.

HOW DO THESE TWO SECTIONS OF READINGS FIT TOGETHER AND WHAT CAN THEY TELL US ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF LENT?

The purpose of the first part of Lent is to bring us to *compunction*. "Compunction" is related to the verb "to puncture" and suggests the deflation of our egos, a challenge to any self-deceit about the quality of our lives as disciples of Jesus.

From this prospective, Lenten penance may be more effective if we fail in our resolutions than if we succeed, for its purpose is not to confirm us in our sense of virtue, but to bring home to us our radical need of salvation.

It is in answer to this profound awareness of need that the readings shift from the Synoptics to John, from the demands of discipleship to the person of Jesus. John presents Jesus as the Savior, but Jesus can only save those who know their need for salvation. (Credit to Mark Searle, "The Spirit of Lent.")

Loving Father,
 open our hearts to
 the voice of Your Word
 and free us from
 the original darkness
 that shadows our vision.
 Restore our sight
 that we may look upon
 Your Son who calls us
 to repentance and
 a change of heart,
 for He lives and reigns
 with You for ever and ever.
 Amen.



CONVIVENZA

OUR REGION'S ANNUAL UNITY DAY
A FRATERNAL GATHERING OF FRANCISCAN JOY

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015 | 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Church of the Holy Name of Jesus | 207 West 96th Street
New York City, NY 10025 | 212-749-0276

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: FR. MATTHEW A. PRAVETZ, O.F.M.
TOPIC: JOY OF THE GOSPEL

- AGENDA (INCLUDES):**
- Registration and Coffee: 9:00 a.m.
 - Morning Prayer.
 - Talk — Joy of the Gospel — Fr. Matthew.
 - Questions and Small Group Sessions
 - Holy Mass celebration, Homily continues Joy of the Gospel theme.
 - Brown bag lunch, refreshments provided by host fraternity, ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS.
 - Power Point presentation by Diane Menditto: Joy of the Gospel and the OFS Rule.
 - Group Sharing.

A VERY SPECIAL DAY IS PLANNED—DON'T MISS IT.

FR. MATTHEW A. PRAVETZ, O.F.M.

Father Matthew is a native New Yorker, growing up in the College Point section of Queens before entering the Franciscan Order in 1964. A graduate of St. Francis College, Brooklyn, most of his full-time ministry has been in the field of education. Early in his career was spent at the secondary level as teacher and administrator in Brooklyn and Long Island.

Fr. Matthew was ordained to the priesthood in 1979 by the then Bishop Theodore McCarrick.

After completion of his training at New York Medical College specializing in the field of clinical anatomy, Father Matthew has been on the faculty of the medical school since the early 1980's where he is presently the director of Medical Gross Anatomy. He teaches medical students and resident physicians in the surgical subspecialties. In addition, he is involved in the medical ethics curriculum.

Fr. Matt has been the Spiritual Assistant to St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity (96th Street in Manhattan) since 2008. It is his first time serving as a Spiritual Assistant, and he says that he is learning a lot!



Photo credit: Diane Menditto, OFS and Ed Wojciechowski, OFS

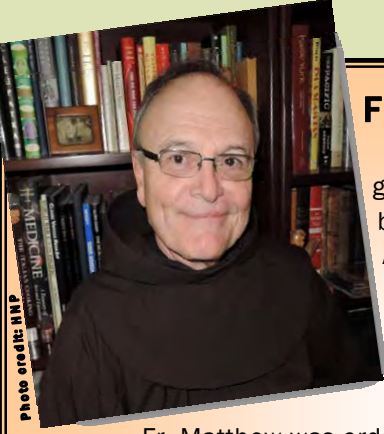


Photo credit: RHP

YOUFRA



DAWN RUSINKO, OFS
YOUFRA CHAIR
OLTAR Region
DawnRusinko@yahoo.com

Dawn was unable to submit her column this month, but assures us she'll be back for the April issue.

In the meantime, there are two important things to consider; she is looking for YouFra Committee Members, and for the young adults in the area, please know that they are trying to start a Youth group.

Please contact Dawn if interested.

UPCOMING EVENTS

by Peggy Ledger, OFS

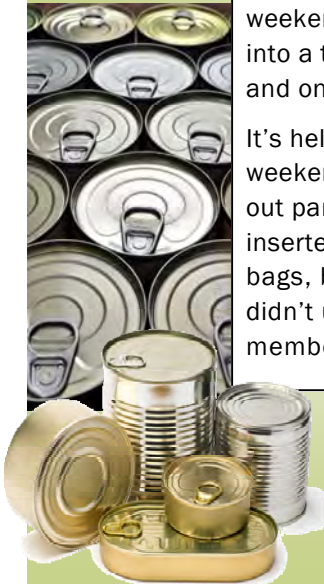
OFS 2015 LENTEN FOOD DRIVE St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity, New York, NY

Our food drive began in the early '90's (1993 or 1994) when our member, Maria Moran, OFS, learned that food shipments for our parish food pantry were being held up on the docks. At her urging, the Fraternity began to collect food at every weekend mass. The food collections turned into a twice-a-year effort; once at Thanksgiving and once at Easter.

It's held as a two-weekend event. On the first weekend, members of the Fraternity will hand out parish bulletins with flyer announcements inserted. We'd been including brown paper bags, but stopped because most people didn't use them. The following weekend, our members are again at each weekend Mass

to collect the food and/or financial contributions that people bring. This year, our first Food Drive weekend will be held **March 15**, and the second on **March 22**.

We learned the hard way that it isn't a good idea to collect food on Palm Sunday. We do the collections early to allow the folks who run the food pantry to have the time to sort and package the donations. The Food Pantry at Holy Name feeds approximately 150 families from our own neighborhood each week.



Holy Name of Jesus Church
207 West 96th Street
New York, NY 10025
212-749-0276

For More Information
contact Fraternity Minister:
Peggy Ledger, OFS:
Peggy1@ix.netcom.com



FOR EVENT OR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS,
PLEASE E-MAIL OR SURFACE MAIL TO:
ANNA GERACI, OFS, EDITOR — TROUBADOUR
161-B Cross Slope Ct., Manalapan, NJ 07726
Email: TroubadourEditor@aol.com



'The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you
and give you peace.'

Numbers 6:24-26



Photo credit: Diane Menditto, OFS

MEET OUR REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

MEET OUR REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

As you know, at the Chapter of Mats meeting this past November, our Regional Executive Council was elected for the 2014-2017 term. They are an experienced, passionate and balanced group of thinkers and innovators who can lead, shape and strengthen our Secular Franciscan Order Region to unprecedented growth and greater opportunities.

Needless to say, it is and we have an amazing council.

In this issue, we're pleased to introduce them and to share some facts and features about each of the members of our Council.

Please pray for these servant leaders God has blessed us with, for our Franciscan Order and our future. Our hope and prayer is that God will use this new Council to lead us into a future of greater fruitfulness through the gospel to His glory and praise.

—APG, Editor

MINISTER



DIANE

MENDITTO was professed in 1979 and is a member of the St. Francis fraternity in Hackensack, NJ.

She has served the Order on the local level as Formation Director, Vice Minister and Minister.

On the regional level she has served as Vice Minister and is excited to begin her service as Minister of Our Lady of the Angels Region.

Until her retirement in 2005, Diane taught Spanish for 35 years in the Hackensack, NJ school system. As a retiree she has continued to be very active in her parish as a lector, Eucharistic Minister and website coordinator.

In the Order, she has developed and maintained the region and local websites and the region Facebook page.

As a member of the National Formation Commission, she has given presentations at region workshops and at the NAFRA Annual Chapter.

Her interests include photography, travel and the arts.

I was born in Queens, one of five children, to parents from the Bronx and grew up in Rockland County, NY. Raised Catholic, I attended Catholic school through 5th grade.

My life as a complacent Catholic changed radically by my involvement at St Francis of Assisi Church, on West 31st Street in Manhattan, beginning in 1983, as one of the many commuters passing through Penn Station each day. I began attending an early 19-minute daily

NANCY CONROY

VICE-MINISTER



Mass and found myself drawn to the Franciscans through two great, early morning homilists: Fr Robert Gavin and Fr Matthew Gaskin.

My husband, Luke, and I first met at a coffee hour in the friary when he joined the *Come Home Program* after being away from the Church for 13 years. We married in the Upper Church in 1986 and entered formation of the Secular Franciscan Order two years later.

Over the years, we have served in various positions on the St. Benedict the Moor fraternity council in New York City, and remain deeply involved with the formation team. I was privileged to serve for three years as Formation Director on the Regional Executive Council of Our Lady of the Angels Region and currently serve on the council as Vice Minister.

Encounter with Franciscans changed our lives as Catholics and our view of the world. Luke was ordained a Deacon in the Archdiocese of New York in 2001 and is actively involved in our local parish of St Ann Church. Over the last twenty years, I have enjoyed the honor of working as a nurse. Luke and I live in Nyack, New York with our daughter, Anya, and black lab, Kirby.

FORMATION DIRECTOR



ED

WOJCIECHOWSKI

I have been a professed Secular Franciscan since October, 2001. I am a cradle Catholic who grew up in Lincoln Park, NJ and attended St. Joseph's Church and Grammar School. I was introduced to the Salesians at Don Bosco Technical High School in Paterson. Under the loving guidance of the Salesian Priests and Brothers, my love of the Catholic Church grew and blossomed.

In 1982, I married the love of my life, my wife Gail and have been happily married since then. It was in 1983, when my wife and I moved to Butler, NJ, that I had my first encounter with the Franciscan Friars at St. Anthony's Parish, and later with the Secular Franciscan Order.

I currently serve my parish as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, member of the Liturgy Committee and Parish Council. Since my profession, I have served St. Anthony's fraternity as Formation Director and currently serve as Minister.

Over the 13+ years since my profession, I have come to meet and become friends with many of my brother and sister Secular Franciscans through our region at our cluster gatherings, Convivenza and the regional retreat. It is with great humility that I now serve our region and look forward with great anticipation and joy towards making many new friends over the next 3 years.



KATE

ASSELIN

has served the Regional Council in her role as Secretary for the past 6 years, and is currently in her 3rd term in office.

She is a member and former Treasurer of the Most Holy Name fraternity in Little Falls, NJ.

Kate has been a Secular Franciscan for the past 9 years, and was professed on February 5, 2006.



RICHARD

SPANNA

has served the Regional Council in his role as Treasurer and is currently in his 3rd elected term in office. Rick is a member and former Minister of Little Portion Fraternity in Mt. Vernon, NY, and currently serves his local fraternity as Treasurer.

Richard has been a Secular Franciscan for the past 31 years and was professed October 4, 1984.



RON

PIHOKKER

has been a professed Secular Franciscan since 1977 and a member of Most Holy Name Fraternity in Little Falls, NJ.

Professionally, he serves as the Archdiocesan Director of Catechesis for the Archdiocese of Newark, a position which he has held since 1996 prior to which he served as Parish Director of Catechesis for several North Jersey parishes. Ron is a member of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission and the Archdiocesan Evangelization Commission. He also served previously as Chair of the Religious Education Division of CACE, the Chief Administrators of Catholic Education of the National Catholic Educational Association and as a member of the Public Policy Committee of the New Jersey Catholic Conference.

As a Secular Franciscan, Ron is the past Regional Minister of Our Lady of the Angels Region and also served as a previous Regional Formation Director. He has served as National Vice-Minister of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States and Chair of the National Formation Commission. He was a keynote speaker at the 1994 General Chapter of the Order in Mexico City and was a member of the Advisory Board of the Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University.

Ron has been married to his wife, Jody, for more than 38 years. Jody is also a Secular Franciscan and member of Most Holy Name Fraternity.

They have two adult children, Kristen, 29, a former teacher and current homemaker and mother of Ron and Jody's granddaughter, Natalie Mae, 18 months. Their son, Matthew, 27, is an archaeologist and an adjunct professor of Classical Languages and Archaeology at The College of New Jersey.

Ron enjoys astronomy, fishing, chess, and reading Sherlock Holmes mysteries. Ron and Jody live in Clifton, NJ with their two dogs, Molly and Sherlock.



PATRICIA M. CLAYTON

I professed as a Secular Franciscan into St. Benedict the Moor fraternity in New York City nine years ago.

My history of servant leadership includes serving on the council of my fraternity

as minister (current) and secretary (past). I currently serve as the Manhattan Cluster Councilor and am involved in formation at the local and regional levels.

I volunteer as the cook coordinator for my local church shelter. In addition, I serve on the board of Faith in New York, a multi-congregational faith-based organization that strives to address the needs of the local communities in NYC through political action and advocacy initiatives.

I have worked in the Department of Radiology at NYU Langone Medical Center and Bellevue Hospital Center for 24 years.

My husband, Edward, and I have been married for 38 years and have 3 daughters and 2 grandchildren.



COUNCILOR
S/CENTRAL JERSEY

MARY-FRANCES REAVEY

I learned about the Secular Franciscans when I was on our parish's pastoral Council. Our pastor would have a motto or theme each year for the parish to follow. While I was on the council he started using Franciscan quotes like 'Rebuild My Church' and the yearning to know more began. I was professed on 1st, November 2003, into St. Peter's Fraternity in Somerset, NJ. I have been our fraternity minister since 2009, and I have been the Cluster Councilor since 2011.

I am married to the love of my life, Brian, for 39 years and mother of 5 grown married children. I have 10 grandchildren who light up my life. I grew up in Brooklyn and moved to NJ in 1978.

I have a B.A. in English Lit. from Lehman College CUNY and an M.A. in Religious Education (specializing in Adult formation) from Felician College.

I am a quilter and have made more than 25 queen size quilts (mostly as gifts) and I paint and crochet.

SHEILA TUOHY

I grew up in Gardner, Massachusetts—the oldest of 10 children. There are still 6 of us living. I came to New York City to work after graduating from Mount Holyoke College in 1959. I met my husband, Tom, at the Midtown Catholic Club at St. John the Baptist Church on 31st street.

Tom was a Secular Franciscan, and every month at least one of our dates was at his Fraternity gathering.

We were married in May, 1963, and I was professed in June, 1963.

Tom died in 2009. We are the parents of Joseph and Mary Ruth, (who only lived for 4 months). My son, Joseph and his wife, Daniela, presented us with our grandson, Liam, on our 41st wedding anniversary—May 25, 2004.

A member of the Sacred Heart Fraternity in Yonkers, NY, I have held every Fraternity office over the past 52 years. I have also been involved in the Right-to-Life movement and local Republican politics for more than 35 years.

COUNCILOR
WESTCHESTER



YOUFRA CHAIR
YOUTH MINISTRY



DAWN RUSINKO

DAWN IS A MEMBER OF THE
COUNCIL BY APPOINTMENT.

I married Paul, my childhood sweetheart 27 years ago; we have three children and a granddaughter. She is our shining star that we love to pieces. The saying is true— if we knew how fun grandchildren were we would have had them first ha, ha, ha. Our daughter is getting married in April to her childhood sweetheart; I guess the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Our youngest son is graduating High School in June and hoping to enter the Marines. My middle son is studying for his bachelor degree in Business.

I was professed a Secular Franciscan on Pentecost Sunday in 2002, and am currently a member of the Cortesia Fraternity in Middletown, NJ. As a Franciscan, I have served as YouFra Minister, Vice Minister, Minister and Regional Youth Commissioner Chair at two different Regions. I am also a Commissioned Lay Ecclesial Minister and Advocacy Chair for the National Association of Lay Ministry. I've worked and served in Parish Ministries for over 15 years. In my spare time, I write a Catholic blog <http://dawnsfaithconnection.wordpress.com>

I am currently working on a book for parishes and Fraternities that I'm hoping to complete in the near future for publication. Through your prayers, we plan to provide a platform for the youth and young adults to find their rightful place in the world serving God through a Franciscan spirit.

May this coming year bless us with new life for the future of our Order.

REGIONAL SPIRITUAL
ASSISTANT



BRO. DOUG SOIK, OFM CAP

Brother Doug is a Capuchin Franciscan of the Province of the Stigmata of St. Francis. He received his First vows in August, 1975 and his Solemn vows in July, 1979. Brother Doug holds a Bachelors Degree in Sociology and a Certification in Social Work. He resides in Union City, NJ.

2015 REGION RETREAT

We will once again be utilizing the beautiful facilities at Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, New York, for our regional retreat from **July 31– August 2, 2015**. The cost is \$175.00 per attendee.



OUR RETREAT MASTER IS FR. THOMAS HARTLE, OFM

Fr. Tom is a member of the Friars Minor of Holy Name Province and currently resides at St. Anthony's Friary in Butler, NJ. In the truest sense, Fr. Tom is an itinerant preacher. In addition to offering retreats, he also conducts pilgrimages to Assisi and Rome. Fr. Tom has the privilege of being the Spiritual Assistant to the Holy Name Federation of Poor Clares.

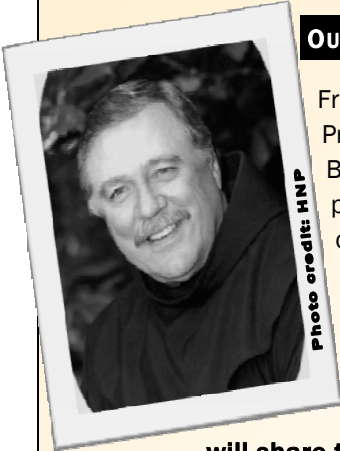


Photo credit: HNP

Join your Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters at our annual region retreat where you will share time in prayer, fellowship and spiritual growth. Additional retreat information will be available soon, but remember space is limited, so mark-your-calendars or if you prefer, register now using the form provided below.



Photo credits: Diane Menditto, OFS and Ed Wojanowski, OFS

2015 REGION RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

Please check one Professed Candidate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Fraternity: _____ Single room Double room

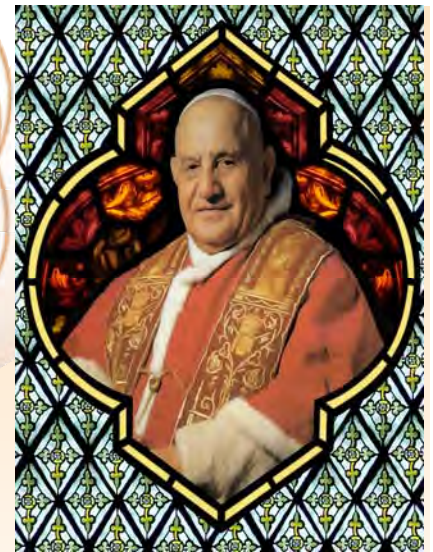
Special Needs: _____ Room with: _____

Send completed registration form with \$175.00 check, payable to "Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity" to: RICHARD SPANA, OFS • 332 Warburton Avenue, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706 • Phone: 914-478-2010.

The Registration Form is now available on our region website at: <http://ourladyoftheangelsregion.org>



SAINT JOHN XXIII, SECULAR FRANCISCAN



Once I came across a book in Italian that I no longer have in my possession, and although I cannot remember the exact name of the book, it concentrated exclusively on Pope John XXIII and his ties to the Franciscan Order.

BY
FR. ANDRÉ CIRINO, OFM
Spiritual Assistant
Little Portion Fraternity
Mt. Vernon, NY

When I had the opportunity to take a Franciscan Pilgrimage to Pope John XXIII's birth home, Sotto Il Monte near Bergamo in northern Italy, I translated sections of this little book that show Angelo Roncalli's love for and connection with the Franciscan family. As the one-year anniversary of his canonization draws near, (April 27), I thought it might be helpful for Franciscans to hear a bit more about the Franciscan dimension of this great pope and saint whose short papacy opened the path to *aggiornamento*—to update the church by convoking the Second Vatican Council.

Pope John seemed to be captivated by the Franciscan Order and charism, for he once exclaimed: "What a mystery! What a mystery this Franciscanism!"

In what follows, I share some of his thoughts and memories about the Order's presence in the friary of Baccanello close to his home, about his contact with members of the Franciscan Order and his love for Franciscan saints and sanctuaries.

FRIARY AT BACCANELLO NEAR HIS HOME

A friar minor of the twentieth century by the name of Agostino Gemelli is credited with having said that people don't become Franciscans; they are born Franciscan. And this seems to be the case for Angelo Roncalli, Pope John XXIII. His family lived nearby the friary at Baccanello. The Franciscan influence of this friary remained with him throughout his entire life.

Speaking to a group of Franciscans in 1961 he said: "The friars minor are the closest to my life, because I also am a Franciscan for a long time!"

In my family home, when the window was opened in the morning, the first church I saw was yours (Baccanello), down there."

Pope John explained the origin of his vocation as a Secular Franciscan¹ when he was still very young: "I would see the humble and modest friars who edified me very much passing nearby my house. They often invited me to the Franciscan friary of Baccanello to pray in solitude and recollection." He called them a family and compared them to a large tree.

While a young adolescent, he was received as a Secular Franciscan. The guardian of Baccanello said: "He (Roncalli) once reminded me that I am a poor cardinal before your protector; but also I enjoy the heartfelt sentiments of a humble and faithful Secular Franciscan."

Pope John XXIII recalled that when the bells of Baccanello invited the friars to choir to pray the Divine Office of Sext and None towards the hour of 11:30, his good Mother came to the door of the house and called:

"Angelino, Angelino, come because it's time to light the fire to cook the polenta!"

Pope John told us that after a long journey through the world, "nothing was sweeter and more delicious to my soul than to return to the friary of Baccanello . . . especially for the feast of *Il Perdono*," The Pardon of St. Francis. He often preached on the feast of *Il Perdono d'Assisi* at Baccanello.

continued on next page

He wrote to the guardian of the friary of Baccanello in 1956: "Fraternizing with the sons of St. Francis accompanies and sweetens my spirit for the whole year." During a visit as pope to Bellegra friary in the Franciscan province of Rome on 25 August 1959, he told the friars: "At one time I thought of following the humble friars of Baccanello, but then a stronger wind blew me onto another road. And on departure from Bellegra friary, he said: "Too bad that I must go! When I am here with my brothers, I do not think of time constrictions."

On 12 April 1959, Pope John canonized the first saint of his pontificate, a son of St. Francis of Assisi, a poor shepherd of the Pontine Marshes who innately knew the ways of a mystic, Charles of Sezze, friar minor and lay brother. After the canonization of St. Charles, the pope thought of the friary at Baccanello and sent "the reliquary of St. Charles of Sezze, gift of Pope John XXIII, Secular Franciscan from Sotto Il Monte to the friary of Baccanello, most dear to him from his childhood." Dated June 12, 1959.

CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF THE FRANCISCAN ORDER

Every time that he would meet the sons of the Poverello of Assisi, he would call them, with extraordinary and amiable simplicity, *fratelli*, brothers.

An entry in his *Journal of a Soul*, 30 January 1919 reads: "I have come here to visit Padre Agostino Gemelli of the friars minor, friar and medical doctor."

When he once addressed the Capuchins of Assisi, he said: "Beloved sons, I willingly give you this brief word: when I was fourteen years old, I was made a Secular Franciscan in the Seminary of Bergamo."

On 13 July 1958, to a group of Franciscans he said: "I am also a Secular Franciscan; so we are of the same spirit."

He did not forget the Poor Clares in Paris, Rome, or Venice. He would say that he loved St. Clare and her sisters very much. He described St. Clare as "on fire with love." When visiting a monastery where there was adoration day and night, he asked which sister did her adoration at two in the morning, and when they told him, he joyfully exclaimed to her: "I too will be in prayer with you." And he explained that he arose at that hour to pray and work because of the silence and peace.



POPE ST. JOHN XXIII
Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli

BORN: November 25, 1881
DIED: June 3, 1963

PAPAL REIGN: 1958 - 1963
261st Pope

PAPAL CREDO:
Obedience and Peace

CANONIZED:
27 April, 2014

FEAST DAY:
11 October

On 16 April 1959, in the Cathedral of St. John Lateran in Rome, the general ministers of the Franciscan family, in commemoration of the 750th anniversary of the *Rule* of St. Francis, solemnly renewed their religious profession in the hands of John XXIII. It was then that the pontiff opened himself to them saying: "I am Joseph, your brother."

At the conclusion of an audience with a Franciscan bishop, the pope said: "Bishop, now give me the blessing of St. Francis because I am a Secular Franciscan." And after a personal audience with a friar, he invited him to his next audience telling the people: "Today I bring you two blessings, that of the Pope and that of St. Francis." And at a papal audience with the general council of the Order of Friars Minor, he said: "I wanted to put the friars minor last on my audience list to be able to enjoy their presence a bit longer."

FRANCISCAN SAINTS AND HOLY PLACES

In a letter to his mother in September 1936, he wrote: On the way home I intend to visit holy LaVerna, the mountain of St. Francis."

As Patriarch of Venice, he led a pilgrimage from Venice to Assisi on 4 October 1953 to offer to the people of Assisi the traditional gift of oil to light the votive lamp at the tomb of St. Francis.

Among his books in his library at Camaitino, there were many Franciscan works.

“I have loved St. Francis and his sons from my childhood. I am a Secular Franciscan since age 14 when I received the sacred tonsure . . . St. Francis was the most intimate of my Saints.”

On 6 March 1960 he said: “Let us take St. Francis, the great friend of the Lord, as our model. St. Francis replicated him in his spirit by carrying Christ.”

Pope John also wrote: “The pious and noble Roman woman, Jacoba of Settesoli, was considered one of the first Secular Franciscans who helped the growing Order with all the means at her disposal, especially with the poor and suffering.”

Pope John spoke to people about St. Francis of Assisi and his followers: St. Anthony, St. Bernardine, St. Bonaventure, St. Clare, St. Peter of Alcantara, St. Francis Solano, St. Charles of Sezze, St. Francis Marie of Camporosso, the poet Jacopone da Todi, Thomas of Celano, and Luke Wadding.

He began one talk with the expression: “In the sayings of Brother Giles and in all Franciscan poetry...”

Speaking about St. Bernardine, he noted: “St. Bernardine is now deceased for five centuries, since 1444. And for five centuries, my humble family has lived at Sotto Il Monte.”

In his home at Camaitino, there was a painting of St. Bonaventure and St. Thomas Aquinas, depicting the following: *Thomas to Bonaventure:*

“Where have you found such powerful and rich thoughts to fill so many volumes?”

Bonaventure showing Thomas a crucifix:

“Here is my Teacher!”

John frequently quoted the mystical works of St. Bonaventure, especially his meditations on the life of Christ, the *Tree of Life*.

On 20 May 1963 while on deathbed: John had read to him *The Flame of Love*, a work by a certain Friar Thomas (1631).

CONCLUSION

Bishop Righi who worked with Pope John in Istanbul said of him:

“Bishop Roncalli, from the beginning, never had nor wished to have money in his pocket. He lived nine years in Istanbul without having transport for his personal use. He used the tram or taxi.”

I close with Bishop Righi’s comment above because of the overtones it has to our present Pope Francis who seems to be unwittingly evoking images and memories of Pope John XXIII. Angelo Roncalli came from poverty and obviously lived with a sense of the evangelical counsel of poverty, both economically and spiritually.

May Secular Franciscan Pope John, and his love for Saints Francis and Clare and the Franciscan way of life, set us afire as we Franciscans continue to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ!



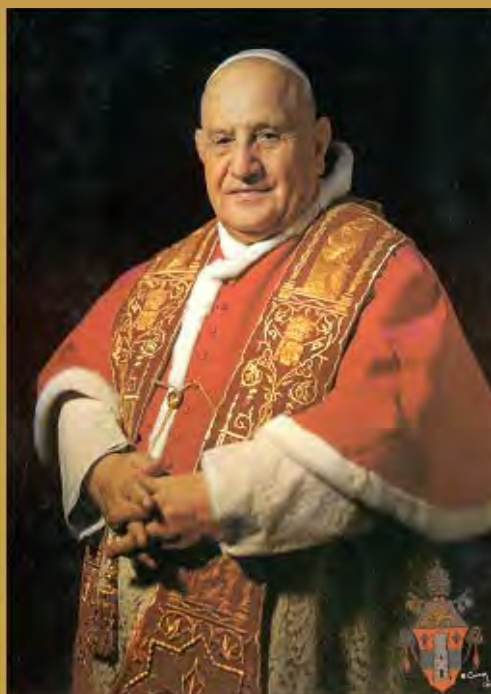
¹ Pope John XXIII referred to himself as a Tertiary or Tertiary Franciscan. I used the more recognizable name today because Tertiary may carry overtones to what today we call the Third Order Regular.

FR. ANDRÉ CIRINO, O.F.M., is a member of the Province of the Immaculate Conception and Spiritual Assistant to the Little Portion Fraternity in Mt. Vernon, New York, since it began. Please visit his website at:

www.assisijourney.com

“Consult not your fears, but your hopes and your dreams.

Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential.



Concern yourself not with what you have tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.”



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OFM PROVINCE CREATES FRANCISCAN LIBRARY IN NEW YORK CITY

by Fr. André Cirino, OFM

On May 5, 2011, Provincial Minister, Fr. Primo Piscitello, OFM, sent a

letter to several friars regarding the *Francescana* collection of Immaculate Conception Province, seeking advice about safeguarding and preserving these Franciscan works with the possibility of making these resources more widely accessible for research and education.

Since that time, our efforts to collect, conserve, and catalogue the Franciscan resources of our Province have progressed. To date, all of the *Francescana* of the Province has been brought to the Provincial Curia. The books are being separated into categories and computerized into a system that will make them more easily accessible. The Province has also received a grant for the purchase of current works.

Siobhan O'Dwyer, OFS, who has a master's degree from the Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University, has been hired to work with Fr. Paul Rotondi, OFM, for the organization and classification of our collection. To sustain and support the work that has been accomplished thus far, the Provincial has set up a committee, appointing Fr. Cirino, OFM, coordinator of this project. The members of the committee are: Fr. Paul Rotondi, OFM; Fr. André Cirino, OFM; Fr. Richard Martignetti, OFM; Fr. Michael Della Penna, OFM; and Siobhan O'Dwyer, OFS.

Since June 12, 2014, Fr. Paul Rotondi and Siobhan O'Dwyer, OFS, a Secular Franciscan from Little Portion Fraternity in Mount Vernon, NY, have unpacked, shelved, and been cataloguing our collection of *Francescana* that have been assembled from various houses in the Province. This library, named by our Provincial: *The Immaculate Conception Province Franciscan Library*, is being set up for several reasons.

This collection will serve as a resource for research and education:

- for the friars of our Province, especially our students and friars working in formation;
- for Franciscan men and women of the greater New York City area;
- for anyone [cleric, religious, lay person] involved in an academic Franciscan project;
- for commissions of the Order to facilitate their work and service;
- for the 22 schools of the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities [AFCU] in the USA.

The ICP Franciscan Library will also sponsor special events, the first of which will be a poetry reading presented by **Fr. Murray Bodo, OFM, on June 14, 2015.**

More information on this and other planned events will be made available.



NAFRA

NATIONAL JPIC ANIMATOR - CAROLYN TOWNES

GREETINGS OF PEACE, DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

Please find the **2015 Lenten Edition of the Animator Notes** with some Lenten activities for you and your communities to partake. There are also some Lenten Resources, including my **Lenten Season of Peace**, for you to go deeper into prayer, fasting and giving alms. They are all listed on the OLTAR website at:

<http://www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org/JPIC.html> 

One of the activities is a global one. On **March 16th**, Catholics here in the United States are asked to fast for creation. I am asking you to individually and fraternally join with me (and my emerging fraternity here in South Carolina) to fast in honor of Sister/Mother Earth. You can fast from fast food, excessive water, paper, or electronics use. There is no shortage of ideas to fast. Then, feast on the goodness of our loving Creator God and our Sister/Mother Earth!

I wish you all a very blessed, joyous and peace-filled Lenten Season!

Carolyn <http://animatepeace.blog.com> 

UPCOMING SEMINAR

2015 Summer Seminar July 9-12, 2015 SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY, LORETTO, PA



**THE TOPIC FOR THIS
YEAR'S SEMINAR IS:
"SERVANT LEADERSHIP"**

SPEAKERS:

FR. MICHAEL HIGGINS, TOR




Fr. Michael Higgins, has been a Franciscan, TOR for thirty-seven years and was ordained to the priesthood in June of 1985. Fr. Michael is committed to the spread of lay ministry and leadership in the local church and has served the Sacred Heart Province both as the Provincial Spiritual Assistant to the Secular Franciscan Order and as the Local Spiritual Assistant to St. Clare's Fraternity in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. During his time as Vicar General of his Order he also held the position of General Spiritual Assistant to the OFS.



MARY FRANCES CHARSKY, OFS

Mary Frances Charsky, OFS, was professed as a Secular Franciscan in 1981 and is a member of the St. Francis Fraternity in Binghamton, NY. She currently serves as a National Councilor for NAFRA. Regionally, Mary Frances has served as Minister, Councilor and Formation Team member and in her local fraternity as Minister, Vice-Minister, Formation Director, Councilor and Formation Team members. Her leadership training has included professional as well as Franciscan spiritual experiences.

To register online: <https://my.francis.edu/sfubus/ICFL/ICFLseminar.asp> 

To register by mail send registration form and check payable to: "Saint Francis University" to: ICFL, Saint Francis University, P.O. Box 600, Loretto, PA 15940-0600

Space is limited to 100 participants, so please register early.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS JUNE 18, 2015. No registrations will be accepted after this date.


Questions? Contact Diane Rombouts, 814-472-3219 (daytime) or email icfl@francis.edu 



Photo credit: St. Ann's Church



It is with sadness and joy that I inform you all that Fr. Jude Duffy passed away peacefully, the evening of January 15, 2015, at St. Lawrence Friary in Beacon, NY.

Sadness because we will all miss this great and loving friar, priest and man, his wonderful homilies, joy-filled presence and caring way.

Joy because we know that this holy man of God is now at home in his Father's house and he continues to love and pray for us in an even more powerful way.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." Rest in peace!

Fr. Remo DiSalvatore, OFM Cap, Pastor, St. Ann's Church, Hoboken, NJ

FR. JUDE DUFFY, OFM CAP., was 87 years of age. He made his Profession of Vows on July 18, 1954 at Saint Lawrence Monastery, in Beacon, New York. He was ordained on March 1, 1958 at Immaculate Conception Church in the Bronx by Bishop Joseph Pernicone. He was elected the first Provincial Minister of the newly formed Province of the Sacred Stigmata of St. Francis in 1971. He held many leadership positions in his Capuchin Province as well as various dioceses in which he served. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on January 20th, at the St. Lawrence Friary, followed by burial in the St. Lawrence Friary Cemetery.

Photo credit: Amella Jalandoni, OFS



MARY ADAMS, OFS, was called home to the Lord on January 28, 2015.

She was 75 years of age; a professed member of the St. Benedict the Moor Fraternity for 41 years, having made her final profession on June 10, 1973.

Mary attended Holy Family High School in Union City, New Jersey, and after graduation joined the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Peekskill, New York and taught grade school. She eventually left the Order and was hired as an office worker where she worked at S. Goldberg & Company until her retirement.

Mary lovingly cared for her family friend, Katie Griffin, who was in a nursing home. She would visit her faithfully every Friday providing companionship and prayers.

Later in life, Sharon, a close friend and companion in her Little Ferry, NJ neighborhood, would likewise assist Mary with her household chores and act as her escort. She was at Mary's bedside when she died that morning. Another faithful friend also in attendance was her longtime former employer and friend, Paul Kingslow.

Both had been instructed to contact members of her OFS Franciscan family so they would make the funeral Mass arrangements, which was celebrated on January 31st, by Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, NYC, and assisted by Deacon Luke Conroy, OFS, of St. Benedict Moor Fraternity.

Mary Adams lived her vocation and is an example to each of us of what it means to go from Gospel to life and from life to Gospel. Her sensitivity to the human spirit was evident in the special good works she did on a daily basis. She was not one to want to bring attention to herself for those good works. She was a kind and genteel soul with the heart of an angel.

SISTER ROSEMARY NAPOLITANO, OSF (formerly Sister Mary Conrad) (72) died in Assisi House on January 30, 2015.



Born in Jersey City, New Jersey, she later moved to Union City where she was a member of St. Joseph Parish and a graduate of St. Michael High School. In 1959, she entered the Franciscan Sisters of Ringwood, a congregation that later merged with the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. She professed her first vows in 1961.

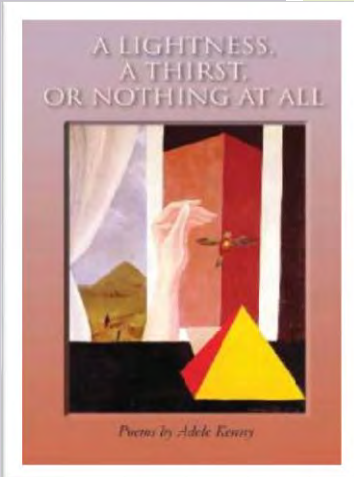
Sister Rosemary earned a B.S. from Seton Hall University and an M.A. from St. John University. She was also a certified addictions specialist and a certified alcohol and drug counselor. She ministered primarily in education, spiritual ministry, counseling, and congregational ministry.

Many members of our region knew Sr. Rosemary very well. Please remember her in your prayers.

http://www.osfphila.org/news_media/news/2015obits_RNapolitano



RECENT RELEASES



ADELE KENNY, OFS,

is the author of 23 books (poetry and non-fiction). Her poems, reviews, and articles have been published worldwide, and her poems have appeared in books and anthologies published by Crown, Tuttle, Shambhala, and McGraw-Hill. She served as associate editor of *The Antiquer: Fine Art & Antiques* from 2000-2005 and has been poetry editor of *Tiferet Journal* since 2006.

She is the recipient of various honors and awards, including poetry fellowships from the New Jersey State Arts Council, a Merton Poetry of the Sacred Award, first place Merit Book and Henderson Awards, a Writer's Digest Poetry Award, and the 2012 International Book Award for Poetry. In 2011, she was honored with a Women of Excellence Award (Union County Commission on the Status of Women) for her achievements and volunteer work in the arts and humanities; she was named Poet Laureate of Fanwood by the Mayor and Council in March 2012. One of her poems appeared on the marquee of the Rialto West Theater in NYC as part of the 42nd Street Art Project, and her book *Staffordshire Animals* has been cited by Home and Garden Television (Episode COL-713). She received the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award from Kean University.

Poem by

ADELE KENNY, OFS

St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity

Scotch Plains, NJ

This

*When you walk to the edge
of all the light you have ...
you must believe that one of
two things will happen:
there will be something
solid for you to stand upon,
or, you will be taught how
to fly.*

— Patrick Overton

The air is luminous, rare—I sit on the old stone bench that was my mother's and think of her pearls—the fragile string—how everything rolled into a crack between the wall and floorboards.

Here there are sparrows at the feeder, crickets in the ivy. Sound over sound, and bees humming. On the fence beside me, a spider's web is strung with dust. When a cricket jumps across my hand, I hold my breath for a second (a way of stopping time for something perfect).

Everything that needed to be done is done. All *shall* be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well. *

The branch above me trembles after a bird for which I have no name; the bird turns and becomes the sky. This is the way your eyes take in the light, the way you clear the ruins—this is what saves you.

* Julian of Norwich

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A Lightness, A Thirst, or Nothing At All)

A Lightness, A Thirst, or Nothing At All is a new collection of 53 prose poems that continue the spiritual journey begun in Adele's earlier book, *What Matters*. Now available via Amazon.com at:

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Troubadour newsletter is a communications vehicle published by Our Lady of the Angels Region. It is published in 2 formats— printed and electronically.

- The printed version named, *The Troubadour*, is published twice yearly in March & October, and is mailed free to all professed members and Candidates of the region.
- The electronic version named, *e-Troubadour*, is published monthly and is available on our Region website or by email only. It is available to all professed and Candidate members of the region with e-addresses from our database.
- If you do not have computer access to a website, it is recommended you speak with your fraternity Minister and try to set up a buddy system.
- Please notify me if you have a change in your name, address, phone, e-mail address or membership status. Please fill out the form below and surface mail to: Anna Geraci, OFS, 161-B Cross Slope Ct., Manalapan, NJ 07726, or e-mail me at: TroubadourEditor@aol.com Please write **TROUBADOUR** in the subject line.
- Note that all changes submitted are also applied to the NaFra database which we maintain for our region. If you are a professed member or Candidate and are currently not receiving a copy of the *Tau-USA* National newsletter, please notify me.

• CALL FOR ARTICLES •

Wherever you see the spirit of St Francis at work in the world, in your lives, in your fraternity and in your hearts—we want to hear from you. Come Share With Us.

• DEADLINES •

The Troubadour / *e-Troubadour* is published on the 1st week of the month. All submissions for the next issue must be received by the 15th of the preceding month. **Submissions for our next issue, *e-Troubadour*, April 2015, are due by March 15th.**

• ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS •

- The right to copy all material printed in the Troubadour is granted provided you credit the Troubadour and author.
- Not every article received may be published in the upcoming issue. Every consideration is given for publication in a future issue.
- When submitting articles for publication consideration, don't forget to state fraternity name and location, as well as your name and address.
- All photos and original art will be returned upon publication completion.

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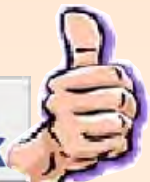


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