



ROUBADOUR

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGION
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

GOD of Love

Lead us to the wild,
solitary spot in our
own hearts where
we may encounter
Your gift of fiery
love and see the
gracious way You
look upon us
from the Cross.

Help us to
open ourselves
to Your
limitless love
which holds
nothing back
from us.

May our hearts
catch some of the
seraphic flame that
marked Francis'
all-out response to
your great love. Amen.

"...I assure you, as often as you did it for one of My least brothers, you did it for Me."



Matthew 25:40

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"DO WE REALLY KNOW OUR POOR? Do we really know the poor in our own house, in our own family? Maybe we are not hungry for a piece of bread. Maybe our children, our husband, our wife, are not hungry, are not naked, are not homeless, but are you sure that there is no one there who feels, unwanted, unloved? Where are your old father and mother? Where are they?... Let us look straight into our own families, for love begins at home.

Do we really understand the poverty of Christ, the poverty of our poor in our own home, in our own communities? Never turn your back to the poor. For in turning your back to the poor you are turning it to Jesus Christ"

Mother Teresa: The Poor in Our Own Homes

As Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Do you love me? Feed My Sheep," *John 21:15-19*,
...so too the Pantry Program of Holy Name Church Parish and

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY, NEW YORK CITY, Lenten Food Drives

People were asked to

"TAKE A BAG AND FILL IT UP!" and return it during Lenten weekend Masses.

The Fraternity members were available at the back of the church to receive the contributions and thank participants personally.



The requests were modest, asking for canned soups, vegetables, cereals, rice, sauce, pasta, crackers, etc. The results were very successful; feeding 125 families and receiving cash donations of \$780.00.

Source: JULIA McCANTS, SFO

***"For I was hungry
and you gave me
food,***

***I was thirsty and you
gave me drink."***

Matthew 25:35

For years, **ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY, WOOD-RIDGE, NJ**, has operated *The Assumption Parish Food Pantry*. They solicit, collect stock and distribute food stuff and paper goods on a weekly basis to those in need. Members also collect funds, when available, to purchase food vouchers redeemable in local food markets for those items that cannot be stocked: dairy products and fresh produce. The pantry operates on a weekly basis throughout the year.

Up until last March 31st, they also worked with the Friars who were operating a home for AIDS patients, who did not require higher levels of care, *i.e.*, hospital or hospice care. This work was ongoing for the past seven years with Seculars and others preparing meals for the patients and staff. Since the census fell off to only two patients, the Holy Name Province Council decided to close down the operation and transferred the patients and friar staff.

The fraternity is exploring other apostolates that they might undertake.

Source: **LAWRENCE P. WARD, SFO**

THE NEW PENTECOST FRATERNITY IN DIX HILLS, New York has been serving the homeless of New York City for over ten years. For the last seven years, members of the Fraternity have been going to New York the first Saturday of each month to serve the men at the Bellevue Hospital Shelter. Fraternity members give out bag lunches, new underwear, religious articles, and lots of good cheer. Parishioners, young and old, are invited to come along.

These men might never hear a nice word or experience a loving greeting. To see the look in their eyes and to have them return "God bless you, too," lights up the lives of fraternity members.

The group leaves about ten thirty in the morning from St. Matthew Church in Dix Hill and returns about two in the afternoon.

Source: Frank Harnos, SFO

***"...I was
naked
and
you
clothed
me."***

***Matthew
25:36***

A VERY INFORMATIVE SLIDE
SHOW PRESENTING FACTS REGARDING
POVERTY IN THIS COUNTRY.

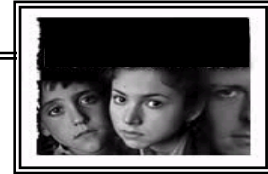
[http://www.nccbuscc.org/
cchd/povertyusa/tour2.htm](http://www.nccbuscc.org/cchd/povertyusa/tour2.htm)

THIS IS REALLY POWERFUL!

**"A HAND UP,
NOT A HAND OUT"**

WELL WORTH THE 2.5 MINUTES
IT TAKES TO WATCH IT .

Source: DEACON JUAN F. LEZCANO, SFO
NaFra International Councilor to CIOFS



FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY IN JERSEY CITY, NJ, wanted to do something for the poor residents of Camden, New Jersey, the city known as the most dangerous city in our nation. Add in the presence of HIV or full blown AIDS in a person or a loved one, and you have modern day lepers.

In 1996 a group of Secular Franciscans established *Francis House*. It is an outreach community creating a place where two days a week persons affected by the HIV virus can come together for companionship and friendship.

Shortly after Francis House was established, the Fraternity began to offer the clients a day at the beach. St. Francis Fraternity meets on an island that is a very popular summer resort serving New York City, Philadelphia and places in between. It is about a two hour drive from Camden. One Tuesday in August each year, a group from Francis House leaves Camden for Long Beach Island, New Jersey. Guests are greeted at St. Francis Community Center and served a light breakfast.

Refreshed from their trip, they head to the beach just two blocks away. Many are afraid of the surf, so they don't go in the water. Long Beach Township allows the guests to use the beach without the required badges. For some it is their first view of the ocean.

When they return to the Center, lunch is ready. "We join in a prayer circle for spontaneous grace before meals. Listening to the blessings and praise of these humble people is a lesson for all of us who are privileged to be a part of this day. After lunch our guests use our outdoor heated pool, which many enjoy much more than the sea. About three PM, tired and relaxed, our guests pack up for the trip home. They always promise to come back next year. The gratitude expressed for such a simple small gift is awesome. Those of us who live here look on our surroundings with new eyes."

Source: PAT SIMMONS, SFO

***"...I was a
stranger
and you
welcomed me."***

Matthew 25:35

GIVE UP TV FOR LENT? WHY NOT?

That's something the people at TV-Turnoff Network wouldn't mind if you did. The Washington-based organization picks a week, generally each spring, to unplug the tube. This year it's **April 24-30**.

But why confine yourself to one week when you could leave it off throughout 40 days?

Could you give up TV for Lent? Remember that "giving up" things for Lent is not simply an exercise in self-denial. It may be admirable to give up doughnuts for Lent, but forsaking doughnuts to kick-start a diet plan as a way of catching up on some forgotten New Year's resolution wasn't what the Church had in mind when it cited prayer, fasting and almsgiving as ways for Catholics to spiritually prepare themselves during Lent for Easter.

The key word is "spiritually". Can you identify ways to strengthen yourself spiritually as a result of giving up TV?

What would you do in place of sitting in front of the set for hours on end on a near-daily basis? What would take the place of TV as background noise in your household?



Chris Rose, an attorney who lives in Sutton, Alaska, in an essay published in the Anchorage Daily News, cited a study by Rutgers psychologist Robert Kubey which found that millions of Americans are so hooked on TV that

they fit the criteria for "substance dependence" as defined by the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Those symptoms include using TV as a sedative; indiscriminate viewing; feeling loss of control while viewing; feeling angry with oneself for watching too much; an inability to stop watching; and feeling miserable when kept from watching. "It's really not too far of a stretch to liken people being 'on' TV with people being 'on' drugs," Rose concluded. For further info or planning go to website:

www.tvturnoff.org/

COMPENDIUM

*Catechism
of the
Catholic Church*



COMPENDIUM TO BE PUBLISHED IN MARCH

March 31st is publication day for the *Compendium to the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, a 200-page synthesis of the 1992 Catechism. The Compendium consists of 598 questions and answers, echoing to some degree the format of the popular Baltimore Catechism which was a standard text

in many Catholic parishes and schools from 1885 to the 1960s. It will be published by USCCB Publishing, the publishing arm of the US bishops conference.

The Compendium is available for order at the publisher's website: www.usccbpublishing.org

USCCB Publishing will launch the Compendium in English and Spanish at the 2006 Los Angeles Religious Education Congress. The paperback version will be available first with the hardcover to follow shortly after.

Monsignor Daniel Kutys, the episcopate's deputy secretary for catechesis, noted that the Compendium "is not meant to replace religion textbooks, but to augment and complement them."

REPORT OF THE

SFO GENERAL CHAPTER

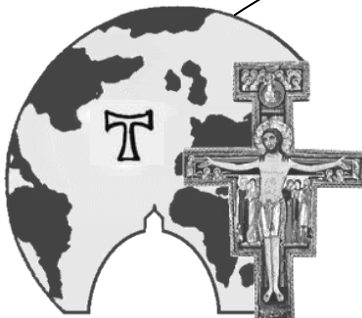
The General Chapter of the SFO was held from November 5-12, 2005, at the Barbara Micarelli Spirituality Center run by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus in Santa Maria degli Angeli near Assisi. One hundred and three people from close to 80 nations participated in the Chapter. These included 62 capitulars, 17 observers, seven presenters, seven translators, and 10 in the secretariat. All four General Spiritual Assistants (OFM, OFM Conv, OFM Cap, and TOR) were present. Also present was **Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM**, Regional Spiritual Assistant to the Seculars, Our Lady of the Angels Region.

The opening Mass was celebrated in the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi. Vincenzo Coli, OFM Conv, the Custos of the Sacro Convento, was the presider. The closing Mass was celebrated by the General Minister José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM, in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels.

In addition to the central theme of the Chapter, "*Franciscan Novitas: Mission and Witness*," that was presented by Carol Gentile, SFO, and Lester Bach, OFM Cap, other important presentations can also be mentioned: the report of the General Minister of the SFO, the report of the Conference of General Spiritual Assistants, a presentation of the results of the demographic survey, a practical interpretation of article 53.5 of the General Constitutions, five testimonies on "how to live our mission and offer our witness in diverse continents and cultures," a report on emerging fraternities, the actual state of "Franciscan youth as collaborators and co-workers in the mission of the SFO," the approbation of motion regarding the situation of the SFO in Italy, the method in which the CIOFS Presidency is dealing with this in relation to the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and, finally, an "analysis of the economic situation of the SFO and a revision of the agreement made at the Chapter of Madrid" and the possibility of finding new criteria for contributions to CIOFS.

The study and analysis of the various themes were done in linguistic groups: two Spanish groups, two English groups, an Italian group, a French group, and a German group.

At the conclusion of the Chapter the following message was sent to all the fraternities spread throughout the world:



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER TO THE ENTIRE ORDER

Assisi, November 12, 2005

From Assisi, the city of St. Francis, where the members of the International Council of the Secular Franciscan Order are assembled to celebrate the XI General Chapter, we greet our brothers and sisters throughout the world and send them this message, in the intent to share with them this experience of fraternal communion and the basic ideas of the Chapter. The present Chapter was held in the year in which we celebrate two important Franciscan anniversaries: 40TH Anniversary of the Vatican Council II and 800TH Anniversary of the revelation of the San Damiano Crucifix to St. Francis.

The keynote theme of the Chapter, "*Novitas Franciscana*": *Mission and Testimony*, set before us the figure of our founder, St. Francis of Assisi in all his originality and credibility, therefore we felt it our duty to renew our commitment to fully live the mission entrusted to us by the Lord and to testify His Love for mankind and all living creatures. The Chapter strongly questioned us on the following points:

1. FRANCISCAN AND SECULAR IDENTITY OF THE SFO

The Franciscan identity finds its essence in the Franciscan novitas. What novelty did St. Francis bring to his days and what novelty can the SFO and the entire Franciscan Family bring to the world of today?

The return to the Gospel and to a life fully conformed to it, fraternity amongst all men and women and towards all living creatures, service based on love.

The secular identity of the SFO is a fundamental point of our vocation and is manifested in the mission and testimony of each one of its members and fraternities. We are called to build a new, just and fraternal world, contributing to the Kingdom of God (*SFO General Constitutions* 3,2), with courageous initiatives and actions in the concrete situations we live in, never forgetting the importance of confident and persevering prayers.

2. SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE ORDER AND CO-RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE ORDER

It is the duty of all of us to comply with what our Rule requests of us and to be an enlightening sign for the entire Church and the society of the 21st century. The sense of belonging to the Order cannot be restricted to a vague sensation, but must be visibly manifested in a concrete and effective behavior.

A necessary sign of conscientious participation in the resources and obligations of the Fraternities must also be an enhanced and responsible sensitivity towards the financial situation of the SFO family. The present financial crisis of the International Fraternity must be felt and attended to by each national, regional and local Fraternity.

3. CO-RESPONSIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION OF THE FRANCISCAN YOUTH IN THE COMMON MISSION OF THE SFO

YouFra shares the responsibility of the SFO and participates in its common mission. These young Franciscan brothers and sisters are a great gift of the Lord to our Order and to the entire Franciscan Family. They live their "call" in their own way and we are invited to welcome them generously, open-mindedly and open-heartedly, accompany them and help them with our testimony of reciprocal love and coherent Franciscan life.

The sense of identity of the SFO, of belonging to the SFO and of being co-responsible for the SFO increases if supported by careful and coherent initial and permanent formation and is developed in the privileged environment of the local Fraternities.

If we commit ourselves to live in a spirit of authentic fraternity every day, we will give testimony of living according to the Gospel. Only in this way will we be able to contribute to renovating our society and the Church of our days, like St. Francis and St. Clare did in their days.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us go ahead courageously and loyally to rebuild our Order, the Church and the world!

In the name of all our brothers and sisters,

Encarnación del Pozo,
Minister General

Anna Maria Crescenti &
Francesco Crescenti,
Secretaries General



CAN IT BE ME, LORD?

Gospel light awakening my heart
seeing things around me now
people hurting with silent pain & fear
can it be me, Lord,
crying too?

Needing love reflected in others eyes
how I understand!
can it be me, Lord,
who can give love, as Francis
in a smile, phone call, eMail?

I can make a difference
even if I'm ill, disabled, unsure
I have my hands, my voice
and Franciscan joy that soothes.

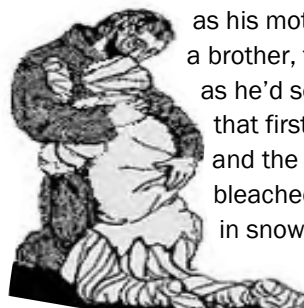
It will be me, Lord,
lead me by Your grace
and peace.

by **VALERIE MORENO, SFO**
St. John Vianney Fraternity
Colonia, New Jersey

FRANCIS MEETS A LEPER

by: **DAVID CITINO, OFM**

He heard the bell toll, erratic
in a palsied hand, and smelled
the goatish scent before he saw
the figure moving in mist on the road
to Assisi, a traveler gloved and shod,
as was the law, to hide the sores,
a man's inhumanity, missing fingers
and toes, and tried to unmask the face,
slack muscles showing nothing
but astonishment, lower lids keeping
eyes open always to our providential decay,
flesh soft and thick as rotten wood.



Francis saw in bleary eyes, near to him
as his mother's as she loved him,
a brother, then someone dearer, wrapped
as he'd seen others in his father's cloth
that first had profited English shepherds
and the weavers of Ghent, a skin
bleached white as bone, a flower blazing
in snow, so close to perfection it could
only decay.

Francis did the only thing
he could, sun rising high enough now
to burn away the mist. He unwrapped
the face, studying lineaments fashioned
by a master's hand, image and likeness
of the death that beautifies all living.
He closed his eyes and kissed.

TO CELEBRATE LIFE

In 1989, it was clear to the Sisters of St. Francis that there was a need for specialized support for those with terminal illnesses. Many people were dying in their homes alone, living in unsafe situations, or lying in hospitals waiting for placement into other facilities. For that purpose, the house at 108 Michaels Avenue on Syracuse's north side was donated by the Sisters of the Franciscan Third Order in August 1990. With a successful fundraising campaign and hundreds

of hours of donated labor, the two-family home was renovated and opened its doors to the first two residents on January 28, 1991, as *Francis House*—a home and extended family offering. A setting where people with terminal illnesses with a prognosis of six months or less to live, may die with dignity while experiencing the unconditional love of God.

In July 2002, Francis House board of directors voted to build a second home. On February 2004, the first residents moved into 114 Michaels Avenue.

This past January 28, 2006, the ministry of Francis House celebrated its 15TH anniversary. Since opening its doors to those in need, Francis House has been home to over 1,000 residents with terminal illnesses. Over 6,000 family members and friends have received loving support from Francis House family of caregivers. Outside of providing direct care to those with terminal illnesses, Francis House has trained over 700 volunteers on how to care for those in their final days.

The focus of Francis House is to celebrate life! As residents approach their final weeks and days of life, staff members and volunteers listen to the stories of their families, their careers and the simple pleasures that made their life so special.

Ken, our very first resident, had been living at the Rescue Mission, and before that, on the streets. He was dying of lung cancer, and though he was only 62 he looked like he was 82 because of a difficult life under the burden of addictions. Ken was a very sweet man. When I went in to see him on the third day he was with us, big tears were running down his cheek. I asked what was wrong. His answer was:

"I never knew people could care for me like this.
Who am I? ...that I should be loved like this?
I don't deserve it."

***"...I was ill
and you
comforted
me."***

Matthew 25:36



LETTER FROM ASSISI

FRANCIS TO HIS FATHER

Father, if only you had understood
I craved to be the man of every hour -
all your ambition slept
deep in my blood.

I loved the feel of silk, the touch of power,
to gossip, joke, outshine Assisi's cavaliers;
for all the talk of bird or flower

I had your merchant's will to vie.
Two years caught a prisoner in Perugia,
I was still half-aware I'd fought
for a town's profiteers.
A ransom - then the homecoming.

'Is Francis ill
or in love?' people asked, wondered why
I looked so distant; I did the parties until
something snapped.
Every stricken passer-by
now fixed his stare on me, saying 'Francis,
all turns on you; Francis, look in my eye!'

There were riches in Apulia - I had lances,
Troubadour's songs to sing. I could forget.

But haunted daily by those strangers' glances,
I sold your bale of scarlet cloth to let
some paupers feed.
Father, you whipped me,

Branded me a madman; each time we met
You cursed, so I paid a down-and-out his fee
to bless me as a father, taunt your sorrow -

For I would outdo, best the world in poverty.
I was young and life tomorrow.
Already my followers scheme for a benefice;

The road seemed short - I could beg or borrow
rags of humility, call your care avarice.
Time unlocks compassion's garden-gate;

Father, I bid you forgive my Judas kiss.

by MICHAEL O'SIADHAIL, OFM

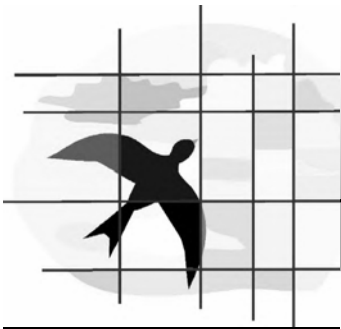
One summer, we were blessed to welcome Nancy to Francis House. Nancy loved to sit outside and enjoy the beauty of nature around her. She often spoke about how beautiful the day was — the fresh, warm air; the smell of flowers; the sunshine on her face. Nancy would often greet staff and volunteers as she sat outside the entrance of Francis House. One morning, Nancy mentioned to staff member Becky Scrimale how much she loved watching her drive her convertible. She shared how she always wanted to ride in a convertible. That was all Becky needed to hear. "Would you like to go for a ride?" asked Becky. Nancy responded with excitement, "I would love it. Do you think I could?" Later that morning Nancy and Becky headed off for a ride. When they returned, both Nancy and Becky were all smiles. Says Becky, "She was so happy. It was such a simple thing for me to do and it really brought her happiness." We said goodbye to Nancy in September 2000, grateful to Nancy's family for allowing us to take care of her. We thank Nancy for teaching us to take the time to appreciate the beauty of life around us — to enjoy life's simple pleasures.

It's what we strive for — to reflect the unconditional love of God. This is the mission of Francis House. But it is also the personal mission of every one of us. Jesus calls upon each of us to pursue the authentic good of others.

Love of God and neighbor are blended in such a way that love of neighbor becomes love of God.

We celebrate all who are a part of the Francis House family. And we celebrate the fact that God has kept us as a family. Where else on earth could you hear a resident say, "This is the gateway to Heaven" and another say, "the staff, the volunteers — there are angels everywhere" and at the same time have dogs and children running in the hall and four phone lines going at one time. Where else would Halloween transform the Executive Director into a surprise visitor; residents and family gather for a 4th of July barbecue on the terrace; a Thanksgiving be truly genuine; and at Christmas dinner, a toast be raised to Life? Where else would a volunteer hold the granddaughter of a resident to explain what is happening while three generations stand around grandma's bedside and experience the privilege of being a part of the passage into new life.

If you would like to receive the Francis House newsletter and other information on their activities throughout the year, write: Sister Kathleen Osbelt, OSF, Executive Director, Francis House, 108 Michaels Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13208, Phone: 315.475.5422 • web: <http://www.francishouseny.org>



THE KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

**“...I was in
prison and you
came to
visit me.”**

Matthew 25:36

Kairos, which is Greek for “God’s Special Time,” is an international, interdenominational Christian ministry that presents retreats to men and women incarcerated in state and federal prisons. Kairos, derived from the *Cursillo*, movement, is now in its 30TH year. The mission of *Kairos* is to bring Christ’s love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, and to assist in the transition of becoming a productive citizen.

Well-organized and well-trained volunteer teams of men and women from the communities surrounding an institution present a 3-day weekend retreat. This team of 20 volunteers — both Clergy and laypersons — work in cooperation with the prison Chaplain who carefully selects up to 42 inmates to attend. The *Kairos* method of talks, meditations, individual and group activities, listening and sharing brings forth the invitation to live in a personal relationship with the living Christ. Kairos serves not only to help Christ in saving souls, but to put human lives in service – literally to transform prison environments.

A ten-year state study shows that *Kairos* participants are less likely to return to prison (10% versus 50%.) The North New Jersey Region of Kairos has been serving the two maximum security prisons in this area (Rahway’s Eastern State Prison and Newark’s Northern State Prison) for over 15 years. Steve Hrniciar, SFO, is the leader for this region, and Deacon Ed Campanella, SFO, is the Spiritual Director.

AN UPCOMING RETREAT FOR THIS REGION IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 30, 2006.

THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF SUPPORT FOR THIS MINISTRY WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL:

PRAYERS — for the Kairos team and the prisoners, that the Holy Spirit will touch them in a special way.

Prayers can also be offered through anonymous letters (called Agape, they are spiritual bouquets) addressed to “My Brother in Christ,” and signed with first names only, expressing God’s love and your prayers for prisoners. These letters are received with emotional responses from the inmates, and in many cases are just the thing that moves one to a real conversion.

POSTERS — for those artistically inclined, a poster that reflects God’s love for prisoners would brighten the retreat meeting room.

PACKAGED (STORE-BOUGHT) COOKIES — this is a really big treat for the prisoners.

DONATIONS — All Kairos activities are funded by donations. If you would like to support this ministry by your donation, make your check payable (any amount is greatly appreciated) to Kairos of Northern New Jersey.

VOLUNTEERS — Kairos volunteers come from all walks of life. They all share a desire to follow Christ’s admonition of Matthew 25:36, “I was in prison and you visited me.”

If you feel God’s call to minister to the incarcerated as a part of a Kairos team, or if you feel moved to support our efforts, or for more information, please contact: Deacon Ed Campanella, SFO, at: 1-908-925-0996



FRATERNITY SHARING



REGIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SFO ANNUAL CONVIVENZA

*the celebration of
our lives as Secular
Franciscans,*

Saturday, April 22
at St. Francis
Church in
Hackensack, NJ,
from 9:00AM —
3:00PM.

There will be a
morning speaker,
Mass at noon,
followed by your
brown bag lunch,
a silent auction,
and shared time
among all present.

Recipient from the
money donated from
the silent auction is
to be determined,
everyone will be
informed.

Each fraternity is
asked to donate
something nice and
something new to the
auction. Please let
us know the value of
the item in order to
determine the
amount at which we
will start the bidding!

THE THIRD ANNUAL REGIONAL PICNIC

Saturday, July 29
at the Franciscan
sisters of Ringwood,
Ringwood, NJ.

*Please put this on your
calendar in pencil until
this date, and a rain
date, are confirmed.*

Please encourage all
your fraternity
members and their
families and friends to
come and join with us.

THE ANNUAL CHAPTER OF MINISTERS

**Saturday,
November 11**
at Holy Name Church, 96th Street and
Amsterdam Avenue, New York City, NY.

It is always vital that we have representation
of the minister of each fraternity or that
minister's delegate.

This year we will have a pastoral and a
fraternal National visitor who will conduct our
regional visitation.

Be certain to put this on your calendar and
ensure that you or a delegate attends.

THE 12TH ANNUAL REGIONAL RETREAT

The weekend of
October 20 – 22
at St. Mary's Villa,
Sloatsburg, NY.

Brother John
Maganzini, OFM, will
be our retreat master
again this year.

See page 23 for more
details.



COMMUNICATION

OLA Region Yahoo group has
been established to enhance easy, quick
and less expensive communication with
the fraternities, the following are the
instructions to follow to join the group.
We encourage EVERYONE to join!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Go to groups.yahoo.com
2. If you already have a Yahoo IQ you
can sign into Yahoo using that IQ.
3. If you do not have a Yahoo IQ, create
on by clicking on the link that says: Click
Here to Register. This is a free service —
there is no charge to register with Yahoo
or to join a group.
4. You will be prompted to provide the
following information:
 - a. First name
 - b. Last name
 - c. Preferred content (e.g., Yahoo. United
States)
 - d. Gender
 - e. Pick a Yahoo ID and password
 - f. You will also be asked to choose a
security question in case you forget your
password.
5. Once you complete the registration,
go to the Yahoo groups home
page and look for our list: OLARegion.
6. Creating a Yahoo ID does not change
your current internet service provider,
e.g., AOL, Att, etc. You will receive all
your messages from the group in your
regular E-mail account.

Any questions, please e-mail the
List Administrator, Peggy Ledger, SFO,
at: peggysfo@yahoo.com

ELECTION RESULTS



CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS HELD
NOVEMBER 19, 2005
OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Marcia Stamboulia, SFO	Minister
Diane Menditto, SFO	Vice-Minister
Carolyn D. Townes, SFO	Secretary
Kathy Weyant, SFO	Treasurer
Ronald L. Pihokker, SFO	Formation Director

Larry L. Meyers, SFO	Councilor—Central Jersey
Madeline Romaine, SFO	Councilor—North Jersey
Julia McCants, SFO	Councilor—Manhattan
Richard Spana, SFO	Councilor—Westchester

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS HELD
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2005
ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR FRATERNITY
NEW YORK CITY, NY

Amelia Jalandoni, SFO	Minister
Virginia Chin, SFO	Vice Minister
Deborah Parise, SFO	Secretary
Juanito Ramos, SFO	Treasurer
Nancy Conroy, SFO	Formation Director

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS HELD
APRIL 5, 2005
ST. CONRAD'S FRATERNITY, HOBOKEN, NJ

Martha Azaceta, SFO	Minister
Jeane DeMontreux, SFO	Vice Minister
Lucy Sheehan, SFO	Secretary
Lene Vezoli, SFO	Treasurer
Miram L. Gomez Braceta, SFO	Formation Director

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS HELD
SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2005
KOREAN MARTYRS FRATERNITY
NEW YORK CITY, NY

Stephen Jae Young Lee, SFO	Minister
Kyum Kyu Hwang, SFO	Vice Minister
Kim Young Bin, SFO	Secretary
Soom Won Shin, SFO	Treasurer
Chung Ju Rhee, SFO	Formation Director

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS HELD
SEPTEMBER 14, 2005
ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY
NEW YORK CITY, NY

Phyllis "Madge" Cooke, SFO	Minister
Peggy Ledger, SFO	Vice Minister
Olga Pastor, SFO	Secretary
John Ras, SFO	Treasurer
Julia McCants, SFO	Formation Director
James Stitt, SFO	Councilor for Vocations and Recruitment

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS HELD
SEPTEMBER 18, 2005
ST. THOMAS MORE FRATERNITY
NEW YORK CITY, NY

Raymond R. Berger, SFO	Minister
Maria Carral Ficken, SFO	Vice Minister
Marion Higgins, SFO	Secretary
Ernest Leckenbusch, SFO	Treasurer
Mary Anne Kelly, SFO	Formation Director

Congratulations to our newly elected council officers. Let us pray each may be led by the Spirit in their leadership roles in the Secular Franciscan Order.
APG—Editor

APPOINTMENTS

JOHN RAS, SFO,

remains our Database Coordinator. John will continue to keep all the records of elections and membership, and updating the National database for our region. It is extremely important that any changes to your membership: change of address, telephone number, e-mail, change of status to excused or lapsed, or loss of a member by transfer, moving out of the area, or death, be communicated to him.

John is also our new Website Administrator. He is putting together our first regional website and hopes to have it up and running some time in April.

PEGGY LEDGER, SFO,

remains as the Administrator of our Regional E-mail ListServe. Everyone is encouraged to join for continued information on our region and our membership, and for important information from National, International, events concerning Secular Franciscans. At the minimum, there should at least be one contact per fraternity to keep everyone informed.

ANNA P. GERACI, SFO,

remains Editor of our regional newsletter, *The Troubadour*. Again, everyone is encouraged to submit communications of their Fraternity activities, apostolates, projects, as well as individual and collective articles and inspirational materials.

FATHER JOHN F. O'CONNOR, OFM, has been elected to a six-year term as Provincial Minister of the Franciscan Friars' Holy Name Province. He succeeds Father John Felice, OFM, who had served since 1996.

Father O'Connor, born in Brooklyn and a Friar for 36 years was elected June 1 at a provincial chapter held at Siena College in Loudonville. He served most recently as a Pastor in Virginia.

Father Dominic Monti, OFM, was elected Provincial Vicar, and Brother Michael Harlan, OFM, Provincial Secretary.

PROFESSIONS



INQUIRERS AND CANDIDATES

RITE OF ADMISSION:

Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity
New York City, NY
Linda Baltzer, January 25, 2006

Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity
Pompton Lakes, NJ
Dolores Thetge and **George Hellar**
October 25, 2005

St. Anthony Fraternity, Butler, NJ
Roseann DePaola and **Ed Clark**
Nov. 13, 2005

St. Francis Fraternity
Hackensack, NJ
John Nacco,
January 12, 2006

St. John's Fraternity, NYC, NY
Narcisa Chua, **Anita Mark**,
Eileen O'Neill
January 22, 2006

St. Francis Fraternity, Trenton, NJ
Patricia Vientimilla, SFO
October 24, 2004

St. John's Fraternity
New York City, NY
Bernadette Pacifico, SFO
Elena Starr, SFO
June 26, 2005

St. John Vianney Fraternity
Colonial, NJ
Elaine Berri, SFO
Edmund Coombs, SFO
Virlyn Levy, SFO
October 15, 2004

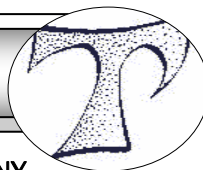
St. Stephen's Fraternity
Perth Amboy, NJ
Honorata Szypulski, SFO
Hieronim Wysznski, SFO
November 20, 2005

RITE OF PROFESSION:

St. Benedict the Moor Fraternity
New York City, NY
Helen Thornton, SFO
Juanito Ramos, SFO
December 6, 2004

St. Francis Fraternity
Hackensack, NJ
Teresa Iozzia, SFO
Harry Henky, SFO
October 13, 2005

ANNIVERSARIES



ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY, NEW YORK CITY, NY,
marked their 10TH Anniversary of Profession in the Secular
Franciscan Order this past May 2005. A 7:00PM Mass was
celebrated in honor of the event, which was followed by a reception.

THE GRACE OF OUR ORIGINS

The year—1209. The place—the Lateran
Basilica, Pope Innocent III, the most
powerful man in the world, presiding at his
Papal Court.

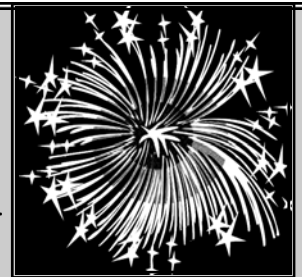
In front of him, a trifling matter to be
dismissed easily. A small, beggarly man with
companions obviously out of place among
the grand churchmen present with the Pope.



The dismissal never happens. The grace of God
intervenes. The Franciscan movement has begun.

This is the setting and background for the 2006
preparation for the 800TH Anniversary of the
founding of the Order of Friars Minor.

SEVENTEENTH QUINQUENNIAL CONGRESS



July 3-8, 2007
Franciscan University
Steubenville, Ohio

Plan ahead. Celebrate the joy of
St. Francis with your brothers and sisters.

THE THEME IS,

“...go out to all the world...
And tell the Good News.”

FROM SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI: A WAY OF PRAYER FOR LENT

Carolyn Colburn, SFO

National Peace & Justice Commission Chair



Frances, Clare, and later Bonaventure, all helped to form a way of praying that is distinctively Franciscan. Ilia Delio, O.S.F. has explained it to us in her book, *Franciscan Prayer*, (published by Franciscan Messenger Press 2004, 198 pages). As Sister Ilia explains, each of these early Franciscans developed a prayer method with similarities and differences. That of Clare of Assisi is the simplest of the three, and it could be used by any Secular Franciscan as part of a prayer program for Lent. Clare outlined it in her *Second Letter to Agnes of Prague*. “Oh most noble Queen, gaze [on him], consider [him], contemplate [him], as you desire to imitate him.” When she says “him,” Clare is speaking of the body of Christ on the cross. She had the cross that spoke to Francis at San Damiano, so she must have often used this representation of the crucified Christ in her prayer.

GAZE ON HIM

Gaze means more than to look as one looks at a picture or statue. Clare describes gazing on the body of Christ as a look that is drawn into the body of Christ before us. In gazing the eyes embrace the figure, and the heart is opened to allow God’s love to enter into us. But God’s love cannot enter our heart if it is already full of things of the world.

We must pray in poverty, which means that we free ourselves from all thoughts of possessions and worldly concerns. We do this as we gaze on a representation of God whose love descended to us and remember that he came to us in poverty and humility.

We see God hidden in wounded flesh, and the divine love of his sacrifice makes the broken body beautiful. Now our empty heart can be filled with that love.

CONSIDER HIM— CONTEMPLATE HIM

When we “consider him,” we become a friend of the crucified Christ. We follow the footsteps of the Crucified, not to a life of suffering, but to a life of love. A deep friendship with Christ causes us to dwell on the mystery of the Incarnate Word who suffered and was crucified out of love for us.

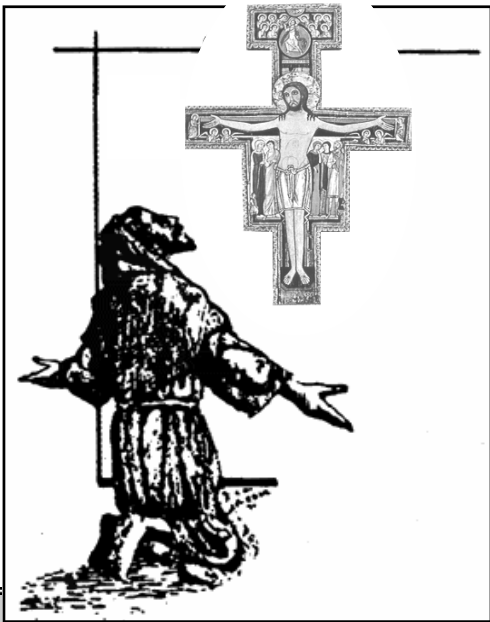
When we “contemplate him” the image of Christ’s body becomes a mirror in which we see the truth of our human self compared with the divine love of Christ. Clare advised Agnes to look in the mirror of the crucified Christ every day. The more we look into this mirror the more we can reflect the face of Christ to the world.

IMITATE HIM

For Clare imitation did not mean asking ourselves what Jesus would do in specific situations. The question for Clare was, “How does Jesus live in me?” Jesus Christ is the perfect image of God.

When we imitate Christ we become an image of Christ. In this way God becomes present in us and in our world. The transforming power of prayer allows this to happen.

Mary is the perfect imitator of Christ because she gave birth to him. We become spiritual mothers of Christ when we image him and give birth to him in our life.



REFLECTION

When I imitate Christ,
I image Christ in my own
unique way. In the mirror of
Christ's body on the cross,
I see myself.

I see that I am part of the
body of Christ, and that body
is incomplete without me.

My hands are Christ's
hands;
my feet are Christ's feet;
I see through Christ's eyes.

My work is to complete the
work that Christ began on
earth.

Can I love my neighbor as
Christ loves my neighbor?
Can I love my enemies as
Christ loves them? Can I love
the earth with all of its plants
and animals and land and
water because it was created
through Christ? Can I bring
Christ to life in the world
through a public witness that
every person, animal, plant,
mountain, valley, ocean and
river has been loved by God
into existence?

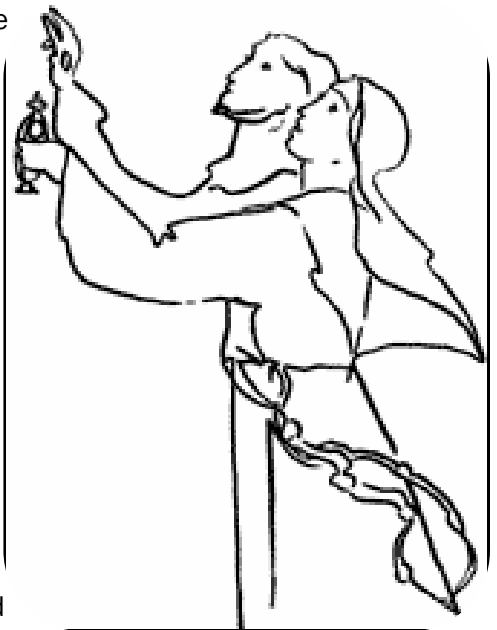
ACTION

If someone asked if you are a friend of Jesus Christ, I assume you would say, "Of course," or "I hope so."

If asked if you are a friend of person who is actively trying to harm you, you would probably say, "Certainly not!" You would not be expressing Clare's understanding of friendship. For Clare friendship with Christ, and with persons, was based on loving our enemies. Our friendship, which means our love, should be given to those who are trying to harm us. She arrived at this understanding by gazing on the wounded body of Christ. Christ descended to us, who harmed him, because God loved the world. He continues to love us even as we continue to crucify him.

For Clare, friendship with Christ was shown in actions. She demonstrated her friendship with Christ in her personal behavior. She responded to everyone as Christ would respond. She acted in a political sense when she had the Eucharist brought before her. Then she placed herself between the Eucharist and the invading army of the Saracens. Clare confronted with love those who wanted to harm Assisi. At her canonization, one of the sisters testified that before she was sick she wanted to go to Morocco where the brothers had suffered martyrdom.

In our world today we hear again and again that people of other nationalities and religions hate us and want to harm us. If we as individuals, and as a nation made up of individuals, could confront those who wish to harm us with our loving actions, we would demonstrate that we have imaged Christ. We might lose our lives, but for Clare that would be a willing sacrifice. No one can image Christ according to the understanding of Clare of Assisi and live a life not completely nonviolent in word and deed.



PRAYER

*SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI, DEAREST SISTER,
Help me to know you better
by praying as you prayed.
I place myself before the Cross of San Damiano,
On which you often gazed.
Let me see myself reflected in this mirror,
with all of my faults that give Christ pain.
Let me feel in my heart Christ's love
and reflect that love back to a suffering world.*

• **P**RAISED BE YOU,

MY LORD,
THROUGH OUR
SISTER

BODILY DEATH,
FROM WHOM
NO LIVING MAN
CAN ESCAPE.

• LAUDATO SI,
MIO SIGNORE,
PER SORA NOSTRA
MORTE CORPORALE,

DE LA QUALE
NULLO UOMO VIVENTE
PUO SCAPPARE.

• LOADO SEAS,
MI SEÑOR,
POR NUESTRA HERMANA
LA MUERTE CORPORAL, DE
LA CUAL NINGÚN HOMBRE
VIVIENTE PUEDE ESCAPAR.

† **Page E. Taylor, SFO**

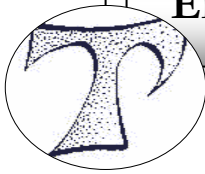
St. Anthony Fraternity, Butler, NJ; passed away peacefully on September 12, 2004.

Page had been St. Anthony's first Minister, and when the fraternity was re-activated in 1997, he was elected and then re-elected. He was also the fraternity Commissioner for Peace & Justice, as well as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, and musician.

Diagnosed with liver cancer on April 25, 2003, Page embraced St. Francis' way of life with all his heart and lived what he believed.

Paying tribute to her husband, Mrs. Alberta Taylor stated that if anyone needed anything and he could help, he did! He answered the call and never counted the cost.

On October 2, 2005, Page Taylor, SFO, was posthumously awarded the Kevin Corbett SFO Leadership Award by the Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity.



ENTERED INTO ETERNAL LIFE

LET US PRAY for all our departed sisters and brothers in Christ and St. Francis. May all of our brother and sisters who sleep in the Lord find eternal happiness and peace. *May the Souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace. Amen.*

ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY, WOODRIDGE, NJ

† **Verna Janeczko, SFO**, who passed away September 2, 2004. Verna was an active member of the fraternity since 1962, and died in church leading the morning Rosary.

ST. ANTHONY FRATERNITY, BUTLER, NJ

† **Page E. Taylor, SFO**, September 12, 2004

ST. CONRAD'S FRATERNITY, HOBOKEN, NJ

† **Octavia Carabellese, SFO**, January 8, 2005

† **Mary Alutto, SFO**, January 25, 2005,

† **Fr. Joseph Mezzanotte, OFM, Cap**, February 3, 2005

ST. JOHN'S FRATERNITY, NEW YORK CITY, NY

† **Rose Alesi, SFO**, March 20, 2005

† **Josephine Ferrante, SFO**
March 29, 2005

† **Mary Strack, SFO**, May 10, 2005

† **Mary Bell, SFO**, June 28, 2005

† **Moirra Brady, SFO**, June 28, 2005

† **Della Kodosky, SFO**, June 30, 2005

† **Fr. Blaise K., Conv**, Spiritual Assistant
for St. Louis Fraternity
Staten Island, NY

† **Agnes Harney, SFO**, September 8, 2005

† **Mercedes Soco, SFO**

November 18, 2005

† **Agnes McHugh, SFO**

December 20, 2005

† **Margaret Rawlins, SFO**

December 29, 2005

† **Corazon Buenconsejo, SFO**, January 17
2006, (*died in the Philippines*)

† **Susan Cotter, SFO**, January 23, 2006

† **Fr. Armand Dasseville, OFM, Cap.**

February 13, 2006.

† **Fr. Armand Dasseville, OFM, Cap.,**

85, died on Monday, February 13, 2006.

Born in New York City on December 25, 1920, Theodore, was invested with the habit of the Capuchin Franciscan Order of the Province of St. Joseph on August 31, 1941. He professed his first vows on September 1, 1942 and made his final profession on September 1, 1945. He was ordained a Priest on June 3, 1949.

His assignments included serving as a Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart Church, Yonkers, NY from 1950–1955, and as Pastor and Guardian of Sacred Heart from 1955–1961. Fr. Armand then began his 40 year assignment to St. John Friary in Manhattan, NY.

During this time he served as Director of the Secular Franciscans. It was also during these years at St. John's that Fr. Armand preached many Missions and began the All Night Vigil. The first Vigil was held in 1969. As a devotee of St. Padre Pio, Fr. Armand was the spiritual leader of the Padre Pio Prayer Groups for the United States.

He retired from assignment in 2001, but preferred to remain assigned to St. John Friary. Health concerns prompted him to move to Holy Name Friary, Ringwood, NJ in 2004 where he continued to write for the Padre Pio newsletter.

**ART EXHIBIT:**

"I KNOW THAT MY
REDEEMER LIVES"

THE EXHIBIT WILL RUN
THROUGH THE LENTEN
AND EASTER SEASONS.

An exhibit of sketches
of Christ and
photographs of
images located at
Graymoor opens
in the John XXIII Parlor
(5TH floor).
Peekskill artist
Kathy Daley and
Cold Spring
photographer
Maggie Benmour
offer sketches and
photographs
respectively inspired
by Handel's Messiah.

FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF
THE ATONEMENT
Garrison, NY 10524
Phone: 845.424.2111

**JOHN MICHAEL TALBOT
CONCERT**

St. Anne's Church in
Fair Lawn, NJ, will host
a concert by acclaimed
musician John Michael
Talbot on

May 8TH at 8:00PM

John Michael blends
music, witness, and
teaching to minister to
his audiences. His
concert ministry has
blessed millions over
the past 25 years, and
many have been
transformed.

Tickets are \$20.⁰⁰
each. For additional
information
call 201.791.1616
Ext. 234
or go to the website:
www.paxun2u.com

FAITH & FILM EVENINGS
THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION
ON MOVIES

**The Church of
Holy Innocents—
Parish Hall**

128 West 37TH Street
New York City, NY
Phone: 212.279.5861

Every 2ND Friday
6:00-9:00PM

128 West 37TH Street
New York, NY

For information
phone:
212.754.1110

**April 7—LADDER 49
May 12—**

CHARLOTTE GRAY

June 9—THE MISSION

**LENTEN LECTURES**

ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

Prayer Hall

201 Seminary Avenue,
Yonkers, NY at 7:30PM

Tuesday, March 28

NYC Police Officer
Steven McDonald and
his wife, Patti Ann, will
speak on

**"A JOURNEY TO
FORGIVENESS AND
RECONCILIATION."**

McDonald, who was
left paralyzed after
being shot by a young
theft suspect in
Central Park in 1986,
and his wife, speak
frequently on
forgiveness,
nonviolence and
peace.

Wednesday, April 5

Fr. Benedict J.
Groeschel, CFR,
will speak on
**"THE PSYCHOLOGY OF
FORGIVENESS—OPENING
YOUR HEART TO PEACE."**

TELLING TALES

The Franciscan
storytelling art of
James Munce

May 16 - October 22

ST. BONAVENTURE
UNIVERSITY
Print Study Room

**ADULT EDUCATION
PROGRAMS**

BEGIN AT

**ST. FRANCIS OF
ASSISI**

The Lent/Easter
program of the
St. Francis of Assisi
Adult Education
Program has
begun.

There are 14 courses,
mostly on catechetical
themes together with
opportunities for
growing in prayer and
in the spiritual
dimensions of
personal wholeness.

The teachers are a
blend of six friars
together with religious
and laity.

Courses are offered
through the work
week, usually around
the noon hour, and
early evenings.

Copies of the brochure
are available by
writing c/o Adult
Education Brochure,
St. Francis of Assisi
Church,
135 West 31ST Street
New York, NY 10001

ART EXHIBIT:

THE ROAD TO ROME: A MODERN PILGRIMAGE

On display until **August 15**

In the summer of 1999, Benedictine monk
and priest, Father Jerome Tupa undertook an
artistic and spiritual pilgrimage from Milan to
Rome. Along the way he stopped at many ancient
sites and sacred shrines where he collected the
visual, emotional and inspirational ephemera to
fulfill his artistic needs and to create the "Road to
Rome" paintings. During his travels he kept a
journal and made hundreds of watercolors and
drawings of the various sites he visited. Later, in
his studio, he referred to these visual records,
writing, and memories which inspired him to paint
the large-scale, brightly colored paintings of his
journey.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CATHOLIC ART & HISTORY
443 East 115TH Street, New York City
212.828.5209

LECTURE SERIES

**CATHOLIC FAITH
FORMATION FOR TODAY**
Saturdays @ 12:00PM

DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL
561 US Rt. 1,
Wick Plaza
Edison, NJ 08817
For information phone:
732.572.1200

May 27
Spirituality 101
Fr. Glenn Sudano, CFR

CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION FOR TODAY
Every 3RD Thursday at 1:00PM

DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL
150 East 52ND Street, New York City, NY
For information phone: 212.754.1110

April 20
Communications Technology as Gifts of God
Sr. Margaret Kerry, FSP

May 18
CS Lewis' Christology in the Chronicles of Narnia
Dr. James Como

EARTH FAIR

Friday, April 14th 2006 • 12NOON

The weekends of April 14 and 15 and

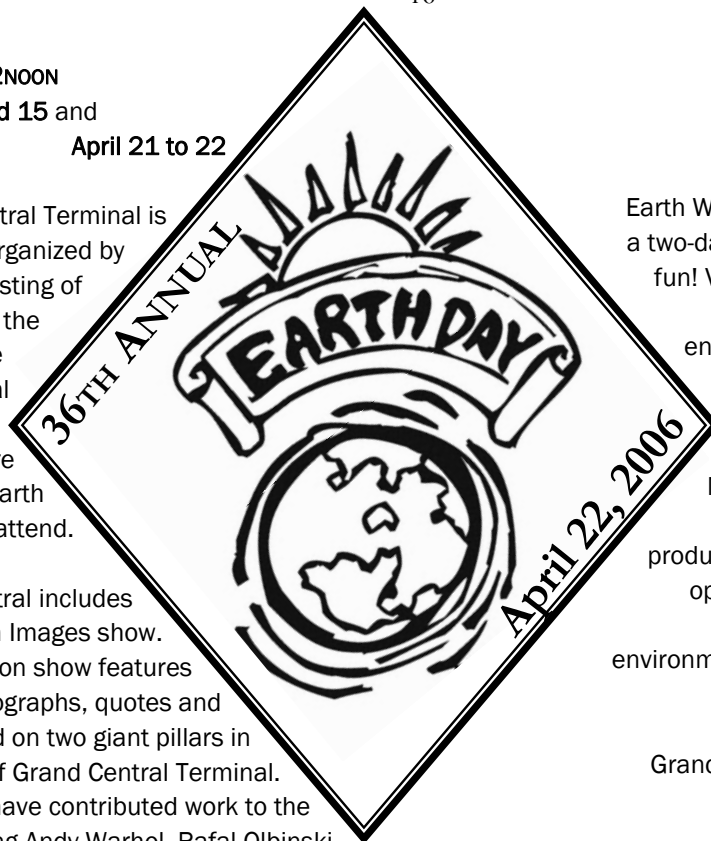
April 21 to 22

Earth Week in Grand Central Terminal is the week-long celebration organized by

Earth Day New York, consisting of The Giant Earth Images, and the EarthFair. Because there are many environmental organizations in and around New York City, there are always a wide range of Earth Day activities to attend.

Earth Week in Grand Central includes the Giant Earth Images show.

This inspiring projection show features Earth-related artwork, photographs, quotes and messages that are projected on two giant pillars in the Main Concourse of Grand Central Terminal. Several well-known artists have contributed work to the Giant Earth Images, including Andy Warhol, Rafal Olbinski, Keith Haring, Ronald Feldman and others. The continual projections are accompanied by nature sounds, which attract the attention of commuters moving through Grand Central.



Earth Week culminates with the EarthFair, a two-day festival of music, education and fun! Vanderbilt Hall comes to life during

EarthFair with more than 50 environmental companies, non-profit organizations, and Earth Day New York sponsors, to entertain and inform children and adults. Many exhibitors organize hands-on activities for children, provide products samples, and allow visitors the opportunity to sign up as volunteers, sign petitions, and learn about environmentalism in New York and beyond.

Location:

Grand Central Station East 42nd Street
at Park Avenue New York NY

Contact: Erin East
212-922-0048

<http://earthdayny.org/earthday>

JOIN



THE EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS:

April 22

from 10AM—1:00PM.

Help to improve an unhealthy section of the forest along the new Croton Extension Trail. We will be pulling invasive weeds and planting native plants. Meet at the Southwest Corner of the Shandler Recreation Area parking lot. Enter the park off of Jerome Avenue, south of East 233rd St. Sponsored by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

For more information, call 718-601-1553.

Web:
www.vancortlandt.org

April 17—23

A Greener Future

12:00—5:00PM

Prospect Park's annual Earth Week extravaganza focuses on ways to sustain the environment for the future, from alternative fuels to New York's water systems.

Every day will feature a film, a guest speaker, and plenty of activities for kids.

Complete schedule to come soon.

718.965.8999
www.prospectpark.org

April 22

12:00NOON-4PM

Howes Cave, NY. Join the fun and learn about Mother Earth, both above and below ground! Live animals, fun activities, and exploration of the caves on regular tours from 9AM-6PM. Family-style activities and presentations include reptiles and an electric car. Above-ground Earth Day activities are FREE, regular cavern tours are at regular prices.

Howes Caverns, 255 Discovery Drive, Howes Cave, NY 12092. For more information www.howecaverns.com

HELP MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY

On April 22, 1970, people across the country united to validate the importance of the environment and take action. Accomplishment in the environmental arena eventually led to fundamental legislation, including the Environmental Policy Act (1969), the Clean Air Act (1970), the Clean Water Act (1977) and fuel efficiency standards for automobiles.

Millions of people have united to heed this urgent call to action and celebrate the environment. *Earth 911* has taken the mission of Earth Day and made it an everyday opportunity by offering information and resources available to protect the environment in every community in the United States and Canada.

Through a single toll-free phone call to 1-800-CLEANUP or web site: www.earth911.org/master.asp you can access several community-specific environmental information at no cost to the user or taxpayer.

GENERAL INTEREST



SPRING 2006 EDITION OF TAU-USA AVAILABLE ONLINE

All professed SFO members currently receive TAU-USA, the SFO National newsletter, by mail.

Did you know it's also available online? You can now read the entire edition at <http://www.nafra-sfo.org/tau-usa.html>. Click on Articles from TAU-USA.

Ministers and Formation Directors, please make your people in initial formation aware of this so that they can become acquainted with the activities of our National organization.

VIDEO CONTEST FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

College students are invited to enter the Christopher's 19TH Annual Video Contest. Use your creativity to interpret the theme, "One Person Can Make A Difference," on film or video in 5 minutes or less. Deadline for entries is **June 9, 2006**

For more information and an entry form, Telephone: 212.759.4050, or visit their web site: www.christophers.org/contests.html

ST. FRANCIS YOUNGER RETIREE PROGRAM

Younger Catholic retirees, age 55 and over, are invited to join the St. Francis Younger Retiree Program.

RENEW! allows you to participate in spiritual, cultural, social, and educational activities in the New York Metropolitan Area.

A monthly newsletter is mailed to members outlining activities for the coming month.

Call Marie Harrington at 212.736.8500 Ext. 354 for information.

FLOWERS OF ST. FRANCIS DVD NOW AVAILABLE

In a series of simple and joyous vignettes, director Roberto Rossellini and co-writer Federico Fellini lovingly convey the universal teachings of humility, compassion, faith, and sacrifice of the people's saint.

Shot in a neorealist manner, with friars from the Nocere Inferiore convent playing the roles of Francis and his disciples, *The Flowers of St. Francis* is a timeless and moving portrait of the search for spiritual enlightenment.

FIND A CATHOLIC BOOKSTORE

The Catholic Book Publishers Association has launched a search engine that locates Catholic bookstores. The website is: <http://www.catholicsread.org/bookstoresearch/index.php>

PODCASTING

Loyola Press has taken the plunge into podcasting, *(to my knowledge, it's the first Catholic publisher to do so.)*

The press publishes a weekly book-related podcast called *Spirited Talk Today*. It can be found on the website:

SpiritedTalkToday.com and through iTunes.

A YEAR-LONG SEASON OF FAITH



A quiet Franciscan way to keep Christ in Christmas all year long that's gaining in popularity is use of the annual Catholic Christmas

stamp on First Class personal and business mail, long past the feast itself.

The Mother & Child remind the heart behind every pair of hands the mail passes through, what Christmas is really all about. Increasing numbers of people make it a practice to stock up on Madonna & Child Christmas stamps for that devout purpose.

These good people use the stamp all year as an appropriately Christian way to subordinate their outrage. Some buy \$100 worth to start. If they run out anyway they are pleasantly surprised to find most post offices keep Mary & Jesus stamps on hand, often as long as the following October. If yours doesn't and you'd still like to take part in such a spiritually gratifying practice, the U.S. Postal Service will supply the stamp at anytime of the year in packets of five totaling 100 stamps @ \$39, postpaid. Also, order on the Internet with credit card: <http://shop.usps.com/>

—Submitted by James C.G. Conniff



On November 9, 2005, Pope Benedict XVI greeted representatives of the Secular Franciscan Order at a general audience and encouraged them to witness to the Gospel in the world.

The Pope expressed the hope that the Secular Franciscan's General Chapter "will be for all of you an opportunity of renewed apostolic drive when it comes to spreading the Gospel everywhere, following the example of St. Francis of Assisi."

The General Chapter of the SFO was held from November 5-12, 2005.

(See page 4 for more details)

AUDIENCE WITH THE HOLY FATHER

Jose Rodriguez Carballo, OFM
General Minister



I was received by the Holy Father, Benedict XVI on January 26, 2006

We spoke about the process being carried out by the Franciscan Order as a preparation for the celebration of the VIII Centenary of its foundation during the personal meeting. We spoke about the priorities which the Order has at the moment: giving a better quality to our life, *ad gentes* evangelization, formation and studies, the service of dialogue with populations outside the Church. We spoke about the living of the Gospel, according to the form of life which St. Francis left us, in the Church and in profound communion with the Church. We spoke about our University, the *Antoniano*, and in particular about the Faculty of Biblical Sciences and Archaeology in Jerusalem. We spoke about the situation in Bosnia Herzegovina. We also spoke about some problems which affect us as an Order, particularly about those leaving the Order and the lack of vocations in some countries.

Although he followed the above mentioned points with great attention, I can say, however, that he showed particular interest in the project of the VIII Centenary, which he judged to be very appropriate for the achievement of a real renewal of the Order, and in formation, especially in vocational discernment and intellectual formation, indispensable for a fruitful dialogue with present-day society.

With regard to the project of the VIII Centenary, he encouraged us to follow it faithfully to the end, without fail, since it will be very beneficial to the Order and to the Church. With regard to vocational discernment, he asked that we do it seriously and serenely in order to be able to assess the real motives.

He encouraged us to continue to push strongly with our *ad gentes* mission.

The Holy Father asked me about some particular situations, to which I responded with total frankness and sincerity, and about which the Holy Father showed great understanding.

All this was carried out in a climate of great cordiality and affection for our Order on his part.

I confess that I had the feeling of being before a father who knows our charism very well; he knows us as an Order and loves us.

Yes, once again, I have been able to observe his closeness to and love for us. We have a pastor who loves us. Let us respond generously to such love.

At the end of the meeting, I presented some requests in the name of the Order, and he received them with good will.

At the end of the personal audience, he received the members of the General Definitory, who could then greet him personally. The meeting ended with the Apostolic Blessing which Benedict XVI imparted to those present and to all the Friars of the Order.

8th CENTENARY CELEBRATION



Submitted by
Valerie Moreno,
SFO
St. John Vianney
Fraternity,
Colonia, NJ

The celebrations begin in 2006, the anniversary of the conversion of Francis of Assisi, and will conclude in 2009, eight centuries after the approval of the "Proto-Rule."

The celebratory program includes three stages: 2006, centered on listening, conversation and Gospel discernment;

2007, on the plan of life at the personal & community level; and

2008-2009, on the celebration of the gift of vocation. The program was explained by the Franciscans' minister general, Father José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM, in a letter addressed to all the Franciscan Orders.

In the letter he states that "we Franciscans wish to reaffirm our steadfast

will to remain faithful to our charism... re-creating it, however, in the light of the challenges of present-day Franciscan life."

Father clarified that the Order hopes to celebrate the Great Franciscan Jubilee "with an attitude of discernment in order ... to be beacons generating hope in the dark night which our wounded and often crucified world is going through."

"THE GRACE OF OUR ORIGINS,"

is the motto of the celebrations marking the 800 years since the approval of the Franciscan Rule by Pope Innocent III.

FROM THE LENTEN DESERT

by Adele Kenny, SFO
St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity
Scotch Plains, NJ

We travel inward, seeking a place
where time is suspended,
a place of strange
and barren beauty
where emptiness fills us.
We go alone, in stillness, in faith,
to an inner space of primeval sun
where the earth is burned by day
and night winds ripple the sand
into patterns that move like
retreating tides. Called by the
Voice within and beyond ourselves,
we create a wilderness,
a vast and personal desert,
in which we distance ourselves
from all the vanishing moments
of present and past.
Like echoes walking
through echoes,
we face our sadness,
our loneliness and fear,
the reckoning of mortal dreams.
We come to the desert
to encounter God,
to pull our shadows
away from the world,
above the thorned and ghostly
trees, the scorpions and snakes.
Like desert birds,
our unfolding wings stretch upward
as our voices sculpt
the silence with prayer.

TRIDUUM — HOLY WEEK

by Adele Kenny, SFO • St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Scotch Plains, NJ

I stop rummaging through files,
leave piles of paper on my desk,
ignore the telephone.
I sit in church for hours,
my back pressed
to a hard wooden pew,
my legs numb,
trying to confess my sins,
trying to remember
what life was like
before I needed to be forgiven.
I think of childhood and the cross
I made from popsicle sticks.

Holy Thursday

Last October we planted the
bulbs.
Bare, fictions of flesh,
they settled beneath the
wind-scrawled leaves
before winter,
with its acid and burn,
took down the hills.
Tonight, the last of the sun,
a pale acolyte,
washes the garden's feet.

Good Friday

We look for the sky we can see
and the one we have lost,
for an acorn of green in the
deepest part
of the forest.
But we find only thorns
on the limbs of poisoned trees,
needles in the eye
that have pulled the hair of
Paradise
like thread through the nailed
hands of a thief.

Holy Saturday

Along the hedgerows,
lilies and tulips
begin to bloom;
crocuses spring through
stony dirt;
chipmunks and bluejays
scamper and screech.
In the clamoring light,
the sin-creased world is
anointed, the tomb
abandoned,
the *Exsultet* sung.

(From *Chosen Ghosts*, Muse-Pie Press,
Passaic, NJ, copyright © 2001,
by Adele Kenny.)

PROTO-RULE

Francis recounted in his "Testament": "And after the Lord gave me some brothers, no one showed me what I had to do, but the Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel. And I had this written down simply and in a few words and the Lord Pope confirmed it to me."

This primitive "form of life" broadened according to the Fraternity's needs, being the foundation of the Rule of 1221 and later of the Rule of 1223, confirmed by Pope Honorius III. "The texts of these, after many years, continue to be essential reference points for understanding Francis and ourselves," added the minister general.

Father Jose Rodríguez Carballo, OFM stated that "the celebration of the eighth centenary of the foundation of our Fraternity gives us an opportunity of grace to remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm and to open up with confidence to the future."



CHILDREN OF THE RESURRECTION

by Rev. Alex D. Pinto, SFO
Spiritual Assistant
St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity
Scotch Plains, NJ

Without the Cross there would be no Easter,
no faith, no joy, no eternal life.

There would be no Presence
in Bread and Wine,

no hope to hold in our hearts.

From the anguish of the Garden
to the horror of the hill,
our Savior accepted the cruelest death.

And, true to His Word,

He defeated the tomb,
transforming His followers

and changing the course of the world.

Like Francis we stand at the foot of the cross.

We weep, we watch, and we wait
as the dead earth opens to crocus light,
and lilies begin to bloom.

There is mercy and hope, goodness and peace,
for all of us who believe.

Christ Jesus lives! He gives us life!

All praise to our God in the Trinity.



LENTEN RADIO RETREATS

A series of Lenten radio retreats is now available in English and Spanish. The series includes six half-hour English and Spanish language editions of the retreats -- one for each Sunday of Lent.

Each radio retreat program features a bishop as retreat guide and homilist. The homily is followed by a song for meditation and a question-and-answer segment with the bishop concerning the themes of his homily.

They can be heard on a companion Internet Web site, <http://www.radioretreat.org> and can be downloaded from the web site as MP3 files for podcast or other personal use. The web site has descriptions of each program, bishops' biographies and links to other Lenten spiritual resources.

THE FIRST RETREAT is offered by Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk of Cincinnati in English and Auxiliary Bishop Felipe de Jesus Estevez of Miami in Spanish.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT are offered by Bishop Blase Cupich of Rapid City, South Dakota, in English and Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, New Mexico, in Spanish.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT ARE OFFERED BY Bishop Gerald Barnes of San Bernardino.

REFLECTIONS FOR WEEK FOUR will be led by Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore in English and Auxiliary Bishop Gabino Zavala of Los Angeles in Spanish.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE FIFTH WEEK are offered by Bishop Joseph Galante of Camden, NJ, in English, and Auxiliary Bishop Jaime Soto of Orange, California, in Spanish.

REFLECTIONS FOR WEEK SIX will be given by Bishop Donald Wuerl of Pittsburgh in English and Archbishop Jose Gomez of San Antonio in Spanish.

The programs are being offered free on compact disc. For ordering or information, e-mail Pat Ryan Garcia at pgarcia@usccb.org.



As we were putting together some necessities for a victim of Katrina, we noticed that her eyes were focused on the wall behind us. When we completed her voucher, we offered to help load the items into her car, but her eyes remained fixed on the wall.

Following her gaze, one staff member walked over to the wall and took down the Crucifix hanging there.

She walked over to the woman and offered it to her. None of us were prepared for what happened next.

The woman immediately fell to the ground crying and began kissing the crucifix, all the while repeating, "This is what I need!"

How amazing to see that the hundred of dollars' worth of new furniture and other items could not even compare to the value of this cross!

But why should we be surprised? We know the value of the Cross and the saving grace that comes from it.

JOIN A**FRANCISCAN
DELEGATION
TO THE
MIDDLE EAST!**

October 7 – 19, 2006



Delegates will meet with representatives of Israeli and Palestinian peace and justice groups, then join the Christian Peacemaker Team in Hebron in their work of violence deterrence, human rights documentation, and challenging the structural violence of the Occupation through nonviolent, public witness.

CPT is looking for applicants with interest and/or experience in international human rights work and nonviolent action. Delegates are expected to share about their experience in their home communities upon return.

Cost, including all travel, room and board: \$2,000.00 per person.

For more detailed information about the delegation and the application process, please contact:

CPT DELEGATION COORDINATOR:

Claire Evans – in the Chicago office

E-mail: delegations@cpt.org; or

Phone: 773.277.0253.

FRANCISCAN CONTACT:**Sr. Kathie Uhler, OSF***(In full time service with CPT Hebron* as Coordinator of the Campaign for Secure Dwellings)*St. Anthony Convent, 190 Prince Street
New York, NY 10012-2906E-mail: kathieuhler@earthlink.net or

Cell Phone: 917.270.5459

Visit the CPT website at: www.cpt.org

* Christian Peacemaker Teams is a ministry of active peacemaking initiated by Mennonites, Brethren and Quakers with broad ecumenical participation. CPT sends long-term teams and short-term delegations into places of conflict around the world and has had a continuous presence in Hebron, West bank since June 1995.

Sign up now for space in this 12-person, Franciscan Delegation to the Middle East!

What would happen if Christians devoted the same discipline and self-sacrifice to nonviolent peacemaking that armies devote to war?

LION LAMB PROJECT

Reducing the demand for Violent Toys. The mission of The Lion & Lamb Project is to stop the marketing of violence to children. We do this by helping parents, industry, and government officials recognize that violence is not child's play and by galvanizing concerned adults to take action.

Lion & Lamb works to reduce the marketing of violent toys, games and entertainment to children in two distinct ways. We work with parents and other concerned adults to reduce the demand for violent "entertainment" products, and with industry and government to reduce the supply of such products.

For more information: www.lionlamb.org/

300 Montgomery Ave., Ste. 104, Bethesda, MD 20814

Phone: 301.654.3091 • Fax: 301-654-2394

ANNUAL MARCH FOR PEACE

by Michael Tyson, OFM

On January 16, 2006, Holy Name Church on 96th Street sponsored the fourth annual March for Peace. The crowd was estimated at between 300 and 350.

As in previous years, we stopped at three houses of worship: West End Presbyterian Church, Ascension Catholic Church, and Anshe Chesed Synagogue before returning to Holy Name Church for our final ceremonies.

Holy Name Youth Choir led us in singing. Again the *Grandmothers Against the War* sang their original songs, and our speakers were from a group called: *The Department of Peace*. This group is lobbying to create a cabinet post dedicated to peace. We ended by assembling on the front steps of the church singing "We Shall Overcome."

On Sunday, January 22, the churches of the area held a Pulpit Swap. Fr. Michael Tyson, OFM, preached at West End Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Leslie Merlin from the Second Presbyterian Church preached at Holy Name Church. Roughly eight churches participated, all praying that "All May Be One" during the Chair of Unity Octave.

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SPIRITUAL READING

Br. John Bartunek,
and Br. Johnathan Morris

Have you
ever
noticed how much
non-Christian input you
receive on a daily basis?

Billboards, radio,
television, movies, advertising
of all sorts, conversations, books,
magazines, reports, internet,
meetings...how much of this input
harmonizes with the truth that only in
God and through Christ does man
find his life's real meaning?

Shockingly little. And yet, it fills
your mind and bombards your
attention day after day after day.

If you have any doubt that this
bombardment affects your point of
view, do the following experiment.



For one month, watch no
television, see no
movies, do no
internet surfing,
read no magazines
or secular books,
listen to no radio,
no other music
simply cut out all of
your normal
background/entertainment activities.
Then, after a month, go back to what
you used to do. I guarantee that you
will be stunned.

You will see more clearly than
ever before that 90% of this kind of
exterior input is designed to stir up
one or more of your natural
inclinations to selfishness, whether in
the realm of greed or gluttony or lust
or any other of the capital sins.

The prevailing message of
today's world does not fit onto a
Christian framework of values.

You can guess the consequence
of this for your life of prayer.
The world around you exerts
monumental efforts to constantly
keep your basest instincts stirred up
into frenzy, so that you can be
dragged along by them. In this way,
you become primarily a consumer,
not a free, independent person.
This consumerist propaganda clutters
your imagination and occupies your
attention, becoming an obstacle to
serene reflection and intimate
conversation with God. Spiritual
reading is one of the antidotes.

Spiritual reading consists of
taking some minutes each day, or a
few times a week, to read works of
tested spiritual quality, works that
effectively communicate the truths
and principles of our faith, works that
help us stay tuned to God's way of
seeing ourselves, others, and the
world around us. These can be
spiritual classics like Thomas A.
Kempis' *The Imitation of Christ*, works
of the saints and the Fathers and
Doctors of the Church, writings of the
Popes and biographies of saints,
Sacred Scripture itself or trustworthy
commentaries on it—in short, books
that put us in touch with the
permanent things, with the truths that
can serve as beacons and guides
along our difficult path.

Spiritual reading differs from
study. Study deepens our
understanding of particular issues or
aspects of our faith or of the world;
it arms us to explain and defend our
faith in the face of attacks. Spiritual
reading nourishes our soul by
strengthening our convictions. It is
kind of half way between study and
prayer. In fact, spiritual reading can
provide us with rich material for
personal meditation and reflection,
and for conversations with the Lord.
It prevents our minds and hearts from
becoming completely absorbed in
temporal affairs and thereby helps
maintain an interior balance that
prepares us for our times of prayer.
It is a glance at our spiritual compass
in order to keep on course as we
meander through the cares and
demands of our daily lives.

MAKE MORE TIME FOR PRAYER:

Spending time together
is the best way to get to
know God better.

PRACTICE SHARING:

God wants us to take care
of each other. Look for more
ways to share your money,
time, and talents with
someone who needs them.

CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENTS:

Make Sunday Mass the
highlight of your week. Go to
confession and celebrate
God's forgiving spirit.

BE A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS:

When you notice an
injustice, be the first one to
speak out and take action.
Treat all people with the
dignity they deserve as
children of God.

SHARE YOUR FAITH:

Talk about God with anyone
who wants to listen. We
shouldn't keep His love all to
ourselves. There's more than
enough to go around.

WAYS TO LIVE A HOLIER LIFE

5

Our Lady of the Angels 12th Annual Regional Retreat

Friday, October 20 — Sunday, October 22, 2006

St. Mary's Villa, Sloatsburg, New York

Let us come together as brothers and sisters following Francis and Clare,
in prayer and reflection for our Twelfth Annual Regional Retreat.

The theme for our retreat: **DISCOVERING THE GOD OF COVENANT**

PART 1: You shall love the Lord your God with all your Heart,
and with all your Soul, and with all your Mind.

PART 2: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

PART 3: ... and Jesus said, "Love one another, as I have loved you.



The retreat will include prayer, liturgy, reflection, sharing, and time for one-to-one conferences for spiritual direction.

ABOUT OUR RETREAT DIRECTOR

Our retreat director is Br. John Maganzini, OFM, who was our retreat director last year. Br. John is currently a Vicar of St. Anthony Shrine / Friary in Boston, MA.

Concurrently, he is a spiritual director in the Franciscan Center for Spiritual Direction; the Assistant Director, and teacher in the Franciscan School at Arch Street in Boston.

Br. John holds Bachelor's and Master's Degrees with a focus on Education and Religious Education. He has done post-Masters studies in School Administration and Catholic School Leadership, Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Direction, Adult Faith Formation and Church Leadership. He has taught on all levels including adult faith formation.

He is a certified care specialist and spiritual director.



RETREAT DETAILS

The cost of the retreat is \$140.00 per person. Full payment is required with the reservation form.

Checks and Money Orders must be made payable to Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity otherwise it will be returned with your reservation form. The last date for cancellation (and money back) is October 1, 2006.

As most of you know, St. Mary's has only six (6) single rooms. These will be assigned strictly on a first come, first served basis, determined by the date that the fully paid reservation form is received. Please do not call or e-mail to say that you want a single room and that the reservation with the check is in the mail.

With that in mind, I strongly urge everyone to look for somebody with whom you would like to share a room with.

RESERVATION FORM—Our Lady of the Angels 12th Annual Regional Retreat

PLEASE RESERVE: SINGLE: ☐ FOR: _____

DOUBLE: ☐ AND: _____

HANDICAP: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

DIETARY NEED: _____ FRATERNITY: _____

SEND RESERVATION FORM & PAYMENT (CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY) TO:

John C. Ras, SFO, Chairperson • 50 West 97th St., Apt 3-P • New York, NY 10025-6005 • Telephone: 212.864.0676

Checks or Money Orders payable to: OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY (not to St. Mary's Villa)

I WISH TO VOLUNTEER AS: (CHECK ONE ONLY)

☐ Lector ☐ Eucharistic Minister ☐ Cantor ☐ Liturgy of the Hours Leader

THE TROUBADOUR

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGION
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

EDITOR

Anna Pedreiro-Geraci, SFO
15 Diane Drive
Morganville, NJ 07751-1370

Phone: 732.970.4669
Fax: 732.566.0574
E-mail: acpg@aol.com

Submissions may be
mailed, faxed, or e-mailed.

ALL fraternity
members are encouraged to
contribute news from your
fraternity activities, personal
or group apostolates,
events, election results,
anniversaries, professions,
as well as inspirational and
educational articles.



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CALL FOR ARTICLES

2006-07
YEARLY SCHEDULE
FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF
THE TROUBADOUR

Articles for future newsletters
must be received by:

JUNE 30	SUMMER 2006
SEPTEMBER 30	FALL 2006
DECEMBER 31	WINTER 2006
MARCH 30	SPRING 2007

MAIL ARTICLES TO:

Anna Pedreiro-Geraci, SFO
Editor
The Troubadour
15 Diane Drive
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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Troubadour is published quarterly by *Our Lady of the Angels Region* of the Secular Franciscan Order. There is no charge for subscriptions. If you wish to receive *The Troubadour* newsletter, please send your name and complete address to our Database Coordinator, John Ras, SFO, 50 West 97th Street, Apt. 3-P, New York, NY 10025-6005. Don't forget to notify John if you've had a change in address, phone, or membership status. • The right to copy all material printed in *The Troubadour* is granted so long as you credit *The Troubadour* and author. • Articles are not to exceed 3 pages typed in length. • Submissions which are 2-4 sentences long, or fragmented thoughts will be returned. • With the number of submissions increasing, not every article received may be published in the upcoming issue. When this occurs every consideration is given for publication in the following issue. • Don't forget to state fraternity name and location, as well as your own name and address when making a submission. • All photos, disks and original art will be returned upon publication completion. **APG—Editor**

THE TROUBADOUR

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGION • SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
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