



FALL/WINTER 2010-11

# TROUBADOUR

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGION

S E C U L A R F R A N C I S C A N O R D E R

Merry Christmas

Boas Festas ★  
Buon Natale  
God Jul  
MERRY  
CHRISTMAS ★  
Buon Natale  
Glædelig Jul  
Mele Kalikimaka  
Feliz Navidad ★  
Frohe Weihnachten  
Vrolijk Kerstfeest  
Boas Festas  
Sretan Božić  
Καλά Χριστούγεννα  
Nollaig  
Joyeux Noël

VOLUME 11 • ISSUE 46

## C O N T E N T S

- 2  
MINISTER'S MESSAGE
- 4  
OUR STUDENTS ARE OUR SUCCESS
- 5  
POETRY:  
WHEN FAITH IS PUT INTO ACTION
- 6  
CHAPTER OF MINISTERS RECAP
- 7  
SFO FORMATION MEETING RECAP

- 8  
A FRANCISCAN APPROACH TO  
CIVILITY IN DISCOURSE
- 9  
TAKE THE FRANCIS COMMITMENT  
SHINING LIGHTS
- 10  
2010 PEACE AWARD RECIPIENT
- 11  
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR
- 12  
THE BLESSING OF THREE VOLUNTEERS

- 13  
AN ASSISI PILGRIMAGE
- 14  
RITE OF PROFESSION
- 15  
RITE OF ELECTIONS
- 16-17  
FRATERNITY SHARING
- 18-19  
ENTERED INTO ETERNAL LIFE  
TRIBUTES TO FR. MATTHEW GASKIN
- 20  
CALL FOR ARTICLES

## INVITATION

You are invited, dear family, to submit articles about your fraternity activities and membership; about your individual and collective expertise, your projects and achievements; wherever you see the spirit of St. Francis at work in the world, in your lives, and in your hearts—we want to hear from you. Come share with us.

—APG, EDITOR

# A Message from Our Regional Minister

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Francis and Clare,

Duc in Altum!

Remember that phrase? It was used by Pope John Paul II in his Apostolic letter, *"Novo Millenio Inuente"* which was issued in 2000 at the close of the great Jubilee Year and by which he tried to set out an agenda for the Church of the new Millennium. It's hard to believe that nine years have passed since then. The quote is taken from the Gospel of Luke—Chapter 5, verse 4, where Jesus, after preaching to the crowds from Peter's boat urges Peter to "Put out into the deep and lower your nets for a catch." We are all familiar with this wonderful story. Here it is in its entirety:

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."

When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

*Luke 5:1-11*

Put out into the deep! Leave the safety of the shore behind—get out into deep water! We are accustomed to hearing Jesus use metaphors from farming—the sower and the seed, the farmer building a barn to store his crop, the shepherd and the sheep.

But Jesus also drew from marine images as well—walking on water, calming the storm, greeting the disciples on the shore of the lake and preparing breakfast for them, and here, the story of the great catch of fish.

It is easy to be distracted by the miraculous catch recorded in this story and miss this opening phrase: Duc in Altum—put out into the deep! What does this image say to us, Secular Franciscans in 2010? One thing for sure, in my mind, is that we are challenged to take risks if we are to enjoy great success in discipleship.

What daring things have you done for the sake of the gospel lately? What daring things has your fraternity done? How have you obeyed the Lord's command to put out into the deep? And what is "the deep" for us today?

Chapter Two of our *SFO Rule* says much the same thing using different words:

**15. Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.**

What does it mean to you and to your fraternity to be “in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of (your) human lives and (your) courageous initiatives.” I have recently returned from the National Fraternity Meeting of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States which took place in Scottsdale, AZ. At this meeting we heard some powerful testimonies concerning the work in which many of our sisters and brothers are engaged, among them, the Franciscan Mission Service, Franciscans International, and the Franciscan Family Apostolate. Perhaps, these are some of the entities which your fraternity supports by its sacrificial giving both individually and collectively. If not, you might wish to research these as possibilities for your fraternity to consider.

We also heard, first hand, of the impact that our country’s border enforcement and immigration policies are having on the lives of many immigrant persons trying to find a better life for their families.

Whatever your particular political position is, it is worth your while to discover the real truth about this issue in order to discover that immigrants—even “illegal” workers— contribute billions of dollars to our economy, are a necessary and required source of labor, and are not a burden on our infrastructure, as many believe or have been misled to believe. Moreover our current, antiquated immigration policies are out of step with reality and the needs of our economy and unfairly discriminate against those seeking to find honest work in the United States. Work visas are well nigh impossible to obtain which, in turn, forces people to enter the country illegally. Moreover, the pressure on border enforcement is literally condemning our brothers and sisters to cross into the U.S. in an inhospitable desert at the serious risk of life and limb. The U.S. Bishops have called upon all Catholics to support comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act which will extend legal status to young persons who have come to this country at a young age and who have completed High School. You can find out more by visiting the website:

<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/legal.shtml>



Immigration reform is certainly a cutting edge issue and one which as Christians and as Franciscans we need to become informed about and do what we can to support the U.S. Bishops position on this issue. At the conclusion of the SFO National Meeting to which I referred earlier, the National Fraternity declared its solidarity with migrants and issued a press statement which was picked up by the national media. You can read the statement yourself at:

<http://www.ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/secular-franciscans-declare-solidarity-migrants>

or by visiting the National SFO website at:

<http://www.nafra-sfo.org/pressroom/2010/NewsRelease-migrants.pdf>



I am very proud of our National Fraternity for having taken this cutting edge position in attempting to promote justice in our society by this courageous initiative. How can your fraternity support this effort? How well informed are you about these issues? Can you spend some quality time in your fraternity on-going formation session to become informed about what the Church teaches with regard to this justice issue? Your sisters and brothers are depending on you, and for many, their very lives depend upon it.

Fraternally,

Ron Pihokker, SFO  
Regional Minister  
Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity



# OUR STUDENTS ARE OUR SUCCESS

BY  
VIRGINIA YORIO, SFO  
LA VERNA FRATERNITY, NYC



I am a Secular Franciscan with La Verna Fraternity in New York City. For the past three years I have been traveling to Namibia in Africa to teach a business course which I wrote. I live and teach at a Catholic Mission, on tribal lands in Nyangana, Namibia. The mission is located on the border with Angola; it is an eight-hour drive to the capital of Windhoek. Our nearest town is Rud which is about 90 minutes away.

Having just returned from my third year of volunteer work in Nyangana, Namibia, I am as excited as ever about short-term mission work. Brother Mark Gruenke, MM, and I are beginning to reap the success of the programs that we put in place, and you can see it in the faces of our students.

Brother Mark started a Computer Center in Nyangana several years ago. With the help of 3 local staff members, he teaches Windows XP, Microsoft Word, Excel, and Internet skills to students ranging in age from 18 to 24. About 4 years ago, two of his students, Haikera Irmgard and Muaronga Anna-Mariane, came to him and asked for a business course. Their objective was to use all of the courses to help them find jobs. This is where I entered the picture.

Through Maryknoll's short-term mission program, Maretta McKenna introduced me to Brother Mark. During the interview we had an enlightened moment when we all realized that I was the person Mark needed in Nyangana, and this was the mission work that I could do. Although I had not done any formal teaching, I had 45 years of business experience. Shortly thereafter, I was on my way to Namibia.

My 45 years of work experience started with General Electric and gradually progressed until I was working with their overseas affiliates in Latin America, the Far East and Europe. Later I worked at The Conference Board doing Marketing Research, then had my own company doing Marketing and Strategic Planning for Fortune 50 companies. My last employment was with the Related Companies in New York City managing a government funded housing program for a building complex consisting of 1,689 apartments.

Brother Mark and I determined that what was needed was a very basic business skills program that would teach the young adults from the Rugcuriko tribe the skills that they would need for an office job.

Among the skills that they needed to learn were: how to make and receive phone calls in the office, receptionist skills, filing skills, how to handle petty cash and checking accounts, etc. The final module of the course would give them job search techniques for finding work in and around Nyangana. To my surprise, there were no textbooks commercially available that were basic enough for the course we had in mind. So I wrote a text for them and later wrote teachers' guides for the course for use by the new volunteers that we hoped would be coming to Nyangana in the future.

After my first 3 months in Nyangana, we realized that the students needed to improve their English, the official language of the country, if they were going to obtain employment. After I returned to NYC, I raised money for the purchase of our first licenses for the *Rosetta Stone* programs for Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels of language instruction. I carried this program with me on my second trip to Nyangana the following year. This time I stayed for 5 months. *Rosetta Stone* is a self-taught computer program which our students use to learn English.

It requires 120 hours of work by the students. It is part of their curriculum for completing the course and obtaining an Office Skills Certificate from our Office Skills Center at Sacred Heart Parish in Nyangana, Namibia.

Last year's students all interviewed successfully and obtained jobs. Prior to taking the course, they were unable to even obtain an interview. Mariane is now a secretary with her own office. She is working on a new agricultural program for the government. Benedicta is working at the hospital in Nyangana. Ndumba Eleotheria Erwina has been working as a cashier, Elizabeth Shinkanda started her own business, and Haikera Irmgard has been doing volunteer work with the government and the local hospital.

Because our classes are small, the students get individual attention. This year we realized that we could handle up to 12 students. Brother Mark developed a handy little brochure that we handed out to people to advertise our courses. We visited the owners of farms pursuing the possibility of their sending some of their workers or the children of employees to the courses.



We also visited lodges where the owners were board members of organizations which were trying to find employment for the local Rugcuriko people. In addition, we visited the local government-owned radio station and arranged for two former students, Celestinus Ndembere and Matumbo Benitha, to be interviewed on the local radio station in their native tribal language. Most people receive information in their communities via the radio. Unlike the U.S. where people are paid for an interview, we had to pay a fee to the radio station for this service.

A bit more about our radio stars/former students: Celestinus now owns his own computer repair business in Rundu and Benitha is now licensed by the Namibian government to teach computer courses and continues to be employed at our Computer Center teaching computer courses. Her teaching license is called an International Driving License of Computing so she can teach courses worldwide. She is continuing her education through our work-study program and is now taking courses in junior management.

Another achievement in 2010 was the arrival of our first new volunteers in short-term mission, David and Paula Schaffner. Paula is a teacher. She taught the first half of the Business Skills Course, and I taught the second part. The interim period between Paula's arrival and mine was filled by Maria Nyangana, who taught the lab work for the Business Skills Course. Nyangana also assists the teachers at the Business Skills Course while teaching at the Computer Center at the same time.

In addition, as a result of our increased advertising and public relations work, which highlighted the success of last year's students, the radio interview followed up with 3 radio commercials and favorable publicity on the "African telegraph" or "word of mouth," our student enrollment this year has increased to our maximum of 12 students. We are now in the enviable position of having a waiting list!

My short-term mission project has evolved into a community-improvement program with life-altering results for both my students and myself. A part of my heart remains in Nyangana, but I take the memories of our successes with me everywhere.



# WHEN FAITH IS PUT INTO ACTION

BY  
JOE GIORDANO, SFO

When faith  
is put into action,  
How quickly we will see  
The evidence of  
things unseen  
And God's reality.

We can never  
walk on water  
If we won't  
leave the boat.  
If we're paralyzed by fear,  
We may not even float.

When faith  
is put into action,  
Our doubts  
and fears take wings,  
And God gives  
the confidence  
to try and do all things.

It pleases Him  
to see us there  
when others run away,  
To prove that  
"In God we trust"  
Reflects our faith today.

When faith  
is put into action,  
Results are guaranteed,  
for we're never disappointed  
When we follow His lead.

When we  
put faith into action,  
How quickly we will see  
The evidence of  
things unseen,  
And God's reality.



# CHAPTER OF MINISTERS

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL CHAPTER OF MINISTERS • NOVEMBER 20, 2010 • ST. BONAVENTURE, PATERSON, NJ



PHOTO CREDIT: DIANE MENDITTO, SFO

AT THIS CHAPTER, THE NATIONAL VISITATION OF OUR REGIONAL FRATERNITY WHICH OCCURS EVERY THREE YEARS, ALSO TOOK PLACE. NATIONAL MINISTER DEACON TOM BELLO, SFO, WAS OUR FRATERNAL VISITOR, AND FATHER STEPHEN GROSS, OFM CONV., WAS OUR CANONICAL VISITOR.

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGION welcomed our National Fraternity Visitors — **BACK ROW L-to-R:** Fr. Stephen Gross (National Spiritual Assistant), Ron Pihokker, Andy Klutkowski, Julia McCants, Deacon Tom Bello (National Minister), Alex Kiczek, Richard Spana, Fr. Richard Trezza, Anna Geraci.

**FRONT ROW L-to-R:** Sheila Tuhoy, Kate Asselin, Virginia Chin, Michelle Kim, (National Councilor) Diane Menditto, Jean Haddad.

Additional photos of the day may be viewed on our website at: [http://olangers.tripod.com/region\\_links.html](http://olangers.tripod.com/region_links.html)



**FR. STEPHEN** opened the Chapter by reminding us that as ministers we are all shepherds who are to care, lead, guide and, if necessary, correct the brothers and sisters who depend upon us to attain the grace of God. We have been called to more—  
**6** to be a little more wise, fanciful and articulate. Like our universal call to holiness—where everyone is called, but the baptized are called to an even greater depth of holiness. We have promised by our profession to live our vocation. To bring the very real presence to others. We are to go outside of our fraternities into the midst of the world.

All of us who represent our members must be challenged to realize that much is expected of us. We have answered the call to a greater awareness. We all carry the shepherd's staff and must fight off the wolves with our staff.

To be good shepherds it is very important that we grow in knowledge and read our SFO Documents.

To be good shepherds it is very important to work as a collaborative ministry—for the good of the whole, find ways to collaborate together.

To be good shepherds it is very important to be the force for good in the world. We must assume responsibility for that. We must mature more.

Renewal is afoot—it has not stopped. If we don't accept our responsibilities then the Order will be lost.

We have to open up & provide the nourishment that our members need. Anything less than that is not acceptable anymore. All of us—together, are becoming one—let nothing stop us.

**DEACON TOM** addressed us quoting from our Rule #20 that the SFO is divided into fraternities of various levels—local, regional, national, and international. Each one having it's own moral personality in the Church... We, too, must be one in the fraternity, we should not be an individual, but a fully operating community. It must start with us—are we a family? We don't have to fully agree with one another, but we are still family. He stated what a fraternity meeting should hold:

1. **First and foremost—PRAYER**
2. **FORMATION—**
3. **SOCIAL—**
4. **BUSINESS—** as needed

But, Tom cautioned, we are wasting our time if we don't always share the first 3.

Tom then asked each fraternity minister/representative to state one thing that their fraternity is thankful for, and one challenge that they have.

Space limitations in the *Troubadour* does not allow individual responses to be listed, they are listed collectively on the opposite page 7, for they are excellent and in many cases, inspiring. Before proceeding, it's also important to acknowledge that some members displayed heroic measures in having attended this Chapter.

I won't name them in order to avoid embarrassing them, but I will illustrate that we had one minister attending who had a broken back & broken ankle. Another was recovering from painful hip surgery; another had postponed root canal surgery and was feeling great pain with the effects of the painkillers wearing off. Additionally there were others dealing with personal sorrows—the recent death of a close family member, and the unexpected and sudden loss of a job the day before.

By the end of our Chapter, we were feeling a greater sense of community. Tom encouraged us to continue building on that, and offered further suggestions:

Hold a yearly Mass to remember our deceased members; form a Regional Apostolate and a Regional Charity; and, he added rather sheepishly, steal from one another!

Tom pointed out how the National Fraternity “steals” greatly from our own region. Our Regional minister, Ron Pihokker is a nationally recognized speaker and leader; Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM, for his spiritual leadership and formation contributions; Michelle Kim who also sits on the National Council; & Anna Geraci new editor of the *TAU-USA*. Tom encouraged everyone to do the same. “Steal” he laughs. If you know someone has a specific knowledge or talent that your fraternity can benefit from, contact them. Ask for their help. And go on from there!

### THE FRATERNITY IS THANKFUL FOR:

- Spiritual Assistants
- Engaging the Youth of the parish
- Raising \$15M for flood victims in Poland and Africa
- Pastor allowing for them to have a meeting place
- Hunger for Holiness
- Sponsoring an emerging fraternity
- Food Pantry
- Cooperating with OFM's to add additional ministries
- New council with sense of family
- Visiting pilgrim statue
- 2 members joining the priesthood
- Sandwiches for the homeless
- Willingness of members to try new things
- Clothing drives for the homeless
- Blessing of Animals
- All the newly professed members
- Feeding the homeless
- Mission in Zambia
- Dinner for Migrants
- Pulpit talks
- Outreach ministries
- Fundraisers
- Visiting Seniors
- Prison Ministry
- Upcoming fraternity 25th Anniversary
- Adopting the Troops and sending them toiletries
- Poor Person's Luncheon
- Running Senior Citizens Club
- Helping support the Food Line
- Inviting the Clusters to Profession Mass
- Inviting youth to attend meetings
- Apostolate of visiting with the elder friars and sisters
- Cooking for the homeless and giving them a little social life
- Making and distribution of rosaries
- Making and selling of sweat shirts, T-shirts, & Caps
- Praying together
- Food distribution
- Supporting specific charities
- Donating 500lbs of food for Haiti
- Adopting 17 needy families.

# FORMATION MEETING

BY LINDA BALTZER, SFO  
ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY NYC

Our Lady of the Angels Regional Formation Meeting was held at the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Wallington, NJ, on Saturday, May 1, 2010, from 9—3PM. Our guest speaker was Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM, Regional Spiritual Assistant and National Formation Commission Assistant. The topic of his talk was Profession: Gift and Commitment. Over 50 Inquirers and Candidates attended and 18 fraternities were represented.

Fr. Richard walked around greeting everyone individually while we were able to avail ourselves of the hospitality of coffee, bagels and donuts. After the opening prayer and a blessing, Virginia Chin, our regional Director of Formation, welcomed us to this yearly regional formation meeting.

Fr. Richard's talk was based on a world-wide identity issue of professed SFO's and that is an understanding that an SFO profession is in no way inferior to the profession of nuns or priests. As agents of formation, it is up to us to figure out how to get that information out to those in formation. This concept can energize the professed. The professed should be convinced that profession is a gift of the spirit. It is our calling to follow as seculars in the path of Jesus as Francis did, but to figure out how to do it as ourselves. Our vocation as seculars is to live the gospel in the world, not away from the world.

The liturgical moment of profession needs to be meaningful and prepared, not rushed and disorganized. It is important that it be done with a Eucharistic celebration. This is the moment that we get the grace for courage and humility. This is the moment when we put our life on track in a certain Franciscan direction. It is a public celebration.

At the moment of profession we ask publicly for grace to worship God in spirit and truth.

We dedicate self to the service of the Kingdom. Not only the priest can call down the Holy Spirit; we are also ministers who can call down the Holy Spirit on those being professed. The minister of the fraternity should not be afraid to do so. There is room for drama in the liturgy of profession.

Profession is not only an ecclesial event, but a fraternity event, and must take place within the fraternity. The priest is a witness to ensure that the candidate is suitable. The presence of a priest ratifies the event. It's best for profession to take place with a Eucharistic

celebration. Fraternities should plan their event with sufficient time to invite a priest to attend. If it is possible for the priest to spend some time with the candidate before the profession, that can enrich the profession for all.

Each profession is a Pentecost for the individual fraternity. The newly professed are a gift to the fraternity to give it new life. It is always important that a person who asks to be professed not be given a burden they cannot carry: they must be able to stand up to the responsibilities of commitment if they are to be accepted for profession.

The profession helps us to live out our Baptismal promises. We are going back to our Baptism and configuring ourselves to Christ in all facets of our lives. The candidate must have been Baptized, made Holy Communion, and been Confirmed in the Church.

In addition to going through the Formation process, the one who wishes to be professed should attend a regional retreat before profession. Father Richard explained that profession is a contract before God to live a form and a rule of life. It is to belong to a Franciscan Order which is over 800 years old. SFO profession has the dignity of a solemn commitment.

To be Franciscan is to be radical in our roots of Gospel living. It is to be light-filled—that is to give hope and vision to people. And it is to be joyful. That is what a Franciscan life means. It is a life of penance where we should always orient our attitudes to a spirit of poverty.

To be an SFO is to be in the world, and of the world, and for the world.

After Fr. Richard's talk, we had lunch.

The afternoon session broke us into small groups to share ideas for ongoing formation. A group representative presented the summaries.

The day ended with thanks and a video from the Rob Bell-Nooma DVD series.



BY  
STEPHANIE C. SORMANE, SFO

# A Franciscan Approach to Civility in Discourse

TO VIEW A RECENT WEBINAR BY FAN ON THIS TOPIC, GO TO:

[HTTPS://WWW2.GOTOMEETING.COM/REGISTER/126984610](https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/126984610)



Francis of Assisi is recognized as an embodiment of peace. His constant greeting of peace and all good is a suggestion that our interactions with each other and the language we use with each other lay the foundation for our relationships. Francis was able to greet people with a word of peace because Francis was a person of peace. According to the life of Francis by Thomas of Celano, Francis took up the call to be a disciple by going about poorly and not possessing silver or gold. In this disposition his words became “like a burning fire, penetrating the inmost reaches of the heart, and it filled the minds of all the hearers with admiration”. The author goes on to say “He always most devoutly announced peace to men and women, to all he met and overtook. For this reason many who had hated peace and had hated salvation embraced peace through the cooperation of the Lord, with all their heart and were made children of peace and seekers after eternal salvation” (Celano X). Francis’ message of peace was credible because of his integrity. His poverty made him a person free from self interest.

8

Francis used his language of peace especially in a most significant and effective way when engaged with people of power and authority. He appealed to a sense of faith and reconciliation in a stand off between the mayor of Assisi and Bishop Guido. Bishop Guido excommunicated the mayor for promoting alliances in a war with Perugia. At the recitation of the Cantic of the Creatures, the mayor was moved to forgive the bishop and the bishop apologized in a gesture of reconciliation.

In his “Letter to Rulers of the People”, Francis calls leaders to faith and integrity and asks them to promote faith among the people.

Perhaps the most dramatic example of the language of Francis and promoting peace is his encounter with the Sultan. Francis and the Sultan were engaged in an experience and exchange of mutual respect in the atmosphere of different cultures, different faiths, and different worldviews of a people at war with each other.

The essence of the process of governance in the United States is a participatory democracy. It is attentive to all points of view. *Franciscan Action Network (FAN)* is engaged in the process of policy reform to promote peace, care for the environment, and a concern for the poor.

Often our perspective on issues is very different from other views. We feel that we are one voice among many. Yet we believe in our positions and we give voice to our view. We believe that our contribution to public conversation should be civil and respectful. We recognize the dignity of those with differing views. For this reason *Franciscan Action Network* offers some principles for public conversation based on the life of Francis and our Franciscan traditions.

Currently in our national conversations on policy we are experiencing a great degree of inflammatory language. It is language which exaggerates differences and hardens positions and language which is provocative in nature and uses violent imagery at times. Our purpose in proposing these principles is to be mindful of a Franciscan way to promote policy reform and to demonstrate peace in an ongoing process of transformation.

In order that an ongoing transformation in our society and our world occur we propose that conversation on public issues should:

Respect the dignity of all people including the dignity of those who hold an opposite view.

Call policy makers to their sense of integrity in faith and values and to respect those values.

Use terms or a vocabulary of faith to unite or reconcile rather than divide.

Recognize that all human engagement and dialogue is an opportunity to promote peace.

Recognize that dialogue and engagement can lead to new insight and mutual understanding.

We recognize that it is a blessing to be able to give voice to our opinions and it is our responsibility to do so as a way of promoting the common good. There are moments when we recognize that the way that we give voice to our views can promote a transformative sense of peace and make us instruments of peace.

Our hope is that public conversation can be a transformative peaceful influence on our nation and on our world.



# TAKE THE F. R. A. N. C. I. S. COMMITMENT TO CIVILITY IN DISCOURSE

*Take a quiet moment in prayer and then recite the following out loud or to yourself. Each verb begins with a letter which, when taken together, spells out the name FRANCIS:*

*"I commit to:*

**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."



Earlier this year, when the U.S. Post Office announced their plans to issue a stamp to honor Mother Teresa's humanitarian accomplishments, timed to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth in August. The announcement sparked controversy from atheist organization, *Freedom from Religion Foundation*, who immediately began fighting the proposed stamp by urging a boycott and letter-writing campaign to protest the Postal Service's decision.

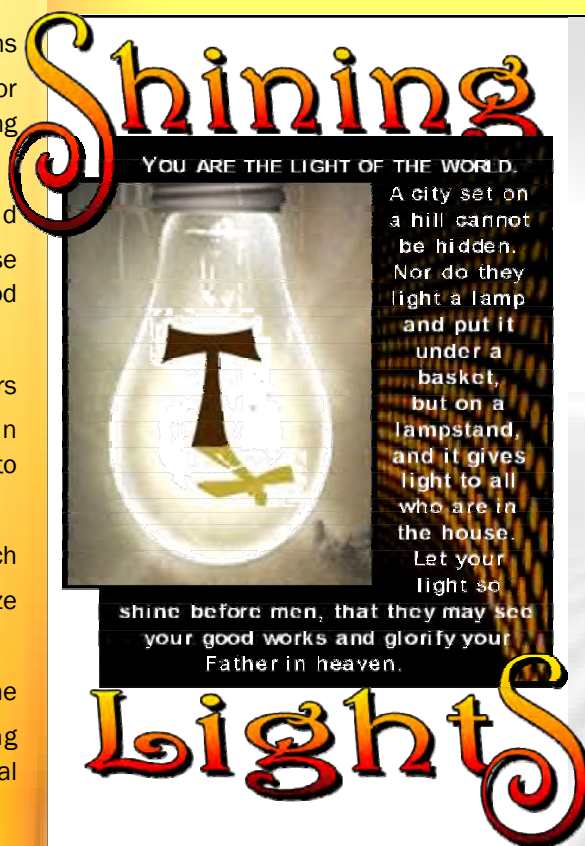
While they argued that the stamp violated a postal restriction against honoring "religious institutions or individuals whose principal achievements are associated with religious undertakings or beliefs", Christians engaged in an equally passionate letter-writing campaign of their own, urging Postmaster General Jack Potter to, "stand by your decision to issue the stamp ... and to reject the bigoted attacks on a faith-filled nun who spent her life caring for the poor and needy of our world.

The results of the controversy by now are known. The postal stamp honoring Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, was dedicated September 5, 2010, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

The .44-cent stamp featuring a portrait of Mother Teresa (*seen above*) was painted by award-winning artist Thomas Blackshear II of Colorado Springs, who was also in attendance at the event. "Often, stamps are referred to as a nation's 'calling cards' because they reach a national, and even an international audience," said Postmaster General John Potter in dedicating the stamp. "They focus attention on subjects our country regards with respect and affection, and that is certainly true of Mother Teresa, who believed so deeply in the innate worth and dignity of humankind and worked tirelessly on behalf of the poor, sick, orphaned and dying," Potter said. "That's why today I am so very proud that our country, after making her an honorary citizen in 1996, is honoring Mother Teresa with such a lasting memorial," Potter said.

This is a shining example of civility in discourse. It also demonstrates how we as Catholics can no longer remain complacent in defense of our faith, we must be vigilant and visible in defending against attacks on our faith and beliefs.

2



Not long ago, my 85 year old father collapsed and was taken to hospital. My mother thought he was dying, but thank God he recovered. While I was there I saw a number of elderly people lying in cubicles, completely on their own. It reminded me of how at times in our lives we all face a Gethsemane experience.

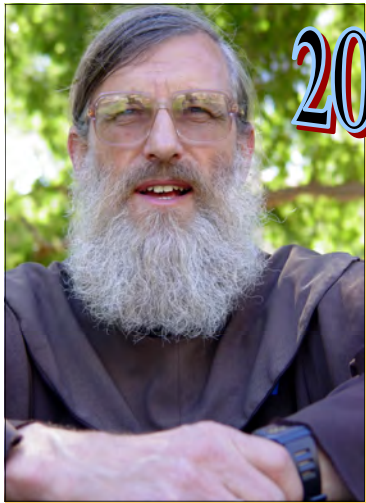
I am making a point to pray each night for all the elderly people; especially those who are alone, and who are taken ill suddenly. Please remember them if you can.

May God in His Mercy bring comfort and solace to all those who are alone and ill. Dear Jesus, send Your angels to sit at their sides, and give them support so they are not alone. Amen.

# 2010 PEACE AWARD RECIPIENT

BY  
BOB STRONACH, SFO

PHOTO CREDIT: BOB STRONACH, SFO



Brother David Buer, OFM, a Franciscan friar who has been working with the homeless and marginalized in Tucson and Las Vegas, received a special birthday gift on October 26, a day after he turned 57 — the *National Peace Award* from the Secular Franciscan Order.

Bishop Eduardo Alanis Nevares, the newly installed auxiliary bishop of Phoenix, presented the award during the Order's national chapter, held October 26-31 at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, AZ. Brother David's mother, Doris Buer, flew in from Ballwin, MO to join in the presentation.

"It's my experience that we can expect God's blessing when we bring these people — the poor, the homeless, the migrants — into our circle of love," Brother David told some 75 ministers, delegates and observers representing 14,000 Secular Franciscans across the U.S. He said he was humbled and honored to receive the same award that, in the past, also went to the likes of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Brother David said he was inspired to work among the poor and homeless by the words of Jesus Christ and by a simple act of St. Francis of Assisi. A passage in Matthew's Gospel "shot through me" — the one where Jesus says, "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." And St. Francis, the spoiled son of a wealthy merchant, had a life-changing moment when he encountered a leper on the road: Instead of giving him wide berth, Francis embraced the leper. "Who are the lepers of today?" Brother David asked. "Who are the marginalized people?"

10

Brother David entered the religious order late in life, making his permanent profession as a Franciscan brother in 1996 — a year before he arrived in Las Vegas, where he established *Poverello House*, a daytime refuge for the homeless. In 2002 he established a second *Poverello House* in Henderson, NV.

He also went on a two-week vigil and fast in Las Vegas, living in a tent on a vacant lot to publicize the need for more shelters. A group of homeless men befriended and protected him during the vigil. "It put me in solidarity with those who have less."

Next he was assigned to Tucson, AZ, where in 2008 he established another *Poverello House* and where, for the past five summers, he set up Cooling Centers at two churches six days a week (three days at each church).

The homeless could escape the oppressive summer heat in an air conditioned center and find food, cold beverages and a place to relax and read.

Brother David became a candidate with the Franciscan Friars of the Santa Barbara Province in 1989, and went through a number of years of formation that included a year as a postulant in Portland, OR; a year as a novice at Santa Barbara Mission; a post-novitiate year in the missions in Guatemala; three years in the San Francisco Bay Area, studying theology and working part-time in a soup kitchen and shelter; and several years working with the Nevada Desert Experience to discourage the use and production of nuclear weapons.

Brother David is the son of Doris and Otto Buer of Ballwin, MO. Born at San Antonio, TX Army Medical Center during the Korean War, he spent his early years in Granite City, IL, and moved with his family to Ballwin at the age of 15.

He graduated from Parkway West High School there in 1971 before attending Southwest Missouri State College in Springfield, MO for two years. He worked at a McDonalds fast food restaurant and then as a car salesman over a period of a year.

At the time, he said, he was an agnostic, but then began what he described as a spiritual journey, hitchhiking from St. Louis to San Diego, CA. He happened upon a beach house that was in need of repair, and the owner let him stay there for several months, rent-free, while helping to fix it up.

"It was like a hermitage time for me," he said. After that, he hitchhiked back to Granite City, IL, where he started attending church in the parish where his parents were married, and where his faith blossomed. "That's when I read a book about St. Francis," he noted, which led him to seek out some friars at a neighboring parish.

He was invited to Chicago to stay at a house of discernment, and he joined the Secular Franciscan Order.

"I was hungering for living closer to the poor," he recalled. "The answer to my prayer was the 'Gospel Brothers', a Franciscan friary in uptown Chicago." He lived there from 1978 to 1982, working in soup kitchens and shelters and helping the elderly with shopping.



# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

ANNA GERACI, SFO



My dear brothers and sisters in St. Francis,

I send you and yours my sincerest best wishes for your good health, joy, peace and every goodness in the Lord as we approach the Eve's of this year. May our Lord grace us with His heavenly blessings throughout every facet of our lives.

I wanted to share some of the wonderful things that are, and will be happening. First of course is that our Regional newsletter, the *Troubadour* is now back in production. Due to some serious personal issues on my part, I was forced to suspend work on it, but finally, as you can see, it's back and hopefully you'll find it better than ever. I am exceedingly grateful to our Regional Minister, Ron Pihokker, SFO, for his support and patience during this time.

Secondly, I wanted to share that the Fall 2010 issue of the *TAU-USA* is also available. All professed SFO members should currently be receiving this publication of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States. You may notice that the issue also introduces Anna Geraci as it's new Editor. Yes, dear *Troubadour* readers, I've been given the honor to serve as Editor of another wonderful Franciscan publication. I am most grateful to Tom Bello, SFO, and the National Executive Committee for entrusting me with this amazing opportunity; and again, I'd also like to thank Ron Pihokker, SFO, and Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM, for their excellent recommendations.

11

There are many Franciscan events in the planning stages both on the regional and national levels. Along with our fabulous and super hard working regional council, we will work to keep you informed and updated in a timely manner. *E-Troubadour* news will also keep you informed on important breaking news via the Internet, so please send me your email addresses, and remember to send any changes of e-addresses. I promise email addresses will never be given to any other agencies, nor will it be used to send trivial emails.

This is an exciting and challenging time to be in communications. As Secular Franciscans today we have greater demands upon us for information, education, collaboration and involvement. As Secular Franciscans it is also one thing for us to believe in our Franciscan mission; and quite another thing to live it, and see it lived out. I have always maintained that our fraternal sharing allows us to experience one another's response to preach the Gospel always, using words if necessary. These engaging examples decidedly inspire us. So whether it be in person, by phone, letter or email—let us strengthen our communications, for we have much to share, and much to learn from one another.

Our upcoming newsletter for Spring, issue # 47 calls for articles by **March 15, 2011**. As the invitation on the front cover of this newsletter states, you are invited to submit articles about your fraternity activities and membership; about your individual and collective expertise, your projects and achievements; wherever you see the spirit of St. Francis at work in the world, in your lives, and in your hearts—I want to hear from you. May the Holy Spirit inspire your minds, and send you the words. Come share with us.



PHOTO CREDITS: DAN MULHOLLAND, SFO



In 1982 Fr. Phil Marquard, OFM, asked him to help start a Franciscan volunteer community to serve the poor. The Franciscan House of Mary and Joseph opened in 1983 — a 250-bed shelter for homeless men and women. He worked there until joining the friars as a candidate in 1989.

The *Peace Award* comes with a St. Francis statue and a \$2,000 prize. "That money is going to *Poverello House* in Tucson," Brother David said.

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

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

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



# The Blessing of Three Volunteers

BY RAYMOND R. BERGER, SFO  
ST. THOMAS MORE FRATERNITY, NEW YORK CITY

I would like to share the wonderful efforts of three volunteer students from Xavier High School in Manhattan—Ryan, Michael, and Joshua. Speculation is that prayers to Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini prompted her to turn to the Lord Jesus to help the Cabrini Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CCNR) with better volunteers. Our Lord responded this past January 2010, by sending three volunteers from Xavier High School who were not only good, but the best around. This is not a frivolous claim. These young gentlemen are top-of-the-line volunteers whose dedication, concern, and performance not only enhanced the lives of the residents and patients, but served as an encouragement and model to staff, administrators and volunteers as well.

Over the last five months, we watched these three young men in action. After breakfast, they helped gather residents and patients together on each floor and transported them to the Cabrini Chapel for morning Mass. Their personal concern and dedication led them to learn the exact spots in the Chapel which best suited each patient's and resident's needs; their requirements due to medical conditions such as vision and hearing issues, and the preference for an orderly dispatch back to their floors, or to selected activities after Mass. All this meant that the process of preparation and dismissal became smoother and more enjoyable, even in conditions less than ideal. Their participation in events at CCNR continued with their assistance to George and Gina in various recreational service programs. All their work enhanced these events and made a positive experience for everyone.

Let us now turn the clock back to about the year 1197 when Francis of Assisi and his earliest followers began a renewal of the Catholic Church by preaching in the city and town market places and squares.

Each time Francis or his friars started to preach, they began with a blessing, "May the Lord give you His Peace." At that point the Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace Himself, would enter the minds, hearts, and souls of those who stopped to hear the words of Holy Father Francis. This special blessing is repeated daily to this day by Franciscan Friars, Poor Clares, and Secular Franciscans, especially when giving homilies, reflections, or talks. A further indication of this blessing is the calm, serenity, and peace that visitors notice the moment they arrive in the city of Assisi.

Ryan, Michael, and Joshua's time as volunteers came to an end on May 3rd as they left to prepare for their final examinations and graduation on June 12, 2010. That event marked a change in their lives as they grew from adolescents to men. After graduation from Xavier, each plans to attend college in different parts of the country, (California, Pennsylvania and Long Island) so they too will separate as they continue their own paths in life.

It was fitting therefore, to give each of them a memento of their diligent and inspirational work at CCNR—the same special blessing St. Francis gave his listeners...the gift of peace within their own minds, hearts and souls. This blessing will be permanent and experienced daily as they walk through life. Those around Ryan, Michael and Joshua will become quite aware that peace exists within them. People will rejoice to be in their company, just as we here at CCNR rejoiced at the example, service and good will they gave us.

I approached two different fraternity Ministers and the Manhattan Cluster Councilor and put forth the concept of all of us at CCNR personally giving a special blessing of St. Francis for peace to each man. All thought the idea was excellent.

The blessing ceremony went quite smoothly and I am sure these three young men will not ignore St. Francis' intercession for them as they continue their journey through life. Besides the peace blessing, they were properly introduced to the joy of Franciscan life. These are the type of people who will take these blessings seriously. So for now, let us pause and invoke the blessing of St. Francis on Ryan, Michael and Joshua.

12



## Peace Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy;  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

### EDITORS NOTE:

Cabrini Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation is a facility located in Manhattan who takes care of some complex medical needs of the frail aged 24-hours-a-day/seven-days-a-week. Their efforts are aided by highly dedicated volunteers. They have a specialized Alzheimer unit, in addition to a rehabilitation unit, adult daycare and Immigrant services. Volunteers help transport residents to a variety of activities, including rehabilitation therapy, religious services, and recreational programs. They also spend quality time with residents visiting one-on-one.

# An Assisi Pilgrimage

BY

SAL BONFIGLIO, SFO  
St. Peter's Fraternity  
Somerset, NJ

Last year, my wife Melody and I celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The day after renewing our vows at our parish church, we left for Italy. Pondering where we wanted to go for this special occasion, Assisi came up number one on the list. I am a recently professed secular, but Melody also shares in the spirituality of Francis and Clare. So Assisi it was.

But this was not to be a vacation — we decided it needed to be a pilgrimage. To fit the category, it is my understanding that a pilgrimage should fulfill three criteria. It is to involve travel, prayer, and hardship. As one might expect, it is particularly that last element that is the stickler. We considered our travel plans yet could not justify any part as imposing real “hardship.” Flying ten hours in coach would certainly be unpleasant, but not good enough we thought. Maybe we could fast. For people with an Italian heritage like us, going to the land of our ancestors and not fully indulging in the local cuisine would certainly be a form of hardship. In fact, I could argue that such penance may even enter the realm of “martyrdom.”

Not sure what to do, we decided that if God accepted our intention that this would be a pilgrimage, the Spirit would guide us through it. So off we went, just the two of us. We chose not to go with a tour group because we wanted the freedom to do what was important to us. It would not be easy since our high school Italian was now just a distant memory, and my natural sense of direction was just as bad. But we figured we would somehow get by.

We flew into Rome first, spending a few days visiting the Vatican and other places of religious significance. It was not our first time there, so we sort of knew where we wanted to go. Then we traveled by rail to Siena.

It is a beautiful medieval city about 140 miles north of Rome. It is similar to Assisi because they are both ancient communities that have been well preserved. And like Assisi, it is the place from which the other co-patron of Italy hailed, St. Catherine. One of the great mystics of our faith, St. Catherine is very special to me. It was her writings that led me back to the Church after a long hiatus. She is a Doctor of the Church who helped save the Church from the ravages of the Western Schism in the fourteenth century. For a long time I had wanted to experience where she lived, and now had the opportunity. Despite its ancient architecture and flavor, Siena is very much a cosmopolitan place as well. As a result, it is as popular with college students as with spiritual sojourners.

We did not run into any other Americans there, as it is not a hotspot for U.S. tourists. When in the Tuscany region, most U.S. vacationers tend to visit the majestic city of Florence instead. But again for us, this was not a vacation.

Walking the streets that Saint Catherine traveled, and being in the midst of her ever-present spirit (as well as her uncorrupted remains) was what we were there to encounter.

When we returned home we were often asked to show our “vacation pictures”, but we had none. In fact, we did not even bring a camera. We felt that foraging for Kodak moments would have distracted us from the real purpose of the trip. We wanted to focus only on the spiritual aspect of being in these sacred places. Looking to Francis, we appreciated that no one loved creation more than he. Yet he never sought to possess it. Photos are a way of “possessing” what we experience in a given moment, as futile as that really is (*sorry, Mr. Eastman*). We were not looking to capture memories, but to invoke spiritual conversion. Which leads me to the highlight of the pilgrimage, Assisi.

Once again we took the train through the beautiful valleys of Italy's interior. The route to the Umbria region northeast of Rome was lined with rocky ridges and green olive groves. Rolling into the station below, the upper section of Assisi is a sight to behold. It is a fortress town in the foothills of a mountain ridge.

My fraternity sister, Penny Gleeson, had recommended that we stay in old upper Assisi, as opposed to the more modern and industrial lower Assisi where we debarked the train. This was certainly a good suggestion for people who wanted to fully immerse themselves in the adventure.

*(By the way, Penny also suggested I write this article for the Troubadour. So if you are getting bored, you know who to blame.)*

Lower Assisi however is where Saint Mary of the Angels is located. Within this basilica is the Portiuncula, among other sacred treasures of our Franciscan heritage. So we spent an entire day at this site, mostly in quiet prayer. I seemed to notice that for most people around me, being in the actual room where St. Francis lived with his friars was awe-inspiring. But for a Franciscan, I found the event simply impossible to describe. I have no doubt the little poor man is present in this place, interceding for special graces to be bestowed upon the members of his Order who kneel in humble adoration.

Back in the higher elevation, our hotel was a small establishment located in the very heart of the ancient town. It was accessed through an alley off the main piazza.

A small sign by the entrance was the only indication that the two story stone structure was even a hotel. It was just the type of place we wanted – quiet and peaceful, with friendly and helpful staff.

Desiring to fully immerse myself in the experience, I decided I would pray the Divine Office seven times a day as Francis himself did. Wearing cargo pants, the kind with the big pockets along the thighs, I was able to carry my Gest of the Great King wherever we went. We also sought every opportunity to pray with the Franciscans and Clares at various occasions throughout the trip. And even though only Italian was spoken during Masses and devotions, we had little difficulty participating.

As we knelt in San Damiano a few feet from the original cross which spoke to our Seraphic Father, I could not help but be more mystically drawn into the Order in which I was professed.

14

I could feel the presence of Francis and his comrades who were there with us. San Damiano is one of the many places in the area that Francis visited, and being there made me feel whole.

Another special place was *Eremo delle Carceri* (The Prison of the Hermits). Located outside the Assisi walls, this place which is not on the itinerary of most guided tours was one of our favorite spots. It is where St. Francis would go on retreat.

The hermitage is nestled in the forest, high on Monte Subasio a few miles northeast of the town. It was very easy to picture Francis laying among the trees and gazing up at Creation, as he often did there.

I guess this would be a good time to mention our third pilgrimage element. By now, it is evident that we traveled quite a bit and prayed throughout the trip. So what about the hardship requirement? Well as we expected, God did provide. I do not believe there is a piece of flat ground in all of Assisi. Being on the slopes of a mountain, the medieval streets and roads are very steep and can be difficult to negotiate. So considering our soft, middle-aged American bodies with assorted ailments and injuries, it would have made sense to take it easy and not overdo it. After all, there were plenty of places in this beautiful community to relax with a cup of espresso, a panini, or a slice of authentic pizza. Ah, the temptation!

But we thought about Francis. He not only traveled these roads continuously, but did it barefoot and in the snow, and with little nourishment or clothing. We were also a little embarrassed as we limped our way along the steep and winding stone passages while being passed by the elderly ladies who resided in the town. Living in such a place their whole lives, one can assume their leg muscles are like steel beams. I certainly would not want to be kicked by one of them. Fortunately, Assisians are very amiable.

So anyway, we found our hardship. We decided we would walk everywhere, and indeed we did. We walked for many miles; hour after hour, day after day. Up and down the streets of Assisi. Up and down Mt. Subasio. From one sacred place to another, accepting the pain and embracing it. Walking the road of Francis and Clare as their faithful followers, and being transformed with each deliberate step. And as we strolled past the original rose garden that Frances had crawled through, we realized we did not have it so bad.

Because 2009 was the eight-hundredth anniversary of the Franciscan Order it was a special time in Assisi and we were provided a particular opportunity for entertainment. A theater company was in town to stage *Chiara di Dio* (Clare of God), a musical about the life of St. Clare. Sitting in the historic Assisi theater; watching professionals play the roles of Clare, Francis and other figures of our Franciscan heritage was truly magical. And even though it was presented in their native Italian, it was not too difficult to follow; in fact, that touch made it even more authentic.

We were truly saddened to leave Francis and Clare's domicile; it was like leaving our own home. Melody was even checking out the ads in the town's realty office for available apartments, although I think she would be a little more partial to retiring to Siena instead.

Either way, we know we must return someday.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR NEWLY PROFESSED BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN ST. FRANCIS.**



L-to-R: Victoria Vinuya, Maryanne Gonzalez and Elenita DeGuzman PHOTO CREDIT: DIANE MENDITTO, SFO

With Franciscan joy,  
**ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR**  
**FRATERNITY 103,**  
**New York City, NY,**  
celebrated the February 1,  
2010 profession of:  
**VICTORIA VINUYA, SFO**  
**MARYANNE GONZALEZ, SFO**  
**ELENITA DEGUZMAN, SFO**

**KOREAN MARTYRS FRATERNITY 119, New York City, NY, celebrated the November 7, 2010 Profession of:**  
**DOROTHEA PARK, SFO; MARIA CHOE, SFO; STELLA YOO, SFO; GRECENTIA SHIM, SFO**  
**JULIANA KIM, SFO; THERESA KIM, SFO; CATHERINE LEE, SFO; CECILIA YU, SFO**





## RISE OF ELECTIONS

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL OFFICERS.** Let us pray that each may be led by the Holy Spirit in their leadership roles in the Secular Franciscan Order.

—APG, *EDITOR*

### **ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY 102 WOOD-RIDGE, NJ**

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS—APRIL 16, 2010

#### THE NEW COUNCIL:

Minister: FRANK CATALANO, SFO  
Vice Minister: JOHN TRAUSE, SFO  
Secretary: ROSALIE CAUCEGLIA, SFO  
Treasurer: CHRISTOPHER TRAUSE, SFO  
Formation Director: THERESA ZITO, SFO

PRESIDER OF ELECTION: DIANE MENDITTO, SFO  
FRIAR WITNESS: FR. ROBERT WILLIAMS, OFM CAP



L-to-R: Rosalie Cauceglia, SFO, Frank Catalano, SFO, Theresa Zito, SFO, John Trause, SFO, Christopher Trause, SFO.

PHOTO CREDIT: DIANE MENDITTO, SFO

### **ST. LOUIS FRATERNITY 125, HACKENSACK, NJ**

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS—MARCH 21, 2010

#### THE NEW COUNCIL:

Minister: JOSEPH PARK, SFO  
Vice Minister: ANDUSA KONG, SFO  
Secretary: ELIZABETH CHO, SFO  
Treasurer: JULIANNA OHE, SFO  
Formation Director: JOHN KIM, SFO

PRESIDER OF ELECTION: RON PIHOKKER, SFO  
FRIAR WITNESS: DIANE MENDITTO, SFO, DELEGATE  
FOR FR. RICHARD TREZZA, OFM



L-to-R: Joseph Park, SFO, Andusa Kong, SFO, Elizabeth Cho, SFO, Julianna Ohe, SFO, John Kim, SFO.

PHOTO CREDIT: DIANE MENDITTO, SFO

### **ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FRATERNITY 161, BUTLER, NJ**

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS—JUNE 13, 2010

#### THE NEW COUNCIL:

Minister: ANDREW KLUTKOWSKI, SFO  
Vice Minister: LUCY COX, SFO  
Secretary: BETTY REIMER, SFO  
Treasurer: ALBERTA TAYLOR, SFO  
Formation Director: ED WOJCIECHOWSKI, SFO

PRESIDER OF ELECTION: RON PIHOKKER, SFO  
FRIAR WITNESS: FR. RICHARD TREZZA, OFM

### **ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FRATERNITY 143, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ**

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS—JUNE 13, 2010

#### THE NEW COUNCIL:

Minister: ITALIA RAGUCCI TESTA, SFO  
Vice Minister: MARY LARSEN, SFO  
Secretary: ROSANNA AYERS, SFO  
Treasurer: ELLEN PATRICIA WALSH, SFO  
Formation Director: SUSAN RAGUCCI, SFO

PRESIDER OF ELECTION: ALEX KICZEK, SFO  
FRIAR WITNESS: FR. RICHARD TREZZA, OFM

### **LITTLE PORTION FRATERNITY 133, HASTINGS-ON-THE- HUDSON, NY**

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS—  
JUNE 13, 2010

#### THE NEW COUNCIL:

Minister: RICHARD SPANA, SFO  
Vice Minister: O'DONNELL JOSHUA, SFO  
Secretary: ROSE ANN CERBONE, SFO  
Treasurer: DENISE CUBITA, SFO  
Formation Dir: ANTOINETTE (TONI) MACONI, SFO

PRESIDER OF ELECTION: SHEILA TUOHY, SFO  
FRIAR WITNESS: FR. ANDRE R. CIRINO, OFM

# CONGRATULATIONS

The 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN VIANNEY FRATERNITY, ISELIN, NJ, was celebrated with a special Anniversary and Profession Mass held on Sunday, September 12, 2010 at 12:15pm with the congregation at St. John Vianney Church. The celebrant, Rev. Joseph Kubiak, who is also the Spiritual Assistant of the Fraternity presided, and was assisted by Deacon Ed Campanella, SFO.

Fr. Kubiak gave an inspiring homily in which he preached about St. Francis, the fraternity, and our SFO purpose.

A reception following Mass was held immediately afterwards which was very pleasant & joyful.



As part of the 40TH Anniversary celebration, on October 18 the fraternity went to St. Anne's Soup Kitchen in Newark, NJ, to help serve and greet the people being served. The fraternity brought 4 sheet cakes to serve and they mingled with the people while they were there. The fraternity was moved by the gratefulness of the people and it was a learning experience to be in their company.

16

On Saturday, June 19, 2010, **JOSEPH PATRONA, SFO** was ordained Deacon by Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Joe was professed in the Secular Franciscan Order on October 4, 1984 and is a member of the **LITTLE PORTION FRATERNITY, HASTINGS-ON-THE-HUDSON, NY.**



## FRIAR MEETS FAMILY OF BLESSED FRANZ JÄGERSTÄTTER

During a recent pilgrimage to Oberammergau, site of the famous Passion Play performed only once every 10 years, **FRIAR ANDRÉ CIRINO, OFM, (SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT TO LITTLE PORTION FRATERNITY, HASTINGS-ON-THE-HUDSON, NY)** had a wonderful encounter with the family of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, SFO.



FRIAR ANDRÉ WITH FRANZISKA

Born in 1907 at St. Radegund in Austria, Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, SFO, refused to cooperate with the Nazi regime which had seized power in Austria in 1938; when repeatedly called up for military service, he declared himself bound to refuse by conscience and because of the commandment of the love for God and one's neighbor, for "we must obey God rather than people". It was during this time that Blessed Franz joined the Secular Franciscan Order. Condemned to death in 1943 for undermining military discipline, he was beheaded on August 9 in Germany, and merited being united to the passion of Christ. Pope Benedict XVI having issued a decree declaring him to be a martyr, on October 26, 2007 beatified him in Linz, Austria. His feast day is May 21. He is survived by his wife Franziska and three daughters—Rosalia, Maria and Aloisia.

On August 3, 2010, during the pilgrimage, the pilgrims went to St. Radegund, Austria to pray at the tomb of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, SFO, and celebrate Eucharist in the burial church. Franziska, Rosalia & Maria attended the mass and met with the pilgrims afterwards. It was a unique experience to celebrate the Eucharist in the presence of his wife and daughters.

This past November 2010, the same **LITTLE PORTION FRATERNITY, HASTINGS-ON-THE-HUDSON, NY**, hosted a day of teaching on the topic of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, SFO, titled "*Fidelity to Faith in time of War*", by Fr. Donald Moore, SJ, who spoke about the highlights of Jägerstätter's life, the ultimate sacrifice for his faith, and his fidelity to conscience.





Every year the local Minister's of our Region receive lovely custom made invitations to the Convivenza, and to the Chapter of Ministers. The cards are on a light paper stock and always have a felt figure on the cover. This year it was a TAU cross, last year it was the figure of St. Francis.

The OLTAR Region wishes to recognize and thank the special efforts of **DOLORES JULES, SFO**, from St. John Vianney Fraternity, Iselin, NJ, who lovingly takes the time to create these lovely and unique pieces.

Explaining her most recent creation, Dolores explained how she makes them; "I trace the Tau on a square piece of felt, I get five or six on the square, and just cut them out. The invitation is made with my card program, and then I just glue the Tau onto the card. It takes maybe 3 - 4 hours to cut & paste. For the envelopes, I try and put the addresses into my printing program. Getting it set up with the size of the card takes even more time; I'd rather do it by hand. "I enjoy doing it, and I make all the Franciscan cards for my fraternity. Many people also buy some to sell". **THANK YOU, DOLORES.**

## SECULAR FRANCISCANS AWARDED THE FRANCIS MEDAL



Fr. Kevin Downey, OFM,  
pastor of St. Mary's Church of  
Pompton Lakes, NJ, honored five

parishioners while celebrating the Feast day of St. Francis during the 12:00 Noon Mass. The five parishioners, all strong supporters of faith formation, received the Province's *Francis medal*. Fr. Kevin said he'd selected these parishioners because they have had a "profound effect on the faith formation of our parish from youth to adults."

17

The *Francis Medal* is the highest award the Franciscans of Holy Name Province gives to recognize individuals who, in the spirit of St. Francis, have made a significant contribution to one of their ministries. Two of the recipients are Seculars Franciscans of our own region:

**TOM BROWN, SFO**, director of religious education for the Diocese of Paterson, has served in his position for over 44 years. He has been an invaluable resource to St. Mary's in helping and supporting the growth of their religious education program. Tom is current Formation Director of his fraternity, Most Holy Name of Jesus, Little Falls, NJ.

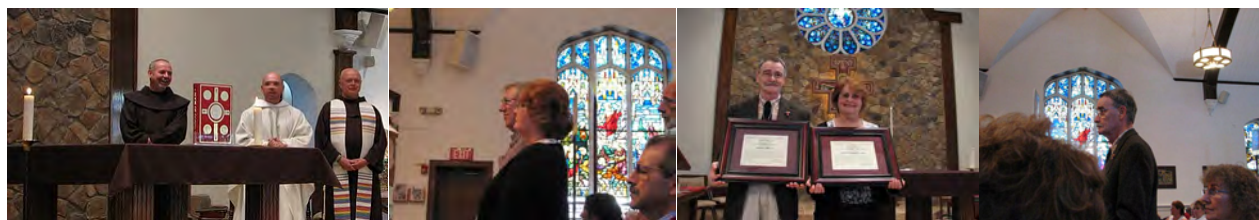
**MARCIA STAMBOULIAN, SFO**, is an active adult leader in the Youth Ministry program. She works with H.O.P.E. retreats and the SAT prep program. Marcia is a former Regional Minister of Our Lady of the Angels Region, and current Vice Minister of her fraternity, St. Mary of the Assumption, Pompton Lakes, NJ.

A reception followed in the parish's Carnevale Center where parishioners thanked the recipients "for all they have done and are still doing to bring the spirit of St. Francis to St. Mary's," Fr. Kevin said.

**CONGRATULATIONS MARCIA AND TOM!**

Additional photos of the day's event may be viewed on our website at:

[http://olangels.tripod.com/region\\_links.html](http://olangels.tripod.com/region_links.html)





## PARABLE OF IMMORTALITY

BY  
HENRY  
VAN DYKE

I am standing upon the seashore.

A ship at my side spreads her white  
sails to the morning breeze and starts for the  
blue ocean.

She is an object of beauty and strength.  
I stand and watch until at length she hangs  
like a speck of white cloud just where the sea  
and sky come down to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says,  
"There she goes!"

Gone where?  
Gone from my sight ... that is all.

She is just as large in mast  
and hull and spar as she was when she left my  
side and just as able to bear her load of living  
freight to the place of destination.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her.

And just at the moment when someone  
at my side says,

"There, she goes!"

there are other eyes watching her coming,  
and their voices ready to take up

the glad shouts,

"Here she comes!"

LET US PRAY FOR ALL OUR DEPARTED SISTERS AND  
BROTHERS IN CHRIST AND ST. FRANCIS. MAY ALL  
OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO SLEEP IN THE  
LORD SHARE ETERNAL JOY AND PEACE.

† **FRANCES WICKS, SFO**, editor of the *TAU-USA* National  
Newsletter, and beloved wife of former National Minister,  
Bill Wicks, SFO. She passed away on February 18, 2010.

### ST. JOHN VIANNEY FRATERNITY 135, ISELIN, NJ

† **ARNULFO (ARNIE) MORENO, SFO**

Passed away October 9, 2010

Professed April 1, 1978

Affectionately known as Arnie to his family and  
friends, he quietly passed away at the *Center for Hope  
Hospice* in Scotch Plains, NJ. Beloved husband of 31 years  
to Valerie Moreno, SFO, and loving father of Mary Moreno-  
Buczowski, and cherished grandfather of baby Levi G.  
Buczowski.

Valerie wrote a brief note to notify us of Arnie's  
death, part of which I'd like to share: ..He died as I was  
singing the song, "Brother Sun, Sister Moon" to him. It was  
peaceful and God-filled. The sadness is exquisite, but  
I know he's OK, health-filled and can see ... God answered  
our prayers, Arnie wanted to be at the hospice and he  
passed beautifully and gently into Heaven.

### ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY 102, WOOD-RIDGE, NJ

† **ROSE MACCARONIO, SFO**

Passed away March 6, 2009

Professed June 8, 1986

† **MARIE WARD, SFO**

Passed away February 17, 2010

Professed June 12, 1998

### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY 105 JERSEY CITY, NJ

† **CARMEN LATKO, SFO**

Passed away earlier this year, 2010

Professed January 1, 1997

† **CLARE VIDULICH, SFO**

Passed away earlier this year, 2010

### MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS FRATERNITY 112 LITTLE FALLS, NJ

† **PAUL UMBERTO, SFO**

Passed away September 18, 2010

Professed July 28, 1985

### ST. PETER'S FRATERNITY 113, SOMERSET, NJ

† **MARIE GALLE, SFO**

Passed away November 2009

† **ROSE SIA, SFO**

Passed away December 2009

### SACRED HEART FRATERNITY 146, YONKERS, NY

† **ELIZABETH BATES, SFO**

Passed away February 17, 2010

Professed June 23, 1963

### IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY FRATERNITY 153 NYC, NY

† **CORNELIUS BASTABLE, SFO**

Passed away earlier this year, 2010

† **FRANCIS CHAMBERS, SFO**

Passed away earlier this year, 2010

† **JOSEPH SELF, SFO**

Passed away earlier this year, 2010

### ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY FRATERNITY 154 PERTH AMBOY, NJ

† **HELEN ZOLDOS, SFO**

Passed away August 18, 2010

Professed April 29, 1979

A dearly beloved sister, Helen was 96 years old, and  
a Secular Franciscan for 31 years. She was the fraternity  
Secretary, before being confined to a home because of her  
age and health. She was a very dedicated SFO who will be  
greatly missed.



**FR. MATTHEW L. GASKIN, OFM**, 88 years of age, a professed Franciscan friar for 64 years, died on Saturday, June 5, 2010, at Holy Name Friary in Ringwood, NJ. He would have celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination on June 13.

Fr. Matthew was born November 20, 1921, in Buffalo, NY, to Edward and Irene Gaskin. On December 11 he was baptized Edward George at St. Gerard Church in Buffalo. He was received into the Order of Friars Minor in Holy Name Province on August 12, 1944, at St. Bonaventure Friary in Paterson, NJ, receiving the name Matthew Lawrence. He professed his first vows there on August 14, 1945, then pursued the usual two-year course of studies in philosophy, receiving his B.A. from St. Bonaventure University in 1947.

He studied theology at Holy Name College in Washington, D.C., where he professed his final vows on September 17, 1948. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 11, 1950, by Archbishop Amleto Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, in the Chapel of Trinity College in Washington, D.C. Upon completion of his studies at Holy Name College in 1951, Fr Gaskin was assigned to the Pontifical Anthonian Athenaeum in Rome, receiving his Licentiate in Sacred Theology.

In 1982 he began his long association with the Secular Franciscan Order. In 1984, he was named Provincial Spiritual Assistant to the SFO of Holy Name Province. Residing in Buffalo until 1986; moved to St. Francis Friary in NYC; then to St. Anthony Friary in Butler, NJ, in 1987, which remained his home for the next 17 years.

Fr. Matt continued as Provincial Spiritual Assistant until 2001. From 1993-99, he served as the National Spiritual Assistant, and as Spiritual Assistant to the National Formation Commission, as well as the National Peace and Justice Commission. He served in this role during a crucial period during the life of the Secular Franciscans in the United States, as they moved from a traditional structure under the oversight of the First Order provinces to national regionalization.

Fr. Matt provided crucial leadership during this process and was named the Regional Spiritual Assistant to the Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity. He retired from active ministry in Butler in 2002, but due to failing health, took up residence at Holy Name Friary in Ringwood, in 2004.

#### A TRIBUTE FROM RON PIHOKKER, SFO

"He loved and dedicated much of his ministry to the SFO. Father Matt was a sought after speaker and retreat master, a gifted writer and was very passionate about his dedication to the SFO.

19

In recent years, Father Matt suffered from Parkinson's Disease and resided at the Friars' Infirmary—St. Francis Friary in Ringwood, NJ. He was a very dear friend and brother—like a second father to me; his passing will leave a big hole in our hearts.

I am very happy to say that my wife, Jody, and I, along with Dick Morton, SFO, former National Minister, had visited with Father Matt the previous afternoon. It was a great privilege to have spent some time with him just before his death. We brought him a chocolate milkshake which he enjoyed with a flourish. We were with him until 5:30pm. He went to sleep at 8:00pm and when the nurses checked on him at 10:00pm he was gone. A peaceful death.

Praise God for the gift of Fr. Matt!"

#### A TRIBUTE FROM FR. RICHARD TREZZA, OFM

"Matt had a passion for the SFO and knew that it could be more than it was. For that reason, he rejoiced in the Rule of 1978 and, searching for a better way for it to be lived out, brought to maturity the idea of the Apostolic Commissions. He jumped enthusiastically into his ministry of making the SFO better known to the friars and encouraged me personally to get involved on the Regional and National levels. I was happy to follow him as SA to the Formation Commission and was able to assist in furthering his vision of Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel while serving as SA to the National Commission Chairs. It has been a pleasure to succeed him as Provincial SA for Holy Name Province.

As a group of brothers, we in Holy Name Province will miss him because among his other ministerial accomplishments, he was just a good friar who loved the fraternity, the Order and the Church. He always referred to himself as a "true son of the Council (Vatican II)" and as far as I am concerned, was always disposed to be of assistance to the Church and the Order.

He will be missed. May he rest in the peace of Christ!"

**GENERAL INFORMATION** • *The Troubadour* is published quarterly by Our Lady of the Angels Region of the Secular Franciscan Order.

If you wish to receive a printed copy of *The Troubadour* newsletter, please send your name, complete address, and e-mail to:  
Regional Database Administrator, Anna Geraci, SFO, 161-B Cross Slope Ct., Manalapan, NJ 07726, or go to our website at:

<http://olangels.tripod.com/troubadour.html>



Don't forget to notify me when you had a change in address, phone, e-mail address, or membership status.

- 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. Some 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, disks and original art will be returned upon publication completion.

—APG, Editor



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL NEWSLETTER  
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER  
161-B CROSS SLOPE CT.  
MANALAPAN, NJ 07726-2424



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
New York, NY  
Permit No. PI 1976



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



**REGIONAL NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Anna P. Geraci, SFO  
161-B Cross Slope Ct.  
Manalapan, NJ 07726

E-mail: [TroubadourEditor@aol.com](mailto:TroubadourEditor@aol.com)

**REGIONAL WEBSITE**

[www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org](http://www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org)

**REGION WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR**

Diane F. Menditto, SFO

**REGIONAL YAHOO GROUP**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OLTARegion>

**REGIONAL YAHOO LIST ADMINISTRATOR**

Peggy Ledger, SFO

**REGIONAL DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR**

Anna P. Geraci, SFO

**OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS  
2008-2011**

**REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:**

**MINISTER:**

Ronald L. Pihokker, SFO

**VICE-MINISTER:**

Diane F. Menditto, SFO

**SECRETARY:**

Kate Asselin, SFO

**TREASURER:**

Richard Spana, SFO

**FORMATION DIRECTOR:**

Virginia Chin, SFO

**COUNCILORS:**

Julia McCants, SFO

—Manhattan

Alexander Kiczek, SFO

—Staten Island/Central Jersey

Andrew Klutkowski, SFO

—North Jersey

Sheila Tuohy, SFO

—Westchester

**JPIC CHAIR:**

Jean Haddad, SFO

**SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS:**

Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM

East Rutherford, NJ

Fr. Robert Williams, OFM CAP

Bronx, NY

**CALL FOR ARTICLES**

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



All articles for our Spring issue must be received by:

MARCH 15, 2011

**SUBMISSIONS:**

E-MAIL: [TroubadourEditor@aol.com](mailto:TroubadourEditor@aol.com)

Please write TROUBADOUR in the subject line.

MAIL: Anna P. Geraci, SFO  
Editor—*The Troubadour*  
161-B Cross Slope Ct.  
Manalapan, NJ 07726

