



ROUBADOUR

SPRING 2011

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

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers:
The Lord is Risen! Alleluia!

I am very happy to report that our *Convivenza 2011* celebrating our 15th anniversary of establishment as Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity was a wonderful success. Our speakers, Richard Morton, SFO, former National Minister and Chairman of the Regionalization Committee of NAFRA which steered the process of the development of the Regional Fraternities in our country; and Mary Stronach, SFO, National co-chair of Public Relations for NAFRA and Regional Formation Director of the Kateri Tekakwitha Regional Fraternity; both did outstanding jobs in reflecting on the background and the hopes of Regionalization and on planning for the future of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Files containing the PowerPoint presentations and handouts of both speakers have been posted on our website for your reflection and use.

We are very grateful for the wonderful welcome extended to us by Sacred Heart Fraternity in Yonkers under the leadership of Regional Councilor and Fraternity Minister Sheila Touhy, SFO. The beautiful facility and the marvelous refreshments prepared for us made the day very special indeed. Fr. Andrew Nowak, OFM Cap., Sacred Heart Fraternity Spiritual Assistant, celebrated a wonderful Mass for us in the beautiful Sacred Heart Church making the day a rich and prayerful experience.

The sharing and dialogue among the participants was lively and the day left us with a better understanding of our roots as a region and challenged us to think seriously about where we are going as a Regional Fraternity, something all of us need to continue to consider as individual fraternities that make up our Regional Fraternity.

I am deeply grateful to all who had a hand in making the day a success and to all who participated.

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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



(Continued from page 1)

PHOTO CREDITS: DIANE MENDITTO, SFO AND ROBERT STRONACH, SFO



And this leads me to my next point, which is more difficult to raise. I was disappointed that more of our brothers and sisters from our Regional Fraternity were not with us for this once a year "Family Reunion."

The annual *Convivenza* has been our yearly "Chapter of Mats"— not a business meeting or meeting of the regional council, but intended as a gathering of all the members of our Regional Fraternity for fellowship, prayer and on-going formation.

Each year, your Regional Executive Council has gone to great effort to bring you stimulating and interesting speakers and worked to make all participants welcome and have a good and worthwhile experience. Although, as we learned from the presentations at the *Convivenza*, we are the smallest Region by geographic area, we are one of the largest in number of fraternities and number of professed members. Having over forty fraternities and over 1000 professed members literally squeezed into our metropolitan area in a geographic region which is only 60 miles by 70 miles, it is very frustrating to your Regional Executive Council that so few attend. Other Regions have overnight gatherings and go to great expense to be together both in terms of overnight accommodations as well as the cost of travel—some for hundreds of miles and hours of driving in order to be with their brothers and sisters in community.

We learned, for example, that the Queen of Peace Regional Fraternity in Minnesota of which Richard Morton, SFO, is a part, extends some 365,500 square miles which is larger than the combined areas of Germany and Spain (at 333,247 square miles) while we here in New York and northern New Jersey cover only 4,500 square miles! Yet, Queen of Peace Region has only 29 fraternities and 557 members in that vast area while we have over 40 fraternities and over 1,000 members.

Sadly, of that 1,000 strong membership jammed into this small geographic area served by excellent public transportation and excellent highways, less than 70 of our brothers & sisters were able to be present for our recent *Convivenza*-- our family reunion.

We need to do better. We need to have every fraternity represented at an event such as this and represented by the **majority** of each fraternity's membership.

We should not have 70, but 700 people present for such an event and I know we can do better. But we all need to value our fraternity more and being present with one another in community needs to become a priority.

Oh, I am sure that in any particular instance, there will be valid reasons for some people not to be able to attend any given event. People all have necessary family or work commitments or may be infirm and not able to travel and I am not speaking to those folks.

But to have so few people and fraternities represented from so large a potential of members is a sign of apathy and a lack of commitment to our Regional Fraternity and to our larger Franciscan family. Supporting our regional fraternity is every professed member's responsibility. We can not be content to live in the comfortable cocoon of our own local fraternity and not participate in the larger Franciscan family. We need each and every member to consider their personal commitment and responsibility to their brothers and sisters and to their own on-going formation.

Please, let's make a real effort to do better in the future. It is your responsibility and part of your promise as a professed Secular Franciscan to participate in the life of the greater fraternity. I know you will be glad for the experience of sharing with your sisters and brothers from throughout the region if you do participate. I look forward to seeing you all at *Convivenza* 2012.

May God bless you and your families and fraternities with Easter joy.

Faternally,

Ron Pihokker, SFO, Regional Minister





FR. RICHARD TREZZA, OFM

*Regional Spiritual Assistant
Our Lady of the Angels
Regional Fraternity (OLTAR)*

EASTER - The Springtime of Life

It is the end of March as I write this article.

According to the calendar, it is Spring.

Here in the northeast, we are still waiting for the “feeling” of Spring.

We await those cues ... flowers, the chirping of birds and especially, a little warmth after the severe winter just experienced. There is a definite dis-connect between the knowledge that we are in a particular season of the year, and our lived experience which does not convince us of that truth.

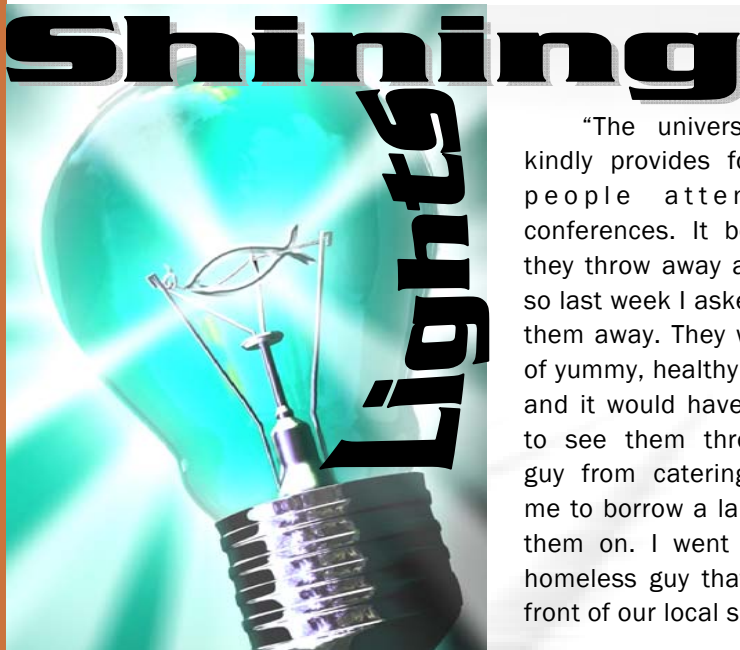
Saint Augustine said that we are Easter people and “Alleluia” is our song. He said that to us for all seasons and all times because of our status as Christian people. He was absolutely correct. As Christians, we are baptized into Easter. Our faith is in the Christ. He is the Christ because of the Resurrection.

It is true that we journey through all of the liturgical seasons. It is a pilgrimage that highlights all of the aspects of our lives and how they intersect with the Divine at different points. But we do so, not as people acting out as in a play. We take the journey having already been touched and transformed by an Easter faith. The meaning of Easter is always with us. It informs our lives, our words and deeds. It is not something we wait for to happen to us each time that Spring comes around.

At the moment, we know that it is Spring, but we are not convinced. How sad if we know that we are Easter people, but live our lives as if we are not convinced. When we made our Professions in the Order, we promised, in a public, ecclesial act, to grow in our awareness that we have been baptized into the Easter mystery of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection.

St. Clare writes in her Third Letter to Agnes of Prague, “Who is there, then, who would not encourage me to rejoice over such marvelous joys? Therefore, dearly beloved, may you too always rejoice in the Lord. And may neither bitterness nor a cloud overwhelm you ...” (51)

May this Eastertide find us generous in our willingness to mirror, by our Franciscan lives, the wonderful events which took place at that first Easter. May our enthusiasm be contagious.



“The university I work for kindly provides food for all the people attending their conferences. It bothers me that they throw away all the leftovers—so last week I asked if I could give them away. They was a huge tray of yummy, healthy sandwiches left and it would have been a shame to see them thrown away. The guy from catering even allowed me to borrow a large tray to carry them on. I went looking for the homeless guy that usually sits in front of our local supermarket.

He was sitting there reading and petting his dog on a blanket, and was thrilled when I showed him the food. He had nothing to carry the food in and offered to bring the tray back the following day. Although we had never spoken before I decided to trust him with it, and I was not disappointed. He brought it back squeaky-clean the next day and we had a nice chat while sharing some oranges. This has inspired me to share more with local homeless people.”



OLYMPIC

REGIONAL

CALENDAR

2011

June 25—9:30-3:00 pm

FORMATION WORKSHOP — SESSION 1

St. Matthias Church, 168 John F. Kennedy Blvd. Sommerset, NJ, 08873, 732-828-1400. Inquirers, Candidates and Formation Team members are invited and encouraged to attend all 3 sessions. Talks for each of the (3) sessions are different. Breakfast for the sessions will be provided. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Contact Virginia Chin, SFO at: clarevc@gmail.com

July 29, 30, 31—Weekend

**REGIONAL RETREAT COMBINED WITH
REGIONAL CANDIDATE RETREAT**

Mt. Alvernia Retreat Ctr, Wappingers Falls, NY. Same 2-track format as last year. General retreat for professed members alongside a special track retreat for candidates with separate speaker and agenda. \$160.00 per person.

Regional Retreat Masters: Fr. Andre Cirino, OFM; assisted by Deacon Joseph Patrona, SFO, three-term formation director of Little Portion Fraternity.

Candidates Retreat Master: Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM
Contact Richard Spana, SFO at: 914-478-2010 or rickspanasfo@aol.com

August 20— 9:30-3:00 pm

FORMATION WORKSHOP — SESSION 2

Inquirers, Candidates and Formation Team members are invited and encouraged to attend all 3 sessions. Talks for each of the (3) sessions are different. St. Francis of Assisi, 31st Street, between 6 & 7th Avenues, San Damiano Hall, Manhattan. 212-736-8500. Breakfast for the session will be provided in the St. Clare room. Meeting will be held in the San Damiano Hall, and noon day Mass in the upper Church. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Contact Virginia Chin, SFO at: clarevc@gmail.com

*Retreat is filling
up very rapidly.
Don't miss out—
Hurry and reserve
your place now!*

September 17—9:30-3:00 pm

FORMATION WORKSHOP — SESSION 3

Holy Name of Jesus Church, St. Mary of the Angels Chapel, 207 West 96th Street, Amsterdam Ave & Broadway, Manhattan. 212-749-0276. Inquirers, Candidates and Formation Team members are invited and encouraged to attend all 3 sessions. Breakfast for the sessions will be provided. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Contact Virginia Chin, SFO at: clarevc@gmail.com

November 19—9:00 am

CHAPTER OF MINISTERS

St. Francis, Hackensack, NJ.
Agenda includes **Chapter of Regional Elections**.
Contact: Nominating Committee Members:
Julia McCants, Sal Bonfiglio, Dorothy Pyryt, Angela Rodin.

MANHATTAN CLUSTER MEETINGS

July 16—10:00 am-3:00 pm—Picnic at Bryant Park
42nd Street and Avenue of the Americas

August 11—St Clare Feast Day Celebration

5:30 Mass in St. Francis of Assisi Upper Church, celebration after Mass in St. Clare room.

September 10—10:00 am-12:00 pm

St. Francis of Assisi Ed Center, Room 4

December 3—10:00 am-12:00 pm

St. Francis of Assisi Ed Center, Room 4

NORTH JERSEY CLUSTER MEETINGS

June 4—9:00 am-12:00 pm

CLIMATE CHANGE—

TURNING FROM PROBLEMS TO SOLUTIONS

Speakers: Greg & Connie Mattison

from the Climate Project

Location: Our Lady of the Holy Angels Church Hall
465 Main Street, Little Falls, NJ

Contact Andrew Klutkowski, SFO at 212-238-9575
or Andrew.Klutkowski@thomsonreuters.com

CENTRAL JERSEY CLUSTER MEETINGS

August 6—10:30 am

St. Mark's Church, 287 Hamilton St., Rahway, NJ

SEE PAGE 5 FOR IMPORTANT NATIONAL (NAFRA) FRATERNITY CALENDAR EVENTS



On April 16, 2011, with the Evening Prayer of Palm Sunday, the **8TH CENTENARY OF THE CONSECRATION OF ST. CLARE** along with the Founding of the Order of Poor Clares were both inaugurated in Assisi, Italy. It began with a celebrative act at the Cathedral of St. Rufino, the site where 800 years ago, the Bishop of Assisi handed a palm to the virgin Clare on Palm Sunday. Right on that same square of the Cathedral stood her house. The following day, on Holy Monday, St. Clare, the Little Plant of St. Francis fled to the hermitage of St. Mary of the Angels in order to be consecrated to the Lord through Brother Francis.

At the request of the Minister General OFM, Br. José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM, the *Apostolic Penitentiary*, has granted a plenary indulgence for the entire centenary year (**April 16, 2011–August 11, 2012**). While observing the usual conditions established by the Church, the indulgence may be gained whenever we visit a Poor Clare Monastery either on a pilgrimage or out of devotion.



JPIC WEBINAR #6

Tuesday, June 28, 7 pm Eastern,
6 pm Central, 5 pm Mountain, 4 pm Pacific
See page 16 in this issue for access information.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2011 NAFRA JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION AWARD

Nominations may be submitted by email only to
Kent Ferris, JPIC Chair kentferris45@yahoo.com
Firm deadline is **July 1, 2011**.
See page 17 in this issue for additional information.

QUINQUENNIAL XVIII

July 3–8, 2012, Chicago, IL

Theme: Why Francis? Claim the Gift

Featured speakers include:

Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF, Brother Bill Short, OFM,
Ed Shirley, SFO, Pat Brandwein-Ball, SFO.

Developing information is available on our website at:
www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org
and future issues of the *Troubadour*.

AMENDMENT UPDATE

OF THE
NAFRA STATUTES

ARTICLE 18, LOCAL FRATERNITY

AFFILIATES

13. Affiliation with a local fraternity

a. Those who, without belonging to the SFO, wish to participate in its life and activities (see GC Art. 53.5 and 103.1) according to Franciscan principles and teachings, may be welcomed by the local fraternity, so as to make their communion living and effective. Individuals wishing to become affiliates should make their desire known by a written request to the local fraternity council, which makes a decision regarding the request.

b. These affiliate brothers and sisters will have no juridical bond with the Secular Franciscan Order and are, therefore persons welcomed to love and be loved “as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ” (SFO Rule Art. 13).

They may share the experiences and activities of the fraternity, without the right to vote.

c. In order that the identity of the fraternity not be altered, the number of affiliates may not exceed 40% of the number of active professed members of a fraternity.

d. Regional councils have the right to establish their own guidelines for the acceptance of affiliates.

Las Tres Marias

by DEACON WILLIAM JOYCE, SFO

The oldest cathedral in the US is San Fernando Cathedral, in San Antonio, Texas. The Spanish built the oldest parts of the Cathedral of San Fernando, Rey de Espana, in 1738. San Fernando has a gilded altarpiece, Spanish-style artworks, and of course, the Archbishop's chair, which is what makes a church a cathedral.

But, what most strikes many visitors is a vibrantly

colorful, near life-size modern oil-on-canvas painting of three women. These are *Las Tres Marias*, the witnesses of the Resurrection. A local artist, Angel Rodriguez Diaz, did the painting a few years ago. He depicted three women: Mary of Salome; Mary, Mother of James; and Mary Magdalene. They're in customary Mexican dress, wearing *rebozos*, the traditional Mexican shawls.



The artist shows the women at different levels of faith experience. Mary of Salome is fearful, pulling her shawl more closely to herself.

Mary, Mother of James, is questioning. She's trying to understand what's happening.

But Mary Magdalene, immediately recognizable in her unveiled hair, has an expression, "I knew this was going to happen."

We are Catholic because of the Resurrection. Without the Resurrection, our religion makes no sense. Without the Resurrection, the story of Jesus becomes the tale of an itinerant and preacher who trod the dusty roads of Palestine two millennia ago; a Man who ran afoul of the powers-that-be, and died for His beliefs, in the cruelest death imaginable. But Jesus did rise from the death. He conquered sin and death, and that is what's changing the world. Like *Las Tres Marias*, we are witnesses to the Resurrection. Despite our fears, despite our questions, we testify to our belief that the Resurrection really happened; and we believe that one day, we will rise. And then, we believers will say, "I knew this was going to happen."

EXHIBITION — PASSION IN VENICE

Paintings by Jacopo Tintoretto (1519-1592) and Paolo Veronese (1528-1588) are among the 62 objects on display in the new exhibit: *Passion in Venice: Crivelli to Tintoretto and Veronese*, at the Museum of Biblical Art in Manhattan. The exhibit runs through June 12.

The exhibition presents a visual and cultural depiction of Jesus as the suffering Man of Sorrows which features works by Venetian artists through eight centuries in an array of panel and oil paintings, stone and metal sculptures, prints and illuminated manuscripts from 37 museums and private collections.

The Museum of Biblical Art, located at 1865 Broadway, at 61st Street, Manhattan, is open 6 days a week; closed on Mondays. For more information, phone 212-408-1500, or log on to www.mobia.org

ONLINE COURSE

Canticle Campus is pleased to introduce their first online course:

CARE FOR CREATION— April 24 through July 9, 2011

Sister Francesca Wigle, TSSF will facilitate this online course starting April 24.

The class will train you to become good stewards of our Mother Earth. You will need the book "*Care for Creation (A Franciscan Spirituality on Earth)*" by Ilia Delio OSF, Keith Douglass Warner OFM, and Pamela Wood.

There is no cost for the online course.

Contact Francesca at fwigle@gmail.com with questions or to sign up. Canticle Campus will send access information. All are invited.

YOUCAT

(*Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

by Christoph Cardinal Schoenborn

YOUCAT will be launched on World Youth Day, August 16-20, 2011. Developed with the help of young Catholics and written for high-school age people and young adults, **YOUCAT** is an accessible, contemporary expression of the Catholic Faith.

The appealing graphic format includes Questions-and-Answers, highly-readable commentary, summary definitions of key terms, Bible citations and inspiring and thought-provoking quotes from Saints and others in the margins.

What's more, **YOUCAT** is keyed to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, so people can go deeper. Available for purchase at: www.amazon.com

Is there a particularly Franciscan manner of approaching our own passage to the Lord and of helping others to do the same?

Franciscan
Institute
Publications

newly published book, **DYING, AS A FRANCISCAN**, addresses these questions.

This book is a collection of presentations given at the Ninth National Franciscan Forum held in Denver, Colorado, June 17–20, 2010.

With more than 100 people in attendance, this Forum allowed presenters and participants the opportunity to delve deeply into their shared experience of sharing with, ministering to, and personally preparing for the transitus from earthly to eternal life. This book allows the reader to experience, in a vicarious manner, elements of the journey that presenters & participants took in the investigation of death and dying with a specifically Franciscan interpretation.

This book looks at the challenges we face in acknowledging an increasing awareness of our fragility, of our need for the companionship of and our responsibility to be companions to our brothers and sisters on that same journey with us, and finally accepting the grace to make that final act of surrender to our Good God.

Contributors to this book are Michael Cusato, OFM, Thomas Nairn, OFM, Mary Petrosky, FMM, Kathleen McCarron, and OSF, Daniel Sulmasy, OFM.

Now available for purchase at their website listed under “New Arrivals” at: www.franciscanpublications.com

Mail:

Franciscan Institute Publications
PO Box 17, St Bonaventure, NY 14778-0017
Attn: Jill Smith, Business Manager
T: 716-375-2062 ▪ Email: fip@sbu.edu

THE TOMB OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI was reopened to the



public on April 9, 2011, after a restoration cleaned away decades of candle smoke and ash and allowed the original pink stone to shine through again.

For two months expert metal polishers and stone restorers labored to renovate the tomb.

It was the first restoration of the crypt since its most recent restyling took place in 1930. The tomb itself, located in the crypt underneath the lower church of Assisi’s famed fresco-filled basilica, dates from 1230, four years after St. Francis died.

Franciscan priests and culture ministry officials showed off the results of the 2-month-long restoration, which removed the caked-on soot that had darkened the original pink stones. Culture undersecretary Francesco Maria Giro said it was a “light” restoration that was nevertheless symbolic, removing the black and restoring the pink, which he said denoted the love and tenderness for which St. Francis is known.

The restoration follows the massive work done to repair the Cimabue and Giotto frescoes in the basilica upstairs that were destroyed in a 1997 earthquake.

Pope Benedict XVI is expected to visit Assisi in October 2011 for a day of prayer for peace with other religious leaders.

The visit will commemorate the 25th anniversary of a day of prayer for peace in Assisi that was presided over by Pope John Paul II on October 27, 1986.

HISTORY OF THE SFO IN THE U. S. — VOL 1 1917 - 1942

by William Wicks, SFO

Each book comes with Study Guide published by NAFRA, 437 pages.

The foreword of the book Fr. Benet A. Fonck, OFM writes:

“...it places the present identity and mission of the SFO in the context of its history; it shows the future direction of gospel living by examining the past; and it threads together into a unified tapestry among all the (Franciscan) families.

HISTORY OF THE SFO IN THE U.S.

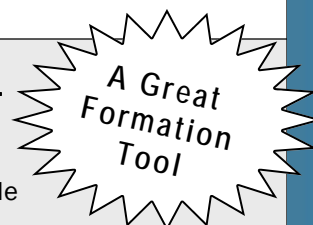
— VOL 2, 1943 - 1978 by William Wicks, SFO

Volume II covers the period from the year the Rule was promulgated by Pope Paul VI.

Both now available to order:

Mail: Smokey Valley Printing
Box 189, Lindsborg, KS 67456

T: 785.227.2364 ▪ Email: lindabce@kans.com



RISE OF PROFESSION

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

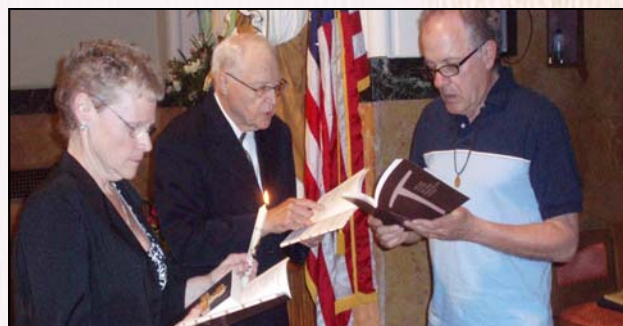


PHOTO CREDIT: KAREN FERRARI, SFO

PICTURED L-to-R: PAT MOCLAIRE, HARRY HENKY, MINISTER; JOE CORALLUZZO, FORMER FORMATION DIRECTOR.

With Franciscan joy, **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY 137, Hackensack, NJ**, celebrated the June 10, 2010 profession of **PATRICIA MOCLAIRE, SFO**.



PICTURED L-to-R: ELIANE ROCCA, PAULA MUTTER, ISABEL KERWIN, CHARLENE BERG, PINA BARTMAN.

October 16, 2010, marked a day of great joy at **ST. JOHN VIANNEY/ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY FRATERNITY 110, Paterson, NJ**, as five new members were professed in a liturgical celebration at St. Bonaventure's Church in Paterson, NJ.

Fr. Christopher Van Haight, OFM, Spiritual Assistant of the fraternity, and parochial vicar of St. Bonaventure presided at the celebration of Mass, concelebrated by Fr. Dave T. Sison, parochial vicar at St. Anthony of Padua parish in Belleville, NJ, and also a secular Franciscan member of the fraternity; Fr. Raphael Zwolenkiewicz, pastor of St. John Kanty Parish, Clifton, NJ; and Fr. Andrew Urbaniak, pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Boston, MA.

Attending was Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM, Spiritual Assistant of Our Lady of the Angels Region; Fr. Christian F. Camadella, OFM, former Spiritual Assistant of the fraternity; Ronald L. Pihokker, Regional Minister of Our Lady of the Angels region and his wife, Jody; and other Secular Franciscans from other fraternities. A reception was held in the church hall following the profession.

Youth Group

The St. Francis Youth Ministry, **FOCUS**, aims to provide guidance, companionship, and knowledge of the Catholic faith to the youth of the St. Francis, Hackensack, NJ parish community. **FOCUS** is dedicated to molding young Catholics eager to serve the parish and the community by spreading the message of our Catholic faith through prayer and the teachings of St. Francis.

Group advisors Doug and Leanne Christmann describe the Youth Ministry as consisting of adult leaders and youth from 9th grade and up, with about 25 members.

Each youth ministry meeting has an opening prayer to St. Francis, with a scripture reading and meditation on Francis's life. The youth ministry has been involved in Service Projects, such as food drives for the parish food pantry and visits to the nursing home to spend time with patients.

Most recently the youth ministry teamed up with the SFO to collect hats, scarves and gloves for the poor & needy in Hackensack. During the Lenten season the youth attended a weekly Bible study to learn more about the Gospels & to grow closer in their relationship with Jesus Christ. We have had fundraisers throughout the year to pay for transportation to the NJ State Youth Rally in May in which all parishes in the state participate.



PICTURED: Members of the FOCUS Youth Ministry and members of St. Francis Fraternity, Hackensack, NJ.

PHOTO CREDIT: DIANE MENDITTO, SFO

ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR FRATERNITY 103 NEW YORK CITY, NY

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS—MARCH 7, 2011

THE NEW COUNCIL:

Minister: PATRICIA CLAYTON, SFO
Vice Minister: ELENITA DEGUZMAN, SFO
Secretary: NICOLE HANLEY, SFO
Treasurer: PAUL BEELITZ, SFO
Formation Director: NANCY BURROUGHS-EVANS, SFO

PRESIDER OF ELECTION: JULIA MCCANTS, SFO
FRIAR WITNESS: FR. ROBERT WILLIAMS, OFM CAP

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY FRATERNITY 153 NEW YORK CITY, NY

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS—DECEMBER 5, 2010

THE NEW COUNCIL:

Minister: DEACON ROBERTO S. ABUNDO, SFO
Vice Minister: CLEMENCEAU PIERRE-ANTOINE, SFO
Secretary: GEORGE JACEK, SFO
Treasurer: ERNESTO BLAS, JR., SFO
Formation Director: NEIL MILLER, SFO

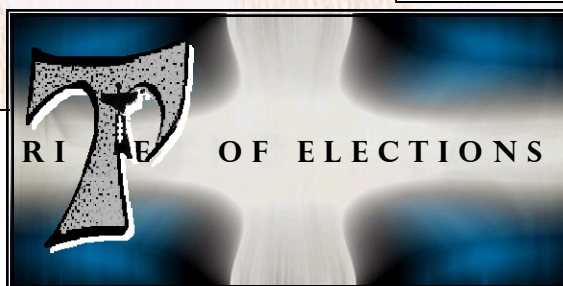
PRESIDER OF ELECTION: JULIA MCCANTS, SFO; VIRGINIA CHIN, SFO
MARGARET ANN LEDGER, SFO
FRIAR WITNESS: FR. JOHN B. RIORDAN, OFM CAP

KOREAN MARTYRS FRATERNITY 119 NEW YORK CITY, NY

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS—
FEBRUARY 6, 2011

THE NEW COUNCIL:

Minister: VERONICA HO, SFO
Vice Minister: ELIZABETH WON, SFO
Secretary: CLARE KANG, SFO
Treasurer: ANGELA CHOI, SFO
Formation Director: JUSTINA OH, SFO
PRESIDER OF ELECTION: RON PIHOKKER, SFO
FRIAR WITNESS: FR. RICHARD TREZZA, OFM



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

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY 108 RINGWOOD, NJ

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS—APRIL 10, 2011

THE NEW COUNCIL:

Minister: NANCY IHNAT, SFO
Vice Minister: CONNIE KOHN, SFO
Secretary: KEN BROWNELL, SFO
Treasurer: BILL HURLEY SFO
Formation Director: MADELINE HURLEY, SFO
COUNCILOR: BILL BURKE, SFO

PRESIDER OF ELECTION: RON PIHOKKER, SFO
FRIAR WITNESS: FR. LARRY BURKE, OFM

ST. JOHN VIANNEY-ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY FRATERNITY 110, PATERSON, NJ

CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS—MARCH 18, 2011

THE NEW COUNCIL:

Minister: JOAN FERRARY, SFO
Vice Minister: TED COOMBS, SFO
Secretary: CARMELLA LEHOCKY, SFO
Treasurer: DIANE PALAZZONE SFO
Formation Director: FR. DAVE SISON, SFO
Corresponding Secretary: SUE NESTORY, SFO

PRESIDER OF ELECTION:

RON PIHOKKER, SFO; DIANE MENDITTO, SFO
FRIAR WITNESS: FR. RICHARD TREZZA, OFM
FR. CHRISTOPHER VAN HAIGHT, OFM



PHOTO CREDIT: DIANE MENDITTO, SFO

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Fr. Christopher Van Haight, OFM.

THE DAY THE POPE WAS SHOT

THIRTY YEARS AGO—
A RETROSPECT

This article includes the first-person account of Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, personal secretary to Pope John Paul II, of the day the Holy Father was shot.



We did not attempt to give him first aid nor take the injured Pope to his apartment. Every minute was precious. We therefore transferred him to an ambulance in which there was also his personal doctor, Dr. Renato Buzzonetti, and we rushed him to the Polyclinic Gemelli [Gemelli Hospital].

Italy, May 1981 was a turbulent month. The referendum on the abortion law was to take place and so a large demonstration had been planned in Rome by the Communist Party on 13 May.

That same day, the Holy Father was to found the Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family at the Pontifical Lateran University and to establish the Pontifical Council for the Family as an organ of the Holy See.

At 5:00 o'clock that afternoon the Pope was to hold the usual Wednesday General Audience.

At 5:17 pm, during his second tour of the square, the shots fired at John Paul II were heard. Ali Mehmet Agca, a professional killer, had fired a pistol, (*photo 1*) injuring the Holy Father in the stomach, on the right cheek and in the index finger.

A bullet passed through the Pope's body and fell between us. I heard two shots. The bullets hit another two people. I was spared, but their force was such that they could have passed through more people.

I asked the Holy Father: "Where?" He answered: "In the stomach".

"Does it hurt?" He answered: "It hurts."

At that instant he began to collapse. Standing behind him, I was able to support him. He was drained of strength. It was a dramatic moment. (*photos 2,3,4*)

Today I can say that at that instant an invisible power came into action, making it possible to save the life of the Holy Father who was in mortal danger.

There was no time to think, there was no doctor within reach. A single erroneous decision could have had catastrophic effects.

On the way there the Holy Father was still conscious; he fainted on entering the hospital. As long as he could, he prayed in a whisper.

Arriving at the Polyclinic, the injured Pope was immediately taken to the operating room. From that moment the doctors were burdened by an enormous responsibility.

The surgeon, Professor Francesco Crucitti, played a special role. He confided to me later that he had not been on duty that day and was at home, but a mysterious force had impelled him to go to the hospital. On his way, he had heard on the radio the news of the attempt on the Pope's life. He immediately offered to perform the operation. Professor Crucitti was assisted by other doctors. The operating room was crowded. The situation was very serious.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

The Pope's body was suffering lack of blood and the blood for the transfusion turned out to be incompatible.

Doctors at the Polyclinic who had the same blood type gave their blood without a qualm to save the Holy Father's life.

At a certain point, Dr. Buzzonetti turned to me, asking me to administer the Anointing of the Sick since the patient was in grave danger; his blood pressure was falling, and his heartbeat very faint.

The blood transfusion restored him to a condition in which it was possible to begin the surgery, which was extremely complicated. The operation lasted five hours and 20 minutes. From minute to minute, however, his hopes of survival increased. The doctors reported that the bullets missed major arteries by mere millimeters. The path the bullets took swerved.

After the operation the Holy Father was taken to the recovery room. The doctors feared infection and other complications. When he came to, the Holy Father asked:

"Have we said Compline?" It was the day after the assassination attempt. For two days the Pope was in great pain, but his hopes of life were increasing. He remained in intensive care until 18 May. (photo 5)

On the first day after the operation, the Holy Father received Holy Communion, and in the following days, he concelebrated the Eucharist in bed.

On Sunday morning, 17 May, the Holy Father recorded a short reflection for the Regina Caeli. It consisted of words of thanks for the prayers of many of the faithful, of forgiveness for the would-be assassin, and of entrustment to Our Lady. He credited his survival to the help from the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The attempt on his life had gathered the Church and the world around him. This was the first fruit of his suffering.

Poland watched on bended knee. The Gemelli Polyclinic was besieged by journalists, ecclesiastical and lay figures and thousands of people, ordinary folk. They came to the Pope with love. Telegrams arrived from all over the world — in the first few days more than 15,000 were counted.



A week after the attempt on his life, people began insistently to associate the date of the attack with the apparitions of Fatima. The rumor of a miraculous healing through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima became more and more widespread. As soon as he felt stronger, the Holy Father began to accept visits; we would normally celebrate Mass at 6:00 pm, and then sing the litanies of the month of May with our sisters.

On 27 May, the Holy Father complained of a pain in his heart. The patient's condition was deteriorating. He was subjected to a careful checkup. Cardiologists monitored him all night long. Heart problems, as the doctors explained, had occurred because of a minor pulmonary embolism which was gradually reabsorbed. Day by day the worrying symptoms disappeared from the electro-cardiogram.

On 28 May, the Solemnity of the Lord's Ascension, his state of health improved, but his hospital stay had to be extended. On 31 May, the Holy Father recorded his address for the recitation of the Regina Caeli. His voice was already stronger. On the morning of 1 June, as always, the Pope dedicated himself to meditation and prayers. He then submitted to the medical examinations. Later the Holy Father received official visits and visits from friends. On that day, after evening Mass, we began the functions in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Holy Father went home on 3 June.

John Paul firmly believed that the Virgin's "unseen hand" had "rescued him from death in the assassination attempt." The Pope gave thanks to the Virgin Mary stating, "One hand pulled the trigger and another hand moved away the bullet".

John Paul gave the bullet that was extracted from his abdomen to the Fatima shrine in Portugal as a measure of his gratitude. (photo 7) Today, the 9mm bullet today forms part of the crown of the statue of the Virgin.

(Continued on page 12)



(Continued from page 11)

On a special thanksgiving pilgrimage to Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal on May 12, 1982, a second assassination attempt was made on Pope John Paul II's life, this time by Father Juan María Fernández y Krohn, a Spanish priest who lunged at the Holy



Father with a knife. It had been reported that the knife missed the Pope, but after his death, Pope John Paul II's secretary, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, said, "I can now reveal that the Holy Father was wounded. When we got back to the room, there was blood." Father Fernández objected to the Pope's support of the Second Vatican Council; he was sentenced to six years in prison after which he was deported from Portugal.

Thirty years later on May 1, 2011, Pope John Paul II was beatified. May, the month which is dedicated to the Blessed Mother to whom Pope John Paul II felt a great devotion. The same month which also celebrates the feast of Divine Mercy which is closely linked to his spirituality. John-Paul entrusted the entire world "to Divine Mercy—to the unlimited trust in God the Merciful."

The miracle necessary for Pope John Paul II's beatification was the Parkinson's disease cure of French Sister of the Congregation of Little Sisters of Catholic Maternity Wards, Sr. Marie Simon-Pierre. (photo 9) She was cured of Parkinson's two months after the death of Pope John Paul II after she began praying to him. "There was a new strength inside me, and my body was rediscovering its utility and fluidity."

For the news conference, I told him to stay right beside me," said Sr. Marie Simon-Pierre. To be declared miraculous, cures must be "found complete and lasting," involving a "serious illness which is incurable," and must involve a sudden "indisputable change from a precise medical diagnosis of a known illness to a situation of restored health."

The "feast day" of Blessed John Paul II will be October 22 which was selected because it is the anniversary of the liturgical inauguration of his papacy in 1978.

photo 6: Meeting & forgiving Ali Agca at Rebibbia prison, Christmas 1983.

photo 8: The site of the May 13, 1981 shooting is marked by a small marble tablet bearing John Paul's papal coat of arms and the date in Roman numerals.

GO-BABIES

by
EMILY BELZ
WORLD MAGAZINE



"Free hot chocolate!" called out Alexander Kiczek, of Middletown, NJ, standing under a tree with his wife, Carol. They had a big pot of the stuff on a camper stove, ladling it out to passersby. "I just don't feel like going anywhere without feeding somebody," said Kiczek, who serves on the board of directors for a soup kitchen. Teenagers, who made up most of the crowd of the January 24, Right-to-Life-March, swarmed the pot of hot chocolate, wearing sweatshirts with slogans like, "Your MOM is pro-life!"

Kiczek isn't sure Republicans will follow through on their promises, or that Congress will do much for the pro-life cause: "It's very difficult, that's all. It's hopeful, but hopeful is different from being completely optimistic. But if we weren't somewhat optimistic we wouldn't be here, would we?"

He interrupts himself: "Free hot chocolate! Hey, for you, I'm charging double! Look at the size of that guy!" Then Kiczek explained further:

Optimistic is like when you start putting up a crib and buying baby clothes. Hopeful is when you're still trying to have a baby."

The Kiczeks' foster son, Ronald Shough, 56, stood nearby holding a sign. Shough, who is disabled, has lived with them 30 years. He was born with a cleft palate, which wasn't repaired and kept him from learning to speak, hampering his mental development.

The Kiczeks' took him in when the state sent the institutionalized into homes. The couple has seven children, now ages 24 to 42, but began taking in disabled adult foster children after losing one of their children soon after birth to a heart defect.

"They said, 'He's not very good looking,' Carol Kiczek remembered. We said, 'What is the difference?' All children are God's children."

COMPLETE ARTICLE AVAILABLE AT:
<http://www.worldmag.com/webextra/17551>



ST. JOHN VIANNEY AND ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA COMBINED LENTEN CONFERENCE

by:
DOLORES KOCH, SFO
ST. JOHN VIANNEY FRATERNITY
ISELIN, NJ

We were blessed to have Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM, with us for a special Lenten Program on Sunday, March 13. After a time of reflection with song, Fr. Trezza introduced us to what our actions should be during Lent: Pray, Pay and Obey. He reminded us that penance is not an allotted time, but it is for us a lifestyle. Every day we make an honest attempt to overcome challenges and temptations for a daily conversion.

Here is a summary of Pray, Pay and Obey:

PRAY as you CAN, not as you can't!
PRAY any place because God is there.
PRAY not because we love to pray,
but because we love God.

PAY...ALMSGIVING

We are to give NOT from our surplus,
but from our need.

OBEY...FASTING

We fast from food to empty ourselves
to be hungry for the Word and the Eucharist.
God wants to fill us with Himself.

Later, Fr. Trezza spoke about the Gospels during the Sundays in Lent. He said that the Catechumens need to hear these Gospels, and we need to understand them so that we can help the Catechumens to have a true conversion... a real change of heart.



The Gospels that Fr. Trezza spoke on were:

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS IN THE DESERT

Devils wanted Jesus to try to be someone God didn't mean for Him to be.

1st Temptation – Change stones to bread...
Tempted Jesus to do the Extraordinary, a magic act.

2nd Temptation – Throw yourself down...
Tempted to prove that He is God.

3rd Temptation – Worship the Devil...
Will NOT worship false gods.

THE TRANSFIGURATION

Jesus' true inner self was shown and the Apostles cowered! We share in Jesus' glory because He is within us. This glory is to be shown through us!

BARTIMAEUS (THE BLIND MAN)

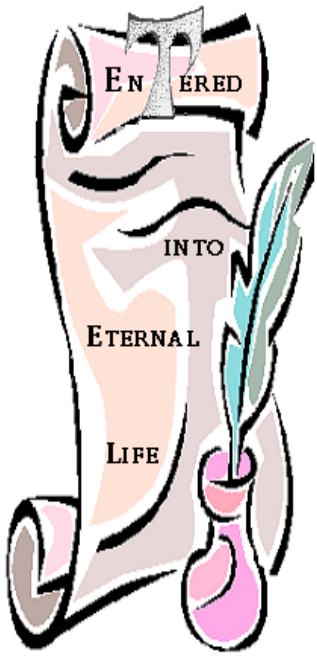
Pharisees didn't want to see who Jesus was. They were afraid that He would destroy what they had already set up. Jesus wants to give us an honest, inner vision. He will show us ourselves as we are and will also give the grace to change!

WOMAN AT THE WELL – THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

This encounter shows a "melting of the soul" by the Word of God. This causes us to have an examination of conscience.

LAZARUS RAISED FROM THE DEAD

Jesus is Lord over life and death. Others were ordered to help free Lazarus so that he could come back to life and new living among his surroundings. We are to relieve discomfort and get on with worshipping God! We are released to life in God!



MAY
THE
SOULS
OF THE
FAITHFUL
DEPARTED,
THROUGH
THE MERCY
OF GOD,
REST
IN
PEACE.
AMEN.



ST. THOMAS MORE FRATERNITY 115
NEW YORK, NY

† JAMES PIEPLENBOSCH, SFO
Passed away February 8, 2011
Professed July 2, 1975



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FRATERNITY 132
NEW YORK, NY

† CONNIE PRESTIA, SFO
Passed away March 29, 2011
Professed November 24, 1996

CONSECRATION

by

BARBARA A. HAGAN, SFO
ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY FRATERNITY
STATEN ISLAND, NY

O Majestic Edifice
As I Enter— I Bow unto You
Work of God's Glory
To you do I look who guides my eyes
Not only to see your glorious beauties of green
but I gaze upon your handiwork -
Magnificence!

Like my beloved—you draw me into your
protective arms cradling me in safety and
warmth as I travel through within.

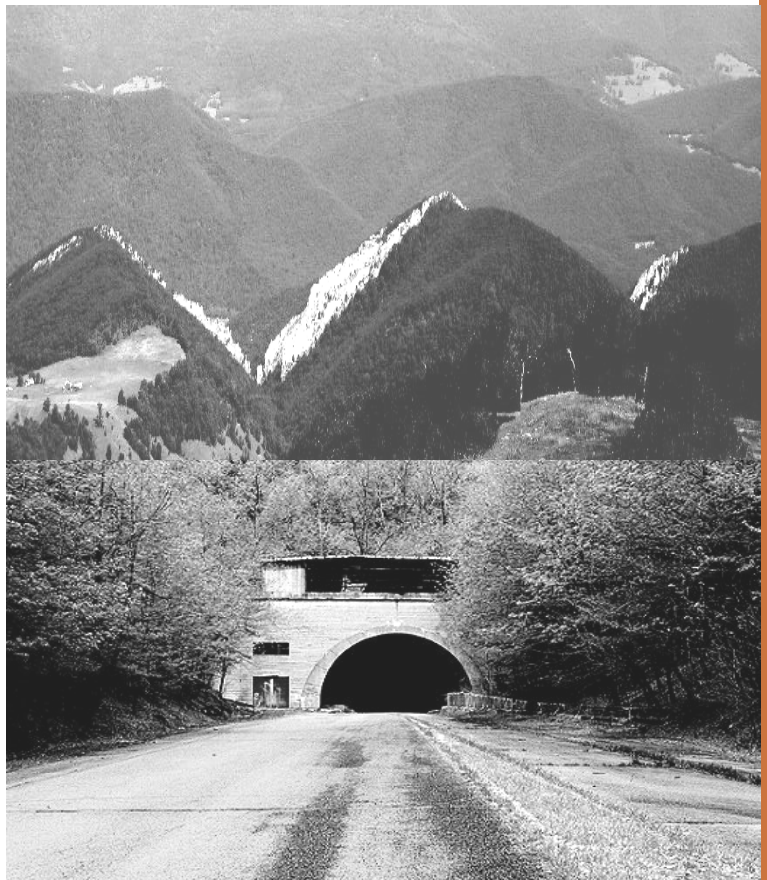
You enfold your wonder and agape
as you make me one with.
I become a part of you as I travel in
Engulfed in all the nature that is tree.

Once united to you upon the wood of
a tree ...held from falling
You hold me too from the downward abyss
of a fall by your tunnel.

I enter like Jonah into the mouth of your
peace.
I am surrounded by others who also have
chosen to do this but perhaps neglecting to
encounter YOU along the way.

You have become Present to me
Your love and concern is for All
If only they too would stretch out their arms -
Reach up and become one
Enjoying the unifying embrace.

*Written while traveling on the Pennsylvania
Turnpike, approaching the great Tuscarora Mountain.
This experience would be repeated 3 more times
entering the Kittatinny, Allegheny and Blue Mountains.*





January 24, 2011

A Day of Prayer & Service

After rejecting hot dogs, I came up with making Hot Chocolate and giving that out to the marchers. The day before, I bought 5 gallons of water & marshmallows. I already had the powder, cups, stove, pots, table, serving jug and propane.

My day started 4:30 am as I wanted to make almond cookies for the people on the bus. We ate our breakfast and packed our vehicle to make our way to 6:00 am Mass at the Church where the buses were to meet us. On our way to Mass, Carol read the Morning Prayer and I responded at the appropriate times as I drove. The Mass was a special one just for us marchers- three priests in attendance. Naturally the prayers & petitions were "life giving". The day was bitterly cold- with temperatures in Middletown in the teens. Although we could store the cups & equipment in the bus's hold, the water would freeze for sure, so it had to be stored in the overhead bins. I dressed with double socks, pajamas under my pants and sweatshirt, flannel shirt and winter jacket. Carol & Ron dressed similarly, of course.

Once on our way, the whole bus joined in saying the Rosary. The associate pastor from St. Leo's, my parish, led the first decade and I and three others led the remaining four. After that, we said the Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be for the intention of the Pope. The intention of the rosary was for a change of heart- to end the horror of abortion.

Both on the way to Washington and coming back there were hundreds of buses traveling on I-95 making their way to or from the march. You could see on the buses that they were coming from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Upstate New York and all points north. Even before getting to Washington, you could sense deeply that you were part of something really big. A large chunk of Washington, around the mall, is blocked off to traffic for the safety of the marchers. This meant our bus couldn't get any closer than 10 blocks from the mall and so all the junk to make the hot chocolate had to be hauled that distance before we could set up. The water weighed 42 pounds and really was a pain.

by ALEX & CAROL KISCEK, SFO
Cortesia Fraternity, Lincroft, NJ

Every year now since Roe vs. Wade, people come from all over to protest the Supreme Court decision that opened the floodgates of abortion in this country. This year I went with my wife Carol and foster son Ron. We had gone several times before- and really missed the excitement of the day.

I can't go anywhere without feeding people, so I schemed what I could do for this year's *Right-to-Life-March*.

We set up the table, etc. and then waited impatiently for the water to boil. Well, we never did get the water that hot- the people all around us were looking for hot chocolate from the moment we turned the stove on.

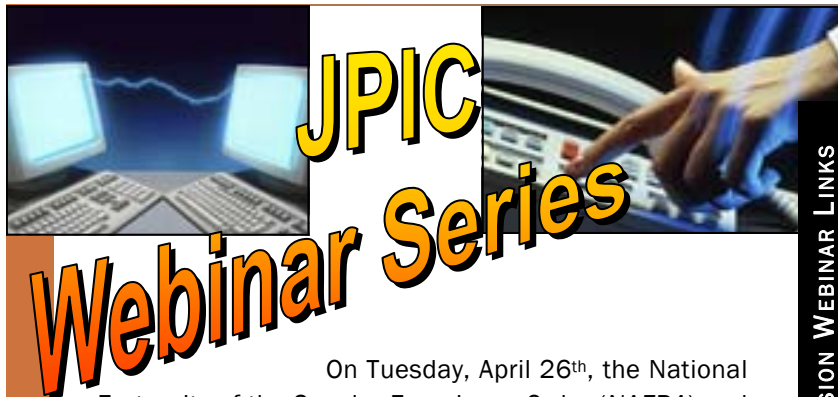
The crowd was young- many, many of the marchers were born well after Roe vs. Wade. There were people from as far away as Minneapolis and Chicago. Colleges and high schools were well represented as well as lots of sisters, seminarians, priests and bishops. The marcher that impressed us the most had a sign "I am here today because my birth mother chose adoption rather than abortion". This college woman was from Livonia, Michigan and had just met her birth Mom two weeks before. Another impressive thing was the large contingent from the Lutheran Church who marched with us.

When we were about halfway done serving the hot chocolate, a reporter from "World", a Christian magazine, interviewed Carol (see page 12 in this issue); there was no one else on the mall giving out anything for free. The pretzel sellers were all about- but getting something else to eat or drink was otherwise not available on the mall.

Between making and serving the hot chocolate - it was all gone by 2:30 and we were able to finish as the last of the marchers joined the march. The marchers walked past the Supreme Court Building and then dispersed. The crowd was quiet and respectful- unusual for a protest group!

On the ride home we said the Divine Mercy prayer and when we stopped for supper at the Delaware house- it was packed- 90% with Right-to-Life Marchers. It is wonderful to feel part of a greater whole.

Next year - maybe Turkey noodle, vegetable soup!



JPIC Webinar Series

SESSION WEBINAR LINKS

Session #1:

<http://ecom.catholicrelief.org/p23441617/>

Session #2:

<http://ecom.catholicrelief.org/p47078713/>

Session #3: Technical difficulties, no audio

Session #4:

<http://ecom.catholicrelief.org/p74812953/>

Session #5:

<http://ecom.catholicrelief.org/p90319236>

ACCESS INFORMATION

... To Link up to upcoming Webinars and the Adobe Connect Meeting Room go to:
<http://ecom.catholicrelief.org> or

... Phone toll free: **800-511-7985**.

When asked, the **Access code is: 468- 7660**

... The **Pin** for the organizer to use is **8135**

SAVE THE DATE for upcoming

Webinar #6

Tuesday, June 28th, 7 pm Eastern,

6 pm Central, 5 pm Mountain, 4 pm Pacific.

On Tuesday, April 26th, the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order (NAFRA) and the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission hosted the 4th in a series of webinars with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) as part of its Courageous Initiative joining with CRS in Catholics Confront Global Poverty. Father Chris Promis, CSSp, Institutional Relations Officer for CRS, led the group through a discussion of fraternity and in turn global solidarity.

There were approximately 40 participants who were connected by computer, and a number of brothers and sisters who connected by phone only.

The links to all session webinars are listed.

Please note— there are parts of the Session 4 recording where there is no audible feedback. Our apologies. We are working to correct the technical issue before the upcoming webinar.

National JPIC News

Dear Franciscan Family,

At this time of year, we are reminded of our SFO Rule (19) and our responsibility to be bearers of peace.

And this year, it is also fitting that we remember Rule (15) our responsibility to “individually and collectively be in the forefront of promoting justice by the testimony of our lives.” Mindful of both responsibilities and based on the resolution at the NAFRA Gathering this past fall in Arizona, **it is with great joy that we announce that the NAFRA Peace Award will now be known as the NAFRA Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Award!**

Staying true to recent form, the JPIC Commission has three requests:

First, we would like each fraternity in the United States, locally, regionally and nationally, to pray & work with renewed Spirit from our Risen Lord Jesus Christ for Peace:

Peace in our hearts, in our families, in our Church, in our fraternities, and in our world, all for the glory of God. Please pray & work for that Peace that only our Lord Jesus can bring! The Commission asks that we remember the words of Pope Paul VI who said, “If you want peace, work for justice.”

Second, we would like each fraternity in the US, locally and regionally, to consider giving recognition to a worthy recipient of its own choosing within our Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation framework.

This JPIC Recognition may be a letter from the Minister of the fraternity thanking this individual for working in the fraternity, in the parish, in the community, it may be by way of a shared meal and/or an article in your fraternity’ regional newsletter or submission to the TAU-USA.

Third, we would like each fraternity in the United States, locally and regionally, to consider making a nomination to us, the NAFRA JPIC Commission:

For a recipient to receive the 2011 NAFRA Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Award at the NAFRA Gathering in California in October 2011.

(Continued on page 17)

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

It was a pleasure meeting so many of you at our Regional Chapter meeting in November.

For me, the highlight of the meeting was the reports from each fraternity about your various apostolates. The work being done in our fraternities to promote justice and peace is inspiring. We must always keep in mind that as Secular Franciscans we are not alone. We can assist each other in our many ministries. But, in order to do that, we need to be aware of what the other fraternities are doing. Keep in mind what St. Matthew tells us:

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." *Matthew 5:14-16*

We can also work together in a common regional apostolate. By praying, learning, sharing and working together toward a common goal, we can make a difference.

If your fraternity has not already done so, please name a JPIC contact to become a part of our regional JPIC committee. May God continue to bless you.

Pax et Bonum, Jean Haddad, sfo · Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity JPIC Chair
64 Distler Avenue · West Caldwell, NJ 07006 · Email: jhaddadsfo@aol.com



National JPIC News

(Continued from page 16)

We would prefer that fraternities, local or regional, make these nominations, but nominations by individual Secular Franciscans will be accepted. Nominations may be submitted by email only to Kent Ferris, JPIC Chair kentferris45@yahoo.com. Our firm deadline is July 1st.



A nomination is not complicated or time-consuming. It needs only three parts: one, the name of the possible recipient; two, reasons why this person should be considered; three, the name of the person or group making the nomination.

"A nominee should have made significant efforts in the generally defined areas of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation.

Current activities would carry more weight than past activity; that is, a nominee exhibiting current JPIC activity will have more weight over a nominee who displayed activity a few years ago. In order to prevent any scandal, the nominee should be of known good moral character.

As this is a National award, nominees who reside in the U.S. or U.S. Territories would have more weight than nominees from other parts of the world.

Nominees need not be Franciscan or Catholic.

Nominees should not be political, nor carry an agenda." Many of the recent NAFRA Peace Award Recipients had been nominated more than once before being actually recognized;

if your fraternity has made a nomination before that wasn't recognized, please consider making that nomination again. With many worthy individuals involved in JPIC efforts in the world, one nomination may not be enough to bring proper and deserved recognition.

Please accept our sincerest thanks for all of your efforts relating to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation and your consideration of nominating individuals for this award.

Peace and all good!

Kent Ferris, sfo
Chair
NAFRA JPIC Commission





OUR LADY OF SILENCE

Silence is a very important part of the spiritual life. It fosters prayer and holiness. It fosters listening to God and hearing God's will for us. It also helps our emotional life for it helps us to be calm, ordered and still.

"Be still and know that I am God," we are told in the Bible. It is interesting and significant that we are told—not to read, or learn or study—but to be still to know God. God speaks in the silence of our heart. God speaks to us, mostly, when we are still and silent.

Our Lady can help us to be or to become silent. If we turn to Our Blessed Mother in prayer and ask for the grace to be silent, to have silence in our life, then we shall be enriched by the blessing of silence. Each day we should set aside at least a few moments for a time of silence with Mary, placing ourselves in Our Lady's presence and being quiet, still and silent. During this prayer time we will be renewed and refreshed by graces of silence and stillness given to us by Our Lady. Here's a little verse that might help:

**MARY, MOTHER OF GOD TEACH ME TO BE STILL.
THEN LISTENING I'LL UNDERSTAND TO DO GOD'S HOLY WILL.**

These graces must be cherished throughout the rest of the day. Turn off the TV, radio, computer; turn off all the gadgets; turn off the noise. Seek silence. Be still and prayerfully quiet. Our world is filled with noise. Break the noise habit. Another encroachment upon silence is the "noise of news." By learning the news even from the newspaper, our hearts can be disturbed and our minds filled with worries. A dose of the world's tragedies can be unsettling and "unsilencing". Strive to be more peace-filled. It does take effort, it does take prayer and it takes giving up things—like noise.

Ask Our Lady to help you to increase the silence in your life. Spend time each day cultivating silence. Tell your loved ones what you are doing so they'll understand. And when you have cultivated a more silent and calm mind and heart return thanks to Our Blessed Mother for this precious, priceless gift.

Then there is another form of silence. It is more difficult. To be silent when hurt, or insulted. To be silent when angry. To refrain from uttering hurting, cutting words. To be silent when opposed or contradicted. This isn't easy. Ask Our Lady for help. Ask to be a little like Her Son, who was silent before His accusers.

Let's have a special devotion to Our Lady of Silence. Fr. Abram Ryan, the priest-poet, referred to walking "down the valley of silence." Let's make an effort to visit that valley. Let's give silence a place in our life, our minds and our hearts. It will help us to be holier, calmer and healthier. Let's start today. But we need help. Let's turn to Our Lady of Silence, to Mary Our Mother.

May we, in our moments of quiet and solitude be open to Christ's ever-abiding presence which makes us over and transforms us, so that we know in our hearts a boldness, courage, wholeness, peace, and most of all joy. Then when others meet up with us, like Francis, they will meet the presence of the resurrected Christ in us.

GRIEVING AFFIRMATIONS

by **VALERIE MORENO, SFO**
ST. JOHN VIANNEY FRATERNITY
ISELIN, NJ

I give myself permission-
to cry at will without
reservation.

Confident that tears
are far from weakness,
walking through forests
of loneliness and pain
as long as it will take
to reach the other side.

I give myself permission-
freedom to go slowly,
pay attention to physical
and emotional signals
of stress and needing rest.

I release guilt & confusion
and accept my present
moment,
not allowing anyone or
anything to bait, rush
or bully me.

I embrace the truth of you,
that you were not
pitiable or perfect
just a beautiful man
I shared my own imperfect
self—for best, worst
and forever.

I settle in quiet fields of
harmony, empathy and
understanding that is given
strengthened to face
Mourning's storms.

I will make my own
decisions,
sculpt my own dreams
with bright colors of
laughter, sorrow and light.

I give myself the dignity
to weep, dream, sing and
create in my own way,
in my own time,
in my own release.



Points to Ponder

by
SAL BONFIGLIO, SFO

I am reading "Jesus of Nazareth" by Joseph Ratzinger, who makes an interesting observation about St. Francis, and also Third Orders.

Excerpt from *Jesus of Nazareth*

(Let us) turn for a moment to the figure whom the history of faith offers us as the most intensely lived illustration of this Beatitude "Blessed are the poor": Francis of Assisi.

The saints are the true interpreters of Holy Scripture. The meaning of a given passage of the Bible becomes most intelligible in those human beings who have been totally transfixed by it and have lived it out. Interpretation of Scripture can never be a purely academic affair, and it cannot be relegated to the purely historical. Scripture is full of potential for the future, a potential that can only be opened up when someone "lives through" and "suffers through" the sacred text.

Francis of Assisi was gripped in an utterly radical way by the promise of the first Beatitude, to the point that he even gave away his garments and let himself be clothed anew by the bishop, the representative of God's fatherly goodness, through which the lilies of the field were clad in robes finer than Solomon's. (Mt 6:28-29)

For Francis, this extreme humility was above all freedom for service, freedom for mission, ultimate trust in God, who cares not only for the flowers of the field but specifically for His human children. It was a corrective to the Church of his day, which, through the feudal system, had lost the freedom and dynamism of missionary outreach. It was the deepest possible openness to Christ, to whom Francis was perfectly configured by the wounds of the stigmata, so perfectly that from then on he truly no longer lived as himself, but as one reborn, totally from and in Christ.

Have you ever had an inspiring thought, read something that needs to be drawn out further or just shared?

For he did not want to found a religious order: He simply wanted to gather the People of God to listen anew to the word—without evading the seriousness of God's call by means of learned commentaries.

By creating the Third Order, though, Francis did accept the distinction between radical commitment and the necessity of living in the world. The point of the Third Order is to accept with humility the task of one's secular profession and its requirements, wherever one happens to be, while directing one's whole life to that deep interior communion with Christ that Francis showed us. "To own goods as if you owned nothing" (1 Cor 7:29), to master this inner tension, which is perhaps the more difficult challenge, and, sustained by those pledged to follow Christ radically, truly to live it out ever anew—that is what the third orders are for. And they open up for us what this Beatitude can mean for all. It is above all by looking at Francis of Assisi that we see dearly what the words "Kingdom of God" mean.

Francis stood totally within the Church, and at the same time it is in figures such as he that the Church grows toward the goal that lies in the future, and yet is already present: The Kingdom of God is drawing near.

Excerpt from *Jesus of Nazareth*
by Joseph Ratzinger, 2005, pp. 78-79

(He didn't publish as the pope because he didn't want people to think this was an "official" Church document.)

FOR MORE RECOMMENDED READING
SEE PAGES 6 -7 IN THIS ISSUE.



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—APG, Editor

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*Our Lady of the Angels Region
Communications Team*

REGIONAL NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

E-mail: TroubadourEditor@aol.com

REGIONAL WEBSITE

www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org

REGION WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR

Diane F. Menditto, SFO

REGIONAL YAHOO GROUP

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

REGIONAL YAHOO LIST ADMINISTRATOR

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2008-2011**

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SUBMISSIONS:

E-MAIL: TroubadourEditor@aol.com

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

