

**Published by Our Lady of the Angels Region of the
Secular Franciscan Order in the USA.**

**Outside the walled city
of Mdina is a true
curiosity.**

**This tree is a symbol of
reverence for the many
intensely-religious people
of Malta given the plain
image of a crucifixion on
its surface.**



The Crucifix Tree - Mdina, Malta

LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Today as I am thinking of you, I am also thinking of *love, mercy and sacrifice*.

As I write this, it is the first Sunday of Lent and Valentine's Day. We are also two months into the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. By the time you read it, we will be much closer to Easter. The beautiful cycle of God's love for us in the Incarnation, Crucifixion and Resurrection goes on. How do we respond?



Each day we encounter many opportunities for *love, mercy and sacrifice*.

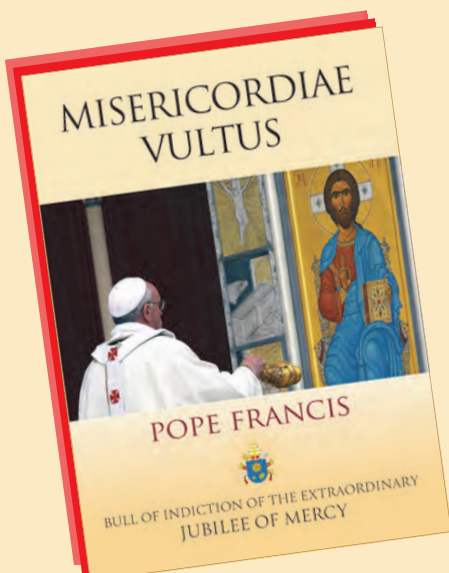
My letter to you in January listed the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. As Franciscans, our spiritual lives and the love we have for God are rooted in the image of Jesus that we see in our brothers and sisters and in all of creation. We are *always* called to reach out to others, to step *outside* of ourselves. This does not only happen when we help strangers. It also occurs when we are kind, patient and forgiving toward those whom we call our family, be they our natural family members or our brothers and sisters in fraternity.

We gain inspiration in this from our Seraphic Father who added an additional verse to his Canticum of the Creatures as he helped to bring peace between the Commune of Assisi and Bishop Guido II in 1225:

"Overcome by the climate of hate that was created in his own town because of this confrontation, Francis endeavored to put an end to it. To that end, he added an important verse to the Canticum of Brother Sun (or the Canticum of the Creatures), which he had composed a little bit earlier:

'Praise be to you, my Lord, For those who pardon for love of you, And support illnesses and tribulations: Happy those who will endure these in peace, For by you, Most High, they will be crowned.'" (Vauchez, André (2012-10-23). Francis of Assisi (p. 68). Yale University Press. Kindle Edition.)

"In **Misericordiae Vultus** (the papal bull proclaiming the Jubilee Year of Mercy), Pope Francis writes:



'With our eyes fixed on Jesus and his merciful gaze, we experience the love of the Most Holy Trinity. The mission Jesus received from the Father is none other than revealing the very love that gives itself to every person without excluding anyone:

'Everything in him speaks of mercy. Nothing in him is devoid of compassion.'"

(Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization (2015-10-12).

The Parables of Mercy: Pastoral Resources for Living the Jubilee (Jubilee Year of Mercy) (p. 7). Our Sunday Visitor. Kindle Edition.)

I pray that our focus during Lent, and always, may be on **ACTING UPON** *love, mercy and sacrifice*. Let us reach out to others. The mercy and forgiveness we show, the service we give, should be a sacrifice of the **HEART**.

continued on next page

Don't wait to forgive one another. Jesus did not ask us to make the first move before he became one of us and died for us. It is *precisely* because he died for us *before* we ever had the chance to ask for forgiveness that draws us to him in daily conversion. I pray that we don't wait to be asked to serve the poor and the suffering. May we do acts of mercy because we have been *given* so much mercy. I pray that we will always be grateful for the gifts we have been given, that we will try not to complain and that we will hand any bitterness we may feel over to God. In this way, we can open our hearts to the love that is always ours because he gives it to us freely.

We also find concrete opportunities for giving and receiving mercy all around us. This year, for example, at *Convivenza* (our Chapter of Mats), on **Saturday, April 23rd**, we hope to inspire you by offering a "*Day of Pilgrimage*." By now your Ministers should have received and shared two communications announcing *Convivenza*. We will gather at Sacred Heart Church in Wallington, NJ, which is a designated pilgrimage site in the Archdiocese of Newark. We will have speakers, prayer, Mass and the chance to pass through the Holy Doors together to gain the indulgence as a family. As always, there will be time for discussion, sharing and fraternity.

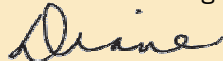
We will also offer *two concrete opportunities* to do works of mercy. I have described in detail both possibilities in my letter inviting everyone to *Convivenza*. (That letter is also available on our website and has been sent to the general membership via email.)

These two opportunities are a "Baby Shower for Birthright and Several Sources" and "Blessed Bloomers," a Mychal's Message Project. Please look at the lists of items needed and bring them with you on April 23rd. You can choose one cause or contribute to both. Please make whatever sacrifice you can.

We want you to know that your Region Council always keeps you in prayer, and we ask you to pray for us as we continue to serve you and our Region. We have been hard at work planning other interesting opportunities for you to grow in your Franciscan vocation and spirituality and as present or future servant leaders. We hope that you will join us!

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at *Convivenza* and when we visit your fraternities for elections and visitations. Be assured that we are always willing to help you in any way that we can, so please don't hesitate to call or email any one of us.

Peace and blessings,



Diane F. Menditto, OFS
Minister, Our Lady of the Angels Region



**OUR LADY
OF THE ANGELS
2014-2017
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2016 REGION CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETINGS

SERVANT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP (SEE PAGE 5)

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

at Most Holy Name Church.

West 96th Street and Amsterdam Avenue

New York City, NY

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Richard Morton, OFS, former National Minister

Fr. Robert Sandoz, OFM

XIX NATIONAL QUINQUENNIAL

JUNE 30-JULY 4 AT ST. LOUIS, MO.

All registration materials are posted on our website:

<http://ourladyoftheangelsregion.org>

UPDATED INFORMATION:

There are hotel rooms for everyone!

A contract has been signed with the Pear Tree Hotel - which is minutes from the Renaissance hotel.

The room rate is \$89.99 per night and that same rate will hold for a few days before and a few days after the events of the Q.

The toll-free number is 1-800-378-7946.

Mention that you are attending the NAFRA Congress to get the negotiated rate.

Shuttle service between the hotels is in the works.

Booking CODE is NAFRA Q2016

OR give them this number: 2276454

2016 REGIONAL RETREAT (SEE PAGE 7)

JULY 29-31 AT MT. ALVERNIA, WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY.

Retreat will be led by the Friars of Mt. Alvernia

Theme: Mercy-Essence of the Gospels

CHAPTER OF MINISTERS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2016

To be held in Hackensack, NJ

Pastoral Visitor: Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR

Fraternal Visitor: Mary Stronach, OFS

FORMATION

by
ED WOJCIECHOWSKI, OFS
FORMATION DIRECTOR
OLTAR REGION
edwojo@yahoo.com

SOWING THE SEEDS OF PEACE IN TROUBLING TIMES

Shock, dismay and anger, these were just some of the emotions that I felt when I learned about the recent attacks on innocent Parisians by ISIS terrorists. In a television interview about the attacks, Pope Francis expressed his own difficulties in understanding these senseless acts of violence when he said, "I do not understand, these things are hard to understand." It made me question how can I be dedicated to peace when faced with the senseless violence and hatred in the world today?

My first reaction to the news of the attacks was to pray for the victims, their families and their loved ones. I also turned to the Gospels and the OFS Rule for comfort and guidance. I was reminded that peace must be "built up unceasingly" and that as Franciscans we must trust in the "transforming power of love". (OFS Rule 2:19).

As messengers of perfect joy, we should "strive to bring joy and hope to others" (OFS Rule 2:19), especially in their darkest hours. We must remember that we are witnesses of the crucified Christ "even in difficulties and persecutions." (OFS Rule 2:10) We must be at the forefront of promoting justice in the face of unjust actions. Our Franciscan vocation demands that we protect the rights and freedoms of the innocent and marginalized in society. As it says in Isaiah, we must "make justice your aim" and "redress the wronged" (Isaiah 1:17). As witnesses to the Gospels, we must sow the seeds of peace, mercy and justice in a violent and senseless world. Pray for peace and work for justice. Through prayer, anything is possible.

Pax et Bonum,

Ed



UPCOMING WORKSHOP



SERVANT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016 • 9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

Most Holy Name Church

West 96th Street and Amsterdam Avenue

New York City, NY

GUEST SPEAKERS:

RICHARD MORTON, OFS, former National Minister

FR. ROBERT SANDOZ, OFM

SPIRITUAL TIDINGS

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

MARANATHA!

“Jesus said to His disciples: ‘In those days after that tribulation the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory...’”.

So begins the gospel proclamation for the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time. As we approached the end of our Liturgical Year we heard about the end of our world as we have come to know it. As an active listener of the Gospel, what is your take on the Lord’s return? Do you find it unsettling? The return of the Lord has been something that the Church has always fervently prayed for. The early Church’s word for it was Maranatha! In the Book of Revelation John writes: “The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let him who hears say, “Come.” And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price...He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Maranatha).

In the prayer that Jesus taught us, he says: “Pray then like this: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.” How often do we stop to think about what we are asking for when we utter this beautiful prayer. We are begging for the Lord’s return...today! When I was quite a bit younger the “end of the world” by way of the Lord’s return was something that I was fearful of. That was mainly due to the fact that I perceived God as Someone who, when I finally meet Him, would be a reactive God concerning to my fallen nature. Did you ever hear your mother say: “Just wait until your father gets home!”. Anxiety sets in. Years later I have come to learn two things. First, God is Pro-Active and not as I feared earlier, re-active. Secondly, when he does return as promised I will be meeting a friend who I have encountered many, many times through the beautiful Sacraments of the Church. God is pro-active in that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth”...and that “God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.” God is pro-active in that he provides us with shelter: “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven... .” After his resurrection from the dead, he continued being pro-active: Although the doors were locked our Lord appears to the disciples and says, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.”

And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven... .”

This Divine Friend embraced me in my baptism, anointed me with holy oil and sacred chrism, called me to live a holy life... feeds me with his Body and his Blood... he is my Advocate by way of Confirmation...removes the burden of my sins in the confessional and heals me. This God is no stranger to me. Thomas Merton once wrote that he had not been much moved by the concept of getting into heaven after muddling through this present life. On the contrary, his conversion to Catholicism began with the realization of the presence of God in this present life, in the world...and that his task as Christian is to live in full and vital awareness of this ground of his being and of the world’s being.

I tend to agree with Merton. We encounter God often through the gifts of the Sacraments in our life and through the love and sacrifice we show to our neighbor. The darkening of the sun and the moon and the falling of the stars we heard mentioned in the gospel are meant to represent the failure of all the false gods that we have entertained in our lives and once they are removed it is Jesus Christ who takes center stage. And so...when the Lord returns as he promises we should not be fearful of a reactive stranger, but grateful for the ultimate encounter with a loving friend who has always been there for us.
Maranatha!



2016 REGION RETREAT

We will once again be utilizing the beautiful facilities at Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, New York. Held on July 29 - July 31, 2016, the cost is \$175.00 per attendee.



THEME: MERCY-ESSENCE OF THE GOSPELS

OUR RETREAT WILL BE LED BY THE
FRIARS OF MT. ALVERNIA.

Join your Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters at our annual region retreat where you will share time in prayer, fellowship and spiritual growth.

Remember space is limited, so register now using the registration form provided below.

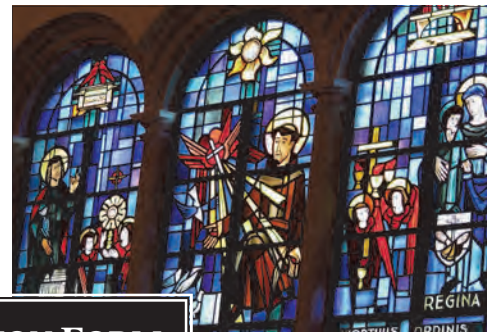


Photo credits: Diane Menditto, OFS and Ed Wojleschoweki, OFS

2016 REGION RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

Please check one ☐ Professed ☐ Candidate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Fraternity: _____ Single room _____ Double room _____

Special Needs: _____ Room with: _____

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

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



by ROSANNE HUGHES, OFS

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY, RINGWOOD, NJ

Singing for Pope Francis

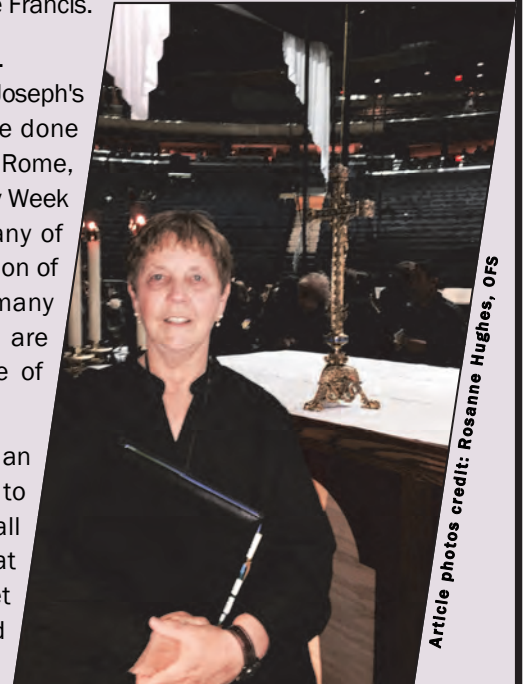
I am a Secular Franciscan in the Our Lady of the Angels Region and a member of the Archdiocesan Festival Choir who sang for Pope Francis's Mass at Madison Square Garden on September 25th. I've been asked to give a brief account of what it was like to sing for Pope Francis.

First, I would like to tell you a little about the Archdiocesan Festival Choir. We were founded over 30 years ago to sing for Advent Concerts hosted by St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, NY. Since then our role has expanded. Now we have done Masses for several Papal visits, the Consistory Mass for Cardinal Dolan in Rome, Italy; concerts in places such as the Holy Land, the Chrism Mass during Holy Week at St. Patrick's Cathedral, as well as Diaconate and Priestly Ordinations. At many of these events, we sing with the St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir under the direction of Dr. Jennifer Pasquale, who conducts both choirs. We are drawn from many parishes in the Archdiocese and range in age from 16 to 90. Many are professional musicians and many are not. The common factor is a love of choral singing.

Preparation for the Papal Mass began in late July 2015 when we first received an email from Dr. Pasquale informing us of our invitation to sing and asking us to confirm that we would be able to attend practices to that end. We all responded quickly! A series of subsequent emails informed us of what information we would need to furnish to homeland security and secret service for security purposes. A series of back and forth emails ensued as more and more information was required. Finally, we were cleared.

Next, we started practice. I think everyone was amazed at the number and complexity of the music for the Mass. It consisted of about 28 pieces, in four to seven parts (SATB plus 3) and four languages- English, Latin, Spanish and German.

We began. Initially, we had four practices of two to two-and-a-half hours each at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. These were held at night with piano accompaniment only. As each practice took place the pieces of music started to really come together and sound very nice. Then came the week of the Papal Mass!



Article photos credit: Rosanne Hughes, OFS



On Tuesday, September 22, we arrived at St. Joseph's and boarded a chartered bus to the SIR 37 Studio on 37th Street. There we met up with the choir from St. Patrick's Cathedral and a full orchestra. We all practiced together for the first time.

It was glorious! We also had a chance to listen to several of the choirs who would be the entertainment prior to the Papal Mass.

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Our second sojourn into Manhattan was truly an endurance test for all involved. I was out of bed by 4:30 a.m. and



en-route to Yonkers by 6:00 a.m. The bus left Yonkers at 7:30 a.m. and we were at the Garden by 9:00. When we arrived we saw where we would be during the Mass. Our location was behind and somewhat below the Papal altar. The orchestra was in the middle and we formed a horseshoe around the orchestra. The musicians had seats, we had risers, but NO SEATS! Now picture 4 hours of singing without sitting down on a chair! We became quite adept at sitting on the floor of the risers and jumping up when our turn to sing arrived. Things ran late and our "lunch" was at 2:20. The bus was leaving at 2:30 promptly! Eat and run? Absolutely!



Finally, the day of the Mass arrived. Wake up at 8, leave for Yonkers at 10 and get into the city by 10:45. Then Security started in earnest. We joined many tour buses in a parking lot about 20 blocks from Madison Square Garden, where we were told to leave all belongings on our seats and get off the bus. The bus was checked by Homeland Security, Secret Service, NYPD and German Shepherd dogs.

We languished there for an hour waiting for an all clear from the Garden. It must have suddenly occurred to someone that the choir was missing in action because we then had a Police escort to the Garden. We were escorted past LONG lines of people waiting to go through security and brought to our waiting room.

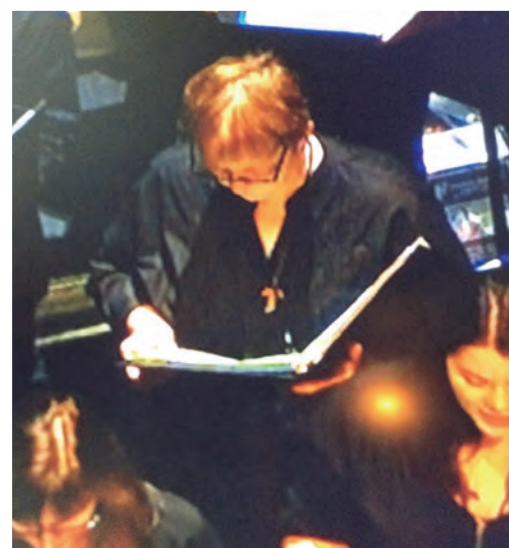
We had lunch and then watched the pre-mass concert on closed circuit TV. After that, we went to our spot behind the altar to wait. We were all sitting around on the risers when suddenly a roar went up: THE HOLY FATHER HAD ARRIVED! Never have I seen a ragtag group of singers transform into a Papal Choir so fast!! Mass began, we sang and it was wonderful!

I am humbled by the absolutely beautiful voices I had the privilege of singing with. These are people who have a wonderful gift, but also are people who use that gift for the honor and glory of God.



Everyone was so very dedicated- the orchestra, the choir, the choir director.

For some it was their job, but for most they received no pay. They gave of their time and talent to glorify the Lord and to welcome His representative on Earth!



This was something I will NEVER forget!



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS
REGIONAL FRATERNITY



A Look Back

2015

Regional

Events

FRANCISCANS AT THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

This exciting pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia began with an invitation from our National Shine leader to the Youth Commission, which I am now a part. Excited to be a part of this landmark occasion for the American Church, and a great opportunity for us as Franciscan's to connect with thousands of people, I, of course, said yes.

As Pope Francis touched down at JFK airport, and knowing we would be next, excitement grew among all participants at the Convention Center. There was a very large room that held 1,500 booths, and we had two. The Katherine Drexel OFS Region ran one booth, and the other was run by the OFS National Shine Youth/Young Adults.

We met people from all over the world; offering us a great opportunity in which to introduce the Secular Franciscan Order to those who had never heard of us. We also helped professed Secular Franciscans who were no longer a part of a fraternity find an active one to join in their area. We had scanners that were able to scan their nametag and provide us with their contact information so that we could get back to them with the resources they needed.

We were also able to connect those who were interested in learning more about the OFS with Fraternities in their area as well. We had many visitors, and almost all of them wanted us to pray for them and their intentions, so we started a prayer wall. (PHOTO 2)

We met a lot of youth and young adults as well. The young man next to John Viragh, OFS & Larry, OFS, is Ryan Nguyen who is in the seminary and can't wait to become a priest. (PHOTO 5) He was so on fire with the Holy Spirit just from the vibe of the World Meeting of Families, that he convinced me to go and talk to Fr. Josh from EWTN.

While I was waiting for Fr. Josh to arrive, a couple standing next to me asked if I was waiting to take a picture with the man standing next to me.

That man turned out to be Jeff Cavins. I wasn't even aware of it until they brought him to my attention. I seized the moment and did a quick interview asking Jeff for a message to our youth.

This message was so inspiring that it applies to each of us.

<https://youtu.be/DLcsnMwySUI>



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Article photos credit: Dawn Rusinko, OFS

PHOTO 2
SUE AND
CHRISTY
NELSON
GREETING
VISITORS.

WE HAD A
LOT OF
SUPPORTERS
INCLUDING:

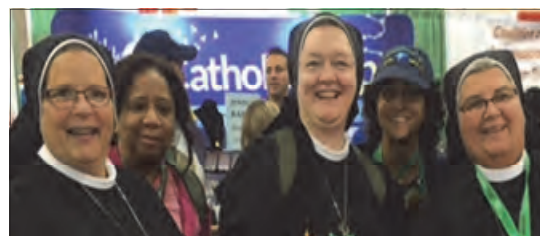


PHOTO 3
RELIGIOUS SISTERS (ABOVE)



PHOTO 4 - ARTURO & SOFIA VILLARREAL, OFS; FR. GIUSEPPE FROM THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE RENEWAL AND BROTHER LARRY FROM THE ST. KATHERINE DREXEL REGION.



(PHOTO 5)
JOHN
VIRAGH,
OFS,
RYAN
NGUYEN
AND
LARRY OFS.

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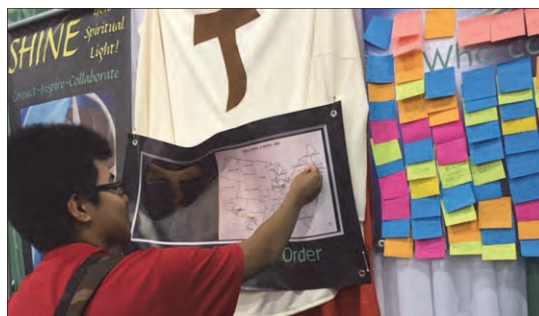
Don't worry, I did get to interview Fr. Josh Johnson, otherwise known as "the rapping priest" and his message was incredibly powerful and applies to each of us too.

<https://youtu.be/IVBqHdzcEgM>



The kids (LEFT) made living necklaces that consisted of a pink bead that turns into soil, a soybean and some water. They put these contents into a small plastic pouch, wear them around their necks and the heat of their body activates the ingredients to grow. The growth represents their live faith growing. These necklaces were such a huge hit at the booth that adults and even a priest wanted to partake of the project.

We met people from all over the world including Pakistan, the Netherlands, Equator, etc. There were so many coming from so far away that we began to lose track and had them mark their homeland on the map. (RIGHT)



This beautiful, woman (ON LEFT) pictured with Sue Nelson, OFS, (RIGHT) is from Zimbabwe. Sabina Rungwawe wore a different custom made Franciscan World Meeting of Families dress each day. It was something to see.



We were also visited by professed Franciscans who just wanted to connect with us. Pictured here (TO RIGHT) is Sally Lau, OFS, who is part of a large Chinese Fraternity from California.

SHE IS NEXT TO SOFIA VILLARREAL, OFS, SUE NELSON, OFS, ARTURO VILLARREAL, OFS, CIOFS INTERNATIONAL COUNCILOR, SILVIA DIANA SISSI, OFS AND SUE'S TWO GRANDSONS.

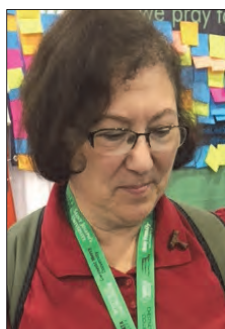


What a true blessing. At our booth we had Richard, OFS painting on the premises a beautiful Franciscan scene of St. Francis having a conversion on his horse as a knight. Richard raffled this off to raise money for SHINE. (ABOVE) I AM ON THE LEFT; SILVIA DIANA SISSI OFS, CIOFS INTERNATIONAL COUNCILOR FROM ARGENTINA, RICHARD, OFS IS PAINTING, AND LARRY, OFS, IS NEXT TO HIM.

People came by every day wanting to see the transformation in progress.

Larry, OFS, (BELOW) was the rosary maker. He is the most gifted rosary maker I have ever met, and he raffled off an extra large wall rosary that he made as well as a few small ones.

We all had a great time working the booth as you can see by our faces.



Maria Innocenti, OFS, 11 years professed from Poverello Fraternity, St. Katherine Drexel Region, is beaming with excitement to sing at the papal mass.

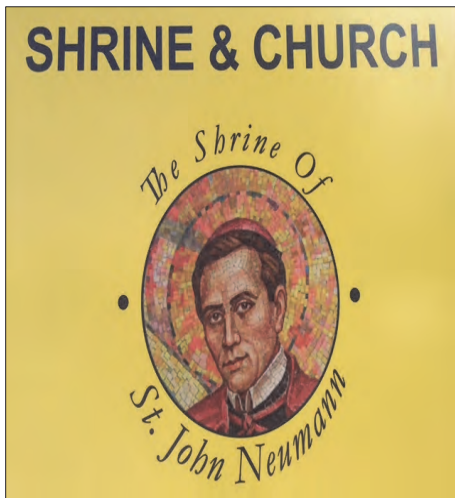


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We took some time to do a little sightseeing as well, and one day Christy Nelson, OFS, surprised us with an unexpected trip to the:



The deeper meaning of the trip for me was spending time with my Franciscan family. When I heard Pope Francis speak at the Festival of Families, this became more evident. I couldn't help but paraphrase his words to include the Secular Franciscan Order family to show you what I mean.

There is a marvelous challenging task of being a family. God came to us through the family to be "Emmanuel" God with us. St. Francis saw a need for us to join in unity as a Secular Franciscan Community. We are the family of, and for, the Church.

This extended family is meant to reach out to all in need to save and restore because we are all precious to God. God is inclusive and plans to do everything with us. Love is a decision and God called each of us to a vocation into the Franciscan Family and like Mary, we said "yes."

We appreciate the beauty of the family, and of family life, as the place where we come to learn the meaning and value of human relationships. We learn that to love someone is not just a strong feeling, it is a decision- it is a judgment, it is a promise,
"Erich Fromm from The Art of Living"

We learn to stake everything on a person, and we learn that it is worth it. We cannot call any secular Franciscan fraternity healthy when it does not leave room for fraternal family life. We cannot think that a secular Franciscan vocation has a future when it fails to respect its leaders and honor their Constitution.

Let us be a support to each other and our surrounding communities. Perfect fraternities do not exist! This knowledge must not discourage us, quite the opposite. Love is something we learn, love is something we live; love grows as it is "forged" by the concrete situations which each particular fraternal family experiences. Love is born and constantly develops amid lights and shadows.

Love can flourish in men and women who try not to make conflict the last word, but rather a new opportunity. An opportunity to seek help, an opportunity to question how we need daily conversion to improve and an opportunity to discover the God, who is with us and never abandons us.

Franciscans are a great legacy to leave the children of the world to come, those in formation and the newly professed. We make mistakes, yes; we have problems; yes, but we know that this is not what counts.

We know that mistakes, problems, and conflicts are an opportunity to draw closer to our brothers and sisters and to draw closer to Christ.

Pax et Bonum,
dear brothers and sisters
in Francis & Clare,

Dawn



FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND FRANCIS OF ROME

ST. MARY'S CHURCH IN POMPTON LAKES, NJ - (ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY) held a month-long series of different Keynote Talks during the month of October 2015 titled "Francis Week".

On Tuesday, October 6, "FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND FRANCIS OF ROME" was presented. The keynote speaker was **Fr. Dan Horan, OFM**. Here is a summary of his presentation.

BY

CHRISTINE LUKESH, OFS

**St. Anthony's Fraternity
Butler, NJ**

SAINT FRANCIS AND POPE FRANCIS: INSIGHTS FROM FATHER DAN HORAN, OFM

Was Francis of Assisi a rebellious, radical reformer? Or a loyal, obedient son of the Church?

That was just one of several thought-provoking questions posed by Father Dan Horan, OFM, at "Francis of Assisi and Francis of Rome," part of the 2015 celebrations of Saint Francis at Saint Mary's parish in Pompton Lakes, New Jersey.

Father Dan's answer to the question: both images are correct, but neither is complete. Saint Francis practiced ecclesiastical obedience, not blind loyalty, Father Dan explained. On occasions when the Roman Church seemed to be in conflict with the teachings of Jesus, Francis's primary loyalty was to the Gospel.

Two examples Father Dan gave:

- During Francis' time, the church sanctioned the expulsion of those with leprosy from the community—even sending lepers off with a ritual reminiscent of the funeral liturgy. In one of his conversion experiences, Francis overcame the "bitterness" he usually felt passing the place where lepers were exiled, when he encountered a leper on the road, dismounted his horse, and embraced the man—just as he would embrace Jesus.

Does this scene not remind us of our Holy Father Pope Francis, descending from his scaled-down "Popemobile" to embrace the disfigured, the alienated, and the physically challenged?

- On Francis's peace mission to visit Sultan al-Malik al-Kâmil during Pope Innocent III's Fifth Crusade, the Cardinal designated to oversee the Christian army in Damietta, Egypt, forbade the little man from Assisi to cross the border into Muslim territory. Against the cardinal's orders, Francis continued on his journey to complete his mission.

In the same way, Pope Francis eludes categorization, almost allowing himself to be used as God's pawn as he responds to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Picture him on the first Holy Thursday of his papacy, washing prisoners' feet at a juvenile detention center in Rome. Participants included young incarcerated women, not all of them Christian. [To protests from by-the-book clerics, Francis might reply that he did what Jesus would have done.]

Father Dan noted the overlap between the Ignatian spirituality by which this Jesuit Argentinean archbishop lives and the Franciscan style foretold by his choice of the name Francis.

It was soon clear that the humble "bishop of Rome" was thinking, not of the great Jesuit missionary, Saint Francis Xavier, but of *Il Poverello*, as he bowed before the joyous throngs in Saint Peter's Square and asked for us all to bless him. ["Not just Catholics in good standing," Father Dan pointed out, but everyone in the world.]

At a glance, we see that Pope Francis has joyously embraced Saint Francis's traits of poverty, reform, peacemaking, and love of creation. But Father Dan urged a closer look at each of these qualities—particularly poverty.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus did not begin the Beatitudes with "Blessed are those who don't have enough to eat, who go to bed hungry," Father Dan said; rather, as in the Gospel of Matthew, "Blessed are the poor *in spirit*," that is, those who embrace *evangelical poverty*. *Material* poverty, he explained, is an evil that we should actively resist, especially as it affects the most vulnerable members of society; *Spiritual* poverty can tempt us to compartmentalize our faith within our lives, practicing devotions instead of devoting our entire selves to Gospel living.

Evangelical poverty, by contrast, can only be lived in humility and is never an end in itself, but a means to an end:

continued on next page

continued from page 14

Solidarity with our sisters and brothers, especially the poor and the marginalized. Anyone who practices poverty as “a battle to the bottom” is no longer poor in spirit.



Photos credit: Ed Wojciechowski, OFS

Regarding peacemaking, Father Dan reminded us of Jesus' message to “Pray for our enemies; do good to those who hate you.” He asked, “Why complicate something so simple?”, then responded, “Because it's hard.” [Too often, our tendency is to think along these lines: Jesus wasn't talking about ISIS, was he? — or Hitler?]

Franciscan peacemaking and love of creation “come in many flavors,” Father Dan observed, comically demonstrating the different musical styles of “All Creatures of Our God and King” and “The heavens are telling the glory of God.”

He reminded his listeners that the opening words of the Canticum of Creatures were chosen by Pope Francis to name his groundbreaking encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. Like all of creation (including “our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us,” and Brother Sun, “a likeness of You”), we are called to be stewards of creation and to praise God—even though, as the Rule tells us, “no human is worthy to mention Your name.” Just as all the non-human creatures praise God by being what they are created to be, our end is to be fully human, fully alive. What *that* means remains for each of us to seek, discover, and become.

In Francis's “kinship model” of creation, we are made of the same substance as other creatures; we all reflect the Creator. Father Dan urged us to pray the Canticum with thought, to see the cosmos with God's eyes, and to care responsibly for those that care for us—water, oxygen, plant life, and animals. How are we treating our “siblings”?

Just as this account expresses but a small part of Father Dan Horan's presentation, his appearance at Saint Mary's provided a mere glimpse of what we can expect when this deeply thoughtful, engaging young friar gives the keynote presentation this summer at the *Quinquennial* in Saint Louis.

VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE SISTINE CHAPEL

http://www.vatican.va/various/cappelle/sistina_vr/index.html



This virtual tour of the Sistine Chapel is incredible.

You can zoom in and out holding your mouse and do a 360-degree turn in any direction.

MOVE THE MOUSE AROUND AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS. Here is what you would never see in person, as you would never be left alone in this room.

This is especially spectacular if you have a large high-definition screen! (too many details to view on an iPhone) TO VIEW EVERY PART OF THE MICHELANGELO'S MASTERPIECE, JUST CLICK AND DRAG YOUR ARROW IN THE DIRECTION YOU WISH TO SEE. In the lower left, click on the plus (+) to move closer, on the minus (-) to move away. MOVE THE ARROW AND YOU WILL SEE EVERY PART OF THE CHAPEL.

Created by the University of Villanova at the request of the Vatican.



2015
*National
Fraternity*
*National Chapter of the
Secular Franciscan Order*
October 13-18, 2015
Clinton, New Jersey



NAFRA — JPIC

NATIONAL JPIC ANIMATOR - CAROLYN TOWNES



Photo credit: Robert Stronach, OFS

THE 2015 FRANCISCAN PEACE AND JUSTICE AWARD

by BOB STRONACH, OFS

The 2015 Franciscan Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Award recipient was Sister Caritas Barajingitwa, LSOSF, for her work with children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic in Uganda. Sister is shown hugging JPIC Commission Chair Carolyn Townes, OFS, at the awards ceremony.

Sister Caritas Barajingitwa, LSOSF, dreamed of providing a loving home and practical education for orphans in Africa. With the help of American donations, that dream came true when she opened Holy Family Vocational Orphanage in Southern Uganda. For her work, during the national chapter meeting held in Clinton, NJ, on October 13-18, the Secular Franciscan Order awarded her the Franciscan Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Award.

JPIC Commission Chair Carolyn Townes, OFS, introduced Sister Caritas, citing her for creating a future for children of AIDS victims. The award includes a \$2,500 prize. "The money is enough to pay the orphanage's bills for several months", said Sister Caritas, a member of the African-based Little Sisters of St. Francis.

The orphanage houses 18 children, and includes 13 acres for farming plus 13 acres for future dormitories and a new school, eventually to accommodate 100 children. Sister Caritas got the idea for the orphanage while pursuing a master's degree in education in the late 1990s at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. In fact, the idea became her master's thesis, she said.

"Going back to Uganda, I thought it would be just a matter of putting the project into place," she recalled. "I went door-to-door begging, to no avail." But God opened another door, as she would put it. The pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Binghamton, NY, wrote a letter to the mother superior of the Little Sisters, asking her to send one of her sisters to work in his parish. The mother superior summoned Sister Caritas and told her she was going to the United States. She arrived in June 2001. Two years later, thanks to donations by American Catholics, she was able to open Holy Family Vocational Orphanage and welcome the children into its protection.

Secular Franciscans and other friends in Binghamton established the Holy Family Vocational Orphanage Foundation to continue raising funds for the orphanage and further Sister Caritas' dream. A proponent of teaching practical life skills as well as academics, Sister Caritas said the orphanage teaches home economics, carpentry, basket weaving, sewing and tailoring, and farming and animal husbandry. However, sister noted, for the orphans, "knowing that they are loved is most important" because "then they will be able to love others."

JPIC AWARD NOMINATIONS 2016

It is that time again when we as a Franciscan community nominate those individuals who are doing exemplary work in the areas of peace, social justice and the care of God's creation. **Only nomination forms will be accepted.**

Please prayerfully consider nominating that Franciscan who steps out into the extraordinary.

Nominations are only open to members of the worldwide Franciscan Family - 1st Order Friar or Brother; 2nd Order Poor Clare; 3rd Order Regular Sister; 3rd Order Secular. Please email the forms back to me at ctownes26@hotmail.com.

Please put JPIC AWARD in the Subject line as some emails mysteriously take a walk into the Spam Folder.



I will send you an acknowledgment once I receive your form. If you do not hear from me, then I did not receive it.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS IS FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016. Any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Carolyn

MASS FOR THE OFS NATIONAL CHAPTER - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015
REV. MSGR. WILLIAM BENWELL'S HOMILY FROM THE NAFRA OPENING MASS.
VICAR GENERAL, DIOCESE OF METUCHEN.



“BROTHERS AND SISTERS: I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL” (Rom. 1:16).

St. Paul was being modest when he dictated those words. He was more than just unashamed of the Gospel; he embraced it intensely, even fiercely. Writing from prison, facing the real prospect of death, he would sum up: “*For to me, life is Christ*” (Phil 1:21).

One could argue that it would be 1200 years before someone would take up Paul’s motto with such single-minded passion: Assisi’s *poverello* and your Seraphic Father, Francis. Moreover, let me suggest that it was this uncompromising zeal that has made Francis such a universally attractive and compelling figure in every one of the eight centuries since his death.

I have visited the tomb of the great promoter of Christian charity, St. Vincent de Paul, and found an empty church; I have made a pilgrimage to the tomb of Francis’ great contemporary, St. Dominic, and found an empty church. The same can often be said of the even the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome, built, tradition says, over the relics of the Apostle.

But to visit Assisi on any given day, as so many of you know, is to join *thousands* drawn there by the desire to capture something of Francis’ spirit, the desire to be able to return to families, jobs, parishes more committed to saying with Paul, with Francis: “*For to me, life is Christ.*”

This point—that as human beings we are instinctively pulled toward a life of spiritual meaning and conviction—is made by Pope Francis at the very beginning of his *Bull of Indiction* proclaiming the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

The “Father’s mercy,” the Pope writes, which was the essence of Christ’s life and ministry is,

“the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life”.

(*Misericordiae Vultus*, no. 2)

The “fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person.” In other words, we were created for Christ; we are incomplete without Christ.

Now how do I, a non-Franciscan, put this correctly?

There is, in my view, a place within the Church, within Franciscanism, for the St. Francis who preached to the birds; for the romantic Francis of the first *crèche*; for Francis the miracle worker; and for Francis who has become the patron of the modern ecological movement. They all are Francis, but they are not the essential Francis.

continued on next page



The essential Francis that our Church needs, that our culture needs, is the Francis who lived the Christ-life without apology—and who preached without apology the means by which we deepen our engagement in that life: Scripture, prayer, devotion to the Mother of God, simplicity, service, and, especially, the Blessed Sacrament.

Francis begins one of his last letters, “To the Entire Order,” with the admonition:

With all that love of which I am capable, I implore all of you to show all possible reverence and honor to the most holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in Whom that which is in heaven and on earth has been brought to peace and reconciled with almighty God (*Early Documents*, I, 117).

We need to hear about the Francis who loved all of creation *and* we need to hear more about the devout, the humble Francis, the saint of the Eucharist. May the Lord, through the intercession of St. Francis, bless the work of your important gathering, that the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States be an instrument by which followers of Jesus are inspired to be ambitious to boast of that which alone is worth boasting about: “*For to me, life is Christ.*”

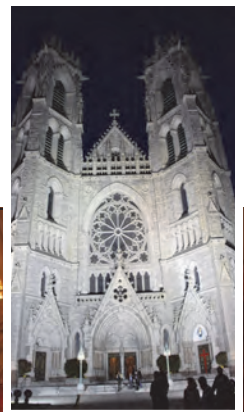


CELEBRATION OF THE MASS - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15



CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART

**THE MOST REV. MANUEL CRUZ,
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF NEWARK**



NAFRA ELECTIONS

The NAFRA Elections “FROM ONE OBSERVER”

BY CHRISTINE LUKESH, OFS
St. Anthony's Fraternity
Butler, NJ

The phrase, “See how these Franciscans love one another,” came to my mind several times as I observed the national elections for the NAFRA council members.

I arrived that Saturday morning during a lively discussion and voting on contributions to the many causes NAFRA supports. It was especially impressive to me to hear CIOFS (*Consilium Internationale Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis*) Minister General, Tibor Kauser, OFS, (*below*) describe the fraternities of Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Palestinian Christians, comparing and contrasting their membership, their locations, their relative security, and their funding needs.



Next, outgoing members of the council were honored for their service, with smiles and tears marking the assembly's grateful applause.

Outgoing Minister, Deacon Tom Bello, OFS, (*opposite*) was presented with a beautiful reproduction of the San Damiano crucifix, gift-wrapped in white fabric and red ribbon to echo the deacon's vestiture.

Minister General Tibor Kauser also oversaw the election process, from careful explanations of “absolute majority” and tie-breakers to the proper folding of ballots. In Tibor's native Hungary, he recalled, only one name would appear on any ballot; thus, he is more aware than most of us listeners were what a privilege the opportunity to vote is, particularly in electing servant leadership.

“I wish you a very fruitful and blessed Chapter. You are instruments of the Holy Spirit,” he reminded the 36 voting members, who agreed that they would not leave the room until the election process was completed. “It is only God who truly elects each of the officers through you. Please be very present, silent, and collected.” He also asked for silence after the announcement of each winning candidate, until he or she had accepted the position for the next three years.



Of four candidates for National Minister, Jan Parker, was elected on the third ballot. She later called herself, “thankful that we do not serve alone,” describing the newly elected council as “a circle of gifts and talents, closed by your prayers.”

Mary Bittner, was elected Vice Minister. Mattie Ward, was elected Secretary and Jerry Russo, won the ballot for Treasurer. Mary Stronach was re-elected Int'l Councilor, along with three additional National Councilors elected: Mary Frances Charsky, (who was also voted to serve as substitute for the alternate Int'l Councilor), Awilda Guadalupe, and Joan Geiger.

Tibor Kauser told the new officers, “The service entrusted to you can only be accomplished with a lot of prayer.” To those “not elected this time,” he praised for their willingness to be candidates.



NAFRA OFFICER BIOGRAPHY

NEWLY ELECTED NATIONAL LEADERS OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER AT
THE NATIONAL CHAPTER HELD ON OCTOBER 13-18, 2015 IN CLINTON, NJ.

Bios / Photo Credits: Robert Stronach, OFS



National Minister JAN PARKER, of O'Fallon, MO, has been in leadership positions on the local, regional and national levels, including serving as national secretary for the past six years and before that, as regional minister of St. Clare Region. Professed in 1988, she helped to establish two local fraternities, including San Damiano Fraternity where she is a member and former minister. At the regional level she also served as formation director, and on the national level, she served on the Formation Commission for three years. A musician, she co-wrote the theme song for the U.S. order's 2007 Quinquennial Congress. Jan, who has three adult children, works in the family business, and formerly was a full-time pastoral associate and coordinator of music and liturgy at Immaculate Conception Parish.



Vice Minister MARY BITTNER, of Ypsilanti, MI, was a national councilor for the past six years. Before that, she was regional minister of Divine Mercy Region for six years. At her local fraternity of St. Joseph, she has been formation team member, secretary, minister, and councilor. At the regional level, she also has been vice minister and a member of the regional formation team. Mary is an associate research scientist at University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, MI.



Secretary MATTIE WARD, of New Hope, PA, has been the regional minister of Saint Katharine Drexel Region for nearly nine years. Prior to that, she served her region and her local St. Bonaventure Fraternity in Langhorne, PA, in a number of leadership positions. She is currently a member of Holy Trinity Church in Morrisville, PA and has previously served as a lector, cantor, Eucharistic minister and assistant CCD instructor. Mattie is employed as deputy clerk to a federal district judge.



Treasurer JERRY ROUSSEAU, of Blairsville, GA, has been the regional minister of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region for the past five years.

He is a former minister of his local fraternity, The Franciscan Martyrs of Siroki Brijeg. A retired director for Delta Airlines, Jerry has served on the board of the Appalachian CPC/Women's Enrichment Center and has been involved in ministry to the sick, as cantor, and as Eucharistic minister at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Blairsville. He and his wife, Madeline, have four children.



International Councilor MARY STRONACH, of MARCY, NY, is in her 2nd term as Int'l. councilor representing the U.S.

Prior to that, she was the formation director for St. Kateri Tekakwitha Region. A member of St. Joseph Fraternity in Utica, NY, Mary has served the national fraternity as P.R. co-chair and the Int'l. fraternity as an interpreter-translator. She teaches Spanish at Utica College, is outreach coordinator for the Multicultural Association of Medical Interpreters (MAMI), and operates Stronach Associates P.R. Consulting. She and her husband, Robert, have 5 children and six grandchildren.



National Councilor MARY FRANCES CHARSKY, of Binghamton, NY. In her second term as councilor, she also was elected alternate Int'l. councilor. She is the former regional minister of the St. Kateri Tekakwitha Region. A retired elementary school principal, Mary Frances has been a member of St. Francis Fraternity in Binghamton for over 34 years and has served in a variety of leadership roles. In her church she has served as Eucharistic minister, member of the parish council, adult formation and social justice committees. For more than 30 years she has been Eucharistic minister at Wilson Memorial Hospital. She is a board member of Holy Family Vocational Orphanage Foundation (which supports an orphanage in Uganda).



National Councilor JOAN GEIGER, of Bellerose, NY, has been the regional minister of Tau Cross Region for more than five years. She has served in a variety of leadership roles on the regional level as well as in her local St.

Michael Fraternity in Ozone Park, NY. Joan has served as Eucharistic minister and in bereavement ministry. She is retired from the NYC Department of Education.



National Councilor AWILDA (WILLIE) GUADALUPE, of Newnan, GA, has held a variety of positions on the local, regional and national levels, including regional councilor and formation team member for Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region, and a member of both the translation team and communications committee on the national level. A member of Immaculate Conception Fraternity, she has been active in the Archdiocese of Atlanta and St. Mary Magdalene Church in Hispanic ministry, ministry to the sick, adult religious education and serving on the pastoral council. A retired civilian employee of the Department of Defense, Willie and her husband, Israel, have two daughters.

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

Article and Photos credit: Diane Vitale, OFS

ONE SECULAR FRANCISCAN'S A P O S T O L A T E



Our San Damiano Fraternity in Newton, New Jersey has a large wooden San Damiano Cross which members take turns bringing to their homes each month.

Being very worn, it bore a multitude of scratches and missing patches of paint. After checking that no one was planning to take the cross home one month, I took my turn and left the meeting with it securely packed inside a beautiful tapestry bag made specifically for the cross. It was a big bag holding a big cross and it was clumsy to carry; when you are short like I am it was a challenge!

Once home after having a good look at it, I wondered if the fraternity would mind if I tried to restore it. When St. Francis was told by our Lord to rebuild His church, I thought, that if the San Damiano Cross hanging in the ruined church looked like this one, wouldn't Francis have tried to repair it as part of the restoration?

So I got out my paints and brushes and started the project. See the "before" photos of the cross from when I brought it home, until the final "after" photos of the finished product.

The Fraternity was pleased with the restoration and I was honored to be able to do the work. It had been years since I was able to do this kind of art. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to have worked on this Holy And Blessed Cross of San Damiano.

After having completed the restoration of the San Damiano Cross, I was approached by a fraternity sister about two wooden statues of Friars. They were brown with paint missing in dark creases and a broken hood on one of them. Apparently they were given to her and she asked if I could do something with them. I looked at them and wondered if I could. I took them home.

I began by sanding them down to try and remove the dark creases and to prepare the wood for repair. I painted them and then treated them with a gloss to preserve the wood.

I was able to find a round relic locket of St. Conrad of Parzham that I placed around the one friar's neck while St. Lawrence of Brindisi, a scholar, is holding a book.

Our Fraternity agreed that we would give our Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Brian Tomlinson OFM, Cap. our two Friars as a gift in honor of his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood.



Fr. Brian Tomlinson, OFM, Cap, Spiritual Assistant, giving a homily with the restored San Damiano Cross at the foot of the pulpit.



Diane Vitale, OFS, was professed in June of 1993 into her Fraternity of San Damiano, located in Newton, New Jersey, and has served on her Fraternity Council as Secretary and Director of Formation. She has two daughters, Amanda Clyne; and Melissa Gallagher and son-in-law Robert Gallagher, along with her three grandchildren, Brianna, Nicholas and Jack. Diane is a retired Corporal, having served 25 years in the Sussex County, New Jersey Sheriff's Department.

She enjoys her 4 rescue cats- Sadie, Paddy, Nicki and Peanut; riding in horsemanship competitions with her horse, Hasty Pudding; and showing her Doberman Pincers in obedience classes. Diane has also raised Netherland Dwarf rabbits as pets for children in 4H.

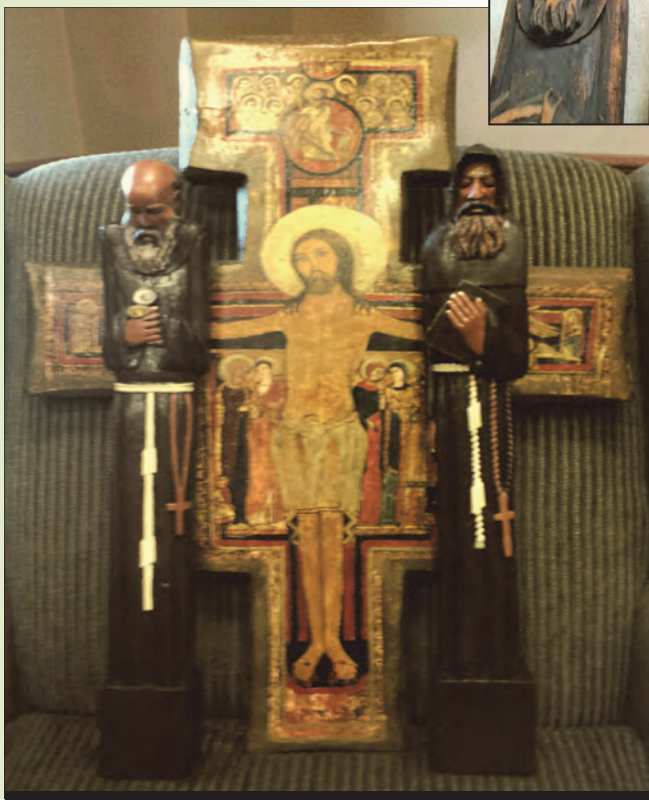
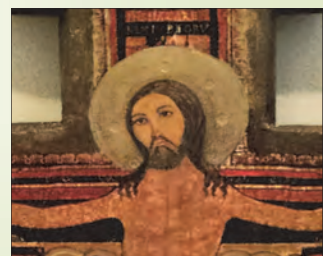
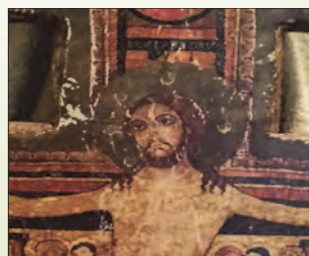
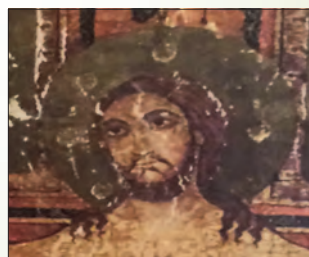
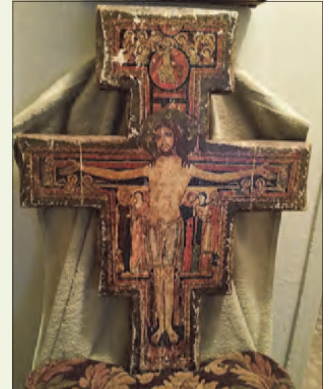
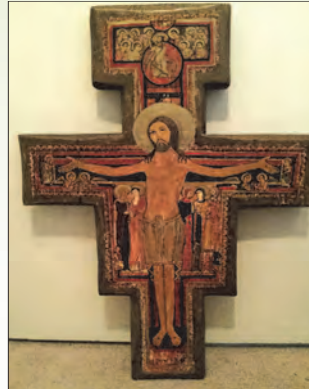
She loves to paint, sculpt and write poetry.

In the past, she has enjoyed volunteering her time to the Department of Persons with Disabilities.

"I hope to be able to serve my Fraternity in any way that I am able. I love my vocation. I am so blessed that the Lord has called me to serve Him as a Secular Franciscan."

BEFORE

AFTER



FRATERNAL

Submission/Photos Credit: Frances Acosta, OFS

Held at the Sacred Heart Convent, Fr. Michael Greco, O.F.M. Cap. led a Lenten Day of Recollection for the Sacred Heart Fraternity in Yonkers on February 20th.

The theme of the retreat was: From Slavery to Freedom: Our Spiritual Journey. The Sisters of Divine Compassion joined us on a great day of renewal!



TIDINGS

Submission/Photos Credit: Angela Rodin, OFS
St. Anne's fraternity, Fair Lawn, NJ

On January 8th, I was privileged to be exploring Antarctica, and we landed at the Argentinean research base of Esperanza.



In the process of dealing with a hip healing from surgery, I wasn't venturing too far from the landing, so, unfortunately, I learned too late, that there was a chapel there dedicated to St. Francis!

I got to see the outside, but couldn't go inside. My daughter went in and said it was lovely; there was even a skull cap inside that Pope Francis had sent.

With the spectacular air and pristine beauty of this place, it was very easy to picture St. Francis being completely at home in this peacefully serene place, sitting on an outcropping and glorying in God's creation.

I got the following information from Wikipedia:

ANTARCTICA - Esperanza Base
(Spanish: *Base Esperanza*, "Hope Base") is a permanent, all year-round Argentine research station in Hope Bay, Trinity Peninsula (Graham Land, Antarctic Peninsula). It is one of only two civilian settlements on Antarctica. The Base's motto is "Permanencia, un acto de sacrificio" ("Permanence, an act of sacrifice"). The base was built in 1953, and the first Catholic chapel, named after Saint Francis of Assisi, was built here in 1976.

Built in 1953, the base houses 55 inhabitants in winter, including 10 families and 2 school teachers. Provincial school #38 *Presidente Raúl Ricardo Alfonsín*, was founded in 1978 and acquired independent status in 1997. It maintains the furthest South Scout troop. The base has some measure of fame because it is the birthplace of Emilio Marcos Palma, the first person to be born in Antarctica. The base has tourist facilities that are visited by about 1,100 tourists each year.



FRATERNAL TIDINGS

congratulations

ELECTIONS & PROFESSIONS

Photo credit: Diane Menditto, OFS



**Election results of February 21, 2016
CORTESIA FRATERNITY #118, Middletown, NJ**

Council as pictured in opposite photo: L-to-R:

KATHRYN BRYAN, OFS, Secretary
CAROL CHRISTIANSEN, OFS, Treasurer
PATRICK MULLEN, OFS, Vice Minister
PEGGI FLEMING, OFS, Formation Director
DAWN RUSINKO, OFS, Minister

Photo credit: St. Francis Fraternity, Hoboken

**Election results of April 1, 2016
ST. FRANCIS FRATERNITY #106,
Hoboken, NJ**

Council listing is not in photo sequence.

MARY CARAL CAIEZZA, OFS, Minister
MARY FLANAGAN, OFS, Vice Minister
JACQUIE BELLAFEMINE, OFS, Secretary
CONSTANCE CAIEZZA, OFS, Treasurer
APRIL HARRIS, OFS, Formation Director



**Election results of April 10, 2016
ST. LOUIS FRATERNITY #125, Wood Ridge, NJ**

Council listing is not in photo sequence.

LAZARUS (JAE YONG) BAE, OFS, Minister
JOANNA (AE KYUNG) KIM, OFS, Vice Minister
AGATHA (YOUNG OCK) YOO, OFS, Secretary
MONICA (JUNG AE) KIM, OFS, Treasurer
JOSEPH (YOO TAE) KIM, OFS, Formation Director



Photo credit: Diane Menditto, OFS

SISTER

DEATH



† TIMOTHY M. TOINE, OFS

Called home to the Lord, January 8, 2016.

Timothy was a member of St. Anne's Fraternity in Fair Lawn, NJ.

† HUGO DEMARCO, OFS

Called home to the Lord, February 26, 2016.

Hugo was a member of the Sacred Heart Fraternity in Yonkers, NY. He was professed in June 1971.

† MARION TRAVERS, OFS

Called home to the Lord, March 2, 2016.

Marion was a member of the Sacred Heart Fraternity in Yonkers, NY. Professed in July 1956, Marion was a Secular Franciscan for 60 years.

Photo credit: HNP



1946–2016

† BRO. JOHN QUINN, OFM

Called home to the Lord, March 23, 2016.

A professed Franciscan friar for 38 years died at the Holy Name Friary in Ringwood, NJ, where he had lived since November. Br. John served as spiritual assistant to several fraternities in our OLTAR region.

Photo credit: Maria Carral-Ficken, OFS



† RAYMOND BERGER, OFS

Called home to the Lord, March 1, 2016.

Ray was a member of the St. Thomas More Fraternity in NYC. He was professed in October 2003.

TRIBUTE

It is with great sadness that I must tell you all that our dear Secular Franciscan brother, **RAYMOND ROBERT BERGER, OFS**, passed on to his Eternal Reward on March 1, 2016.

The Friars of our Lady of Guadalupe Province in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Bro. Michael, Bro. George and Bro. Bernard + the Province Health-Care Coordinator, Marta Ortiz - all took part in a Franciscan Service at Ray's bedside - Including singing the "ULTIMA" Chant traditionally sung by Religious. Thank God for this and all the blessings he has given Ray and us through all those involved with Ray's (final) care. REST IN PEACE, RAYMOND ROBERT BERGER - December 13, 1941 - March 1, 2016.

MARIA CARRAL-FICKEN, OFS, MINISTER - ST. THOMAS MORE FRATERNITY, NYC

Photo credit: Robert Stronach, OFS



† DEACON TOM BELLO, OFS - Called home to the Lord, March 29, 2016.

After a lifetime of community and religious service, **Deacon Tom Bello** died peacefully from melanoma in his McLean, VA home, surrounded by his family, at the age of 66. Born in Raleigh, NC, for 34 years, Tom taught adult refugees and immigrants English as a second language, enabling them to improve their lives through better communication skills. Equally devoted to spiritual life, Tom became a Roman Catholic deacon in 1987. Serving in the Arlington Diocese, primarily at St. James, Tom proclaimed the Gospel, offered homilies, baptized children, led Scripture study groups, presided at funerals and marriages, helped distribute food to needy families, and ministered especially to those confined in hospitals, nursing homes, or prisons. A lifelong admirer of St. Francis,

Tom joined the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) to better pursue peace, prayer and active service to others. He most recently had served as National Minister for all North American Secular Franciscans for the last 6 years.

Tom earned many honors (eg, Rhodes and Morehead Scholarships and teaching awards), but he most valued helping others. Although imperfect like us all, Tom made service to others the spine of his life.

He is survived by his wife Judy; sons Yeats and Pierce and daughter Jackie and their families.



**OUR LADY
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GENERAL INFORMATION

TROUBADOUR NEWSLETTER is a quarterly communications vehicle published by Our Lady of the Angels Region. It is published in 2 formats— printed and electronically.

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

—EDITOR

• CALL FOR ARTICLES •

Wherever you see the spirit of Saint Francis at work in the world, in your lives, in your fraternity, in its members and in your hearts—we want to hear from you. Come, share with us.

• DEADLINES •

All submissions for the next issue must be received by the 15th of the preceding month. **Submissions for the next issue of *The Troubadour*, June 2016, are due by May 15th.**

• ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS •

• The right to copy all material printed in the *Troubadour* is granted provided you credit the *Troubadour* and author.

• Not every article received may be published in the upcoming issue. Every consideration is given for publication in a future issue.

• When submitting articles for publication consideration, please state fraternity name and location, as well as your name and address.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please change (or add) the following information to the region database:

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MARCH
2016

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Secular Franciscan Order
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Manalapan, NJ 07726-2424

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 ORDER**



Francis go and repair
my house.



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