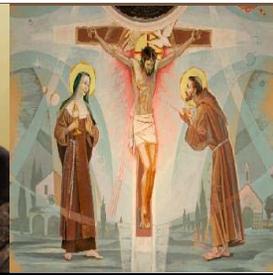




SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER



**OUR LADY
OF THE
ANGELS
2011-2014
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FRATERNITY
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Feb—March 2013

CONNECTING THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE REGION. ELECTRONICALLY PUBLISHED ON A MONTHLY BASIS BY THE *OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER IN THE USA.*

Submissions for the April e-Troubadour News are due by March 28.



Dear brothers and sisters in St. Francis,

e-Troubadour News is our monthly electronic publication listing timely information from our Local, Regional and National Fraternities.

It's mission is to enable Secular Franciscans throughout our region to gather with one another on a more frequent basis and share our Franciscan charism and bond with one another. It also aims to promote ideas, writings, resources and websites that may be of interest from our Catholic Community.

All fraternities and individual members are invited to send me upcoming event information. These can include special days of recollection, missions, notice of upcoming professions, fraternity fundraising events, open houses, lectures, etc.

The *e-Troubadour News* is available online on our regional website at:

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

May God bless each and every one of you abundantly in this Lenten season and may all your personal and fraternal endeavors be blessed.

NOW, LET US BEGIN ...



"A lifetime is not enough" to see all of Rome, said Pope Gregory XIV. Similarly, the contributions of Pope Benedict XVI will last far beyond our lifetimes - yet their most lasting impact might be barely visible today.



OUR LADY OF
THE ANGELS
REGIONAL FRATERNITY
COMMUNICATIONS
TEAM:



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The TROUBADOUR*
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REGIONAL WEBSITE
ADMINISTRATOR
DIANE F. MENDITTO, OFS

REGIONAL WEBSITE

[www.ourladyofthe
angels.region.org/](http://www.ourladyoftheangels.region.org/)



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Order/257320867672618](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Our-Lady-of-the-Angels-Region-Secular-Franciscan-Order/257320867672618)



REGIONAL DATABASE
ADMINISTRATOR
ANNA GERACI, OFS

2013 REGIONAL CALENDAR

— *Mark your Calendars* —
details will follow when available.

JPIC FUN Manual WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 2, 2013

10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

St. John the Baptist Church

210 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001

CONVIVENZA

Saturday, April 27, 2013

New Jersey

Mark the date. More info to follow.

REGIONAL RETREAT

Fri-Sun, August 2—4, 2013

Mt. Alvernia, NY

Mark the date. More info to follow.

CLUSTER MEETINGS

Manhattan Cluster Meetings

Saturday, June 1, 2013

10:00 a.m. — 12:00 Noon

Additional meetings to be held on:

September 21

St. Francis of Assisi Adult Education Center, Room 5
139 West 31st St, between 6th and 7th Aves.

Manhattan Cluster Picnic

Saturday, July 20, 2013

11:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Manhattan Cluster St. Clare's Feast Day

August 11, 2013

Mark the date. More info to follow.

Manhattan Cluster

St. Elizabeth and Louis Feast Day

November 17, 2013

2013 FAIR SHARE ASSESSMENT

The 2013 Fair Share Assessment and fraternity rosters have been mailed to every fraternity minister.

Please review and update your fraternity roster information.

Make any corrections or add the missing information directly upon the roster sent.

The Fair Share Assessment and the updated rosters should be returned to Richard as soon as possible. Original asking date was for end of January. Please return them to:

RICHARD SPANA, OFS
Regional Treasurer
332 Warburton Avenue
Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706-2809

Remember that your response keeps our regional database up-to-date which in-turn insures that our region remits a correct fair share to the National Fraternity.

If you have any questions contact Richard at the above address or via email at: rickspanasfo@aol.com



FRATERNITY NEWS FRATERNITY NEWS FRATERNITY NEWS



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to our sister fraternities
celebrating the year they were established:**



ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY 102
Wood Ridge, NJ
Established January 8, 1961



ST. FRANCIS FRATERNITY 137
Hackensack, NJ
Established January, 1962



ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY 120
New York, NY
Established January 21, 1996



CORTESIA FRATERNITY 118
Lincroft, NJ
Established February 4, 1990



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY 105
Jersey City, NJ
Established March 8, 1953



UPDATE Franciscans International status



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Our-Lady-of-the-Angels-Region-Secular-Franciscan-Order/257320867672618>



INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Franciscans,

May the Lord give you peace!

I am writing to provide you with an update on the recent decisions taken by the Franciscans International Board of Directors in collaboration with the Conference of the Franciscan Family (CFF).

On October 2, 2012, the CFF met in Assisi with the Franciscans International Board of Directors (IBD) to discuss the current challenges facing FI. During this meeting, the CFF and the IBD unanimously agreed to re-think the FI organization so that it would be better positioned to move forward into the future in a financially sustainable manner. They also agreed to “re-dimension” the organization to enable it to operate more effectively in providing a bridge between Franciscans working at the grass roots and the United Nations (UN). The implementation of this direction will be overseen by a Re-dimensioning Committee comprised of representatives from both the CFF and the IBD.

In support of this re-dimensioning, the FI service delivery structure will undergo some significant changes. 2013 will be a year of transition for Franciscans International. The staff of FI will be reduced in size so that, by January 31, 2013, only a core team will remain as employees of Franciscans International: one Advocacy Officer in New York, two Advocacy Officers in Geneva, and one Advocacy Officer in Bangkok. This team will be led by a Transition Manager, Markus Heinze, OFM, who assumed his responsibilities on December 10, 2012. Additional resources will join the team as funding becomes available. Sr. Denise Boyle, findm, the present Executive Director of FI, has resigned, effective January 31, 2013. We are indeed grateful to all managers and staff for their outstanding support of the Franciscan Family’s ministry at the United Nations and are especially grateful to Sr. Denise for her leadership of the organization and exceptional commitment to the mission and vision of FI.

The Franciscan Family, together with other donor agencies, makes it possible for FI to be able to continue its ministry at the UN and to expand its services to the poor, to the environment and to peace-building in a world torn apart by injustice and war. On behalf of the members of the Board of Directors, please accept my heartfelt thanks for the support that you have provided over the years. It is our hope that we will be able to count on your continued support of this important ministry of the Franciscan Family in the future.

Sincerely,

Doug Clorey, OFS
President, Franciscans International Board of Directors

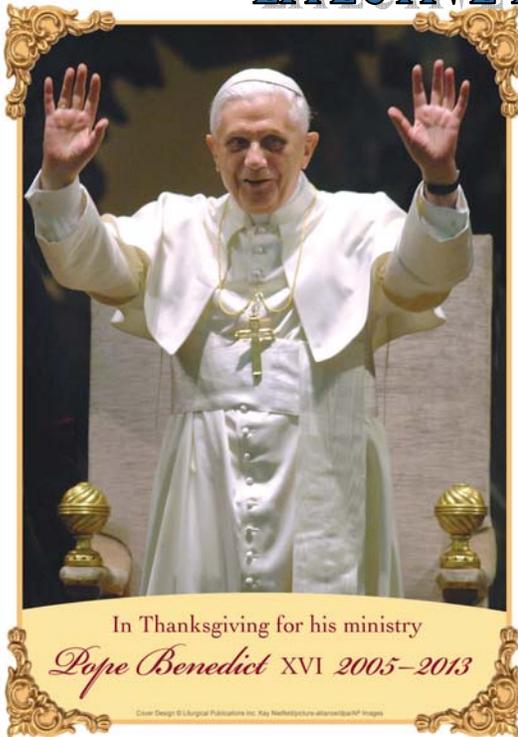
FOR ONGOING FORMATION

CIOFS MONTHLY DOSSIERS

FEBRUARY issue is now available on the CIOFS website at:
<http://www.ciofs.org/portal/index.php?lang=en>
Click on Ongoing Formation
Available in English, Spanish, French and Italian.

POPE BENEDICT XVI WILL RESIGN FROM HIS PAPAL OFFICE, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 28 AT 8:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME

(2:00 p.m. EASTERN STANDARD TIME)



"Dear Brothers,

I have convoked you to this Consistory, not only for the three canonizations, but also to communicate to you a decision of great importance for the life of the Church," he said in a statement addressed to cardinals. "After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry."

"I am well aware that this ministry, due to its essential spiritual nature, must be carried out not only with words and deeds, but no less with prayer and suffering," he continued in his statement, which was dated February 10 and released by Vatican Radio on February 11. "However, in today's world, subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance for the life of faith, in order to govern the bark of Saint Peter and proclaim the Gospel, both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me."

"For this reason, and well aware of the seriousness of this act, with full freedom I declare that I renounce the ministry of Bishop of Rome, Successor of Saint Peter, entrusted to me by the Cardinals on 19 April 2005, in such a way, that as from 28 February 2013, at 20:00 hours, the See of Rome, the See of Saint Peter, will be vacant and a Conclave to elect the new Supreme Pontiff will have to be convoked by those whose competence it is," he added.

Presence in the World Commission

FEBRUARY

2013 Formation Program

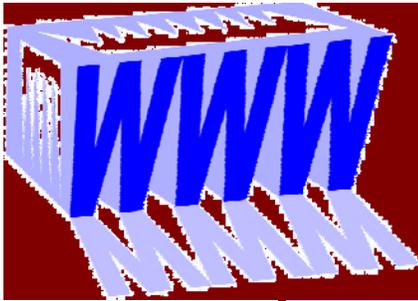
In October 2012, the CIOFS Presidency, entrusted the Presence in the World Commission with the task of offering a brief, web-based formation course to help Secular Franciscans better engage in the social realm by meeting the challenges set forth in the *Conclusions* from the 2011 OFS General Chapter in Sao Paulo (Brazil).

Every monthly dossier will be divided into four sections: a brief theoretical treatment of the theme; a list of other sources, organizations and websites that deal with the theme; the description of a concrete case study; and some questions aimed at encouraging dialogue in fraternity and/or some practical suggestions for concrete action.

This month we take a step forward and look at the principles of Social doctrine of the Church.

It is now online at the CIOFS website: <http://ciofs.org/portal>

http://www.ciofs.org/portal/images/PIWC/PIWC_Formation/PIWC_2013_02_EN.pdf



Thanks to Ron Pihokker for sharing this website.

An excellent resource, a database of Latin and English texts dedicated to the writings of Francis and Clare of Assisi, the "Digital Francis and Clare of Assisi: Early Documents." Fr. Regis Armstrong was one of the principal translators of the print volumes upon which this series is based with which we are all familiar.

The database is a groundbreaking new way to view, search and teach these important texts.

<http://www.franciscantradition.org>

FEBRUARY
PRAYER INTENTIONS
FOR THE
YEAR OF
FAITH

*For bishops, priests
and deacons, and all
the consecrated
religious.*

CONCEPT OF THE YEAR OF FAITH LOGO:

The logo is composed of a square, bordering a field on which a boat, symbolizing the Church, is represented as sailing on a graphically minimal representation of waves. The main mast of the boat is a cross from which sails are displayed in the form of dynamic signs which compose the trigram of Christ (IHS). The background to the sails is a sun which, associated with the trigram, refers also to the Eucharist.

from the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

YEAR OF FAITH Graphics and Download resources are available to help editors and designers with Year of Faith activities, especially developing materials and creating print/web advertising. **Go to:**

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/year-of-faith/year-of-faith-graphics-and-downloads.cfm>



AÑO DE LA FE 2012
2013



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013



ANNUS FIDEI 2012
2013

“TEXT A PRAYER INTENTION TO A FRANCISCAN FRIAR” PROGRAM

“Text a Prayer Intention”



The Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province formerly announced that friars are now accepting prayer intentions via text messaging through their new “Text a Prayer Intention to a Franciscan Friar” program.

Simply text the word “PRAYER” to: 30644 and hit send. Senders will then receive a welcome message from the friars inviting them to type in and send their prayer intentions. Senders will receive a text in reply stating that their prayer has been received and will be prayed for.

“We are very pleased to ring in 2013 with our new “Text a Prayer Intention” to a Franciscan Friar program,” said Fr. David Convertino, “With technology changing the way we communicate, we needed to offer people an updated way to ask for prayers for special intentions and needs either for themselves or others. We have been working on this for some time and it’s a great way to bring in the New Year. If the pope can tweet, friars can text!”

Fr. David said, “This is one more way of reaching people who ask us to pray for them. We hope it can reach people all around the globe.” The friars are even being joined in their prayers by people around the world. Fr. Convertino recounted that a South African woman had emailed him offering to “be a part of our prayer for these people...so she's part of what we're doing too.”

The friars are also flexible in their initiative. After receiving emails from people internationally who cannot message the number provided, the province decided to add an email feature for sending prayer requests. Now those who live outside the United States or who do not use text messaging can send their prayer intentions to the friars by email.

“It's an amazing thing,” Father David Convertino, OFM told the CNA, “It's very touching to read the prayers.” In the week that it has been online, he estimated that his brothers had received more than 4,000 requests for prayer by text messaging. “They're prayed for everyday at Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, and then also remembered at Mass.” Currently the prayers are included at intentions at the provincial house, but they will soon be sent to the Holy Name Province's three retirement houses, as well.

Fr. David Convertino is the Executive Director of Development for the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province which includes more than 325 friars throughout the eastern seaboard.

People wishing to email a prayer request, rather than to text, can use the following email address to send their prayer intentions to the friars prayer@thefranciscans.org They will receive a response within approximately one hour of submitting their request.

STREAMING VIDEO EVENTS!



VISITORS to the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi will find themselves with a new, high-tech exhibit featuring the life of the saint, as well as the cultural and artistic riches in Assisi. The first of its kind exhibit is called the Franciscan Media Library, and is located in the lower basilica.

Visitors will be able to learn more about the life of the saint and the history of the Franciscan Order. It will feature three large multimedia rooms, five interactive stands, two large screens measuring 32 feet squared each, three touch and one 3-D screen.

Most valuable, however, are the contents. The library has more than 1,000 images, 700 digitized historical records, and digital reproductions of the basilicas' art, such as the Giotto frescoes. In addition, it will also screen documentaries on the life of St. Francis, and the daily lives of his friars.

After an impressive visit through the city, the new media library will allow visitors to take a no less impressive virtual tour of Assisi's history.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=IrAl7ncrIgg

VATICAN ROSARY BEGINS



LIVE BROADCAST

The Vatican is now broadcasting the Rosary live every weekday from St. Peter's Square. The Vatican television outlet *CTV* and the Catholic internet portal *Aleteia* are broadcasting "A Moment with Mary," which is held Monday through Friday 4:00 p.m. local time outside St. Peter's Basilica.

(2:00 p.m. EASTERN STANDARD TIME)

"We really want to bring the prayer to the people and enable the people all around the world to bring themselves closer to the heart of the Church," said the initiative's coordinator at Aleteia, Carly Andrews.

"We're trying to bring it to people through the new media technologies, through social networks and with the new technology Google+," he explained.

The broadcast is meant to be a response to the Pope asking that the Year of Faith be a time of entrusting people to the Blessed Virgin by praying the Rosary every day. "It's a personal moment, as each day is an appointment with Mary," stated Andrews.

"We're just inviting people to take half an hour out of their day to join us in prayer," she added.

A different group leads the prayer each day, including some parishes from around Rome and members of various Catholic movements.

<http://rosary.aleteia.org/en>

Ask Franciscan Fr. Don Miller!

Join us for an inspiring,
spiritually enriching
online event for Lent!



FR. DON MILLER, OFM, VOCATION DIRECTOR FOR THE FRANCISCAN PROVINCE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, WILL HELP US MAKE THE MOST OF LENT. BY EXPLAINING NOT ONLY THE “RULES” BUT THE DEEPER CALL TO CONVERSION.

Franciscan Media now offers live online video presentations to help you grow in your faith and draw closer to God. Throughout the year, they will offer online events featuring authors and experts who will inspire, engage and inform you on a wide variety of topics. We invite you to watch, learn, and join in the conversation!

PROGRAM

Ash Wednesday – February 13, 2013, 10 a.m. ET – Franciscan Father Don Miller teaches about the basics of Lent and the season’s larger meaning, and answers live questions.

Lent Week 1 – February 18, 2013, 7:00 a.m. ET – Jesus is the model for how we can fight temptation at our weakest moments.

Lent Week 2 – February 25, 2013, 7:00 a.m. ET – The story of the Transfiguration reminds us even today of our call: Listen to Jesus.

Lent Week 3 – March 4, 2013, 7:00 a.m. ET – Change can be hard, but repentance and conversion are the heart of Christian life.

Lent Week 4 – March 11, 2013, 7:00 a.m. ET – The parable of the Prodigal Son teaches us to run toward God’s compassion and then show that compassion to others in our lives.

Lent Week 5 – March 18, 2013, 7:00 a.m. ET – When we acknowledge our sins, we become able to change and accept the loving forgiveness of our Father.

Lent Week 6 – March 25, 2013, 7:00 a.m. ET – St. Luke’s Passion story reveals the heart and soul of what Jesus was about.

Easter Week – March 27, 2013, 10 a.m. ET Father Don concludes the Lenten series with a look at the significance of the Sacred Triduum—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday—and answers your questions live.

**There is no charge for attending the sessions,
but you must pre-register.**

For more information or to view past programs go to:

<http://onlineevent.FranciscanMedia.org>

Franciscans Deliver



Franciscans Deliver is seeking volunteers who are willing to help deliver groceries to their elderly neighbors on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Franciscans Deliver is a new outreach ministry of St. Francis Church. Teams of volunteers deliver groceries to people living nearby who are unable to get out and shop for themselves.

You can also help by donating coffee, tea, peanut butter, and canned tuna fish in either water or oil. Please, just be sure that none of the items have passed their expiration date! All donations can be dropped off at the reception desk in the lobby of St. Francis House.

Anyone interested in being part of this important, new and exciting ministry should email: Fr. Paul at: plostritto@stfrancisnyc.org

St. Francis' Church parish is located at 135 West 31st Street, New York City, NY.

The Fourth Annual Pilgrimage of New York

Saturday, March 23rd, 2013

Rain date: Saturday, September 14th, 2013

Making stops at:

Church of Our Lady of Esperanza

The Church of Notre Dame

Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel

The Lady Chapel of St. Patrick's Cathedral

Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe



9:00 A.M.
Opening Prayer
The Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
701 Fort Washington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10040

6:00 P.M.
Pilgrims' Mass
The Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
7 State Street
New York, N.Y. 10004

Please visit www.pofnyc.org and register today!

This event is being sponsored by:

Catholic Charities Junior Board † www.Events4JC.org † Holy Name of Jesus Young Adults
St. Patrick's Cathedral Young Adults † Pilgrimage for Our Children's Future

Meditation

by NOEL CONNOLLY
Adult Faith News

- 11 -

AN OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OURSELVES BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.



Every Lent I am reminded of the story of the Irish priest who was driving along a country road in Galway. He had an appointment in Portumna. The west of Ireland is flat and not easy to navigate. The roads are narrow and edged with hedges or stone walls so you can see little and the few road signs there are, are not reliable. Eventually the priest came across an elderly farmer standing by the side of the road. He asked the farmer, “Am I on the road to Portumna?” The farmer was not in the habit of sharing too much information, especially with strangers, but seeing it was a priest he eventually said, “Well, you are, but it would help if you turned your car around.”

Lent is a time when we stop to reflect on the direction of our lives. We hope that at least we are on the right road and not heading in the wrong direction. However, often we may be stalled, or are stumbling along. So Lent is a time for questions. Questions like: Where is my life going? What is most important to me? What does Christ really mean for me?

Most of us lead busy lives with pressures drawing us in many directions. We can end up living our lives from our most urgent, but not necessarily most important needs. Lent provides us with the challenge and opportunity to reflect, with the help of the liturgy and the scriptures, on what we most profoundly want and desire. Herbert McCabe O.P., in his book, *Law, Love and Language*, points out, “Most of the problems arise from the difficulty of recognizing what we want.” Normally we are unaware of our true selves until it is too late. He goes on to point out the true nature of remorse. It is not just regret that you have acted sinfully, against the law, but the realization that you acted contrary to your own deepest desires, to your truest self.

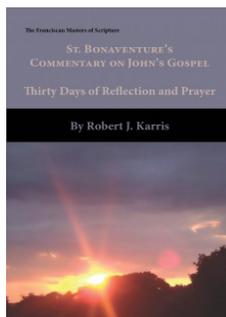
Sebastian Moore OSB, in *The Crucified is No Stranger*, makes a similar point. In analyzing the Jesus’ crucifixion, he points out that the common reaction of most Christians is to feel guilty, to protest our unworthiness. We say to Jesus, “How could I have done that to you? I am no good, but you are so good you forgive me any way.” The irony is, Jesus died not to prove that He is good [He had no need to do that] but to prove to us something much more difficult for us to accept, namely that we are good. He loves us because we are good. He likes us. If there is bad in us, it is that we haven’t been as good as we could have been. We have lived shallow, selfish and superficial lives against God’s and our own interests. There is little use in saying, “I am worthless. What else can you expect?” This is not only untrue but it is the last ditch defense of the sinner. There can be no change in such false humility. It is much more demanding to believe that we are good and with greater potential than we realized. To appreciate that what we most profoundly want is good and that Jesus loves us because He can see our potential. That can release the lover in us. That demands change.

Asceticism and self-denial are important in Lent as a reminder to seek the more important things in life. But self-denial can often become an achievement or can be purely negative. So perhaps the discipline of prayer and trying to re-centre our lives is the more positive and Christian thing to do.

Lent is the opportunity to check the direction in which we are heading; to avoid getting lost in the shallow and superficial or even the urgent; and to find ourselves before it is too late. For it is only then that can we be truly open to appreciating and celebrating Jesus’ death and resurrection.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S COMMENTARY ON JOHN'S GOSPEL: THIRTY DAYS OF REFLECTION AND PRAYER

by Robert J. Karris, O.F.M.



From author Robert J. Karris, O.F.M.:

It seems that a word of general orientation is in order for those coming to Bonaventure's Commentary on the Gospel of John for the first time. Bonaventure's style of commentary consists of a detailed outline of the text, running commentary on the individual verses, and answers to questions that arise from the text. In my selection of the Johannine passages for thirty days, I have given preferential treatment to those passages used in the liturgy during Cycle B and for Christmas, Sundays in Lent, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Sundays after Easter.

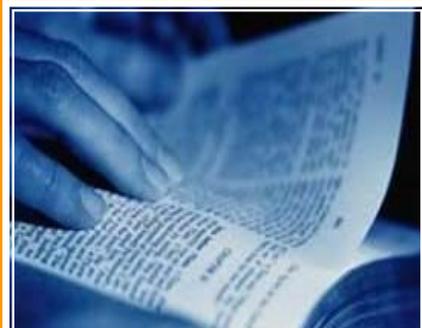
Perhaps preachers may want to share with their congregations interpretations that are so old that they are new, that sparkle because Bonaventure has singled out the very best from tradition, and that challenge our hackneyed ways of interpreting a favorite passage such as Jesus healing of a man who had been disabled for thirty-eight years (*John 5*).

Each day is arranged in the following manner. At the beginning I tell readers what passage from John's Gospel to read and meditate upon. Then I provide Bonaventure's commentary on one or two verses of the passage under consideration. My Reflection follows Bonaventure's interpretation. In the Reflection I relate Bonaventure's commentary to the rest of the passage being interpreted, to contemporary exposition, and to themes in the rest of the Gospel. I conclude each day with a prayer, which is meant to be a springboard for readers own prayers.

<http://www.franciscanpublications.com/>

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1-855-810-2065 Toll Free**

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FRANCISCAN INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS is a leading publisher of books and journals on medieval Franciscan history, sources, spirituality, philosophy and theology as well as contemporary issues on Franciscan life and ministry.

Known for many years for its critical editions of leading medieval Franciscan philosophers and theologians, *Franciscan Institute Publications* has more recently endeavored to make available to a wider reading public the very best of modern scholarship on the history, spirituality and intellectual tradition of the Franciscan movement.

**FOR SUBMISSIONS, PLEASE EMAIL OR MAIL
TO: EDITOR, *e-TROUBADOUR NEWS*,
ANNA GERACI, OFS
161-B Cross Slope Ct., Manalapan, NJ 07726
Email: TroubadourEditor@aol.com**

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

Numbers 6:24-26