



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



**OUR LADY
 OF THE
 ANGELS
 2011-2014
 REGIONAL
 FRATERNITY
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Fr. Michael Tyson, OFM



Dear brothers
 and sisters in
 St. Francis,

**HAPPY FEAST
 DAY TO ALL!**

Every aspect of our Secular Franciscan life calls upon us to be communicators. If not by our actions, then by our words. We are called to bear witness to the light of God in our lives and in the lives of those we serve. When we share our stories, when we promote our programs, when we offer our services, we fulfill a very real part of that mission. By our examples, we inspire others in many different ways.

Pope Francis stated recently, “the testimony of faith comes in very many forms, just as in a great fresco, there are a variety of colors and shades, yet they are all important— even those which do not stand out. In God’s great plan, every detail is important, even the hidden witness of those who live their faith with simplicity in everyday family relationships, work relationships and friendships.”

Our mission is to keep you connected and informed about all the good things taking place through our individual ministries as Secular Franciscans, and those of our fraternities. I am looking forward to communicating with many of you and helping spread the good news!

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

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

For your convenience, all websites listed are linked.

May God bless each and every one of you abundantly,
 and may all your personal and fraternal endeavors be blessed. **Anna**

**HOW DOES YOUR
 FRATERNITY**

*Celebrate the
 Christmas season?*

**Though there are a few months
 until you'll be lighting the
 Advent candles and singing
 Christmas Carols, we'd like
 to know how you and your
 fraternity members brighten
 the holiday season.**

We'll publish your responses and
 photos in our December 2013
 issue of *e-Troubadour*.

**Gather the
 Fraternity together
 for a Christmas photo,
 smile and send it in.**



OUR LADY OF
THE ANGELS
REGIONAL FRATERNITY
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TEAM:



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

REGIONAL WEBSITE
[www.ourladofthe
angels region.org/](http://www.ourladoftheangelsregion.org/)



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ADMINISTRATOR
PEGGY LEDGER, OFS

YAHOO GROUP
[http://groups.yahoo.com/
group/OLARegion/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OLARegion/)



FACEBOOK
ADMINISTRATOR
DIANE F. MENDITTO, OFS



[https://www.facebook.com/
pages/Our-Lady-of-the-Angels
-Region-Secular-Franciscan-
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.

2013 CHAPTER OF MINISTERS

November 16, 2013

**Our Lady of the Holy Angels Church
465 Main St., Little Falls, NJ 07424**

**Visitation from National Fraternity:
Fr. Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap
and Mary Frances Charsky, OFS**

O.F.S. CLUSTER MEETINGS

Manhattan Cluster

December 7, 2013

RELIC VISITATIONS • FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA

After traveling from Russia through 24 countries in Europe, New York City welcomes the Icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass 4:00 P.M.

Saturday, October 5

St. Peter's Catholic Church,
22 Barclay Street, NYC., 10007.

Outdoor procession with Icon following Mass.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY FEAST DAY

Celebrated this year on **Sunday, October 6**, with a Solemn Mass by the Most Rev. Edward Cardinal Egan at 12:00 noon

Shrine Church of Our Lady of Pompeii, 25 Carmine Street
New York City, NY 10014

followed by an outdoor procession in the streets of Greenwich Village.

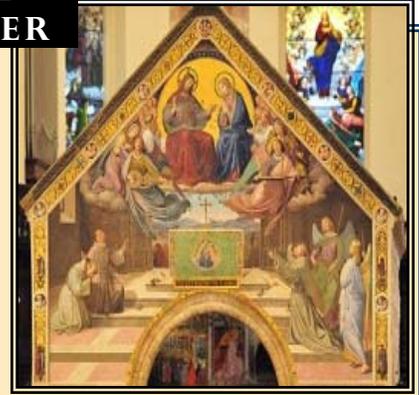
The ceremony will be celebrated in English with the participation of Italian, Filipino and Brazilian Communities. All are invited.

For additional information call 212. 989. 6805.

LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Pope Francis is certainly a refreshing and captivating person, isn't he? What a gift to the Church he is! It seems that every day he does something or says something that is exciting and challenging. I love to come to work these days to see what new thing the Pope has said or done. It is invigorating, and one can feel the rushing of the Holy Spirit become tangible through the powerful witness we are given by this pope.



In my last e-Troubadour column, I began reflecting on Pope Francis' style of leadership. I would like to continue that reflection with you here. Recently, the Regional Fraternity gathered for a workshop on Leadership with Ministers and Council members. It is good to be reminded of the style of servant leadership which the Pope is modeling for us.

Pope Paul VI, in his watershed document, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* in 1975, said: "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." And the witness of Pope Francis is credible and sincere because it is humble. Pope Francis certainly is living up to the example of the man whose name he took, our own Holy Father, Saint Francis of Assisi.

Humility, not the false humility of denying one's talents and abilities, but real humility, is truth. It is grounded in an awareness of our shortcomings and limitations in the presence of God's perfection and leads to a sense of our utter dependence on God. It comes from the word *humus* –earth. To know where we came from and where we are going and to marvel at the goodness of God in the many gifts and talents with which He gifts us. To accept God's goodness to us and to celebrate it—that is real humility. St. Francis would pray, "Who are you O, God, and who am I, your worthless little worm of a servant." Well, I may find it hard to think of myself as a worm—but in the sight of God, truly, who am I?

As disciples of Jesus, we must be humble as a little child (*Mark 10:15*) and develop the mind of Jesus, who promises the kingdom to those who are poor in spirit (*Matt. 5:3*). The Lord extends to us His invitation: "Learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart" (*Matt. 11:29*). He gives us the most profound example of humility in His willingness to accept the cross—as St. Paul teaches: He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross" (*Phil 2:8*). And our humility as disciples is expressed not only in relation to God but to all people and all creation because with St. Francis, we regard all of creation as our sister and brother carrying for us the image of God. Once again, we look to the Gospel example of Jesus as He relates to His disciples, teaching by example, in the washing of the feet: "If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do..." (*John 13:14-15*).

Humility occupies a central place both in the history of western spirituality and in contemporary Christian spirituality. It is seen not as self-deprecation, but as self-honesty. Thomas Merton linked humility with magnanimity. He saw the humble person as one who can achieve great things for God and for others, because, "living no longer for himself...the spirit is delivered of all the limitations and vicissitudes of creaturehood and contingency, and swims in the attributes of God, Whose power, magnificence, greatness and eternity have, through love, through humility, become our own" (*New Seeds of Contemplation p. 181*).

What the Holy Father is doing is never about himself, it is about Jesus and about proclaiming the Gospel with a fresh vision. May we also celebrate the goodness and generosity of God in all the many gifts with which He gifts our Secular Franciscan fraternities and like Pope Francis, bring new life and new vision to others through our humble witness to the Gospel of Jesus. Happy Feast Day!

Fraternally,


Ron Pihokker, OFS
OLTAR Regional Minister



THE STIGMATA OF ST. FRANCIS

BY
FR. ANDREW REITZ, OFM



SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, FRANCISCANS AROUND THE WORLD CELEBRATED THE FEAST OF THE STIGMATA OF ST. FRANCIS, MARKING THE MOMENT WHEN THE SAINT RECEIVED THE MARKS OF CHRIST WHILE PRAYING ON MT. LAVERNA IN ITALY.

THE FOLLOWING REFLECTION REMINDS US OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION IN FRANCIS'S LIFE.

We recently celebrated the feast of the Stigmata, and we have all seen paintings of Francis receiving the sacred marks. Much has been written about this and what actually happened. Francis wanted nothing more than to conform his life to that of Christ, and the stigmata has been used to support how he was successful in doing this.

What I find more interesting is the internal conforming of his life to Christ. Those days in prayer in the caves on Mt. La Verna and elsewhere allowed him to be transformed internally.

Mt. La Verna is an impressive and beautiful place to visit. The first time I went there, I didn't think I would ever get to the top, and then I thought of St. Francis and wondered how he managed to climb this mountain. I was there one time after it snowed in Assisi.

There were two and three-foot drifts along the road as we walked from the bus to the friary and chapel.

Every day at La Verna at 3:00 p.m., the friars and visitors gather in the main chapel of the friary at La Verna and process through the corridor to the Chapel of the Stigmata. There they have a brief prayer service on the spot where Francis received the marks of Christ. It is a moving experience to be present for this time of prayer.

St. Francis took significant periods of time for prayer throughout his life. This continues to be a challenge to those who do very well with being active, but do not give as much time for prayer.

Yet, when we see what prayer did for Francis, it is a call for us to examine how we nourish ourselves to have the mind and attitude of Christ.

The Eucharist, scripture and prayer are our sources of nourishment for our active lives. There were many challenges that St. Francis faced throughout his life, and he turned to the Lord to inspire him to do what he needed to do.

We face many challenges too. We have the same opportunities available that St. Francis did to be nourished and to conform our thoughts, our ways and our attitude to Jesus. We know that he would hear the words of scripture and act as if Jesus had specifically given them to him. His thoughts, his attitude, his way of living were all shaped by Jesus during these times of prayer. Our reflecting on Francis at this time in his life helps us in our active lives to be "instruments of peace" through our attitude and actions as they are formed by our times of quiet and prayer.



Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM, is Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City.

FRATERNAL TIDINGS

CONGRATULATIONS

**TO CELIA LOURENCO, OFS, AND DAWN RUSINKO, OFS, CLEM,
ON THEIR APPOINTMENT TO THE OLTAR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
AS CO-CHAIRS OUR YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT COMMISSION.**

MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

My name is Celia Lourenço, I belong to St. John Vianney Fraternity in Colonia, NJ. My husband, Carlos, is also a secular Franciscan; we have two daughters Cristina and Sara, two adorable puppies, and one canary. Over the years my husband and I have taught Confirmation classes and we also had a high school youth group at our church. I teach 7th and 8th grade Spanish and French. I love gardening and spending time with family and friends.

The youth and God's Creation are very dear to my heart; as a secular Franciscan, I feel a responsibility and a joy of bringing the youth to Christ and at the same time to share the love and respect for Creation.

In the words of Pope John Paul II to the youth of the world, quoted in *Crossing The Threshold of Hope*, "You are the hope of the Church and of the world. You are my hope"

As Secular Franciscans let us renew our efforts to provide a place for young adults to learn our Franciscan-Christian way of life while getting closer to Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters pray for Dawn Rusinko and I, may the Holy Spirit guide us and enlighten us, as we start this journey in Christ and for Christ. PAX ET BONUM



DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

My name is Dawn Rusinko and I belong to Cortesia Fraternity in Middletown, NJ. I am a mother of three and grandmother to one. I am a Secular Franciscan and Commissioned Lay Ecclesial Minister with certificates in Pastoral Care, Youth Ministry, and Catechesis. I have a Baccalaureate in pastoral Ministry from Georgian Court University, where I studied Theology for 3 years.

I've served in Parish Ministries as Pastoral Associate, Director of Adult Faith Formation, Catechist and many other areas for over thirteen years.

As a Franciscan I have served as YouFra Minister, Vice Minister, Minister and Regional youth commissioner chair twice. I also volunteer for the National Association for Lay Ministry.

I write a spiritual blog at <http://dawnsfaithconnection.wordpress.com> and am currently working as the New Jersey Director at Downey Side Adoption Inc., assisting the waiting children in the foster care system, find their forever families.



THE CATHOLIC ARTISTS SOCIETY AND THE THOMISTIC INSTITUTE ARE
PLEASED TO PRESENT:

The Art of the Beautiful

FOUNDATIONS FOR A
CATHOLIC UNDERSTANDING
OF THE ARTS

A 6-part lecture series exploring the nature and purpose of Art, Beauty and their place in the social order. This monthly, Saturday-night series will feature talks by six renowned philosophers, theologians and artists.

It is directed to professional artists in all disciplines, students and patrons of the arts, and to all those who take in interest in culture and artistic endeavor.

Attendance is free, but space will be limited.

For more information, please visit:
catholicartistsociety@gmail.com

or

[www.thomisticinstitute.org/
nyartists](http://www.thomisticinstitute.org/nyartists)



TIME: 7:30 pm Saturdays, followed by a Reception and sung Compline.

PLACE: The Catholic Center @ NYU
238 Thompson Street
New York, NY 10012

OCTOBER 12

THE RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE ARTIST.

Fr. Peter John
Cameron, OP, editor,
Magnificat

NOVEMBER 16

FORMING THE ARTIST.

David Clayton,
Thomas More College

DECEMBER 14

BEAUTY AND THE REAL.

Alice Ramos, St. John's
University

JANUARY 25

LOVE AND ARTISTIC
GENESIS.

Anthony Esolen,
Providence College

FEBRUARY 15

VIRTUE AND THE
ARTISTIC IMAGINATION.

Fr. Joseph Koterski, SJ,
Fordham University

THE OFM OFFICE OF JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION AND ITS ANIMATION COMMITTEE are sponsoring a contest to create a logo that will "help attract people's attention and highlight the work we do as Franciscans to promote Justice, Peace and Care for Creation."

CALLING

GRAPHIC
DESIGNERS

CONTEST PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

[http://www.hnp.org/userfiles/Eng%
20LOGO%20contest%20proposal.pdf](http://www.hnp.org/userfiles/Eng%20LOGO%20contest%20proposal.pdf)



Fr. Joseph Rozansky, OFM, director of the OFM-JPIC office, offers several contest proposal guidelines for those who might be interested in entering the contest.

"Help those who would like to participate to better understand our charism, our values, and our commitment to promoting JPIC in today's world."

As artists design a logo, they are offered a reflection about JPIC values and encouraged to keep it in mind.

They also have a list which offers guidelines and suggestions in creating an appealing and effective logo.

The OFM office and committee ask that entries be submitted to pax@ofm.org by the end of October 2013.



The committee will choose the best entry, and the winning logo will become the property of the JPIC Office in Rome.

The artist will receive a letter of recognition from the General Minister, along with a statue of St. Francis of Assisi.



FRATERNAL TIDINGS



PROFESSION

Celebrating Permanent Profession
September 14, 2013
All Saints (Emerging) Fraternity
New York City, NY

VICKIE DAVIS-GARDNER, OFS
DOROTHY McWHITE, OFS

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY

Celebrating Temporary Profession
September 11, 2013
All Saints (Emerging) Fraternity
New York City, NY

MAY HORNE, OFS
ROCHELLE MARTIN, OFS

SPONSORS THE ALL SAINTS (EMERGING) FRATERNITY

2013 ELECTION

RESULTS



SERVANTS OF GOD FRATERNITY, YONKERS, NY
JUNE 12, 2013

DEACON EDWARD M. CASE, MINISTER MICHAEL BRADY, VICE MINISTER
ANGELA SCANNAPIECO, SECRETARY JANET TORCHIA, TREASURER
MARISE FRANGIE, FORMATION DIRECTOR

ANNIVERSARY FRATERNITIES CELEBRATING THEIR ESTABLISHMENT DATE:



ST. ANNE'S FRATERNITY
Fairlawn, NJ
Established October 20, 1946



LITTLE PORTION FRATERNITY
Hastings-On-Hudson, NY
Established October 4, 1984



ST. JOHN VIANNEY AND
ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY FRATERNITY
Paterson, NJ, officially merged as one.
Established October 12, 2007



If your fraternity celebrated their establishment date anytime between January thru October, and has not been recognized in this column, kindly send me your information so it may be entered into the OLTAR records database.

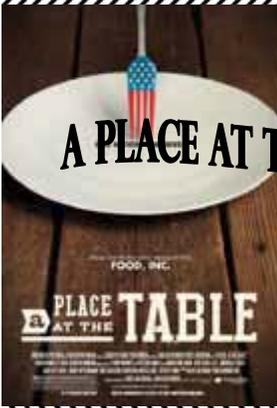
—Anna Geraci, Editor

OUTREACH EVENTS

MELTING ICE, MENDING CREATION

This program, designed by the *Catholic Coalition on Climate Change* is based on work done by the Pontifical Academy of Science, and noted science photographer James Balog. The program is based around a Power Point presentation of the effects of climate change, including a short video, and a facilitated discussion. The program will last approximately 75 minutes.

For more information check out the Coalition website at: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org or contact Fr. Stephen. **Sunday, October 6, 12:30 P.M.**
St. Bonaventure Church, The Tailor Shop (beneath the Church), 174 Ramsey St., Paterson, NJ.



Food is a human right, but 50 million Americans – 1 in 4 children – do not know where their next meal is coming from. Hunger and food insecurity are a symptom of a disconnection between our society and the earth and food which God has provided for us. Join *Franciscans Deliver*, the *Franciscan Earth Corps*, and the *Partnership for a Healthier NYC* for a screening of *A Place at the Table* on **Tuesday, October 8**, at 7:00 p.m. in the San Damiano Hall of St. Francis Church on 31st Street, New York City to learn more about the root causes of hunger in America and how we can help make healthy food available and affordable for all. For more information, contact Fr Paul at

paullostritto@gmail.com



Sunday, October 20, 7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot at the rear of the church. Please bring your clean, gently used winter coats and members of the ministry will be there to collect them.

Free distribution of coats will take place **Saturday, October 26, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.** and on **Sunday, October 27, 9:30 a.m. – noon** in the St. Mary's school gymnasium. Entrance to the gymnasium is off the courtyard in the rear of the school.

**Saint Mary's Parish, 17 Pompton Avenue
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442
973-835-0374**

Coats are needed for men, women and particularly children. Please help make this project a big success. If you know of an individual or family in need of a coat, please make sure they know about this free distribution.

FIFTH ANNUAL



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9 STARTING AT 6:00 P.M.
ST. ANTHONY CHURCH – POP MUSANTE HALL
154 SULLIVAN STREET, NEW YORK CITY

This annual event raises money for the hungry through the New York City Food Bank and there are no overhead costs – 100% of the money raised goes to the Food Bank.

<http://www.foodbanknyc.org>



Dozens of restaurants and pizzerias donate boxes of pizza, which are then sold for \$1.00 a slice. Some of the most famous pizza places throughout the city participate including Arturo's, Ben's, Grimaldi's, John's Pizza, and the oldest pizzeria in the USA, Lombardi's of Little Italy. Last year, there were lines all the way around the corner and about 600 people attended.

This year besides the pizza stands set up in the hall, there will be an outside booth for people to make their own pizza. Last year's event raised \$12,000 for hunger, and this year the goal is \$20,000. St. Anthony's is proud to host and be a sponsor for this event.

FRATERNITY TIDINGS

OCTOBER

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

The Blessing of Animals on **Sunday, October 6**, at 2:00 P.M. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 135 West 31st Street, New York City. tel 212.736.8500. Please gather on the front steps of St. Francis Church.

The Blessing of Animals will take place on **Sunday, October 6**, at 1:00 P.M. at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 154 Sullivan Street, New York City, in the Houston Street garden, or in the church in case of inclement weather.

ROSARY RALLY

St. Peter the Apostle Church, 170 Baldwin Road Parsippany, NJ. **Saturday, October 12**, at 12:00 P.M. Please arrive by 11:30 A.M. The Rosary Rally is held outdoors. If needed, please bring a chair. For more details, call Marie Palazzone at 973.523.6878.

DAY OF INQUIRY

Sunday, October 13, St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity will host a Day of Inquiry at Holy Name of Jesus Church, 207 West 96th Street, New York City.



MARIAN

The Holy See will hold a Marian Day event for the Year of Faith on **October 12–13**.

The event, organized by the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, will reflect on the theme “Blessed are you for believing!”

The Marian Day is also the anniversary of the final apparition of Blessed Mary to the three shepherd children at the Cova da Iria in Portugal. The last apparition of Our Lady of Fatima was followed by the “Miracle of the Sun” witnessed by the thousands gathered on October 13th, 1917.

The original statue of Our Lady of Fatima, venerated by millions

around the world, will be present for the festivities in Rome. The Holy Father will receive the statue on **Saturday, October 12**, which will be followed by a Marian catechesis. The statue will then make its way to the Sanctuary of Divine Love, where the Rosary will be prayed and broadcast to every Marian sanctuary around the world.

On **Sunday, October 13**, Pope Francis will consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as part of the Marian Day celebration “The Holy Father strongly desired that the Marian Day may have present, as a special sign, one of the most significant Marian icons for Christians throughout the world.

You are invited to the blessing of the bronze statue of the Homeless Jesus that was installed during the summer in the front of St. Francis Church on 31st Street, New York City.



The statue, by sculptor Timothy Schmalz, has captured the attention of many people who pass by the church, often leaving coins or food in the figure’s outstretched hand.

The blessing will take place **Sunday, October 6**, immediately after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

NOVEMBER

FOOD DRIVE

St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity will sponsor a Food Drive to supplement the parish’s food pantry.

On the first Sunday of the Food Drive, members of the Fraternity are in the back of the Church after all of the weekend Masses. We help hand out the bulletins which include a flyer inviting people to bring their contributions the following Sunday. Then, on the following Sunday, members are in the back of the Church to receive the food the parishioners bring and to thank them!

This year’s Thanksgiving Food Drive will be held on the weekends of **November 10 and November 16–17**. Holy Name of Jesus Church, 207 West 96th Street, New York City.

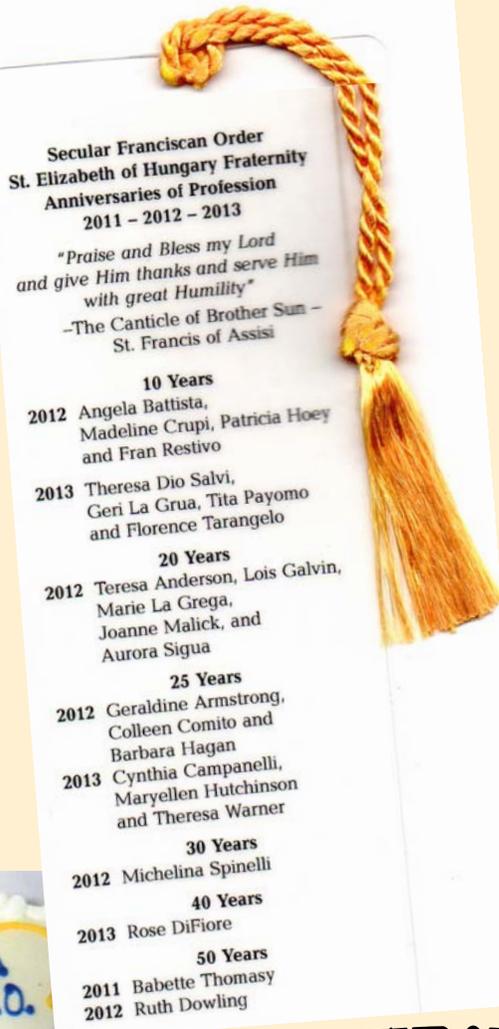
2013 CHAPTER OF MINISTERS

November 16, 2013, Holy Angels Church, 465 Main St., Little Falls, NJ 07424. Visitation from National Fraternity: Fr. Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap and Mary Frances Charsky, OFS.

FRATERNAL TIDINGS

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARIES HELD WITHIN THE CONSECRATION OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

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



“MAY WE ALL BE TRUE CHILDREN OF BLESSED FRANCIS, WILLINGLY TAKING THE LAST PLACE; RESEMBLING THE HEART OF JESUS MORE AND MORE.”

ON Thursday, May 16, 2013, the St. Elizabeth of Hungary's fraternity at St. Francis Friary in Todt Hill, Staten Island, called upon our brother Francis within the sealing of our consecration and renewal of our holy profession anniversaries.

“We place into your hands, O Mary, this renewal of our profession which we make in unison with our whole heart and soul before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.”

“In the presence of Almighty God, for the honor of the Immaculate Blessed Virgin Mary, of blessed father Francis, and of all the saints, I promise to observe throughout my life, the Commandments of God and the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order...”



TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

ON OUR SPECIAL MAY THURSDAY,
we also celebrated our Annual

May Crowning and procession in the chapel of the Friary in song, and prayed the Rosary after Mass.

What a Trinitarian way to renew the Consecration of the many anniversaries! Afterwards, we gathered to celebrate enjoying a special cake and specially created bookmarks with the names of our sisters and brothers anniversaries from 10 to 50 years.

Father Philip Blaine, our spiritual assistant and director of the St. Francis House of Spirituality, encourages us in our monthly gatherings to enjoy and learn from the humility of Francis while enjoining all anniversarians to carry on in his holiness. Special bookmarks were donated to our fraternity through the goodness of our local funeral home, Hanley's. They offered this gracious gift commemorating the profession anniversaries of our sisters and brothers, and we are most grateful for their faith filled offering.



FRATERNITY APOSTOLATES



ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR FRATERNITY

was established on
September 12, 1965
at St. Francis of Assisi
Church in NYC.

Fraternity members
live in the New York
metropolitan area and
commute to midtown
Manhattan for both
worship and work, and
many members serve
St. Francis of Assisi
Church as lectors and
Eucharistic ministers.
In addition to
supporting the Church,
the St. Benedict the
Moor Fraternity has
been especially active
in promoting a devotion
to the Rosary.

FRATERNITY
MEETINGS ARE HELD
ON THE 1ST MONDAY
OF THE MONTH,
6:00–8:00PM,
ST. CLARE'S ROOM AT
ST. FRANCIS FRIARY,
WEST 31ST STREET,
NEW YORK CITY.

In accordance with the Fraternity's rosary apostolate, members have made and distributed thousands of Ranger rosaries to the military. These rosaries, made to exacting standards with green parachute cord, black beads, and a black crucifix, travel with United States armed forces to wherever they serve around the world.

The Fraternity has also designed, made, and distributed thousands of its "Saint Francis Cares" rosaries to churches, hospitals, schools, and charities in the New York metropolitan region, and to missions throughout the world. These rosaries, made with white parachute cord, brown beads, and a white crucifix, symbolize the brown robes and white belts of the Franciscan order.

Since January 2010, the Fraternity has designed and made hundreds of rosaries for distribution to the faithful in Haiti. Made with blue parachute cord, white beads, and a white crucifix, these rosaries symbolize the colors traditionally associated with Our Lady.

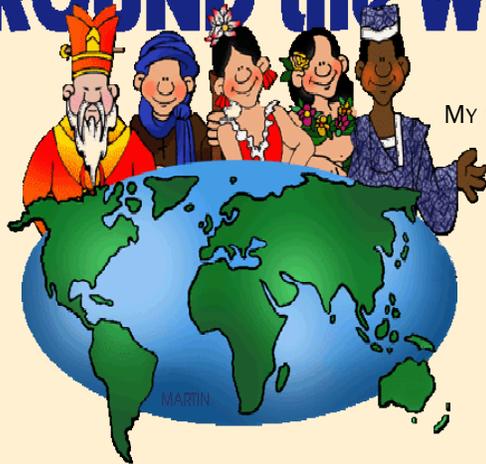
It costs under one dollar to make one rosary, but the Fraternity gives the rosaries away for free. The costs of the parachute cord, beads, and crucifixes are borne by the members of the Saint Benedict the Moor Fraternity. Please email: stbenedictthemoorsfo@gmail.com if you would like instructions on making rosaries for your parish or group.

FRATERNITY
WEBSITE:

<http://saintbenedictthemoor.homestead.com>



SECULAR ACTION AROUND the WORLD



MY NAME IS LOUISE M. SANDBERG, OFS.

I was professed a secular Franciscan in the Blessed Raymond Lull Fraternity on May 7, 2004.

I was a missionary to Haiti in 1975; and to Ghana in 1986, 1991, 1992, 2001 and 2008. In July, I prepared for a mission trip to Uganda with the love and support of my Fraternity.

Restoring The Heart Ministries (RTHM), is headed by Julie Woodley, who runs groups called *Wildflowers* for adults healing from childhood abuse, and also *Into My Arms*, created for healing from the trauma of abortion. *RTHM* on Long Island (and all over the U.S.), sponsored this trip for healing from abuse and trauma in Uganda.

My team consisted of 14 men and women; 3 were Catholics and the rest from different Christian denominations. Julie has so much compassion for those in need of healing from childhood abuse, and so much passion for women who carry deep wounds from abortions, that she travels all over the world spreading the healing. I am blessed to sometimes follow in her footsteps as she does what is hers to do.

SECULAR FRANCISCAN, LOUISE M. SANDBERG, FORMATION DIRECTOR OF THE BLESSED RAYMOND LULL FRATERNITY FROM TAU CROSS REGION, PARTICIPATED IN A MISSION TRIP TO UGANDA, AFRICA, THIS PAST AUGUST.

PART II

Our time in Uganda was amazing. We arrived in Entebbe and were welcomed at the airport with flowers and a joyful greeting from Doreen, our hostess from the *African Leadership And Reconciliation Ministry (ALARM)*. The next day we arrived in Kampala, one of the two cities where we would be ministering. Kampala is the home of a rock quarry where men, women and children work for 50 cents a day breaking boulders of granite down to little stones.

The women we were ministering to have been rescued from the back-breaking labor by learning how to make beautiful jewelry out of paper! It is hard to believe, but they make necklaces, bracelets, earrings, beaded bags and key chains only from the paper from magazines.

Many of the women have been traumatized from the *Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)*, Joseph Kony, who kidnapped children, killed their families and forced the children to become soldiers; he abused them terribly. Many are widows or have HIV.

Our mission was to pray the Immanuel prayer, designed by Karl Lehman, for God to heal their memories. The Immanuel prayer calls for a memory of connection with God, a positive memory of appreciation of God in your life. We then go from the positive memory back into the traumatic memory, and God shows the person what He wants them to know about the traumatic memory. The first woman I prayed with, "Annie," was older than the rest of the women.

She began telling me, through a translator, about a family party. Every year, her family gathered together for the harvest and celebrated for three days of thanksgiving. While celebrating, the *LRA soldiers* came into their compound killing 10 family members. The army forced them to cook and feed them. Family members that cried with grief for their dead were threatened with harm. Annie's husband was shot and later died of his wounds.

Listening to her story, I wanted to intervene and pray with her for the healing of her memories, but the Immanuel approach requires a happy memory of appreciation. I gently reminded her, through the translator, that I had asked if she had a happy memory. She assured me that she was getting to it.

continued from page 12

Annie wound up in the hospital recovering from the harsh treatment of the *LRA*. She was visited by a local prayer group and felt a little better. They came every day and told her about Jesus. She became a Christian and felt loved with a new hope. Then one day she had a vision.

A cross of light with Jesus on the cross came before her. She felt peace—Jesus had suffered and died for her. This vision gave her a deep appreciation for Jesus. There were six women in the group, and they each had to share a memory of appreciation, so I had to move on to the next person.

The next day we continued, but Annie wasn't there. While others shared their stories and experienced a healing, I grew concerned, where was Annie? We had a tea break, and finally, she arrived! I invited her to continue with the memory of the glowing cross, which she did.

She connected with Jesus on the cross and felt peace and gratitude. She went back into the memory of the *LRA* invading the family party and killing family members. With surprise, Annie said the glowing cross was there. She experienced all the people who had died coming into her heart. She felt deep peace. She remembered being forced to cook for three days with the pile of dead bodies nearby; of not being allowed to mourn; and of her husband's death. Again, Jesus was there and the memory lost its horror. Peace came.

The translator was so excited at Annie's witness that she was practically jumping up and down!

Annie sat next to me as I prayed with other women for healing. She visited some other memories on her own with Jesus. She kept remarking that she had peace, shaking her head in disbelief.

The next day she came and said the glowing cross had been with her all day. The pain she'd been carrying for so many years was gone. In place of the pain, she was deeply joyful and peaceful. She questioned how long the presence of Jesus, this vision, would remain with her? I asked her if she would like to ask God about that?

This was just one woman. Every woman experienced healing in every group.

We also went to Gulu, a city in the north. There we worked with women who spoke English and were mentors for the orphans whose parents and families had been killed by the *LRA*. In the morning, we prayed with the mentors, and in the afternoons, we went to the schools and prayed with the orphans.

One 13-year-old boy, "Roy," now the head of his family, told us that the *LRA* had invaded his home and killed some of his family members. The soldiers had forced the adults to take them to the home of his grandparents, and left one soldier behind to kill the children.

When the soldiers were out of range, the "child soldier" who had been left behind told the children, "Run!" They hid in the bush until they were safe and are now in their family home. Roy received peace in his memory, and help with caring for his younger siblings.

We helped over 170 children with their memories through the 50 mentors we trained. I have never seen and could not have imagined the great work that God performed through our team.

I have witnessed many stories of transformation from horror to peace through a prayer which invites God to be present in our memories and feelings.

I am willing to run a 10-week *Wildflowers* or *Into My Arms* group if there is any interest. I would be agreeable to start groups on Long Island and in Queens and Brooklyn.



CONTACT

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NEWS AROUND THE REGION

BY
BOB CAMPBELL, OFS



On August 12–25, 55 Franciscans, with Tau-Cross Region’s Spiritual Assistant, Rev. Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap, gathered at Mount Alvernia Retreat House in Wappingers Falls, NY, for FLIC 2013.

F.L.I.C. stands for **F**ranciscans **L**iving **I**n **C**ommunity – it’s not a retreat, but truly a gathering. Included in the four days are the same elements we experience in our local monthly fraternity gatherings: prayer, formation, a bit of business and a lot of social.



TERESA BAKER, OFS

As in the past several years, formation was provided by Teresa Baker OFS, former National Formation Commission member and author of several formation books. This year’s theme was Living the Gospel – Evangelized to Evangelize. In a nutshell: **“IN ORDER FOR US TO BRING THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD, WE FIRST MUST HAVE IT WITHIN OURSELVES.”**

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

- Pope Paul VI: St Francis was a “wordless witness.” Remember his admonition: “use words when necessary.”
- Evangelize: bring the message of the Gospel to the world by living the message.
- Ministers, all called to ministry, are called to serve; this seems to be the message of Pope Francis.
- St Francis, in the Letter to the Ministers—three prescriptions for love:
Love and do not expect them to change.
Love and do not wish them to be better Christians.
Love and always be merciful.

In one of his homilies, Fr. Matthias pointed to one of the stained-glass windows in the chapel and translated the Latin words: “go out into the whole world and proclaim the message of the Gospel to all creatures.” Father said that we are not called to make everyone a Catholic or even a Christian. We are simply called to bring the message, not to convert others. We hope that by our living the message others will get the message. Evangelization is a job description for Jesus; Discipleship is a job description for the people of God

- Pope Paul VI: “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”



FR. MATTHIAS
WESNOFSKE,
OFM CAP



CIOFS

PRESENCE IN THE WORLD FORMATION PROGRAM



If the presence in the world is an imperative for all the faithful lay persons; it is so much more, for us secular Franciscans, a responsibility to be at the head of the builders of peace in the world, in view of the charisma, lived by Saint Francis, that we pretend to inherit. Being builders of a more fraternal world, indeed of a universal fraternity constitutes the ideal, sometimes placed in doubt even by some members of the Catholic Church, and has no alternative. A mission that we have been entrusted with by the Church, as a figure in our Rule (cf. art.14 and 19), but that must be realized with all the men of good will and in collaboration with the movements that promote fraternity between all peoples » (*Constitutions*, art. 18).

Monthly updates are available online at the CIOFS website: <http://www.ciofs.org> 
Click on: *Presence in the World* • Available in English, Spanish, French and Italian.

ONGOING

CIOFS MONTHLY DOSSIERS

Go to the CIOFS website at:

FORMATION

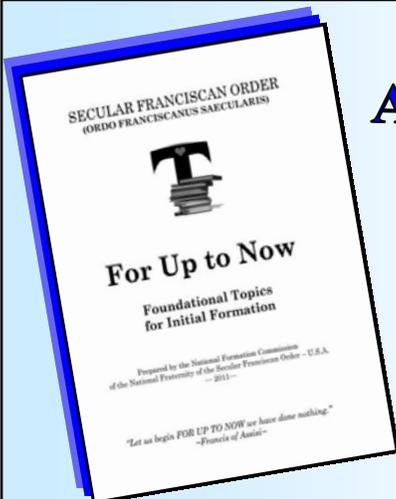
<http://www.ciofs.org/portal/index.php?lang=en> 

Click on: *Ongoing Formation*

Available in English, Spanish, French and Italian.

NAFRA - USA

Attention ALL Fraternity Ministers, Formation Directors and Teams



Now there's another way you can obtain a copy of our Secular Franciscan Order's Formation Guide manual, "For Up To Now," by contacting the printer directly by phone or website.

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SISTER  DEATH



Fr. Lawrence Burke, OFM, 92, a professed Franciscan friar for 72 years and a priest for 66, died Wednesday, September 18th at Holy Name Friary, Ringwood, NJ. Fr. Burke was Spiritual Assistant to the St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in Ringwood.

Wake and burial services were offered on September 22 at St. Anthony Church in Butler, N.J. Provincial Minister **John O'Connor, OFM**, served as principal celebrant and **Jeremiah McGinley, OFM**, offered the homily during the Mass of Christian Burial on September 23. Fr. Lawrence was buried at God's Acre in Ringwood.

A tribute to Fr. Lawrence Burke held on his 60th Anniversary as a priest was a gala celebration held at the Regency Hotel in Wayne, NJ, where more than 200 persons celebrated, rejoiced and congratulated Fr. Larry.

In summarizing Fr. Burke's 60 years in ministry; a speaker presented an appreciative picture of the man by quoting St. Paul's Admonition: "To be all things to all men," and stating, "In our experience, if anyone embodies these words, it is Lawrence Burke."

Remembering Our OFS

In the month of November, All Saint's and

All Soul's days are annual reminders for us to remember and to celebrate those who have gone before us.

I'd like to propose starting a yearly tribute honoring our departed fraternity brother and sisters; but your help is needed!

I ask that all fraternities send me a listing of their departed fraternity brothers and sisters who died during this past year, the date of their death, and the fraternity name.

e-Troubadour will be recognizing our OFS departed family members in a special way.

All listings must be received by **Tuesday, October 29.**

—Anna Geraci, Editor

With love we remember those who no longer walk this earth.

We are grateful to God for the gift of their lives,
for the joys we shared,
and for the cherished memories
that never fade.

MEMORIAL MASS

A Memorial Mass was offered for

+ JOE GIORDANO +

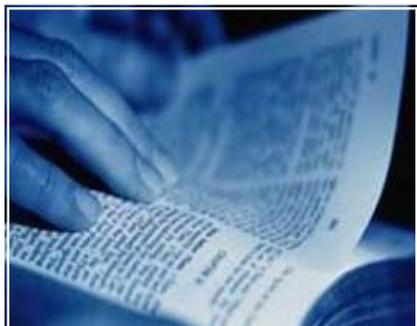
Celebrating his first anniversary in heaven.

June 19, 2013

Little Portion Fraternity

Hastings-On-Hudson NY

RECENT RELEASES



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.

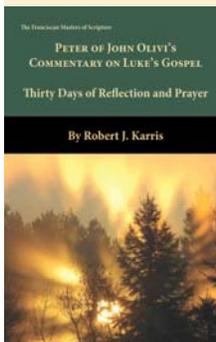
Known for many years for its critical editions of leading medieval Franciscan philosophers and theologians, *Franciscan Institute Publications* has more recently endeavored to make available to a wider reading public the very best of modern scholarship on the history, spirituality and intellectual tradition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

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**PETER OF JOHN OLIVI'S COMMENTARY ON LUKE'S GOSPEL
THIRTY DAYS OF REFLECTION AND PRAYER**

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



2013 - 68 pages
ISBN Pb 978-1-57659-323-3
\$12.95

Olivi's commentaries stem mainly from his teaching of Franciscan students in their study houses (studia). Unfortunately only his Commentary on Mark's Gospel has appeared in English translation.

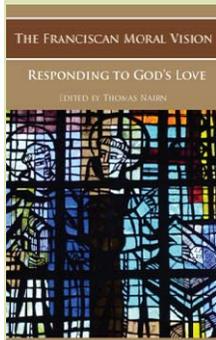
Peter of John Olivi's Commentary on Luke is largely focused on its literal sense although his insights are often non-traditional and penetrating. Through this small book, he is presented as a Franciscan biblical interpreter not only to the Franciscan Family, but also to the world at large.



THE FRANCISCAN MORAL VISION:

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

Edited by Tom Nairn



2013 - 326 pages
ISBN Pb 978-1-57659-208-3
\$39.95

In the last half century, contemporary Catholic moral theology has developed at a rapid pace. Franciscan scholars have played a major part in this renewal of contemporary moral theology.

Yet, these moral insights from the Franciscan tradition have, to a great extent, been overlooked by the English speaking world since many of the works have not been available in English.

The authors of this volume of essays hope that this contribution on the Franciscan moral vision will help to broaden the conversation regarding moral theology and continue the work already accomplished by the many authors working in non-English languages. Scholar contributors to this volume of essays include Joseph Chinnici, Kenan Osborne, Thomas Shannon, Thomas Nairn and Mary Beth Ingham.

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**'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

STREAMING VIDEO EVENTS!



I PRIMI CINQUE FRATTI - THE FIRST FIVE FRIARS

I PRIMI CINQUE FRATTI - A You Tube recording of the Friars, Sisters and Secular

Franciscans paying homage to the first five Franciscan martyrs and the Singing of the Salve Sancte Pater. If you look attentively, you'll see our own OFS General Minister, Encarnacion del Pozo in attendance.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLg8QGuxEUw>



A continued You Tube recording of the re-burial of the five followers of Francis who flanked him in the lower level of the Basilica.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPXR2W3Wrlw>



To learn more of the first five Franciscan martyrs go to:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agFbC_TDeOK



HOW DO YOU PRAY?



U.S.

Catholic magazine is planning, in an issue in the not-too-distant future, to explore the real prayer lives of Catholics. They are looking for intrepid souls brave enough to reveal (anonymously if you wish) the specifics of your daily prayer lives.

From the minute you get up in the morning until you go to bed, tell us about your habits of talking to God, resting in God's presence, practicing Catholic devotions, praying for a parking space—whatever forms your prayer life currently takes throughout the day. Does your prayer make a difference in your daily routine, in your resentment levels, in your confidence in making decisions? Even if you feel you have nothing to share on prayer, you probably do. Tell them (at the website below), about your prayer life. If your story is one that catches their attention, they'll contact you about including your prayer life in their upcoming story.

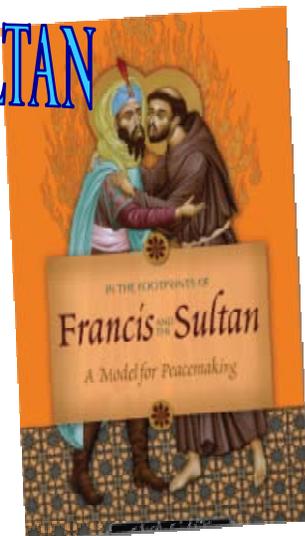
<http://www.uscatholic.org/blog/201303/how-do-you-pray-27102>



FRANCIS AND THE SULTAN

A new documentary is available from Franciscan Media called, *In the Footprints of St. Francis and the Sultan: A Model for Peacemaking.*"

Friend of FAN, Sister Kathleen Warren, OSF, co-produced the DVD and resource materials. This two-part film examines contemporary issues of inter-religious understanding grounded in the timeless Franciscan tradition of tolerance, peacemaking and social justice.



Following St. Francis of Assisi as he travels to the Middle East to meet Sultan Malek al-Kamil in 1219, this journey becomes a historic symbol for peace as Francis crosses the battle lines of the Crusades and reaches out to the enemy. Through these two men, we see an example that speaks to us today as we work to achieve understanding among peoples of different backgrounds, faith traditions, cultures and ethnicities.

The DVD is available at several online market places such as Amazon. Additionally, there is free resource material available to accompany the DVD at the Franciscan Media website at:

<http://franciscanmedia.org/francissultan>



THE POVERTY CHALLENGE

A project encouraging Americans to live for a few days on the bare minimum of water will help them



understand poverty and treat those without clean water as brothers, a water access advocate has said.

“If you really want to live in solidarity with the poor, if you want to build some awareness in yourself about this issue and about the importance of the water that you are so blessed to have access to, take the 4LITER CHALLENGE,” said George McGraw, executive director of *DigDeep Water*. “It’s not hard, but it’s incredibly life-changing.”

The 4LITER CHALLENGE, a program of the Los Angeles-based *DigDeep Water*, is set to run from **October 14–21, 2013**. It asks people to live for several days on four liters of water per day – only slightly more than one gallon; this is the minimum amount of clean water a person needs to survive.

The challenge aims to raise awareness about “water poverty,” the lack of clean water that many poor people face, both in the U.S. and around the world. “There is, in my experience, no simpler or more profound challenge that can really change the way you look at something so quickly and effectively,” McGraw said.

“You’ll finish the 4LITER CHALLENGE and when you wake up every day, as soon as you turn on the tap you’ll be reminded of that experience.”

Participants in the challenge can sign up on an interactive site to share their experiences with friends and family, and to collect donations to help others access water.

“The 4LITER CHALLENGE simulates that experience of people every day: the experience of having to only collect a little bit of water and figure out what you are going to use it for,” McGraw added. “It really is a true experience of poverty.” The program, he explained, aims “to make Americans more conscious of their own water consumption and help them to see their own access to water as an important human right that they need to safeguard.”

According to McGraw, Americans consume more water than anyone else globally, up to 550 liters (145 gallons) per person per day in drinking, cooking, watering the lawn, and other tasks. Experts estimate that 50 liters (13 gallons) per day is needed for a person to live “a normal, healthy life.” Economic poverty or natural disaster can hinder access to water, as can social or political pressures and infrastructure breakdown. Almost 800 million people lack access to clean water. About 80 percent of diseases are caused by unclean water, and about 4,500 children die from water-borne illnesses every day.

Water poverty is a significant problem on Native American reservations in the U.S. About 13 percent of reservation residents lack running water or flush toilets, a figure worse than some African or Latin American countries. *DigDeep Water* has water access projects in the U.S., South Sudan, Sudan, Cameroon, and Kenya. McGraw, a Catholic, served as a human rights lawyer in an international development organization before founding the organization. He said *DigDeep Water* aims to unite both water conservation efforts and water access efforts. At present, advocacy is spread across separate networks and separate organizations that rarely work together.

“It makes sense to bridge that gap between the two schools of thought. Water is a basic human right that we all need access to. For that reason, we all have a responsibility to safeguard it.” “From a Catholic standpoint, this is what we talk about when we talk about common goods or basic human dignity being tied to basic human needs. There are certain gifts that God has given us in nature that we use to fulfill our needs and recognize their dignity, which we have first and foremost from Him.”

DigDeep Water is a secular organization, but McGraw said his personal philosophy of human rights and human dignity is “centered really firmly in Catholic social teaching.” He cited Catholic thought’s emphasis on “the structural importance of understanding, first and foremost, that all of our social, economic and environmental issues come from our relationships, not just with each other, but with God.” “We need to really care, on a personal level, about why water poverty matters. We will not be successful until we understand why it is a problem, why water matters.”

Water access projects tend to have a high failure rate, but McGraw said this mindset is showing results: all of *DigDeep Water*’s field projects are still active. “We have a great relationship with the communities we help, and I think that, as simple as it might be, is why we are successful.” <http://www.digdeepwater.org>



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS
REGIONAL FRATERNITY
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER



Francis go and repair
my house.



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS
REGIONAL FRATERNITY COMMUNICATIONS

REGIONAL WEBSITE: www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org

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The TROUBADOUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER:
<http://olangels.tripod.com/troubadour.html>

YAHOO GROUP: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OLARegion>

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