



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



CONNECTING THE 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.*



Dear brothers and sisters in St. Francis,

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.”



With the return of the *Troubadour*, and *e-Troubadour News*, 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!

The *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*

NOW, LET US BEGIN ...





# POPE FRANCIS ASKS THE WORLD TO PRAY AND FAST FOR PEACE SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 7

Dear sisters and brothers in St. Francis,

Our Holy Father has launched a heartfelt appeal asking all the world to join him on **Saturday, September 7**, to pray and fast for peace in Syria. His plea was made during the Angelus prayer at midday in St. Peter's Square, in the presence of thousands of faithful. We ask every Secular Franciscan to set aside some time for prayer and fasting individually, or with fraternity or parish family, in support of our Holy Father Francis.

Below is the full text of the Holy Father's homily:

“Today, dear brothers and sisters, I wish to add my voice to the cry which rises up with increasing anguish from every part of the world, from every people, from the heart of each person, from the one great family which is humanity: it is the cry for peace! It is a cry which declares with force: we want a peaceful world; we want to be men and women of peace, and we want in our society, torn apart by divisions and conflict, that peace break out! War never again! Never again war! Peace is a precious gift, which must be promoted and protected.

“There are so many conflicts in this world, which cause me great suffering and worry, but in these days,

my heart is deeply wounded, in particular, by what is happening in Syria and anguished by the dramatic developments which are looming.

“I appeal strongly for peace, an appeal which arises from the deep within me. How much suffering, how much devastation, how much pain has the use of arms carried in its wake in that martyred country, especially among civilians and the unarmed! I think of many children who will not see the light of the future!

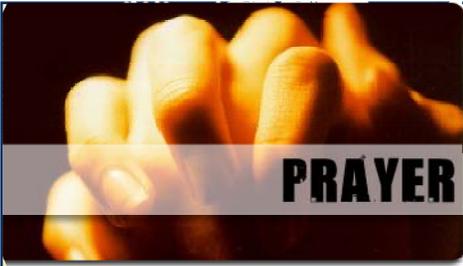
With utmost firmness, I condemn the use of chemical weapons: I tell you that those terrible images from recent days are burned into my mind and heart.

There is a judgment of God and of history upon our actions, which is inescapable! Never has the use of violence brought peace in its wake. War begets war; violence begets violence.

“With all my strength, I ask each party in this conflict to listen to the voice of their own conscience, not to close themselves in solely on their own interests, but rather to look at each other as brothers and decisively and courageously to follow the path of encounter and negotiation, and so overcome blind conflict. With similar vigor, I exhort the International community to make every effort to promote clear proposals for peace in that country without further delay,

a peace based on dialogue & negotiation, for the good of the entire Syrian people. “May no effort be spared in guaranteeing humanitarian assistance to those wounded by this terrible conflict, in particular, those forced to flee and the many refugees in nearby countries. May humanitarian workers, charged with the task of alleviating the sufferings of these people, be granted access so as to provide the necessary aid.

“What can we do to make peace in the world? As Pope John said, it pertains to each individual to establish new relationships in human society under the mastery and guidance of justice and love.



# PRAY AND FAST FOR PEACE



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“All men and women of good will are bound by the task of pursuing peace. I make a forceful and urgent call to the entire Catholic Church, and also to every Christian of other confessions, as well as to followers of every religion and to those brothers and sisters who do not believe: peace is a good which overcomes every barrier, because it belongs all of humanity!

“I repeat forcefully: it is neither a culture of confrontation, nor a culture of conflict, which builds harmony within and between peoples, but rather a culture of encounter and a culture of dialogue; this is the only way to peace.

“May the plea for peace rise up and touch the heart of everyone so that they may lay down their weapons and let themselves be led by the desire for peace.

**“To this end, brothers and sisters, I have decided to proclaim for the whole Church on September 7, the vigil of the birth of Mary, Queen of Peace, a day of fasting and prayer for peace in Syria, the Middle East, and throughout the world, and I also invite each person, including our fellow Christians, followers of other religions and all men of good will, to participate, in whatever way they can, in this initiative.**

“On September 7, in Saint Peter’s Square, here, from 7:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. we will gather in prayer and in a spirit of penance, invoking God’s great gift of peace upon the beloved nation of Syria and upon each situation of conflict and violence around the world. Humanity needs to see these gestures of peace and to hear words of hope and peace!

I ask all the local churches, in addition to fasting, that they gather to pray for this intention.

“Let us ask Mary to help us to respond to violence, to conflict and to war, with the power of dialogue, reconciliation and love. She is our mother: may she help us to find peace; all of us are her children!

Help us, Mary, to overcome this most difficult moment and to dedicate ourselves each day to building in every situation an authentic culture of encounter and peace. Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us!”

For more information, go to:  
[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)



## PRAYER

**GOD OF COMPASSION,  
LISTEN TO THE CRIES  
OF THE PEOPLE OF SYRIA.**

**Give comfort to those who suffer  
because of the violence,  
console those who mourn their dead,  
and strength to neighboring countries  
to welcome the refugees.**

**Convert the hearts of  
those who resort to arms  
and protect those who  
work to promote peace.**

**GOD OF HOPE,  
inspire leaders to choose  
peace instead of violence  
and to seek reconciliation with their enemies.  
Inspire compassion in the universal Church  
for the Syrian people and give us hope  
for a future of peace based on justice for all.**

**We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
Prince of Peace and Light of the world.**

**AMEN.**

**A** DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER FOR PEACE WILL BE TELEVISED ON SEPTEMBER 7 BY EWTN LIVE FROM ST. PETER’S SQUARE.

TENTATIVE TIME: 1:00 P.M. ET.

CHECK THEIR WEBSITE FOR FINAL TIME AND LISTINGS

FOR YOUR LOCAL AREA AT: [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com)



OUR LADY OF  
THE ANGELS  
REGIONAL FRATERNITY  
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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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YAHOO GROUP  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/  
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ADMINISTRATOR  
DIANE F. MENDITTO, OFS



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REGIONAL DATABASE  
ADMINISTRATOR  
ANNA GERACI, OFS

## 2013 REGIONAL CALENDAR

— Mark your Calendars —  
details will follow when available.

[Leadership Training Workshop](#) — see ad on pg 5



**Saturday, September 21, 2013**

**9:30 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.**

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

Bring a Brown Bag Lunch

Hospitality provided by Most Holy Name of Jesus Fraternity

R.S.V.P. by September 14th.

### O.F.S. CLUSTER MEETINGS

[Manhattan Cluster Meeting](#)

**Saturday, September 21, 2013**

**10:00 a.m. — 12:00 Noon**

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

[Manhattan Cluster](#)

[Sts. Elizabeth and Louis Feast Day](#)

**November 17, 2013**

### [Father Mychal Judge Walk of Remembrance](#)

Join the 11th annual *Fr. Mychal Judge Walk of Remembrance* on **Sunday, September 8, 2013**. St. Francis of Assisi Church on West 31st Street, NYC.

The day begins with the recitation of the Rosary at 9:00 a.m. in the lower church, followed by Mass at 9:30 a.m. celebrated by Fr. Christopher Keenan, OFM, FDNY Chaplain.

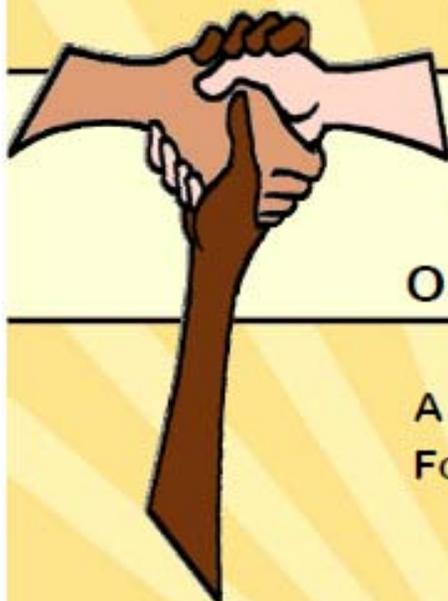
Following the Mass, the walk will proceed from St. Francis Church to St. Peter's Church on Barclay Street near Ground Zero in memory of those who died on September 11, 2001, here in New York as well as at the Pentagon in Washington and in Shanksville, PA.

### [Memorial Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church](#)

There will be a Memorial Mass at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 11th for those who died at the World Trade Center, especially the members of Battalion 7 of the FDNY.

### [Remembrance Mass at St. Bonaventure Church](#)

Wednesday, September 11th, St. Bonaventure Parish in Paterson, N.J., will celebrate a Mass of Remembrance at 11:30 a.m. to commemorate all the lives that were lost during the terrorist attacks. Following the Mass, there will be a prayer service at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Totowa, N.J., at Fr. Mychal's grave.



**Attention Fraternity Ministers  
and Fraternity Council Members!**

**OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGION**

**A n n o u n c e s**

**A WORKSHOP FOR MINISTERS, VICE MINISTERS,  
FORMATION DIRECTORS, SECRETARIES, TREASURERS,  
AND ALL FRATERNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS.**

**What are your responsibilities in Leadership?**

**What does it mean to be a Franciscan Leader?**

**COME**

explore ideas,  
learn  
new skills,  
and acquire  
resources  
to deal with  
challenges  
you'll face  
as a  
Council  
member  
and  
fraternity  
leader.

**PLACE:**

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

**DATE:**

Saturday,  
September 21st, 2013

**TIME:**

9:30 A.M. until 3:30 P.M.

**PLEASE BRING A  
BROWN BAG LUNCH.**

Hospitality provided by  
Most Holy Name of Jesus  
Fraternity.

**PLEASE REGISTER  
BY E-MAIL TO:**

**[kate.asselin@shu.edu](mailto:kate.asselin@shu.edu)**



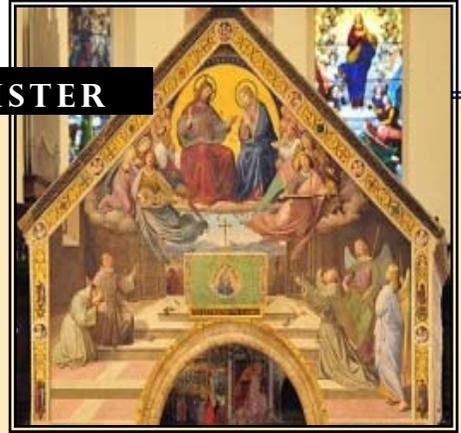
before

September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Include the names  
and the positions  
of the persons  
who will attend,  
along with the  
name and location  
of your fraternity.

**EVERY FRATERNITY  
SHOULD BE REPRESENTED  
AT THIS IMPORTANT  
OPPORTUNITY.**

## LETTER FROM REGIONAL MINISTER



Dear Sisters and Brothers:

This certainly has been a time of great change and newness for our Church. The resignation and retirement of Pope Benedict XVI and the subsequent election of Pope Francis has certainly proven that the Holy Spirit is present in power in our church, and that she is filled with surprises! What a wonderful gift Pope Francis is showing himself to be! In the spirit of our holy father, St. Francis, whose name he has chosen, he has moved quickly to heighten our sense of the gift of simplicity and the embrace of the poor. He is teaching by example the idea that for the Christian, leadership is about humble service and not about distinctions-- that the church is most in tune with the vision of the Gospel when she embraces the poor and becomes poor herself.

It has become clear as we have all learned about the previous ministry of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, that this embrace of simplicity and poverty is not something which is new to him. Rather, it comes from the core of his being, his integrity and his life-long vision. We know he opted as Archbishop of Buenos Aires, to live simply in an apartment among the people and cooked for himself instead of living in the Archbishop's house with a retinue of servants and took public transportation instead of using a chauffeur-driven car. What an example of genuine ministry and servant leadership! And he has continued in the same vein since his election to the papacy. His choice of living quarters, his choice of simple vestments, his going to a youth prison to celebrate Holy Thursday Mass and wash the feet of Muslim and Christian boys and girls, his choice of preaching standing and without wearing a mitre, all of these are reminders to us of the saying attributed to St. Francis:

“Preach the Gospel at all times and if necessary, use Words.”

We have all made a public commitment to live the Gospel in the manner of St. Francis with our profession of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order.

How have we simplified our lives?

How do we witness our option for the poor and the marginalized?

How do we witness to simplicity and humility by the choices we make?

How do we witness to peace?

Pope Francis challenges us to be Franciscans of Integrity. May the Lord bless our Pope Francis with many healthy years of ministry among us and bless his leadership of the Church. May he, like St. Francis, rebuild the Church which is always in need of renewal. May Pope Francis' inspirational and authentic discipleship and his model of service inspire us to lives of simplicity, poverty and humble service.

Fraternally,

Ron Pihokker, OFS

OLTAR Regional Minister

## WE'RE ALL APOSTLES

# Who are the twelve apostles?

- B** Bartholemew
- A** Andrew
- P** Peter and Philip
- T** Thomas
- I (j)** John, Judas, James the less, James the Great, Jude
- S** Simon the Zealot
- M** Matthew



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

The definition of an Apostle is one who has seen the risen Jesus before his Ascension. We, with the eyes of faith, have experienced the risen Jesus. Each time we receive Communion, we receive His risen body.

At our last regional meeting, Ron shared an experience of a group preparing banners for an occasion. One banner said PEACE, another LOVE, and still another SHARE. Finally, the last banner was unrolled. It said: DAMN IT, LET'S GET BUSY.

Indeed, let us get busy spreading the Good News all over this earth.

Humbly submitted by  
**FATHER MICHAEL TYSON, OFM**

Recent appointee to the regional board  
representing the OFM Family.

# FOR ONGOING FORMATION

## CIOFS MONTHLY DOSSIERS

Go to the CIOFS website at:

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



Click on Ongoing Formation

Available in English, Spanish, French and Italian.

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](mailto: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

**SEPTEMBER 14**

ART: FOR WHOSE SAKE?  
Gregory Wolfe, editor,  
*Image Journal*

**DECEMBER 14**

BEAUTY AND THE REAL.  
Alice Ramos, St. John's  
University

**OCTOBER 12**

THE RESPONSIBILITY  
OF THE ARTIST.  
Fr. Peter John  
Cameron, OP, editor,  
*Magnificat*

**JANUARY 25**

LOVE AND ARTISTIC  
GENESIS.  
Anthony Esolen,  
Providence College

**NOVEMBER 16**

FORMING THE ARTIST.  
David Clayton,  
Thomas More 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](mailto: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

## congratulations

### PERMANENT PROFESSION

May 18, 2013  
St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity,  
New York City, NY

**OGONNA AGU, OFS**  
**DAISY GUZMAN, OFS**  
**EVARISTO LUIS RODRIGUEZ, OFS**

June 9, 2013  
St. Louis Fraternity  
Wood-Ridge, NJ

**CATHERINE CHO, OFS**  
**JOANNA KIM, OFS**  
**MARIA LEE, OFS**  
**AGATHA YOO, OFS**

### RITE OF ADMISSION

June 7, 2013  
Assumption Fraternity  
Wood-Ridge, NJ  
**GERARD ADUBATO**

### DIANE MENDITTO, OFS, OUR OLTAR REGIONAL VICE MINISTER, WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED TO THE NATIONAL FORMATION COMMITTEE.

Diane is an active Secular Franciscan sister who wears M A N Y hats. Here's just a sampling: On the local level, she is Vice Minister of St. Francis' Fraternity in Hackensack, NJ; and maintains her Fraternity's website, as well as her local Church's parish website. On the regional level, Diane is the website administrator; Facebook administrator; and a talented regional event speaker. SMILE when you see her, she's also our event photographer who can always be found shooting her trusty camera. Thanks, Diane, for all you do and the love with which you do it!

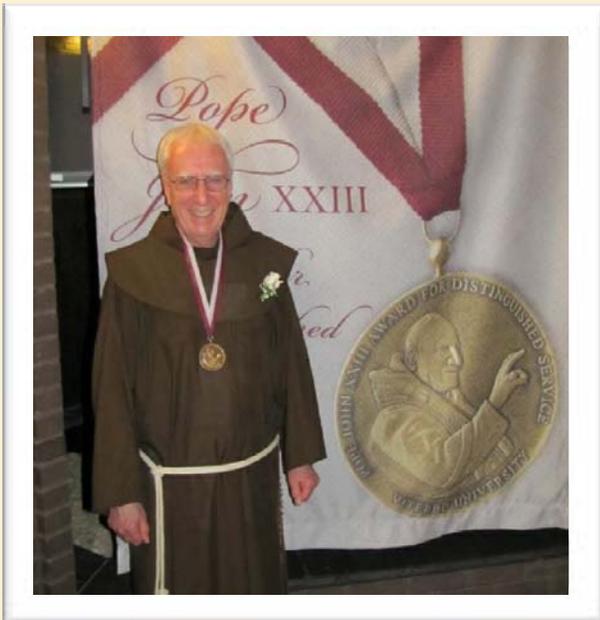


### FR. ANDRÉ CIRINO, OFM, RECEIVED THE 2013 POPE JOHN XXIII AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE FROM VITERBO UNIVERSITY IN LA CROSSE.

The awards were conferred at a banquet and ceremony held at Viterbo University on Tuesday, June 4.

The Pope John XXIII Award is the highest non-academic award bestowed by Viterbo University. Recipients are chosen on the basis of contributions in one or several of the following categories: education, business, philanthropy, peace and justice, and religious life.

Fr. André has authored or edited nearly a dozen books and journals covering the theme of Franciscanism. He is the Spiritual Assistant to Little Portion Fraternity, located in Hasting-On-Hudson, NY. A leader of Franciscan Pilgrimages, which takes travelers to locales such as Assisi, Italy, ancestral home of St. Francis of Assisi, and to the Vatican, seat of Catholic identity and power. Participants have described the pilgrimages as spiritually life changing, crediting Fr. Cirino's leadership as the reason.



# 2013 ELECTION RESULTS

**JANUARY 13, 2013**

**ST. JOHN VIANNEY FRATERNITY, COLONIA, NJ**



**DOLORES JULES, MINISTER; CELIA LOURENCO, VICE MINISTER; ANNA ZIELSKI, TREASURER; ROBERT TIMPER, SECRETARY; PAUL DI LENA, FORMATION DIRECTOR.**



**APRIL 12, 2013**  
**ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY**  
**WOOD-RIDGE, NJ**

**DR. CHRISTOPHER TRAUSE, TREASURER**  
**ROSALIE CAUCEGLIA, SECRETARY**  
**GENEVIEVE ZOCH, FORMATION DIRECTOR**  
**DR. CHRISTOPHER L. TRAUSE, TREASURER**  
**JOHN J. TRAUSE, VICE MINISTER**  
**FRANK CATALANO, MINISTER**



**APRIL 14, 2013**  
**ST. LOUIS FRATERNITY**  
**WOOD-RIDGE, NJ**

**JOSEPH PARK, FORMATION DIRECTOR**  
**ELISABETH CHO, SECRETARY**  
**AGATHA KIM, TREASURER**  
**ELIZABETH KWON, VICE MINISTER**  
**LAZARO BAE, MINISTER**  
**FR. FRANCIS KIM, SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT**

**JULY 2, 2013**

**ST. ANTHONY'S FRATERNITY BUTLER, NJ**



**L-to-R: Christine Lukesh-Director of Formation, Diane Menditto-President, Ed Wojciechowski-Minister, Jim Brennan-Vice Minister, Trudy O'Keefe-Secretary, Andy Klutkowski-Treasurer, Bro. Doug Soik-Friar Witness-Region SA**

# FRATERNAL TIDINGS

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### MAY CROWNING

May 17, 2013

St. John Vianney/St. Elizabeth of Hungary  
Fraternity  
Paterson, NJ

During their monthly meeting, the fraternity celebrated the May Crowning with singing, praying the Rosary, a presentation by Fr. Chris about Mary's Assumption and socializing.

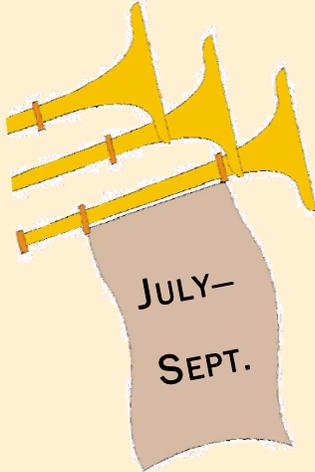


Charlene Berg, O.F.S. crowning our Blessed Mother.  
All singing "MARY, QUEEN OF THE MAY" (BRING FLOWERS OF THE RAREST)

Spiritual Assistant Fr. Chris VanHaight, O.F.M., Minister Joan Ferrary, O.F.S., Ann Vadakkekara, O.F.S., Inquirer Carole Krull—(back row), Secretary Carmella Lehocky, O.F.S., Josephine Bushey, O.F.S., Adele MacLeod, O.F.S., Philip & Marilyn Arnone, O.F.S., Charlene Berg, O.F.S., Virlyn Levy, O.F.S., Corresponding Secretary Sue Nestory, O.F.S., Elaine Berri, O.F.S., Marie Palazzone, O.F.S., Magdi Nachef, O.F.S.



# ANNIVERSARY congratulations



## FRATERNITIES CELEBRATING THEIR ESTABLISHMENT DATE:

**ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR FRATERNITY**  
New York City, NY  
Established September 12, 1965



**MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS FRATERNITY**  
Little Falls, NJ  
Established September 19, 1926



**ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY**  
Pompton Lakes, NJ  
Established September 27, 1994



**ST. LOUIS FRATERNITY**  
Wood-Ridge, NJ  
Established September 15, 1996



**ST. STEPHEN'S FRATERNITY**  
Perth Amboy, NJ  
Established July 12, 1933



**ST. JOHN VIANNEY FRATERNITY**  
Colonia, NJ  
Established September 13, 1970



**MOTHER OF GOD FRATERNITY**  
New York City, NY  
Established September 8, 2002



**DIVINE MERCY FRATERNITY**  
Clifton, NJ  
Established September 29, 2005



**SERVANTS OF GOD FRATERNITY**  
Yonkers, NY  
Established September 9, 2009



If your fraternity celebrated their establishment date anytime between January thru September, and has not been recognized in this column, kindly send me your information and I will enter the fraternity data into our OLTAR records database.

—Anna Geraci  
Editor

# FRATERNAL TIDINGS

June 14, 2013,  
St. John Vianney/  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary  
Fraternity, Paterson, NJ,  
celebrated a Mass for their  
Inquirer members who  
were ready to be admitted  
into Candidacy.

**SARAH FASANI,  
JO GRUNDTNER,  
IRENE D' ARCO,  
AND CAROLE KRULL**  
will continue  
their spiritual  
journey through  
prayer and  
discernment before  
making their  
Profession  
into the Secular  
Franciscan Order.



Fr. Christopher VanHaight, O.F.M. Spiritual Assistant;  
Father Dave Sison, Formation Director



*Joan Ferrary, O.F.S., Fraternity Minister*

# FRATERNAL TIDINGS

Article by  
**ED JOHNSON, CANDIDATE**  
St. Peter's Fraternity,  
Somerset, NJ

On April 13, St. Peter's Franciscan Fraternity, which meets at St. Matthias Church in Somerset, gave a boost to that parish's Animal Concerns Group at its annual Earth Day Celebration.

For about two hours, the cafeteria of St. Matthias School became a showroom for environmental information, Earth saving tips and, of course, some fun and games.

The celebration has been a labor of love for Donna Fazio, who heads the Animal Concerns Group of the parish's Social Concerns Commission and has tried to push conservation and animal welfare issues to the forefront of popular concern.

For our Franciscan brothers and sisters, it represented an opportunity to explore an apostolate that allows us to go forth into the community and, in a sense, trace the footsteps of St. Francis himself.

Although St. Francis lived in a time very different from our own, a time when overfished oceans and depleted ozone layers were not even thought of, he did appreciate the world around him. He preached to the birds and is said to have communicated with, and thus tamed, the killer wolf of Gubbio. He had a love for nature and the gift of seeing God in all of its wonders.

He also foresaw the dangers that could come if nature and man became opponents, something underscored in the "Legend of Perugia" quote that is attributed to him:

“These creatures minister to our needs every day; without them, we could not live and through them, the human race greatly offends the Creator every time we fail to appreciate so great a blessing.”

St. Francis, it seems, would have counseled us to see God in all creation and act accordingly to respect it. That's the approach Penny Gleeson, OFS, took when she involved her Secular Franciscan Fraternity in the Earth Day celebration. "It was a chance to do something that is a part of our Franciscan way of life that also had the benefit of giving us a chance to interact with young people," she said.

"It gave us a chance to show that we actively seek to help."

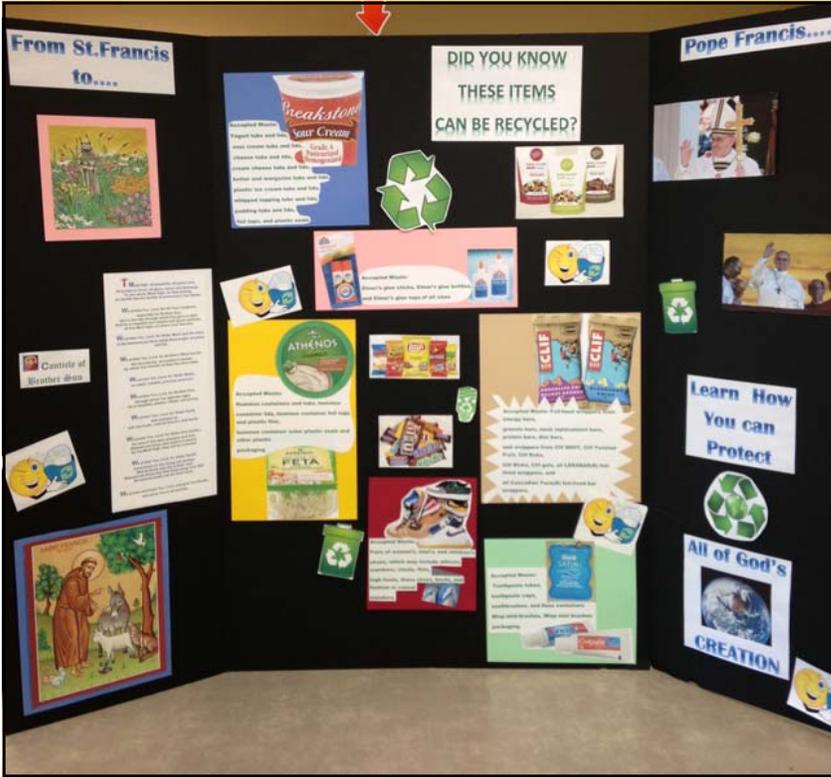
The help was the kind of thing St. Francis might have appreciated. He appreciated manual labor and the unloading of supplies, placing exhibits and setting up of game stations could be counted as such, even if not particularly tiring.

In a similar vein, standing by in case the kids who visited needed help with the "hands on" aspects of the celebration charts well with the Franciscan desire to serve.

The "hands on" activities were fun for the kids, if a bit messy at times. These included smearing vegetable shortening, birdseed and oatmeal on pine cones to make natural bird feeders and filling potting soil and seeds into recycled plastic cereal cups in the hope of creating the plants that would become future butterfly gardens.

For the pre-teens, there were also arts and crafts with a purpose. If shredding plastic shopping bags and using old plastic soda bottles to make "jellyfish in a bottle" curiosities seem frivolous, there's an underlying message that is anything but.

*Continued on next page*



## FRATERNAL TIDINGS

### EARTH CORPS EVENT IN NYC

The Franciscan Action Network organized a successful fundraiser for the Franciscan Earth Corps in New York City on July 30. The event was held at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, and was attended by over 40 people, including those from environmental, food justice and faith-based groups in New York, people affiliated with [Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries](#) in Garrison, N.Y., and even from ministry groups in Connecticut. Representatives from the Capuchins, OFMs, Secular Franciscans, Third Order Franciscan Sisters and Episcopal Franciscans were on hand as well.



Attendees heard Br. Keith Warner (co-author of *Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth*) speak about the call from St. Francis to rebuild the house of God, which involves caring for all of creation. This was followed by a response from Ibrahim Abdul-Matin, author of *Green Deen: What Islam Teaches about Protecting the Planet*. Ibrahim reflected on the parallels between the Franciscan perspective and the call from Islam to protect God's creation.

Attendees also got to enjoy hors d'oeuvres made from locally sourced produce. Several organizations were invited to table and share with attendees the work they are doing to engage people in environmental and food justice work. These included [New York Faith & Justice](#), [WE ACT for Environmental Justice](#) (with Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice), [New York Interfaith Power & Light](#), [Food & Water Watch](#), [Food Chain Workers Alliance](#), and [Leave It Better](#). We look forward to strengthening relationships with these partners and see the momentum build for Franciscan care for creation in New York area.



////////////////////  
**St. Peter's Fraternity ... continued from page 14**

The purpose was to leave the youngsters with an understanding that our environment is better off when these disposable items are reused rather than sent off to clog some landfill, Donna Fazio explained.

Another example of the fun of recycling was the use of empty plastic orange juice bottles to set up a bowling game. Gathering the bottles and setting them in place was the job of Francesca Fazio, a member of Girl Scout Troop 66404, which meets at St. Matthias and has many members among the students there.

"We do a lot of service projects," she said of her troop.

"We're also looking forward to working with the Pet Fair here."

The Pet Fair helps gather supplies for animal shelters and encourage pet adoption, she added.

Maybe the hardest sell among the kids was the dried seaweed.

It was part of a make your own "dirt" cup confection that included chocolate pudding, crumbled animal crackers and, yes, the seaweed. The pudding and the cookies weren't any problem. That wasn't always the case with the 2" by 2" sheets of dried seaweed.

Some of the braver kids crumbled them into their confection. Others ate the seaweed out of curiosity and found that they liked its salty, slightly fishy taste, and crispy texture. Still others backed away from the stuff as if it was radioactive. Nevertheless, the labels on the seaweed show it to be low calorie and fat free, something that might be appreciated by the youngsters in the future when those calories get a bit harder to burn off.

Next stop is a project for the Franklin Animal shelter. They need quilts sewn to comfort cats and dogs in recovery as well as those in the shelter. Old quilts will be cleaned, cut to size and sewn during a "Sew-A-Thon" for project "Cat Nap" and "Dog Pause."

# SECULAR ACTION AROUND the WORLD



**S**ecular Franciscan, Louise M. Sandberg, Formation Director for Blessed Raymond Lull Fraternity (*Tau Cross Region*) will be participating in a Mission Trip to Uganda, Africa, this August.

It is an excellent example of Franciscan outreach to the poor and needy.

Please keep Louise and the Mission Trip in your prayers.

## READ HER MESSAGE BELOW:

I will be participating in a healing mission with *Restoring the Heart* ([rthm.cc](http://rthm.cc)) and *Alarm Ministries* ([alarm-inc.org](http://alarm-inc.org)) who are partnering to bring healing to hundreds of children and adults in Uganda, Africa.

Last year, a small RTHM team had the privilege of ministering the love of God to traumatized children and their mentors in this beautiful, yet trauma ridden country. This year RTHM is planning to return with 10-12 professional counselors/prayer facilitators trained in the Immanuel healing prayer ([immanuelapproach.com](http://immanuelapproach.com)) and *In the Wildflowers*, a healing program for people who have experienced various forms of trauma.

As you may already know, the Lord's Resistance Army, led by Joseph Kony, devastatingly and brutally ravished almost 2 generations of children in Northern Uganda (and more recently in Congo and Sudan) from 1988 – 2010. He would capture and enslave the children, abuse them psychologically, physically and sexually, and then get them to fight in his army, forcing them to physically, sexually, and psychologically abuse and brutalize other adults and children. Many of these children have been rescued and placed in "refugee" type camps in Northern Uganda where they are being kept and educated. Not much has been done to help them process and heal from their experiences. In fact, some of these homes are actually headed by children.

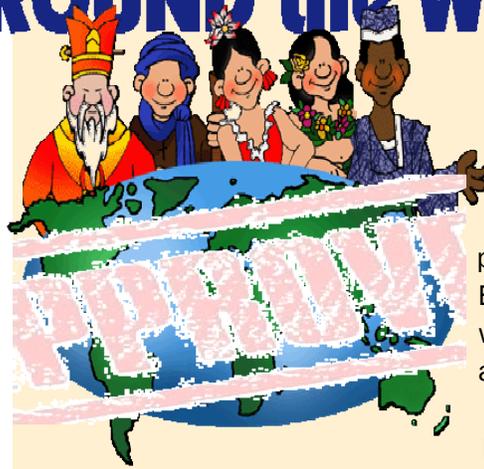
Our hope this year is to visit three distinct areas of Uganda: Gulu (children, teenagers and their adult mentors), Pader (young adults 18-25) and Kampala (adult women with HIV).

Our mission is scheduled for the first two weeks in August, 2013. Our mission is not only to minister to the people of Uganda, but also to teach them the basic skills in the healing from trauma. We plan to film all the ministry work in the hope of creating a documentary highlighting the healing work and giving all the glory to Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The estimated cost of this mission trip is high. Whether you are able to help financially or not, please keep me in your prayers as I prepare for this journey of healing and hope. Your prayers are powerful and will help me prepare for the journey, sustain me as I travel, and help me return safely. Please also pray for the people God is calling to be healed through our prayer.

*Love, Peace and Joy.*

# SECULAR ACTION AROUND the WORLD



## Opposing the SAFE Act.

**H**opefully everyone received the recent e-mail that was sent to everyone in our region regarding SAFE Act proposal.

This important and worthy effort is something that we can all do to stand together as a faith community against criminalizing the helping of our brothers and sisters caught up in the Immigration nightmare.

Anyone with a computer can sign this letter, however time is short. To sign on, please fill out the information **ASAP**.



The House Judiciary Committee recently passed the Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement, or SAFE Act (H.R. 2278) which would criminalize many forms of assistance to undocumented immigrants.

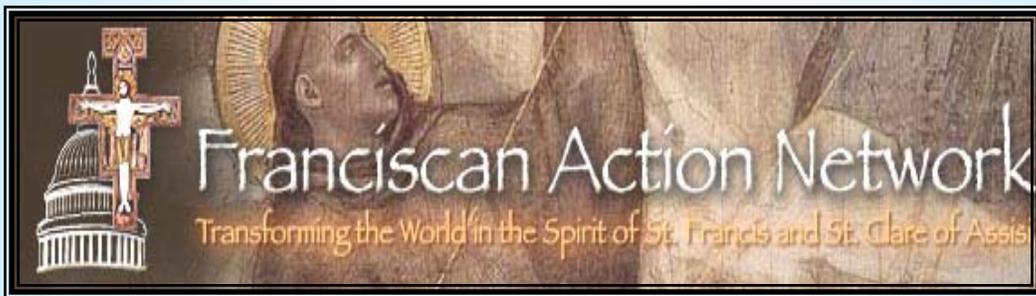
Please consider signing on to the letter to Speaker Boehner opposing the SAFE Act. The letter is open to signatures from national, state and local faith-based organizations and leaders. To sign on, please fill out the information **ASAP**.

Feel free to contact Nora Skelly at: [nskelly@lirs.org](mailto:nskelly@lirs.org) with any questions.



Also, please also circulate this link to other organizations and leaders who would be interested!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1TV-hQquWa4--EV288Q2JbZ6ZqdHSFbgEgueMHVnVX6o/>



While we work FOR comprehensive immigration reform, we also OPPOSE some very negative legislation, in particular the SAFE Act. Included in this legislation is criminalization of religious persons and groups who provide humanitarian assistance to undocumented immigrants. FAN has signed this letter as a national group and encourages state and local groups to sign. Thanks for your consideration.

Sr. Marie Lucey OSF  
Director of Advocacy and Member Relations 202-527-7562

[lucey@franciscanaction.org](mailto:lucey@franciscanaction.org)



## 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.



## NAFRA - USA

### 2013 NAFRA-USA JPIC AWARD WINNER DR. MARGIE C. SWEENEY, MD, OFS, CPC.



Dr. Sweeney is a family physician, wife, mother, Secular Franciscan and founder of the non-profit charity, *Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc.*, (HHHM) which provides poverty alleviation in developing countries. She is also active in her local fraternity with formation and serving as the Vice Minister. She will be attending the National Chapter this Fall to receive the Award.

One day while at a retreat of her parish council her pastor spoke of his trips to East Africa. Immediately the words jumped out of her mouth, "I'll go with you!" Before long her schedule lined up and she was in East Africa, landing in Nairobi, Kenya on September 11, 2001. That was a life-changing trip. Despite her first-hand knowledge of poverty, she was deeply affected by this trip.

Margie has been married 29 years to Michael Sweeney, a civil engineer, who has been very supporting and nurturing to her and her projects. They have a son Patrick, 27, and a daughter Kelly, 24.

Besides her hunger to do something constructive after her first trip to East Africa, she also developed a deep hunger to nurture her spiritual growth.

She knew that God was asking more from her and she wanted to do His will. Through prayer she was led to the Secular Franciscan Order.

She was professed in 2006 and has participated in the fraternity life of the Secular Franciscan Order in Indiana and more recently with the St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity in Tampa, FL. Participation has included assisting the Formation Minister (also serving as Interim Formation Minister during his

illness), initial formation using the new FUN Manual, involvement with JPIC, and currently serving as the Vice Minister of her fraternity.

She has also authored a book, "FEAR NOT: God's love for you is real!" This book is a fundraiser for HHHM and is available by donation only. (Not for sale in bookstores or other media outlets.)

You can learn more about the work of Helping Hands Healing Ministries, Inc. at

<https://www.facebook.com/helpinghandshealingministries>



# TAU-Daily

This Yahoo-group is for all Secular Franciscans in an effort to assist with a daily focus on our belonging to the Secular Franciscan Order.

Secular Franciscan daily meditations on the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, Franciscan Saints, Admonitions, Little Flowers, NAFRA Statutes, and other rotating daily postings will be sent to those who subscribe to this group list.

Please feel free to forward the subscription information to anyone whom you think would be interested and benefit from these daily postings.

If you would like to receive daily posts, go to their website and click on "join group."

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TAU-Daily>



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the group moderator, KATHLEEN WHITE, OFS, via email at: [kdwofs@comcast.net](mailto:kdwofs@comcast.net)

## CANTICLE CAMPUS

### 2013 FALL CLASS OFFERINGS

ONLINE CLASSES BEGIN  
SEPTEMBER 16  
AND END NOVEMBER 23.

TEN EVENINGS WITH GOD  
by Sr. Iia Delio, OSF  
and

FALLING UPWARD  
by Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM

Class Facilitator is

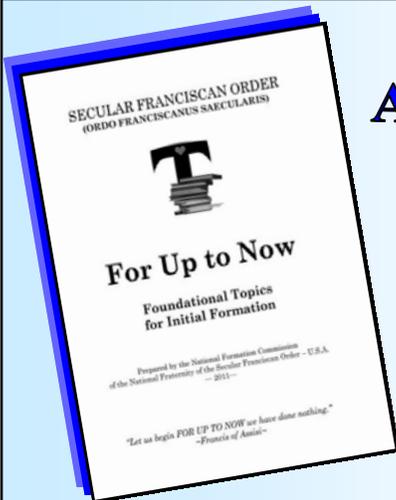


Francesca Wigle, tssf  
(Third Order Society of St. Francis)

To register or more details,  
email her at:  
[fwigle@gmail.com](mailto:fwigle@gmail.com)

Or go to their website:

<http://www.canticlecampus.org>



## 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.

*IQ Fast Print*, will assist you in your needs for getting copies of the FUN Manual and its supporting CD.

By phone, call toll free: 1-800-467-2329 X-135  
They are open weekdays, 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

By website, use this link to order FUN in either English or Spanish  
<http://iqfastprint.com/sfo.html>



**\$12.75**

Includes unbound, three-hole punched book & CD.  
Available in English or Spanish.  
Please allow 5-6 days for delivery.

## SISTER



## DEATH



**V**ienna Cardinal Christoph Schönborn officiated at the funeral of **Franziska Jägerstätter**, the 100 year old widow of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter died 16 March, 2013; just two weeks after celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The service was held in the tiny village of St Radegund in Upper Austria where she had lived all her life. Several bishops officiated at the two-hour Mass, held outdoors because the large congregation could not fit into the tiny church.

Whoever met Franziska Jägerstätter, “went away forever blessed.” said Bishop Ludwig Schwarz of Linz the previous evening at a Requiem Mass in Linz Cathedral. He recalled that Franziska’s life had for 70 years brought the message of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter to post war generations. He praised Franziska as devout woman “who set an example for all of us as followers of Christ.”

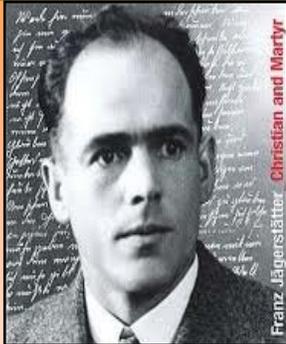
Members of the Jägerstätter family and the parish of St Radegund and faithful from all parts of the Diocese of Linz came to the Mass. The sacristans of Upper Austria were well represented, as Franziska for 30 years held the office of sacristan in St Radegund, a role she took over from her husband in 1944.



Franz was beheaded on 9 August, 1943 for refusing to fight in Hitler’s army. He was beatified on 26 October, 2007 in recognition of his witness for peace. He imbibed the spirit of nonviolence. “As a Christian, I prefer to do my fighting with the Word of God and not with arms,” he wrote. “We need no rifles or pistols for our battle, but instead spiritual weapons—and the foremost among these is prayer.” Jägerstätter’s correspondence with his wife during his incarceration in 1943 is a primary source for revealing how he came to his stance, and she supported his action.

Valerie Flessati of *Pax Christi UK* reported that: “when we were in Linz Cathedral for his beatification in 2007, the entire congregation gave Franziska a standing ovation in unspoken recognition of her own sanctity and much longer sacrifice.” She pointed out that things were really tough for Franziska, and their three children after his execution and local people shunned her for years.” Meeting Franz Jägerstätter’s wife, Franziska on several occasions, “was always so moving,” stated Bruce Kent; she was, “a quiet woman with a twinkle in her eye; I could not fail to think each time of the terrible pain of that separation and execution in 1943.” He added that “hers was a long life of great faith matched with equal hope” and “to me and many, she is as much Blessed as her martyr husband.”

## BL. FRANZ JÄGERSTÄTTER



**H**e was  
born

on 20 May 1907 in St Radegund, Upper Austria, to his unmarried mother, Rosalia Huber, and to Franz Bachmeier, who was killed during World War I. After the death of his natural father, Rosalia married Heinrich Jägerstätter, who adopted Franz and gave the boy his surname of Jägerstätter in 1917. Franz received a basic education in his village's one-room schoolhouse. His step-grandfather helped with his education, and the boy became an avid reader. It seems Franz was unruly in his younger years; he was, in fact, the first in his village to own a motorcycle. However, he is better known as an ordinary and humble Catholic who did not draw attention to himself.

After his marriage to Franziska in 1936 and their honeymoon in Rome, Franz grew in his faith but was not extreme in his piety. Besides his farm work, Franz became the local sexton in 1936 and began receiving the Eucharist daily. He was known to refuse the customary offering for his services at funerals, preferring the spiritual and corporal works of mercy over any remuneration.

In the mid to late 1930s, while much of Austria was beginning to follow the tide of Nazism, Franz became ever more rooted in his Catholic faith and placed his complete trust in God.



He began thinking deeply about obedience to legitimate authority and obedience to God, about mortal life and eternal life and about Jesus' suffering and Passion. Franz was neither a revolutionary nor part of any resistance movement, but in 1938, he was the only local citizen to vote against the "Aeschylus" (annexation of Austria by Germany), because his conscience prevailed over the path of least resistance. Franz Jägerstätter was called up for military service and sworn in on June 17 1940. Shortly thereafter, thanks to the intervention of his mayor, he was allowed to return to the farm. Later, he was in active service from October 1940 to April 1941, until the mayor's further intervention permitted his return home.

He became convinced that participation in the war was a serious sin and decided that any future call-up had to be met with his refusal to fight. "It is very sad," he wrote, "to hear again and again from Catholics that this war waged by Germany is perhaps not so unjust because it will wipe out Bolshevism... , but now a question: what are they fighting in this Country - Bolshevism or the Russian People? "When our Catholic missionaries went to a pagan country to make them Christians, did they advance with machine guns and bombs in order to convert and improve them? If adversaries wage war on another nation, they usually invade the country not to improve people or even perhaps to give them something, but usually to get something for themselves.... If we were merely fighting Bolshevism, these other things - minerals, oil wells or good farmland - would not be a factor."

In February 1943, Franz was called up again for military service. He presented himself at the induction centre on March 1, 1943 and announced his refusal to fight, offering to carry out non-violent services: this was denied him. He was held in custody at Linz in March and April, transferred to Berlin-Tegel in May and subject to trial on July 6, 1943 when he was condemned to death for sedition. The prison chaplain was struck by the man's tranquil character. On being offered the New Testament, he replied: "I am completely bound in inner union with the Lord, and any reading would only interrupt my communication with my God."

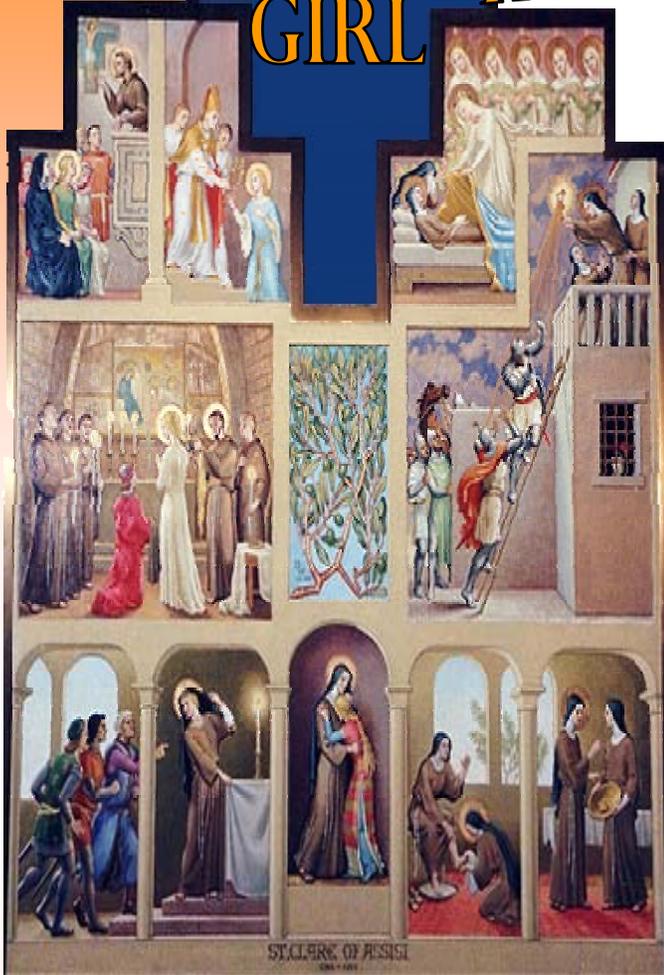
On August 9, before being executed, Franz wrote: "If I must write... with my hands in chains, I find that much better than if my will were in chains. Neither prison nor chains nor sentence of death can rob a man of the Faith and his free will. God gives so much strength that it is possible to bear any suffering.... People worry about the obligations of conscience as they concern my wife and children. Even so, I cannot believe that, just because one has a wife and children, a man is free to offend God."

Franz Jägerstätter, who would not bow his head to Hitler, bowed his head to God, and the guillotine took care of the rest. He was obviously called up to serve a higher order.

Beatification—October 26, 2007, Linz (Austria)  
Feast day—May 21

# THE GIRL IN THE FOREST

Written by  
Valerie Moreno, OFS



She was beautiful, the wish of knights since an early age. She refused to marry, explaining her life was to be God and His poor. Her tenacious attitude caused those around her to shake their heads. Was this the gentility and quiet elegance of a rich, well-bred lady? Often, she would escape her family's palatial grounds to nurse the sick and bring food and gifts for the poor. Dressed as one of them, few knew who she really was, except to call her "Chiara."

She met him often in the forests. His reputation as "The Little Poor Man" familiar to her and the city. They were of one heart, sharing the love and ways of God in harmony. They wanted to give all for Him, and soon, the eighteen-year old Chiara did so.

She told no one, but that Easter Sunday would be her last at home. She put on her finest dress and shoes, her long, golden hair brilliantly adorned. When it came time to the believers to go forward and receive a palm branch, she remained behind, sobbing. This was good-bye; she knew, leaving her family, friends and the lavish comforts of home. Looking up, tears streaming, Bishop Guido stood before her. Meeting her eyes, he placed a palm branch in her hand as everyone around them stared and speculated.

Under night's secrecy, she pushed open the "Door of the Dead" and ran, away from everyone and everything that could hold her back. She was met by him and his rag-tag

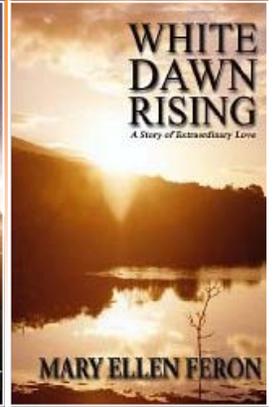
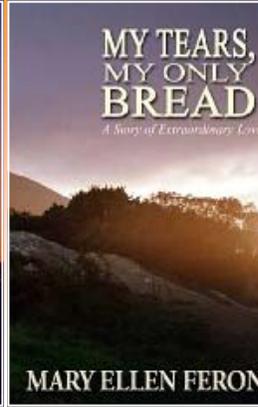
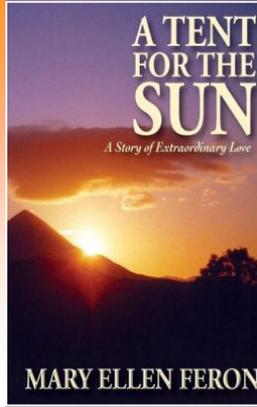
brothers holding torches. They formed a canopy for her as she walked beneath them, her face radiant. Chiara was taken to a far-off convent after she exchanged her lovely garments and donned a rough tunic, the color of dust. Her gleaming hair was shorn; all her glittering jewels left abandoned. She was one of the little ones. It didn't take long for her family to realize she was gone. Tracked to the convent, Chiara showed her cut hair, holding fast to the altar cloth in the Church. No one could touch her, and the city began to rumble in an uproar of amazement as two of Chiara's sisters ran away to follow her.

She was mother to the women who came. Now, in the little church of San Damiano, Chiara loved each of them, always cheerful in the spirit of life that was far from comfortable. They owned nothing, begged for food, cared for the poor and prayed.

Chiara was the mirror of Francis nothing stood in her way of living as he did. In illness, brutal cold, barefoot and hungry, she rejoiced in Christ, and never wavered from complete poverty.

When Francis passed into Heaven, it broke her heart, but not her spirit. In 1253, she also slipped from earth to be with Jesus, the cornerstone of her life and to be with Francis again, her beloved teacher. Her light shines like golden rays in a dark world. She was Clare of Assisi, the rose of humility.

**congrats!**



Here's to getting the word out to our fraternities that Mary Zablocki, OFS, former co-chair of the National Work Commission and a former speaker at a past Convivenza has finally published her historical novel trilogy set in Ireland.

Published under her maiden name, Mary Ellen Feron (*she thought an Irish novel by someone named Zablocki just wouldn't cut it!*)

The three novels are:

- A TENT FOR THE SUN
- MY TEARS MY ONLY BREAD
- WHITE DAWN RISING

Those who know Mary have been eager to hear about the publications. All are available at:

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



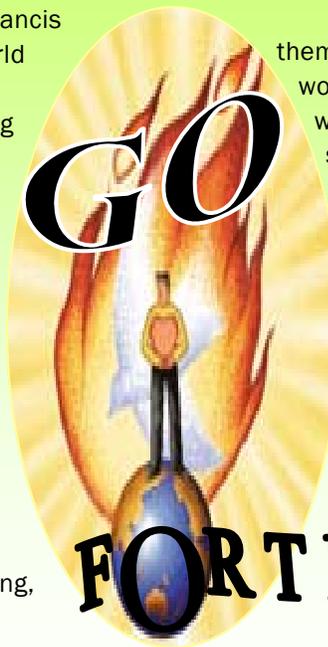
**IT** HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE IT HAS BEEN COOL TO BE CHRISTIAN. 2013 MIGHT BE THE YEAR THAT CHANGES THAT. A FEW WEEKS AGO WAS A PARTICULARLY COOL CHRISTIAN WEEK.

To start with the amazing Pope Francis took advantage of his time in Rio for World Youth Day to make sure he visited the nearby *favela* (slum), a prison, and a drug addict center. While there, he continued his habit of speaking about the poor and inequality in a powerful, focused way that no world leader of any kind has for a long time.

Pope Francis certainly has more drawing power than any rock star. Just ask the more than three million youths that listened to his every word at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

One youth summed it up simply: "Being with the pope was a blessing, a joy and really exciting."

The Pope made it abundantly clear to the youths gathered there that they are very important to the life of the Church, and that they need to be evangelizers.



"The experience of this encounter," he told them, "must not remain locked up in your life. That would be like withholding oxygen from a flame that was burning strongly. Faith is a flame that grows stronger the more it is shared and passed on, so that everyone may know, love and confess Jesus Christ, the Lord of life and history" (*cf. Rom 10:9*). He also told them that "Jesus did not say: 'if you would like to, if you have the time,' but 'Go forth and make disciples of all nations.' Sharing the experience of faith, bearing witness to the faith, proclaiming the Gospel: this is a command that the Lord entrusts to the whole Church, and that includes you!"

His message, echoed repeatedly to the youths was strong: "Do not be afraid to go and bring Christ into every area of life, to the fringes of society, even to those who seem farthest away, most indifferent. Jesus is counting on you! The Church is counting on you! The Pope is counting on you!" And so is every Catholic in each youth's home diocese.



# Meet Me In The Stairwell



In memory of all those  
who lost their lives and  
those they left behind

*Y*ou say you will never forget where you were when  
you heard the news on September 11, 2001.  
Neither will I.

I was on the 110<sup>TH</sup> floor in a smoke-filled room  
with a man who called his wife to say 'goodbye.'  
I held his fingers steady as he dialed.  
I gave him the peace to say,  
'Honey, I am not going to make it,  
but it is OK...I am ready to go.'

I was with his wife when he called as she fed  
breakfast to their children. I held her up as she  
tried to understand his words, and as she realized  
he wasn't coming home that night.

I was in the stairwell of the 23<sup>RD</sup> floor  
when a woman cried out to Me for help.  
'I have been knocking on the door  
of your heart for 50 years!' I said.  
'Of course I will show you the way home -  
only believe in Me now.'

I was at the base of the building with the Priest  
ministering to the injured and devastated souls.  
I took him home to tend to his Flock in Heaven.  
He heard my voice and answered.

I was on all four of those planes, in every seat,  
with every prayer. I was with the crew as they  
were overtaken. I was in the very hearts of the  
believers there, comforting and assuring them  
that their faith has saved them.

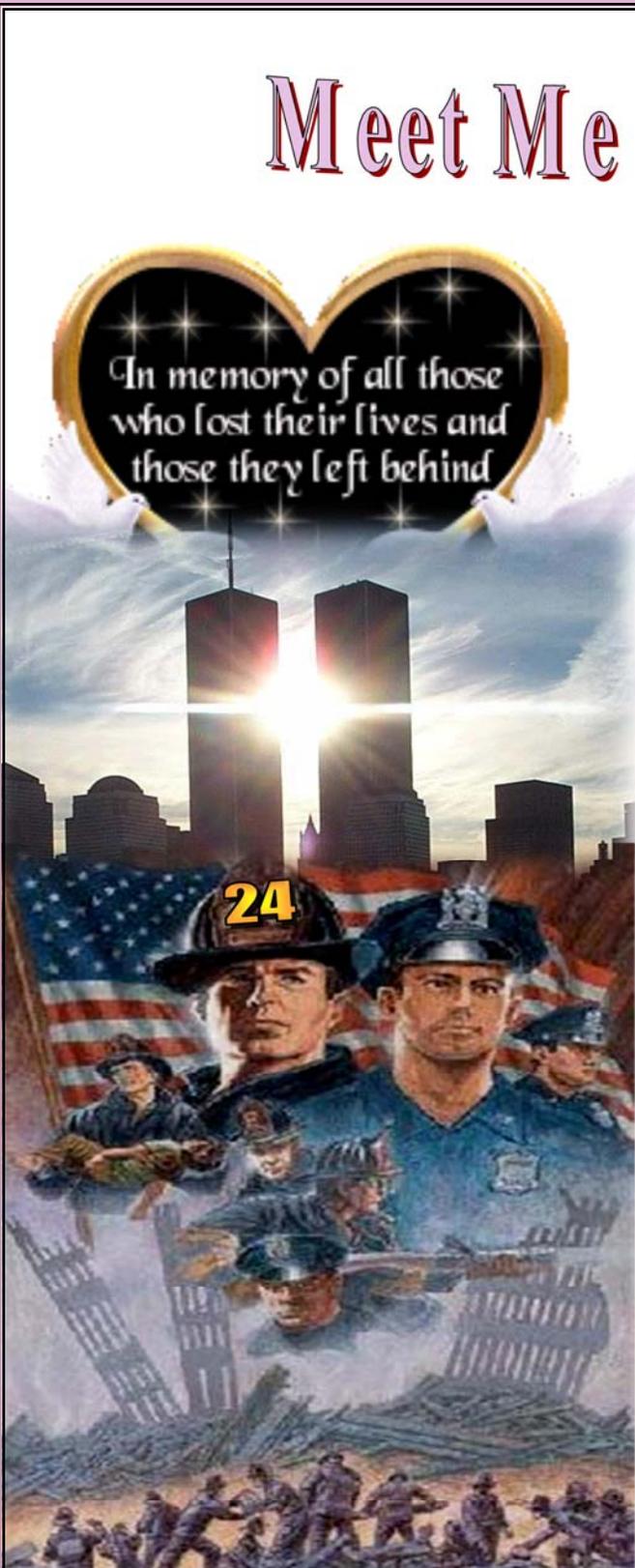
I was standing next to you when you heard  
the terrible news. Did you sense Me?  
I want you to know that I saw every face.  
I knew every name - though not all knew Me.  
Some met Me for the first time on the 86<sup>TH</sup> floor.

Some sought Me with their last breath.  
Some couldn't hear Me calling to them through  
the smoke and flames; 'Come to Me... this way...  
take my hand.' Some chose, for the final time,  
to ignore Me. But, I was there.

I did not place you in the Tower that day.  
You may not know why, but I do.  
However, if you were there in that  
explosive moment in time,  
would you have reached for Me?

September 11, 2001, was not the end of the journey  
for you, but someday your journey will end, and I will  
be there for you as well. Seek Me now while I may be found.  
Then, at any moment you know you are ready to go,  
I will be in the stairwell of your final moments.

*God*



September 11, 2001

All gave some...  
Some gave all