

FEBRUARY—MARCH 2014
eTroubadour **News**

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.



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 ANGELS
 2011-2014
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in St. Francis,

Pope Francis has stated many times that one who knows Jesus does “not stay on the couch,” instead he follows the Christ’s style, thus becoming a missionary disciple and an enthusiastic witness to faith.

As we embark upon this Season of Lent, if I may be so bold, I repeat the invitation he extended that perhaps might serve us during this Lenten season.

Pope Francis invited his audience to pray for those who they do not love.

“I now ask of you one thing ... everyone think of a person with whom we are annoyed, with whom we are angry, someone we do not like. Let us think of that person and, in silence, at this moment, let us pray for this person and let us become merciful with this person. For it is only by experiencing ourselves the mercy of Christ on the Cross and by sharing this mercy with others that we can defeat the evil prince of this world once and for all.” One of the greatest temptations and perhaps the easiest to fall into is omission, passivity in our Christian life, the good left undone. Let us pray to Christ that we will be strong and clear in discovering the presence of this temptation in our lives, and overcome it.

Lord Jesus, as we embark upon our Lenten journey, You invite us to follow Your footsteps through the desert. We believe You are the Way, and we want to imitate Your example of prayer and sacrifice to purify our hearts and become exclusively Yours.

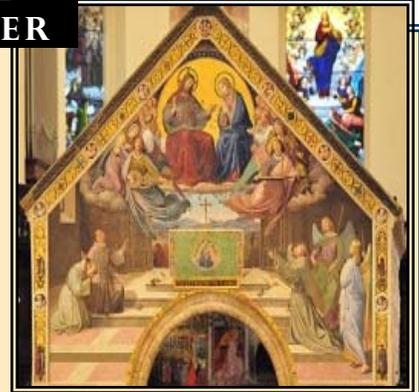
I pray for the strength needed to confront the difficult temptations that arise from the devil, the world and my own selfishness. At the end of these forty days of Lent, may I be closer to You and more accepting of the crosses in my life.

Please pray that the Lord may bring the world peace, especially our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine, Syria, and every place in the world where peace is challenged.

I wish you a fruitful Lent. *Anna*



LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I wanted to write to you about an increasing problem that I have encountered in some of our fraternities leading to discord and disunity among our membership. I see it as a failure to respect one another by listening and learning the skills of dialogue.

The first place we need to look for guidance in this matter is our Rule which of necessity, needs to be the pattern of our lives. St. Benedict taught his community to “Listen with the ear of your heart.” I would offer the same advice to you as you read these excerpts from our Rule:

As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ....

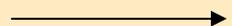
A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people,

Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively....

Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon....

What I seem to find at times, is that instead of real dialogue as the pattern of fraternity life, where the truth of one’s heart is shared non-judgmentally with the truth in the heart of another, we instead engage in a kind of double monologue or “duologue” that is, talking at one another without listening. And when another is speaking, instead of really listening to them, we instead are preparing in our own minds, our response. This attitude of conflict has no place in fraternity life.

Instead, our fraternities must become “schools of friendship” where we can gain the confidence and the skills of listening and dialogue which we can then bring to bear in our daily lives, at work and in our families. In this way, our fraternities become that “privileged place” where we can relate to one another in love and friendship.



LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER

... continued

Nor should our fraternities degenerate into “debate societies” where we try to force our particular theological or political perspective upon others or to try to become the “censors” or “thought police” for others insisting on our point of view. Rather, we come to the fraternity to be formed in Franciscan spirituality and theology with an open and courteous attitude. If this is not our reason for coming to the fraternity, we need to seriously reconsider the purpose of our Franciscan commitment.

We need also to respect the role of the fraternity council in its decisions of leadership and especially the role of the spiritual assistant, whose job it is to see that what is taught in the fraternity is theologically sound and not to usurp this role by imposing our own particular point of view. It is the spiritual assistant whose role it is to guarantee the theological correctness of what is shared in fraternity formation as well as to see that the Franciscan charism is lived.

So, dear sisters and brothers, as we celebrated the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the true Light who illumines the world, let us open ourselves in the spirit of dialogue with one another so that we may build our fraternities according to the vision of the Rule:

The local fraternity... becomes the basic unit of the whole Order and a visible sign of the Church, the community of love.

This should be the privileged place for developing a sense of Church and the Franciscan vocation and for enlivening the apostolic life of its members.

May the Lord give you His Peace!

Fraternally,



Ron Pihokker, OFS
Regional Minister



FRANCISCAN RESOURCES



Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise

ITEM NUMBER: 978-1-61956-206-6

PRICE: \$69.95

SHIPPING: \$7.98

Tau Publishing, LLC recently acquired the publishing rights to the *Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise* book that was originally published in 2009 by the Franciscan Federation in Washington, D.C. that has been out of print for the past two years. .

This newly revised edition is a two-volume hard cover set and is now available. Volume I covers Advent, Christmas, Lent and the Triduum. Season Volume II covers Easter and Ordinary Time. Volume I is 750 pages and Volume II is 848 pages. Note that due to the high cost of licensing the music, they were unable to include it in this new edition.



“ My fraternity, Most Holy Name in Little Falls, N.J., has been using *Franciscan Praise* as our prayer book for a number of years. We love it for the focus on Franciscan spirituality, including selections from Franciscan sources in the readings for both morning and evening prayer. We also find it the easiest prayer book to use!

” *Kate Asselin, OFS*

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD TO FRANCISCAN MINDED INDIVIDUALS WHO MIGHT LIKE TO PURCHASE THIS WONDERFUL PRAYER BOOK.

TO PLACE AN ORDER

CALL: 602-625-6183 or

EMAIL: jcampbell@taupublishing.com

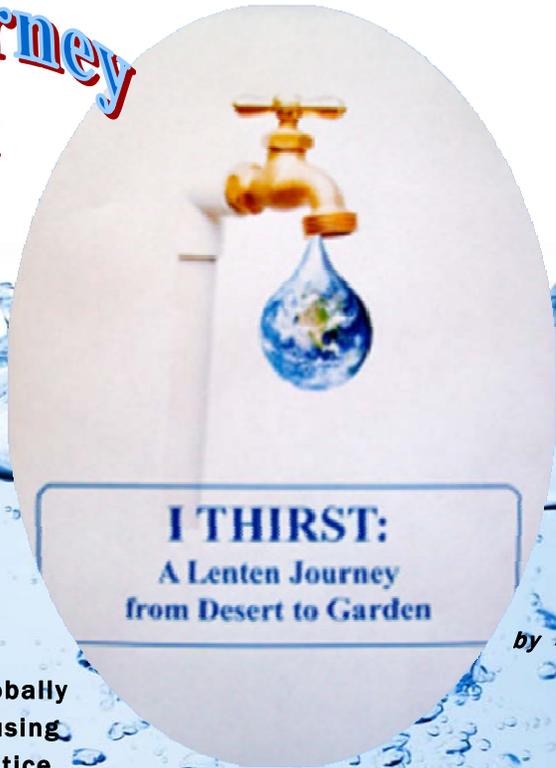
WEBSITE: <http://tau-publishing.com/>

[giftShopProductDetails.aspx?ItemID=487](http://tau-publishing.com/giftShopProductDetails.aspx?ItemID=487)



4727 NORTH 12TH STREET, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85014

A Lenten Journey From Desert to Garden



WATER —its preciousness,
its sacredness,
its precariousness globally
is a concern for all those espousing
Franciscan values of peace, justice,
and care of creation.

by Sr. Terri MacKenzie,
a Sister of the
Holy Child Jesus
(SHCJ).

Sr. Terri MacKenzie's 2014 Lenten resource — *I Thirst: A Lenten Journey from Desert to Garden*, offers participants the opportunity to integrate their concern for water with the Lenten Scriptures and Jesus' experiences.

Grounded in the cosmic story, participants deepen their awareness of the divine presence living and acting throughout creation.

Each of the five weeks includes reflection, input, sharing, action suggestions, group prayer, and socializing.

I Thirst includes excerpts from the Pontifical Academy of Science's report on glaciers and climate change.

I Thirst is available for free in English and Spanish. Go to their website at: <http://ecospiritualityresources.com/lent-water-groups/>



Scripture quotes from the appropriate Sunday are explored in the light of various Earth concerns: Water, Air, Soil. Appropriate interconnections and personal responses are explored. Meetings include silence, prayer, input, discussion, and action suggestions.

It is suggested that you do not make copies until after the "complete" notice is added. Prior to that you can get a good idea of the content, but be aware that improvements will be made.

I THIRST: A Lenten Journey from Desert to Garden

This material was created to help people heighten their appreciation of God's gift of water, God's living and acting within it, current water conditions on Earth, and how we can respond in faith. Please make copies on both sides of sustainable paper.

Groups are encouraged to be creative with this material.

Adapt it in any way that facilitates sharing, community building, and prayerful reflection.

Before the first meeting, be sure the participants know the dates, times, and location of the first meeting.

These can be altered for future meetings if the entire group agrees.

Stop in time to complete the closing and for socializing.



POPE FRANCIS' LENTEN MESSAGE

Here is the text of Pope Francis' Lenten Message which reflects on the theme:
"He became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich (cf. 2 Cor. 8:9)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As Lent draws near, I would like to offer some helpful thoughts on our path of conversion as individuals and as a community. These insights are inspired by the words of Saint Paul:

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor 8:9). The Apostle was writing to the Christians of Corinth to encourage them to be generous in helping the faithful in Jerusalem who were in need. What do these words of Saint Paul mean for us Christians today? What does this invitation to poverty, a life of evangelical poverty, mean to us today?

CHRIST'S GRACE

First of all, it shows us how God works. He does not reveal himself cloaked in worldly power and wealth but rather in weakness and poverty: "though He was rich, yet for your sake he became poor ...".

Christ, the eternal Son of God, one with the Father in power and glory, chose to be poor; he came amongst us and drew near to each of us; he set aside his glory and emptied himself so that he could be like us in all things (cf. *Phil 2:7; Heb 4:15*).

God's becoming man is a great mystery! But the reason for all this is his love, a love which is grace, generosity, a desire to draw near, a love which does not hesitate to offer itself in sacrifice for the beloved. Charity, love, is sharing with the one we love in all things. Love makes us similar, it creates equality, it breaks down walls and eliminates distances. God did this with us.

Indeed, Jesus "worked with human hands, thought with a human mind, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart.

Born of the Virgin Mary, he truly became one of us, like us in all things except sin." (*Gaudium et Spes*, 22).

By making himself poor, Jesus did not seek poverty for its own sake but, as Saint Paul says "that by his poverty you might become rich". This is no mere play on words or a catch phrase. Rather, it sums up God's logic, the logic of love, the logic of the incarnation and the cross. God did not let our salvation drop down from heaven, like someone who gives alms from their abundance out of a sense of altruism and piety.

Christ's love is different! When Jesus stepped into the waters of the Jordan and was baptized by John the Baptist, he did so not because he was in need of repentance, or conversion; he did it to be among people who need forgiveness, among us sinners, and to take upon himself the burden of our sins.

In this way he chose to comfort us, to save us, to free us from our misery.

It is striking that the Apostle states that we were set free, not by Christ's riches but by his poverty. Yet Saint Paul is well aware of the "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (*Eph 3:8*), that he is "heir of all things" (*Heb 1:2*).

So what is this poverty by which Christ frees us and enriches us? It is his way of loving us, his way of being our neighbor, just as the Good Samaritan was neighbor to the man left half dead by the side of the road (cf. *Lk 10:25*). What gives us true freedom, true salvation and true happiness is the compassion, tenderness and solidarity of his love.

Christ's poverty which enriches us is his taking flesh and bearing our weaknesses and sins as an expression of God's infinite mercy to us.

Christ's poverty is the greatest treasure of all: Jesus wealth is that of his boundless confidence in God the Father, his constant trust, his desire always and only to do the Father's will and give glory to him.

Continued on next page

Jesus is rich in the same way as a child who feels loved and who loves its parents, without doubting their love and tenderness for an instant. Jesus' wealth lies in his being *the Son*; his unique relationship with the Father is the sovereign prerogative of this Messiah who is poor.

When Jesus asks us to take up his "yoke which is easy", he asks us to be enriched by his "poverty which is rich" and his "richness which is poor", to share his filial and fraternal Spirit, to become sons & daughters in the Son, brothers and sisters in the firstborn brother (cf. *Rom 8:29*).

It has been said that the only real regret lies in not being a saint; we could also say that there is only one real kind of poverty: not living as children of God and brothers and sisters of Christ.

OUR WITNESS

We might think that this "way" of poverty was Jesus' way, whereas we who come after him can save the world with the right kind of human resources. This is not the case. In every time and place God continues to save mankind and the world *through the poverty of Christ*, who makes himself poor in the sacraments, in his word and in his Church, which is a people of the poor. God's wealth passes not through our wealth, but invariably and exclusively through our personal and communal poverty, enlivened by the Spirit of Christ.

In imitation of our Master, we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it.

Destitution is not the same as *poverty*: destitution is poverty without faith, without support, without hope. There are three types of destitution: material, moral and spiritual.

Material destitution is what is normally called poverty, and affects those living in conditions opposed to human dignity: those who lack basic rights and needs such as food, water, hygiene, work and the opportunity to develop and grow culturally. In response to this destitution, the Church offers her help, her *diakonia*, in meeting these needs and binding these wounds which disfigure the face of humanity. In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing.

No less concern is *moral destitution*, which consists in slavery to vice and sin. How much pain is caused in families because one of their members - often a young person - is in thrall to alcohol, drugs, gambling or pornography!

How many people no longer see meaning in life or prospects for the future, how many have lost hope! And how many are plunged into this destitution by unjust social conditions, by unemployment, which takes away their dignity as

breadwinners, and by lack of equal access to education and health care.

In such cases, moral destitution can be considered impending suicide. This type of destitution, which also causes financial ruin, is invariably linked to the *spiritual destitution* which we experience when we turn away from God and reject his love.

If we think we don't need God who reaches out to us though Christ, because we believe we can make do on our own, we are headed for a fall. God alone can truly save and free us.

The Gospel is the real antidote to spiritual destitution: wherever we go, we are called as Christians to proclaim the liberating news that forgiveness for sins committed is possible, that God is greater than our sinfulness, that he freely loves us at all times and that we were made for communion and eternal life.

The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness.

It means following and imitating Jesus, who sought out the poor and sinners as a shepherd lovingly seeks his lost sheep. In union with Jesus, we can courageously open up new paths of evangelization and human promotion.

Continued on next page

continued from page 7

LENT 2014

Dear brothers and sisters, may this Lenten season find the whole Church ready to bear witness to all those who live in material, moral and spiritual destitution the Gospel message of the merciful love of God our Father, who is ready to embrace everyone in Christ.

We can do this to the extent that we imitate Christ who became poor and enriched us by his poverty.

Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt.

May the Holy Spirit, through whom we are "as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything" (2 Cor 6:10),

sustain us in our resolutions and increase our concern & responsibility for human destitution, so that we can become merciful and act with mercy.

In expressing this hope, I likewise pray that each individual member of the faithful and every Church community will undertake a fruitful Lenten journey.

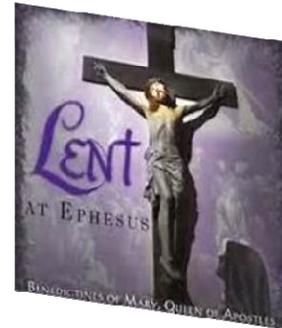
I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you safe.



The Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles – are an Order of contemplative nuns who live in a cloister yet repeatedly climb music charts.

It is the Sister's third album with the label; 2012's "Advent at Ephesus" was number one on Billboard's Classical Traditional Music Chart for six weeks, and last year's "Angels and Saints at Ephesus" spent 13 weeks in the same position. All the music released by the Benedictines of Mary come from their life in community, of which singing is an integral part. Of the 23 songs found on "Lent at Ephesus," three are original compositions by sisters of the community.

"Lent at Ephesus" was released February 11 on the De Montfort Music label, which was founded last year by Kevin and Monica Fitzgibbons; it can be ordered from the sisters at: <http://benedictinesofmary.org>



You may also order by mail; send a check payable to the Benedictines of Mary, (\$15/CD plus \$3 postage) and mail to: **Priory of Our Lady of Ephesus, P.O. Box 303, Gower, MO 64454**



The movie, **SON OF GOD**

exploded on screens nationwide February 28, selling out in some theaters and exceeding industry expectations with a staggering \$26.5 million box office weekend.

The Fox release, a brainchild of reality TV producer Mark Burnett and his wife, actress Roma Downey, nearly toppled reigning box office heavyweight Liam Neeson, coming in a close second to his adventure film "Non-Stop." It marks the first motion picture about Jesus' life since "The Passion of the Christ" 10 years ago, from director Mel Gibson.

The film brings to the big screen an epic from the team that created "The Bible" for cable TV's History Channel.

Telling the story of Jesus' life to audiences through compelling cinematic storytelling, with the scale of an action epic featuring powerful performances, dazzling visual effects, and a rich orchestral score.

THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS (USCCB) COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION designated February 8, 2014 as an annual day of prayer for survivors and victims of human trafficking.

February 8 is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery. Once Josephine was freed, she dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering.

Read her bio on page 19

The USCCB's Anti-Trafficking program asks you to reflect on the experiences of those who have suffered through human trafficking and exploitation.

You are invited to pray for the emotional, physical, and spiritual healing, and make a personal commitment to work against human trafficking.

Human trafficking now ranks as the second most profitable worldwide criminal enterprise after the illegal arms trade.

The practical response of the Church and its' charities is to raise awareness of this horrendous crime and to provide help and support for the most vulnerable victims. "If just one person is made aware that someone they know is being trafficked, we will have made a difference."

To learn how you can be part of the solution, you must become informed. To learn more, go to:

<http://usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/index.cfm>



HUMAN



Trafficking

SR. LILIANE ALAM, FMM

(Franciscan Missionaries of Mary), formerly of *Franciscans International* and a world authority on human trafficking, spoke at our regional Chapter meeting in January 2013, giving an informative presentation on the subject of human trafficking.

Her presentation and informative booklets on this subject are available at our OLTAR website (*Resources section*) at:

http://olangels.tripod.com/region_links.html



To learn how you can be part of the solution, you must become informed.

The following powerful presentation/booklets are available in Powerpoint or PDF.

- [HUMAN TRAFFICKING.](#)
- [LOOK BENEATH THE SURFACE.](#)
- [HUMAN TRAFFICKING HANDBOOK.](#)
- [TRAFFICKING GRAPHIC.](#)

“Human Trafficking is a crime against humanity. We must unite our efforts to free victims and stop this crime that’s become even more aggressive, that threatens not just individuals, but the foundational values of society, international security and laws, the economy, families and communities.”

—POPE FRANCIS

In November 2013, following a wish expressed by Pope Francis, the **Pontifical Academies of Sciences and Social Sciences, together with FIAMC (World Federation of the Catholic Medical Associations)** issued their

STATEMENT ON TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS.

This statement offers 42 recommendations meant to heighten a global awareness and to establish an action agenda by our acting in unison to combat and eradicate this heinous crime. "All stakeholders, at all levels, have a moral and legal duty to eradicate this grave violation of human rights ... it is our moral imperative to make ours the last generation that has to fight the trade in human lives."

The statement may be viewed in its entirety on our OLTAR website at:

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





DAWN RUSINKO, OFS
YOUFRA REGIONAL CHAIR

DawnRusinko@yahoo.com

Franciscan Youth

IT'S NO SECRET that in today's society, our youth are having a hard time. Many of our young adults are experiencing high levels of stress, anxiety, depression, and mental illness, more so than previous generations. Many are turning to self- medicating, because they are not finding adequate support. Drug overdoses have tripled in some areas of New Jersey; the same can be said in many other states across the country. Most of these young adults come from broken families and have felt the sting of being raised by a single parent with no religion or mentors. They are searching and unfortunately without positive opportunities, they will find negative ones. I recently heard a quote that says, "If we do not teach our youth who God is, someone else will teach them all that He is NOT." We as Third Order Secular Franciscans can help the youth by giving them a purpose.

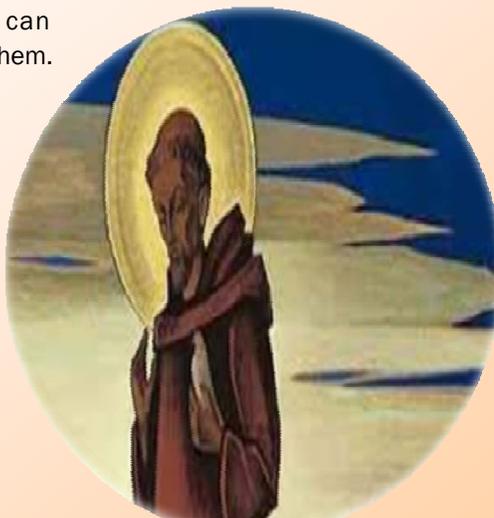
Purpose

We can offer to serve as a guide in carrying out varied activities to help these young people discover, develop and deepen their faith in the light of the Gospels and the message of St. Francis. Our Fraternities can act as positive role models accepting them into their large fraternal families so that they can feel connected and accepted.

I work for an adoption agency as a matchmaker for homeless kids in the foster-care system, and I see how starved they are for a real family. Their stories are unique, but many youth outside of the system are still coming from a broken home. It isn't easy for them, and the youth are the very poor God calls us to serve.

As an order, we can spiritually adopt them.

If we think for a moment, "What would Francis do?" we may come up with a few ideas.



For example, we may want to put a blurb in each fraternity member's parish bulletin calling forth young adults for a brainstorming meeting. Listen to their ideas and interests for forming a "Youfra." At this initial meeting, you can determine who has leadership qualities and guide them into the leadership or co-leadership role. The group will then take on a life force of its own.

I am always available for anyone who needs assistance and/or resources. Another important step your Fraternities can do is pray. We need your prayers for the Franciscan Youth in America and especially our Region. The more young people we are able to reach with our Franciscan charism the more we will be making a positive difference in the future of the world. Let's birth some Youfra groups in this New Year of 2014 and start active missionary work again.

PAX ET BONUM ~ DAWN RUSINKO, OFS

I HAVE LISTED A FEW LINKS BELOW FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION.

<http://ncronline.org/news/people/millennials-young-minority-adults-suffer-high-rates-unemployment>



http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/16/millennial-generation-study-fame-money_n_1354028.html



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angels region.org/](http://www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org/)



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REGIONAL DATABASE
ADMINISTRATOR
ANNA GERACI, OFS

2014 REGIONAL CALENDAR

Mark your Calendars,
details will follow.



CONVIVENZA

Saturday, April 5, 2014, 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
Holy Name Church Parish
207 West 96th Street
New York City, NY 10025-6337
Mark your calendars, more info to follow.

2014 REGION RETREAT

Friday, August 1 — Sunday, August 3, 2014
Mount Alvernia
Wappinger Falls, NY
Mark your calendars, more info to follow.

O.F.S. CLUSTER MEETINGS

MANHATTAN CLUSTER MEETINGS

Meeting Room # 3 @ St. Francis of Assisi, West 31st St.
Meeting on Saturdays:
May 3, 2014
September 6, 2014
December 6, 2014

MANHATTAN CLUSTER EVENTS

March 22 — Lenten Day of Reflection, 9:00—4:00 p.m.
St. Clare's Room @ St. Francis of Assisi, West 31st St.

July 19 — Picnic with the Seculars at Bryant Park
11:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

August 11 — St. Clare's Feast Day Mass Celebration
St. Clare's Room @ St. Francis of Assisi, West 31st St.

CALENDAR EVENTS

ST. ANNE'S FRATERNITY, IN FAIR LAWN, NJ, celebrated a **Profession Mass and Celebration, Sunday, March 2, 12:00 p.m.**

Members **ELEANOR DAVINA** and **MARY PERGINE** made their professions at the noon day Mass at St. Anne's Church, 15-05 St. Anne St., Fairlawn, N.J. A reception with refreshments in the church hall immediately followed the Mass.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mary and Eleanor

on this very important milestone in your Franciscan lives.



PILGRIMAGE

The 5th Annual Pilgrimage of New York will be held on **Saturday, April 5, 2014.** (Raindate - Saturday, Sept. 13). This year's pilgrimage is being held in honor of the Franciscan Order. On this pilgrimage route they will be visiting Franciscan Churches:

- Church of the Holy Name of Jesus, 207 W 96th St., NYC 10025
- Church of St. Francis of Assisi, 135 W 31st St, NYC 10001
- Church of St. John the Baptist, 211 W 30th St, NYC 10001
- Shrine Church of St. Anthony of Padua, 154 Sullivan St, NYC 10012

Please fill out registration form at:

<http://www.pofnyc.org/register/>



For additional information regarding this event, please contact:

Info@pofnyc.org



NIGHT FEVER AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
50th Street and 5th Avenue, NYC
Friday, March 14 • 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Take the opportunity to come spend some time in Adoration before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. This is an evening of Music, Adoration and Prayer. Confessions will be heard throughout the night.

Come and be a part of this night when the Cathedral will have its doors open to all New Yorkers.

For more information, email:

nightfevernyc@yahoo.com



GIOTTO IN NEW YORK

Friday, March 28
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Pompeii Church – Father Demo Hall
25 Carmine Street, New York City, NY 10014
212-989-6805 Register online at:

<http://www.glottonewyork.org/>



Free admission, registration is needed.

Art Historian, Andrea Nante, Ph.D., professor of Art at the University of Padua, Italy, and director of the Museum of the Diocese of Padua introduces us to:

“La Cappella degli Scrovegni” frescoes by Giotto, in Italian with instant translation to English.



The Scrovegni Chapel, a masterpiece in the history of painting in Italy and Europe in the 14th century, is considered to be the most complete series of frescoes executed by Giotto in his mature age, completing the frescoes in the Chapel at the beginning of 1305. The frescoes follow three main themes: episodes in the lives of Joachim and Anna (1-6), episodes in the Virgin Mary's life (7-13), episodes recounting Christ's life and death. The lower parts of the walls contain a series of frescoes illustrating Vices and Virtues in allegory.

Giotto di Bondone (1266/7 – January 8, 1337), known as **Giotto**, was an Italian painter and architect from Florence in the late Middle Ages. He is considered the first in a line of great artists who contributed to the Italian Renaissance.

CALENDAR

EVENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

St. Francis of Assisi Parish and its Migrant Center, (FI) Franciscans International, and (FAN) Franciscan Action Network are sponsoring an interactive community evening on environmental justice and human trafficking.

With powerful testimony from around the world, experts from Guyana, Colombia, Peru, Canada, El Salvador and South Africa will speak about the connections between mining and human trafficking in their countries. Attendees will participate in breakout roundtable discussions with the activists so you can discuss and explore ways of how you may contribute to address the structural injustices that are part of the root causes of human trafficking and other forms of modern-day slavery.

The event, open to the public, is scheduled for **March 11 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, San Damiano Hall, at 129 West 31st Street, New York City. Call 212-736-8500, Ext. 321. Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP by sending an email to: Events@Francisanaction.org



COMBATING MODERN SLAVERY

FI and several other organizations are also sponsoring a panel discussion on:

“GENDERED IMPACTS OF EXTRACTIVISM: MODERN FORMS OF SLAVERY.”

The event will identify root causes of modern slavery that the UN’s post-2015 agenda must address in order to implement a just and equitable model of development, said Amanda Lyons, FI’s New York-based advocacy representative to the UN.

The panel discussion will take place **March 12 from 8:30 to 10 a.m.** on the 10th floor of the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City.

CANTICLE CAMPUS

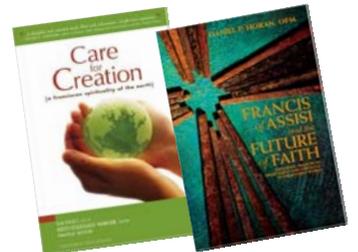
2014 CLASS OFFERINGS

STILL TIME FOR ONLINE CLASSES
BEGAN SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

CARE FOR CREATION
by Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF
and

FRANCIS OF ASSISI
AND THE FUTURE OF
FAITH

by Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM



Class Facilitator is
Francesca Wigle, tssf
Third Order Society of St. Francis

To register email her at:
fwigle@gmail.com



Website: <http://www.canticlecampus.org>



Canticle Campus is a joint effort within the Franciscan family, both Catholic and Protestant, to establish a central location of education and dialog.

New Release

SERIES ON ST. FRANCIS' SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



Br. Ed Coughlin, O.F.M., Ph.D., has released a five-disc series – available in video DVD and audio CD or MP3 formats – titled “Enkindling Love: The Spiritual Journey of St. Francis according to Bonaventure.”

Through 12 scholarly lectures, Br. Ed gives particular attention to the image of St. Francis in “The Major Legend of St. Francis,” written by St. Bonaventure. His lectures explore the powerful question posed by Bonaventure: Do we wish to admire or to imitate Francis?

The five-disc set, includes an electronic study guide, is available at:

<https://www.nowyouknowmedia.com/new.html>



FRATERNAL TIDINGS



Photos credit: Tom Babich, OFS

❧❧❧
**ST. ANNE'S
FRATERNITY**

*All join together
in sending their
very best wishes,
peace and all
blessings to
everyone in
this New Year.*

Monday, December 16th,
**St Anne's fraternity
in Fair Lawn, N.J.,**
celebrated their annual
Christmas party.

As always, their own Deacon
Bill Joyce and his wife, Judy,
provided a delicious turkey
for the feast and in fact,
Bill served as master carver
for the event!

I'm told Bill did a
masterful job — as always.



FRATERNAL TIDINGS

Photos credit: Ed Wojciechowski, OFS



ST. ANTHONY'S FRATERNITY IN BUTLER, NEW JERSEY celebrated their Christmas party together with two other fraternities in our region. Members of **ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY IN POMPTON LAKES, NEW JERSEY;** AND **SAN DAMIANO FRATERNITY, IN NEWTON, NEW JERSEY** gathered together for a festive and yummy celebration.

"Thanks to everyone who helped out in putting this event together and making it a success! Special thanks to St. Mary's Fraternity and San Damiano's Fraternity for joining us in celebrating the Season."

ED WOJCIECHOWSKI, OFS



FRATERNAL TIDINGS



In an on-going effort to present a friendlier and more accurate data to the electronic face of our Secular Franciscan presence nationally, regionally and locally, Internet professional (and Secular Franciscan candidate), John Clem, has been asked by the National Fraternity (NAFRA) to objectively review every Secular Franciscan website he can find in the United States.

Of the websites he has currently reviewed, our very own Regional website was praised for its current information, and its many links including an excellent one to YOUFRA; he also praised our "impressive use of *Facebook*." Both our region website and Facebook pages are created and maintained by our Region Vice Minister, Diane Menditto, OFS.

Congratulations Diane, for doing such a wonderful job, and thanks for sharing your many talents. Your efforts and hard work have been deservedly recognized.

REGIONAL WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org>



REGIONAL FACEBOOK ADDRESS:

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



Don't forget to like us:



SISTER



DEATH

Roque A. Manalo, OFS



Beloved member
of
**ST. JOHN VIANNEY
FRATERNITY,
COLONIA, NJ**

PROFESSION



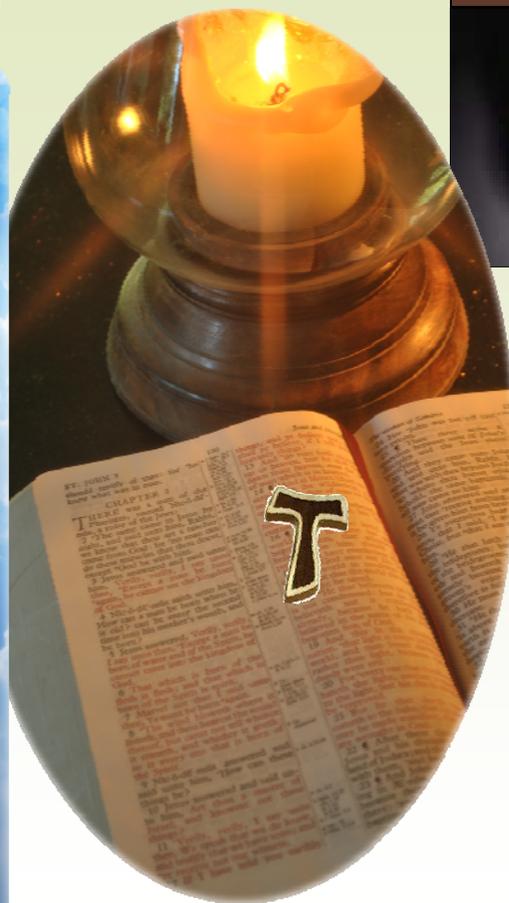
On Saturday, January 11, the **Little Portion Fraternity Hastings-on-Hudson, NY**, joyfully professed

GENNETTE PEARSON, OFS
into the Secular Franciscan Order.

Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Andre Cirino, OFM, presided at the Mass.

This beautiful occasion was followed with a reception in their church hall. Celebrating with the fraternity were about 40 of Gennette's family and friends.

*Congratulations
Gennette !*



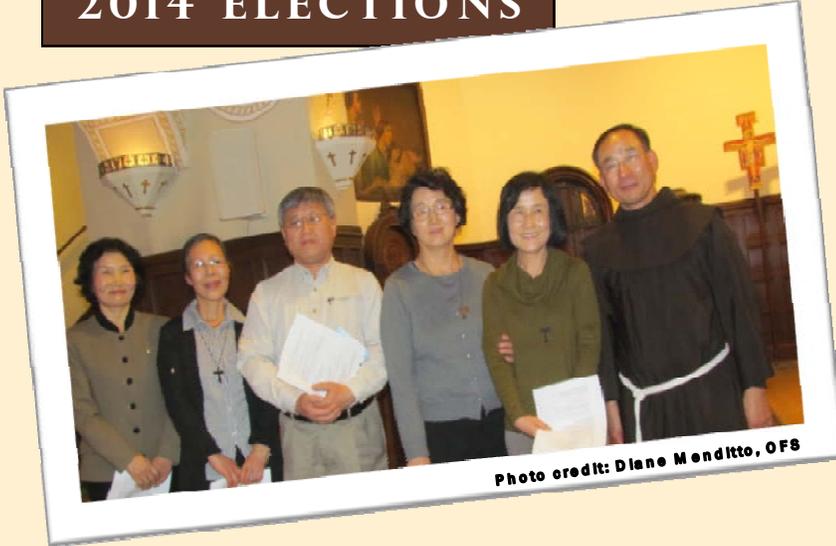


FRATERNAL TIDINGS



congratulations

2014 ELECTIONS



**KOREAN MARTYRS FRATERNITY
NEW YORK CITY, NY
HELD FEBRUARY 2, 2014**

- JOSEPH (BYOUNG NIM) LEE, MINISTER
- MARIA (SOON HE) SEO, VICE MINISTER
- REGINA (HONG) SHIN, SECRETARY
- GRACIA (HEE JUNG) KIM, TREASURER
- MATILDA (KYUM KYU) HWANG
FORMATION DIRECTOR
- FR. FRANCIS KIM, OFM
SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

FRATERNITY ANNIVERSARY



ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY Wood Ridge, NJ Established January 8, 1961	53 YEARS
CORTESIA FRATERNITY Middletown, NJ Established February 4, 1990	24 YEARS
ST. FRANCIS FRATERNITY Hackensack, NJ Established January, 1962	52 YEARS
ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY New York City, NY Established January 21, 1996	18 YEARS

If

your fraternity celebrated their establishment date, and has not been recognized in this column, kindly send me your information. *Anna Geraci, Editor*



A BRAND NEW PILGRIMAGE IS BEING OFFERED IN THE UNITED STATES

“Holy and Beloved”

Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs invites you to join us on this pilgrimage to visit the sanctuaries of our “holy and beloved”

Saints of North America.

Saint John Neumann;

Saint Katharine Drexel;

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini;

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE NORTH AMERICAN SAINTS JULY 28–AUGUST 3, 2014

Saints René Goupil; Isaac Jogues and John de La Lande—

the North American Martyrs;

Recently canonized

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha;

Saint Marianne Cope—

“Beloved Mother of Outcasts”;

We will also stop at the grave of the scholar priest, Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.

We read in St. Paul's letter to the Colossians 3:12: "God's chosen ones, [are] holy and beloved."

Come along and be introduced to these holy and beloved saints. Journey with us as we explore their lives and legacy, listen to varied presentations and conferences, view historical archives, and visit their sanctuaries, shrines, graves and museums. We will celebrate the Eucharist and conclude our days with evening prayer honoring the saints.

Lodging will be provided at three Franciscan retreat centers in Aston, Pennsylvania; Wappingers Falls, New York; and the scenic Finger Lake, Skaneateles.

PRICING: Land Only: \$1900 • Single Room Supplement: \$300 • Full payment deadline is April 28, 2014.

For more details, to request a brochure, registration, etc., contact Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs.

• P.O. Box 321490 • 9230 W. Highland Park Avenue • Franklin, Wisconsin 53132

• T. 414-427.0570 • F. 414-427.0590 • www.FranciscanPilgrimages.com



CLARE A. D'AURIA OSF, is a Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia.

A native of Philadelphia, Clare entered her congregation in 1965.

She has served the Franciscan family for the past twenty-five years as a retreat and spiritual director and is currently a staff member at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston, PA. Clare has been published in *The Cord* and has produced an audio retreat “What We Have Seen and Heard,” a video retreat “Jesus Christ: The Poetry of God,” and a DVD of the keynote address to the Franciscan Federation in 2006—“Stirrings of the Spirit: The Incarnational Prayer of Clare of Assisi.” Clare lives in community in Boothwyn, PA.



ANDRÉ CIRINO OFM, is a contemporary Franciscan itinerant preacher whose ministerial experience includes parish work, Franciscan formation; high school education and

has worked at the Little Portion Retreat House for the Poor in Bronx, New York for 8 years.

André has published and co-authored numerous books as well as produced several CD's. Since 1984, André has conducted many pilgrimages throughout the world for Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs, and has lectured at the Franciscan International Study Centre in Canterbury, England. His website is www.assisiJourney.com



SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

1868-1947



Born in about 1868 at Oglassa, Darfur, Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of 9, sold into slavery. Bakhita was not the name she received from her parents at birth. The fright and the terrible experience she went through made her forget the name her parents gave her. Bakhita, which means "fortunate", was the name given to her by her kidnappers.

She was re-sold many times, experiencing many humiliations and brutal sufferings of slavery, both physical and moral. Finally purchased in 1883 by Callisto Legnani, an Italian consul who treated her with kindness, and later her freedom, she accompanied Legnani to Italy in 1885, where she worked for Augusto Michieli as a nanny to his daughter Alice, known as Mimmina, who was being instructed by the Canossian Sisters in Venice's Institute of the Catechumens.

It was there that Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church and that Bakhita came to know about God, whom

"she had experienced in her heart without knowing who He was" since she was a child. "Seeing the sun, the moon and the stars, I said to myself: who could be the Master of these beautiful things? And I felt a great desire to see Him, to know Him and to pay Him homage."

After several months in the catechumenate, Bakhita received the sacraments of Christian initiation, taking the name, Josephine as a symbol of her new life. It was January 9, 1890. That day she received Holy Communion from Archbishop Giuseppe Sarto, the Cardinal Patriarch of Venice, and future Pope Pius X. She did not know how to express her joy that day. Her big and expressive eyes sparkled, revealing deep emotions. From then on, she was often seen kissing the baptismal font saying, "Here, I became a daughter of God!"

She entered the Institute of Canossian Daughters of Charity in Venice, Italy in 1893, taking her vows on December 8, 1896 in Verona, Italy. She would serve as a Canossian Sister for the next fifty years. This humble Daughter of Charity, assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery and welcoming visitors at the door. When she was on duty at the door, she would gently lay her hands on the heads of the children who daily attended the Canossian schools and caress them. Her amicable voice, which had the infection and rhythm of music of her country, was pleasing to the little ones, comforting to the poor & suffering and encouraging to those who knocked at the Institute's door. Her humility, simplicity and ever-present smile became well-known and Vicenzans still refer to her as Sor Moretta ("little brown sister") or Madre Moretta ("black mother").

Her sisters in the community esteemed her for her constant sweet nature, goodness and deep desire to make the Lord known. "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!" she said. Her special charisma and reputation for sanctity were noticed by her Order; the first publication of her story (*Storia Meravigliosa by Ida Zanolini*) in 1931, made her famous throughout Italy, making her a noted and sought-after speaker, raising funds to support missions.

Her last years were marked by pain and sickness. She used a wheelchair, but she retained her cheerfulness, and if asked how she was, she would always smile and answer "as the Master desires." In her last hours, her mind was driven back to the years of her slavery and she cried out, "The chains are too tight, loosen them a little, please!"



St. Josephine Bakhita

Mother Bakhita breathed her last on February 8, 1947 at the Canossian convent in Schio, Italy, surrounded by the sisters. For three days her body lay on display while thousands of people arrived to pay their respects.

She was Venerated December 1, 1978; Beatified May 17, 1992; and Canonized October 1, 2000 by Pope John Paul II at Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome, Italy.

There is currently a movement to designate her as the patron saint for human trafficking victims.

FRANCISCAN ACTION AROUND the WORLD



This is a very special year for FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL (FI).

This year marks the 25th anniversary of their official accreditation as an NGO with the United Nations. This was the culmination of the efforts of the Franciscan Family to establish a Franciscan voice at the UN, and the true beginning of FI's advocacy work.

“ Twenty-five years on, we are proud to uphold the vision of FI's founders, and continue breaking new ground in international advocacy. Over the past year, we have spoken out on the issues of children's rights, trafficking, the rights of indigenous peoples and extreme poverty, among others. Our booklet, *Development: Sustainable for whom?* was published this past December, accompanying our work against destructive mining projects including fracking, and other concerns in environmental justice.

We continue to undertake training and consultation projects with our partners around the world. FI works for and with an International network of grassroots supporters. It is thanks to this partnership that our advocacy has an impact.

We offer our thanks to all those who have supported and strengthened FI over the past 25 years, and hope you will follow us throughout the year, as we continue to advance and focus our work. ”

Fr. Markus Heinze, OFM

VISIT THEIR REGULARLY UPDATED FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL

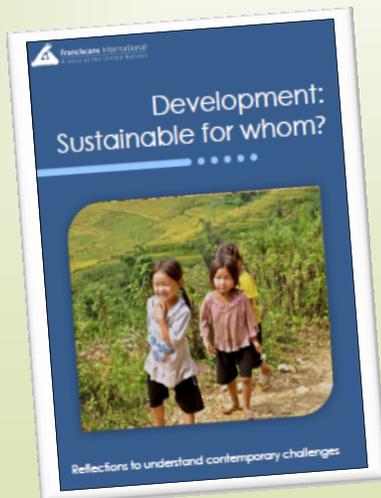
website for news, events, photos and reports at:
www.franciscansinternational.org



To request a physical copy of the booklet, *Development: Sustainable for whom?* email your request to: communication@fiop.org



It is also available from their website. To Download a PDF of the booklet go to:
http://www.franciscansinternational.org/fileadmin/docs/Environment/FI_20booklet_Development-Sustainable_20for_20whom_Nov_202013/final-EN.pdf



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

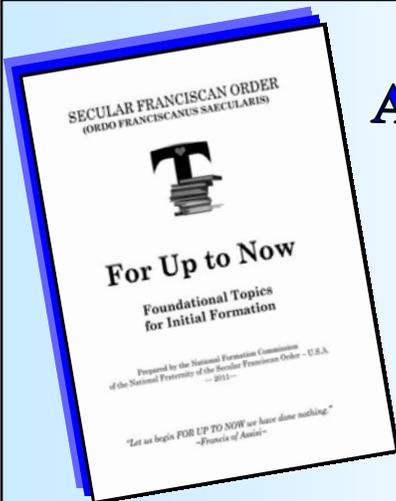
<http://www.ciofs.org/portal/index.php?lang=en> 

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.

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

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STREAMING VIDEO EVENTS!



GOOGLE MAPS LAUNCH VIRTUAL TOUR OF ROMAN CATACOMBS

The Internet's largest search engine has created a digital map of two large catacombs in Rome, hoping to expose users to the historical sites' beauty and spark curiosity to learn more about them. "If you can find catacombs, if you can find frescos, if you can find museums online, then you will be willing to know more," Georgia Albetino told CNA during a November 19 interview. "So our objective is actually to have more and more people knowing about world-wide culture, and for us Italian culture." Albetino is the head of Google's public policy team in Italy, and was present for the press conference announcing the new project, held in the Catacomb of Pricilla.

The Catacomb of Pricilla was used for Christian burials from late in the second century up through the fourth, and is filled with numerous wall paintings of Saints and Christian symbols, some of which are currently undergoing restoration. It is believed that the catacomb is named after a woman called Pricilla, who is believed to be the wife of a man who converted to Christianity and was put to death by the Emperor Domitian.

Inspiration for the new map system detailing the catacombs came from "a big idea that Google has, that is try to put in the web as much cultural contents as possible." Catacombs originally came up as a topic of interest, the policy director revealed, during a meeting between Cardinal Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture, and Google's executive chairman Eric Schmidt. During the discussion of "how to enrich the world-wide web," Albetino noted that "the idea was, ok, there are incredibly valuable contents, such as for instance, the catacombs, why don't we put it on maps? And that's how it started."

So far, the Catacombs of Pricilla and the Dino Companion catacombs are the only two available on Google maps, and although there are "no clear plans in terms of catacombs in the future," Albetino explained that they are important, especially in Italian culture, because they "tell you something about our history, and also where we come from." Another key motive in creating the map was to give "virtual tours for the disabled." Those who "cannot access" the catacombs due to some "great handicap," he observed, ought to have the ability to be exposed to their beauty as well, adding that "this was our first motive."

Albetino revealed that another "fantastic project" that Google is working on in the area of Italy, is

"to digitize all the books of the three main libraries, Naples, Rome and Florence, and to make it available to the world-wide web, and then also to digitize the biggest museums with the same purpose."

The goal of all these projects, she noted, is to "show to the world the beauties that we have."

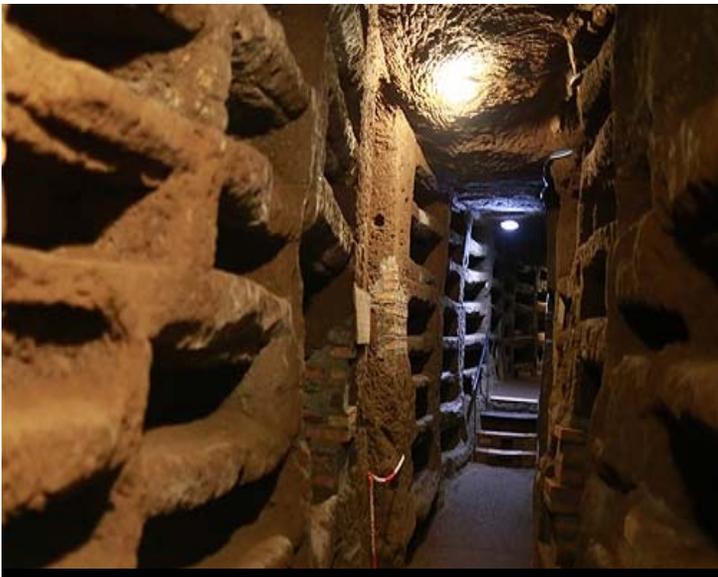
The new map of the catacombs can be viewed

[here](#)



If you find the above virtual tour difficult to navigate below is an alternate website that you can visit.

http://www.catacombepiscilla.com/inglese/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=13&Itemid=114



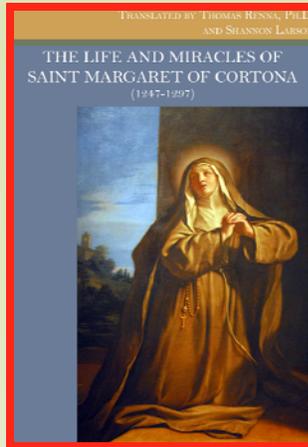
RECENT RELEASES



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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344 pages (Hard or Soft Cover)

ISBN:

HC 978-157659-301-1 \$ 44.95

SC 978-157659-207-6 \$ 29.95

THE LIFE AND MIRACLES OF MARGARET OF CORTONA

translated by

Thomas Renna and Shannon Larson

Saint Margaret of Cortona is the Light of the Third Order of Francis. Such is the theme of the most extensive biography of any Franciscan Tertiary in the Middle Ages. Margaret's extraordinary career brings the historian closer to the early development of the Franciscans and the Order of Penance; it tells us much about how women saints were described, and about how civic cults of saints emerged. Another window, although a smaller one, opens to the tensions between the Franciscan Community and the Spiritual Franciscans before the split prior to Pope John XXII. Indeed, it could be said that we know more about Margaret of Cortona than about any woman of thirteenth-century Italy, with the exception of Clare of Assisi and Clare of Montefalco.

This edition is translated from the critical Latin edition by Fortunato Iozzelli, O.F.M. of *The Life of Saint Margaret of Cortona* by Fra Giunta Bevegnati. The original translation by Thomas Renna has been edited by Shannon Larson.

This edition is translated from the critical Latin edition by Fortunato Iozzelli, O.F.M. of *The Life of Saint Margaret of Cortona* by Fra Giunta Bevegnati. The original translation by Thomas Renna has been edited by Shannon Larson.

Thomas Renna's English translation of Fra Giunta Bevegnati's 1308 Life of Saint Margaret of Cortona (1247-1293) is a treasure trove of early Franciscan history primarily drawing from her canonization proceedings, the penitential movement, popular legend, and the cult of women's saints. It is based on Fra Fortunato Iozzelli's 1997 critical Latin edition. Renna's translation preserves the colloquial flavor and emotional force of Margaret's dialogues as well as their historical accuracy. Renna is careful to point out that numerous mythical elements about Margaret's penitential practices eventually became integrated into her Legenda.

Between 1272-1289 Margaret turned to the Friars Minor, including her biographer, Fra Giunta, for spiritual advice. Known for her severe penances, she became Cortona's most public citizen. She died in 1293 in the commune of Cortona which built a church for her remains that became a popular pilgrimage site. A rich oral tradition continued to surround Margaret until her canonization in 1728. Fra Giunta's life of Margaret is peppered with vignettes relevant to the development of the Third Order of Saint Francis.

Sr. Ingrid J. Peterson, O.S.F., Rochester, MN

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PLEASE EMAIL OR SURFACE MAIL TO:

EDITOR, e-TRUBADOUR NEWS
ANNA GERACI, OFS
161-B Cross Slope Ct., Manalapan, NJ 07726
Email: TroubadourEditor@aol.com



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

Numbers 6:24-26

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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