

eT roubadour

AUGUST
2015

CONNECTING THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN
COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT OUR REGION.



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



environment friend

LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER



Article photography: Diane Menditto, OFS

July 15th - Feast of Saint Bonaventure

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For the last week, I have been traveling in the Canadian Rockies. As we drove through majestic mountains sculpted by glaciers, my heart was filled with gratitude to the Lord for this spectacular gift. The lakes and rivers are turquoise--as if they were filled with the most brilliant waters of the Caribbean. While walking to a summit at the tree line of a high mountain, we shared the path with towering pines and colorful wildflowers that can only flourish a few months of the year. These flowers have adapted so that they are able to "hibernate" when unrelenting snow storms blanket the summit each winter.

We were also reminded of how fragile this beauty is. Thousands of acres of Jasper National Park (and other Canadian national parks) are closed due to wildfires caused by recent drought conditions. As we were driving through endless pine forests, I prayed that God will protect the trees and the creatures who live there.

Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* has begged us to take care of the environment in the manner of our Seraphic Father:

"Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of His infinite beauty and goodness."
(12 *Laudato Si*)

A trip like this one serves to remind us of the greatness of the Divine Artist and the marvels he has given us. Saint Bonaventure, whose feast we celebrate as I write this, speaks of nature as the "vestiges" or footprints of the Lord.

continued on next page

LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER *continued*

"The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to



be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things. Saint Bonaventure teaches us that 'contemplation deepens the more we feel the working of God's grace within our hearts, and the better we learn to encounter God in creatures outside ourselves.'" (233 *Laudato Si*)

Let us look into our hearts with gratitude and great humility to be sure that we are caring properly for all the gifts of God's creation as we pray:

"Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate You in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of You.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that You have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.
God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of Your love for all
the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in Your sight. Enlighten those
who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may
love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live."

(Portion of "A Christian prayer in union with creation" found at the end of *Laudato Si*.)

May our Lord bless and keep each one of you,

Diane Menditto, OFS

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html





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2014-2017
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2015 REGION CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETINGS

NAFRA CHAPTER PLANNING MEETING

AUGUST 22, SATURDAY, 10:00 A.M.

The Host Committee for NAFRA 2015 of our region will meet at St. Francis Church, 50 Lodi Street in Hackensack, NJ. We are still in need of volunteers from the members of our region. There will be a lot to do and we need everyone's help and input. We would like all fraternities to be represented.

Contact: RON PIHOKKER, OFS, Chairperson
Rlpihokker@aol.com

OLTAR ANNUAL CHAPTER — DETAILS TBA

NOVEMBER 7, SATURDAY — MARK YOUR CALENDARS



ST. CLARE FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

MOST HOLY NAME FRATERNITY IN LITTLE FALLS, NJ, will be sponsoring a service to honor the **TRANSITUS OF ST. CLARE ON**

MONDAY, AUGUST 10TH

BEGINNING AT 7:30 P.M.

**OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ANGELS CHURCH
465 MAIN STREET, LITTLE FALLS, NJ.**

Contact: SAM MONACO, OFS, Fraternity Minister
Samuelmonaco@aol.com

Light Refreshments will follow in St. Francis Hall.
All Fraternities are invited to attend. No RSVP required.

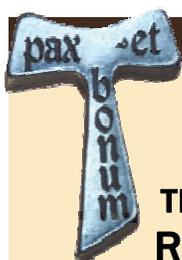
OFS MANHATTAN CLUSTER, will be sponsoring a Feast day Mass honoring St. Clare on **TUESDAY, August 11TH**

HOLY MASS 5:30 P.M.

**CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
135 WEST 31ST STREET, NYC**

Contact: PAT CLAYTON, OFS, Region Manhattan Councilor
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DIANE F. MENDITTO, OFS

REGION DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR
ANNA GERACI, OFS

The Troubadour newsletter is a communications vehicle published by Our Lady of the Angels Region. It is published in 2 formats— printed and electronically.

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

—EDITOR

• CALL FOR ARTICLES •

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

• DEADLINES •

The Troubadour / e-Troubadour format is published on the 1st week of the month. All submissions for the next issue must be received by the 15th of the preceding month.

Submissions for the next issue of e-Troubadour, September 2015, are due by August 15th.

• ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS •

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

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

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

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

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

E-mail address

Fraternity Name and Location

Date of Profession

Date of Admission

by
ED WOJCIECHOWSKI, OFS
Formation Director
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LAUDATO SI', CALLING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

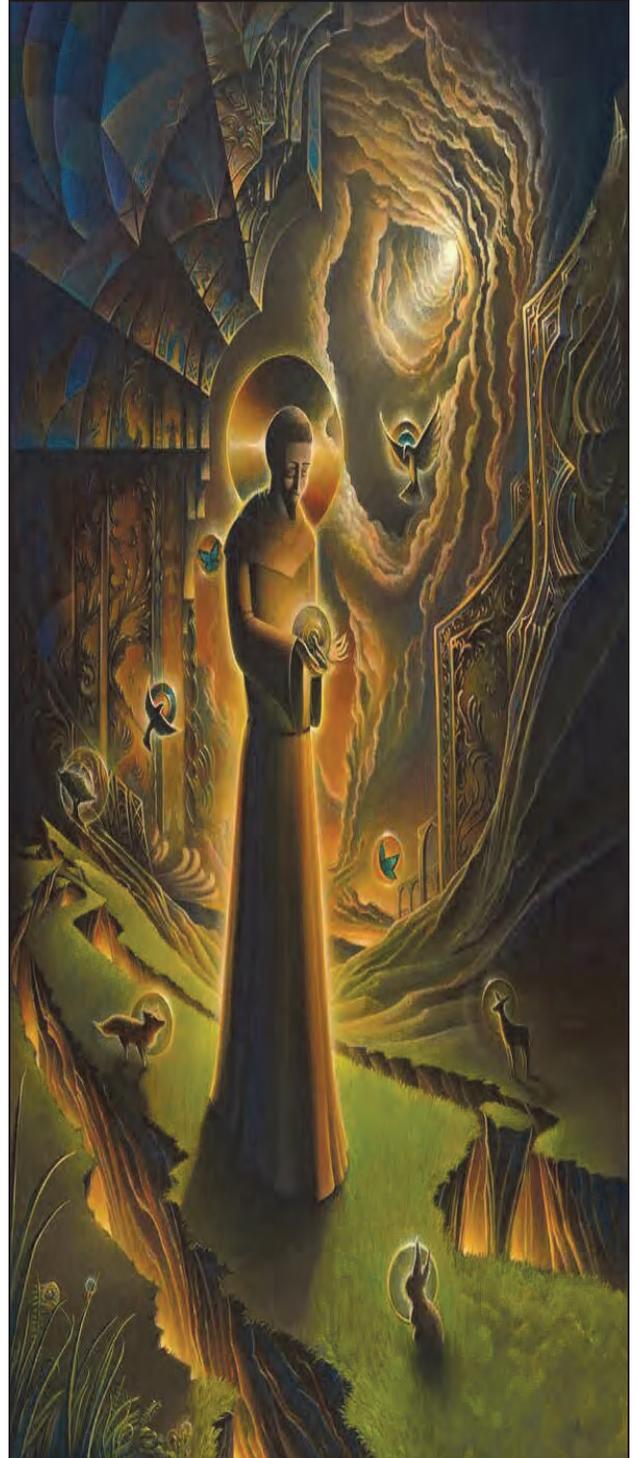
In June 2015, the Vatican released the encyclical *Laudato Si'* and since then much has been said and written in the mainstream press regarding this document and the Church's teachings regarding nature and the environment in our society. *Laudato Si'* is addressed to all Catholics and all people of good will and contains authoritative papal teaching on nature and creation. For Secular Franciscans, *Laudato Si'* gives further guidance and direction to our commitment to live in harmony with all creation. According to our rule, Secular Franciscans should "respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which bear the imprint of the Most High." (Rule 18) and we should also "strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship." (Rule 18). Pope Francis is challenging all Catholics to reexamine our relationship with God and nature, to take concrete steps to heal past wounds, and to take steps to live in harmony with all creation.

Laudato Si' supports the Franciscan understanding of creation as a gift from God and calls us into universal communion with all creation:

'In the Judaeo-Christian tradition, the word "creation" has a broader meaning than "nature", for it has to do with God's loving plan in which every creature has its own value and significance. Nature is usually seen as a system which can be studied, understood and controlled, whereas creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion.' (76 *Laudato Si'*)

Given the guidance set forth in our Rule, and our love and respect for creation, *Laudato Si'* is an excellent resource to use as part of a fraternity's formation program. At 184 pages long, the document can be a little overwhelming to cover in a single formation session, but when broken up into smaller and more manageable sections, it can be used over an extended period of time to enrich our life in fraternity and in our personal lives. Here are some suggestions on how we can incorporate the lessons of *Laudato Si'* into our lives as Franciscans.

continued on next page



FORMATION



Chapter 1, *What is Happening to Our Common Home*, addresses the issues of pollution and climate change, water issues, loss of biodiversity, the decline of the quality of human life and breakdown of society and global inequality. Each of these topics are about 5 or 6 pages long and can be used for both personal reflection and group discussion within the fraternity's monthly gathering.

Chapter 2, *The Gospel of Creation*, teaches "that human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor and with the earth itself." (66 *Laudato Si'*) and emphasizes our obligation to use the earth's resources responsibly. In light of our Rule, we can reflect upon our personal commitment to live a life of harmony with our neighbors and all creation in accordance with the teachings found in the Gospels.

Laudato Si' also issues a call for dialog and education. Chapter 5 addresses the issues of national and local policies, transparency in decision making, ecological conversion, joy and peace, and the Trinity and the relationship between creatures. Once again, these are all good topics to ponder and study both individually and in fraternity with our brothers and sisters.

Laudato Si' can also be used as a resource for our prayer lives as it contains many scriptural references and prayers for the earth and a Christian prayer in union with creation. Some of my favorite passages include:

"For they are yours, O Lord, who love the living."
(Wis 11:26)

"By the word of the Lord the heavens were made."
(Ps 33:6)

"Great and wonderful are Your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are Your ways!"
(Rev 15:3)

The scripture passages and prayers found in *Laudato Si'* can be incorporated into our daily prayer life and our monthly fraternal gathering to enrich our understanding and appreciation of God's gift of creation.

In conclusion, *Laudato Si'* provides authoritative Catholic teachings of our role in modern society. By incorporating these teachings into our fraternity's formation program and into our personal lives, we help fulfill our obligation to "actively put forward initiatives that care for creation" as called out in our Constitution. (Article 18:4)

Pax et Bonum,
Ed



FRATERNITY SPOTLIGHT



Article photography: Frank Catalano, OFS

by
**FRANK CATALANO, OFS WITH
 JOHN J. TRAUSE, OFS**
 Assumption Fraternity
 Wood-Ridge, NJ



ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY

The fraternity
 was founded on
 January 8, 1961.

The fraternity is located
 in Wood-Ridge, NJ.

FRATERNITY MEETINGS ARE HELD

ON THE 1ST AND 3RD
 FRIDAYS OF THE MONTH,
 7:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

ASSUMPTION FRIARY BASEMENT
 143 FIRST STREET
 WOOD-RIDGE, NJ 07075

MINISTER:
 FRANK CATALANO, OFS

CONTACT EMAIL:
Fabiolakeys@verizon.net

OUR PORTIUNCULA A FOOD PANTRY DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

IN May 1995, the Secular Franciscans of Assumption Fraternity in Wood-Ridge, New Jersey, recognized the needs of the poor and hungry in their community, who would show up at Assumption Friary seeking assistance from the resident Friars. The Friars were in the habit of giving money to and/or preparing food from their own kitchen for those who showed up.

Assumption Fraternity wanted to relieve the Friars, already spread thin with other ministries, by assuming the full responsibility of feeding the poor and needy through an on-campus Food Pantry, housed in what had been a vacant room in the basement of the Hayes Center. The Pastor at the time, Father James Czerwinski, OFM, fully committed to cooperation among the friars, Franciscan sisters, and Secular Franciscans, joyfully providing this space, which the Secular Franciscan renamed “Portiuncula” after the tiny friary where St. Francis and his companions lived in Assisi, Italy.

Although there had been some hesitancy at first, it was the witness of one of the Secular Franciscans who had recently lost his job and had become poor and needy, that spurred on this radical commitment by the fraternity. This was the humble beginning of what continues to be a twenty-year apostolate.

continued on next page



Relying on weekly donations of food, money, supermarket vouchers and gift cards from the parishioners of Assumption Church, along with donations of local businesses, anonymous benefactors, the Boy and Girl Scouts, youth groups, CCD students, and others, the Food Pantry keeps its shelves stocked and available to the needy. Special mention goes to Macrina Olweck, the home economics teacher at Wood-Ridge High School, who has for years coordinated the makings of full Thanksgiving meals in gift baskets along with her fellow teachers, administrators, students, and parents, and arranged their donation to the Food Pantry.

In the early years, the Food Pantry service was a 24/7 enterprise, which included food delivery to the homebound needy. The Secular Franciscans are proud to point out that they have operated for these twenty years without any overhead; all effort is that of volunteers. Patrons of the Food Pantry normally leave with at least two full grocery bags of needed items plus vouchers or gift cards used to purchase perishable items at local supermarkets.

Presently the Portiuncula is open for a steady and consistent weekly group of twenty plus patrons. A rough estimate of twenty meals a week times 52 weeks a year for twenty years equals thousands of meals, which have been provided through the graces and blessings of God.

Rosalie Cauceglia, OFS, a founding member of Assumption Fraternity in 1962, smiles fondly when thinking back to the time she provided food to a mother and her very young child. Fast forward to the present, and this same woman now has five children with her when school is not in session.

Sometimes more important than the food provided are the friendships that have been forged as well as the love and dignity that each Secular Franciscan gives to and receives from the familiar faces who come each week.

John Buccini, OFS, cherishes the opportunity to be a humble servant each week. A supervisor for a large grocery store, he always knows the latest items on sale. Because of John, we know the Food Pantry is always stocked with the best, most up-to-date bargains. We also recall the late Marie Ward, OFS, who would somehow manage to get steep discounts in supermarket vouchers and also knew the ins and outs of the latest bargains and coupons.

Our current Vice-Minister John J. Trause, OFS, has been involved with the Food Pantry since its founding in 1995. He sums up our ministry quite succinctly, when he says,

“Beggars can be choosers.”

It is this Franciscan cornerstone that keeps us humble and aligned with our Seraphic Father, St. Francis of Assisi, and our Lord Jesus Christ.



FRATERNAL TIDINGS

DEACON SAL

by
PENNY GLEESON, OFS
St. Peter's Fraternity
Somerset, NJ

congratulations

Photo credit: Karen Leyendecker



FIRST MASS - JUNE 7, 2015 — MARY MOTHER OF GOD CHURCH

“Waiting man” or “servant” is the Greek translation for Diakonos . . .
“through the dust” referring to the dust raised by the busy servant
or messenger. Wikipedia

The definition in Wikipedia for Deacon should read . . . Sal Bonfiglio, OFS.

Sal Bonfiglio, OFS, has been patiently and steadily moving along this spiritual quest which he accomplished on June 7, 2015. Sal says it all began in 2007 when he was professed to the Secular Franciscan Order at St. Peter's Fraternity in Somerset, New Jersey. Sal's "yes" activated a deep desire to serve in the way of

St. Francis and St. Clare. Melody, Sal's wife, has been by-his-side all along the way. Going to build homes for the poor and feed the residents of the slums in Jamaica on their recent anniversary is a model for all of us.

As Franciscans, we know how one "yes" leads to many changes. Sal entered a Master's program at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology. Looking at a five-year program meant changes were about to affect his life. Career, family responsibilities and continuing an already meaningful service as prison Chaplain, and visiting Carrier Clinic in Belle Mead, New Jersey, not to mention his assisting at Mass in his parish, Mary Mother of God in Hillsborough NJ, and his faithful leadership at St. Peter's Fraternity as Treasurer and council member would now become a juggling act. Through prayer and supported by his family and especially by Melody, Sal persevered.

In an article for the official newspaper of the Diocese of Metuchen, *"The Catholic Spirit,"* Sal reflects on his spiritual path. His faith and trust in God grew from challenges. "They tell you that when you go through the program, the devil will be kind of nipping at your heels. He's not happy about this ... well let me tell you, as far as I'm concerned, and the people in my class, the devil came at us with all he had." Sal's faith deepened steadily with each challenge and obstacle.

Both Sal and Melody are busy with the work of serving. St. Francis and St. Clare show us a way that is different and new even today and as Sal says,

"God is going to shake you out of your comfort zone to do what He wants and then you'll find it's the most rewarding thing you could have imagined."

(The Catholic Spirit, June 4, 2015).

Brother Sal, OFS, and now Deacon, you are a source of knowledge through your studies, a mirror of Christ by your service to others, and an instrument of peace through your life of prayer. Blessings and all good as you serve the Lord in the way of St. Francis and St. Clare.



Photo credit: Mary Ann DeLuca

Fraternity Members celebrate Brother Sal and his accomplishments on becoming a Deacon.



Article written by:
CHRISTINE LUKESH, OFS

Article photography:
ED WOJCIECHOWSKI, OFS

St. Anthony's Fraternity
Butler, NJ



“Getting Dirty”

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

One day, long before Sonja “Sunny” Brennan (on left) even thought about becoming a Secular Franciscan, she thrust a spade into the hard ground. “God,” she prayed in frustration, “I know You’re leading me somewhere. But *where?*” At age 50, Sunny had already recovered from a life-threatening infection, and that year marked another close brush with death. She was diagnosed with chemical poisoning sustained at her job, and the condition left her unable to work for several years. Recovery would require fresh air. Walking seven miles a day was “not enough,” she says. “That’s when I picked up a shovel and started gardening.”

While her home garden in Bloomingdale, NJ, began to flourish, Sunny’s husband, Jim was asked to become an RCIA sponsor at their parish, Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in Butler, NJ. Already active in lay ministry at Saint Anthony’s, the couple heard that a second sponsor might be needed. “If that’s the case,” Sunny told program director Sister Cecelia Burns, “give me a call.” And so it happened. “For us ‘cradle Catholics,’” Sunny reflects, “being an RCIA sponsor gives you an opportunity to look at our faith from an adult point of view. It’s a great gift to witness what the candidates experience on their faith journey.”

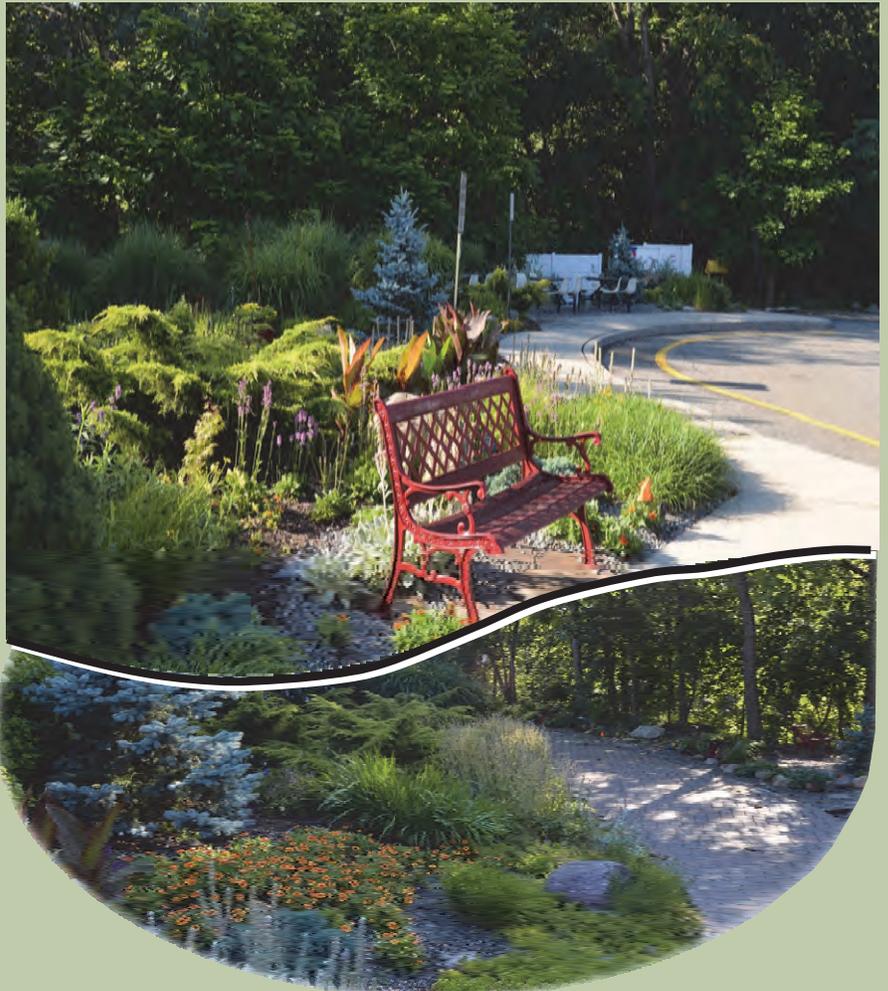
In the late 1990’s, Sunny and Jim were approached by another parish couple, the late Page and Alberta Taylor. “So you’re Sunny and Jim Brennan; we’ve been wanting to meet you!” This was the Brennans’ first contact with members of the parish’s recently reactivated Secular Franciscan fraternity. They were invited to a meeting, and before they knew it, they had joined a class of four seekers. They made their profession together in 2000. Being a Secular Franciscan shone a sacred light on Sunny’s gardening and gave her a new Franciscan awareness of the environment and ecology.

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BEFORE



AFTER





In January 2010, the Board of Master Gardeners of Passaic County announced the launching of a project in each of the county's 16 towns. In Bloomingdale, where a popular park had been flooded out several times, Sunny happened to be talking to Pat Yannacci at the town's Senior Center; "You're looking for a project to do in town. Oh! Could it be here?" Sunny still remembers the plea in her friend's big brown eyes. "What would you want?" Sunny responded and listened hard.

She went to look at the Bloomingdale Senior Center. It's landscaping was limited to "a single evergreen tree, two Rose o' Sharons, and two million invasive weeds, including poison ivy and Japanese knot weed—the worst!"

Observed by many a curious senior, she spent weeks "just sitting," studying the property, measuring and observing the effects of light, wind, and water—and submitted the necessary paperwork to the Board of Master Gardeners and Rutgers University for approval of her plan.

On May 16, 2010, the day Sunny's project was scheduled to launch, "Master Gardeners showed up with car loads of plants. One after another, they said to me, 'Sunny, where do you want this?'" All she could do was pray: "God, I guess this isn't going to be the way I planned it; what's *Your* plan?" As it turned out, she says, "It's a good thing I was so well prepared! We were able to use every single plant."

In spite of ongoing health issues, Sunny's project at the Senior Center is now in its sixth season, and forty Master Gardeners have participated—with a great deal of help from the town as well. Seniors now fish from the banks of the Pequannock River, and the last piece, a meditation garden by the waterfall, is near completion. "The garden is now a certified National Wildlife Habitat," Sunny says.

"This project has taught me a lot about organizing a group, working with different personalities," she reflects. "But also, that you can make all the plans you want—but a garden becomes what it wants to be. It's the same way with Apostolates. You can't obsess about having one—apostolates find us. God's in charge."

Thus began Sunny Brennan's apostolate in gardening and ecology. "We all have personal apostolates," she has learned, "and they come to us in roundabout ways." With a smile that reflects her nickname, she adds, "All apostolates require getting dirty."



SISTER



DEATH

by

PETER MACALUSO, OFS
St. Anne's Fraternity
Fair Lawn, NJ



LENORA MOSCA, OFS (79)

Called home to the Lord +July 11, 2015.



Her Funeral Mass was held the following day. Lenora was a member of the St. Anne's Fraternity in Fair Lawn, NJ. Our dear sister, Lenora, was a tireless humanitarian worker for 45 years, initiating many missions that touched hundreds of people across inter-faith lines. Her work was honored not only by St. Anne's Fraternity, but also by the Archdiocese; local and state branches of our government; as well as Rabbi's and Inter-Faith Ministers who also attended her funeral Mass.

Lenora was the Human Concerns Minister at St. Anne's RC Church, in Fair Lawn, NJ.

She was a humanitarian who devoted her life working for social justice and peace. She founded and co-directed St. Anne's Youth Group. Mrs. Mosca launched the St. Anne's Food Pantry which fed hundreds of families in Bergen and Passaic Counties.

She engaged others of faith in her work serving as a vocal member of the Inter-Religious Fellowship. Mrs. Mosca received the Archdiocese of Newark's prestigious *Caritas* Award. The Bergen County Council of Churches recognized her tireless work on behalf of the homeless.

I **NTO YOUR HANDS, O LORD,**
we humbly entrust our sister,
LENORA MOSCA, OFS.

In this life You embraced her with Your tender love; deliver her now from every evil and bid her eternal rest. The old order has passed away: welcome her into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain, but the fullness of peace and joy with Your Son and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

"May God have Mercy on the Assassins."



A little girl looks at an image of Archbishop Oscar Romero at the cathedral where he is buried in San Salvador.

(Credit: CNA/Reuters
Reported by Caitlyn Schmid;
Photo: Luis Galdamez)

Even the final words he spoke as he lay dying, on the altar of a small chapel in San Salvador 35 years ago, were of forgiveness and peace.

March 24, 2015, marked the 35th anniversary of the murder of Archbishop Oscar Romero, aged 62, of San Salvador - reputedly the first Archbishop to be slain at the altar since Saint Thomas Becket in 1170.

His time as Archbishop of San Salvador gave him a reputation for caring deeply about all people. Standing up against poverty, social injustice, torture, and assassinations of Salvadorans by their government, Archbishop Romero protected the poor civilians during what would become the Salvadoran Civil War (lasting from 1979 until 1992).

During his time speaking out against the violence in his country, Romero gained attention around the world. He pleaded to U.S. President Jimmy Carter to stop funding the Salvadoran government which was using the funds for military action against civilians. He criticized the attacks and threats on the members of the Church who helped the poor civilians—which caused some unrest with Church leaders who felt betrayed, accusing him of being 'politicized' and of seeking popularity.

The threats by the government and betrayals by some Church leaders did not stop him.

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SPECIAL EVENT

POPE FRANCIS: BLESSED ROMERO'S BEATIFICATION A CAUSE FOR 'GREAT JOY'

July 22, 2015 recap of CNA/EWTN News
Reported by Junno Arocho Esteves, Photo: CNA

In a letter sent to the Archbishop of San Salvador, Pope Francis expressed his joy at the beatification of Archbishop Oscar Romero.

The martyred prelate's beatification took place in a Mass on Saturday, May 23rd, presided by Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Recalling the slain archbishop's ministry, the Holy Father said that God granted the Church a 'zealous Bishop' who became the image of the Good Shepherd. "In times of difficult coexistence, Archbishop Romero knew how to lead, defend and protect his flock, remaining faithful to the Gospel and in communion with the whole Church."



"His ministry was distinguished by a particular attention to the most poor and marginalized. And in the moment of his death, while he celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of love and reconciliation, he received the grace to identify himself fully with He who gave his life for his sheep. "The Holy Father went on to thank God for the Archbishop who, he noted, had the ability to see and hear the suffering of his people, God's Family. Continuing his message, Pope Francis said that even today, Blessed Romero's life is a call for unity, especially within the Church.

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Just moments before he was assassinated during Mass, he finished his final sermon. His message was clear:

'I would like to make a special appeal to the men of the army, and specifically to the ranks of the National Guard, the police and the military. Brothers, you come from our own people. You are killing your own brother peasants when any human order to kill must be subordinate to the law of God which says, "Thou shalt not kill." No soldier is obliged to obey an order contrary to the law of God. No one has to obey an immoral law. It is high time you recovered your consciences and obeyed your consciences rather than a sinful order. ...In the name of God, in the name of this suffering people whose cries rise to Heaven more loudly each day, I implore you, I beg you, I order you in the name of God:
Stop the repression.'

Romero's words ring true today as the world is still in conflict. The political and military upheavals affect every corner of the globe. Let us all work to preserve human rights, protect all life, and stop the repression around us.



"The voice of the newly Blessed continues to resonate today to remind us that the Church, a convocation of brothers surrounding their Lord, is God's family, in which there should be no division," he said. Following his example, the Pope called on the Church in El Salvador to be a sign of mercy and reconciliation in society. Blessed Romero's life, he continued, calls on the faithful to "renounce 'the violence of the sword, of hate and to live 'the violence of love, that left Christ nailed to the Cross, that makes each one of us overcome selfishness and so that there be no more such cruel inequality between us.' "

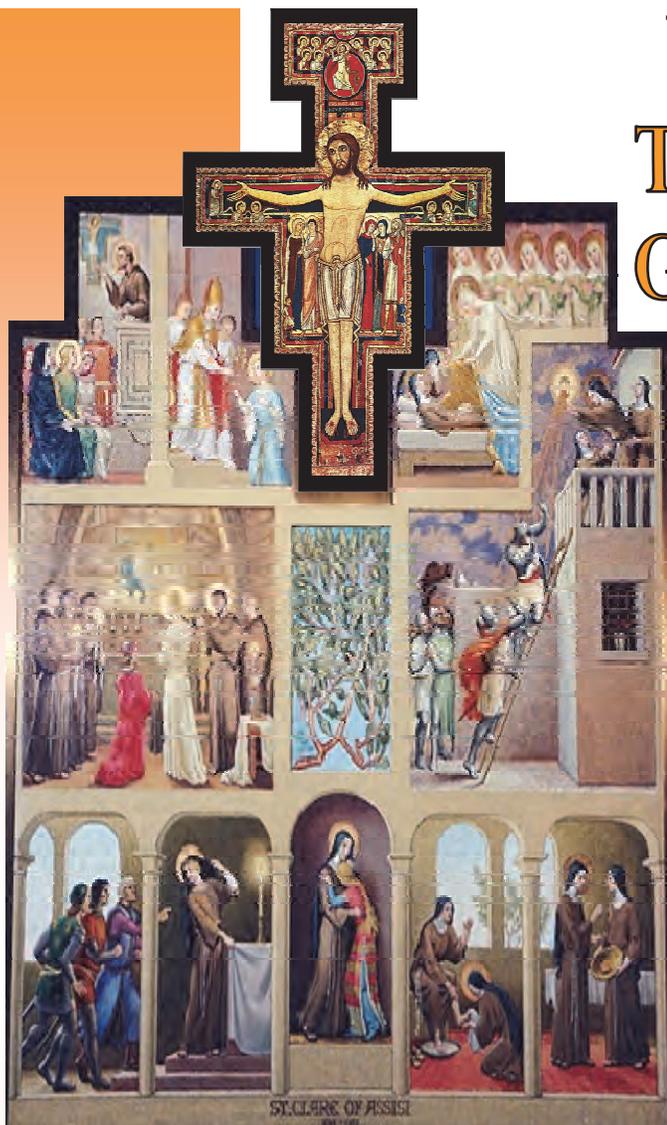
Concluding his message, Pope Francis reminded the people of El Salvador that the beatification is "a favorable moment for a true national reconciliation."

"The Pope participates in your hopes and unites Himself to your prayers so that the seed of martyrdom may flourish and become entrenched in the true paths of the sons & daughters of that nation, which proudly hears the name of the divine Savior of the World," he wrote.



Written by
VALERIE MORENO, OFS
St. John Vianney Fraternity
Colonia, NJ

THE GIRL IN THE FOREST



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 for the believers to come 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.

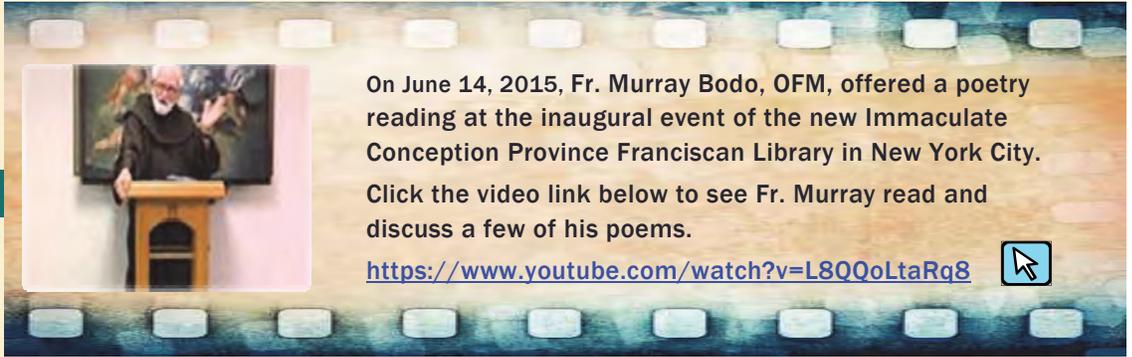
Chiara was the mirror of Francis, nothing stood in her way of living as he did. In illness, brutal cold, barefoot and hungry, she rejoiced in Christ, and never wavered from complete poverty.

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.



RECENT EVENTS

POETRY FROM JUNE 14 READING



On June 14, 2015, Fr. Murray Bodo, OFM, offered a poetry reading at the inaugural event of the new Immaculate Conception Province Franciscan Library in New York City. Click the video link below to see Fr. Murray read and discuss a few of his poems.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8QQoLtaRq8>



MAY 30 — CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CLUSTER HOLY HOUR FOR PEACE



“The Holy Hour was an excellent blend of Adoration and Meditation. I could feel the power of the prayer that was flowing throughout the church.

Each one there had his or her own private issues for which they were praying but the sum of all those prayers was a meaningful expression of our adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Thanks to Sal for leading us as a prayerful fellowship and thanks to Mary-Frances for everything that she did to make the event possible.”

FRANCIS CRYAN, OFS
St. Peter's Fraternity, Somerset, NJ

“The solemnity of Holy Hour provided a wonderful opportunity for reflection and prayer. The deep intimacy with GOD, HIS mercy and GOODNESS flooded my heart and mind with love, gratitude and peace. Thank you for the privilege to be amongst my brothers in CHRIST.”

DARRYL DU BOSE, OFS
St. Peter's Fraternity, Somerset, NJ



Photos credit: Joe McKenna, OFS

LAUDATO SI!

by

**JIM ANDREANO - CANDIDATE
MOST HOLY NAME FRATERNITY
LITTLE FALLS, NJ**

Article photography: Diane Menditto, OFS



Pope Francis' recent encyclical on the looming Climate Change crisis has both challenged and inspired the world. It was in that spirit that on May 30, I had the privilege of presenting "Climate Change – A Franciscan Perspective" at the North New Jersey Cluster meeting. I am but a humble Candidate for the Seculars, but on that day the Pope and I shared the same mission!

Like all of us, I wear a bunch of different hats. One is that of Climate Leader for the *Climate Reality Project*, where I was trained by the group's founder and Chairman, former Vice President Al Gore. Today, Mr. Gore refers to himself as a "recovering politician" and has dedicated his life to certain important causes, one of which is climate change. I believe that climate change presents the greatest challenge of our era. It also presents the greatest opportunity, if we so choose.

The mission of the Climate Reality Project is to help educate the public on:

- The reality of global warming. The indisputable fact is that the earth is warming at a pace unprecedented in our history.
- The overwhelming scientific evidence that the warming of the earth is caused by human activity, specifically, the industrialization of the last couple of centuries. We have infused our atmosphere with greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, which trap the heat.
- The implications of global warming. The term sounds rather benign, but its implications are anything but. One major concern is flooding caused by sea level rise due to melting of polar icecaps. Another result of global warming is more extreme weather patterns – more frequent and intense storms, droughts, and wildfires. We are already witnessing the beginnings of this. Global warming causes climate change.
- The clear reality is that humanity is on an unsustainable path, but we can turn it around. And we must!

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SO, HOW DO WE DO THAT?

A key message of the Climate Reality Project is “Changing laws is more important than changing light bulbs.” I think that we Americans tend to believe that all problems can be solved, “if we all just do our part.” Sadly, this is not true. Climate change is a global problem that can only be solved by coordinated global governmental action. The December UN Climate Change Conference in Paris is a step in that direction.

Another key message of the Climate Reality Project is “Win the conversation.” While there is an overwhelming scientific consensus as to the reality of climate change and the need to turn it around, in the U.S. there is no political or popular consensus. (Globally, the U.S. is the exception in this regard!) This will only change if we the voters demand it. It starts from the bottom up, in discussions with family, friends, and acquaintances.

From the Franciscan perspective, little more need be said. You know better than I of Francis’ reverence to Mother Earth and to Brothers Wind and Air. It should also be noted that Pope Francis’ encyclical while properly lauded, does not represent any significant new direction. It is very consistent with decades of Catholic teaching on humanity’s relationship to its earthly environment.

When we were baptized, each of us was anointed priest, prophet, and king (or queen). I admit that I rarely feel priestly, and even less so kingly. But I do take seriously my responsibility as prophet. It has been said that the role of the prophet is to comfort the disturbed, and to disturb the comfortable. This is what we in the Climate Reality Project try to do.

I would be very happy to repeat my presentation, or to tailor one to your specific intended audience. Contact Jim through the *Troubadour* at: TroubadourEditor@aol.com





Registration
Is Now Open

for the FALL 2015 Course

Canticle Campus • Fall 2015

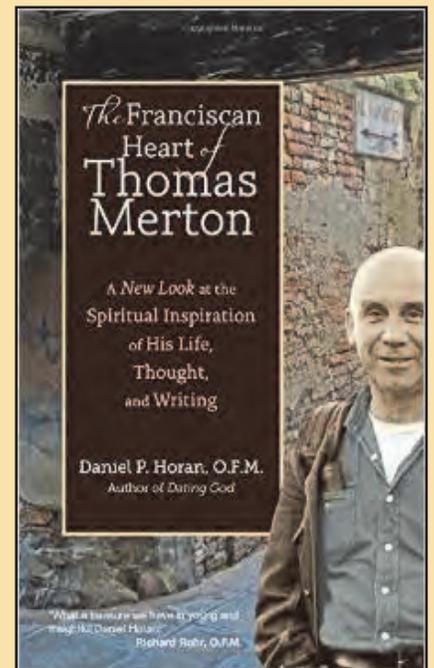
Canticle Campus is a joint effort within the Franciscan family, both Catholic and Protestant, to establish a central location of education and dialog around the role of prophetic voice in Franciscan Faith Life. The collaboration was initiated around the ecumenical efforts of the *Franciscan Action Network*. (FAN) Written resources are pre-selected and participants are encouraged to read and provide an ongoing discussion of resources through this online tool. The intention of Canticle Campus is to build a non-profit collaboration of Franciscan Family members and Franciscan-hearted people. Our goal is to establish a free online college where knowledge, understanding, and dialog in civility, tolerance and religious freedom (in the spirit of Francis and Clare of Assisi) are primary.

This Fall, we will be reading, *The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton: A New Look at the Spiritual Inspiration of His Life, Thought, and Writing*, by Fr. Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M.

Classes will begin the week of September 7, 2015, and will end before Thanksgiving (with extra time for participants to complete the assignments). Francesca Wigle, TSSF, will be the facilitator and FAN will be the administrator.

If you would like to learn more, please email FAN Action Commissioner Francesca Wigle, TSSF at: fwigle@gmail.com
To register to participate in the Fall 2015 course, 
go to: <http://canticlecampus.org/moodle/> 

There are minimum system requirements. Keeping all your software updated is recommended.
Recommended minimum browser: Google Chrome 11, Firefox 4, Safari 5, Internet Explorer 8 (IE 10 required for drag and drop of files from outside the browser into Moodle. There have been oddnesses reported with various versions of IE and Google Chrome. Your experience may be better with "Firefox".





Franciscan Action Network

Transforming the World in the Spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi

MISSION STATEMENT: Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus, and the example of saints Francis and Clare, the Franciscan Action Network is a collective Franciscan voice seeking to transform U.S. public policy related to peacemaking, care for creation, poverty, and human rights.

Franciscan Action Network's PATRICK CAROLAN Honored By White House.



On Monday, July 20, the White House recognized twelve people of faith as “Champions of Change” for their efforts in protecting our environment and communities from the effects of climate change. Franciscan Action Network's Executive Director Patrick Carolan, was among those honored by the White House for his climate change advocacy work with FAN and with the Global Catholic Climate Movement.

“I’m deeply honored and grateful for this recognition by the White House,” remarked Carolan, “and I’m even more excited to share the honor with so many other great faith leaders working on the issue of climate. It is my hope that our efforts will help bring greater awareness to the urgent need of all people to address the climate crisis.”

Patrick Carolan, has been the Executive Director of the Franciscan Action Network (FAN) for five years. <https://franciscanaction.org/>



He has made climate change a core issue at FAN, and has built relationships with other faith and secular organizations in that role.

Patrick co-founded the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM), a coalition of Catholic leaders and organizations from across the globe that have come together to raise awareness about the urgency of climate action in light of Catholic social and environmental teachings. He and his wife, Stella, have been foster parents and have adopted two children in addition to having two children.

The program featured remarks by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy and Senior Advisor to the President Brian Deese.

The Champions of Change program was created as an opportunity for the White House to feature individuals doing extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities. To learn more about the White House Champions of Change program, visit www.whitehouse.gov/champions



PAPAL SPOTLIGHT

POPE FRANCIS' SCHEDULE FOR THE JUBILEE OF MERCY

July 22, 2015 recap of CNA/EWTN News
Reported by Andrea Gagliarducci

Photo credit: L'Osservatore Romano



Pope Francis before the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica during the convocation of the Jubilee of Mercy, April 11, 2015.

Twelve prominent events, each with the participation of Pope Francis, have been scheduled in Rome for the upcoming Jubilee of Mercy, and CNA was able to glance at details of their programs.

The twelve big events of the Jubilee of Mercy will be: 24-hours-for-the-Lord, a day-long period of Eucharistic adoration; To Dry the Tears, a prayer vigil; and jubilees centered on pilgrimage workers; the sick and disabled; catechists; deacons; teenagers; priests; volunteers of mercy; the Curia; Mary; and Divine Mercy spirituality. In addition to these events, a "Jubilee for Padre Pio's prayer group" will take place February 13, 2016, as the body of the Capuchin saint who bore stigmata for much of his life will be exposed in Saint Peter's Basilica February 8-14, at Pope Francis' request.

"The Holy Father expressed the wish that Padre Pio's corpse be exposed in St. Peter's Basilica on Ash Wednesday of the upcoming Extraordinary Holy Year, that is, the day when the Pope will send the missionaries of Mercy, giving them a special mandate to preach and hear confessions, so that they be a lively sign of how the Father welcomes those who seeks his pardon," Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, wrote to Archbishop Michele Castoro of the Archdiocese of Manfredonia-Vieste-San Giovanni Rotondo.

HERE IS A DESCRIPTION OF THE FULL SCHEDULE OF THE MEETINGS:

The jubilee for pilgrimage workers will take place **January 19-21, 2016**. It will start with an International gathering of pilgrimage workers together with priests, rectors, and staff of shrines. A Mass will be said **January 19** at the Basilica of St. John Lateran. The group will have a conference and catechesis the following day, with Eucharistic adoration and Confession, and a pilgrimage to the Holy Door. They will meet with Pope Francis on **January 21** in Paul VI Hall.

continued on next page

POPE FRANCIS' SCHEDULE FOR THE JUBILEE OF MERCY

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On the feast of the Chair of St. Peter, **February 22**, the Pope will also celebrate a special jubilee for the Roman Curia, the Vatican Governorate, and the institutions linked to the Holy See.

On **April 1-3**, during the Easter Octave, the jubilee of Divine Mercy spirituality will be celebrated. On April 1, some Roman parishes will celebrate a penitential rite, and the following day Pope Francis will lead a prayer vigil in St. Peter's Square. He will say Mass for Divine Mercy Sunday on April 3.

The teenagers' jubilee will begin with an **April 23** evening festival at Rome's Olympic Stadium, followed by a Mass said by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square the following day.

The jubilee of Deacons will take place **May 27-29**, with conferences on their role as icons of mercy for the new evangelization in their families, parishes, and jobs. They will gather in Rome's seven parishes named for St. Lawrence, and on **May 28** will have Adoration, Confession, and pilgrimage to the Holy Door, then attend a Mass said by Pope Francis **May 29**.

Priests will celebrate their jubilee **June 1-3**. The first day will be dedicated to Eucharistic Adoration, lectio divina, and confessions. The Holy Father will preach their spiritual retreat **June 2**, and **June 3** will say Mass with them.

The jubilee of the sick and disabled will occur **June 10-12**. The participants will gather in the jubilee churches, and from there they will go to the Holy Door. A celebration will be held in the gardens of Castel Sant'Angelo **June 11**, and a Mass in St. Peter's Square with the Holy Father **June 12**.

From **September 2-4** the volunteers of mercy will gather in Rome for catechesis and a Mass with Pope Francis.

Catechists' jubilee is scheduled **September 23-25**. The first day, they will have the option of either visiting San Luigi dei Francesi to contemplate Caravaggio's paintings of St. Matthew's calling, inspiration, and martyrdom; or the Sistine Chapel to view salvation history through the ceiling painted by Michelangelo. The following day will see a catechesis on mercy in the jubilee churches and a prayer vigil at St. John Lateran, and Pope Francis will say Mass **September 25** in St. Peter's Square.

A Marian jubilee will be celebrated **October 7-9**, which will gather delegates from Marian shrines across the world. Pope Francis will be present at the **October 8** prayer vigil, and say Mass on **October 9**.

ADDED TO THESE PARTICULAR JUBILEES ARE TWO ADDITIONAL EVENTS:

The 24 hours for the Lord, culminating **March 4** with a penitential rite, and the "Vigil to Dry Tears," scheduled **May 5** and described as a vigil for all those who need consolation. Pope Francis will preside over both the vigils.

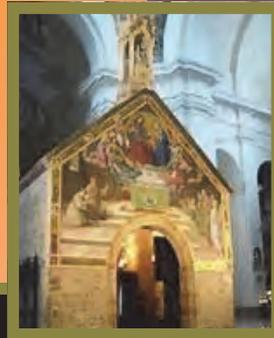
The jubilee was announced by Pope Francis during a March 13 penitential service, the second anniversary of his election as Bishop of Rome.

It will open **December 8th**, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will close **November 20, 2016**, the Solemnity of Christ the King.



Photo credit: CNS photo by Paul Haring

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS
REGION
SECULAR FRANCISCAN
ORDER



Francis go and repair
my house.



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS
REGION COMMUNICATIONS

REGION WEBSITE: www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org

e-TRoubadour (MONTHLY BY E-MAIL ONLY) **AND**
The TROUBADOUR NEWSLETTER (PRINTED TWICE YEARLY):
<http://olangels.tripod.com/troubadour.html>

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



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