



THE **T**roubadour  
MAGAZINE  
WINTER/SPRING  
2018  
CONNECTING SECULAR FRANCISCAN  
FRATERNITIES THROUGHOUT OUR REGION.



PUBLISHED BY OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGION  
OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER — USA

Celebrating 40 Years of the Approval of the 1978 Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order

START *By going*  
*What is* NECESSARY,  
THEN *what is*  
POSSIBLE,  
AND *SUDDENLY*  
*YOU ARE* *going*  
*to* IMPOSSIBLE.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

# LETTER FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER

JANUARY 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we entered this brand-new year, I'm sure many of us made a few resolutions regarding health and time management. I certainly did! We, along with everyone else, want to do better. We resolved to change and be transformed into better versions of ourselves. Of course, we Franciscans should be very good at this. We see every day as an opportunity to start fresh in our journey to the Father. Metanoia, daily conversion, is a big part of our lives.

I'd like to suggest that this might be a good time to think about and understand more about fraternity and the vital role it plays in our lives as Franciscans. To be successful and life-giving, **Fraternity** at all levels needs some special ingredients:

<p><b>COMMUNITY</b></p> <p>Our <b>life in fraternity</b> with all it entails, including the acceptance of and empathy for our brothers and sisters.</p> <p><b>DOES IT FEEL LIKE FAMILY?</b></p>	<p><b>COLLABORATION</b></p> <p>Our willingness to <b>work together toward any common goal</b> or project taken on by the fraternity. We are especially concerned with helping one another on our journey to the Father and in <b>reaching out</b> to those in need.</p> <p><b>DO WE GET INVOLVED?</b></p>	<p><b>COMMUNICATION</b></p> <p>Our realization that communication does not only mean talking; it also means <b>listening</b> to one another. It takes great patience and humility to truly listen to others, especially when we don't agree.</p> <p><b>DO WE LISTEN?</b></p>	<p><b>COMMITMENT</b></p> <p>Our daily recollection of what we have <b>promised at profession</b>.</p> <p><b>DO WE MAKE OUR FRANCISCAN LIFE A PRIORITY?</b></p>
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These ingredients are nurtured by **Formation and prayer**.

We have many sources of initial and ongoing **formation materials** available to us, but we should choose wisely. It can be easy to forget that formation **must be more than information**.



No matter how much we learn, how much we read, how many talks and retreats we attend, even how much we pray, **if formation does not transform us, we need to reexamine our goals**.

The same is true of prayer. Our **prayer** is not just words. It should **change us** and make us better. By striving to **pray in community**, relying on the **Holy Spirit** and remembering the **humility shown by God** in becoming one of us, we move forward in our journey.

I WILL LEAVE YOU WITH THE QUESTIONS I WILL BE ASKING MYSELF THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- How am I transformed through my life as a Secular Franciscan?
- What is my commitment according to the Rule and Constitutions?
- How am I brought closer to God through my profession?
- Why is fraternity an important part of my life?
- Through my words and actions, do others know that I am a Franciscan? Do they even realize that I am a Christian?

Peace and blessings,

Minister, Our Lady of the Angels Region



**OUR LADY  
OF THE  
ANGELS  
2017-2020  
REGIONAL  
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**COUNCILOR:**

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**SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS:**

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[fmchugh77@aol.com](mailto:fmchugh77@aol.com)

Bro. Lombardo D'Auria, OFM Cap  
[brolobardocap@yahoo.com](mailto:brolobardocap@yahoo.com)

# 2018 REGION CALENDAR

## GENERAL MEETINGS

### NORTH JERSEY CLUSTER MEETING

**SATURDAY, JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2018**

- 9:30 a.m. — Noon
- All are Welcome
- No RSVP is required

**TOPIC: VOCATION**

**LOCATION:** St. Bonaventure Church Hall  
174 Ramsey Street, Paterson, NJ

**CONTACT:** RONALD L. PIHOKKER, OFS  
COUNCILOR — NORTH JERSEY  
[rlpihokker@aol.com](mailto:rlpihokker@aol.com)



### REGION RETREAT

**JULY 27-29, 2018**

- See ad on pg. 9

## MEET YOUR REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



# MINISTER



## Diane F. MENDITTO

It has been my privilege to serve as Regional Minister of Our Lady of the Angels Region since 2014, and I am anxiously looking forward to the next three years of serving our region.

Some of you may know that I was a Spanish teacher for 35 years.

Now that I am retired, in addition to my activities with the Order, I love to travel, especially to see my friends of 50 years in Mexico. I also enjoy baking, reading and photography.

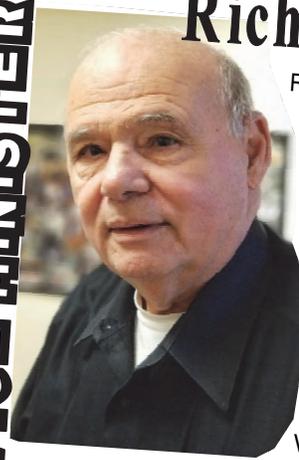
I look forward to getting to know all of you even better. As always, you will be in my prayers as I hope I will be in yours.

My vocation as a Secular Franciscan was most likely decided from birth.

I was born on October 4<sup>th</sup>, my baptismal name is Frances, my godmother was Frances and my parish is St. Francis Church in Hackensack.

I was professed in 1979 and have served on the local, (provincial) regional and national levels.

# VICE MINISTER



## Richard SPANA

Richard has faithfully served our Regional Council holding the office of Treasurer for the past 4-terms

He is an equally active member of his local fraternity, Little Portion in Westchester, NY, where he has previously served as Minister, Vice Minister and is currently serving as Treasurer.

This is Rick's 34<sup>th</sup> year in the Secular Franciscan Order, his date of profession is celebrated October 4, 1984.

# SECRETARY



## Francesca ACOSTA

Founder of Stella Mundi Franciscan Ministries; an educator for twenty-seven years in the Archdiocese of New York; currently Campus Minister & Theology department chair at a Franciscan High School in Yonkers, NY and Co-Director of the Associate Program for the Sisters of St. Francis Neumann Community, Professed in May 2011,

Frances serves as Formation Director in her local fraternity, Sacred Heart in Yonkers, NY and is a Minister of the Eucharist at her local parish.

Born and raised in the Bronx. Frances is the oldest of three girls. Her family currently live in North Carolina and she looks forward to visiting in the Summer.

"I have a great interest in the culinary arts. I love the pleasure food gives, both to others and to myself. I also enjoy ballroom dancing and singing. I sing in my parish choir and cantor wherever I am invited".

Frances holds a Bachelor's Degree in Art and Advertising, a Master's Degree in Education from Lehman College and an Administrative Diploma for Administration from Manhattan College. I hold certification in Catechesis and a certificate for Spiritual Direction from the Avila Institute.

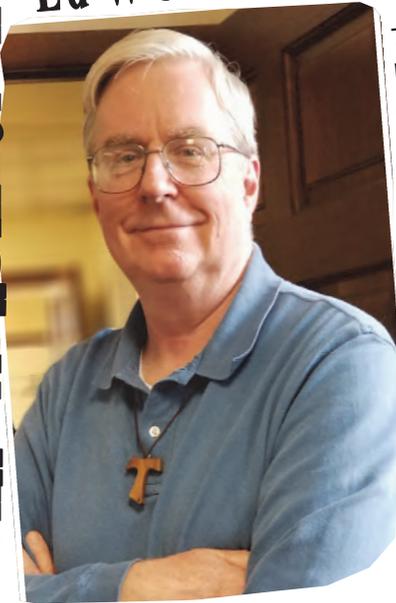
# SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS!

**Bro. Lombardo D'AURIA, OFM Cap (left) and Fr. Frank M. McHUGH, OFM (right)**



**FORMATION DIRECTOR**

**Ed WOJCIECHOWSKI**



This is my second term as the Regional Formation Director. I was professed in October, 2001 and am a member of the St. Anthony Fraternity in Butler, NJ. I have served my fraternity as Formation Director and Minister over the past 9 years.

I love being Formation Director and sharing experiences with my Brothers and Sisters throughout our region. More importantly, I love visiting the fraternities in our region and listening to your stories and experiences of being a Secular Franciscan.

My hope for the region is that we all grow in love of Jesus Christ over the next three years of my term through the example of St. Francis and St. Clare. God Bless You.

**TREASURER**



**Debbie WICKHAM**

We are members of the Most Holy Name Fraternity in Little Falls, NJ, where I serve as Treasurer and Joe as Vice-Minister.

Professed on June 13, 1980, we were a new Fraternity that came about when Christ House, a Franciscan retreat house in Lafayette, NJ was closing. There were 13 of us—one of them was my husband, Joe.

We'd met in 1971 and were married October 21, 1978. We have one child, Michael, who is 34 years old and lives in Los Angeles, CA.

Though recently retired from her full-time job as executive assistant for the Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America, (BSOA), Debbie continues working as a part-time Director of Religious Education in her local parish of St. Thomas the Apostle in Oak Ridge, NJ.

"I consider both jobs as more than just jobs – they were and are a ministry." She is still involved with the BSOA as a volunteer, serving as the Committee Chair for the Paterson Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting. Debbie is a member of the *Columbiettes*, the female auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus since 1989, having served in many positions on different levels.

"I enjoy reading and baseball, especially rooting for the N.Y. Mets.

Several years ago, I completed my dream of going to every major league baseball stadium.

I've been ballroom dancing for 50 years (*Joe always kids that our pre-nup was that he had to learn to dance*), and my newest passion is line-dancing.

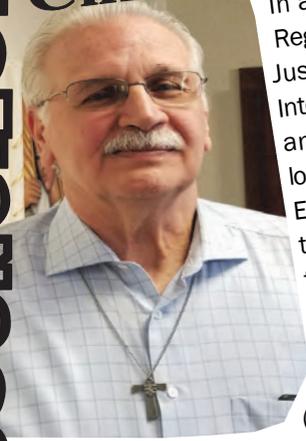
I went back to college in 2006 and earned my bachelor's in 2009 and a MBA in non-profit mgmt. in 2011, both from Caldwell College.

I am looking forward to serving as Regional Treasurer and getting to know more of my sister and brother Secular Franciscans."

Central NJ and Staten Island

**COUNCILOR**

**Chris LEONE**



In addition to being the Regional Animator for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) and the Minister of his local Porziuncola Fraternity in East Hanover, NJ, Chris is the regional Councilor for the Central Jersey and Staten Island cluster. Chris was professed in 2004 in Las Vegas ("where sin abounds...").

Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, he attended Catholic grammar school (St. Mary, Star of the Sea), high school (St. Francis Prep) and college (St. Francis College). He was educated by the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn from 5<sup>th</sup> grade through college. It was through the Brothers that Chris developed his affinity and love for St. Francis.

Chris still works fulltime leading project teams focused on operational excellence for American Express in lower Manhattan. He lives in Parsippany, NJ with his wife, Susan, a middle school special education teacher and is very active in his parish, St. Peter the Apostle. Chris is the coordinator of the RCIA program and member of the parish staff. He and Susan are also lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

North NJ



**Ronald L. PIHOKKER**

Ron has been a professed Secular since 1977 and is a member of Most Holy Name Fraternity in Little Falls, NJ. He serves as Archdiocesan Director of Catechesis for the Archdiocese of Newark, a position he has held since 1996.

Prior to that, he served as Parish Director of Catechesis for several North Jersey parishes.

Ron is a member of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission and the Archdiocesan Evangelization Commission. He also served previously as a member of the Public Policy Comm. of the NJ Catholic Conference.

As a Secular Franciscan, Ron is the past Regional Minister of Our Lady of the Angels Region and has also served as the Regional Formation Director.

Westchester

**Everlyn PACHECO-YORK**



I am a retired bilingual teacher who worked in NYC public elementary schools in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan for 37 years. I live in Rockland County with my husband, Victor York. I was professed in 1979 at St. Michael fraternity in East New York, Brooklyn.

Having been of service for so many years it's not unusual that I now volunteer as a counselor and work with victims (mostly women) of domestic violence. It's not the easiest work and it can be

me satisfaction in knowing that I am helping someone.

I also know I do this work with the grace of God.

It is rewarding work. There are certain things that bring me joy. Being of service to anyone is one, praying with someone in need is another, baking is a special joy as is making a baby blanket for a friend or family member and reading a good mystery is always enjoyable.

**Barbara LYNE**



I was professed in 1963. I've seen many changes in my time in our Order and met many deeply spiritual, if somewhat well-disguised, people. I've seen people come and I've seen people go. I've learned from them all and like to think I've shared a thing or two. At times it seems the tail is wagging the dog and at times there is the sparkle of a harmonious whole.

I enjoy our gatherings because it excites me to be with so many people who know so much more than I do. All in all, Luchese and Bona Dona had a really good inspiration, and it lives on. God be praised.

He has served as National Vice-Minister of the Secular Franciscan Order in the U.S. and as Chair of the National Formation Commission. Ron was a contributing author to the F.U.N. Manual and a member of the editorial team for *Build With Living Stones*.

Ron and his wife, Jody have been married more than 41 yrs. She is also a Secular Franciscan and member of Most Holy Name Fraternity. In October 2017, Ron and Jody celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> Profession anniversary.

They have two adult children, Kristen, 32, mother of Ron and Jody's granddaughter, Natalie, 4 yrs. and grandson, Owen 1 ½ yrs. Their son, Matthew, 30, is an archaeologist and a Doctoral candidate in Classical Archaeology at Brown University.

Ron enjoys astronomy, fishing, chess, board games, reading Sherlock Holmes mysteries, and sings in his local church choir, something he enjoys very much. Ron and Jody live in Clifton, NJ with their two dogs, Molly and Sherlock.

# 2017 OCTAAR CHAPTER

November 11, 2017



## LETTER FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER

MARCH 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy and joyous Easter!

**B**y the time you read this, Easter Sunday will have come and gone, but our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ, is always with us. The great love that Jesus showed through His Death and Resurrection is given to us and resides in us every day of the year through the Gift of Holy Spirit, *the Breath of God*.

Some friends from the National Formation Commission and I have started a weekly e-mail “book club.” We have been reading, **Breath of God: Living a Life Led by the Holy Spirit** by Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR. In our reading and sharing, we have been reminded of the **GIFTS** of the Holy Spirit (**wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord**) and whether or not we invite the Spirit into our lives.

We have also been discussing the **FRUITS** of the Holy Spirit (**joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control**) (Gal 5:22-23). We tend to overlook these, but they are very important to our lives as Franciscans. When we are blessed by the Spirit and are transformed by His love, His fruits become apparent in our lives.

As we meditate on these fruits of the Spirit, we come to realize that the gifts we have been given by the Spirit, by the Gospel, by our formation and by profession of our Rule are meant to **CHANGE** us. They are meant to **TRANSFORM** us. This is what happened to St. Francis...this is what must happen to us! Striving to **nourish** these wonderful traits, the seeds of which already live in us, is what daily **conversion** is all about.

May we prepare for the Feast of Pentecost by taking a close look at the **FRUIT we are producing**. Will others know us as followers of Christ by our joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control? How wonderful it would be if others said, “She is so kind, gentle, patient and joyful! She must be a Franciscan.”

Please keep your new Regional Executive Council in your prayers. You will certainly be in ours.

Peace and blessings,



Minister

Our Lady of the Angels Region

**PS:**

**This would be a great book for ongoing formation.**

Easy reading, but it provides tremendous depth for discussion.

# 2018 REGION RETREAT

**At** the beautiful retreat house of Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, NY, July 27-29, 2018.

Arrival: Friday between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner is between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m.  
Departure: After lunch, Sunday.

Cost is \$185.00 payable with registration.  
Includes presentations, double room, private bath and Six full meals.  
Please note there are a limited number of individual rooms.

There are a limited number of partial scholarships available.  
For additional information contact Richard Spana, OFS | [Rickspanasfo@aol.com](mailto:Rickspanasfo@aol.com)

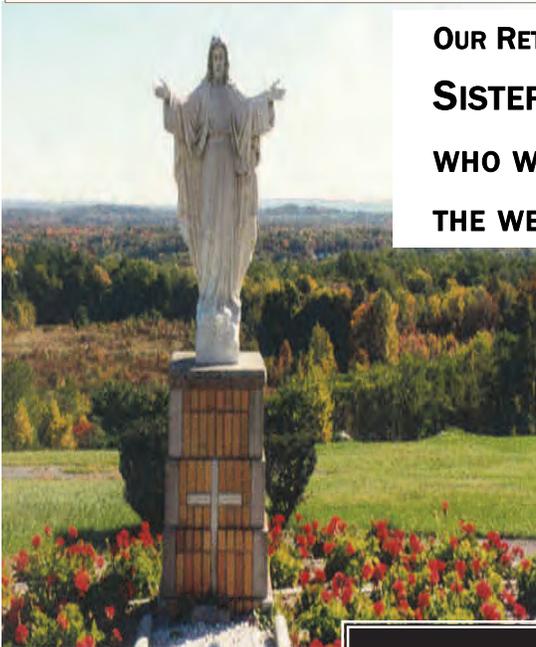


Photo credit: Ed Wojciechowski, OFS



Photo credit: SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

OUR RETREAT WILL BE LED BY  
**SISTER KATHLEEN OSBELT, OSF**  
WHO WILL BE SPEAKING THROUGHOUT  
THE WEEKEND ON ST. CLARE OF ASSISI.



Sr. Kathleen has given retreats, days of reflection and numerous lectures on prayer, solitude, the Franciscan way of life, mystics and spirituality.

Come join your Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters at our annual region retreat where you will share time in prayer, fellowship and spiritual growth.

## 2018 REGION RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

*Please check one*     Professed     Candidate

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Fraternity: \_\_\_\_\_ Single room  Double room

Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_ Room with: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed registration form with \$185.00 check, payable to "Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity" to: RICHARD SPANA, OFS • 170 E Hartsdale Avenue, Apt. 1-F, Hartsdale, NY 10530 • Phone: 914-478-2010.

The Registration Form will be available on our region website at: <http://ourladyoftheangelsregion.org>

# JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

**CHRIS LEONE, OFS**

**CHAIR — JPIC Commission**

**OLTAR REGION**

[cleone113@yahoo.com](mailto:cleone113@yahoo.com)

908-528-0865

## THE TWO FEET OF LOVE IN ACTION THE TWO FEET OF LOVE IN ACTION

**A**t the Chapter of Ministers in November 2017, I had the opportunity to lead the ongoing formation portion of the agenda. The topic I chose was *The Two Feet of Love in Action*, based on some of Pope Benedict XVI's encyclicals. In *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI describes the “unbreakable bond between love of God and love of neighbor” (number 16). The experience of God’s love, he says, should move us to love our neighbors, in whom God is present. In the same way, Pope Francis notes: “A prayer that does not lead you to practical action for your brother (or sister) – the poor, the sick, those in need of help, anyone in difficulty – is a sterile and incomplete prayer” (*Angelus*, 7/21/13).

But what should this loving action look like? The Catholic tradition recognizes two types of necessary responses that we call the *Two Feet of Love in Action*. They are distinct, but complementary ways of responding in love to the needs of our neighbor.

### **The first foot is the SOCIAL JUSTICE foot.**

We walk with this foot by fostering peace and justice and seeking long term change in local and global communities. We step with this foot when we work to remove the root causes of problems, when we support the efforts of low income persons to transform their communities, when we advocate for just public policies, and when we help change the social structures that contribute to suffering and injustice at home and around the world.

Sometimes we have to address injustices within systems and structures to ensure that those who are disadvantaged have equal opportunities to succeed. Things like expanding access to affordable housing, extending legal protection to unborn children, supporting environmental protection laws and promoting peace are some examples of how we can step with the social Justice foot.

### **The second foot is the CHARITABLE WORKS foot.**

We step with this foot when we work to aid or assist others both locally and globally to meet their immediate, short term needs. Pope Benedict XVI says “the simple response to immediate needs and specific situations: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for and healing the sick, visiting those in prison, etc.” are good examples of Charitable Works (*Deus Caritas Est*, # 31).

We step first with the Social Justice foot and second with the Charitable Works foot.

Social Justice, addressing the root causes of issues that face poor and vulnerable people, should come first because, as Pope Benedict XVI explains in *Caritas in Veritate*, “If we love others with charity, then first of all we are just towards them”(number 6). St. John Chrysostom also captures this idea when he writes, “The demands of justice must be satisfied first of all; that which is already due in justice is not to be offered as a gift of charity (quoted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, # 2446).

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As Catholics, we believe that the kingdom of God is both a future goal and in our midst now. During His time on earth, Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God both through His words and His actions to heal the sick, clothe the naked, and free the oppressed (*Luke 4:18*). We are called to follow in His footsteps and help make God's kingdom present on earth. As he lay dying, St. Francis told his brothers (and us, his followers), "I have done what was mine to do, may Christ now teach you what you are to do."

There are two different, but complementary ways that we can walk the path of love, or caritas. We call these the **"Two Feet of Love in Action,"** based on Pope Benedict XVI's reflections in **Deus Caritas Est (God is Love)** and **Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth)**.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
**REMOVE ROOT CAUSES**  
**IMPROVE STRUCTURES**

- Expand access to affordable housing
- Work to improve the education system
- Extend legal protection to unborn children
- Support environmental protection laws
- Participate in a living wage campaign
- Promote peace
- Advocate for international assistance

**"Social justice . . . concerns the social, political, and economic aspects and, above all, the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions."**  
 —Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, no. 201

**CHARITABLE WORKS**  
**MEET BASIC NEEDS**  
**AID INDIVIDUALS**

- Volunteer at homeless shelters
- Tutor children
- Assist women who face a crisis pregnancy
- Participate in a community beautification program
- Donate to food pantries and clothing closets
- Sponsor a refugee family
- Raise money for an overseas development project

**"Christian charity is first of all the simple response to immediate needs and specific situations: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for and healing the sick, visit those in prison, etc."**  
 — Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, no. 31

**"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."  
 (OFS Rule, Art. 19)**

Peace,

CHRISTOPHER LEONE, OFS

# 제 11 차 북남미 한인 재속 프란치스칸 연수회

## REFLECTIONS ON THE 11 TH KOREAN OFS CONGRESS OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA OCTOBER 26-29, 2017

by  
**THERESA YUN, OFS**  
Korean Martyrs Fraternity  
New York City

Photos credit: Joseph Lee, OFS

**O**n a beautiful autumn day in October, the **11<sup>TH</sup> KOREAN OFS CONGRESS OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA** was held at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, Long Island. The multiple acres of land filled the grounds with beautiful foliage, making it the perfect place in which to engage our minds and souls.



The Korean OFS Congress originated in 1997; it was held in New York and with the joint effort of the St. Louis Fraternity of Wood Ridge, NJ, it was a successful event. Now, 20 years later, the joint efforts of the Northeast region consist of fraternities from the regions of New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Virginia and Maryland whose participation made our 2017 Congress event even more wonderful and joyful.

The theme of this Congress was  
**“HOPE FOR THE WORLD WITH TRUE JOY”.**

Approximately 200 sisters and brothers gathered from 18 Secular Franciscan Fraternities throughout different parts of the world including Brazil, Vancouver, Montreal and Korea. Although geographically apart, these groups share in the vision of a Franciscan family united by God’s goodness. There were two distinguished guest speakers from Korea:



**FR. FRANCIS KEE, OFM AND  
SR. IMMACULATA YANG, FMSS.**

Father Kee spoke of our dreams for happiness and how to better understand and live the way of true joy as Franciscans.

He also spoke of how to exercise true joy in our daily lives and how to find the way to maintain the Holy Spirit within ourselves.

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“Do not leave anything for yourself, serve God sincerely and remain humble.”

“Serve the person in front of you, return the goodness to God and show actions.”

Sister Yang spoke about the true joy she witnessed by the Zambian people who were so poor, yet lived with the true joy of life and hope. Sister Yang lived in Zambia for seven years as a missionary and she sometimes wondered whether her presence would interfere with their lives because she saw how truly happy they were in the midst of poverty.

We also had the pleasure and honor to have two guests: U.S.A. NATIONAL MINISTER, **JAN PARKER, OFS**, AND REGIONAL MINISTER OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS, **DIANE F. MENDITTO, OFS**, both of whom presented the structure of Orders for Franciscans. These two presentations provided us with the true meaning of who we are. It gave us the opportunity to examine ourselves and to find the way of life and identity as Secular Franciscans.



Finally, on Saturday night there was a talent show with each fraternity highlighting their amazing talents. Some sang songs; other performed a play with creative costumes.

It was quite an enjoyable time filled with laughter and fellowship.

The abundance of the Holy Spirit was in the air as we felt the presence of fullness and oneness. The talent show was the highpoint of the Congress as we all shared the creative talents that God has uniquely given us. We, as God’s children and Franciscans, shared true love as brothers and sisters during this Congress.

**THE 12TH CONGRESS WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN BRAZIL IN 2020.**  
Looking forward to everyone meeting again.

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***"It was an honor to be with such a wonderful group. A beautiful example of fraternity!"***

***My heart was full and I was very proud of our two Korean fraternities for the outstanding role they played in the success of the Congress.***

***May God bless them always!"***

**—DIANE F. MENDITTO, OFS  
OLTAR REGIONAL MINISTER**

## The Spiritual Assistant - A Guide for the Perplexed

Last summer, I attended the National Formation Workshop in St. Louis, Missouri, in which Anne Mulqueen, OFS delivered a presentation on the role of the Spiritual Assistant in the life of the fraternity. The purpose of Anne's talk was to help us understand the relationship between the OFS and the Spiritual Assistant and to help us understand the boundaries that exist within that relationship.

Anne's presentation helped me to better understand how the Spiritual Assistant connects the OFS to the Franciscan First Order/TOR. We have many excellent Spiritual Assistants in our region, but how well do we know them and how they serve our Fraternities?

Here's a short quiz to test our knowledge about Spiritual Assistants.

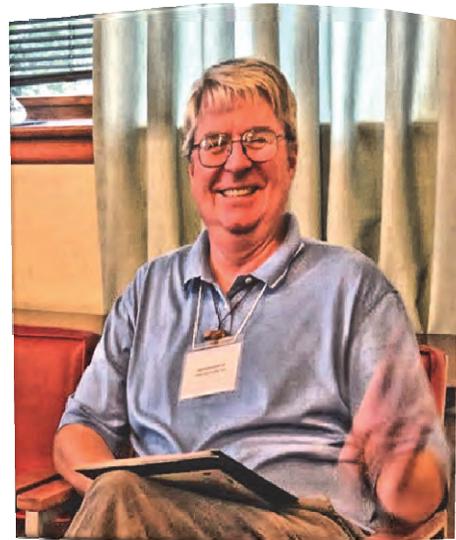
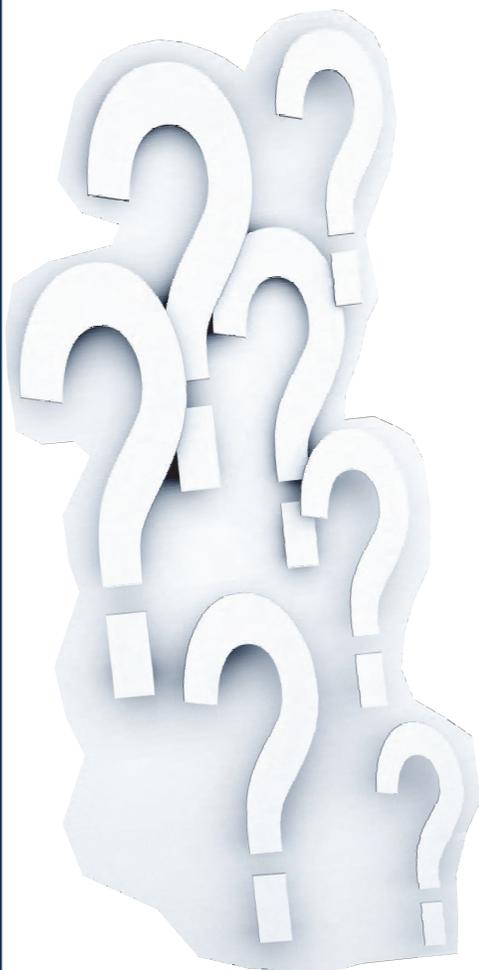


Photo credit: DIANE MENDITTO, OFS

**ED WOJCIECHOWSKI, OFS**  
**FORMATION DIRECTOR**  
**OLTAR REGION**  
[edwojo@yahoo.com](mailto:edwojo@yahoo.com)

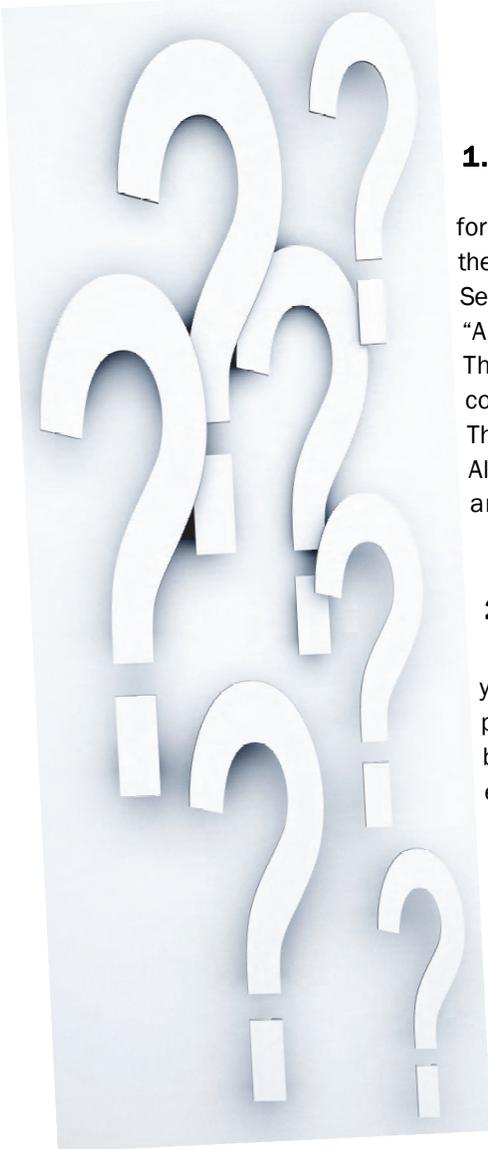


### SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT QUIZ

*(no fair peeking at the answers!)*

1. **THE ROLE OF THE SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT IS TO:**
  - A. Communicate Franciscan Spirituality
  - B. Cooperate with the Formation Director and Formation Team in Initial and On-going formation
  - C. Participate and vote in the decisions taken by the Fraternity Council
  - D. All of the above
  
2. **THE TERM LIMIT FOR A SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT IS:**
  - A. 3 years
  - B. 6 years
  - C. 12 years
  - D. There is no term limit for a Spiritual Assistant
  
3. **A SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT MUST BE A PRIEST:**
  - A. True
  - B. False
  
4. **OUR REGION HAS ONE SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT:**
  - A. True
  - B. False

*continued on next page*



## QUIZ ANSWERS

### 1. THE ROLE OF THE SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT IS: D) ALL OF THE ABOVE.

The Spiritual Assistant serves the fraternity's council and is responsible for maintaining the "Vital Reciprocity" between the OFS, the 1st Order/TOR and the Church. The Spiritual Assistant's knowledge of Franciscan spirituality and the Secular Franciscan lifestyle is essential to serving the OFS as a Spiritual Assistant. "A Spiritual Assistant 'assists' and is not the 'director (boss!)' of fraternity life." The Spiritual Assistant participates "in the discussions and decisions of the council" and shows "servant-leadership as a modeler council and fraternity. The Spiritual Assistant does not vote on economic matters or in elections". Also "Spiritual Assistants are expected to be present at council meetings and the regular gatherings of the fraternity."

*("Franciscan Family Connections", pg. 2)*

### 2. THE TERM LIMIT FOR A SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT IS: C) 12 YEARS.

"The term limit of a Spiritual Assistant to the same fraternity is 12 consecutive years. Provincials may appoint a Spiritual Assistant for a chapter term, i.e. the period of time between 1st Order/TOR provincial chapters. That term may be 3 or more years depending on the time between chapters. The appointment ends when the 12 year limit is reached." (*"Franciscan Family Connections", pg. 4*)

### 3. A SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT MUST BE A PRIEST: B) FALSE.

According to the General Constitutions, "the spiritual assistant should be a Franciscan religious, member of the First Order or TOR" But, when it is not possible, "religious brothers and sisters of other Franciscan institutes" or "diocesan clerics or other persons, specifically prepared for such service, who are members of the OFS" or "other diocesan clerics or non-Franciscan religious" may serve as the Spiritual Assistant to a fraternity.

*(see GC Article 89)*

### 4. OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGION HAS ONE SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT: B) FALSE.

Our region is blessed with two Spiritual Assistants, Fr. Frank M. McHugh, OFM and Bro. Lombardo D'Auria, OFM Cap. Both Fr. Frank and Bro. Lombardo faithfully serve our region.

## SO HOW DID YOU DO WITH THE QUIZ?

Don't worry if you didn't correctly answer all of the questions.

Rather, use this as an opportunity to learn more about the Spiritual Assistant contributions to the OFS.

Pax,

ED WOJCIECHOWSKI, OFS  
Regional Formation Director

# REFLECTIONS ON THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

by  
**DEACON BILL JOYCE, OFS**  
**St. Anne's Fraternity**  
**Fair Lawn, NJ**

**M**y Newark, NJ, deacons' class was ordained on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1976.

Two weekends before, the class made our pre-ordination retreat. On the Saturday of the retreat, the diaconate program introduced us to the *Liturgy of the Hours*. Each man received a copy of the one volume *Christian Prayer*. The retreat master told us that there was not a more fitting time to begin than at the beginning and Saturday night, with Evening Prayer I for Sunday. As the Church began its new year, we would begin our lifelong daily celebration of the *Liturgy of the Hours*.



In the Catholic Church's ordination rite for deacons, each deacon candidate resolves to celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours, the public prayer of our Church. After using *Christian Prayer* for over four years, I graduated to the four volume *Roman-Franciscan Liturgy of the Hours*. By then I had begun my Inquiry period with the Secular Franciscans. Besides being married to my wife, Judy, for over fifty years and being a deacon in the Roman Catholic Church, being a Secular Franciscan is the greatest joy of my life.

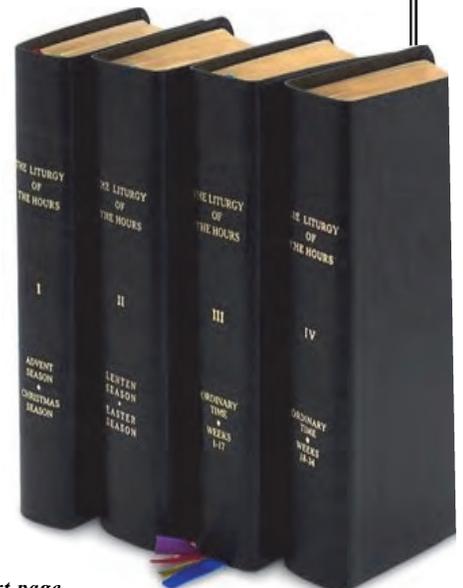
Our Order, originally the Brothers and Sisters of Penance, is almost eight hundred years old, and was founded by our Holy Father Francis of Assisi just five years before his death. We are part of the family Francis founded. The Franciscan family has always prayed the Liturgy of the Hours. All clergy (*including deacons*), as well as professed religious (*nuns, sisters, monks, friars, etc.*) are required to pray all or part of the Liturgy of the Hours. (*Western Carolina University Catholic Campus Ministry Praying with the Church August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.*)

## SECULAR FRANCISCAN RULE CHAPTER II

**Rule 8.** As Jesus was the true worshipper of the Father, so let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do. Let them participate in the sacramental life of the Church, above all the Eucharist. Let them join in **liturgical prayer** in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ.

## GENERAL CONSTITUTIONS 2000 ARTICLE 14

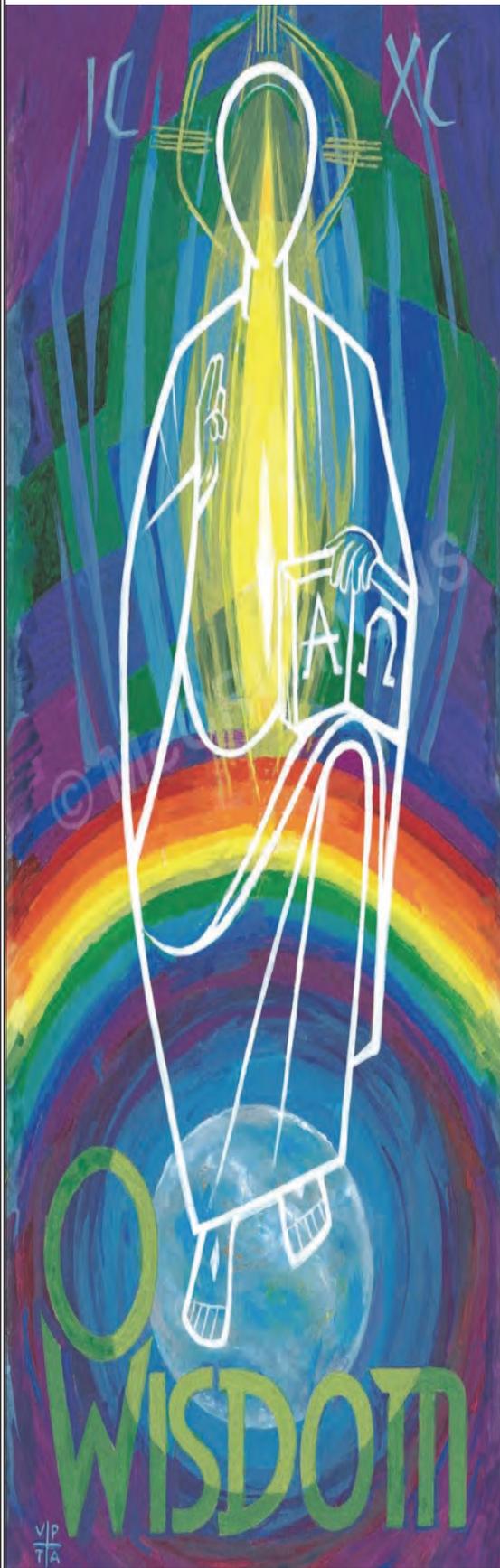
**Section 4.** The brothers and sisters, as well as the fraternities, should adhere to the indications of the Ritual with respect to the different forms of participating in the **liturgical prayer of the Church**, giving priority to the celebration of the **Liturgy of the Hours**. According to our Secular Franciscan Rule, the Liturgy of the Hours, at least Morning and Evening Prayer, takes precedence over all other prayers, except for Eucharistic worship and the sacraments. When our Holy Father Francis established our Order, most Europeans were illiterate. Only the clergy and a few lay people were cold read; only clergy celebrated the Liturgy of the Hours. For centuries, Secular Franciscans have prayed the "Office of the Twelve Our Fathers."



*continued on next page*

# REFLECTIONS ON THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

continued from page 17



In the *Secular Franciscan Companion*, we read that Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer, depending on time of day, is the preferred prayer at fraternity meetings. (p. 86)

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS? DIVINE OFFICE? BREVIARY?

All three names refer to the official prayer of the Church, which is offered at various times of the day in order to sanctify the entire day. Clergy and religious have a canonical obligation to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as official representatives of the Church. Increasingly, the laity are also praying it, though they do not do so in the name of the Church.

### LITURGY OF THE HOURS -

From *liturgia horarium* (L) and the Greek, *leitourgia*, a public service performed by an official. Each part of the Liturgy of the Hours is called an *hour*. There are three major hours, Office of Readings, Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, and the minor hours of Daytime Prayer and Night Prayer.

**DIVINE OFFICE** - From *officium divina* (L.), a divine service or duty.

**BREVIARY** - From *breviarium* (L.), a compendium (of the canonical hours). The Divine Office is also called the *Opus Dei* (the Work of God). (EWTN- Liturgy of the Hours)

My late pastor referred to the Liturgy of the Hours as *Onus Dei* (the Burden of God). That has not been my experience, except every once in a while, as I'm turning off the light on my night stand, I remember that I hadn't celebrated Evening Prayer. That's why I always keep a copy of *Christian Prayer* on the night stand.

We Franciscans have our own versions of both *Christian Prayer* and the *Liturgy of the Hours*. Our versions have Franciscan supplement books (*Proper Offices of Franciscan Saints and Blesseds, and other Franciscan celebrations*), one for each of the four volumes of the Liturgy of the Hours, and the half inch thick Franciscan supplement for *Christian Prayer*.

The Sacred Liturgy is the Church's official public and communal worship. While the celebration of the Eucharist is the Church's principal act of worship, the Liturgy also includes the celebration of the six additional sacraments, the official daily prayer of the Church (*the Liturgy of the Hours*), and liturgies for special celebrations. As the Church's official worship, each of these liturgies has at its heart the celebration of the "Mystery of our Faith" – that is, the sacred passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This mystery, known as the Paschal Mystery, is the continuing work of our redemption by Christ and through his Church. (*Archdiocese of Philadelphia Liturgical Catechesis No. 1, December 2010*)

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## REFLECTIONS ON THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

*continued from page 18*

“Liturgy” comes from the Greek, meaning public work or duty. The Liturgy of the Hours is the official public prayer of the Church. Liturgical prayer is never truly directed to saints and angels, but to God, and most often to the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit. The rosary and devotions, even held in church, are not liturgical prayer (*EWTN- Liturgical Prayer*).

The origins of the Liturgy of the Hours go back to the daily sacrifices in the Temple at Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile. The early Christians continued the Jewish practice of reciting prayers at certain hours of the day or night. The Divine Office carries into the twenty-first the custom of sanctifying the entire day, by adoring, petitioning, thanking and making atonement to our Creator, from sunrise to long after sunset.

The Liturgy of the Hours centers on the Psalms. In the Psalms are found expressions like “In the morning I offer you my prayer” (*Psalms 5:3*); “At midnight I will rise and thank you” (*Psalms 119:62*); “Evening, morning and at noon I will cry and lament” (*Psalms 55:17*); “Seven times a day I praise you” (*Psalms 119:164*). Psalms are David’s prayers of petition, adoration, thanksgiving and atonement.

The Apostles observed the Jewish custom of praying at the third, sixth and ninth hour and at midnight (*Acts 10:3, 9; 16:25; etc.*). The Christian prayer of that time consisted of almost the same elements as the Jewish: recital or chanting of psalms, readings from the Old Testament, to which were soon added readings of the Gospels, Acts, epistles, and canticles.

Other elements were added later in the course of the centuries ([allaboutthevirginmary.com/liturgy-of-the-hours.html](http://allaboutthevirginmary.com/liturgy-of-the-hours.html)).



The Office of Readings is the longest *hour*. The 1970 reforms of the Liturgy of the Hours replaced Matins with the Office of Readings. We may now celebrate the Office of Readings at any time at all, whatever is most convenient. It is permitted to pray, after Evening Prayer, the Office of Readings for the following day. ([Universalis.com](http://Universalis.com))



When I began praying the Divine Office, I used the one volume, *Christian Prayer*. I employed *Christian Prayer* for four years. *Christian Prayer*, to my mind, lacks in two areas. *Christian Prayer* has only the first week of Daytime Prayer, while the *Liturgy of the Hours* has all four weeks of Daytime Prayer. Additionally, there are very few Biblical and Non-Biblical Readings. The Non-Biblical Readings for the Commons of Saints totaled eight.

The Non-Biblical Readings for Saints are quite good, often written by the saint, or penned by a contemporary about the saint. Those readings alone are enough of a good reason to use the four volume *Liturgy of the Hours*. The four volume set isn’t cheap, but one can purchase new or used volumes one at a time.

I changed to the *Liturgy of the Hours* because, after four years of celebrating the office, I had a pretty good idea how the Breviary worked. But also, in that time, I had become a Secular Franciscan Inquirer, then Candidate, and I learned that we Franciscans had our own versions of the breviaries; Roman-Franciscan *Christian Prayer*, and Roman-Franciscan *Liturgy of the Hours*. The Franciscan supplemental volumes accompanying the breviaries have the Proper Non-Biblical Readings for each Franciscan Saint or Blessed.

The supplemental volumes and breviary covers are available by mail or online.

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The Catholic Book Publishing Company comes out with an annual guide to Roman-Franciscan *Christian Prayer* and to Roman-Franciscan *Liturgy of the Hours* (4 volume edition). The guides list the page numbers in the breviaries and supplements for every day of the year. After forty years of celebrating the Divine Office, I still find the guides indispensable.

The guides are available online.



# REFLECTIONS ON THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

continued from page 19

Many folks now celebrate the Divine Office on hand-held electronic devices. My wife does. One problem is that the breviary websites don't include all our Franciscan saints, blessed, and celebrations (e.g., the Stigmata of St. Francis; All Saints of the Seraphic Order; All Souls of the Seraphic Order). A solution may be to use the supplement *Proper Offices of Franciscan Saints and Blessed in the Liturgy of the Hours* for the One-Volume edition of Christian Prayer. Also available online. *Disclosure — I have no ownership interest in any book business, brick and mortar or online. I'm just passing along what I've learned.*

## SOME ODDS AND ENDS

The liturgical celebrations of Sundays and Solemnities begin at Evening Prayer on the previous night. Evening Prayer I of Sunday is effectively Saturday Evening Prayer, but it is part of the Sunday celebration (similarly to how Saturday evening masses tend to be the Mass of Sunday).

*(Catholic Answers Forum June 2016)*

The first hour of the daily Office (*Office of Reading or Morning Prayer*) begins with the Invitatory. This consists of the verse, "Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise," followed by a psalm. Psalms 95, 100, 67, or 24 may be used. The invitatory psalm should not be repeated in the Psalter. (e.g., Psalm 24 appears in Morning Prayer-Tuesday Week I. Another invitatory psalm should be substituted.)

*(General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours II—I section 34).*

All subsequent hours, including the minor hours (*Daytime and Night Prayer*) start with the verse Psalm 70:2 (as did all offices before the Second Vatican Council except *Matins and Compline*) "God come to my assistance, Lord make haste to help me", followed by the Glory be to the Father...

Night Prayer after Evening Prayer I or II for Sunday may be used for every day of the week. After a few weeks I had Sunday's Night Prayer memorized, so I celebrate Night Prayer after I turn off the light for the evening.

Office of Reading and Morning Prayer may be combined as a single office. The other hours should be prayed separately.

Evening Prayer may be celebrated "when the lamps are lit," ([newadvent.org](http://newadvent.org)) "after the end of the day's work," "at dusk," "When evening approaches and the day is already far spent." ([divineoffice.org](http://divineoffice.org)) "at 6 p.m." ([newadvent.org](http://newadvent.org)) An early name for Evening Prayer is *lucernarium*, literally "lamp-lighting time," referring to the candles lit for this service when it was held in the early evening.  ([britannica.com](http://britannica.com))

The Psalms and Cantic from Daniel prayed in Morning Prayer on Sunday Week I are also used for Morning Prayer on Solemnities and Feasts.

New breviaries come with two inserts: one for the Sunday Week I Psalter and the other for the Canticles of Zechariah, Mary, Simeon, and the Te Deum.

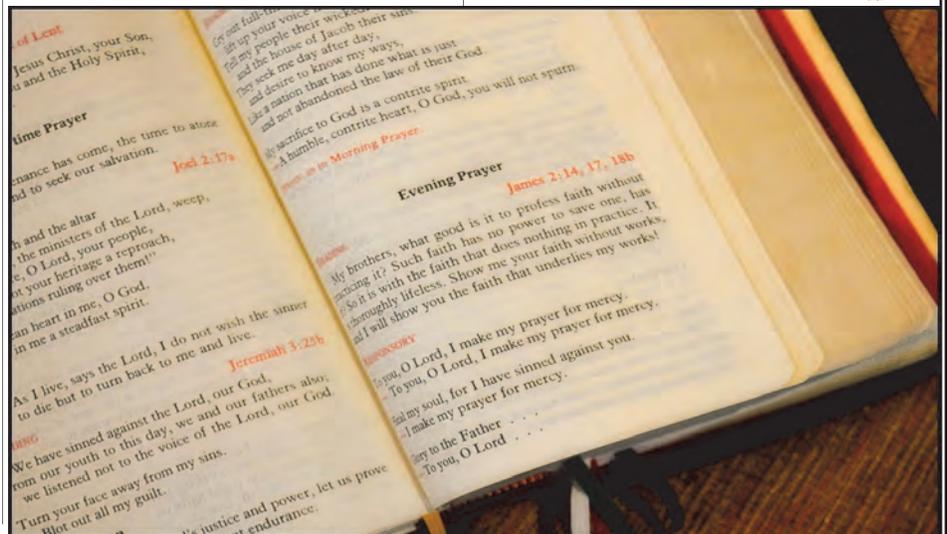
Keep cardstock photo copies of them in the breviary; put the originals in a safe place. The inserts will come in handy. Alternately, in my first breviary, I photocopied the Canticles insert and pasted them inside the covers of the book.

The idea of a tithe, a tenth of property being returned to God, appears in Genesis (14:20). Even today we speak of returning to God a portion of our time, talent and treasure. There are fourteen hundred forty minutes in a day. So a tenth of a day is two hours and twenty-four minutes.

Are we giving God His daily tithe of time? Daily Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, the Franciscan Crown, other prayers and devotions, help us return to God a portion of the limited time which He has given to each of us.

The Liturgy of the Hours, the official prayer of the Catholic Church, binds together all of us who celebrate its hours.

As I pray, even alone in my room, I know I'm praying along with priests, monks, nuns, friars, clerics and especially my Franciscan brothers and sisters, who are praying, too, all around the world. 



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

by ANNA GERACI, OFS

**L**ast year, as we were returning from the 2017 Regional Convivenza meeting, fellow Secular Franciscan and friend, Danuta Wyszynski, OFS, Minister of the St. Stephen's Fraternity in Perth Amboy, NJ shared a very special story of the events that occurred in Poland after (Saint) Pope John Paul II consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 25, 1984.

The years of 1988 through 1990 had brought forth many changes. There were Round Table Talks and a seemingly endless series of negotiations. Soon after, the Polish Communist Party ceased to exist. Russian troops left Legnica, Poland. The Solidarity Movement in Poland was at its height and November 9, 1989, saw the Berlin Wall fall. A new Poland was created and Lech Walesa was elected President.

Now residing in the U.S., Danuta carefully monitored the changes taking place in her native Poland. She also gave a great amount of thought about Our Lady's Fatima messages.

Certain her country's changing events were connected with the Fatima prophecy, in 1988, Danuta felt inspired to paint a picture of what she was sure was Our Lady's Victory which she titled,

## ***"THE ROSARY AS SALVATION FOR THE WORLD."***

The 50"x 32" painting depicts the world 71 years after the warning Our Lady gave back in Fatima, Portugal in 1917,

*"If people do not turn back to God, the errors of Russia will spread throughout the entire world."*

*"Pray the Rosary" was the plea.*



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*continued from page 21*

In the painting, Our Lady is offering the Rosary, as an anchor. It symbolizes prayer for the Salvation of Mankind.

When the Cross touches the ground, it sheds light upon it. Just as Lady's prophecy predicted, ...“in the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.”

The multitude of people headed to the Cross must pass through the red field (representing the errors of (Russia) communism that spread throughout the world).

Towards the left, are the ruins after the communist takeover.

Towards the right, is a monument of Lenin standing on top of a tower with a hammer representing communism. Below it, a clock showing the time of 5 minutes to 12, symbolizing the time of Communism in Poland is officially ending.

The people standing around the monument represent are what we call “do-gooders”, naive supporters of Communism, or as Lenin called them, “useful idiots”.

The painting hung in her bedroom over 25 years when once again, Danuta felt inspired, this time to share it with others.

She offered it to the National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima located in Washington, NJ, where it was gratefully accepted by the Executive Director of the Center, David M. Carollo during the Shrine's Centennial celebrations.

On September 13, 2017 — the painting was blessed by Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio during Holy Mass celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fifth Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima.

The painting will be permanently displayed in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for all to view.

Though Danuta is pleased with the painting's new home, it is an honor which she takes with great humility.



**S**PECIAL PRESENTATION  
 FROM  
 OUR LADY OF  
 THE ANGELS  
 REGIONAL MINISTER,  
 DIANE MENDITTO, OFS,  
 TO THE  
 STIGMATA PROVINCE  
 CHAPTER,  
 OCTOBER 16, 2017.



Photo credits: STIGMATA PROVINCE

I am grateful to the friars of Stigmata Province for helping me to discern and strengthen my vocation. As Secular Franciscans we are grateful for the years of service Stigmata friars have offered the Secular Franciscan Order on the local, provincial (*prior to 1995*) and now on the regional level. Stigmata friars have been instrumental in working with the Secular Franciscans of Stigmata Province at least since the 1920's—St. Francis Fraternity in Hackensack was established in 1925. The First Spiritual Assistant was Fr. Gaetano Costi, OFM Cap. (Perhaps the fraternity in the Bronx is even older.)

We thank those who are presently serving as Provincial/Regional Spiritual Assistants to Our Lady of the Angels Region—Fr. Francis Sariego and Bro. Doug Soik. Bro. Doug is an integral part of our Regional exec. He has been of tremendous help to me with elections and visitations. His uplifting talks have helped to animate our fraternities on visitation. The entire Regional exec is grateful for his presence. I have also had the happy opportunity to serve on the Regional Executive Council with Fr. Robert Williams who was always a big help to us when he served as Regional Spiritual Assistant.

Fr. Donatus Taglienti, Fr. Michael Ristori, Fr. Sylvester Catallo, Fr. Pius Caccavalle and Fr. Angelus Croce served as Provincial Spiritual Assistants prior to regionalization. Their influence is still felt, not only in our region, but nationally. Thank you to those of you who serve or have served as local Spiritual Assistants. The exceptional hospitality you offer our fraternities and the Region in various friaries is a treasure to us.



The other great treasure that you give us is the gift of Francis. You bring the Franciscan charism to us when you give ongoing formation presentations, when we are blessed to have a friar celebrate Mass for the fraternity, when you willingly offer us days of recollection and retreats, and by your presence and participation at our gatherings.

We were particularly blessed this year to have two Stigmata Friars as presenters at our Regional retreat. Thank you to Fr. Nick and Bro. Rod for inspiring us with their presence and their talks.

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**DID YOU KNOW** that as of 2016, **Secular Franciscans in the World**, approximately 300,000 include:

- Secular Franciscans in the **United States:**
- Total professed members 12,053 and Candidates 947
- Regional Fraternities in the U.S. (30) • Local Fraternities (593)

**REGIONALLY**, we have **800 professed** members and **53 candidates** in the Region as of December 2016.

There are **30 local fraternities** which comprise Our Lady of the Angels Region.

**Six of these Fraternities are bonded to Stigmata Province.**

Of these six fraternities, only two have Stigmata friars as their Spiritual Assistants.

- Porziuncola—East Hanover, NJ (Diocesan priest)
- San Damiano—Newton, NJ (currently without a Spiritual Assistant)
- St. Anthony of Padua—Middlesex, NJ (Msgr. William Benwell is in OFS formation)
- St. Conrad—Hoboken, NJ (Fr. Remo DiSalvatore)

This is an all-Spanish-speaking fraternity with 12 people in formation from aspirants to candidates

- St. Francis—Hackensack, NJ (Fr. John Salvas)
- St. John Vianney—Colonia, NJ (Fr. Joseph Kubiak, OFM Cap—Sts. Stanislaus and Adalbert Province)

**NATIONALLY,**

- St. Katharine Drexel Region (2): ~ Saint John Neumann, Aston, PA ~ Saint Patrick, Wilmington, DE
- Fr. Solanus Casey Region (1): ~ St. Fidelis—Beacon, NY
- Tau Cross Region (1): ~ Immaculate Conception—Bronx, NY
- Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region (1): ~ St. Francis of the Hills—Hendersonville

## IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KNOW

That in the **last fifteen years** the Secular Franciscan **formation process** has become more robust and challenging. From the time someone comes to the fraternity as an observer, it now takes three years or more of study for them to become professed members.

**WE TAKE OUR VOCATIONS VERY SERIOUSLY** knowing that we have professed a Rule that asks us to live the Gospel after the example of St. Francis by imitating Jesus on our journey to the Father, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

We are marking the **40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the approval of the Secular Franciscan Rule** by Blessed Pope Paul VI in his letter *Seraphicus Patriarcha* (June 24, 1978).

The Rule of 1978 and our General Constitutions have reshaped the Order with a new dynamism and self-identity and redefined our relationship with the friars as equal partners in the Franciscan family.

We also take our **life in fraternity** very seriously— **it is what encourages us to live the Gospel through collaboration with our Franciscan fraternities and by reaching out to others through our many apostolates.**

One of our outreach programs remains within the Franciscan family.

Our Lady of the Angels Region now has an **Outreach to our retired friars**. The members of this apostolate send notes, cards and small gifts to the friars in the infirmary in Beacon and also to the OFM Friars of Holy Name Province in Ringwood and in Butler. The group is growing because our members love the friars and want to maintain contact and fraternity with them.

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### SPEAKING OF FRATERNITY, DID YOU KNOW ...

- That our Rule tells us that we must request suitable and well-prepared Spiritual Assistance.
- Article 102 of the Capuchin Constitutions states that:
 

“All the brothers shall take to heart the need to show a true brotherly attitude toward the members of the Secular Order. By their own example let them nourish fidelity to the gospel life and effectively promote the Order itself among the secular clergy and the laity. The brothers shall willingly provide spiritual assistance to this Order.”
- That fraternity Spiritual Assistants are members of the Council of the fraternity?
- That even if you are not in a parish or a house that has a fraternity, you can be a SA to a fraternity near you?
- That we need you to be with us and we want you to be with us!



### FROM MY HEART I TELL YOU:

Your presence with a local fraternity or at a regional gathering is always appreciated even if for a half hour.

You are the living examples of the Franciscan charism among us—just as we Secular Franciscans hopefully bring inspiration to you.

We are sensitive to how busy and understaffed friaries are so we may not always bug you to be with us, but we want and need you to be with us.

We need your guidance with our Fraternity Councils.

We need your input on our candidates.

We need your input on initial formation.

We need your input on ongoing formation.

We need you to pray with us and for us.

We need to see the example of the fraternity that you live with your brother friars.

We invite you to help us with all of these things. Together we are better! In fact, the Franciscan Charism is not complete without our collaboration. Together we make the Franciscan vision present and more effective.

We would also like to know if there are ministries that you would like us to help you with. Please reach out to us!

The first collaborators and partners of the friars should be the Secular Franciscans in any project or ministry.

#### **I was particularly moved by something I read in the Constitutions of the Capuchin Friars Minor:**

[Speaking of Associations of the Faithful]

“...the Secular Franciscan Order, should be especially dear to us. Let us work with Secular Franciscans so that their fraternities may grow as communities of faith particularly equipped for effective evangelization.

Let us also work with them in the formation of their members, so that they may spread the Kingdom of God not only by the example of their lives, but also by various kinds of apostolic activity.”

*Article 155*

*The Constitutions of the Capuchin Friars Minor (2013)*

By working together and loving one another, we can make Francis come alive in this time and in this place and together accomplish miracles.

This is our time. Let us begin again today!



# BRIEFS

## CHANGES

### WARM WELCOMES TO:

**FR. JOHN McHUGH, OFM CAP**, new Spiritual Assistant to the **SACRED HEART FRATERNITY** in Yonkers, NY, appointed in September 2017.

**FR. JOHN B. RIORDAN, OFM CAP**, new Spiritual Assistant to the **STs. ELIZABETH AND LOUIS FRATERNITY** in NYC, appointed in September 2017.

## FRANCISCAN RETREAT

**FRIAR ANDRÉ CIRINO, OFM**, Spiritual Assistant to **LITTLE PORTION FRATERNITY** in Mt. Vernon and OFS

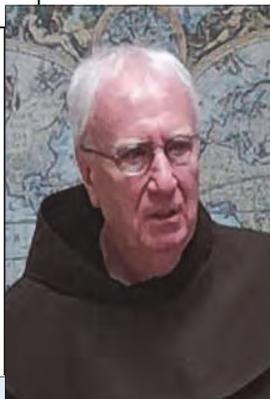


Photo credit: IC PROVINCE

colleague, **JOSEF RAISCHL** are offering a powerful 8-day retreat experience at the Mt. Alvernia Retreat House in Wappingers Falls, NY, titled **St. Bonaventure's Journey into God, from August 9 – 17, 2018.**

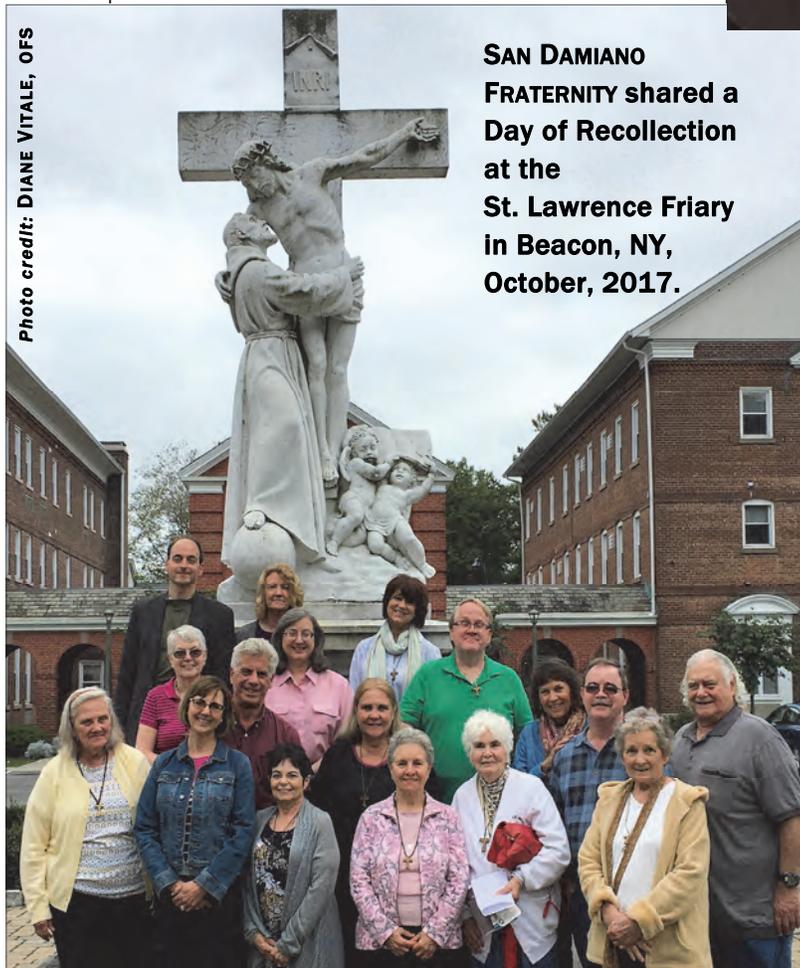
Detailed information is available in the current April issue of the **OFS E-vents** newsletter and on the website:

**AssisiJourney.com**



This is the last time this retreat is being offered in the East, so don't miss out, register now!

Photo credit: DIANE VITALE, OFS



**SAN DAMIANO FRATERNITY** shared a **Day of Recollection** at the **St. Lawrence Friary in Beacon, NY, October, 2017.**

## CONGRATULATIONS

OFS Jubilarians (below) **LILIBETH ZANUETA & OLIVIA GABBIANELLI-ROBILLARD**, celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Secular Franciscans, **St. John's Fraternity, NYC.**



Photo credit: ESTER S. LOPEZ, OFS

## CONGRATULATIONS

to the newly elected **2018 PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF STIGMATA PROVINCE:**

*Pictured in photo L-to-R:*

**FR. RONALD GIANNONE, FR. ROBERT PÉREZ, FR. REMO DISALVATORE (PROVINCIAL), FR. ROBERT WILLIAMS (VICAR), FR. FRANCISCO ARREDONDO.**



Photo credit: STIGMATA PROVINCE

# FRATERNAL BRIEFS

**T**o celebrate the feast of St. Francis, the Sacred Heart Fraternity in Yonkers, NY, held a Poster Contest for the grade school students of the Sacred Heart School. The theme of the poster was the Cantic of the Sun.

Photos credit: BENEDICTA FONACIER, OFS



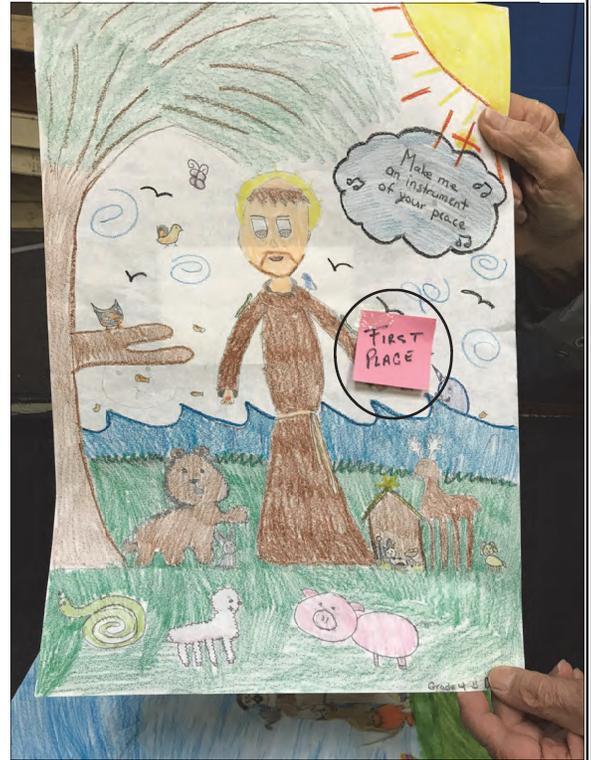
Winners were announced on October 4, 2017.

The winners:  
L-to-R:  
front row

1<sup>st</sup> place —  
**DEVON  
GOULD**

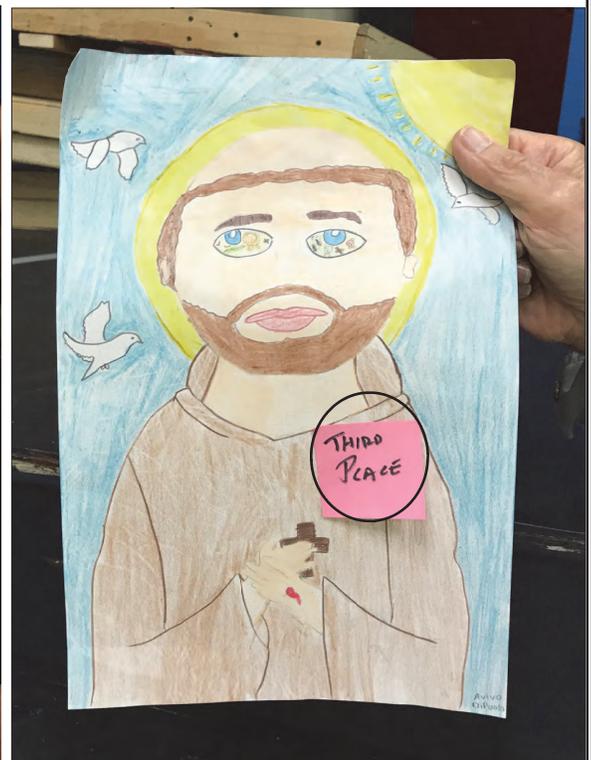
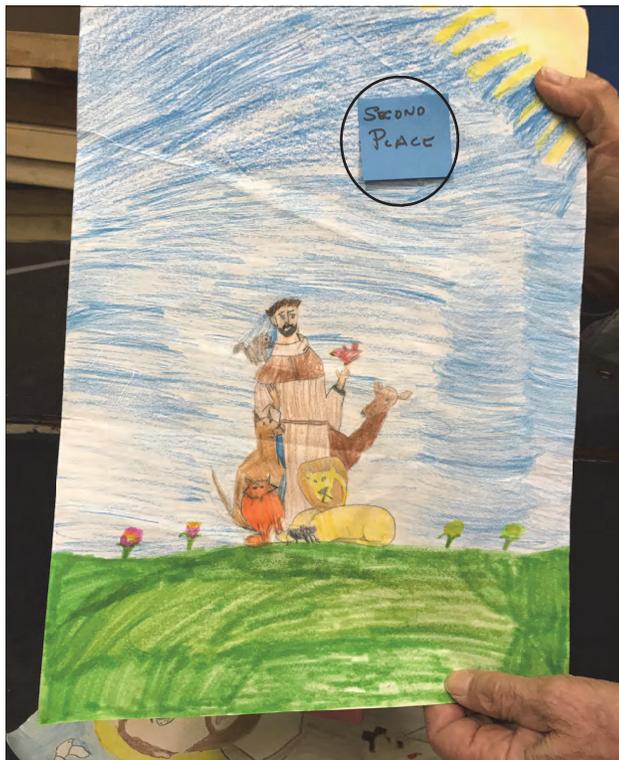
2<sup>nd</sup> place —  
**JESSICA  
MITCHELL**

3<sup>rd</sup> place —  
**AVIVA  
DIPAULO**



Also pictured  
in the above  
photo:  
L-to-R:  
back row:

JANICE  
POWERS, OFS,  
and  
BENEDICTA  
FONACIER, OFS.  
Minister of  
the Sacred  
Heart  
Fraternity.



# SISTER DEATH



## † JANET C. BLUMKA, OFS

Called home to the Lord- August 17, 2017.

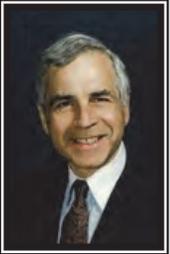


**JANET C. BLUMKA, OFS**, 71, was a parishioner of St. Anne's Church in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, and was professed into the Secular Franciscan Order on May 1, 1982, a member of the MOST HOLY NAME FRATERNITY in Little Falls, NJ.

She enjoyed collecting clocks and fairy lights and will be remembered for her beautiful quilts and fine needlework. Prior to retiring, she was a certified registered nurse working for St. Mary's Hospital in the newborn nursery. Janet loved nursing and especially her newborns.

## † ALFRED CAMPANELLA, OFS

Called home to the Lord- November 8, 2017.



**ALFRED CAMPANELLA, OFS**, 89, was a founding member of the CORTESIA FRATERNITY in Middletown, NJ, and was professed into the Secular Franciscan Order on June 5, 1989.

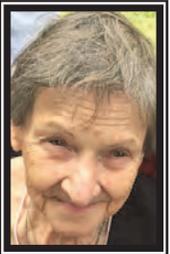
He will be remembered by many as a gentle man, a loving husband, dedicated father and outstanding educator. He was a distinguished educator who strove to promote the importance of education in many programs he implemented and taught.

Upon his "retirement," in 1992, Alfred earned a Master of Science Degree from Iona College in 1994 and worked as a Professional Counselor in marriage and family therapy at the Catholic Charities facility, Red Bank, NJ, for nearly twenty years.

Alfred was a man of deep religious roots and was actively associated at the Church of St. Peter the Apostle, River Edge, NJ, where he served as a religious education teacher and Lector. Upon moving to Lincroft in 1973, he served at the Church of St. Leo the Great as Eucharistic Minister and catechist in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process. In 2014 he and his wife, Lucy, of 59 years, were honored with the *Lumen Christi Award* for "...generosity of time and effort over many years."

## † ROSE HERNANDEZ, OFS

Called home to the Lord- November 23, 2017.



Please remember **ROSE HERNANDEZ, OFS**, 81, member of the SACRED HEART FRATERNITY in Yonkers, NY. Professed on May 17, 2009, Rose passed on November 23, 2017, after a lingering illness.

Rose was an inspiration. During her suffering, she kept her eyes on God and used her talent and strength to spread the message of God's goodness through her volunteer work at the Sacred Heart Secular Franciscan Thrift shop.

She wanted people to remember this fundamental truth: God Loves You.

## † ATILIA FRARE, OFS

Called home to the Lord- April 15, 2017.

Atilia was a member of St. JOHN'S FRATERNITY in New York City. Her Profession was celebrated April 1, 1951.

## † JOAN MOYNIHAN, OFS

Called home to the Lord- July 1, 2017.

Joan was a member of St. JOHN'S FRATERNITY in New York City. Her Profession was celebrated May 28, 1967.

## † MARIA SANTONI, OFS

Called home to the Lord- September 10, 2017.

Maria was a member of St. JOHN'S FRATERNITY in New York City. Her Profession was celebrated November 24, 1967.

## † GILBERTE AMBROISE, OFS

Called home to the Lord- April 2, 2018.

Gilberte was a member of St. JOHN'S FRATERNITY in New York City. Her Profession was celebrated in 1992.

## † MICHELLE CANZIO, OFS

Called home to the Lord- February 1, 2018.

Michelle was a member of the SACRED HEART FRATERNITY in Yonkers, NY. Her Profession was celebrated May 28, 1972.

## † CHARLOTTE SULLIVAN, OFS

Called home to the Lord- February 20, 2018.

Charlotte was a member of the SACRED HEART FRATERNITY in Yonkers, NY. Her Profession was celebrated January 27, 1985.

## † JACK BRENNAN, OFS

Called home to the Lord- September 6, 2017.

Jack was a member of the SACRED HEART FRATERNITY in Yonkers, NY. His Profession was celebrated April 24, 1955.

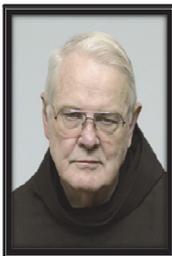
Photo credit: MOST HOLY NAME FRATERNITY

Photo credit: CAMPANELLA FAMILY

Photo credit: BENEDICTA FONAGIER, OFS

# SISTER DEATH

† **FR. FELIX P. McGRATH, OFM. (May 14, 1930 – November 13, 2017)**  
**Called home to the Lord– November 13, 2017.**

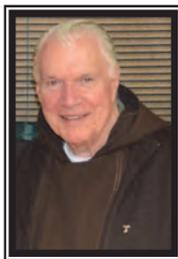


**FR. FELIX**, 87, passed away on Monday, November 13, at the Riverside Premier Rehabilitation Center in New York City where he had been recuperating from surgery.

A professed Franciscan Friar for 62 years and a Priest for 56 years, Fr. McGrath was a native of the Bronx, New York and proud graduate of Cardinal Hayes High School. As a young priest, he spent several years in the preaching ministry, as well as parish ministry.

In 1974, he was assigned to St. Francis of Assisi Parish in New York City and never left. He ministered for 43 years as an associate where he was known as a wise and compassionate confessor. He also ministered for more than 26 years as Spiritual Assistant to the St. Thomas More and LaVerna fraternities in NYC of our region of the Secular Franciscan Order whom he dearly loved. Just a year ago, he wrote a reflection titled, *St. Elizabeth and the Anchor of Franciscan Life* for the December 2016 issue of our regional newsletter, OFS E-vents.

† **FR. BRIAN TOMLINSON, OFM CAP. (June 17, 1937 – March 10, 2018)**  
**Called home to the Lord– March 10, 2018.**



**FR. BRIAN**, 81, passed away on the evening of Saturday, March 10, at St. Luke's Hospital in Newburgh, NY. He was surrounded by his family and brother friars.

A native New Yorker, born in the Bronx, Fr. Brian made his first Profession of vows on August 3, 1958, at Our Lady of Angels in Staunton, VA. He was ordained on April 3, 1965, at St. Francis DeSales Church in Geneva, NY, by Bishop James Kearney.

Following ordination he served as director of students, vocation promoter, novice master and guardian at St. Lawrence Friary, Beacon, NY until 1980 when was transferred to St. Francis High School Seminary in Lafayette, NJ to serve as rector. After his time in Lafayette, he faithfully ministered to the parishes of: St. Anthony's, Passaic, NJ; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Orange, NJ; St. Francis of Assisi, Hackensack, NJ; and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Passaic, NJ as Associate Pastor and as Pastor where he will be especially remembered for his special calling to visit and accompany the sick.

He also worked in the Development Office and was twice elected Minister Provincial of the Stigmata Province. He also served as Spiritual Assistant to the St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in Hackensack, NJ; and to the San Damiano Fraternity in Newton, NJ. At the time of his death he was pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Passaic, NJ.

**I** **NTO YOUR HANDS,**  
**O LORD,**  
**WE HUMBLY ENTRUST**  
**OUR FRANCISCAN**  
**BROTHERS AND SISTERS.**

In this life, You embraced them with Your tender love; deliver them now from every evil and bid them eternal rest. The old order has passed away: welcome them 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.**

# PROFESSIONS & ADMISSIONS

**ST. STEPHEN'S FRATERNITY #128 IN PERTH AMBOY, NJ**  
 celebrated the Rite of Profession on October 15, 2017

Photos credit: ANNA GERACI, OFS



of:  
**RENATA  
 LES AND  
 BOZENNA  
 JEDRA.**



The Profession took place during the 11:00 a.m. Polish Mass. It was con-celebrated at the St. John Paul II Church in Perth Amboy, NJ, by fraternity Minister, Rev. Lukasz Drozak, CSSR; Fr. Joseph Kubiak, OFM Cap, Spiritual Assistant to the St. John Vianney fraternity in Colonia, NJ; and Parochial Vicar, Rev. Jacek Stanislawski, CSSR. A lovely luncheon reception immediately followed filled with family, fellow Franciscans and friends.

**SACRED HEART FRATERNITY #146 IN YONKERS, NY**  
 celebrated the Rite of Profession on October 22, 2017  
 of **EVELYN HICKEY, OFS (L) AND CHERYL JENKINS, OFS (R).**  
 The Mass was celebrated by fraternity Spiritual Assistant,  
 Fr. John McHugh, OFM Cap.

Photos credit: BENEDICTA FONACIER, OFS



# PROFESSIONS & ADMISSIONS

**MOST HOLY NAME FRATERNITY #112** in Little Falls, NJ celebrated the **RITE OF PROFESSION** of

**BETSY SAKSEN, OFS**  
and **JIM ANDREANO, OFS** (each holding a profession candle) on January 13, 2018 at a 2:30 P.M.

The Mass was celebrated by the fraternity Minister, Fr. Samuel Monaco, OFS.

Most Holy Name Fraternity, which meets at Our Lady of the Holy Angels Church in Little Falls, NJ also recently celebrated:

**RITE OF ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY** for **FR. JOHN GORDON**, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark; and a **RITE OF WELCOME** for the period of Inquiry for **MATTHEW GARAMONE**.



Photo credit: DEBBIE WICKHAM, OFS

**ST. JOHN'S FRATERNITY # 151** in NYC celebrating the joyful events of

**PROFESSION** on June 25, 2017 for **GIZELLE ARMADA, OFS**, and **GRACIA ORBIETA, OFS**, (pictured on left-sided photo) with Spiritual Assistant, **FR. JOHN B. RIORDAN, OFM CAP.**

and the **RITE OF WELCOMING** on October 22, 2017 for **BRENDA GAMBOA**



Photos credit: ESTER S. LOPEZ, OFS



Pictured on right-sided photo L-to-R: Formation Director, **Mary Hope O'Brien, OFS**, and **Brenda Gamboa**.

**OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGION**  
**Secular Franciscan Order**  
**ANNA GERACI, OFS, 161-B Cross Slope Ct.**  
**Manalapan, NJ 07726-2424**

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](http://www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org)  
 E-TROUBADOUR (QUARTERLY BY E-MAIL)  
 The TROUBADOUR MAGAZINE (PRINTED TWICE YEARLY, MARCH AND SEPTEMBER)  
<http://olangels.tripod.com/troubadour.html>  
 E-VENTS NEWSLETTER (MONTHLY BY E-MAIL ONLY)  
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