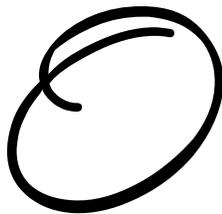




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OUR PATIENCE IS BEING TESTED AND HONED.

We cannot control our circumstances,
but in humility we can respond.

As Catholics and Franciscans, **we are being transformed.**
This is what we are about. We are meeting the challenges
presented to us with patience and creativity.

Can't gather? Oh yes, we can.

By conference call and video chat.

See us below hard at work on *Zoom* during a recent
Regional Executive Council meeting.

from the Easter Letter from the Regional Minister, see page 2





SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY

Holy Thursday
April 9, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"A servant of God cannot know how much patience and humility he has within himself as long as he is content."

St. Francis of Assisi ~ Admonition XIII

Patience

I have read recently that this is the "**lentiest Lent**" we have ever experienced. At first I chuckled, but it is so true. Since Ash Wednesday, slowly but surely, we have not only given up sweets or coffee, but we have had to give up many of the outward things that define us. Some of us have not only suffered inconvenience. Some have lost their jobs, their health and some have lost their lives. We have all lost the ability to be together in fraternity, to be together at Mass, to be together with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Our patience is being tested and honed. We cannot control our circumstances, but in humility we can respond. As Catholics and as Franciscans, **we are being transformed.** This is what we are about. We are meeting the challenges presented to us with patience and creativity.

Can't **gather**? Oh yes, we can. By conference call and video chat.

Can't **hug**? Oh yes, we can. That phone call you make means more than you can know.

Can't **pray together**? Oh yes, we can. We are praying the Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy together with each other and with the whole world.

Can't **attend Mass**? Oh yes, we can. From a live-streamed parish Mass to Mass with our bishops and the Holy Father, we have joined with the **world** in celebrating the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Can't get a **blessing**? Oh yes, we can. When have we had the opportunity to receive a Plenary Indulgence directly from the Pope along with millions of others?

Can't **receive Communion**? Well, maybe not, and that takes **real** patience. **BUT** the millions of **Spiritual Communions** being made each day strengthen our collective belief in and longing for the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

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EASTER LETTER FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER

continued from page 2

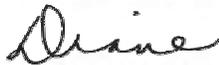
Humility

Each time we cover our faces or step aside so others can be safe; or wait our turn or stay inside when we prefer to be outside; or only take one item off the shelf when we could take two, **we are living our call to patience and humility**. When we accept and obey, without whining and criticizing, the guidelines set up for our safety and all the things that are now different, we are giving up our own will and **we are following in the footsteps of Jesus who carried a cross much heavier than ours could ever be**.

So, my brothers and sisters, with **patience and humility**, we go from the lentiest Lent, to Easter.

This will be an Easter when we will have the time to really appreciate the **new life** around us. A friend's Pastor wrote that this Easter will actually be more like the first Easter when the Apostles rejoiced, but also kept to themselves and were afraid and worried about what was to come. We may be struggling, but **our faith helps us to KNOW that when we reach out to our Risen Savior, he will bring us through this**.

Let's continue to pray for one another. On behalf of the Regional Executive Council, I wish each one of you peace, patience and joy during these sacred days.



Many blessings,
Diane

*Diane F. Menditto, OFS
Chair, National Formation Commission
Minister, Our Lady of the Angels Region*

LETTER FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

PEACE AND ALL GOOD!

As I write this letter, we have just celebrated the Presentation of the Lord, the traditional end to the Christmas season, and are rapidly heading toward Lent. Viewed from a certain perspective, both Christmas and Lent are **seasons of love and sacrifice**. God the Father sent His only Son into the world as a vulnerable baby so that we would come to know Him and love Him. **God emptied Himself to serve us in humility** so that we might be drawn closer to Him and live with Him forever.

During Lent we meditate on the sacrifice Jesus made as a man during His 40 days in the desert. We weep as we see Him in the Garden and on the Cross. Again, His sacrifice from time immemorial was and has been to **serve and to save** us and to **draw us into relationship with God the Father**.

What is our response to the sacrifice Jesus made for us?

How do we serve our brothers and sisters and strengthen our relationship with God?

Yesterday, I presided at the election for Korean Martyrs Fraternity in Manhattan. Those who said yes to being nominated and elected made a sacrifice for the love of their brothers and sisters. I felt very moved as these members accepted the responsibility for this very large fraternity of 150 members, and I **assured them that the Holy Spirit would give them the strength and enthusiasm to animate and guide the fraternity**.

How can I be so sure about this? This November, I will complete six years as your Regional Minister, and before that nine years as Vice Minister. The Holy Spirit has been present and evident every step of the way. He gives special gifts to those who say YES to His call. Those of us who serve our fraternities, no matter the size or the level, know that **the Spirit** gives us **strength** to do the impossible; **inspiration** to be creative when we are tired and tapped out; **wisdom** when the challenge seems insurmountable; **patience** when an outcome is unexpected; **humility** to let others shine; **gentleness** because relationships are at stake; **joy** when there might be sorrow and tears; and **FAITH** to know that **HE is doing it all**. We are just cooperating.

Right now, we have fraternities around the Region getting ready for critical elections. Our Region will soon be asking for nominations to fill all positions on the Regional Executive Council. Please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit that there will be members on the local and regional level willing to make the sacrifice to serve.

OPEN YOUR HEARTS!

Nominate, accept nomination, collaborate with those who say YES.

Yes, it is a personal sacrifice, certainly not at the level that Jesus sacrificed, but a sacrifice, nonetheless.

Are you up to it?

continued on next page

LETTER FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER

continued from page 4

Below is a very special **prayer for servant leaders** adapted by Anne Mulqueen, OFS, and Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR. Read and meditate on it often.

My love for you is strong. Let's keep one another in prayer always.

Peace and blessings,



Diane F. Menditto, OFS
Minister, Our Lady of the Angels Region

PRAYER FOR OFS LEADERSHIP

(From the Handbook for Secular Franciscan Servant Leadership.)

Give us, O God,
leaders whose hearts are large enough
to match the breadth of our own souls
and give us souls strong enough
to follow leaders of vision and wisdom.

In seeking a leader, let us seek
more than our own enhancement --
though enhancement we hope for --

more than security for our own plans and vision --
though security we need --

more than satisfaction for our own selfish wants --
though many things we desire.

Give us the hearts to choose and follow the
leader who will work with other leaders to bring
Your will to the agenda and help us to fulfill it.

Give us leaders who lead us to virtue
without seeking to impose their own version
of virtue on others.

Give us leaders who will provide for the
advancement of our Order
without dictating to others to achieve it.

Give us insight enough ourselves
to choose as leaders those who can tell strength
from power, growth from greed, leadership from
dominance, and real greatness from the trappings
of grandiosity.

We trust you, Great God,
to open our hearts to learn from those
to whom You speak in different tongues
and to respect the life and words of those
to whom You entrusted
the good of other parts of this globe.

We beg you, Great God,
give us the vision as Secular Franciscans
to know where holy leadership truly lies,
to pursue it diligently,
to ask it to respect the integrity
of every person in the entire Order.

We ask these things, Great God,
with minds open to Your word
and hearts that trust in Your eternal care.

Amen.

*Adapted by: Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR,
and Anne Mulqueen, OFS*

The OFS Rule in the Time of Corona



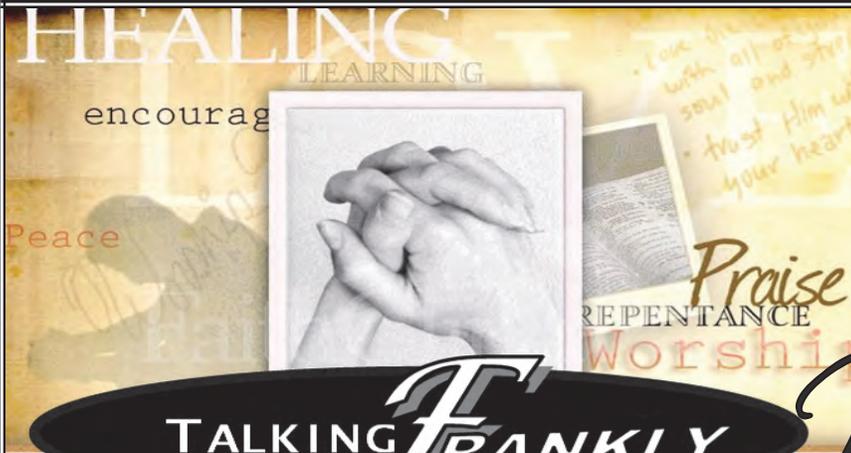
- **Article 4: ...Gospel to life and from life to the gospel**
 - Read a portion of the Gospel each day. Think about how it applies to your life.
- **Article 5: Seek to encounter Jesus Christ in our brothers and sisters, in sacred scripture, in the Church and in the Eucharist.**
 - Take advantage of Adoration offered online or on TV. Meditate on the gift of the Eucharist and how we long to receive it again.
 - Keep in touch with our fraternities, check on homebound members, keep the fraternity newsletter going, have a prayer conference call.
- **Article 6: Go forth as witnesses and instruments** of the Church's mission among people, proclaiming Christ by our life and words.
 - Use social media to share positive messages and to let people know that we are people of prayer whether the churches are open or not.
- **Article 7: Conform our thoughts and deeds** to those of Christ by the **radical interior change** which the Gospel calls "**conversion**"...
 - Now we have the time to work on conversion. Think about how each day we spend in quarantine helps us to change for the better.
- **Article 8: Let prayer and contemplation** be the soul of all we are and do.
 - We now have the gift of time to pray. We don't need to hurry.
 - Now we can spend extra time in praying Morning and Evening Prayer; now there is ample time for sitting with the Lord and listening to what he has to say.
- **Article 9: Imitate the Virgin Mary's complete self-giving**
 - During this difficult time, we are called to give selflessly to others. Perhaps a donation to a food bank; perhaps home-schooling a child; perhaps caring for an anxious elderly parent; perhaps finding the patience to spend extra time with our families.

continued on next page

The OFS Rule in the Time of Corona

continued from page 6

- **Article 10: Faithfully fulfill the duties proper** to our various circumstances in life.
 - Working from home is not as easy as it would seem. Helping to home-school children requires talents we think we do not have. Those who must serve as nurses, doctors, First Responders, and food service personnel need courage and strength to leave the house each day.
- **Article 11: Seek the proper spirit of detachment** and purify our hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.
 - We are now forced to be detached from all sorts of comforts. Take this time to simplify. Detachment and self-emptying help us to make room for Jesus in our minds and hearts.
- **Article 12: Acquire the purity** of heart needed to set ourselves free to love God and our brothers and sisters.
 - Let us be single-minded in our desire to love God. What does this take?
- **Article 13: Accept all people as your gift...**
 - Accept with joy that you are spending time with your family. This is a good time to ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of patience.
- **Article 14: Exercise our responsibilities** competently in the Christian spirit of service.
 - If you are a Minister or a Council member, what is your responsibility to the rest of the fraternity? Find ways to maintain fraternity. Find out how the members are doing. Does anyone need help? Are your members feeling isolated? Would a phone call or an email help? How about setting up a specific time when all members of the fraternity will pray the rosary or meditate on a certain passage of Scripture. We are ALL responsible for being mothers and brothers and sisters to one another.
- **Article 15: Be in the forefront of promoting justice** by the testimony of our human lives and by courageous initiatives (Art. 15);
 - What is the just thing to do in these times?
 - We can be examples of courage whether it is only taking one or two items from the store shelf; making room in line for an older person or encouraging others to follow CDC guidelines.
- **Article 16: Esteem work** both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption and service of the human community.
 - In many cases, we are not allowed to work at our jobs. How do we use our talents for the good of those around us? How can we serve when we are not getting paid?
- **Article 17: Cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity and respect for life** in our families, striving to make it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ.
 - We need to ask for the grace to be gentle with one another and to remember what we do affects all those who come in contact with us.
- **Article 18: Respect all creatures**, animate and inanimate "as bearing the imprint of the Most High"
- **Article 19: Be bearers of peace and messengers of perfect joy** in every circumstance, as immersed in the resurrection of Christ, we serenely tend towards Sister Death and our ultimate encounter with our Heavenly Father



TALKING FRANKLY

What is Franciscan Charism?

FR. FRANK M. MCHUGH, OFM
Regional Spiritual Assistant
OLTAR REGION
Fmchugh77@aol.com

Just the other day, I met with our Initial Formation class at St. Bonaventure Parish in Paterson, N.J. to discuss and review the material in Chapter Five of “The Franciscan Journey.”

I pointed out to the group that the word “Charism” is used several times in the chapter and I asked them how they would define this term. After several seconds of silence, I smiled and explained it’s not an everyday term that easily drips off our tongues.

It’s a rather technical term and the dictionary defines it as:

“An extraordinary power (as of healing) given by the Holy Spirit for the good of the Church.”

We then broke this definition into segments to examine its meaning a little deeper.

We began with the last phrase, “for the good of the Church” and worked backward toward the first phrase, “An extraordinary power (as of healing).”

This whole sentence is packed with meaning that can lead to many minutes of meditation, especially the phrase, “given by the Holy Spirit.”

The chapter continues by highlighting the importance of our own Baptism. Perhaps it is unfortunate that so many of us were baptized as infants. Perhaps some of us have taken our Baptism for granted since it was not a sacrament we sought for in the first place! However, given this definition for “Charism,” wouldn’t it be profitable for us to make time to dwell on how important and beneficial this sacrament is that makes us children of God?

This has been a valuable source for my own meditation that has brought words of gratitude from my lips for my parents and godparents who spoke on my behalf the day I was baptized.

As Franciscans, we share a “Franciscan Charism” that allows us to live “going from gospel to life and life to gospel” (SFO Rule #4). I asked the class how they understood that statement. Again, silence for a brief moment, but then, several spoke of striving to use the scriptures as a “blueprint for living.” What a wonderful response!

I want to encourage all who read this little article to answer this question for themselves. How do you understand “Franciscan Charism”? I hope it will lead you to a deeper prayer life!

GOD BLESS!



Secular Franciscan Order
Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity
2020 Annual Retreat
July 31 – August 2

Mt. Alvernia Retreat House
Wappingers Falls, New York
Physical Address for GPS use:
158 Delavergne Ave., Wappingers Falls, NY
845-297-5706 ext. 112
Website: mtalvernia.org

Led By
Fr. Robert Williams, OFM Cap.

Arrival Friday between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm
Dinner at 6:00 pm
Departure after lunch on Sunday
Cost: \$185.00 payable with registration
Includes presentations, double rooms, 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:
Debbie Wickham, OFS 973-219-2945 debaweb@optonline.net

These plans are being made while we are experiencing a pandemic. Please plan on attending and send in your registration. If we determine that the retreat will be cancelled, we will offer a full refund.

Retreat Registration form: July 31 – August 2, 2020

Please check one Professed Candidate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Fraternity: _____

Single room _____

Double room _____ Room with: _____

Special needs: _____

Send completed registration form with \$185.00 check made payable to:
"Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity" to:
Debbie Wickham, OFS, 16 Old Woodstock Trail, Oak Ridge, NJ 07438

Theological Reflection



Photo credit: DIANE MENDITTO, OFS

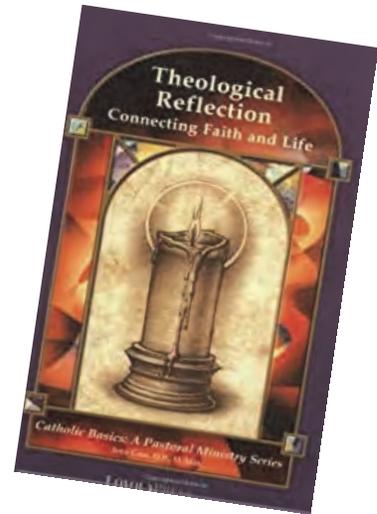
ED WOJCIECHOWSKI, OFS
FORMATION DIRECTOR
OLTAR REGION
edwojo@yahoo.com

As Franciscans, our Rule tells us that we are to go from “gospel to life, and life to gospel.”

It is our calling and charism to strive every day to make and strengthen the connection between our spiritual life and our daily life in the world. Some of the ways to strengthen this connection is through prayer, Mass and the sacraments, especially through Penance and the Eucharist. But did you know that there are other ways to connect our inner life to our daily life?

In this short article, I’d like to introduce a method called

Theological Reflection that you can use either as an individual or as a group in your fraternity to help bridge the gap between prayer and service to God and the world.



Theological Reflection is a practice that we can use to help us reflect on our daily activities in light of Experience, Tradition and Culture. The model that I will share with you is called the Whitehead Model and is described in more detail in the book “Theological Reflection: Connecting Faith and Life” by Joye Gros.

EXPERIENCE is our daily encounter with the world and includes our ideas, feelings, insights, biases and prejudices. We connect with each other by sharing our experiences and listening attentively to the experiences of others. In Theological Reflection we engage in our experiences to reveal the importance of God’s presence and actions in our lives.

TRADITION is the collective wisdom of the Church and includes Scripture, the Sacraments, the OFS Rule, the writings of the saints (especially the writings of St. Francis and St. Clare) and the teachings of our faith. When we practice Theological Reflection, we draw upon both Church Tradition and Franciscan Tradition to help give meaning to our present situation and direction for our future path.

continued on next page

CULTURE is the way we see the world around us and how we live in a world of many different values and opinions. Sometimes, worldly value will conflict with our Franciscan values, while other times we can be energized and supported by the society in which we live.

The purpose of Theological Reflection is to move us to make a change and take action.

The Whitehead model describes three steps in which we move toward awakening our faith in our lives:

- **ATTENDING**
- **ASSERTING**
- **DECISION MAKING**

ATTENDING is our active listening to the wisdom and insights of our experiences, tradition and culture. It requires us to spend extended time to quietly reflect upon our attitudes and assumptions.

We need to be honest and open to the experiences of others and the world around us. Often, this step reveals a change or shift in our worldview.

St. Clare's example of contemplation can guide us as we listen to the movement of God in our life.

ASSERTING invites us to pay attention so that we can clarify and expand our insights.

At this step, we can make claims to what we believe to be true based on our experiences, tradition and Rule. We may also gain new insights and make new assertions to what we no longer to hold true.

Asserting acknowledges our values and convictions while respecting the needs and convictions of others.

As Franciscans, our model of assertion is St. Francis' encounter with the Sultan of Egypt Malik al-Kamil.

In his encounter with the Sultan, Francis held true to his beliefs while respecting the Sultan and his culture.

We are to follow the example of St. Francis when we encounter others during this step.

DECISION MAKING can only come after we have spent time in the first two steps of Theological Reflection. By our profession, we are called to conform our

"thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel calls conversion.

Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily."

(OFS Rule, Art. 7)

Decision making is a call to action and change in our life.

In this step, we allow the perspectives we have gained during Theological Reflection to change us both spiritually and socially. This step moves us closer to bringing harmony between our faith and our actions.

IN CONCLUSION, Theological Reflection invites us to greater theological and spiritual insights.

It helps us to move towards integrating our faith and actions, so we can live out our Rule and build up the Kingdom of God in our fraternity, our family and the world around us.

Pax et Bonum,



**Ed Wojciechowski, OFS
Regional Formation Director**

Sept. 21, 2019 **FORMATION WORKSHOP:**



Theological Reflection

Joye Gros, O.P. states that:
 "Theological Reflection provides the frame work that helps us see the connection between the surface and the depths of life's meanings. It encourages us to recognize the intimate connection between faith and daily life."

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

Presentation by Bro. Kip Ledger, OFM Cap.

"This was a wonderful workshop." "Brother Kip gave an excellent presentation on Theological Reflection."

"The workshop attendance was excellent, over 75 of those interested in formation attended."

Brother Kip's complete presentation, notes and focus questions are available on our website at:

http://olangels.tripod.com/region_links.html  We hope that it will be used for initial and/or ongoing formation.

Below are some pictures so you may experience a little of the wonderful day that was shared. Additional photos may also be found on the above website link.



Photos credit: DIANE MENDITTO, OFS AND ED WOJCIKOWSKI, OFS

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION FOLLOW-UP



ur September Regional Formation Day, with the theme of Theological Reflection, provided the focus for a follow-up gathering in Manhattan on October 19th, which was held at Holy Cross-Saint John the Baptist Church, just across the street from the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

Our gathering was represented by five of our six Manhattan fraternities, and attended by approximately 25 people. Father Francis Gasparik, OFM Cap., pastor of Holy Cross-Saint John the Baptist Church hosted as well as graciously catered the affair.

As you can imagine, a Saturday in Manhattan has many things going on and so our arrival time was attended to with typical Franciscan flexibility.

We managed the starting time by beginning with lunch. This allowed quality time for socializing and welcoming people as they arrived.

Apologies were met with, 'You can't be late, we're family'.

After an opening prayer, and song, each fraternity was invited to have a representative give a brief account of their impressions of the September 21st Regional Formation Day for the benefit of those who hadn't attended.

After a somewhat broader presentation of Theological Reflection, everyone participated in a reflection exercise using chapter two of our Rule (Our Way of Life) and a selected section from Holy Scripture.

This was followed by an invitation to share.

The presentations went very well, the food was incredible, and the exercise in Theological Reflection proved 'surprisingly beneficial' to people, as noted on our evaluation sheets.

The day ended with a prayer service for our deceased members.

BY
BARBARA LYNE, OFS
OLTAR REGION
MANHATTAN CLUSTER



Photos credit: Barbara Lyne, OFS



As we were celebrating their memories and asking their prayers for us as we continue to pray, learn, share and socialize with each other, we named them as we placed stars on a display prayer board.

Evaluation sheets indicate that the timing and venue worked for people and we are looking forward to more experiences which involve our Manhattan fraternities.

We will grow as we go.



ARTWORK BY STEVE BROSNAC - "AMERICA IS A LAND OF IMMIGRANTS"

**CHRIS LEONE, OFS
CHAIR — JPIC Comm.
OLTAR REGION
cleone113@yahoo.com
908-528-0865**

**— This article is by
Michael Wojcik, News
Editor, The Beacon
Newspaper of the
Diocese of Paterson,
19 September, 2019.**

SPEAKERS ADDRESS IMMIGRATION ISSUES

**MANY PEOPLE FROM
HONDURAS ARE HEADING
NORTH TO THE SOUTHERN
BORDER OF THE UNITED
STATES TO ESCAPE THE
HARDSHIPS THAT THEY
SUFFER IN THEIR NATIVE
CENTRAL AMERICAN
HOMELAND —
FROM EXTREME POVERTY
AND A LACK OF ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY TO POLITICAL
REPRESSION, VARIOUS
TYPES OF VIOLENCE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
DEGRADATION.**

JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

continued from page 14

On the night of September 10, Sister Janice Jolin of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, painted striking portraits of the many Hondurans who seek to emigrate to the U.S., as one of three dynamic speakers who gave clear perspectives of the crisis at the border during a presentation about the heated issue of immigration, “THE NARROW GOLDEN DOOR: A NEW MOMENT OF TRUTH?”

Franciscan Father Larry Hayes, St. Mary parochial vicar, read and reflected on excerpts of Pope Francis’ recent message for the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2019.

Jim Andreano, a Third Order Secular Franciscan and member of *North Jersey Interfaith Cares*, spoke about reasons that immigrants flee and about the complicated and “broken” immigration system in the U.S., which has been a subject of concern for many years.

respond to the immigration crisis that people are facing around the world. Participants, many of them already involved in social-justice work, divided into groups to discuss their ideas immediately after the presentation, which was sponsored by St. Mary’s Social Justice Ministry.

Sister Janice closed her talk with a portion of Pope Francis’ message for the Feast of the Assumption in 2017.

“The Lord entrusts to the Church’s motherly love every person forced to leave their homeland in search of a better future. This solidarity must be concretely expressed at every stage of the migratory experience – from departure through the journey to arrival and return.

In this regard I wish to reaffirm that our shared response may be articulated by four verbs:

*to welcome,
to protect,
to promote and to integrate,”* said Sister Janice, quoting the Pontiff.

“Our Pope is joined at the heart [with immigrants]. Let’s also be a voice for them,” she said.



SISTER JANICE JOLIN, SMIC



FR. LARRY HAYES, OFM



JIM ANDREANO, OFS

held at St. Mary Parish, in Pompton Lakes, N.J. She talked about the poverty of the Hondurans that she saw on a recent mission trip to their country.

That night in St. Mary’s Carnevale Center, the speakers also sought to inspire the concerned Catholics in the audience to discern ways for the Franciscan-run parish to

continued on next page

In her slide presentation, Sister Janice called Honduras a “beautiful place” rich in natural resources with “many beautiful people, especially children, who hope for a future.”

She visited there, as well as El Salvador and Guatemala, during the 2019 Interfaith Pilgrimage to examine the root causes for their migration. These three nations make up the so-called Northern Triangle, a region that those seeking asylum in the U.S. are fleeing. The Honduran people suffer poverty and a lack of economic opportunity in part at the hands of an oligarchy of 12 families that control its political system and the economy.

Many people work in “sweat shop” factories under pressure to produce, but earn only half of the wages they need to live. They also suffer violence — in the home, from gangs and from the government. Many fight for their rights, even if political oppression there discourages them from doing so. A lack of environmental stewardship has caused land to dry up due to over-farming and water has become contaminated, Sister Janice said.

Andreano said that some migrants leave their homelands, enticed by the “pull factor:” a desire to leave for their new nation for a better life and to assimilate there — “driven by aspiration.”



However, most immigrants who arrive at our southern border, are motivated by the “push factor:” a need to leave their homeland for economic, political or safety reasons with dreams of returning and desire to protect their culture — “driven by desperation.”

Andreano then discussed the four ways that migrants can enter legally: employer-based immigration, family-based immigration, the diversity lottery and refugee or asylee status.

“Are we a society that wants to deter immigration by building walls — both physical and psychological — and deny people status and benefits? These will never deter the people who face the pull factors. We must address the causes that force migrants to leave in the first place,” Andreano said.

In his talk, Father Hayes gave the event a theological context by quoting from and reflecting on Pope Francis’ message for the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2019.

“When we show concern for them, we also show concern for ourselves, for everyone; in taking care of them [migrants], we all grow; in listening to them, we also give voice to a part of ourselves that we may keep hidden because it is not well regarded nowadays,” the Pope said, as quoted by Father Hayes.

By welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants in the immigration process, Pope Francis said, we “help build the city of God and man.”

Some speakers encouraged audience members to get involved in organizations and initiatives on behalf of immigrants. Father Hayes urged them to talk among themselves to “come up with concrete action — when God is calling us to do something about the situation on the border.”

One participant was Jeanne Michaud, a member of St. Mary’s Social Justice Ministry.

“I already have the passion. The talks supported what I already know about immigration. I hope that we can come together to help the plight of these people. We have to help them,” Michaud said.

Saint and Sultan



They called
Francesco—
Il Poverello, little poor man.
He danced in the town
square as Assisi's
townsfolk marveled.

Is this Pietro Bernardone's
son? Didn't he work in his
father's cloth shop?

He spent his family's money
on banquets
and danced in outrageous
costumes of red velvet
and silk, a sight, indeed!

Now, clad in a simple
garment, the color of dirt,
he is disowned by Pietro;

"He is mad!" Pietro curses
and Francesco's mother cries.
"He is a child of God,"
the people say.

Barefoot
and laughing,
he sings praises to God
as he gathers followers,
rich and poor to serve
the crucified Christ,
with joy— "He is Risen!
Peace and All Good!"

Care for the lepers,
poor, ill, acting out the
Gospel stories with voice
and action captivated
the children as he
crawled in snow,
bleating like sheep.

Even the Pope blessed him:
"flourish like the palm tree!"
How they did!
Nobles, priests and
the beautiful Clare
were God's little ones!

So, when Francesco went
to Sultan Malik al-Kamil,
he begged for an end to the
bloody Crusades.

Two men, meeting,
gazing in one another's
eyes, truly read each
other's heart.
Talking, sharing,
the two became friends.
Though he couldn't stop
the bloodshed,
Sultan Kamil offered safe
entry to the Holy Land
and his respect.

How true a testament
to faith and love
this story carried down
through the ages!
Would that today the
dialogue of
Saint and Sultan
bring us respect
and friendship
in bloody times!

BY
VALERIE MORENO, OFS
St. John Vianney Fraternity
Colonia, NJ

2020 OLTAR REGIONAL CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS

APRIL 1, 2020 LETTER SENT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR TO MINISTERS

Dear Ministers,

May the Lord give you peace!

Please circulate this information among the members of your Fraternities and publish it in your Fraternity newsletters.

The Chapter of Elections for Our Lady of the Angels Region is scheduled for **November 14, 2020** at St. Francis Church, 50 Lodi Street, Hackensack, N.J.

ALL professed members of the Fraternities within Our Lady of the Angels Region are eligible to nominate someone for election to serve on the Regional Executive Council. **NOMINATIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL**

TIMELINE

April 1, 2020	Notice of Election published; Call for Nominations
May 30, 2020	Absolute deadline for submitting nominations
June	Nominating Committee contacts Nominees, advises them of their nomination, and provides forms for return by August 1 st
August 1, 2020	Deadline for return of nomination acceptance forms from nominees
September 9, 2020	List of nominees and resumés to Region Executive Council
September 25, 2020	Resumés of nominees sent to voting members of the Elective Chapter

ELIGIBILITY FOR NOMINATION

As stated in our Regional Guidelines:

- Nominees must be permanently professed for three (3) years
- A local Minister may not serve as Regional Minister – if he/she is nominated and then elected, he/she must resign from office as local Minister
- Present Regional Executive Council Members may not serve more than three (3) terms

For a description of the responsibilities for each position, please refer to the following Regional Offices Form.

PROCEDURE

- Please **fill out and return** the completed nomination form (enclosed), including all requested information, via snail-mail **OR** e-mail (attached to an email if possible) to **BOTH** PAT SPANA, Nominating Committee Chair, **and** DENISE CUBITA, Co-Chair—make copies as necessary.

(Nominations are sent to BOTH committee members to avoid a nomination being lost.

We will continually cross reference nominations.)

Pat Spana, OFS, Chair
170 E. Hartsdale Ave. 1-F
Hartsdale, NY 10530
spanap@aol.com

Denise Cubita, OFS, Co-Chair
140 E. Hartsdale Ave. 6-J
Hartsdale, NY 10530
D416C@verizon.net

**2020 OLTAR REGIONAL
CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS**

**NOMINATION FORM
NOVEMBER 14, 2020**

Date _____

Full Name of the Perpetually Professed person you wish to nominate

Full mailing address; phone number; and email address of this Nominee

Fraternity where this Nominee is a Professed Member _____

Fraternity City _____ State _____

Which of the following one or more position(s) are you nominating this person?

Please clearly **circle or highlight**

Regional Minister **Regional Vice Minister** **Regional Secretary**

Regional Treasurer **Regional Formation Director** **Councilor: Westchester**

Councilor: North Jersey **Councilor: Central Jersey** **Councilor: Manhattan**

Name of Nominator: _____

Telephone: _____ Email address: _____

Please return this completed nomination form, including all requested information,
via snail-mail or e-mail to **BOTH** members of the Regional Nominating Committee:
(make copies if necessary)

Pat Spana, OFS, Chair
170 E. Hartsdale Ave. 1-F
Hartsdale, NY 10530
spanap@aol.com

Denise Cubita, OFS, Co-Chair
140 E. Hartsdale Ave. 6-J
Hartsdale, NY 10530
D416C@verizon.net

**All Nomination forms are to be returned to the Nominating Committee
by May 30, 2020.**

2020 OLTAR REGIONAL CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS

DUTIES OF THE REGIONAL OFFICES

PAGE 1

MINISTER

General Constitutions Articles 63.1 and 63.2

1. While firmly preserving the co-responsibility of the council for the animation and guidance of the regional fraternity it is the duty of the minister, who has the primary responsibility, to see that the directions and decisions of the council are put into practice. He or she will keep the council informed concerning his or her activities.
2. In addition, the regional minister has the duty:
 - a. to convoke and preside at the meetings of the regional council; to convoke every three years the elective chapter of the fraternity after having listened to the council on the formalities of the convocation
 - b. to preside at and to confirm the elections of the local fraternities either in person or through a delegated member of the regional council, with the exception of the spiritual assistant
 - c. to make fraternal visits to the local fraternities, personally or through a delegate who is a member of the council
 - d. to participate in the meetings called by the national council
 - e. to represent the fraternity whenever it has acquired a juridical personality in the civil order
 - f. to prepare the annual report to the national council
 - g. to request the pastoral and fraternal visits with the consent of the council, at least once every three years

VICE MINISTER

General Constitutions Article 52.1

1. The vice-minister has the following duties:
 - a. to collaborate in a fraternal spirit and to support the minister in carrying out his or her specific duties
 - b. to exercise the functions entrusted by the council and/or by the assembly or chapter
 - c. to take the place of the minister in both duties and responsibilities in case of absence or temporary impediment
 - d. to assume the functions of the minister when the office remains vacant. (See article 81.1 GC)

SECRETARY

Article 52.2

2. The secretary has the following duties:
 - a. to compile the official acts of the fraternity and of the council and to assure that they are sent to their respective proper recipients
 - c. to provide for the communication of the more important facts to the various levels and, if appropriate, to provide for their dissemination through the mass media

DIRECTOR OF FORMATION

Formation Directors Handbook

3. The director of formation has the following duties:
 - Liaison from the region to the National Formation Commission. Questions and concerns that arise in your region can be directed, through you, to the National Formation Commission
 - Attend Executive Council Meetings working to serve the needs of your regional fraternity as part of a team
 - Establish a regional formation team
 - Work with formation team to provide initial formation sessions in the Clusters
 - Insure that ongoing formation is presented at all regional gatherings
 - Provide ongoing formation for the Regional Executive Council
 - Work with the Retreat planning team to provide breakout sessions for those in Initial Formation who attend
 - Prepare an annual report

continued on next page

2020 OLTAR REGIONAL CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS

DUTIES OF THE REGIONAL OFFICES

PAGE 2

TREASURER

Article 52.4

4. The treasurer, or bursar, has the following duties:

(Also see below from Regional Guidelines, 19-22)*

- a. to guard diligently the contributions received, recording each receipt in the appropriate register, with the date on which it was given, the name of the contributor, or the one from whom it was collected
- b. to record in the same register the items of expense, specifying the date and the purpose, in conformity with the directions of the fraternity council
- c. to render an account of his or her administration to the assembly and to the council of the fraternity according to the norms of the national statutes

*TREASURER

Regional Guidelines, 19-22

19. The Regional Treasurer keeps accounts of all money and has the oversight of the property of the Regional Fraternity, unless otherwise determined by the Regional Executive Council. The Treasurer deposits all funds of the Regional Fraternity in such bank accounts as the Regional Executive Council designates and in the name of the Regional Fraternity
20. The Regional Treasurer shall make Financial Reports for approval at each regular meeting of the Regional Executive Council and Regional Fraternity Council
21. The Regional Treasurer pays out money, by check only, as the business of the Regional Fraternity may require, on the order of the Regional Executive Council. All checks over \$500.00 need two signatures
22. An audit shall be conducted once a year by at least two competent professed members selected by the Regional Executive Council and who do not currently serve on the Executive Council. The results of the audit shall be presented at the annual Regional Fraternity Council meeting

ARTICLE 52.5

5. The provisions regarding the rights and duties of the vice-minister, the secretary and the treasurer apply with the appropriate adaptations, to all levels

COUNCILORS

Regional Guidelines Appendix A, Resolution #1

In our Region, we also elect four Councilors to represent the Clusters:
North Jersey, Central Jersey, Manhattan and Westchester.

In addition to their role as members of the Regional Executive Council we expect that they “will ensure that the needs and concerns of each member fraternity within their Cluster will be brought to the attention of the Regional Executive Council. In turn, these councilors will bring to the attention of the member fraternities whatever the Regional Executive Council has approved for the Regional Fraternity.”

The Guidelines go on to say that it is expected that these councilors will be from the Cluster which they will serve. Our Lady of the Angels Region Chapter of Elections 2017 Secular Franciscan Order.



SAINT JOHN VIANNEY

**FRATERNITY
ESTABLISHMENT DATE
SEPTEMBER 13, 1970**

FRATERNITY MEETINGS
are held EVERY SECOND
SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
1:30 P.M.

LANGUAGE SPOKEN
ENGLISH

MEETING LOCATION
ST. JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH
420 INMAN AVENUE
COLONIA, NJ 07067

MINISTER
DOLORES S. JULES, OFS

CONTACT EMAIL
Deejewels54@optonline.net



BY

GRETCHEN HOGAN, OFS

We are a diverse group of people who are involved in many ministries, devotions and activities at St. John Vianney and other parishes in the Archdioceses of Metuchen and Newark, NJ.

Our members serve as Eucharistic Ministers, RCIA instructors, and Catholic catechists as well as parish council members and volunteers at local community food banks or other charitable ministries that support people in need.

We individually pray for those on the monthly Apostles of Prayer list, and we enthusiastically support groups which provide outreach to the homeless, the homebound, and people in nursing homes and rehabilitation centers.

One of our members participates in annual outreach activities in the Philippines, living alongside and serving the corporal and spiritual needs of the indigent population.

Although we are an English speaking fraternity, many of our members speak other languages as well, including French, Spanish, Tagalog, Polish, and Italian. We believe that our diversity is a source of strength to our group and provides a good foundation for our many outreach activities.

continued on next page

continued from page 22

We are blessed to have fraternity member, Br. Paul Miller, OFS, who founded and leads the Healing Ministry of Divine Mercy and Franciscan Charities, Inc., which supports St. Ann's Soup Kitchen in Newark, NJ.

Several of our members have volunteered in this soup kitchen, which serves more than 75,000 meals annually to people in need.

He also started the New Jersey Center of Divine Mercy, which sponsors Feast day celebrations and healing services as well as the Veneration of the First Class Relic of St. Faustina.

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2020, members of our fraternity have visited and provided financial assistance and other support over the years to the residents of many organizations such as St. Joseph's Assisted Living and Nursing Home in Woodbridge, NJ and Tent City in Lakewood, NJ.

Members also have volunteered or worked with local and national organizations involved in caring for the needy or elderly and the formation of children like the Girl Scouts of America.

Our fraternity currently is searching for a new apostolate where our members can continue to spread the "Good News" to our brothers and sisters in the spirit of St. Francis and our Risen Lord.



WHAT IS NEEDED IS A PERSONALIZED APPROACH to the sick, not just of curing, but also of caring, in view of an integral human healing. In experiencing illness, individuals not only feel threatened in their physical integrity, but also in the relational, intellectual, affective and spiritual dimensions of their lives. For this reason, in addition to therapy and support, they expect care and attention.

In a word, love.

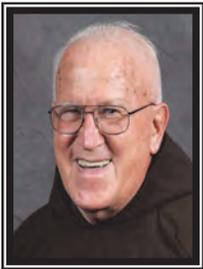
POPE FRANCIS

28th World Day of the Sick Message, 2020



MEMORIAM

† FR. LESTER BACH, OFM CAP



Called home to the Lord –
February 2, 2020.

Fr. Lester was well known to anyone who worked with formation over the years having written many of the books and materials that we use for initial and ongoing formation. We are indebted to him for all of his work and caring for the Secular Franciscan Order.

Before his death, Fr. Lester encouraged the National Fraternity and the National Formation Commission in our development of the new initial formation materials, a project which is moving forward. As we pray for the repose of Father's soul, let us ask him to put in a good word for us in all we do regarding formation.

Dearest Sisters and Brothers,

I just received word that Fr. Lester Bach passed on to new life with the Lord last evening. I am certain he had a beautiful and peaceful *Transitus*. I am touched that he died on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. May he rest in peace and may the Eternal Light shine upon him. Over the past few days, we have been united in prayer, and in the sharing of our memories of our beloved Fr. Lester. Let us honor him by living out all that he has shared with us with such love.

JAN PARKER, OFS
National Minister, OFS - USA

Lester Bach, 88, was born on October 15, 1931 in Sherry, WI. He was invested in the Capuchin habit in 1949, first profession in 1950, perpetually professed in 1953, and ordained in 1957.

For most of his religious life, since the 1960s, Fr. Bach was mostly involved in ministry to the Secular Franciscan Order, and authored books on OFS Formation and Franciscan spirituality. He also worked a formation program with Capuchin Brothers and served as chaplain in a nursing home.

In later years, Fr. Bach additionally served as director of a retreat center where he preached parish missions. He also served as Provincial Spiritual Assistant to the Secular Franciscan Order as well as on the national council of the OFS, representing the Capuchins on the Conference of national Spiritual Assistants (CNSA).



SISTER DEATH

2019 2020



† VIOLETTA KOS, OFS

**Called home to the Lord –
September 12, 2019.**



Violetta was a member of Divine Mercy Fraternity in Clifton, N.J. Her Profession was celebrated Feb. 26, 1988.

† ADELINA MARINO, OFS

**Called home to the Lord –
October 13, 2019.**

Adelina was a member of St. Francis Fraternity in Hackensack, N.J. Her Profession was celebrated August 1, 1979.

† FR. SYVESTER CATALLO, OFM CAP

Called home to the Lord – October 23, 2019.



Fr. Sylvester, 90, was born in Pittsburgh, Pa. on May 10, 1929. He was invested on July 23, 1944 and made his First Profession on July 29, 1945. He made his Solemn Profession on June 13, 1950 and was ordained to the

Priesthood on May 8, 1954. Fr. Catallo was the Spiritual Assistant for St. Francis Fraternity in Hackensack, as well as the Pastor of St. Francis Church. He also served as Provincial Spiritual Assistant to the Secular Franciscans of Stigmata Province.

† DANUTA WYSZYNSKI, OFS

Called home to the Lord – November 4, 2019.



Danuta was a member of St. Stephen Fraternity in Perth Amboy, N.J. Her Profession was celebrated June 30, 1991.

† JAMES P. BROUK, OFS

**Called home to the Lord –
November 27, 2019.**

Jim was a member of Sts. Elizabeth and Louis Fraternity in New York City. His Profession was celebrated July 7, 1987.



† MARIE MANNO, OFS

**Called home to the Lord –
January 9, 2020.**

Marie, 88, was a member of Porziuncola Fraternity in East Hanover, N.J. Her Profession was celebrated May 10, 1970.

† ARLENE C. CASEY, OFS

**Called home to the Lord –
March 2, 2020.**



Arlene, 65, was a member of St. John Vianney Fraternity in Colonia, N.J.

Her Profession was celebrated December 14, 1997.



† SHEILA TUOHY, OFS

**Called home to
the Lord –
March 25, 2020.**

Sheila was a dearly beloved member of Sacred Heart Fraternity in Yonkers, NY. Her Profession was celebrated June 5, 1963.



LORD, WE PRAY
FOR
OUR FAMILY
OF
FRANCISCAN
BROTHERS
AND SISTERS
WHO HAVE
ENTERED INTO
ETERNAL LIFE.

**WITH THE ARRIVAL
OF SISTER DEATH,
THE LIFE WE KNOW
IS CHANGED,
NOT ENDED.**

**SADNESS GIVES WAY
TO THE
BRIGHT PROMISE
OF IMMORTALITY.**

**OUR DEPARTED BROTHERS
AND SISTERS REMAIN A
PART
OF THE
COMMUNION OF SAINTS
AS WELL AS OUR
FRATERNITIES.**

**PLEASE KEEP THEM
LOVINGLY IN
YOUR PRAYERS.
AMEN.**

I N M E M O R I A M

Written by James Stitt, OFS and
Linda Baltzer, OFS
St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity,
New York City

† JOHN ROSENQUIST, OFS

Called home to the Lord –
November 24, 2019.
His Profession was
celebrated Dec. 11, 2002.



John was a beloved member of St. Mary of the Angels fraternity in New York City. “JR”, as we affectionately called him, lived a full Franciscan life. He loved nature and sought to be a little closer to it by watching and studying birds. Before John lost his sight, he was a bird watcher and had received a certificate from an accredited institution granting the title of Ornithologist.

Before coming to the United States, he had worked at a home for children in Canada and said it was perhaps the most rewarding work he had done. As a former Third Order Dominican, I guess St. Martin de Porres, whom John had great affection for, was responsible for that.

John loved being an usher at St. Thomas More Church and he enjoyed his friends with whom he gathered at Fetch’s Bar and Grill, once on Manhattan’s Upper East Side, for his weekly Martini. Several years before his vision became impaired, John worked at the Bronx Council on the Arts in their accounting office. He had sung in the choir at St. Aloysius Church in Harlem in the 1950s, and seemed to know Church history better than most, but given all John’s many shared gifts, “JR” remained a humble man who enjoyed life its simplest form. He died in Manhattan at the age of 93, his ashes were interred at St. Raymond’s Cemetery in the Bronx on January 15, 2020. We will surely miss him.



Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer

Thanks to
Anna Zielska, OFS
St. John Vianney
Fraternity,
Colonia, N.J.
for sharing this
website.

Did you know that you can request prayers, Holy Masses, or light a candle from Lourdes on-line? Requests are available in a multitude of languages (*too many to list here*). Visit their website at:

https://www.lourdesprayerrequest.com/mass_request



Lourdes has live feed TV webcam service of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, direct from the Grotto. Broadcasting webcam images 24-hours a day, 7 days-a-week, direct from Lourdes.

Visit: https://lourdesprayerrequest.com/lourdes_tv



BY

DEACON VINCENT VERLEZZA, OFS
Little Portion Fraternity
Mount Vernon, N.Y.

St. Francis' Message to Sultan Malik al-Kamil



AS THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY COMMEMORATED THE 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. FRANCIS'S VISIT TO SULTAN MALIK AL-KAMIL, I WANTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THIS UNPRECEDENTED VISIT. AND IN MY RESEARCH, I WONDERED THAT WHEN SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI LEFT THE CRUSADER CAMP AND MADE HIS WAY ACROSS THE BATTLE FIELD TO THE CAMP OF THE SULTAN, WHAT MESSAGE DID HE CARRY AND HOW DID IT DIFFER FROM THE CHURCH'S MESSAGE?

Andrea Hopkins in her book *A Chronicle of Knights* states that the early Church's attitude to warfare was explicit—killing people even in battle was a sin.¹ She further states that in strife torn medieval Europe the Church recognized that there were circumstances in which homicide was not only excusable, but every Christian's duty.² Pope Urban II convened the Council of Clermont in November 1095 to stress the need for the First Crusade.³

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continued from page 27

Michael Haag relates that the purpose of the Council was to limit feudal warfare, which was having a devastating effect in Europe and to provide the Byzantine Empire with the aid it needed to defeat the Seljuk Turks and drive them out of the Holy Land and Asia Minor.⁴ Urban II hoped that in return the Orthodox Church would acknowledge the supremacy of Rome and that the unity of Christendom would be restored.⁵



Urban II went throughout France and the low lands preaching the need for a crusade.⁶ Andrea Hopkins states that he addressed himself especially to the knights, asking them to stop fighting one another and instead fight a righteous war, with the promise that if they died in battle they would have their sins forgiven.⁷ Urban II was an evangelistic preacher and addressed them by saying, “If you must have blood, bathe in the blood of the infidels.”⁸ He convinced many knights to leave their way of life and become soldiers for Christ.⁹ Urban’s techniques for a call to arms on behalf of the Church became a standard for future crusades.¹⁰

The spellbinding preaching of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux inspired thousands to join the Second Crusade.¹¹ Terrance Wise writes that the fight for the faith became a part of the chivalric code of the warrior and every respecting knight felt obliged to go on crusade, thus chivalry and the Church came together in the Holy Land.¹² This concept gave rise to the warrior-monks of the military orders, such as the Templars and the Knights of Saint John.¹³ Wise states that Saint Bernard saw no contradiction between their monastic vows of poverty, obedience and chastity and their vow to kill Moslems.¹⁴

Wise also recounts that Saint Bernard justified killing and violence by these warrior-monks on behalf of their faith.¹⁵ Wise quotes Saint Bernard as saying, “Death either inflicted or borne for Christ has no taint of crime and rather merits the greater glory.”¹⁶

Paul Moses in his book, *The Saint and the Sultan*, recounts that in the midst of the Fifth Crusade that was killing thousands of people, Saint Francis of Assisi travelled to Egypt in 1219, and crossed the battle field between the two armies to seek out Sultan Malik al-Kamil, leader of the Muslims.¹⁷ Moses states that Saint Francis was no stranger to war and its devastation, having participated in the feudal war between the cities of Perugia and Assisi.¹⁸ Moses says that while there is no record of Francis’s exploits on the battle field, if his conversion from warrior to peacemaker is to be understood, the uncomfortable notion that he may have killed men on the battle field must be considered.¹⁹ What is known is that Francis was captured on the battle field and spent a year in a Perugian prison before being ransomed through negotiations in November of 1203.²⁰ As well as the psychological effects caused by his ordeal, Francis would suffer with malaria periodically for the rest of his life.²¹

continued on next page

Francis felt that no friar was bound to any authority that was contrary to his conscience and would cause him to commit sin.²² Moses states that Francis's writings place a high value on obeying the Pope and Church authorities, but the ultimate authority was Jesus whose teaching to love God, neighbor and even your enemy was foremost in Francis's heart.²³ Moses goes on to say that the pressure put on Francis and his followers was enormous, but as obedient as Francis was to the Pope, he would not preach the Crusade.²⁴ Despite his desire to serve the Church, Francis felt he had to speak out against its war.²⁵

Each day he spent in the Crusader camp gave him fresh evidence for his belief that warfare released demons, especially after eight Muslims were captured and mutilated by the Crusaders.²⁶ His stay in the camp also gave him the chance to observe how economic motives spurred the merchant backed armies to lobby for war over peace, even after Sultan al-Kamil tried to negotiate a peace agreement.²⁷ Francis asked Cardinal Pelagius, who was in charge of the Crusade, for permission to seek out the Sultan and Pelagius granted it adding that he would take no responsibility for Francis's certain death.²⁸

Francis and Brother Illuminato left the Crusader camp to meet the Muslims, singing the Twenty Third Psalm, "The Lord

is my Shepherd," as they went.²⁹ Francis and Illuminato were captured, beaten and brought before the Sultan.³⁰ While there are at least fifteen sources from the thirteenth century that refer to Francis's visit with the Sultan, there is no written record of the actual meetings.³¹ Armenio states that Francis piqued the Sultan's curiosity and that he met with the Sultan daily for a month discussing religion.³² Moses elaborates on this saying that Francis, being able to preach for so long, implies that he dwelled on subjects that Islam and Christianity have in common.³³ Armenio tells us that Francis and the Sultan became friends and that the Sultan granted Francis safe travel to and from the Holy Land.³⁴

Moses claims that this meeting did not bring an end to the Fifth Crusade.³⁵ He goes on to say that Francis's yearning for peace with Islam grew stronger and that in 1220 after returning from Egypt he added a provision to the Rule for his Order.³⁶ The provision he added was that his brothers live quietly among Muslims and be subject to them rather than engage in disputes.³⁷

So, in response to my opening question, the message that Saint Francis carried to the Sultan was a message of peace. Knowing the ravages of war, Francis wanted to begin a dialogue with the Sultan in an attempt to show their similarities rather than their differences.

He remained true to the teaching of Jesus to love your enemy even when Church leaders were endorsing the killing of them.

^[1] Andrea Hopkins, *A Chronicle History of Knights* (NY: Barnes & Noble Inc. with Quantum Books LTD 2004), 73.

^[2] Hopkins, *A Chronicle History of Knights*, 73.

^[3] Michael Haag, *The Templars, The History & The Myth* (New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 2008), 73.

^[4] Haag, 73.

^[5] Haag, 74.

^[6] Hopkins, 82.

^[7] Hopkins, 83.

^[8] Hopkins, 83.

^[9] Hopkins, 83.

^[10] Hopkins, 84.

^[11] Peter V. Armenio, *The History of the Church, a Complete Series, The Didache Series* (Woodridge, Illinois: Midwest Theological Forum, Midwest Forum, 2005, 2006, 2007), 330.

^[12] Terrance Wise, *The Knights of Christ* (London: Osprey Publishing Ltd, 1984), 4.

^[13] Wise, 5.

^[14] Wise, 5.

^[15] Wise, 5.

^[16] Wise, 5.

^[17] Paul Moses, *The Saint and the Sultan*, (New York: Doubleday Religion a Division of Random House Inc., 2009), 1.

^[18] Moses, 15.

^[19] Moses, 22.

^[20] Moses, 26.

^[21] Moses, 26.

^[22] Moses, 41.

^[23] Moses, 42.

^[24] Moses, 59.

^[25] Moses, 115.

^[26] Moses, 109.

^[27] Moses, 115.

^[28] Moses, 123.

^[29] Moses, 123.

^[30] Moses, 124.

^[31] Moses, 127.

^[32] Armenio, 337.

^[33] Moses, 141.

^[34] Armenio, 337.

^[35] Moses, 230.

^[36] Moses, 7.

^[37] Moses, 7.

BRIEFS

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT APPOINTMENTS

- **FR. JULIAN JAGUDILLA, OFM, S.A.**
St. Thomas More fraternity # 115, N.Y.C.
- **FR. JOHN AHERNE, S.A.**
St. Mary of the Assumption fraternity # 136
Pompton Lakes, N.J.
- **FR. KERWIN GAZA, S.A.**
Porziuncola fraternity # 136, East Hanover, N.J.
- **FR. PREM KUMAR GARAPATI, OFM CAP, S.A.**
St. Francis fraternity # 137, Hackensack, N.J.
- **FR. MARTIN SCHRATZ, OFM CAP, S.A.**
San Damiano fraternity # 139, Newton, N.J.
- **FR. LEOPOLD FISHER, CFR, S.A.**
Servants of God fraternity # 168, Yonkers, N.Y.

FRATERNITY MEETING CHANGES

St. Francis fraternity # 106, Hoboken, N.J. have changed their meeting day and place. They now meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the St. Francis Parish Center.

ENTRUSTMENT TO MARY



Photo credit: Gretchen Hogan, OFS

Candidate Anna Mutuc, St. John Vianney fraternity, was entrusted to Our Blessed Mother on Sept. 8, 2019, at St. John Vianney Church in Colonia, NJ.

Pictured L-to-R with Anna are fraternity members: PAUL BLASCO, DAWN FARKAS, ANNA MUTUC, LIBIA COSMAS, MARK COSMAS, DOROTHY SEWING, AND ARLENE CASEY. *Entrustment to Mary* is a Marian devotion which signifies that Anna is under the guidance and protection of Our Blessed Mother as she continues on her journey as a candidate to becoming a professed secular Franciscan.

COUNCIL OFFICER CHANGES

- St. Thomas More fraternity # 115**
New York City
Secretary — DAN SOLLECITO, OFS
Treasurer — JOSEPH BELL, OFS
- Our Lady of Guadalupe fraternity # 118**
Red Bank, N.J.
Vice Minister — KARYN FUSCO, OFS
Treasurer — ROSEMARIE KIESLA, OFS
- St. Elizabeth of Hungary fraternity # 123**
Staten Island, N.Y.
Formation Director — MICHELLE IESU, OFS
- St. Louis fraternity # 125**
New York City
Treasurer — ANNA HA, OFS
- St. Stephen fraternity # 128**
Perth Amboy, N.J.
Minister — HALINA FIDURA, OFS
- St. John Vianney fraternity # 135**
Colonia, N.J.
Minister — DOLORES JULES, OFS
Secretary — GRETCHEN HOGAN, OFS
Treasurer — DAWN FARKAS, OFS
- St. Francis fraternity # 137**
Hackensack, N.J.
Vice Minister — DCN. RONALD ROMANO, OFS
Councilor — TRUDY GASSENHEIMER, OFS
- St. Conrad of Parzham fraternity # 138**
Hoboken, N.J.
Secretary — EVANGELINA RODRIGUEZ, OFS
Formation Director — MARISOL MARIN, OFS
- Servants of God fraternity # 168**
Yonkers, N.Y.
Treasurer — DENNIS P. BUCKLEY, OFS

F R A T E R N I T A S

CONGRATULATIONS

A **CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT** was presented to **MARIAN LICAMELI, OFS**, celebrating her 70th anniversary in the Secular Franciscan Order upon her October 30, 1949 profession.

The special presentation was held during her fraternity's Chapter of Elections on October 20, 2019, of St. Anthony of Padua # 143, Middlesex, NJ.

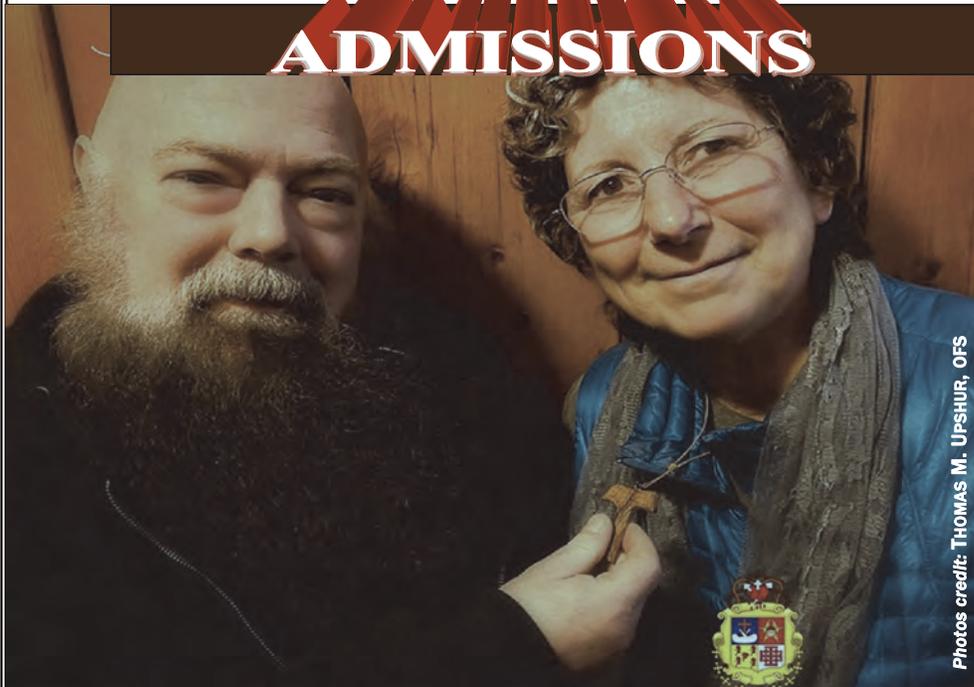
Opposite photo: Chris Leone, Regional Councilor- SI and Central NJ, presenting Marian with her milestone certificate.

CONGRATULATIONS MARIAN!



Photo credit: ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FRATERNITY

ADMISSIONS



Photos credit: THOMAS M. UPSHUR, OFS

Servants of God fraternity # 168, member **SUSAN LEYDEN, OFS**, received the **RITE OF ADMISSION**, February 12, 2020.

Opposite photo: Fr. Brian Adamcik, OFS, admiring Susan's Franciscan Tau.

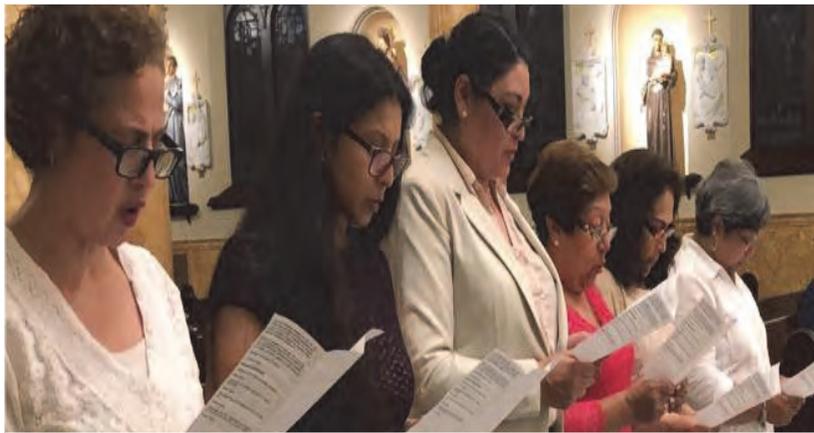
CONGRATULATIONS SUSAN!

PROFESSIONS

Photos credit: ALFONSO ZAMBRANO, OFS



St. Conrad of Parzham Fraternity # 138, Hoboken, N.J. had much to celebrate on August 7, 2019 as they professed six members into the fraternity. PICTURED IN ABOVE PHOTO, L-TO-R: Evangelina Rodriguez, Marisol Marin, Jaqueline Rodriguez, Rosa Maria Moràn, Cristian Mejia, Fr. Francisco Arredondo, OFM Cap (Celebrant), Reina Fernandez and Fraternity Minister, Alfonso Zambrano.



MILESTONES



October 10, 2019, St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity # 137, Hackensack, N.J. celebrated MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES OF PROFESSION for the following Jubilarians pictured **L-TO-R**:

- DIANE MENDITTO — 40 years
- ED ATWOOD — 35 years
- TRUDY GASSENHEINER — 30 years
- LAURA AND TONY BUDA — 15 years

As part of their celebration, they viewed Bishop Robert Barron's segment on St. Francis in his Pivotal Players series. Because of the proximity of October 12th, they also heard a short talk on Christopher Columbus, who was a Secular Franciscan, and his devotion to Christ and the Blessed Mother.

PROFESSIONS



THREE NEWLY PROFESSED MEMBERS OF THE ST. CONRAD FRATERNITY IN MARYLAND. PROFESSION WAS CELEBRATED ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2019 AT CAPUCHIN COLLEGE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

PICTURED IN ABOVE PHOTO, L-TO-R:

FRONT ROW: Chris Grubach, Fr. Frank McHugh's twin brother, Joe, and Toby Harkleroad.

SECOND ROW: Brother Regi, OFM Cap, the Spiritual Assistant for the fraternity who served as Deacon, Fr. Frank M. McHugh, OFM, and Fr. Bob McCreary, OFM Cap, who taught Fr. Frank in the seminary.

VISITATIONS

<p>ST. CONRAD FRATERNITY # 138 HOBOKEN, N.J. SEPTEMBER 4, 2019</p>	<p>LITTLE PORTION FRATERNITY # 133 MT. VERNON, N.Y. SEPTEMBER 7, 2019</p>	<p>IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY FRATERNITY # 153 NEW YORK, N.Y. OCTOBER 6, 2019</p>
<p>ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY # 108 RINGWOOD, N.J. OCTOBER 20, 2019</p>	<p>KOREAN MARTYRS FRATERNITY # 119 NEW YORK, N.Y. NOVEMBER 3, 2019</p>	<p>ST. JOHN VIANNEY FRATERNITY # 135 COLONIA, N.J. JANUARY 20, 2020</p>

ELECTION RESULTS of March 2, 2020

ST. BENEDICT MOOR FRATERNITY # 103, NEW YORK CITY



Photo credit: BARBARA LYNE, OFS

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL PICTURED L-TO-R:

FR. ANDREW REITZ, OFM, Spiritual Assistant; PAUL BEELITZ, OFS, Minister;
ELIZABETH FACKINA, OFS, Secretary; JOSEPH WOLFE, JR., OFS, Vice Minister;
RAYMOND COONEY, OFS, Formation Director; ARTIE HASEGAWA, OFS, Treasurer.

ELECTION RESULTS of February 2, 2020

KOREAN MARTYRS FRATERNITY # 119, NEW YORK CITY



Photo credit: DIANE MENDITTO, OFS

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL PICTURED L-TO-R:

GRECENTIA TOKHUI SHIM, OFS, Formation Director; GRACIA HEE JUNG KIM, OFS, Treasurer;
MARIA CHUNGAE YUN, OFS, Secretary; THERESA JONG OK YUN, OFS, Minister;
FRANCISCO KI YOL CHUNG, OFS, Vice Minister; Fr. Francis Kim, OFM, Spiritual Assistant.

ELECTION RESULTS of October 21, 2019

ST. ANNE FRATERNITY # 101, FAIR LAWN, N.J.

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL
PICTURED OPPOSITE L-TO-R:

SUE MOLETI, OFS
Vice Minister

KAREN PETERSON, OFS
Secretary

MARIANNE THORPE, OFS
Treasurer

DCN. WILLIAM JOYCE, OFS
Formation Director

missing from photo:

THOMAS BABICH, OFS
Minister



Photo credit: ANGELA RODIN, OFS

ELECTION RESULTS of October 21, 2019

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FRATERNITY # 161, BUTLER, N.J.



Photo credit: DEBBIE WICKHAM, OFS

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL PICTURED L-TO-R:

JIM BRENNAN, OFS, Minister; DAVID ENGELHAUPT, OFS, Secretary; ED CLARK, OFS, Treasurer;
ED WOJCIECHOWSKI, OFS, Formation Director; SONJA BRENNAN, OFS, Vice Minister.

ELECTION RESULTS of October 20, 2019

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FRATERNITY # 143, MIDDLESEX, N.J.

Photo credit: CHRIS LEONE, OFS



NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL PICTURED L-TO-R:

ITALIA TESTA, OFS, Formation Director; ROSANNA AYERS, OFS, Minister;
MONIQUE SASSO, OFS, Treasurer; LINDA BALIS, OFS, Vice Minister;
LINDA REPICI, OFS, Secretary; FR. SEAN KENNEY, OFS, Councilor.

ELECTION RESULTS of September 6, 2019

ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY # 102, WOOD RIDGE, N.J.

Photo credit: CHRIS LEONE, OFS



NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL PICTURED L-TO-R:

FR. PAUL KEENAN, OFM, Spiritual Assistant; NORMA LONG, OFS, Secretary;
JOHN BUCCINI, OFS, Vice Minister; THERESA ZITO, OFS, Formation Director;
DR. CHRISTOPHER L. TRAUSE, OFS, Treasurer; JOHN J. TRAUSE, OFS, MINISTER.



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGION

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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- The printed format of *The Troubadour* is published twice yearly— Spring and Fall. It is freely mailed to all professed members and formation candidates in the region.
 - The electronic format of *The Troubadour* is published quarterly— Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. It is available for downloading on our Regional website or by e-mail subscription. In order to be a subscriber, you must be an active professed or formation member of the region, and your complete address and e-mail must be on file in our database.
 - If you have a change in your name, address, phone, e-mail address or member status, please fill out the form below. You may surface mail it to me at Anna Pedreiro-Geraci, OFS, 161-B Cross Slope Ct., Manalapan, NJ 07726, or e-mail it to: acpg@aol.com Please write **TROUBADOUR** in the subject line.
 - Note that all changes submitted are also applied to the National database. If you are a professed member or candidate and do not receive the National newsletter, *Tau-USA*, 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 its members, and in your hearts—we want to hear from you. Come, share with us.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

All submissions for the next issue of *OFS E-Vents* must be received by the 25th of the preceding month.

Submissions for the next issue of *The Troubadour*, Spring 2020, are due to Editor by June 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.

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