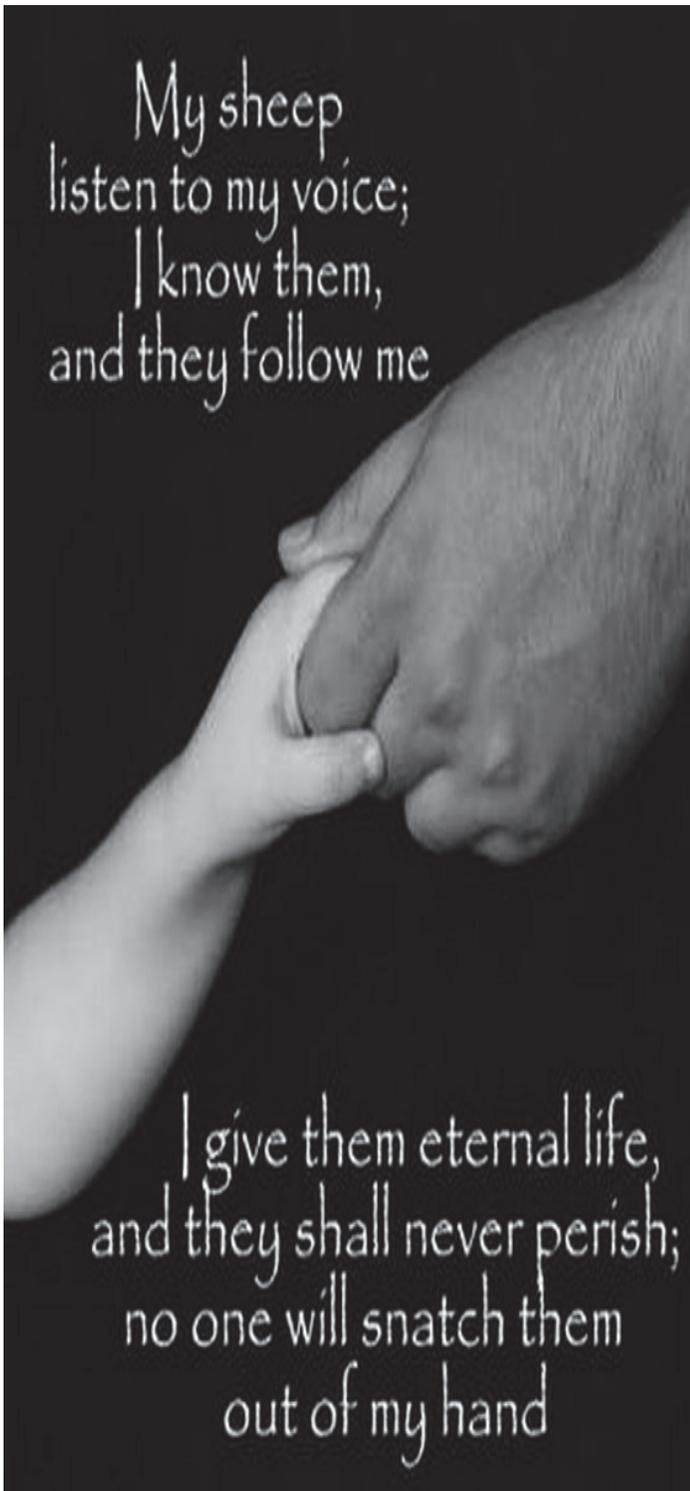




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**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF THE APPROVAL OF THE 1978 RULE OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**



## LETTER FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**I HOPE YOU HAD A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND BEGAN THE NEW YEAR WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**

At our Chapter of Ministers in November, I gave a **“STATE OF THE REGION”** report. Since there is so much important information in the report, I want to share it with all of you as we begin 2019.

Regional Statistics—As of March 2018, (We are now working on the update to these statistics. Your ministers will be submitting the new numbers by February 15, 2019.)

### **OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGION HAS:**

- 30 fraternities
- 732 Active/Excused professed members (*We have had 20 deaths since our last Chapter.*)
- 79 Candidates; 23 in Orientation and 37 Inquirers *We are very happy to see that the number of candidates is increasing. Many fraternities are getting visits from interested folks all the time. We have also had numerous recommendations through the National website.*
- 69% of our members speak **English; 22% Korean; 2% Spanish; 2% Polish; 5% Italian**
- 24 Spiritual Assistants (6 fraternities have no Spiritual Assistant.) It is the local fraternity's responsibility to see if they can find a “suitable and well-prepared” spiritual assistant. Friars who are not in your parish, Franciscan Sisters, Clergy who are Secular Franciscans, other Deacons and diocesan clergy. If the person agrees his/her name is then submitted to the friar province to which the fraternity is bonded for appointment.

**We do not have a Spiritual Assistant training** program yet. It takes 2-3 years of study to become a SA. Although you cannot be a Spiritual Assistant for your own fraternity, *we hope that if you feel called to be a Spiritual Assistant, you will let us know.*

*As you have heard at visitations, the hallmarks of good fraternity at all levels are: **COMMUNICATION, COLLABORATION, COMMUNITY, COMMITMENT AND CONVERSION.** These are all animated and nourished by our initial and ongoing formation and our fraternity prayer life. Our Lady of the Angels Region lives up to all of these and more!*

*continued on next page*

# LETTER FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER

*continued from page 2*

## COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION ALONG WITH FORMATION AND PRAYER

- **Since November 2017, we have carried out 14 visitations.**

(Regional Executive Council members often accompany me.)

We also have attended other gatherings and celebrations when we are invited.

- **Seven Elections** have been carried out since November 2017.

(Many of the elections were presided at by our dedicated REC members.)

**Elections and Visitations** for our 30 fraternities take place over a **three-year period.**

Therefore, in **2019 and 2020 there will be 16 more visitations and 23 more elections.**

**During the State of the Region report,** I reminded the ministers that, in fairness, when a member of the Regional Executive Council and a Regional Spiritual Assistant visit your fraternity or presides/witnesses at an election, the fraternity has a responsibility to cover the cost of travel, tolls and parking. Some fraternities have always done this. If more than one councilor attends, don't worry, they will submit their expenses to the region to be covered. If a fraternity cannot afford to cover these expenses, please just let us know, and the region will cover. Sometimes, fraternities who can afford to do so, give a "love offering" even if there are no travel expenses. This helps cover those fraternities that cannot afford a stipend.

### WORKSHOPS

This year we had a **CLUSTER INITIAL FORMATION WORKSHOP ON VOCATION**—thank you to **Ron Pihokker**, our North Jersey Councilor, and a **SERVANT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP**—thank you to **Ed Wojciechowski** and the regional formation team, to **Sr. Janice Jolin**, Spiritual Assistant to Holy Name Fraternity, and **Pat Spana**, Minister of Little Portion Fraternity.

Both workshops were very well attended. The Servant Leadership workshop had about 85 attending with representation from almost every fraternity.

Thank you to **Marie Palazzone** and **St. John Vianney-St. Elizabeth of Hungary** fraternity for hosting. We also thank regional Manhattan Councilor **Barbara Lyne**, local minister **Ester Lopez**, and the fraternity at **St. John's, NYC**, who collaborated to rent vans for members from Manhattan to attend the gathering. Those who participated in presenting the panel discussions were excellent!

### CONVIVENZA 2018

Held this year in Manhattan, our theme was **Who We Say We Are; Communicating Who We Are; and Living Who We Are.** Again, we had excellent attendance despite traffic and parking problems and the high expense of traveling into NYC. Thank you to the **31<sup>st</sup> Street Fraternities** who hosted the day—particularly the ministers: **Pat Clayton, Theresa Yun, Joseph Lee and Myriam Hart.** Keep an eye out for the announcement of **Convivenza 2019 to be held on March 23.**

### REGIONAL RETREAT

**Nancy Conroy** has continued working hard to develop a **robust retreat team.** We continue to invite our region members to help with programming and music. Please contact Nancy if you would like to be part of the team! This year (**August 2-4, 2019**) we will have **Sr. Margaret Carney** as our speaker. She is a very popular presenter so contact **Richard Spana** as soon as registration materials come out to reserve early!!

*continued on next page*

# LETTER FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER

*continued from page 3*

## ASSISTANCE

is offered to local fraternities by various councilors—our Councilors are stepping up more and more. Please note that we are willing to meet with councils and formation teams at times outside of visitations. We are also willing to help local fraternities with ongoing formation, initial formation and vocations.

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT HOLDING A FRATERNITY “COME AND SEE?”** Materials are on the National website. We can help you if you wish.

<https://secularfranciscansusa.org/guidelines-forms-other-resources/>



*(1<sup>st</sup> column 4<sup>th</sup> line)*

## REGIONAL GUIDELINES

Your ministers received a copy of the revised **Regional Guidelines**. This revised version was passed unanimously at the Chapter.

Thank you to **Chris Leone**, our Central Jersey Councilor and JPIC Chair, for bringing to a successful conclusion a project that has been going on for nearly three years!

Thank you also to **Nancy Conroy** and **Kate Asselin** who took on the early and middle stages of this project.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### THE TROUBADOUR

Is published four times a year with two issues mailed. Our Summer/Fall issue was wonderful and has received national accolades. We invite you to contribute articles. *(Note the next deadline for the Spring issue is April 15<sup>th</sup>, as indicated in this Winter issue - see page 32.*

We also have **E-VENTS** *(via email)* at the beginning of each month *(when you submit dates)*. This is a very special publication that promotes fraternity on the regional level. We encourage you to attend events that are announced. Get to know your brothers and sisters! Please send Anna Geraci your events to be listed. THANK YOU, ANNA GERACI for the extra effort you put into this publication!

Our **WEBSITE** has had more than 29,000 visits (Thanks to our Regional Secretary, Frances Acosta, the website will be getting a makeover sometime this year. Work has already begun.)

**FACEBOOK** - more than 9,850 friends of the page and counting!

**LISTSERV** - Thank you to Peggy Ledger!

**OTHER COMMUNICATIONS** (Thank you to local fraternity newsletter editors who have been sending us copies!) If you are a local newsletter editor, please share your publication with us.

Thank you to Dolores Jules for always providing us with the wonderful **“SAVE THE DATE”** cards for our larger gatherings.

*continued on next page*

# LETTER FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER

*continued from page 4*

## COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY ALONG WITH FORMATION AND PRAYER (OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS PARTICIPATES IN FRATERNITY OUTSIDE OF OUR REGION)

**IN APRIL**, I was honored to be invited to give a formation workshop to local formation directors in Five Franciscan Martyrs Region in Florida. The information presented was very well received.

**IN AUGUST**, Ed Wojciechowski, Bro. Lombardo and I attended the National Formation Visioning Workshop; and Fr. Frank and Bro. Lombardo both attended the National Spiritual Assistants workshop. Both were held in St. Louis, MO. You will be hearing much more about the Visioning and the follow-up workshop both in *The Troubadour* and the *TAU*.

**ALSO, IN AUGUST**, right after the Visioning Workshop, the National Executive Council asked if I would serve as Chair of the National Formation Commission. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit I said yes. I hope that my experiences on the National Level will not only be good for the National Fraternity, but will have an important effect on our Regional fraternity.

**IN OCTOBER**, I attended the National Chapter in St. Louis, MO. Our Region serves as an example of excellent practices for sharing on the National level. The National Executive Council is very grateful to our Korean members for always being willing to help with translations.

Our Vice Minister, Richard Spana, was nominated for the position of National Treasurer. Although he was not elected (*whew*), he made an excellent showing in the number of votes received for someone who was not known nationally.

As National Formation chair, I will also be serving as a non-voting member of the National Executive Council and on the board of the Duns Scotus Trust Fund.

### OUTREACH FROM THE REGION:

Our committee for **OUTREACH TO OUR RETIRED AND INFIRM FRIARS** is growing in numbers and enthusiasm. We thank the three coordinators: **Pat Franz, Jody Pihokker and Maddi Romaine**. We also thank all those of you who have been writing cards and making gifts for the friars. This service will also be starting for the friars of **St. Mary's Province** thanks to our Westchester Councilor, **Evie Pacheco-York**. We thank all members of our region for their generous response to various requests for donations throughout the year, at this time particularly the great response to the appeal for the California fire victims.

### GOALS MET (*this year*)

- We continue to follow through on Cluster programs in initial formation
- Accomplished the rewriting of the Regional Guidelines – thank you Chris!
- Visits to each fraternity at the rate of 10 or 12 per year
- Timely elections
- Communications—establishment of our **YouTube channel** – thank you Ed!
- Outreach to local fraternity members to increase regional participation
- Successful gatherings of the Regional Fraternity:  
Servant Leadership Workshop; Cluster Initial Formation; Convivenza; Annual Chapter and the Regional Retreat (with special gathering for those in formation).

*continued on next page*

# LETTER FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER

*continued from page 5*

## FUTURE GOALS

- **Vocations outreach** (Implementation of **Vocations Tool Box**) – Appoint a Vocations Chair
- **Regional Procedural Handbook** and **tool box** for Councilors
- **Regional Formation Handbook** (These two items are an extension of the Regional Guidelines and were previously in the Appendices.)
- **Mentoring** of local Council members
- **Spiritual Assistant training program**
- Continue **Initial Formation Workshops** on the Cluster/Regional level
- **Regional Workshops**
- Continue focus on the Rule. CONVIVENZA 2019 –  
*“THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN RULE AS SEEN THROUGH THE LENS OF THE PROLOGUE: IDENTITY AND CONVERSION.”*
- There will be a focus on **JPIC Awareness** on the local level
- We are still in need of a **Youth chair**
- We will be preparing for a **National Visitation** on November 8-9, 2019

WE ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO YOUR SUGGESTIONS, QUESTIONS AND SHARING. Please continue to keep in touch with the Regional Executive Council. They will certainly be reaching out to you!!

**WE ALL REALIZE THAT WE ARE PART OF OUR LOCAL AND REGIONAL FRATERNITIES.**

**WE ARE ALSO PART OF OUR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRATERNITIES.**

**HERE ARE SOME NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS — AS OF MARCH 2018:**

- There are 593 fraternities in the United States;
- 48 emerging fraternities
- 30 Regional Fraternities
- 11,807 professed members
- 1,762 in formation
- **THE 2021 QUINQUENNIAL** will be held in Phoenix, Ariz.
- The new national website is up and running. Material from the old website is being transferred every day

The new **NATIONAL WEBSITE:**

**ADDRESS IS:** [https://  
secularfranciscansusa.org/](https://secularfranciscansusa.org/) 

• Take a look at the **VOCATIONS**

**TOOL KIT** on website: [https://  
secularfranciscansusa.org/  
guidelines-forms-other-  
resources/](https://secularfranciscansusa.org/guidelines-forms-other-resources/) 

(1<sup>st</sup> column 4<sup>th</sup> line)

Be sure to view and discuss as a fraternity the **VIDEO ON THE RULE PUT OUT BY CIOFS:**

[https://  
secularfranciscansusa.org/2  
018/06/14/celebrate-the-  
rule-with-this-new-ciofs-video/](https://secularfranciscansusa.org/2018/06/14/celebrate-the-rule-with-this-new-ciofs-video/) 

**THE NATIONAL FORMATION COMM.** is working to move forward with the Visioning process begun this past summer. Formation Visioning Part II will take place in April 2019. Secular Franciscans around the country will be invited to contribute their talents and areas of expertise by serving on task forces which will address 10-12 specific areas of formation. Stay tuned!

*continued on next page*

## LETTER FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER

*continued from page 6*

May the Holy Spirit guide all of us to strengthen our vocation and our commitment to the Order. Through fraternity we will find our journey to the Father a little easier.

Please continue to pray for your Regional Executive Council. We are praying for you.

Peace and blessings,

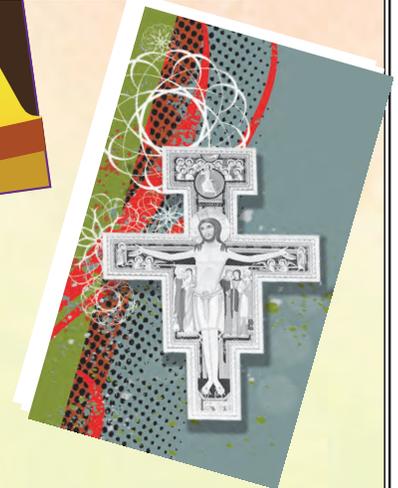


Diane F. Menditto, OFS  
Minister, Our Lady of the Angels Region

## 2019 REGION ANNUAL MEETING

# CONVIVENZA

**SATURDAY, MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2019**  
**9 a.m. — 3 p.m.**



### LOCATION:

**ST. BONAVENTURE CHURCH**

**Bishop Manning Hall, 174 Ramsey Street, Paterson, NJ**

**HOST FRATERNITY: St. John Vianney/St. Elizabeth of Hungary**

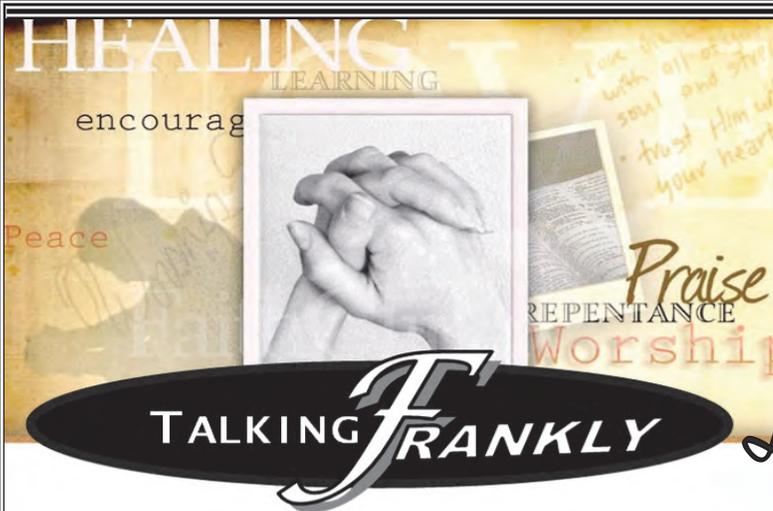
### AGENDA:

#### GUEST SPEAKER / TOPIC:

- **JUSTIN CARISIO, OFS, NATIONAL FORMATION COMMISSION**  
**THE OFS RULE AS SEEN THROUGH THE LENS OF THE PROLOGUE:  
IDENTITY AND CONVERSION.**
- **HOLY MASS**
- **BROWN BAG LUNCH**

**RSVP—** Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by March 15 directly to Diane at [dianefmdfm@aol.com](mailto:dianefmdfm@aol.com) so the team and the hosting fraternity are able to prepare.





## TALKING FRANKLY

## Lay Spirituality

**FATHER FRANK M. MCHUGH, OFM**  
**Regional Spiritual Assistant**  
**OLTAR REGION**  
[Fmchugh77@aol.com](mailto:Fmchugh77@aol.com)

**F**OR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, I HAVE BEEN USING MATERIAL FROM THE **F.U.N. MANUAL** TO TEACH OUR PROFESSED MEMBERS OF THE ST. JOHN VIANNEY/ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY FRATERNITY IN PATERSON FOR THEIR ONGOING FORMATION.

The main focus for these classes has been “The Church” and the “Identity of the lay person.”

These classes have led to some very healthy discussions among the members of the fraternity in understanding the meaning of the title of this article. What is Lay Spirituality, and why should we even bother to think about it?

Too often, the term “spirituality” has been restricted in our minds to ordained and religious vocations. However, the **F.U.N. Manual** is very clear in underscoring the importance of a Lay Spirituality as a way to discern where God is leading each of you. To be a follower of St. Francis prompts you to go further in your prayer experience through meditation and spiritual reading. This is why the vocation of the lay person has taken on new meaning.

Then, today I discovered an article on my computer written by a brother friar, Daniel P. Horan, for *National Catholic Reporter*

entitled, “Why should anyone care about Thomas Merton today?” December 10, 2018, marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his untimely death. In this article, Dan outlines three reasons why the life and writings of Thomas Merton are important for us today.

“First of all, Merton was one of the first Roman Catholic religious leaders before the Second Vatican Council to emphasize the importance of prayer and contemplation for all people and not just the religious ‘professionals’ (i.e., nuns and priests). More than a decade later, the Second Vatican Council highlighted this same point by speaking about ‘the Universal Call to holiness.’”

Secondly, Merton tied the importance of prayer to social justice. In his mind, both these areas are interrelated. Sadly though, for too many Catholics today, recognizing their equal importance has been a struggle

at best, and irrelevant at worse.

And finally, Dan states that he believes the most significant reason why people should care about Merton today is his unabashed humanity.

People can see how imperfect he was while, at the same time, he was a man seeking to find God in his daily life.

As we begin a New Year, I invite all of you to rediscover your own lay spirituality, perhaps by reading Merton’s book, “*Seeds of Contemplation.*”

I would also encourage you to consider finding a spiritual director for yourself. Such a person can be a wonderful companion who could help guide you on your spiritual journey.

I pray that this New Year will be especially inspiring for you as Brothers and Sisters of Penance.

**God Bless!**

# 2019 REGION RETREAT

**At** the beautiful retreat house of Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, NY, August 2-4, 2019.

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, single and double rooms, private bath and six full meals. Note there are a limited number of individual rooms.

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



Photo credit: Ed Wojciechowski, OFS



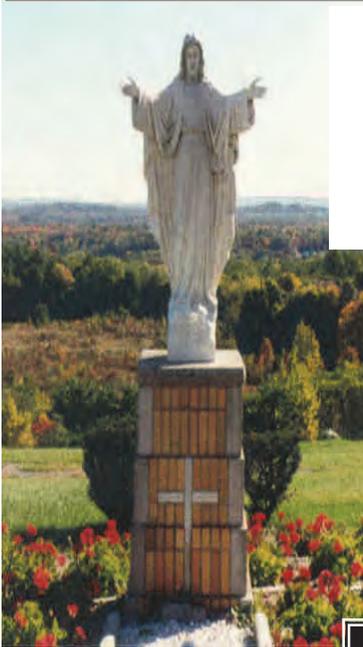
Photo credit: SOSF

## OUR ANNUAL RETREAT WILL BE LED BY SR. MARGARET CARNEY, OSF, STD

Sr. Carney was the 20<sup>th</sup> President of St. Bonaventure University, a position she held from 2004 until July 2016. She is the University's first president emeritus.

She holds master's degrees from Duquesne University (theology) and Saint Bonaventure University (Franciscan Studies) and her doctorate (theology) was awarded by the Franciscan University of Rome - the Pontifical University "Antonianum." Her own teaching and lecturing prior to her presidency encompassed service in the U.S., Europe and Asia. She holds nine honorary doctorates and is a member of the prestigious Century Club of Duquesne University.

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



## 2019 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: RICK SPANA, OFS • 170 E Hartsdale Avenue, Apt. 1-F, Hartsdale, NY 10530 • Phone: 914-478-2010.

The Registration Form is 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 Year in Review

**S**INCE THE FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE, THE TEAM HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON BUILDING AWARENESS AND HIGHLIGHTING THE WORK THAT IS GOING ON ACROSS THE REGION IN JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION INITIATIVES.

AT *CONVIVENZA* 2018, we presented “*Living Who We Say We Are*” which focused on the many apostolates our local fraternities support.

Organizations like

- *Operation Chillout*,
- *Several Sources Shelters*,
- *Birthright International*,
- *North Jersey Interfaith Cares* and • *Mychal’s Message* to name a few.

We convened a panel to discuss the work we are doing with *Operation Chillout*, *North Jersey Interfaith Cares* and a *YouTube* channel, *It’s Your World*, created by Dawn Rusinko, OFS, Minister of Our Lady of Guadalupe (formerly *Cortesia*) fraternity,

We have apostolates that are engaged in initiatives dealing with respect for life and human dignity, immigration,

gun control, climate, hunger, prison ministry, international and domestic missions and implementing *Laudato Si*.

Collaborating with the *Franciscan Action Network*, (FAN), St. Benedict the Moor fraternity participates in a *Franciscan Solidarity Table* (FST). The *Franciscan Solidarity Table* is a concept rooted in scripture. It is an invitation to come to the table and sit with one another by building relationships, facilitating the encounter with those in the margins, and responding to the cry of those in the margins through charity and social justice.

In the Summer/Fall 2018 issue of *The Troubadour*, we highlighted the great work that the St. Louis fraternity is doing. Their fundraising efforts, to name just one of

their many missions, raised enough money to construct over 20 clean water wells in Zambia. They have helped the Franciscan Sisters from the Pentecostal Peace Village with donations to support young children and teenagers in orphanages in Ecuador. They visit the Green Haven Correctional facility in upstate New York and meet with Korean American prisoners.

Also featured in *The Troubadour* was the *Trash to Treasure* program at St. Mary of the Assumption fraternity. They collected over 50 pounds of pop top tabs which Ronald McDonald House converts to cash that helps support the “house that love built” – a temporary home away from home for families of seriously ill or injured children being treated at nearby hospitals.

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Most Holy Name fraternity works with North Jersey Interfaith Cares, a charity whose current focus is on aiding refugees of the Syrian Civil War who have been relocated to our area. In October, Jim Andreano, ofs, from Most Holy Name fraternity and President of North Jersey Interfaith Cares presented at a Franciscan Federation sponsored event titled “Immigration/ Refugees: A Franciscan Perspective.”

There is much more great work going on across the region supporting Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. The Committee’s goal for 2018 was to create a road show and generate awareness to get our fraternities interested and active in the issues that are important to fostering Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. While we did not get to all the local fraternities, we learned that many were already doing good works and meeting the immediate needs of our less fortunate sisters and brothers locally and abroad.

What we need to do is a better job of promoting what our fraternities are doing so other fraternities can either be inspired to form an apostolate or support one of the existing fraternity apostolates in the region. Don’t be paralyzed by trying to figure out how to help. Ask another fraternity active in JPIC issues how you can help them!

For 2019, we will continue to promote what our fraternities are doing. Everything I wrote about so far was focused on the “Charitable Works” foot of the *Two Feet of Love In Action* campaign developed by the *U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops* (USCCB).

It is clear that we do much better with that foot than we do with the “Foot of Social Justice.” We are not as comfortable working to address the root causes of problems facing our communities by advocating for just public policies and helping to change the social structures that contribute to suffering and injustice at home and abroad.

In 2019, the Committee will explore being politically active. The Secular Franciscan Constitutions call us “to be in the forefront ... in the field of public life” and “collaborate as much as possible for the passage of just laws.” We will explore initiatives sponsored by the *Franciscan Action Network*, *Franciscans International*, the *Franciscan Federation* and the *Catholic Climate Covenant* and others that come to our attention. Our voices will be heard. There will be much more to come with updates provided in future issues of *The Troubadour* and other means of outreach.

My heartfelt thanks to the Committee – ofs’ members: Jim Andreano, Kelly Moltzen, Ed Johnson, Kate Asselin, Jody Pihokker, Siobhan O’Dwyer and Agnes Czaplinski – for their dedication, sacrifice and commitment to helping those less fortunate.

If you would like to join us or submit ideas for us to consider, please email me. We’d love to hear from you!

Peace,



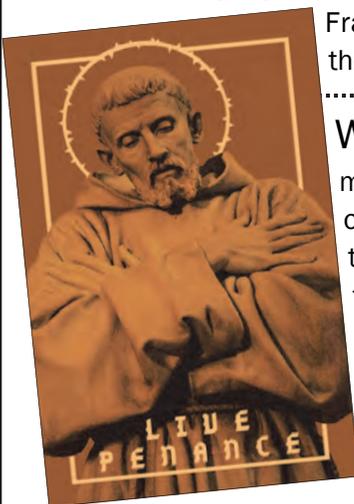
Christopher Leone, OFS

# National Visioning Workshop

**T**his past Labor Day weekend, I had the honor and privilege of representing our region at the National Visioning Workshop in Kansas City, Kansas.

The workshop was attended by regional Formation Directors from each of the regions in the United States as far away as Hawaii and Guam! The regional Spiritual Assistants also attended the workshop, including our own Fr. Frank and Br. Lombardo. Along with Diane Menditto, OFS, who serves as Chairperson on the national formation commission, our region was well represented at the workshop!

One of the highlights of the workshop was a presentation given by Fr. Dave Pivonka on the role of Franciscans to engage and transform the world. I'd like to share with you some of the highlights of Fr. Dave's presentation at the workshop in this article.



**We**, as Franciscans, must constantly transform ourselves so that we can transform the world through the Gospel.

In living our Rule, we “observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Francis of Assisi” and

devote ourselves “to a careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life, and life to gospel.” (OFS Rule, Article 4). We conform our “thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel calls conversion.” (OFS Rule, Article 7).

Our world has changed much over the past two decades. Today, we live in a world that lacks safety and is bombarded 24 hours a day with negativity on the news.

Many of the boundaries previously present in our society have disappeared. People are consumed with satisfying their own self needs often at the expense of others, especially the poor and marginalized. Many people have rejected God as the center of all that is good and true. We must recognize that this is the world that we live in and must engage on a daily basis.

So, how do we, as Franciscans, engage this culture? Fr. Dave said that we must not separate ourselves from this culture and from the world as this is anti-Christian. As Franciscans, we do not isolate ourselves in cloisters because the world is our cloister. We must remember that Christianity has always been counter-cultural and was never meant to be at the center of power in the world. Instead, we must infiltrate and transform the world.

This is what Jesus and Francis did during their lifetime and it is what we must do today.

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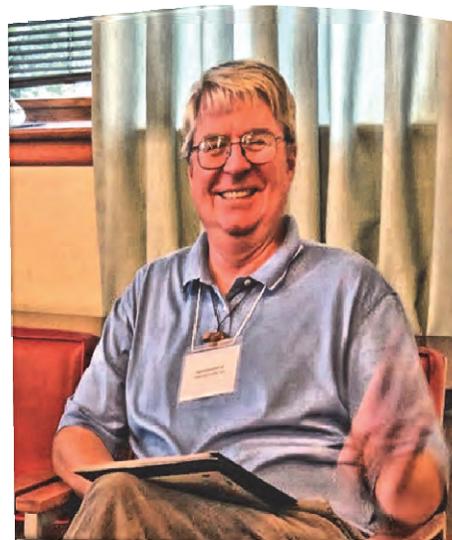


Photo credit: DIANE MENDITTO, OFS

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

# FORMATION

*continued from page 12*

Francis lived a life of holiness and so must we. He stood in contradiction to his age. He rejected a life of comfort and privilege and chose instead to conform his life to the gospels. Jesus animated Francis as he totally abandoned his will to God. When we say that we are followers of Francis, it means that we abandon our will in our life to make room for God's will in our life. An encounter with Jesus, and a personal loving relationship with Him, is the basis of our faith. As such, the goal of all Franciscan formation is to have an encounter with Christ, to recognize Him, and to serve Him in the poor and marginalized of our society.

The Gospels have the power to transform our lives and to experience Jesus. The surest sign of the presence of Jesus in our life and our fraternity is joy. Jesus is at the center of all we do and we experience Him in the places where the world says nothing good can be found. As Franciscans, we embrace the lepers in our society and serve those who otherwise would be rejected and abandoned. We welcome strangers and provide them with food, shelter and a place to rest. We see all creation, both animate and inanimate, as brother and sister and strive to live in harmony with the natural world. This is how we infiltrate and engage the world. This is how we transform the world so that the Kingdom of God may be present in the world today.

May God Bless you and keep you,



P.S. Fr. Dave is also an accomplished author and has developed a series of videos entitled "The Wild Goose is Loose" which is available for viewing on his website <https://thewildgooseisloose.com> These videos are an excellent source of Franciscan spirituality and may be used for ongoing formation in your fraternity. Check them out!



# SAINT CHARLES OF SEZZE 1613- 1670

BY PAULA MUTTER, OFS  
St. John Vianney/St. Elizabeth of  
Hungary Fraternity, Paterson, NJ



**O**ne Saturday evening, Marie Palazzone, Minister of the Saint John Vianney/Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Secular Franciscan Fraternity received a telephone call from Patricia Comerford. Patricia had found Marie's name on the Saint Bonaventure website. She said that her husband had recently passed away and told Marie that her husband was a former basketball coach who knew many of the friars. Patricia related that among her husband's belongings she found a box which contained an envelope which read, *Third Order of Saint Francis*. She told Marie the box and its contents should belong to the Secular Franciscan community. Patricia brought the box to the church office for the fraternity.

When Marie received the box she was grateful for it contained a relic of Saint Charles of Sezze. Marie brought the relic to the fraternity meeting where Reverend Frank McHugh, OFM, blessed it. The fraternity is truly privileged to have this relic where members can venerate and ask for intercessions at every meeting.

## SO WHO WAS SAINT CHARLES OF SEZZE ?

Charles was born to a poor, Italian family on October 22, 1613. His grandmother helped raise him. She had a tremendous devotion to the Catholic faith and because of her example and teachings, Charles acquired a great love of God and prayer. Although he attended school, his studies were not very successful. When he finished, he went to work in the fields. He enjoyed this work and especially the oxen. During these early years, he received the sacraments frequently and prayed often. When he was seventeen, he made a vow of chastity; reading often of the lives of Saints, he gained a desire to imitate them. When he was twenty years old, he became seriously ill, near death, and promised to join the Order of Friars Minor if he was healed. True to his vow, two years later Charles received his habit.

His visible piety had increased so much that his older brothers wanted to follow his example. Charles asked to be sent to serve in the missions in India, but was unable as he suffered from poor health. On May 19, 1636, Charles made his solemn profession. His parents wanted him to become a priest, but Charles never requested ordination. He worked in varied positions; a sacristan, a gardener, beggar, porter and a cook. He wasn't great at any of those jobs and even once set the kitchen of a house on fire.

*continued on next page*

continued from page 14

From 1640-1642, he lived in the convent of Saint John the Baptist at Piglio and at San Francesco at Castel Gandolfo. During Mass at San Giuseppe Church, as the precious Host was elevated, a beam of light pierced his side and he was left with an open wound. God gave Charles insight into many things that are divine and truths of religion that even the most learned theologians were astounded. Many of them consulted him on the most difficult questions. Pope Clement IX and Cardinals even asked Charles for advice. He wrote several books including, *The Grandeurs of the Mercies of God*. In 1656 he cared for the needs of people sick with cholera at Carpineto. In 1664, he was taken to San Francesco a Ripa to recuperate from malaria where he recovered.

On July 28, 1665, he had a vision of Pope Saint Victor and Saint Teresa of Avila. In December of 1669, Pope Clement IX, on his deathbed requested a blessing from Charles, but the friar himself was gravely ill, so Charles was brought to the pope on a chair. Charles asked Cardinal Giacomo Rospigliosi to bless the Pope with a special relic the Cardinal had brought, but the Pope wanted the frail friar to confer the blessing. The Pope died December 9, 1669.

By December 31, Charles was bed ridden with pleurisy, and died on January 6, 1670 in the convent attached to San Francesco a Ripa Church in Rome where he is buried. Pope Leo XII pronounced him blessed in 1882, and he was canonized a saint by Pope St. John XXIII on April 12, 1959.

Prior to his death, Charles predicted that Innocent X and Alexander VII and Clement IX would be elected as popes. He had also predicted Cardinal Emilio Altieri would be elected pope.

Charles believed that Saints are not born saints. He believed that God chooses the humble to do His work and if they respond to this divine grace, and reverently trust in His providence, that is their path to sainthood.

❦❦❦

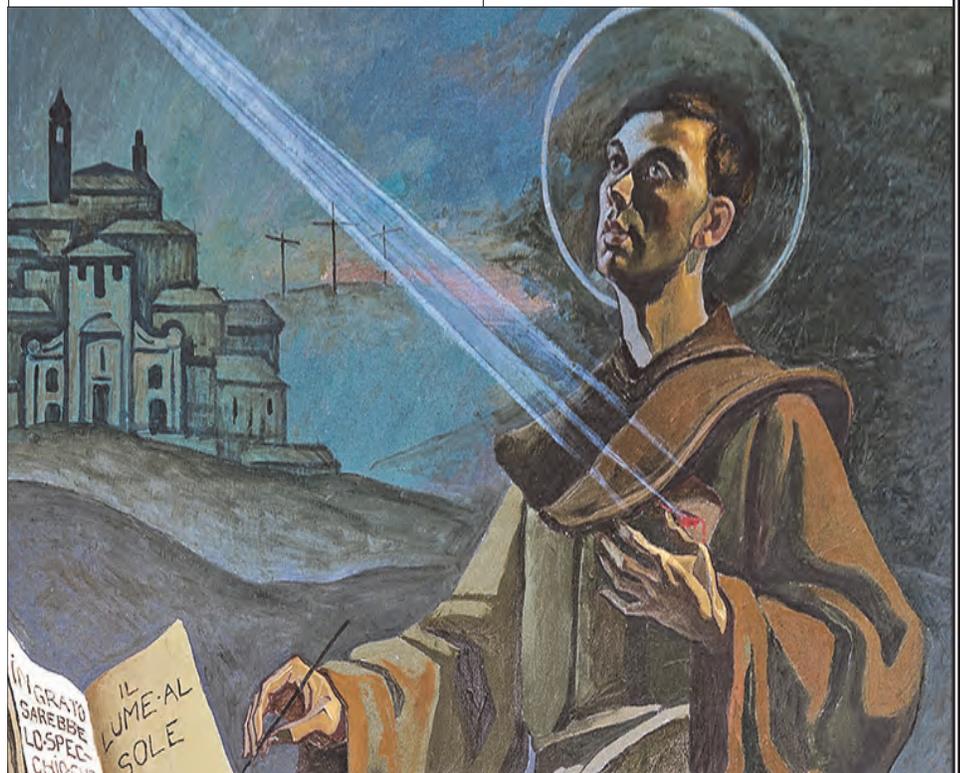
**OUR SECULAR FRANCISCAN  
COMMUNITY IS HUMBLY  
GRATEFUL FOR THE  
PRECIOUS GIFT OF  
THIS SAINT'S RELIC.**

❦❦❦

# PRAYER

from the Roman Breviary from the Commons for Religious

“Lord God, You kept Saint Charles faithful to Christ’s pattern of poverty and humility. May his prayers help us to live in fidelity to our calling and bring us to the perfection You have shown us in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”



Saint Charles from Sezze, Immaculate’s church, Latina | Antonio Sicurezza

# LETTER ON THE OCCASION OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROMULGATION OF THE OFS RULE



Circular letter of the Conference of General Ministers of the Franciscan First Order and Third Order Regular to all the friars and the brothers and sisters of the Secular Franciscan Order (OFS) and Franciscan Youth (YouFra) on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the promulgation of the OFS Rule.

## Dear sisters and brothers, may the Lord give you peace!

### 1. FORTY YEARS: A SYMBOLIC PERIOD

On June 24, 1978, the Holy See approved the renewed Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order with the publication of the apostolic letter, *Seraphicus Patriarcha*. It was the recently canonized Pope St. Paul VI, himself a postulant Franciscan tertiary in his youth, who gave this gift to the Franciscan family just a few weeks before his death. Forty years have passed since the promulgation, and this anniversary seems to us a fitting occasion to address to you this celebratory letter. As is well known, in the Bible the number forty is charged with symbolic meaning; the span of forty years is first of all a generation and also seems to be the time for mature decisions. Therefore, this seems an opportune moment to thank the Lord for all that the sisters and brothers of the OFS are already living and to give new encouragement to their presence, which is invaluable for the whole Franciscan family.

### 2. THE SFO IN THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY

“The Seraphic Patriarch Saint Francis of Assisi, during his life and even after his beautiful death, not only attracted many to serve God in the religious family founded by him but also drew numerous members of the laity to enter his communities while remaining in the world as far as possible.” Thus the beginning of the apostolic letter of Pope St. Paul VI, issued in 1978, recalls how various lifestyles of Christian discipleship in the Church emerged from the experience of St. Francis. “Among the spiritual families raised up by the Holy Spirit in the Church (cf. *Lumen gentium* 43), the Franciscan family unites all the members of the People of God: laity, religious, and priests, all of whom recognize the call to Christian discipleship in the footprints of St. Francis of Assisi. (Pope Venerable Pius XII, *Speech to Tertiaries I*, 1.7.1956).

In different ways and forms, but in a living and mutual communion, they aim to make present their common charism of the Seraphic Father in the life and mission of the Church.” (cf. *Apostolicam Actuositatem* 4,8; *OFS Rule I*, n. 1)

It would seem that the possibility of serving the Lord fully in every state of life was already in the intuition of Francis. Thus, in some sense he anticipated the wisdom that every Christian in the Church is called to holiness, that wisdom that Vatican II emphasized strongly and Pope Francis has recently recalled in his apostolic exhortation *Gaudete et exsultate*: “Strengthened by so many and such great means of salvation, all the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord – each in his or her own way – to that perfect holiness by which the Father himself is perfect.” (n. 10, quoting *Lumen gentium* 11)

In fact, the Franciscan Third Order (today, the Secular Franciscan Order,) has been enriched in its history by many figures of holiness; it is enough to think of Angela of Foligno, Bridget of Sweden, Catherine of Genoa, Elizabeth of Hungary, Gianna Beretta Molla, John Bosco, John XIII, Giuseppe Moscati, King Louis IX of France, Margaret of Cortona, Pius X, and Thomas More, just to name a few of the most noted saints.

To all of the saints and blessed is added the most recent, Veronica Antal, beatified on September 22, 2018. With this “marvelous and varied flourishing of Franciscan holiness” (collect for the feast of All Franciscan Saints), the Franciscan Third Order has truly shown itself indispensable for the full expression of our charism.

*continued on next page*

### 3. THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY AND THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

The challenges facing the Church of today are many and complex. However, the time in which we live is also certainly a *kairos*, a time of special grace in which it is possible to experience a “new chapter of evangelization,” as Pope Francis invites us to do in his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: “In all the baptized, from first to last, the sanctifying power of the Spirit is at work, impelling us to evangelization. ... In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization.” (119-120) As Franciscans, we see ourselves as particularly in harmony with the invitation of the Pope to live as a Church that goes out toward the geographic and existential peripheries of the world, so full of divisions, injustices, and sufferings. We are called to help build a universal evangelical fraternity, to work for the care of creation and for peace and justice, with a special consideration for the poorest and most needy, after the example of our Seraphic Father Francis, who “was particularly concerned for God’s creation and for the poor and outcast. ... He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.” (*Laudato Si’* 10) Such an complex and demanding task requires a proactive and effective collaboration, as well as visible communion, among the members of the Franciscan family. In our time, the contribution to this collaboration of the brothers and sisters of the Secular Franciscan Order is a particularly urgent necessity.

### 4. A MUTUAL CARE

Collaboration and communion among the members of the Franciscan family, today more than ever, must express itself in a reciprocity of care and mutual enrichment. “In Church Communion the states of life by being ordered one to the other are thus bound together among themselves. [...] They are *different yet complementary*, in the sense that each of them has a basic and unmistakable character which sets each apart, while at the same time each of them is seen in relation to the other and placed at each other’s service. (Pope St. John Paul II, *Christifideles laici*, 55; italics original)

On the one hand, the Church has entrusted to the friars of the First Order and TOR the spiritual and pastoral care of the OFS, as is recalled in the Rule: “As a concrete sign of communion and co-responsibility, the councils on various levels, in keeping with the constitutions, shall ask for suitable and well prepared religious for spiritual assistance. They should make this request to the superiors of the four religious Franciscan families, to whom the Secular Fraternity has been united for centuries.”

(OFS Rule, chapter III, n. 26)

On the other hand, those belonging to the OFS are called to express the secular aspect of the Franciscan charism, which is what characterizes their spirituality and apostolic life, living fully their specific call, supporting also by their prayer and action the vocation of the friars with whom they share the charism.

### 5. CONCLUSION

Dear sisters and brothers, on this fortieth anniversary of the approval of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, we invite you to thank the Lord for the gift of our common Franciscan vocation and to renew your apostolic zeal that each might live his or her own mission in a creative way.

For our part we ask for all of you an abundance of divine blessings through the intercession of the our Seraphic Father St. Francis and the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Franciscan family.

Fr. Roberto Genuin, OFM Cap, *Minister Generalis*  
Fr. Nicholas Polichnowski, TOR, *Minister Generalis*  
Fr. Marco Tasca, OFM Conv, *Minister Generalis*  
Fr. Michael Anthony Perry, OFM, *Minister Generalis*

Romae, 23 XII 2018

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# St. Conrad of Parzham, OFM ~~1818-~~ 1894



**S**T. CONRAD SPENT MOST OF HIS LIFE AS PORTER IN ALTOETTING, BAVARIA, LETTING PEOPLE INTO THE FRIARY AND INDIRECTLY ENCOURAGING THEM TO LET GOD INTO THEIR LIVES.

Conrad was not a founder of an order, a priest or a doctor yet his love of God and his devotion to Mary made him a hero of Christ. Conrad excelled in the virtue of Charity, showing itself in love of God and neighbor, devotion to the Holy Eucharist and a childlike confidence in Mary, the Mother of God. Conrad received a good training in Catholicism from his parents whom he helped on the farm. We are told that he spent many hours in prayer while going about his work, so it may not be surprising that this holy youth sought entry to the Capuchins after attending a mission in his town.

He entered as a humble lay brother. In his notes we find written, "The Cross is my book." Because Christ had given all to us, Conrad decided to give all he could possibly give for Christ and souls. He held the office of Porter at Altoetting for over forty years. As the monastery was a place of pilgrimage, it was besieged by a thousand calls a day. To young and old alike, to polite and impolite, the saint was kind and gentle.

By living in union with God, he was able to let Christ act through him. In answering questions and discussing God, he led many souls to the Divine Redeemer. Conrad ate little, slept less, and worked hard, but always in communion with Christ, the God of his heart. He had a great longing for the Eucharist and served Mass with great devotion. The Mass was the greatest joy of Conrad's long and hard life. Whatever extra time he had from his work, the Saint spent before the Blessed Sacrament.

To the strong devotion to the Eucharist and the Crucified Lord, Conrad added a special devotion to Mary. She was his Queen and Advocate in all his trials and above all his guide to Christ. He prayed before the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows and the Crucifix in the Porter's Office and was always ready to spread devotion to Mary by the distribution of Rosary Beads.

Brother Conrad spent 41 years at his post at the door, attending to this job with great tact and attention. Indeed, he was known for his patience and respect for others, humility, and piety; he was always willing to assist others and never lazy. No one ever saw him in a bad mood or heard him utter a useless word. He became a silent preacher, who infused respect in the visitors, converted sinners, consoled the afflicted and helped the poor.

Once he wrote to a friend: "My life is to love God, suffer, and marvel in ecstasies and

prayers about the love God has for us, poor creatures. His love never ends. There is nothing in my occupations that separates me from this union with God. My book is the Cross. It suffices for me to look at it to know what I should do."

Conrad served his last Mass on April 18, 1894; he resigned his office of porter, three days later, while the children whom he had taught the Rosary, recited it outside his window, Conrad died.

His heroic virtues and the miracles he performed, won for him the distinction to be ranked among the Blessed, by Pope Pius XI, in the year 1930.

Four years later, the same Pope, approving additional miracles, which had been performed, solemnly inscribed his name in the list of Saints.

The ever-patient Conrad was canonized in 1934. The feast of St. Conrad is celebrated on April 21.

## FRATERNITY SPOTLIGHT

Photo credit: ALFONSO ZAMBRANO, OFS



BY ALFONSO ZAMBRANO, OFS



### SAINT CONRAD OF PARZHAM

#### FRATERNITY

**ESTABLISHMENT DATE**  
**SEPTEMBER 29, 1965**

**FRATERNITY MEETINGS**  
are held ON THE 1ST  
WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

**LANGUAGE SPOKEN:**  
SPANISH

**MEETING LOCATION:**  
ST. ANN'S CHURCH RECTORY  
704 JEFFERSON STREET  
HOBOKEN, NJ 07039

**MINISTER**  
ALFONSO ZAMBRANO, OFS

**CONTACT EMAIL**  
Zluisal@yahoo.com



**I**t is notable that most members of our fraternity are from the St. Joseph of the Palisades parish in West New York, New Jersey, where we serve as Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors and visit sick parishioners. Our devotions include praying the Rosary, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I lead the Divine Mercy Prayer Group of St. Joseph and organize trips to the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Massachusetts.

As members of St. Conrad's Fraternity, we jointly volunteer at the Breadline Apostolate of St. Francis of Assisi Church on 31<sup>st</sup> street in Manhattan; and also collect different items for the Southwest Missions.

Looking back, it wasn't so long ago that our fraternity was in danger of being deactivated. Where once St. Conrad's held a membership count of over a hundred, by 2015, it had dwindled down to the point that there were barely enough members to cover the offices for a Council.

In 2016, after the July 6 election of a new council, we were designated as the first Spanish speaking fraternity of the Our Lady of the Angels Region. Today our fraternity is standing strong and growing. We attribute this to the fact that many people are praying for us, for our perseverance, and for the guidance and blessings of the Holy Spirit.

All the members of our fraternity are just ordinary people, but we share an extraordinary will towards serving others in need, in following the steps of St. Francis of Assisi and the Scriptures as our way of life.

# San Conrado de Pazham, OFM <sup>1818-</sup><sub>1894</sub>

**S**an Conrado pasó la mayor parte de su vida como portero en Altötting, Baviera, dejando entrar a la gente al convento y alentar indirectamente a dejar a Dios en sus vidas.

Conrado no era un fundador de una orden, un sacerdote o un médico, sin embargo, su amor a Dios y su devoción a María en un héroe de Cristo hizo. Conrado destacó en la virtud de la caridad, que muestra en el amor de Dios y del prójimo, la devoción a la Sagrada Eucaristía y una confianza filial en María, la Madre de Dios. Conrado recibió una buena formación en el catolicismo de sus padres, a quienes ayudó en la granja. Se dice que pasó muchas horas en oración mientras que va sobre su trabajo, por lo que no puede sorprender que este joven santo solicita la entrada de los Capuchinos, después de asistir a una misión en su ciudad.



Él entró como hermano lego humilde. En sus notas encontramos escrito: “La cruz es mi libro.” Debido a que Cristo había dado todo a nosotros, Conrad decidió dar todo lo que podía dar a Cristo ya las almas.

Ocupó el cargo de Porter en Altoetting durante más de 40 años. A medida que el monasterio era un lugar de peregrinación, fue sitiada por miles de llamadas al día. Para jóvenes y adultos, que educado y maleducado, el santo era amable y gentil. Al vivir en unión con Dios, fue capaz de dejar que Cristo actúa a través de él. Al responder preguntas y discutir Dios, llevó a muchas almas a lo Divino Redentor.

Conrad comía poco, dormía menos, y trabajó duro, pero siempre en comunión con Cristo, el Dios de su corazón. Tenía un gran deseo de la Eucaristía y sirve misa con gran devoción. La misa fue la mayor alegría de la larga y dura vida de Conrad.

Sea cual sea el tiempo extra que tenía de su trabajo, el santo pasó ante el Santísimo Sacramento.

Para la gran devoción a la Eucaristía y el Señor Crucificado, Conrado añadió una especial devoción a María. Ella era su reina y Abogado en todos sus ensayos y, sobre todo, a su guía a Cristo. Él oró ante la imagen de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores y el crucifijo en la Oficina del Porter y siempre estaba dispuesto a difundir la devoción a María por la distribución de Rosarios.

Hermano Conrado pasó 41 años en su puesto en la puerta, la atención a este trabajo con mucho tacto y atención. De hecho, era conocido por su paciencia y respeto por los demás, la humildad y la piedad, sino que siempre estaba dispuesto a ayudar a los demás y nunca perezoso. Nadie lo vio de mal humor o le oyó pronunciar una palabra inútil. Se convirtió en un predicador en silencio, que infunde respeto en los visitantes, convierten los pecadores, consolaba a los afligidos y ayudó a los pobres.

Una vez le escribió a un amigo:

“Mi vida es amar a Dios, sufrir y maravillarse en éxtasis y plegarias

sobre el amor que Dios tiene para nosotros, pobres criaturas.

Su amor no se acaba nunca. No hay nada en mis ocupaciones que me separa de la unión con Dios. Mi libro es la Cruz. Es suficiente para mí verlo para saber lo que debo hacer “.

Conrado sirvió su última misa el 18 de abril 1894, renunció a su cargo de portero, tres días más tarde, mientras que los que le había enseñado el Rosario, recitado fuera de su ventana, Conrad murió.

Sus virtudes heroicas y los milagros que realizó, le ganaron la distinción que se encuentra entre la Virgen, por el Papa Pío XI, en el año 1930.

Cuatro años después, el mismo Papa, que aprueba milagros adicionales, que se había realizado, solemnemente inscribió su nombre en la lista de los Santos.

El siempre paciente Conrad fue canonizado en 1934.

La fiesta de San Conrado se celebra el 21 de abril.

# SISTER DEATH 2017-2018



## † LURENA JONES, OFS

**Called home to the Lord – November 18, 2017.**

Lurena was a member of the ST. JOHN FRATERNITY in NY, NY.  
Her Profession was celebrated December 31, 1978.

## † ROSE DE LUCA, OFS

**Called home to the Lord – November 27, 2017.**

Rose was a member of the ST. JOHN FRATERNITY in NY, NY.  
Her Profession was celebrated February 24, 1965.

## † LILIA S. LOPEZ, OFS

**Called home to the Lord – June 22, 2018.**

Lilia was a member of the ST. JOHN FRATERNITY in NY, NY.  
Her Profession was celebrated November 23, 1986.

## † BERNICE SUTCH, OFS - Called home to the Lord – July 20, 2018.



Bernice was a member of the SACRED HEART FRATERNITY in Yonkers, NY. Her Profession was celebrated May 24, 1964. In a tribute written by the fraternity Minister to her “good friend and fraternity mother,” Benedicta Fonacier remembers Bernice as a wonderful person. Even in her frail condition, she always attended fraternity meetings until the last month, before she was called by Sister Death. She would always tell me, “I will never miss it (*meetings*) because I love St. Francis and St. Clare.” She was very generous, every time I saw her, she would slip

in a donation to our ministry for the poor. She always wore a big smile, even though I knew she was suffering. Bernice was a role model and my fraternity mother. We will all miss her!

## † MARIA BODAK, OFS - Called home to the Lord - August 3, 2018.

Maria was a member of the ST. STEPHEN FRATERNITY in Perth Amboy, NJ.  
Her Profession was celebrated June 29, 1980.

## † ANITA DIAZ, OFS - Called home to the Lord - October 21, 2018.

Anita was a member of the ST. JOHN FRATERNITY in NY, NY,  
Her Profession was celebrated November 24, 1986.

## † MARY ANN RICCITELLI, OFS - Called home to the Lord - Dec. 2, 2018.

Mary Ann was a member of the MOST HOLY NAME FRATERNITY in Little Falls, NJ. Her Profession was celebrated January 3, 2009.

**L**ORD, 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.**

# BRIEFS

## Fraternity UPDATES

### TRANSFERS

• **BRO. LOMBARDO D'AURIA, OFM CAP.**, who served as one of our regional spiritual assistants, left our region in January 2019 to begin a new assignment for the Capuchin Province of the Sacred Stigmata of St. Francis in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.  
*See page 29 for further details.*

### NEW APPOINTMENTS

• **BRO. JIM McINTOSH, OFM**, appointed Spiritual Assistant for St. Anne Fraternity #101, Fair Lawn, NJ.

• **BRO. ELIJAH PERRI, CFR**, appointed Spiritual Assistant for Servants of God Fraternity #168, Yonkers, NY.

### FRATERNITY NAME AND MEETING CHANGE

**CORTESIA FRATERNITY #118, MIDDLETOWN, NJ** has a fraternity name change (*approved on January 3, 2019*) to **OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**. Their meeting location is in St. Anthony of Padua School, 121 Bridge Ave., Red Bank, NJ 07701. New meeting time is every 3rd Sunday, beginning with 10:30 a.m. Mass, meeting follows immediately afterwards.

### COUNCIL CHANGES

**Korean Martyrs Fraternity #119, NYC;**

• Minister is **THERESA (JONG OK) YUN, OFS.**

**Servants of God Fraternity #168, YONKERS, NY;**

• Formation Director is **MARISE FRANGIE, OFS,**

• Secretary is **TOM SCHEURING, OFS**

**St. Stephen's Fraternity #128, PERTH AMBOY, NJ;**

• Treasurer is **BOZENNA JEDRA, OFS,**

• Director of Formation is **RENATA LES, OFS.**

## JUBILEE

**SPEAKING OF ST. STEPHEN'S FRATERNITY . . .**

**2018 marked their 110<sup>th</sup> Fraternity Jubilee which they celebrated with a multitude of events on Oct. 26, 27, 28.**

**This trilogy celebration was titled as a Secular Franciscan Order Retreat in which the fraternity thanked God for the many blessings received. It was a celebration filled with gratitude, personal strength and spiritual renewal.**

**Celebrations throughout the anniversary weekend included daily Mass, evening Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by worship prayer and the first of three separate conferences.**

**Devotions throughout the Triduum event celebrations included Stations of the Cross, Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet in both English and their native Polish language.**

**Saturday featured the remaining conferences, in which fraternity members introduced themselves and the Secular Franciscan Order, along with the renewal of member vows during Holy Mass. The late afternoon featured a movie presentation.**

**Lunch and dinner was offered to all who attended the Saturday events; sweets, beverages and coffee were available throughout the remaining day.**

**Sunday morning began with a solemn procession and presentation of relics of the Polish Martyrs from Pariacoto. During Holy Mass, individual blessings of the Relics were offered, after the Mass followed individual adoration of the relics.**

# ELECTIONS

## ELECTION RESULTS of October 28, 2018 SACRED HEART FRATERNITY # 146, YONKERS, NY



Photo credit: RICHARD SPANA, OFS

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL PICTURED ABOVE L-TO-R:  
FRANCES ACOSTA, OFS, Formation Director; CORA MADRAZO, OFS, Treasurer;  
EVIE PACHECO-YORK, OFS, Vice Minister; FR. JOHN MCHUGH, OFM, Spiritual Assistant;  
BENEDICTA "BENNIE" FONACIER, OFS, Minister; CHERYL JENKINS, OFS, Secretary.

## ELECTION RESULTS of November 14, 2018 SAN DAMIANO FRATERNITY # 139, NEWTON, NJ



Photo credit: DEBBIE WICKHAM, OFS

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL PICTURED ABOVE L-TO-R:  
JO ANN JENSEN, OFS, Vice Minister; CINDY BELIVEAU, OFS, Secretary; BOB HINKES, OFS, Treasurer;  
HUGO BADER, OFS, Director of Formation; KEN MAJEWSKI, OFS, Minister.

# ELECTIONS

## ELECTION RESULTS of November 17, 2018 DIVINE MERCY FRATERNITY # 166, CLIFTON, NJ

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL  
PICTURED OPPOSITE L-TO-R:

**Fr. Waclaw Sokolowski,**  
OFM Conv., Pastor, St. John  
Kanty Parish; Friar witness  
for the Election.

**ALFREDA PAWELSKA, OFS**  
Formation Director

**TERESA ZABOREK, OFS**  
Secretary

**JADWIGA SZABLOWSKI, OFS**  
Minister

**RENATA DLUGA, OFS**  
Treasurer

**JADWIGA KARBOWSKA, OFS**  
Vice Minister



Photo credit: DEBBIE WICKHAM, OFS

## ELECTION RESULTS of November 17, 2018 ST. PETER FRATERNITY # 113, SOMERSET, NJ



Photo credit: CHRIS LEONE, OFS

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL PICTURED ABOVE L-TO-R:

**FRANCIS CRYAN, OFS, Treasurer; JOSEPH MCKENNA, OFS, Vice Minister; EVELYN LEHR, OFS, Secretary;**  
**MARY-FRANCES REAVEY, FORMATION DIRECTOR; ED JOHNSON, Minister.**

# ELECTIONS

**ELECTION RESULTS of January 10, 2019**  
**ST. FRANCIS FRATERNITY # 137, HACKENSACK, NJ**

Photo credit: JOE WICKHAM, OFS



**NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL PICTURED ABOVE L-TO-R:**

**LAURA BUDA, OFS, Secretary; DIANE MENDITTO, OFS, Formation Director; HARRY HENKY, OFS, Vice Minister; ED ATWOOD, OFS, Minister; DEACON RON ROMANO, Councilor; TONY BUDA, OFS, Treasurer.**

# VISITATIONS

**ST. STEPHEN  
FRATERNITY  
# 128**

**PERTH AMBOY, NJ  
OCTOBER 21, 2018**

**ST. LOUIS  
FRATERNITY  
# 125**

**WOOD RIDGE, NJ  
NOVEMBER 11, 2018**

**OUR LADY  
OF GUADALUPE  
FRATERNITY # 118**

**RED BANK, NJ  
NOVEMBER 18, 2018**

**ST. MARY OF THE  
ASSUMPTION  
FRATERNITY # 121**

**POMPTON LAKES, NJ  
DECEMBER 11, 2018**

# PROFESSIONS



*Congratulations to the newly professed members of St. Benedict the Moor fraternity upon their permanent profession October 29, 2018.*

- FRANCESCA CIOLINO-VOLANO
- ARTIE HASEGAWA
- DOLORES HENRY
- KELLY MOLTZEN
- ZENOBIA ZIELINSKA

# PROFESSIONS

by TONI MACONI, OFS

*They have been made living members of the church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by profession. Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words. Called like Saint Francis to rebuild the Church and inspired by his example, let them devote themselves energetically to living in full communion with the pope, bishops, and priests, fostering an open and trusting dialog of apostolic effectiveness and creativity.*

— *The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, Chapter 2: 6*

Profession into a Secular Franciscan Fraternity is always a joyous affair. For the particular fraternity it means growth, life, and a continuation of the vision set forth by Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi. This joy was abundant at St. Mary's-Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Feb. 3, when four candidates were professed into the Little Portion fraternity #133. The Mt. Vernon church, packed with family and fraternity members, as well as parishioners, celebrated (sometimes quite loudly) with **DIANE PAPA, PHIL PAPA, GINI RICCA, and ELISSA MILAN** as they stood proudly and confidently to voice their desire to continue on their Franciscan journey, thereby proclaiming, in the words of the OFS Rule, "Christ by their life and words."

Fraternity Minister Pat Spana, OFS professed the members, while Formation Director Deacon Joe Patrona, OFS and Deacon Vincent Verlezza, OFS assisted. Fr. André Cirino, OFM, the fraternity's spiritual director, celebrated Mass. In his homily he challenged the newly professed and existing fraternity members to be a "disturbing presence" — a prophetic presence — in the world. A joyful call, yes, to walking more fully in the footsteps of Francis and Clare!



Photos credit: TONI MACONI, OFS

◀ From left: GINI RICCA, PHIL PAPA, DIANE PAPA and ELISSA MILAN during the ceremony at St. Mary's-Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Feb. 3.

▶ From left: PHIL PAPA, DIANE PAPA, GINI RICCA and ELISSA MILAN with a cake made by Christine Chenard, the daughter of Vice Minister Fran Calaicone, during a celebration in the church's hall following profession.



# PROFESSIONS

**DIVINE MERCY FRATERNITY # 166** of Clifton, NJ, celebrated the profession of members **BEATA GRUBKA, OFS**, Stratford, NJ, and **RENATA DLUGA, OFS**, Clifton, NJ, who were professed May 20, 2018.



Photo Credit: DIVINE MERCY FRATERNITY



Photos credit: DIANE MENDITTO, OFS

**ST. FRANCIS FRATERNITY # 137** of Hackensack, NJ, joyfully celebrated the November 8, 2018 Profession of members, (pictured above L-to-R): **DOMENICA DEMAIO PANUCCIO, OFS**; and **ANGELA MARINIELLO, OFS**; pictured with **FR. FRANCISCO ARREDONDO, OFM CAP.**



# PROFESSIONS



# & ADMISSIONS

**ST. JOHN VIANNEY FRATERNITY #135** of Colonia, NJ has been greatly blessed. They celebrated the 2018 profession of **GRETCHEN HOGAN, OFS**, Westfield, on June 13. *(no photo)*

Photo Credit: **DOLORES JULES, OFS**



◀ ON **OCTOBER 3, 2018**, SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT, **REV. KUBIAK**; MINISTER, **TESS MUTUC**; AND FORMATION DIRECTOR, **MARK COSMAS**, admitted members: *(pictured L-to-R)* **ANNA MUTUC**, Fords; **ANNE MARIE NAPPI**, Rahway; and **KERRY DAWN NOTO**, Parlin.

Photo Credit: **GRETCHEN HOGAN, OFS**



▶ In 2019, the fraternity celebrated the profession of **DOROTHY SEWING, OFS**, Carteret, on February 10. Rev. Joseph Kubiak, S.A. & Pastor of St. John Vianney Church, Colonia, celebrated the 2:00 p.m. profession Mass.

PICTURED OPPOSITE PHOTO *L-to-R*: Paul Di Lena, Tess Mutuc, **DOROTHY SEWING** and Mark Cosmas during the profession. Dorothy transferred to the fraternity in September 2018 from Franciscan Univ., Steubenville, Ohio.

▶ On the wonderful feast of the Immaculate Conception, **PORZIUNCOLA FRATERNITY # 136** of East Hanover, NJ, invested Inquirers

**HYACINTH LAWRENCE**, Montvale;  
**CARLA GUERRIERO**, WEST ORANGE;  
and **THERESE STEINEL**, PARSIPPANY.

with Tau crosses and welcomed them to Candidacy.

Photo credit: **CHRIS LEONE, OFS**



▶ PICTURED OPPOSITE PHOTO *L-to-R*: **FR. MATTHEW KRANC**, SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT; **HYACINTH LAWRENCE**, **CARLA GUERRIERO** AND **THERESE STEINEL**.

# SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY

## *OLTAR Regional Communications*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During the last two years, many of you got to know Bro. Lombardo D'Auria, OFM Cap., who served us well as one of our regional spiritual assistants. Brother also served as local spiritual assistant to St. Conrad Fraternity in Hoboken and attended many gatherings of St. Francis Fraternity, Hackensack.

At the end of January, Brother left our region to begin a new assignment for the Capuchin Province of the Sacred Stigmata of St. Francis in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Bro. Lombardo and Fr. Nick Mormando (former Stigmata Provincial Minister) now reside in the newly established Padre Pio friary. Fr. Nick will be serving as chaplain to a local hospital and Brother will serve as Director of Faith Formation at St. Jerome school where the friary is located.

Brother assures us that he will continue working with the Secular Franciscan Order. He will serve as spiritual assistant to two fraternities that previously did not have a spiritual assistant. As a matter of fact, one of those fraternities is the fraternity where he was professed as a Secular Franciscan before becoming a friar. Although we will miss Brother very much, we know that this move will promote vocations to Stigmata Province and to the OFS through Bro. Lombardo's and Fr. Nick's service to the people of God. Please keep both Brother and Father in your prayers. They are praying for us.

Peace and blessings,

*Diane F. Menditto, OFS*

Diane F. Menditto, OFS

Chair,  
National Formation Commission  
Minister,  
Our Lady of the Angels Region





STAGES OF CANONIZATION IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Servant of God → Venerable → Blessed → Saint

## Secular Franciscan proclaimed Venerable by the Pope

NEWS REPORT SUBMITTED BY RONALD L. PIHOKKER, OFS

BIO COMPILED FROM WIKIPEDIA AND OTHER SOURCES

### LODOVICO COCCAPANI

23 June 1849–  
14 Nov. 1931

**B**orn in Pisa to bourgeois parents, in 1874 at the age of 25, he decided to devote his life to the poor and soon discovered the charism of St. Francis of Assisi. He felt that Francis' guidelines in his Rule were things that he could do in Pisa as his true calling and so decided to join the Secular Franciscan Order. He vested in their habit on 7 Dec. 1907, and his profession on 8 Dec. 1908. He also began working for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society based in Pisa in 1894.

Lodovico served as a teacher and educated children who had been abandoned and or neglected. He never married and lived in Pisa with his priest brother, Lionello, and his two sisters, Teresina and Rosina.

He visited prisons and frequented those places in order to reach out to the prisoners and bring them a message of hope as well as to teach them the messages contained in the Gospel while attempting to emulate the merciful love of Jesus Christ.

Coccapani was devoted to the Eucharist and was an ardent devotee of the Blessed Mother. His confessor and close friend was the Cardinal Carlo Rossi (*future Servant of God*) and he had also met and worked with Blessed Giuseppe Toniolo. He was also close with Cardinal Pietro Maffi who invested Coccapani with the civil class honor of the Knight of the Pontifical Order of San Gregorio Magno.

In 1914, he became President of the Pisan detail of the Vicentian Conference and carried out the duties of the organization during World War I; it was during that conflict that Lodovico took care of war orphans.

He died at his home in Pisa, the evening of 14 Nov. 1931, due to the pneumonia he had contracted earlier that week. He was given a simple funeral and buried in a simple grave which followed the instructions he had laid out in his will, and also stipulated that his home (*now a museum*) was to become a kindergarten.



*continued on next page*

# Cause for Sainthood continues

In the Pisan parish of Saint Francis, a Poor Person's kitchen, named *MENSA DEI POVERI*, was dedicated to him following his death, where it continues to serve people in need.



His influence became widespread in Pisa and the surrounding areas to the point where he earned the moniker of the "Knight of God."

The canonization process commenced in 1949 in Pisa - he therefore became titled as a Servant of God - and lasted until 1966 at which point the cause became blocked. It remained in that inactive state until 1989 when the Archbishop of Pisa Alessandro Plotti had it reopened. The cause continued due to this new impetus and was closed on 15 November 1996.

On 28 Jan. 1997, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints granted their formal approval to the cause with the "*nihil obstat*" (*nothing against*) declaration and around that time issued a decree validating the diocesan process. The next step in the cause was to compile the *Positio* dossier for the C.C.S. to evaluate whether Coccapani exercised a life of heroic virtue or not.

## PRAYER FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF LODOVICO COCCAPANI

FATHER,  
you wanted to make Lodovico Coccapani an apostle of charity, generously spending his whole life in helping the neediest brothers.



His remains were exhumed in December 2015, and placed back into his grave after an examination and canonical inspection was completed.

### POPE FRANCIS CONFIRMED HE LIVED HEROIC VIRTUE IN A DECREE ISSUED ON 7 NOVEMBER 2018, AND SO TITLED HIM AS VENERABLE.

The current postulator assigned to the cause is Conventual Franciscan Fra Damian-Gheorghe Pătrașcu.

Teach us to follow his example and to give joyfully, because it is only in giving that you receive, and in loving that we are loved by Your Infinite Goodness.

Let Your servant, a candidate for the glory of the continuous altars in these difficult times, offer the testimony of a courageous faith.

May Your Glory be manifested in him as a faithful instrument of the Gospel. Amen. *Prayer by: Christian Ristori*



**THE 2017 ANNUAL REPORT REPORTED THE *MENSA DEI POVERI* is managed by the friars of San Francesco in Pisa. Together with *Caritas*, it reported that in the course of 2017, the kitchen was open 275 days. The attendance of the guests amounted to 9,317. Of these, 8,036 were lunches, while 1,281**

people took food baskets home. About 60 volunteers are involved weekly in the food production. The kitchen begins its food service from mid-September to 30 June (every day). The Mensa of the Parish of San Francesco di Pisa is named after Servant of God, Lodovico Coccapani, who lived in the Via

Berlinghieri. Every last Sunday of the month, in conjunction with the Saturday Vigil Mass and the 3 Sunday Masses, the "Festival of the Cakes" has been organized for years by people from the Mensa of the Parish, and is a means to self-finance the Mensa.



# OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGION

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

THE *TROUBADOUR* is a quarterly communication vehicle published by Our Lady of the Angels Region. It is published in 2 formats — print and electronic.

- 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.
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  - 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

Submissions for the next issue of *The Troubadour*, SPRING 2019, are due to Editor by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### 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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