



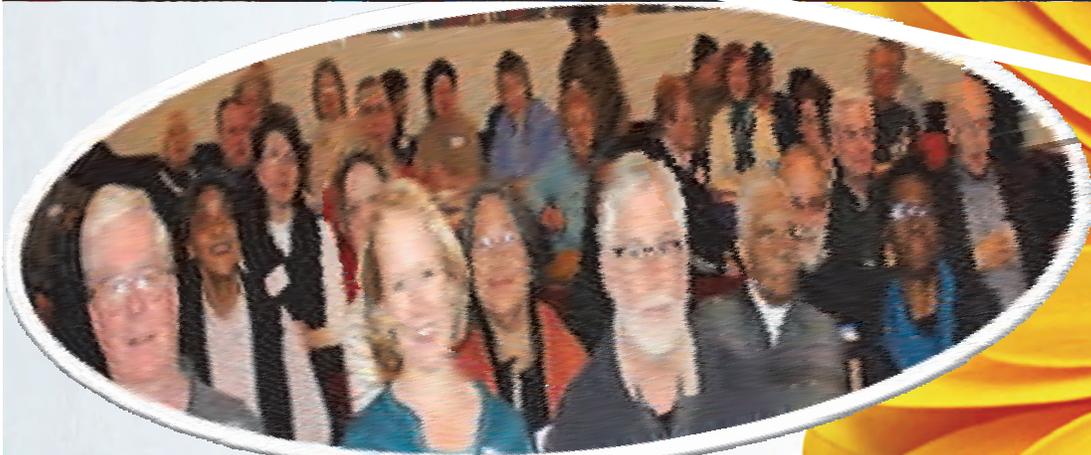
**e**roubadour

JUNE  
2015

CONNECTING THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN  
COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT OUR REGION.



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



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2015



## LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER

JUNE 2015

May 10, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this, I have just returned from Saturday evening Mass, and tomorrow is Mother's Day. As if it had been planned, the gospel was about love.

Jesus tells us in John 15:9-17:

*"As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love."*

*"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete."*

*"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you."*

Our Holy Father St. Francis speaks about the love of the Lord in terms of a spouse, a sibling, a mother...

*"We are spouses when the faithful soul is joined to our Lord Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. We are brothers to Him when we do the will of the Father Who is in Heaven (Mt 12:50); mothers, when we carry Him in our heart and body (cf. 1 Cor 6:20) through divine love and pure and sincere conscience and when we give birth to Him through a holy manner of working, which should shine before others as an example." (cf. Mt 5:16).*

(The Letter to the Faithful)

The ancient Greeks had four words for the different kinds of Love:

*Agápe* is the kind of love or charity that we show to our brothers and sisters. It is also the love of God for us and the love that we give to God.

**EROS** is the passionate or intimate love that we find in marriage.

**PHILIA** is the affectionate regard or friendship that we find between equals. Aristotle explained it as loyalty to friends, family and community. It requires virtue, equality and familiarity.

**STORGE** is love and affection, especially between parents and children. It is used as a description of love within a family where sometimes we put up with those who might annoy us because we love them.\*

*continued on next page*

## LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER *continued*

Most of us have experienced at least three of these types of love, and perhaps all four, in our lives. But, where do we stand in our love for one another and for the Order? How well do we love our families and our fraternities?

As Secular Franciscans, we are asked to love our brothers and sisters with a special kind of love that embraces everyone, whether or not we “get along” with them. We are asked as Catholics and as Franciscans to reach out, not just to those whom we like, but to everyone. We are challenged to reach beyond the confines of the fraternity to serve those who are most in need. We must also reach out within our fraternities and families to heal wounds and to seek and offer forgiveness.

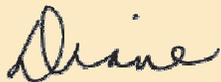
In the case of those of us who are servant leaders, we carry out a “fraternal service [by holding ourselves] available and responsible in relation to each brother and sister and to the fraternity.” We are to help our brothers and sisters realize their vocation and make each fraternity a true community.” (*quote and paraphrase of Article 31, General Constitutions*)

In short, we serve out of love--the kind of love that would be defined as **Agápe**, **Philia** and even **Storge**. We give of ourselves willingly. Many of our servant leaders give hours and hours of their time to the Order for the well-being of the brothers and sisters. We don't ask anything in return, and when it is time to step away from our leadership positions, we do so with humility and love and the promise to help those who take up the task after us.

We hope that those of you who are serving your fraternities serve with the love asked of us by Jesus and St. Francis. If your fraternity is coming to the time of elections, please pray and discern if God is calling you to servant leadership. Without your help, our fraternities cannot go on. Love one another enough to give up a part of your lives for your brothers and sisters!

Please keep your local councils and your Region Council in your prayers.

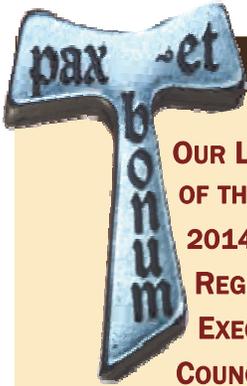
May God bless you always,



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

\*See: [http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek\\_words\\_for\\_love](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_words_for_love)





**OUR LADY  
OF THE ANGELS  
2014-2017  
REGIONAL  
EXECUTIVE  
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**MINISTER:**  
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**SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT:**  
Bro. Doug Soik, OFM Cap  
[dsk2131948@yahoo.com](mailto:dsk2131948@yahoo.com)

## 2015 REGION CALENDAR

### OFS GENERAL MEETINGS

**NAFRA CHAPTER PLANNING MEETING** — *See below*

**June 6, 2015**

Our Lady of the Angels Region will host the National Fraternity Annual Chapter.

**REGION RETREAT** — *See page 5*

**Friday, July 31 — Sunday, August 2, 2015**

Mount Alvernia Retreat Center, Wappingers Falls, NY

**OLTAR ANNUAL CHAPTER**

**November 7, 2015 — MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
DETAILS TBA**

## National Elective Chapter Planning Meeting

by **RON PIHOKKER, OFS**  
Chairperson  
NaFra 2015 Chapter  
Host Committee  
[rlpihokker@aol.com](mailto:rlpihokker@aol.com)



In October of this year, the Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity will have the honor of hosting our National Fraternity meeting and Chapter of Elections. In addition to being a very special experience, it will enable us to participate in the higher governance of our Order and extend a Franciscan welcome to our Sisters and Brothers from throughout the United States, and our Order's highest leadership from around the world.

We need you, please help us extend our Region's welcome to the New York and New Jersey area.

Please come to an important planning meeting on **Saturday, June 6, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.** to learn how you can help. Meeting will be held at St. Francis Church, 50 Lodi Street Hackensack, NJ 07601. Looking forward to seeing you.

Fraternally and gratefully,  
*Ron*

# 2015 REGION RETREAT



We will once again be utilizing the beautiful facilities at Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, New York, for our regional retreat from **July 31 – August 2, 2015.** The cost is \$175.00 per attendee.



## OUR RETREAT MASTER IS FR. THOMAS HARTLE, OFM



Photo credit: HNP

Fr. Tom is a member of the Friars Minor of Holy Name Province and currently resides at St. Anthony's Friary in Butler, NJ. In the truest sense, Fr. Tom is an itinerant preacher. In addition to offering retreats, he also conducts pilgrimages to Assisi and Rome. Fr. Tom has the privilege of being the Spiritual Assistant to the Holy Name Federation of Poor Clares.

### PLEASE NOTE

**THERE ARE A LIMITED NUMBER OF PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE.**

For additional information contact: Richard Spana, OFS  
914-478-2010  
rickspanasfo@aol.com

### RETREAT TOPIC: "OUR FRANCISCAN LIFE: AN ALTERNATIVE TO RUIN."

**Fr. Tom will be giving 5 talks throughout the weekend— Friday evening, Saturday morning, afternoon, evening and Sunday morning.**

**Remember space is limited. Register now using the form below or on our regional website.**



Photo credits: Diane Menditto, OFS and Ed Wojciechowski, OFS

## 2015 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 \$175.00 check, payable to "Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity" to: RICHARD SPANA, OFS • 332 Warburton Avenue, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706 • Phone: 914-478-2010.

This registration form is available on our region website at: <http://ourladyoftheangelsregion.org>



FRATERNAL TIDINGS

congratulations

ELECTIONS & PROFESSIONS

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY  
Yonkers, NY

Congratulations to our newest professed member, **CHRISTINE SELVANAYAGAM, OFS**, (pictured in center with her family) who was professed on May 16th in the Monastery of the Sacred Heart in Yonkers, New York.

We wish her every blessing as she begins her new ministry as a Secular Franciscan.

*Benedicta Fornacier, OFS, Minister  
Sacred Heart Fraternity, Yonkers, NY*



SISTER



DEATH

**Fr. Robert Gavin, O.F.M.**

**Called home to the Lord on May 19, 2015.**

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, May 22nd at St. Francis Church on West 31st Street.



“Our dear Fr. Robert was a blessing to all of us, a gift from the Lord. He was kind, gentle, understanding, generous, open to all who came to him. We are so grateful for his many years of devoted service to our fraternity. Our loss is Heaven's gain! God bless Fr Robert! He will be remembered with great love and affection.”

*Patricia Clayton, OFS, Minister  
St. Benedict the Moor Fraternity, NYC.*

Fr. Robert was born in Olean, N.Y., on November 22, 1925. Following service in World War II, he attended St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, N.Y., graduating with a degree in philosophy in 1950. After serving in the Korean conflict, Fr. Robert was received into the Franciscan Order on August 12, 1953, in Paterson, N.J. He professed his first vows there the following year, and went on to study at St. Francis College in Rye Beach, N.H., and Holy Name College in Washington, D.C. Fr. Robert professed solemn vows on Aug. 20, 1957 and was ordained to the priesthood on April 25, 1959, at Mt. Saint Sepulchrein Washington, D.C.

His first assignment was to St. Bonaventure University as Instructor in the School of Business. In 1967, he was assigned to St. Francis of Assisi where he would minister for the next 47 years in varied capacities including Counselor at the Counseling Center; Teacher in the Adult Education Center, and a regular on the Mass and Confessions schedule.



1925-2015

**INTO YOUR HANDS, O LORD,**

we humbly entrust our brother, Fr. Robert Gavin, OFM.

In this life You embraced him with

Your tender love; deliver him now from every evil and bid him eternal rest.

The old order has passed away: welcome him into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain, but fullness of peace and joy with Your Son and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

by  
**ED WOJCIECHOWSKI, OFS**  
Formation Director  
OLTAR Region  
[edwojo@yahoo.com](mailto:edwojo@yahoo.com)

## FORMATION: A PATHWAY TO GOD'S LOVE

Through our commitment to living the Rule, Secular Franciscans come to an appreciation of the role of formation in our lives. In the OFS Constitution, we read that formation 'is to be understood as an aid in conversion of each and everyone and in the fulfillment of their proper mission in the Church and in society'.

(OFS Constitution, Article 44:1).

We can turn to Sacred Scripture to help us understand how formation can be an aid to conversion. The First Letter of John tells us that, 'if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.' (1 John 4:12).

One way that God's love is brought to perfection in our lives is through our Secular Franciscan community.

Our monthly fraternity gatherings provide opportunities for formation through listening and meditation on the Word of God, reflecting on events in the Church and society in the light of faith and by studying the writings of Saint Francis, Saint Clare and Franciscan authors. (see OFS Constitution 44:3)

We are also formed through the love and support of our brothers and sisters in fraternity.

When we come together to pray and share our lives in community, we grow in love for each other, in love for the Church, and in God's love. We empty ourselves of all self-centered desires so that we can receive the Holy Spirit in our lives and grow in the peace and love of God and each other.

Formation, then, becomes a pathway to God's love. This is why formation is essential to who we are as Secular Franciscans.

As we leave the Easter Season and enter Ordinary Time, may the Lord give us His peace and may we continue to grow in love of God and love for each other as a community of Franciscans.

Pax et Bonum,  
Ed Wojciechowski, OFS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PROVINCE FRANCISCAN LIBRARY

#### TO HOST FR. MURRAY BODO, OFM POETRY READING

The newly established Immaculate Conception Province Franciscan Library in New York City is pleased to announce that it will host renowned Franciscan writer, **Fr. Murray Bodo, OFM**, for an afternoon of poetry reading.

**DATE: Sunday, June 14, 2015      TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

**PLACE: Immaculate Conception Province Franciscan Library  
125 Thompson Street, New York, NY 10012**

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO THIS FREE EVENT.**

If you wish to attend, we ask that you RSVP to

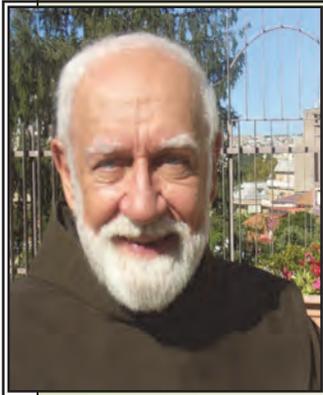
[internos@icprovince.org](mailto:internos@icprovince.org) 

so that the Friars will know the number of those attending.

Fr. Murray is a Franciscan Priest and Poet. He holds a Ph.D. in English and has taught English and American Literature, composition, and creative writing. His latest books are *Enter Assisi: An Invitation to Franciscan Spirituality*, (January, 2015), and *Francis and Jesus* (2013). His most recent books of poetry are *Of Francis and Clare* (2013), and *Something Like Jasmine* (2012).

His reading will consist of reading and commenting on selected poems from his published work. The commentary will include the context in which the individual poems were written, the poet's understanding of poetry and its function in society, elements of the craft and art of poetry, and the poets who have influenced his own writing.

He will read from several of his books of poetry, including *Of Francis and Clare*, a collection of poems about St. Francis and his parents, Pietro Bernardone and Lady Pica, about St. Clare, and about Assisi.



FR. MURRAY RESIDES IN INNER-CITY CINCINNATI, OHIO, AND SPENDS TWO MONTHS OF THE YEAR IN ROME AND ASSISI, ITALY AS A STAFF MEMBER OF "FRANCISCAN PILGRIMAGE PROGRAMS."

FR. MURRAY BODO'S WEBSITE:

[www.murraybodo.com](http://www.murraybodo.com)



### NEW FR. MYCHAL JUDGE STATUE

by JOCELYN THOMAS - HN Province



The memory of the late Fr. Mychal Judge, OFM, will be honored this month with the dedication of a new statue in the town where he was stationed and is still remembered fondly by community members.

**On June 14, 2015**, a sculpture of Fr. Mychal will be blessed at St. Joseph's Park at the corner of Hackensack Street and Hoboken Road, across from St. Joseph Church, in East Rutherford, New Jersey, where Fr. Mychal served. The program begins at 1:30 p.m.

Fr. Judge, who died on September 11 during the attack on New York City's World Trade Center, was stationed at St. Joseph's Church twice — in the 1960's and the 1970's. After assignments at Siena College as well as at other North Jersey parishes, he spent his final years in New York City serving as chaplain to the Fire Department of New York.

# FRATERNITY APOSTOLATES

by **FRANCES ACOSTA, OFS**



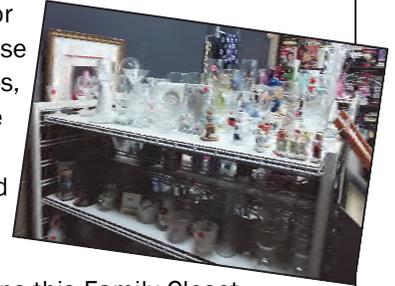
Jim Bianchi, Lester & Benedicta Fonacier

Photos credit: Benedicta Fonacier, OFS

Stewards nurture their relationship with God by having a prayer life. Whether that is two minutes or two hours a day, listening and responding to God is the core of the disciple's life.

St. Francis was one of the God's great stewards. As Secular Franciscans, we are called to follow St. Francis as caretakers of the church.

Sacred Heart Fraternity in Yonkers strives to reflect in our lives and in our service our belief that an intimate relationship with our God calls us to responsible stewardship: delight with all creation, reverence for persons, responsible use of the earth's resources, and freely sharing the gifts entrusted to us with those in need and less fortunate. As our ministry is to help the poor, our fraternity runs this Family Closet.



The "Family Closet" Thrift Shop is a "store" in the Grade School building with a wide variety of good clothing for men, women and children. Shelves contain an ever-changing collection of housewares, books, toys and miscellaneous items. The generous donations of parishioners and friends give the shop a constantly varied inventory. Sacred Heart Fraternity members take turns to help out every Saturday. All proceeds go to the Sacred Heart Food Pantry.

**SACRED HEART FRATERNITY**  
110 Shonnard Place  
Yonkers, NY 10703  
914-963-4205

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
contact Fraternity Minister:  
**Benedicta Fonacier, OFS:**  
[Bfona2122@aol.com](mailto:Bfona2122@aol.com)



## 17TH ANNUAL 나눔의 바자회 BAZAAR

# 2015



10AM  
-  
5PM

**JUNE 21**

**BROADWAY btw 31/32ST.**

**KOREA TOWN**

St. Francis of Assisi Church Fund Raiser for the Breadline, the Poor, the Needy and the Refugees

**The Korean Martyrs OFS Fraternity**  
The Saint Francis Korean Community  
invites you to the 17th Annual Bazaar  
on Sunday, June 21, 2015  
on Broadway between 31st & 32nd Streets!

Tickets for the drawing are on sale now!

First Prize: \$1,000

Second Prize: iPad mini3 64 GB

Third Prize: Bose Blue Tooth Speaker (3)

Fourth Prize: Hair Dryer (7)

Fifth Prize: Contigo Tumbler (10)

6th Prize: Starbucks Gift Card (20)

7th Prize: Aqua light food container (30)

The drawing will be held at 4 PM and winners will be announced on our website, [stfrancisnyc.org](http://stfrancisnyc.org). For more information, please call the Korean Ministry Office at 212-736-8500, Ext. 355, 384



## SPIRITUAL TIDINGS

“I am the  
Good  
Shepherd,  
and I  
know Mine  
and Mine  
Know Me...”

John 10:14a



### THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Jesus knew how easy it is for people to hear his voice without appreciating his message. He knew that his truth would influence the lives of people only in proportion as they tried to understand it more fully, appreciate it more deeply and *apply* it more faithfully in daily life. Over and over, he repeated his life-giving message, adding greater insight with each repetition. All this would require time for his hearers to recall the old, understand the new, and integrate both into new habits of thinking and living.

One cannot help but be impressed with this constant insistence of Christ that he loves us and is deeply concerned with everything that concerns us. In today's Gospel proclamation, he calls himself our good shepherd, who knows us to the core of our being; knows every spontaneous tendency, every feeling and intention, every weakness and effort of ours. He declares that he is ready to lay down his life for us and that he will do just that when his Father requires this as a reparation for our sins. Indeed, we must be very precious to him if he thinks us worth all this. However, we cannot fully appreciate the height, the depth, the breadth, and the intensity of his love by merely hearing about it, or reading about it. We must ask ourselves if our lives make an impact in the world that so cries out for the manifestation of true love. As we reflect on Jesus as our good shepherd may we be so impressed by his personal love for us that our daily attitudes, disposition, and behavior be inspired by an *active* gratitude for so perfect a friend.

Have you ever noticed the cross worn by our Holy Father, Pope Francis? (see above) Francis' pectoral cross is made from silver; however, when he first spoke to the world from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica it appeared dark, having an almost rusty hue, leading some journalists to the erroneous conclusion that it was made of iron. How did this come about?

When he became the Archbishop of Buenos Aires and later a cardinal and Primate of the Argentine Church, Archbishop Bergoglio continued to lead the lifestyle of a simple parish priest. He refused to reside at the Archbishop's House, preferring instead to live in a small flat with a retired priest, and he cooked his own meals. Whenever he had any free time available from his numerous duties as Archbishop, he went to the slums of Buenos Aires (*favelas*). At that time, Archbishop Bergoglio did not even have a car. He just used the buses or the subway. During the trip from the Archbishop's House to the *favelas*, located on the outskirts of the city, he would often clutch his pectoral cross – the symbol of his desire to shepherd the poor. The cross had more than a sentimental value for the man who wore it; it also meant something for those he visited. The outcasts of society in the *favelas* touched it too; they kissed it and bathed it with their tears while the Archbishop listened to their stories.

Now it is well-known that silver turns dark when it comes into contact with humidity, and it is, therefore, little wonder if that cross, clenched by so many hands, kissed by so many lips, and bathed by so many tears, would eventually become dark. It is as if the world's suffering had been impressed on it, darkening it. On his way home, the Archbishop would hold the cross tightly and ask God to lift all the enormous weight of suffering afflicting the people he had visited, and transfer it onto the cross in his hands, asking Christ for help and solace. The pectoral cross we see on the Pope, therefore, gradually became his inseparable companion during these journeys of his into the hell and suffering of the *favelas*. We need not be surprised, therefore, that he was determined to keep it, against tradition and protocol, once he became Pope.

by  
**DEACON LUKE CONROY, OFS**  
**St. Benedict**  
**the Moor Fraternity**  
**New York City, NY**



**BLESSED JESUS,**  
**OUR GOOD SHEPHERD,**

may we never wander away from You because of discouragement at our personal limitations, defects and faults. May we remain by You in a mature effort to please You in all things. When we fall, may we approach You with confidence in Your understanding and trust in Your desire to help us begin again. Amen.

# 2015 CONVIVENZA

Our Region's Annual Unity Day  
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015

## A FRATERNAL GATHERING OF FRANCISCAN JOY



# CONVIVENZA 2015



∞  
A FRATERNAL  
GATHERING  
OF  
FRANCISCAN  
JOY  
EVIDENT  
IN THE  
FACES OF  
THE MANY  
EVENT  
ATTENDEES.



# 2015 CONVIVENZA



Regional Minister, Diane Menditto, OFS

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The strength of our Region is found in your Franciscan spirit and the openness and love you show to one another. On Saturday, April 25th, our region gathered for our yearly Chapter of Mats, also known as Convivenza. From the feedback I have received, this was our "best Convivenza ever".

The "best ever" doesn't just happen. As Franciscans, we know that our best always comes out when we **work as a team**. The success of our day together Saturday was truly the result of team work. The initial planning by the Regional Executive Council; the generous cooperation and wonderful talks given by Fr. Matt Pravetz, OFM; (see page 14) the hospitality of our host fraternity, St. Mary of the Angels; the collaboration of those who prepared the prayers, music and materials we used; those who helped publicize the day; those who helped set up and clean up; ALL OF YOU WHO ATTENDED and all those who could not attend, but prayed for us; made the day a true blessing and experience of fraternity.

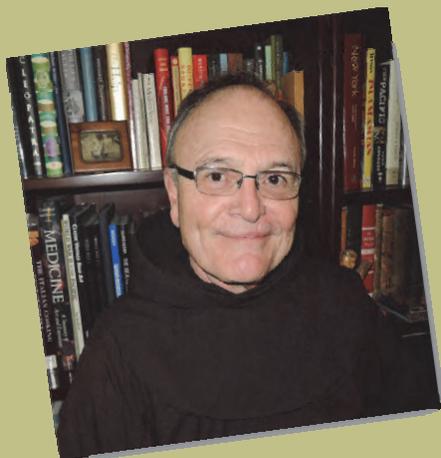
This special section of the *Troubadour* newsletter has been created to help you revisit the day, or experience it for the first time. We hope it captures the spirit of the time we spent together. Please visit our website to view more pictures at:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane".

[http://olangels.tripod.comregion\\_links.html](http://olangels.tripod.comregion_links.html)



**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:  
FR. MATTHEW A. PRAVETZ, O.F.M.**



**FATHER MATTHEW** is a native New Yorker, growing up in the College Point section of Queens before entering the Franciscan Order in 1964. A graduate of St. Francis College, Brooklyn, most of his full-time ministry has been in the field of education. Early in his career was spent at the secondary level as teacher and administrator in Brooklyn and Long Island.

Fr. Matthew was ordained to the priesthood in 1979 by then Bishop Theodore McCarrick.

After completion of his training at New York Medical College specializing in the field of clinical anatomy, Father Matthew has been on the faculty of the medical school since the early 1980's where he is presently the director of Medical Gross Anatomy. He teaches medical students and resident physicians in the surgical subspecialties. In addition, he is involved in the medical ethics curriculum.

Fr. Matt has been the Spiritual Assistant to St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity (96th Street in Manhattan) since 2008. It is his first time serving as a Spiritual Assistant, and he says that he is learning a lot!



**PRESENTATION OF:  
JOY OF THE GOSPEL**

The *Joy of the Gospel* is the title Pope Francis has chosen for the first major document of his pontificate, putting down in print the happy spirit of encounter with Christ that characterizes every public appearance he has made so far.

I recently scoured "*Fully Mature with the Fullness of Christ*" looking for specific references to joy. There were hardly any, and these were oblique references to joy. FUN is a good program, but it is all business.

There is one line in the Pope Francis' exhortation that I found amusing. He was referring to the fact that when people look at the members of the church that they often see "sourpusses." I think that, if we are to be true to the call of the Holy Father, we need to look at ourselves in a mirror; it may just be possible that at one time or another we Franciscans have appeared so; maybe just a little!

This morning I will not talk about all the points of his exhortation, rather will extract thematic elements that I think speak to our call as Franciscans. I will make particular reference to the "style" in which we live our apostolic life and minister in the world.

Our way of life, mirroring the poor man of Assisi, is characterized by doing. We are used to preaching wordlessly, which is one of the themes in the pope's exhortation.

*continued on next page*

# CONVIVENZA 2015

First, let's put *Joy of the Gospel* into context.

*Evangelii Gaudium* is the Pope's vision for a missionary Church. A church whose "doors should always be open". The Pope speaks on numerous themes, including evangelization, peace, homiletics, social justice, the family, respect for creation, faith and politics, ecumenism, interreligious dialogue, and the role of women and of the laity in the Church.

Looking back into our order's beginnings, most of the early Franciscans remained with their families, in their homes. They were called "penitential's" by contemporaries. This large part of the Franciscan movement was not directly founded by Francis nor did it begin as an officially sanctioned lay alternative to his form of vowed religious life. But as Franciscanism expanded, the friars directly inspired without actively promoting, the growth of the lay penitential movement, eventually partnering.

Regardless of their differences, whether they were vowed or not, women or men, they all looked to the historic Francis of Assisi for their spiritual inspiration and sought to embody the Franciscan call in their own lives. Most of these people did not write an impossibly complicated book of theology for future generations, rather what they left was a distinct style for Gospel living. They radiated the freshness of joy to everyone they encountered. This is their legacy centuries after they are gone. Their lives are an easy read, and so is yours. It's out there, and people watch.



Pope Francis, who constantly keeps the media's attention with his desire to embrace and share his faith with everyone he meets, now urges **us** to do exactly the same. To "recover the original freshness of the Gospel", as he puts it, is through a thorough renewal of the Church's structures and vision. The Church should not be afraid to re-examine "customs even if they may have deep historical roots".

The way I see it is that there are one of two postures many of us assume:

1. "We've never done it this way before."
2. "We've always done it this way before."

Either one of these could be considered the "Seven Last words of the Church."

In strikingly direct and personal language, Pope Francis appeals to all Christians. He calls for a "revolution of tenderness;" his revolution involves opening hearts each day to God's love and forgiveness.

Pope Francis says that our interior life cannot become caught up in our own interests. If it does, he warns, "there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor." As we open our hearts, the Pope goes on, so the doors of our churches must always be open and the sacraments available to all.

He repeats his idea of a Church: "bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets."

This kind of Church is better than one caught up in a slavish preoccupation with liturgy and doctrine, procedure and prestige.

"God save us," he prays, "from a worldly Church with superficial spiritual and pastoral trappings!" **(We've always done it this way before.)**

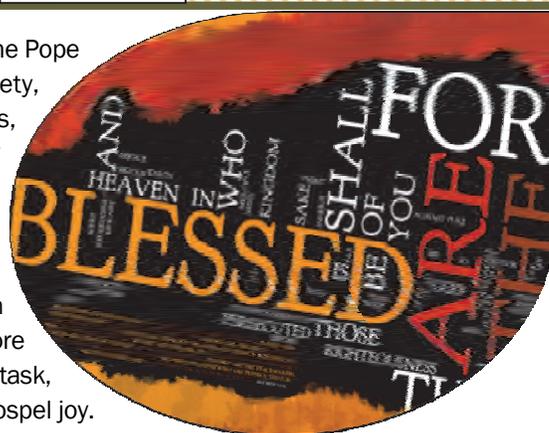
I would add another prayer: "God save us from fraternities who deny that they may be superficial." Perhaps they protest too much. Do some Franciscan fraternities fear that if they check below the surface they may find it vacant or nothing of substance at best? Is the fear a reality?

Urging a greater role for the laity, the Pope warns of "excessive clericalism" and calls for "a more incisive female presence in the Church", especially "where important decisions are made." **(We've never done it this way before.)**

*continued on next page*

Returning to his vision of a Church that is poor and for the poor, the Pope urges us to pay particular attention to those on the margins of society, including the homeless, the addicted, refugees, indigenous peoples, the elderly, migrants and victims of trafficking. These may sound familiar because they are for sure recurrent themes at so many of our Secular Franciscan fraternity meetings.

Convivenza means living together or co-existence and it is in this spirit that we meet once a year to reflect on the meaning of this in our lives. In doing so, we are affirming that all of this is about more than you and me holding hands. We come together with a task, and today's task to examine Gospel joy.



Out of the many areas we read in *Joy of the Gospel*, I will contextualize five areas that relate directly to our embracing the rule of the Secular Franciscan life. In each of these we will find gospel joy and Franciscan joy:

# 1

## JOY FOUND IN ENCOUNTERING JESUS

“The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.” This is the way that the pope begins *Evangelii Gaudium*. He develops the theme to assist in proclaiming the Gospel in the contemporary world:

“I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy while pointing out new paths for the Church’s journey in years to come.” It is a heartfelt appeal to all baptized persons to bring Christ’s love to others, says the pope. Thus, we find ourselves “permanently in a state of mission.”

If we say “we’ve **always** done it this way before,” we’d be ignoring the Pope’s invitation to “recover the original freshness of the Gospel”. If we live by, “we’ve **never** done it this way before,” we will not find “new avenues” and “new paths of creativity” and we will continue to **enclose** Jesus in “dull categories” and never encounter Him.

Style matters my brother and sisters. If we, as Franciscans, insist on bringing the gospel to the world, and the entire world continues to see us as jovial, pink cheeked, cookie jar like friars or roller-skating nuns, somehow the prophetic aspect of Franciscan charism of joy becomes turned around and is lost as a comedic farce.

The pope is spot on; we need to find “new avenues” and “new paths of creativity.” He says there is a gaping need for “pastoral and missionary conversion, which cannot leave things as they presently are.”

We must become “more mission-oriented”. And our mission as Secular Franciscans is to bring the joy of the Gospel . . . with style.

# 2

## JOY FOUND IN HOSPITALITY

A sign of God’s openness is “that our church doors should always be open” so that those who seek God “will not find a closed door”; “nor should the doors of the sacraments be closed for simply any reason”.

Of course the pope is referring to real doors, but as secular Franciscan’s there are the “virtual doors” of our own personality and fraternity.

# 3

## JOY FOUND IN MINORITY

Pope Francis repeats that he prefers “a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church ... concerned with being at the center and then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures.”

Minority and humility are a constant, haunting call to our Secular Franciscan fraternities:

- The Pope speaks of the many who “feel superior to others” because “they remain [stubbornly] faithful to a particular Catholic style from the past”.
- Pope Francis scolds those who have “an ostentatious preoccupation for the liturgy, for doctrine and for the Church’s prestige, but without any concern that the Gospel has a real impact.” All of such stuff is superficial and about which he prays, “God save us from a worldly Church with superficial . . . trappings!”
- As I mentioned earlier, Francis says that there is a need for “still broader opportunities for a more incisive female presence in the Church”, in particular “in the various settings where important decisions are made.”
- Secular Franciscans must “step up to the plate” to flirt our bruised, hurting and dirty church.
- The Pope “Demands that the legitimate rights of women be respected ... cannot be lightly evaded”.
- The young should “exercise greater leadership”. Where are they in our fraternities? Why not?

# 4

## JOY FOUND IN PEACE AND JUSTICE

“Let us offer some sign of peace.”

As I mentioned earlier, when coming together in the spirit of *Convivenza* we cannot be satisfied by a time-tired and shop-worn exchange around the fraternity table. We’re not just supposed to hold hands and affectionately offer a sweet sign. Rather, we’re called to make noise, noise that may disturb the *status quo*.

Yet, cautious peacefulness surrounds us. This is not good. People are being silenced and it is anything but peaceful. We cannot dare sit back and unconcerned by this annoying peaceful silence.

With regard to the theme of peace, the Pope affirms that “a prophetic voice must be raised” against attempts to “silence or appease” the poor, while others “renounce their privileges”.

For the construction of a society “in peace, justice and fraternity” he indicates four principles:

### “TIME IS GREATER THAN SPACE”

What he means is that we must be satisfied with working “slowly but surely, without being obsessed with immediate results”.

### “UNITY PREVAILS OVER CONFLICT”

The unity he is talking about is “a diversified and life-giving unity”.

“REALITIES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN IDEAS” He warns to avoid “reducing faith to rhetoric”.

### “THE WHOLE IS GREATER THAN THE PART”

He points to “globalization and localization”.

## 5 JOY FOUND IN PREACHING

Pope Francis concludes with more than a nod to “spirit-filled evangelizers.” These are the people who are “fearlessly open to the working of the Holy Spirit” and who have “the courage to proclaim the newness of the Gospel with boldness in every time and place, even when it meets with opposition”.

These are “evangelizers who pray and work,” all the time knowing that “mission is at once a passion for Jesus and a passion for His people”.



As Secular Franciscans, we have a unique preaching form. No pulpit is typically involved.

Whatever the mode, Pope Francis implies that any form of preaching should always be positive in order always to “offer hope” and “does not leave us trapped in negativity”. This should be a measuring stick for the spirit of our fraternal gatherings.

The approach to the proclamation of the Gospel should have positive characteristics: “approachability, readiness for dialogue, patience, a warmth and welcome, which is non-judgmental”.

This is something that Secular Franciscans can incorporate into the spiritual life committee’s as a form of exploration of possibilities. Exactly what do spiritual life committee’s do anyway?

Rather than just hear what others are saying, it is imperative to investigate how fraternities can insert themselves into the local communities and do things.

### FRANCISCAN “STYLE”

People watch what you’re doing, and how you minister. They are very perceptive. They can see right through to your soul. When they perceive something genuine, they find something beautiful and are filled with joy. There are many watching, especially young people. But we can only be seen if we are out there (wherever that is) to be seen. You must be a Franciscan hidden in plain sight.

### HERE FOLLOW SOME EXAMPLES OF FRANCISCANS HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT.

People throughout history look for advice. Some people in the late 13th and early 14th century turned to **ANGELA OF FOLIGNO** in the same way Americans turned to Abigail Van Buren in the twentieth century: they wrote letters. For this reason, Angela of Foligno could be called the “Dear Abby” of the late medieval Italy. And write she did; many letters; to many good people. It was her style of ministry and it worked.

We read of many early Franciscan women and men of the thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries who, while doing their work, wept, doubted, but continued to pray and they held on. These can be our role models today, especially in their perseverance in a counter-cultural embrace of voluntary poverty, a life of faith and interaction with the beauty of the world and society.

*continued on next page*

**ROSE OF VITERBO** was a Franciscan street preacher. She was born around 1233, a few years after Francis of Assisi died in 1226. She died in 1251 at the age of eighteen. Rose was a preacher, teacher and an effective ecclesiastical spokesperson against political adversaries. She embodied the Franciscan charism of simplicity, and yet the public way in which she expressed her faith was edgy. She pushed the envelope of social expectations of ministers of the church.

By the middle of the thirteenth century, after Francis and his friars had established a mendicant form of spirituality that was lived and preached in the streets, lay people (including for a time girls and women), dared to break from social conventions and for them this charism was their public expression of faith. And people listened.

**MARGARET OF CORTONA'S** call came when her husband was suddenly and brutally killed by robbers and she was stripped of all the social and economic comforts. That's when Margaret's life suddenly embodied the core of Franciscanism: poverty. But at that time, Margaret's poverty was not the poverty espoused by the Poverello; rather Margaret's poverty was not something she wanted.

She was born around 1247 in Laviano, a small town in Umbria. As a young woman she became the mistress of a nobleman from Montepulciano.

They lived together for nine years and had a son together. They lived together as common-law husband and wife without public scandal. And that's when St. Margaret got her call.

While Francis himself had voluntarily renounced the wealth and social support of his middle-class life, Margaret was thrust into this precarious position involuntarily. She was a woman whose husband provided her with everything she needed. Or so that's what everyone thought. They were right that he provided quite well for Margaret, but it turns out that she had no legal and sacramental bond of marriage to the man. And Margaret found herself without right to inherit, so she was left without financial support after he was killed. Francis embraced her in her need and she saw the freedom that these medieval "Florence Nightingales" exuded in public ministry. She subsequently took up the cause of searching for joy in the lives of people who were suffering injustice.

#### I CLOSE WITH TWO THOUGHTS:

The Pope urges us not to be discouraged because of scarce results or failure. He says that the opposite - fruitfulness " is often invisible, elusive and unquantifiable"

It may have sounded like I am proposing that our Secular Franciscan life-style of ministry should be revolutionary and come across like gang busters. The pope recommends that we Look to Mary; if we do so, we will come to believe once again in the revolutionary nature of love and tenderness.

All of this my brother and sisters is "style" and it will bring the

**JOY OF THE GOSPEL.**



# CONVIVENZA 2015

## FRATERNITY APOSTOLATE

### Regional Secretary, KATE ASSELIN, OFS



acquainted us with **Amazon Relief**. A relief organization of OFS's working together Internationally, caring for the Poorest of the Poor, Assisting Victims of Leprosy, Helping families break-out of Poverty, and educating "at-risk" children in the remote Amazon Region of Brazil. Kate discussed the organization and their mission.

The May issue of our monthly newsletter, *e-Troubadour*, further familiarized us with their current needs and goal.

Excerpts from the Amazon Relief solicitation letter (*opposite page*) best explains the reason for a special monetary request and the opportunity they would like to make us a part of.

**Our Regional Executive Council has agreed to support Amazon Relief's Boat Project, and it is hoped that our local fraternities will join us in making this effort a truly united contribution. (Remember Fr. Matthew's presentation on the Joy of the Gospel)**

Amazon Relief has been approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All donations are Tax-Deductible. You may check out their website at: <http://www.amazonrelief.org>



Amazon Relief takes no money out of any donation for administrative costs, travel, mailings, or even the cost of their website (all these costs are paid by "special angels"). Every dollar donated goes to those in need.

Fraternities or individuals supporting this project can fill out this form and send it along with a check made out to "Our Lady of the Angels Region" to our Region Treasurer, Richard Spana, OFS, at the address indicated.

Our Region is collecting all contributions and will send one check to Amazon Relief. We ask that you please send your form and check donation by **July 4th**.

**Kate Asselin, OFS**  
**Regional Secretary**  
**OLTAR Region**  
[kate.asselin@shu.edu](mailto:kate.asselin@shu.edu)

### 2015 AMAZON RELIEF DONATION FORM

*Please check one* \_\_\_\_\_ Fraternity Donation \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Donation

Fraternity Name or Personal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed donation form with check, payable to: "Our Lady of the Angels Region" by July 4th to: RICHARD SPANA, OFS • 332 Warburton Avenue, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706 • Phone: 914-478-2010.

FROM



**AMAZON RELIEF**

1456 Blythe Drive NW  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

**The Request** — We have been asked if we could fund the purchase of a boat which would allow priests and missionary teams to serve 90 isolated communities located along a large, remote stretch of the Amazon River.

**The Offer** — One of our donors has offered to match dollar-for-dollar all donations given to purchase this boat.

**The Opportunity** — By giving missionaries the tools they need to carry out this ministry we can be an integral part of carrying Christ's Good News to the ends of the world.

**A FEW DETAILS —**

Currently, there is a priest and team of lay missionaries who try to serve these 90 communities. Transportation is, however, a constant and major problem. All travel must be done by boat, as there are no roads to these communities. There are commercial riverboats that carry passengers from time to time along the river, but there are several problems with these:

- There are hefty costs to transport missionary teams.
- Drop off and pick up times are irregular.
- As missionaries complete their work in a village, they cannot immediately move on to the next village (they must wait for another commercial boat to come up the river, and they can only take that boat when they have assurances that there will be another boat to bring them back).
- There are seasons of the year when the river is low and commercial boats cannot reach the communities. The end result is that all of the communities are served irregularly, and many of the communities are rarely served.

We have spent the last several months determining what type of boat would work best for the missionary team, getting quotes for the purchase of the boat, and determining how ongoing operational costs will be paid. We are satisfied as to the needs, benefits, and costs, and I am writing to ask for your help.

The boat will cost about \$50,000. It will transport and be able to sleep (in hammocks) up to 12 missionary team members. *(The ability to sleep on the boat is important, for most communities lack lodging for the missionaries).* Operational costs should be less than are currently being paid for commercial riverboat transportation, *(and if costs exceed funds available, the Archdiocese will cover these).*

What is also special about this is:

- There is a priest and a lay missionary team in place to travel and carry the Catholic faith to these 90 communities.
- The boat can be used for decades.
- And even more, the true benefit reaches beyond decades — the benefits are eternal, souls are at stake. Our real investment is not in the boat; the boat is only a tool. Our real purpose is to allow the Good News to continue to be carried to the ends of the earth.

We would like to say "yes" to the request that has been made of us. The boat is needed, we can double every donation made, and it is a true opportunity to respond to Christ's Great Commission.

Please help. Everything you give will be used towards the purchase of this boat — and with this appeal everything you give will be doubled.

Peace and All Good,  
Jim Flickinger, OFS, Amazon Relief

# CONVIVENZA 2015

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



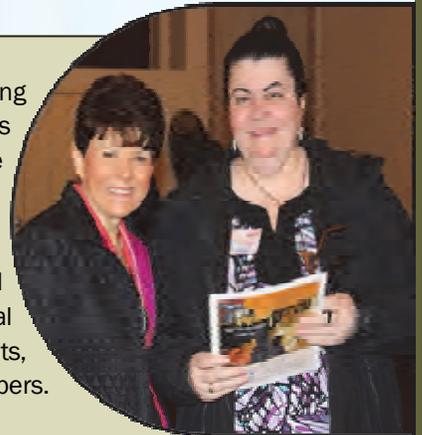
Those of you who have attended past regional functions, including this year's *Convivenza*, will recognize our lovely and talented musician who has provided us with her beautiful vocals and instrumentals.

Her name is **STELLA CRISPO, OFS**, and she is an Affiliate member of our Regional Fraternity. She attends Holy Name Fraternity at Holy Angels Church in Little Falls, NJ, where she is the parish Director of Music Ministry.

Thank You, Stella!

The **2015 OLTAR DIRECTORY** was distributed during the meeting to all ministers (*or a member of the fraternity*). For those ministers who could not attend *Convivenza*, and did not have a representative at the meeting, a Directory was mailed to your home.

Produced for the past four years, the Directory includes contact information, meeting times and locations for all the local fraternities, as well as current contact information for local Ministers, Formation Directors, Spiritual Assistants, and the Regional Executive Council members.

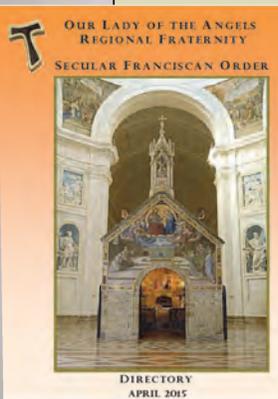


L-to-R: Diane Menditto, OFS, Anna Geraci, OFS

Diane Menditto, OFS, expresses in her cover letter,

"The directory is offered each year in the hope that it will enhance our ability to communicate with one another as a regional fraternity; call upon one another for advice, assistance and collaboration, and be a handy contact reference. 'It is to be understood that this information is strictly confidential and is only to be used for the business of the Secular Franciscan Order and Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity. It is to be considered the property of the Order and should not be shared with any person or any outside organization for any reason without the express permission of the Regional Executive Council.'"

If any directory information has changed, please contact Anna Geraci, OFS, with updated information; e-mail: [TroubadourEditor@aol.com](mailto:TroubadourEditor@aol.com) or fill out the change form located on page 30 of this newsletter and surface mail.



"Through good communications we will grow closer as brothers and sisters in St. Francis and thereby strengthen our service to God and to the Order." **Diane Menditto, OFM**

# CONVIVENZA 2015

## EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY



### OFS Rule Article 8:

“So let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do.  
Let them participate in the sacramental life of the church, above all the Eucharist.  
Let them join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church,  
reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ.”



“Without prolonged moments of adoration, of prayerful encounter with the word, of sincere conversation with the Lord, our work easily becomes meaningless; we lose energy as a result of weariness and difficulties, and our fervor dies out.” EG 5:262



“Spirit-filled evangelizers are evangelizers who pray and work.” EG Chapter 5: 262

“Jesus wants evangelizers who proclaim the good news not only with words,  
but above all by a life transfigured by God’s presence.” EG 5:259

# CONVIVENZA 2015

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



# CONVIVENZA 2015

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

### FORMULATING A FRATERNITY MISSION STATEMENT

**I** recommend every Fraternity formulate a Fraternity mission statement as an ongoing agenda item for regular, formation and on-going formation meetings.

A quick look at many of the themes about which *Joy of the Gospel* focuses could suggest elements and items for “mission statements” for each of our local Fraternities. I’ve scoured the Internet looking for examples of missions statements. Pope Francis points to promoting peace, justice and fraternity, patient and respectful dialogue with all people of all faiths as well as people who have none. Better relations with people of other faiths he sees as indispensable ways of promoting peace and combating fundamentalism. Couldn’t these be included in our statements of mission?

**FR. MATTHEW A. PRAVETZ, O.F.M.**



## CONVIVENZA 2015

### PRESENTATION: OUR RULE AND THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL



The afternoon session treated us to Diane Menditto's Power Point presentation of:

#### **THE RULE OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER and EVANGELII GAUDIUM**

This meditational presentation compares our OFS Rule to the document "*Evangelii Gaudium* – The Joy of the Gospel. The Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, 2013, on "the church's primary mission of evangelization in the modern world."

In it we are challenged by our *Rule* and by *Evangelii Gaudium*:

- To meditate on Scripture.
- To live the message of the Gospel.
- To prayer and contemplation.
- To seek Justice and peace.
- To thrive in Community – Fraternity.
- To strive for personal daily conversion.

The Power Point presentation lines up our Secular Franciscan Rule by Article number alongside the Joy of the Gospel and further issues a series of challenges throughout the document. Simple illustrations are added to further bring the points across.

As the slides were projected, participants read aloud the underlined portions.

Pope Francis challenges us to "be who we say we are."  
"An authentic faith—which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it." EG 4:183

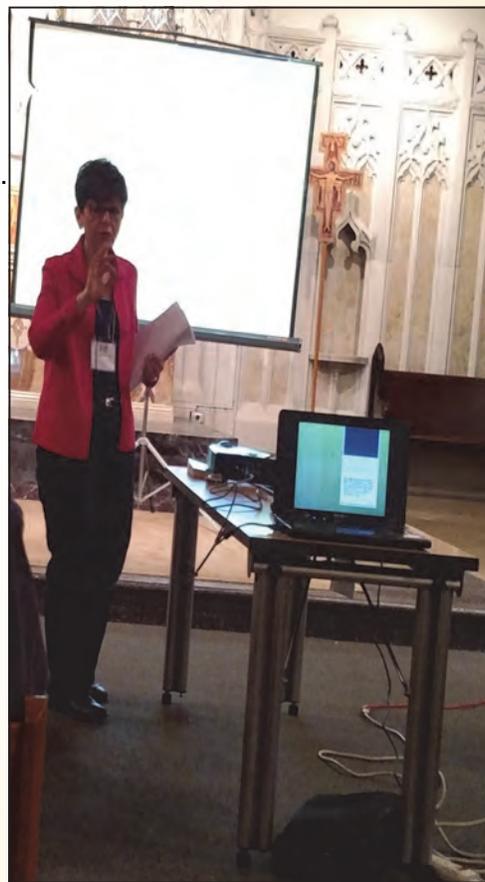
Please bring this back and discuss it with your fraternities.

The complete presentation and hand out notes can be found on our region website:

[http://olangels.tripod.com/region\\_links.html](http://olangels.tripod.com/region_links.html)



**A BEAUTIFUL ENDING TO A FANTASTIC DAY.**



## SPECIAL EVENT

### FR. MICHAEL PERRY RE-ELECTED OFM GENERAL MINISTER

Fr. Michael Perry, OFM, of Sacred Heart Province, USA, was re-elected General Minister on May 21, 2015 during the General Chapter. (GC) The 126 voting members overwhelmingly selected Fr. Michael as the 120th General Minister Of the Order of Friars Minor and the successor of St. Francis of Assisi. On May 22, Fr. Julio César Bunader, OFM, of Assumption BVM Province, Argentina, was re-elected as General Vicar of the Province.

“As they stepped from the Domus Pacis, the bells of the basilica filled the Italian countryside informing the friars, residents, visitors and friends of St. Francis that we have elected a General Minister: Habemus Mistrum Generalem!” wrote Frs. Thomas Washburn, OFM, and Alvin Te, OFM, who have been providing updates from the chapter.

### GENERAL CHAPTER OFM'S MEET THE POPE

On May 26, the friars piled into buses and traveled from Assisi to Rome for an audience with Pope Francis. In the Sala Clementina of the Vatican Apostolic Palace, Pope Francis received in audience the participants in the General Chapter of the Order of Friars Minor, and dedicated this time to two key aspects of their identity: minority and fraternity. In his address, the Holy Father remarked that minority,

“Calls us to be and to feel small before God, entrusting ourselves entirely to his infinite mercy. The perspective of mercy is incomprehensible to those who do not recognize themselves as 'minor': that is, as small, needy and sinners before God. The more aware we are of this, the closer we are to salvation; the more convinced we are of being sinners, the more disposed we are to be saved. ... Minority also means coming out of ourselves, of leaving behind our preconceptions and personal views; it also means going beyond structures – that are of course useful if used wisely – and beyond our habits and certainties, to bear witness to real closeness to the poor, needy and marginalized, with an authentic attitude of sharing and service”.

Similarly, the dimension of fraternity is essential for bearing witness to the Gospel. “In the primitive Church, Christians lived in fraternal community to the extent that ... the people were surprised to see them so united in love, so willing to give and to forgive each other”, commented the Pope. “Your religious family is called upon to express this concrete fraternity, by recovering this mutual trust in interpersonal relations, so that the world may see and believe, acknowledging that Christ's love heals wounds and renders us as one”. In this respect, Francis invited the Franciscans to be “bringers of mercy, reconciliation and peace”, in obedience to their charism which has made them an “outbound congregation” since their origins.

As St. Francis invites you when he says ... 'I counsel, warn and exhort my friars in the Lord Jesus Christ, that when they go about through the world, they are not to quarrel nor contend in words, nor are they to judge others, but they are to be meek, peaceable and modest, meek and humble, speaking uprightly to all, as is fitting. ...



Into whatever house they may enter, first let them say: 'Peace to this house', and ... it is lawful to eat any of the foods which are placed before them”.

The Pope stressed that St. Francis' exhortation remains valid. “It is a prophecy of fraternity and minority for today's world too. How important it is to live a Christian and religious existence without losing oneself in disputes and gossip, cultivating a serene dialogue with all, ... with modest means, announcing peace and living in a sober fashion, content with what is offered to you. This also requires a decisive commitment to transparency, to the ethical and fraternal use of goods, in a style of sobriety. If, instead, you are attached to worldly goods and wealth, and place your security there, it will be the Lord Himself Who will despoil you of this spirit of worldliness in order to preserve this valuable heritage of minority and poverty to which He has called you through St. Francis. You will either be freely poor and minor, or find yourselves denuded”.

“The Holy Spirit is the inspiration for religious life”, continued Pope Francis. “When consecrated persons let themselves be enlightened and guided by the Spirit, they discover in this supernatural vision the secret of their fraternity, the inspiration for their service to their brothers, the strength of their prophetic presence in the Church and in the world. The light and the strength of the Spirit will also help you face the challenges that lie before you, especially the numerical decrease, aging and diminution of new vocations”.

The pope's remarks, as well as photos of his meeting with the friars, are [available online](#).



# UPCOMING SEMINARS

**Last Chance**

**to register for**

**JULY 2015 Seminars**



**2015 Summer Seminar July 9-12, 2015**  
**SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY, LORETTO, PA**

**THE TOPIC FOR THIS YEAR'S SEMINAR IS: "SERVANT LEADERSHIP"**

**SPEAKERS:**  
**FR. MICHAEL HIGGINS, TOR**



Fr. Michael Higgins, has been a Franciscan, TOR for thirty-seven years and was ordained to the priesthood in June of 1985. Fr. Michael is committed to the spread of lay ministry and leadership in the local church and has served the Sacred Heart Province both as the Provincial Spiritual Assistant to the Secular Franciscan Order and as the Local Spiritual Assistant to St. Clare's Fraternity in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. During his time as Vicar General of his Order he also held the position of General Spiritual Assistant to the OFS.



**MARY FRANCES CHASKY, OFS**

Mary Frances Charsky, OFS, was professed as a Secular Franciscan in 1981 and is a member of the St. Francis Fraternity in Binghamton, NY. She currently serves as a National Councilor for NAFRA. Regionally, Mary Frances has served as Minister, Councilor and Formation Team member and in her local fraternity as Minister, Vice-Minister, Formation Director, Councilor and Formation Team members. Her leadership training has included professional as well as Franciscan spiritual experiences.

To register online: <https://my.francis.edu/sfubus/ICFL/ICFLseminar.asp>

To register by mail send registration form and check payable to: "Saint Francis University" to: ICFL, Saint Francis University, P.O. Box 600, Loretto, PA 15940-0600

Space is limited to 100 participants, so please register early.

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS JUNE 18, 2015.** No registrations will be accepted after this date.

Questions? Contact Diane Rombouts, 814-472-3219 (daytime) or email [icfl@francis.edu](mailto:icfl@francis.edu)

## SECULAR FRANCISCAN PROGRAM:

### ASSISI IN THE TIME OF FRANCIS: BIRTHPLACE OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCANS

"SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI" by Mario Zam-



**A**t the turn of the 13th century, Assisi, like the rest of Italy and most of Western Europe, was going through dramatic changes in the society. A thriving economy and prosperous commerce had brought the rise of a middle class that wanted its share of power. The alliance of the land owners and the money makers created flourishing cities, but also added to the poverty of those who held no shares in the wealth.

Those in charge of the Church were too involved in those politics. The laity reacted to these unjust and un-Christian developments: the penitential movement, focused on a return to the Gospel, arose. Francis, Clare, and others joined it.

**This weeklong course looks at how the Order of Secular Franciscans (OFS) developed in this atmosphere and in this place.**



**Instructor:**

Jean-François Godet-Calogeras  
Professor of Franciscan Studies, St. Bonaventure University  
**Event Dates:** July 20-24, 2015 • **Time:** 1:00 - 3:40 p.m.

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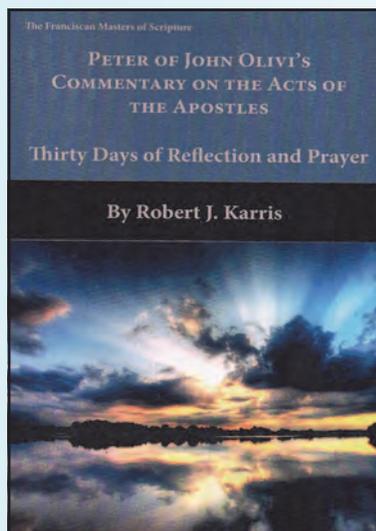
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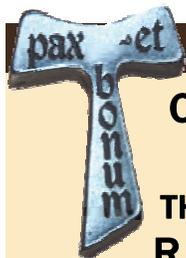
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- The electronic version named, *e-Troubadour*, is published monthly and is available on our Region website or by email only. It is available to all professed and Candidate members of the region with e-addresses from our database.
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