



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



Photo credit: ED WOJCIECHOWSKI, OFS
Sculpture by: TIMOTHY P. SCHMALZ
Titled: WHEN I WAS HUNGRY AND THIRSTY
Located: ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH, NYC

LETTER FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My letter to you this month is a little shorter than usual because **our region is humming with activity!**

- We are **finishing up visitations for EVERY fraternity in our region**. Between November 2014 and September 2017, every fraternity will have been visited at least once. Some have already been visited twice.

- Almost every fraternity is **up-to-date with their elections**--just a few more need to be completed.

- **EVERY** fraternity minister has submitted their **Annual Reports and statistics**. Almost every fraternity has paid its **Fair Share**.

- We have recently submitted our **report to the National Fraternity**. (This is a compilation of all the reports sent in by your local ministers including statistics. It is a big job that can only be accomplished with the help of the local ministers.)

- We invited **every inquirer, candidate and Formation Team** in the region to attend a **Cluster formation class** on the *Prayer Life of the Secular Franciscan*. The first class held in May at 96th Street in Manhattan was a big success with more than 50 people in attendance. The **next session (same topic)** was held in Paterson, New Jersey on June 24th.

- We have started an **outreach program for our retired friars**. So far, the committee has met twice and is busy sending cards and some hand-made items to the friars. If you are interested in being part of this group, let me know.

- We now have a regional **JPIC animator**. If you are interested in serving on this committee, let us know.

- We are still looking for someone (with creative ideas!) to head up our **Vocations Committee**.

- St. Conrad Fraternity in Hoboken, NJ, recently invited me to join them as they celebrated the **Rite of Admission**. **Five** candidates were admitted with **5 more** to come in July! This is our **first all-Spanish-speaking fraternity**.

- The counts of **candidates and inquirers** submitted by local ministers for 2016 **are way up**. Good work with attracting vocations! We are **all** walking, talking **vocations brochures**. Wear your TAU and be ready to tell others what it means and what the Order means to you.

- Also, we would love to have some folks volunteer to brainstorm ideas for outreach to **youth/young adults**.

In July a member of our region will be attending an information gathering session on youth in St. Louis sponsored by the National Fraternity.

- Our **regional retreat at Mt. Alvernia** is coming up on **August 4-6**. Fr. Nick Mormando, OFM Cap., Provincial Minister of Stigmata Province and Bro. Rudolph Pieretti, OFM Cap., Provincial Secretary, will be our speakers. **(The retreat is now sold out.)**

- The **National Formation Commission** will be having a workshop in St. Louis in August. I will be attending as one of the presenters and Ed Wojciechowski, OFS, will attend as our Regional Formation Director.

- Our **regional elections** will be held on November 11th. All nominations should have been submitted. If you were nominated, please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your discernment of whether or not you will accept nomination.

Please take note that all of the above is only possible through **collaboration and cooperation**. This is the hallmark of Franciscans. **Face-to-face gathering in fraternity** (whether it is a fraternity council, a regional council, the national council, a formation group, or a local fraternity) keeps us working and praying together. As Franciscans, we put our individual agendas aside and move together toward the same goal--**relationship with God, with one another and with all of Creation**.

Thank you for your continued prayers. We are praying for you!

Peace and blessings,



DIANE F. MENDITTO, OFS • MINISTER, OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGION



**OUR LADY
OF THE
ANGELS
2014-2017
REGIONAL
EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL:**

MINISTER:

Diane F. Menditto, OFS
dianefmdfm@aol.com

VICE-MINISTER:

Nancy Conroy, OFS
paxjesu@yahoo.com

SECRETARY:

Kate Asselin, OFS
ktasselin@gmail.com

TREASURER:

Richard Spana, OFS
ricksanasfo@aol.com

FORMATION DIRECTOR:

Ed Wojciechowski, OFS
edwojo@yahoo.com

COUNCILOR:

—Manhattan
Patricia Clayton, OFS
reap.clayton@gmail.com

COUNCILOR:

—Staten Island/
Central New Jersey
Mary-Frances Reavey, OFS
mfreavey@gmail.com

COUNCILOR:

—North Jersey
Ronald L. Pihokker, OFS
rlpihokker@aol.com

COUNCILOR:

—Westchester
Sheila Tuohy, OFS
sheilatuohy@optonline.net

SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS:

Fr. Frank M. McHugh, OFM
fmchugh77@aol.com

Bro. Doug Soik, OFM Cap
doogie130alp@gmail.com

2017 REGION CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETINGS



REGION RETREAT

AUGUST 4 – 6, 2017

MT. ALVERNIA RETREAT CENTER
WAPPINGERS FALLS, NEW YORK

SOLD-OUT

Our Annual OLTAR Retreat is now "sold out." If you still wish to attend, regional treasurer, Richard Spana, OFS, has started a waiting list in case of any cancellations. Contact him directly at: Ricksanasfo@aol.com 



CHAPTER OF MINISTERS - ELECTIVE CHAPTER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH
50 LODI STREET, HACKENSACK, NJ



PRAYER FOR OFS LEADERSHIP

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

In seeking a leader, let us seek more than our own enhancement; though enhancement we hope for more than security for our own plans and vision; though security we need; more than satisfaction for our own selfish wants; though many things we desire.

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

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

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

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

We trust You, Great God, to open our hearts to learn from those to whom You speak in different tongues and to respect

the life and words of those to whom You entrusted the good of other parts of this globe.

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

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

Amen.

Written by
FR. KEVIN QUEALLY, TOR

OUR IDENTITY AS A SECULAR FRANCISCAN

When I meet someone in my parish or going about my daily activities and tell them that I am a Secular Franciscan, they often look at me with a puzzled expression on their face.

Most likely, they have never met a Secular Franciscan and don't know much, if anything, about us. Most of the time, they are interested in the Franciscan lifestyle and want to know more about the Secular Franciscans, who we are and what we do. They want to know what "makes us tick".

When we refer to ourselves as Secular Franciscans, we are identifying ourselves as part of the Franciscan community composed of Friars, Poor Clares, Priests, religious and lay people. As part of an order, we are connected more intimately with the life and mission of the Catholic Church. As secular Catholics, we are part of the faithful who live the Franciscan charism in our ordinary day-to-day life and activities.

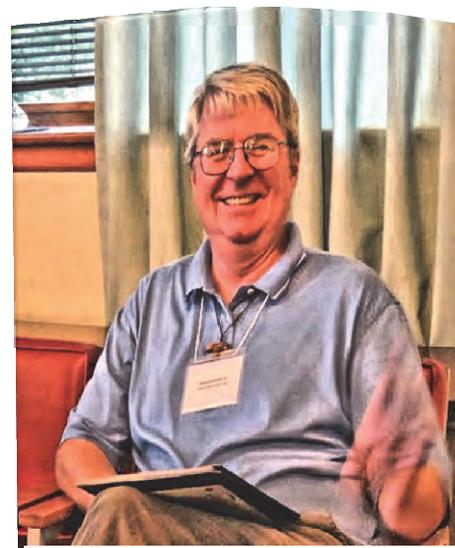
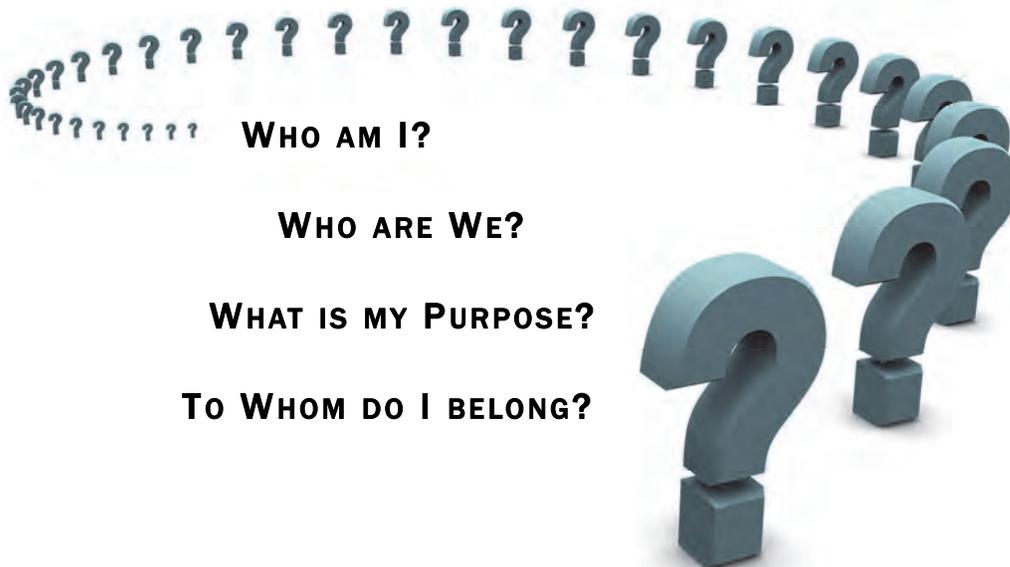


Photo credit: DIANE MENDITTO, OFS

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

Secular Franciscan, Anne Mulqueen, OFS, addresses the charism of the Secular Franciscan in the F.U.N. Manual where she poses the following questions about our identity:



WHO AM I?
WHO ARE WE?
WHAT IS MY PURPOSE?
TO WHOM DO I BELONG?

In this column, I hope to give a brief overview of these key questions and how they relate to our Secular Franciscan identity.

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WHO AM I?

We are all part of God's creation. In the Book of Genesis, we learn that God "created mankind in His image" (Gen. 1:27). God created us and loves us unconditionally. We all have unique gifts and talents that God wants us to share with each other to build up the Kingdom of God. God created each and every one of us with a particular purpose in mind and invites us to live in communion with Him and each other.

WHO ARE WE?

Through the sacraments of baptism and confirmation, we were all made members of the Mystical Body of Christ.

We are the "living stones" which make up the "one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic" Church. Through our profession we have been "united more intimately with the Church" and we "should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ" by our lives and words. (OFS Rule 2:6)

WHAT IS MY PURPOSE?

As witnesses to Christ, we are to live and proclaim the Gospels in our daily lives. United by our vocation, we conform our "thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel calls "conversion." (OFS Rule 2:7). We are faithful stewards of creation and are called to build a "more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought out more effectively" (Rule 2:14). We are at the forefront of promoting social justice "by testimony" of our daily lives and our "courageous initiatives" (OFS Rule 2:14)



TO WHOM DO I BELONG?

As part of the Franciscan family, we are united with "all members of the people of God - laity, religious and priests - who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi" (OFS Rule 1:1) As Secular Franciscans, we are intimately united to each other by our vocation and are "motivated by the dynamic power of the Gospel" (OFS Rule 2:7)

Reflecting on the Gospels, the Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30) instructs us to use the gifts that God has given us wisely. But there is also a warning to those hiding their talents "for to everyone who has, will more be given and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away." (Matt. 24:29). We must use the talents that God has given us and freely share our talents with our families and our fraternities.

By our profession, we have a life long commitment to live the Gospels in communion with the Catholic Church following the examples of St. Francis and St. Clare. This is our mission in life. This is who we are. This is our identity.

Pax et Bonum,

Ed

Ed Wojciechowski, OFS

PRESIDENT TRUMP WITHDRAWS FROM THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT. GOOD NEWS?

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

The U.S. and China, the two largest carbon emitters and 195 other nations, signed the agreement that was ratified in November 2016. The agreement establishes that nations must reduce their carbon dioxide emissions in order to keep global temperatures well below a two degree Celsius increase in relation to pre-Industrial levels. There has been outrage from all corners of the globe since this decision was announced. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops statement said,

"The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), along with Pope Francis and the entire Catholic Church, have consistently upheld the Paris agreement as an important International mechanism to promote environmental stewardship and encourage climate change mitigation. The President's decision not to honor the U.S. commitment to the Paris agreement is deeply troubling. The Scriptures affirm the value of caring for creation and caring for each other in solidarity. The Paris Agreement is an International accord that promotes these values. President Trump's decision will harm the people of the United States and the world, especially the poorest, most vulnerable communities. The impacts of climate change are already being experienced in sea level rise, glacial melts, intensified storms and more frequent droughts. I can only hope that the President will propose concrete ways to address global climate change and promote environmental stewardship."

The Franciscan friars of the English Speaking Conference OFM, representing some 13,000 friars in all of the English-speaking countries of the world, have also joined their voices with those of other Catholic leaders to decry the action of the President to remove the United States from the Paris Climate Accord.

In a statement (edited) issued through the Catholic Climate Covenant they said,

"We, the member organizations of Catholic Climate Covenant, are deeply disappointed by President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement and stop all future payments to the Green Climate Fund. We implore him to reconsider. The International Agreement of 2015 demonstrates that all nations will be impacted by a warming world and that all nations have a corresponding responsibility to limit greenhouse gas pollution causing climate change. Climate change is already harming vulnerable people throughout the U.S. and around the world. American citizens in Louisiana and Alaska are being displaced by rising sea levels caused by melting glaciers and thermal expansion. Across the globe, families in Zimbabwe are being devastated by crushing drought amidst some of the hottest years on record. Globally, the World Health Organization warns that "between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress."

Both at home and abroad, climate change unjustly and disproportionately harms poor and marginalized people who contribute least to the problem.

Catholic teaching insists that climate change is a grave moral issue that threatens our commitments: to protect human life, health, dignity and security; to exercise a preferential option for the poor; to promote the common good of which the climate is part; to live in solidarity with future generations; to realize peace; and to care for God's good gift of creation.

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These arguments have been made by Saint John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, bishops from every continent and most recently, Pope Francis.

Additionally, we've heard from chief executives, mayors, governors and scientists who also decried this decision. I am by no means an expert on climate change although I do believe it is real and needs to be mitigated. However, as I reflected on all this outrage, I couldn't help but feel encouraged by what President Trump did.

Encouraged? How can that reconcile with my being a lay Franciscan and animator of our region's JPIC Committee? I think there could be good news here. I see opportunity.

Well, here's the thing. Maybe all the outrage and anger over this decision will force these chief executives, legislators and others who can directly implement programs in their companies, industries, cities and states to reduce their carbon footprint will take the appropriate actions to do so. Maybe President Trump inadvertently created another movement – for everyone to do their part.

We all agree that something needs to be done. Why do we always think it's our government's responsibility? We all need to step up. We all need to reduce our carbon footprint.

Protests do not mitigate the problem. Writing letters do not mitigate the problem. Individual action, corporate action, action by municipalities mitigate the problem.

We shouldn't abdicate responsibility by saying the United States has to solve climate change. We, the people, have to solve climate change. Would Bloomberg Philanthropies have pledged \$15 million to "support the operations" of the United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change, the arm of the UN that coordinates the Paris Pact, if President Trump didn't pull out of the agreement?

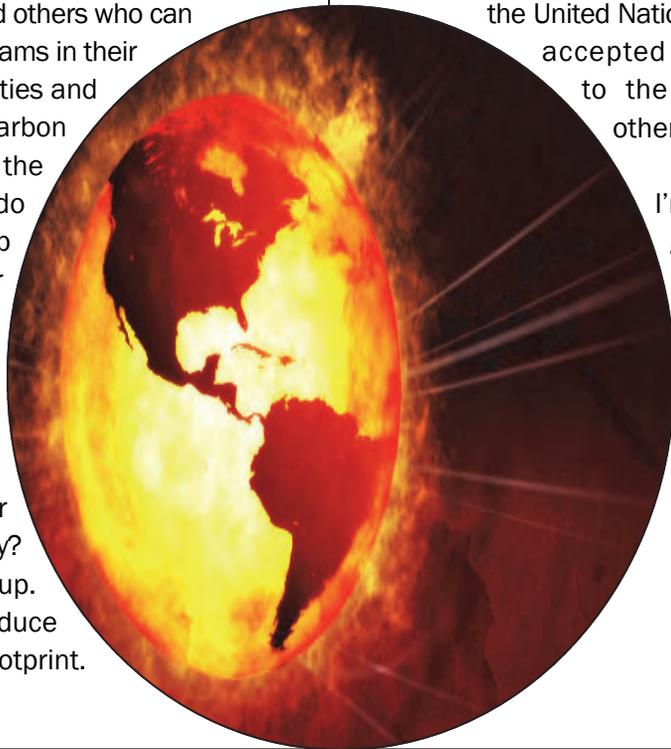
Would the 30 mayors, 3 governors, more than 80 university presidents and more than 100 businesses of American cities have joined forces to submit a plan to the United Nations pledging to meet the United States' greenhouse gas emissions targets under the Paris climate accord? This group is negotiating with the United Nations to have its submission accepted alongside contributions to the Paris climate deal by other nations.

I'm positive many more groups will form to take responsible action.

That's good news in my opinion.

PEACE AND GOOD!

Chris



2017 Convivenza

DRIZZLING WEATHER ALONG WITH MULTIPLE STREET CLOSINGS AND HEAVY CITY TRAFFIC COULD NOT DAMPEN THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE MORE THAN 84 SECULAR FRANCISCAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO GATHERED TOGETHER AT THE SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH OFFICES IN MIDTOWN MANHATTAN TO CELEBRATE THE ANNUAL OLTAR REGION'S 2017 CONVIVENZA GATHERING HELD ON EARTH DAY, APRIL 22nd.



Article photos: DIANE MENDITTO, OFS and Ed Wojciechowski, OFS

REGIONAL MINISTER DIANE MENDITTO, OFS, opened the Chapter by welcoming attendees to the yearly gathering. The morning agenda included a timely combination of fraternal camaraderie and fraternity business. It was quickly followed by the welcome and introduction of guest speaker, Sr. Joann Sams, CSA.

The theme, "Know the Creator through Creation" focused around the significance of Earth Day to those of us gathered. On the Human level— we share the resources of the Earth. On the Spiritual level as followers of St. Francis— we follow his example and see that everything is connected. As people of Faith— we follow the call of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*, and as Baptized Christians— we care for our common home as a Gospel call.

Sister Joann's presentations provided an informative and engaging day filled with thought provoking topics, reflections and engaging group discussions.

Holy Mass was celebrated with Fr. Frank M. McHugh, OFM, (*Regional Spiritual Assistant*) presiding, and Fr. Andrew Reitz, OFM, (Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Church).

After lunch, Sr. Joann shared information of her role as Director of *The Dwelling Place of NY*. The day concluded with a prayer from *Laudato Si*, thanking God for the gift of being together.

2017 Convivenza

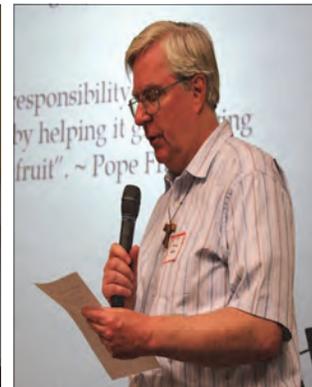


THANK YOU to the members of St. Benedict the Moor Fraternity and the members of the Manhattan Cluster for hosting this year's Convivenza.

THANK YOU to Patricia Clayton, OFS and Nancy Conroy, OFS, who did such a wonderful job organizing everything. Everything was well planned and the food was bountiful; you all really know how to put out a good spread.



THANK YOU to the Regional Executive Council Members of Our Lady of the Angels Region. It takes a lot of time and effort to produce a successful event. You make it all seem effortless.



2017
Convivenza

Earth Day 2017

Know the Creator Through
Creation

In this program, we will call upon our triune God who is the Creator to reveal God's love through all of creation. God's grace comes to us through the waters of baptism, through bread and wine, Christ's body and blood, and through the fire of the Holy Spirit that inflames us to see and share God's love seen throughout creation. Opening our spirits to the interconnectedness of the wonders of our world will draw us ever closer to the author of the universe and challenge us to care ever more deeply for the earth, our common home.



2017 Convivenza

THIS PRESENTATION:

Guided the group to learn about climate change issues.

Helped us understand what is happening to creation because of our actions.

Let us see that we can get to know the Creator through the splendor of God's creation.

Imparted understanding that through our work to protect and care for creation we proclaim God's glory.

Empowers Catholics to care for creation through actions, advocacy and/or establishing a Creation Care Team.

It is hoped that this presentation will spark interest for further study, reflection and action in caring for creation.

To register for updates go to:
www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org



God created the heavens and the earth. The heavens and the earth sing God's praises. All creation, the sun, the moon, the stars, the wind, the seas, all creatures, great and small, declare the glory and majesty of God.

"God worked in Creation and gave us the responsibility to carry forward this task, not by destroying it, but by helping it grow, caring for it, being custodians, and helping it bear fruit".

—Pope Francis

WHERE DO YOU
SEE/ENCOUNTER
GOD, THE CREATOR?
IN THE SCRIPTURES?
DURING WORSHIP SERVICES?
IN SILENT MEDITATION?
WHEN YOU SPEND TIME
WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS?
BY LOOKING UP TO THE HEAVENS
AND GAZING AT THE STARS
OR THE SUNSET?
IN THE FACES OF CHILDREN?

Ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In His hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.

—Job 12: 7-10

Creation is of the order of love. God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things: "For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that You have made; for You would not have made anything if You had hated it" (*Wisdom 11:24*). Every creature is thus the object of the Father's tenderness, who gives it its place in the world. Even the fleeting life of the least of beings is the object of His love and in its few seconds of existence, God enfolds it with His affection. Saint Basil the Great described the Creator as "Goodness without measure," while Dante Alighieri spoke of "the love which moves the sun and the stars." Consequently, we can ascend from created things "to the greatness of God and to His loving mercy.

—*Laudato Si'* 77

Reflection

How did the Scripture readings and the reading of *Laudato Si'* help you to "know the Creator through Creation"?

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2017 Convivenza

by PHIL PAPA, OFS Candidate
Little Portion Fraternity
Mount Vernon, NY

As a new Candidate in the Little Portion Fraternity from Mt. Vernon, New York, I attended the Annual Convivenza Conference on April 22nd at St. Francis Church in Manhattan.

The gathering was well attended with members coming from all over the Metropolitan area. This year's conference fell on Earth Day which is the annual celebration of worldwide support for environmental protection. What better day to gather in the name of St. Francis who was so dedicated to God's gift of Mother Earth to mankind.

The guest speaker was Sister Joann Sambs, CSA, Director of *The Dwelling Place of NY*, a transitional residence for homeless women run by the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany in Upstate New York.

Sr. Joann gave an excellent presentation highlighting the responsibility we have, not only as followers of St. Francis and members of the Christian Community, but also as citizens of Earth, to do all we can to protect the environment for future generations, against the ravages of man-made global warming.

She brought home to us how blessed we are as a people to live in the most technologically advanced and economically wealthy nation on earth. She made us aware of the extreme differences in living standards that exist around the world due to the effects of global warming, including its direct causes of drought and the resulting lack of adequate food supplies for God's family. She had us share how we as individuals and as members of our Church communities can make a difference in helping protect our environment.

Sister Joann also shared her experience with homeless women in New York City that her group helps transition to independent living.

The Conference gave me an opportunity to meet, pray with and share my Franciscan journey with members of the Franciscan Community throughout the region.

It was a blessed day well worth attending.



SUSTAINABILITY

IRMA CRUSO, OFS
ST. JOHN'S FRATERNITY
NEW YORK CITY

PRAYER

MOST POWERFUL GOD ...

Have pity on our poor Earth,
Climate change has ravaged our lands,
Have pity on the marginalized ones,
the poorest of the poor.

BE MERCIFUL OH LORD ...

May our leaders lead righteously
and hear our message
to protect our Earth, that we may have
sustainability in order for our children
to be born healthy and free.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS ...

Be merciful to our brothers and sisters-
Your children.
Graciously hear our prayers
and let us continue to enjoy the Earth,
The lands You bestowed on us
with life-giving graces,
That we may continue to live in peace
with brother Sun and sister Moon
So we can sing with unending praises.

SUSTAIN US DEAR GOD ...

that our Earth may sustain us.

2017

Convivenza

AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, DONATIONS TO A SPECIAL CAUSE ARE SUGGESTED BY THE CONVIVENZA HOST FRATERNITY. THIS YEAR, THE HOSTING FRATERNITY, ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR SELECTED THE DWELLING PLACE OF NY AND PROVIDED A LIST OF THE ITEMS MOST NEEDED AND DESIRED.

AS ALWAYS, THE OLTAR REGIONAL MEMBERS RESPONDED GENEROUSLY.



"On behalf of the staff and ladies of *The Dwelling Place of NY*, I thank you for your generous outpouring of care and support reflected in the many gifts that you shared with us. Please accept our deep gratitude for the food and household items, toiletries and personal care items, the numerous gift cards and monetary gifts that you showered upon us. Your gifts bring joy, comfort and hope to women who are facing a very difficult time in their life. Thank You.

Established in 1977 in the spirit of St. Francis, food, shelter, support and sustenance has been provided to thousands of women in an atmosphere of love, respect and dignity at **THE DWELLING PLACE OF NY**.

May you continue to be instruments of God's peace and caretakers of all God's creation through the grace of your Franciscan call.

With Sincere Appreciation,
Sister Joann Sambs, CSA, Administrator, The Dwelling House of NY
<http://thedwellingplaceofny.org>



A privately-funded transitional residence for homeless women located in Midtown Manhattan.

A sponsored ministry of **The Franciscan Sisters of Allegany.**



At any given time, 15 women will call **THE DWELLING PLACE OF NY** their home, a personal place of her own with a bed, closet and nightstand.



Each woman receives personalized care, support and guidance in a safe, healing and structured environment that offers women the time and space needed to develop a plan for building a healthy, self-supported lifestyle.



Photo credit: ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY FRATERNITY



by
CARMELA AYERS, OFS

☎ ☎ ☎
**ST. ELIZABETH
OF HUNGARY
FRATERNITY**

**FRATERNITY MEETINGS
ARE HELD**

ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
SEPTEMBER — JUNE
3:30 - 5:00 P.M.

MSGR. FARRELL HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
2900 AMBOY ROAD
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10306

(Come into Msgr. Farrell High School through the main entrance, and make a right. Just down the hallway, you will see the Library where we meet.)

MINISTER
DENISE ENRIGHT, OFS

CONTACT EMAIL
Deniseenright@aol.com



FRATERNITY WEB PAGE
www.franciscansatfarrell.org



For close to 70 years, St Francis Friary had been our home. We were surrounded every month by the stained glass windows of the Franciscan saints, an altar which had originally been installed in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Franciscan artwork and the benefit of the spiritual assistance and friendship of many Conventual Friars.

We held every fraternity and council meeting there — and many of our members volunteered, supported and worked to help renovate the Friary rooms and sustain the St. Francis Center for Spirituality. We attended Franciscan indoor and outdoor celebrations and many fund-raisers for the poor on the beautiful grounds we all loved. The *Transitus* was always a special evening with the Friars.

When two provinces united to become one in 2014, we heard that the Friary was to be sold and we were devastated. We didn't know what would become of us. Would we have a Franciscan identity apart from our lovely surroundings?

After some searching, we received permission to use the church of St Teresa of the Infant Jesus for Mass and a room for our meetings. No longer could we meet in the evenings, no longer would a Friar bring his special charism to our Mass. Nevertheless, we felt closely drawn to each other despite the new difficulties we experienced in our new place. The council marveled at the increased attendance!

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Without a Friar, we had to become creative in putting together thoughtful Franciscan prayer services and original material for ongoing formation. After a year or so, we realized that many of our elderly members were having difficulty with navigating the steps at the church and the long walk to the meeting room.

We knew we would have to search for a better location.

Once more, we were very concerned. Why didn't we know that God and our Seraphic Father were looking out for us?

Through the concern and generosity of Bishop John O'Hara and Monsignor Edmund Whalen, we received permission to use the chapel and spacious library at Monsignor Farrell High School.

What JOY! We had a home again. We began to create a website and *Facebook* page for our fraternity. We also updated our brochure and ventured out to Manhattan seeking opportunities to broaden our ongoing formation.

We sought diligently for a spiritual assistant and once again our prayers were answered when Father Justin Biase, OFM Conv., former Provincial of Immaculate Conception (now Our Lady of the Angels Province) agreed to travel each month from Williamsburg, Brooklyn to offer Mass and ongoing formation at our meetings.

With the retreat at Mount Alvernia coming up, we realized that many of our members would not be able to attend due to infirmity or financial constraints. Through the efforts of our council, we made arrangements to use the chapel and dining area at the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master Convent, right here on Staten Island. We had such a good response! We enjoyed breakfast and lunch together. Father Justin celebrated Holy Mass for us and gave two inspiring Lenten conferences, as well as the opportunity for Confession.

Those of us who can, look forward to carpooling to Mt. Alvernia in August and it will be with lighter hearts, since we know all our fraternity members made an Annual Retreat together.

I know St Francis is interceding for us, for St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity is truly alive and well. We have a Candidate and a new Inquirer. THANKS BE TO GOD.

APOSTOLATES THROUGH WHICH OUR MEMBERS CURRENTLY SERVE:

- Lectors
- Ministers of Holy Communion
- Bringing of Holy Communion to sick and homebound
- Tutoring and teaching of Autistic children
- Parish Catechists
- Parish Directors of School of Religion
- Catechists to Adult Mentally Disabled
- Formators of Catechists for the Archdiocese of New York
- Retreat Leaders
- Visitors to Fraternity members who are incapacitated by age or illness
- Leaders of Marian Youth Groups
- Eucharistic Adorers
- Philippine apostolate "2000 Hail Mary's" Eucharistic and Marian Devotion
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Pro-Life Elderly and Homebound Club
- Ladies of Charity
- Companions to Down-Syndrome Teens and Adults

BRIEFS

CHANGES

A warm welcome to **MSGR. PAUL BOCHICCHIO**, new Spiritual Assistant to **ST. FRANCIS FRATERNITY** in Hoboken, NJ. He was appointed this past May.

T

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY FRATERNITY in Staten Island, NY, member Colleen Comito, OFS, stepped down from her newly elected office as Secretary. The Council appointed Colleen Cericola, OFS on June 8.

T

FRATERNITY JOYS

DOLORES JULES, OFS



A Happy Birthday shout out to **FR. JOSEPH KUBIAK, OFM, CAP**. His birthday was celebrated on March 12th. Fr. Joseph is the Spiritual Assistant to the **ST. JOHN VIANNEY FRATERNITY** from Colonia, NJ.

UPCOMING

MARY CAROL CAIEZZA, OFS

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY in Hoboken, NJ, prays the Stations of the Cross every First Friday at 6:00 p.m. followed by Mass at St. Francis Church, 308 Jefferson St., Hoboken, NJ.

All are welcome to join us. This year we are initiating a liturgical celebration for the **FRANCISCAN DAY OF PARDON** on **Wednesday, August 2nd**, also being held at the same church. Visiting Capuchin, **Fr. Karun, OFM Cap**, will offer Mass at 7:00 p.m. followed by Confession.

We are inviting all parishes to join us and we'd be very happy if any of you, our brothers and sisters of the region would join us.

T

FINANCIAL

RICHARD SPANA, OFS

For those fraternities that still need an **EIN NUMBER** to open a bank account, etc., go to the **IRS.GOV** website; then select IRS official site; When the site appears at the bottom, you will see an area that states Search. Type in EIN number and click search. Select #3 apply online; Begin the application, select View Other Types, then select Church Controlled Organization. Complete the application. Remember, the individual completing the application must use their name, address and social security number. In a matter of seconds, you will receive your EIN number.



RETREAT

CARMELA AYERS, OFS

Realizing that many of our **ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY FRATERNITY** members in Staten Island, NY could not attend the retreat at Mount Alvernia due to age or financial reasons, so we planned a local one-day Lenten retreat on March 2nd right here on Staten Island. We got a good response; about 18 members. Our S.A. Father Justin Biase, gave the retreat and it was spiritually uplifting to all.

T

APOSTOLATE UPDATE

JOSEPH BOROWSKI, OFS

The "Signs of Love" Apostolate Program continues at **ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY** in Pompton Lakes, NJ. The latest recipient was the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Haskell, NJ, this past April 19.

3 Rosewood desk signs with white letters were given to Fr. Greg Golba and two receptionists, Melissa Rivera and Jane Wright.

Donated on behalf of the Secular Franciscans at St. Mary's with promises that any additional signs needed for the Parish or Church would also be donated by us. They were very appreciative of the gifts donated to them.

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

STEVE HRNCIAR, OFS
Most Holy Name Fraternity
Little Falls, NJ
stevehjmj684@gmail.com



I have been involved in prison ministry since 2000 and can confidently say there has not been a moment that I have not enjoyed, learned from and grown from this ministry.

I remember as if it was yesterday; the Monday after my first retreat back in 2000. I was sitting in a pew at the Immaculate Conception parish at the 7:00 a.m. Mass, thinking about the weekend that had just transpired. All the men and events were swirling around in my head. So much so, that I was really not paying attention to what was going on where I was; in my mind, I was miles away.

As I slowly turned back to reality, the priest was consecrating the Host and said, "this is the Body of Christ." In this parish, suspended above the altar is a large Crucifix; for whatever the reason at that moment, my eyes gazed upon that cross and a flood of tears filled them and I wept uncontrollably. At that moment, all the men whom I'd been thinking of, entered deeply into my heart and have been there ever since. I cried throughout the rest of the Mass and during the entire walk home. My fiancée at the time heard me crying when I returned home 10 minutes later and thought something had happened. It had. I told her there was a community, a family, that God had placed in my heart.

These community members are people like you and me who have made mistakes and bad judgments – awful calls some of them. Some acts, if we were to judge, might be labeled as bad choices, yet others would be measured as life altering. Living with the deed that put you here would be punishment enough for those who are remorseful, but now add on to that the fact that you now have to exist in a cell that measures roughly 6' x 9'; a space that would be small for one person, but prison puts in two. You sleep next to a small sink and the toilet where you take care of business with your bunkie right there.



You will spend without activities, programs, classes, or jobs, (if you're lucky), 22-hours-a-day in this cell.

The food these men are given is so much at the opposite end of being "gourmet" that it isn't funny. They must figure out how to eat on their own. Many, depending on the length of time they need to serve, received visits from loved ones in the beginning, but as time passed, the visits declined; people passed away and some are now alone on their own. For others, the reasons that placed them here meant immediate dismissal from family and friends. They have been alone from the beginning, living in a hostile and very unpredictable environment.

They can only hear about what is going on with their families and are resigned to the fact that they cannot help when help is needed and cannot enjoy a joyful celebration; many cannot attend the funeral of a loved one.

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My friend, David, who understands why he is where he is, was incarcerated when his daughter was just one. She is now going on nine years of age and will hopefully see her when she is 12. I cannot imagine missing all that time in a child's life.

Many of the men we visit in *Kenosis* are men who acknowledge their mistakes, they understand completely why they are in prison and work very hard to change their lives. They are making good use of their time by taking classes, attending programs to improve their lives and attending religious services. For many, this has been their first encounter with God. This is where *Kenosis* fits in.

We are an Inter-denominational ministry and although it is based on the teachings of love that Jesus shared with the world, we try not to label it "Christian" because all denominations are welcome. We even have a Buddhist in our group family. There are strong lines of delineation within the prison as far as religion. *Kenosis* tries to put gates in these fences. Although we do read from the Bible and sing many Christian songs, we are not pushing any one religion onto those who attend.

The word *Kenosis* means "to empty one's self" it is taken from *Philippians 2: 5-11*, where Paul talks of how Jesus willingly emptied Himself of His heavenly glory and became a man and a servant of humanity even to the point of death on the cross. We team members, follow our Lord's example by emptying ourselves of pride and selfishness to become servants of all whom we meet. Our simply showing up every month shows these men that they are not forgotten and in time, we hope, that will build into their knowing that they do count.

Our mantra in *Kenosis* is "Listen, Listen, Love, Love; that is the basis of what we do on our visits. We also offer a 3-day retreat to initiate new members into the *Kenosis* family. This is a powerful awakening to God's promise that, "I will not forget My own."

One of the men on our past retreat said, "I look forward to this retreat and our monthly visits, it reminds me what it's like to be human again." These men completely understand the sacrifices we make in giving them some of our time. They often say to us, "you could be home with your family relaxing, but you are here". Others think we are crazy, but not I.

continued on next page

SOME OF THE VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF THE KENOSIS PRISON MINISTRY.



Photo credit: PETER KILMAN

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My participation and witnessing of the men's perseverance and faith through trying conditions has changed my perspective on a lot of things. When they share the special events in their family's lives, be it birthday's, graduations, weddings and so forth, it makes me thankful for the fact that I can hug my wife, my Mom, my son and daughter whenever I wish. I no longer take anything for granted. *Kenosis* fosters an amazing attitude of gratitude in my life and I believe, in the lives of the men who participate in this Apostolate. When we come together as people with mutual respect and love for one another, God ministers to us all.

It is my sincere hope that these words will touch a few hearts to consider joining us in what I feel is the best time spent outside of immediate family. Maybe this is what makes it so special, because this is a family that God has united. My friend, Big Jim, who has since passed on, always told me, "this ministry is for a select few." It truly is a special calling.

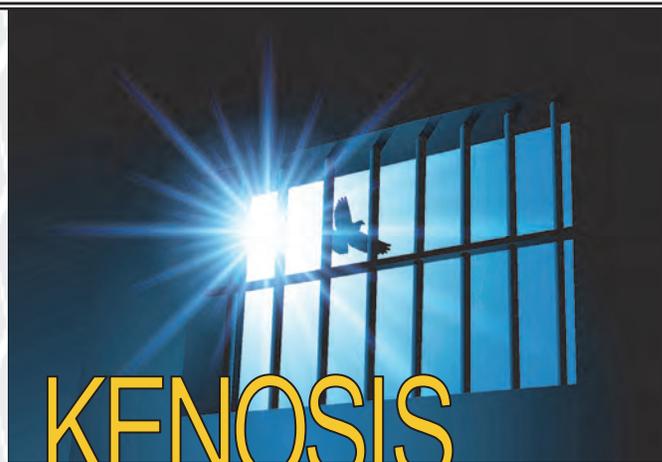
We read in Matthew 25:36, "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord when did we see You hungry and feed You? or thirsty and give You something to drink? When did we see You a stranger and invite You in? or needing clothes and clothed You? When did we see You sick or in prison and go to visit You?' The King replied, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me'."

Many people feed the homeless, clothe the naked and visit the sick, but asking them to go to a prison—that's a tough one for many. I ask that you search your heart and consider it, we need volunteers.

I have never felt in any danger in the 17 years I have done this ministry. Do not let fear prevent you from considering what could be one of the most rewarding experiences you can have spiritually.

If you feel the slightest desire or think the Spirit is calling you here... Listen, because to participate in this beautiful ministry, I believe you will experience "God's presence."

I WISH YOU PEACE !



KENOSIS

Kenosis Prison Ministry

PRISON MINISTRY

The *Kenosis Prison Ministry* works hand-in-hand with prison administration and chaplains to carry the Christian message to inmates throughout New Jersey. *Kenosis* is an inter-denominational team of lay people and prison clergy from surrounding New Jersey areas who minister to 15—40 inmates recommended by the Chaplain and approved by prison authorities and administration. These inmates will carry the message back to many more inmates. When the inmates learn to love themselves as God's children, they can then go out into the world to serve others and accomplish the true mission that God has in store for them.

The weekend experience is the central part of the program in which participants sit in table "families" with other inmates and *Kenosis* volunteers. Residents hear a series of talks, have discussions, eat and pray together. As the emotional walls the inmates have built fall down, they open their hearts to the love of Christ. *Kenosis* volunteers and residents attend instructions, reunions and retreats.

KENOSIS Volunteer -

"We come into the institution to share God's love, but we often find we come away with far more clarity in our own Christian walk. God so often blesses those who share His love as well as those who receive it."

KENOSIS PRISON MINISTRY
P.O. Box 8010, PARSIPPANY, NJ 07054

SISTER DEATH



† MARIE SORTINO, OFS

Called home to the Lord- May 3, 2017.

MARIE was professed on February 1978 and was a faithful member of the ST. FRANCIS FRATERNITY IN HACKENSACK, NJ. She stayed in touch with the fraternity even when she was no longer able to attend fraternity gatherings. Marie was also a faithful member of the St. Francis Parish where she was a member of the choir for many years.

† FR. ROCH CIANDELLA, OFM (March 12, 1943 - May 11, 2017)

Called home to the Lord- May 11, 2017.



FR. ROCH, 74, a member of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PROVINCE AND DIRECTOR OF RETREATS AT MOUNT ALVERNIA RETREAT CENTER, WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY. Many of us got to know him during our annual regional retreats at Mt. Alvernia. Last year he was instrumental in the success of our retreat giving talks, celebrating Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation with our members.

Fr. Roch was received into the Franciscan Order on August 15, 1967 and ordained a priest on May 13, 1972. He would have celebrated his 45th anniversary of priesthood this past May 13th. Over the forty-five years of his priestly ministry, Fr. Roch ministered as a high school instructor and chaplain, worked in parish and hospital ministry and spent nearly 24 years doing retreat ministry at the Mount Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, New York.

† J. PATRICK MENDES, OFS (June 23, 1938 - June 4, 2017)

Called home to the Lord- June 4, 2017.



JOHN DANIEL PATRICK, 78, was born in Portugal on June 23, 1938. He was an Air Force Veteran having served in Vietnam and a longtime resident at Mayslake Village in Oak Brook, Illinois. John served as National Minister, Regional Minister and Local Minister in the Secular Franciscan Order. He also served as a Regional and Local Formation Director.

† DEACON VALENTINE MIELE, SR., OFS

Called home to the Lord- June 7, 2017.

DEACON VALENTINE, 94, was professed on April 27, 1966, where he was a member of the ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA FRATERNITY IN UNION CITY, NJ. He was the Minister of the fraternity for many years.



**INTO YOUR HANDS,
O LORD,**

WE HUMBLY ENTRUST:

MARIE SORTINO, OFS

FR. ROCH CIANDELLA, OFM

J. PATRICK MENDES, OFS

DCN. VALENTINE MIELE, SR., OFS

In this life, You embraced
them with Your tender love;
deliver them now
from every evil
and bid them eternal rest.

The old order
has passed away:
welcome them

into paradise,
where there will be
no sorrow,
no weeping
or pain,

but the fullness of peace
and joy with Your Son
and the Holy Spirit
forever and ever.

Amen.

ELECTIONS

“THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS, for your willingness to be of service to the brothers and sisters of your Fraternity. Please be assured of our prayers and whatever assistance we can provide as you give your best efforts to serve your Fraternity”

ELECTION RESULTS of May 7, 2017
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FRATERNITY # 108, RINGWOOD, NJ

Photo credit: ED WOJCIECHOWSKI, OFS



NEW COUNCIL AS PICTURED IN PHOTO
 L-TO-R:

- KEN BROWNELL, OFS**
Secretary
- ROSANNE HUGHES, OFS**
Formation Director
- MARIO SHELDON, OFS**
Minister
- MADELINE HURLEY, OFS**
Treasurer
- BILL HURLEY, OFS**
Vice Minister

ELECTION RESULTS of May 18, 2017
ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY FRATERNITY # 123, STATEN ISLAND, NY

NEW COUNCIL AS PICTURED IN PHOTO
 L-TO-R:

- COLLEEN COMITO, OFS ***
Secretary
- JOANNE MALICK, OFS**
Formation Director
- DENISE ENRIGHT, OFS**
Minister
- MARIE LAGREGA, OFS**
Treasurer
- TERESA BARBIERI, OFS**
Vice Minister



Photo credit: MARY-FRANCES REAVEY, OFS

* SEE COUNCIL CHANGE ON PAGE 16

ELECTION RESULTS of May 19, 2017

**ST. JOHN VIANNEY & ST.
ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY
FRATERNITY #110
PATERSON, NJ**



Photo credit: DIANE MENDITTO, OFS

NEW COUNCIL AS PICTURED IN PHOTO
L-TO-R:

**CAROL CULLEN, OFS, Secretary; MARIE PALAZZONE, OFS, Minister;
ANN VADAKKEKARA, OFS, Vice Minister; DIANE PALAZZONE, OFS, Treasurer;
FR. FRANK M. McHUGH, OFM, Spiritual Assistant**

MISSING FROM PHOTO: MAGDI NACHEF, OFS, Formation Director

VISITATIONS

**LITTLE PORTION
FRATERNITY # 133
Mt. Vernon, NY
April 1, 2017**

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
FRATERNITY #108
Ringwood, NJ
May 7, 2017**

**MOST HOLY NAME
FRATERNITY # 112
Little Falls, NJ
May 2, 2017**

**ST. THOMAS MORE
FRATERNITY # 115
Manhattan, NY
May 21, 2017**

**ST. FRANCIS
FRATERNITY # 137
Hackensack, NJ
June 8, 2017**

ELECTION RESULTS of June 3, 2017

**LITTLE PORTION
FRATERNITY #133
MT. VERNON, NY**



Photo credit: TONI MACONI, OFS

NEW COUNCIL AS PICTURED IN PHOTO L-TO-R:

**ROSEANN CERBONE, OFS
Secretary**

**FRANCINE M. CALAICONE, OFS
Vice Minister**

**RICHARD SPANA, OFS
Treasurer**

**PAT SPANA, OFS
Minister**

**JOSEPH PATRONA, OFS
Formation Director**

ST. CONRAD FRATERNITY 138 IN HOBOKEN, NJ,
 celebrated the
 Rite of Admission
 on May 4, 2017.

Minister Luis A.
 Zambrano, OFS,
 joyfully received
 5 new Candidates.



Photo credit:
 DIANE MENDITTO, OFS

**SERVANTS OF GOD
 FRATERNITY 168
 IN YONKERS, NY,**
 celebrated the
 Rite of Welcoming
 of **CHRISTIE CORTEZ**
 on February 8, 2017.

Right side - standing in photo
 is Marise Frangie, OFS,
 (Formation Director)
 and Michael F. Brady, OFS,
 (Minister) sharing the words
 of formal welcoming.

Right side - seated in photo
 Christie Cortez with
 her newborn, Maria Teresa.



Photo credit:
 THOMAS UPSHUR, OFS

PROFESSIONS & ADMISSIONS

CORTESIA FRATERNITY 118 IN MIDDLETOWN, NJ, had a great deal to celebrate.

Photos credit: DAWN RUSINKO, OFS



THE PROFESSION OF ANN (AGNES) MEEHAN, OFS on May 21, 2017. Ann was surrounded by family, friends and fellow Franciscans.



THE RITE OF WELCOMING OF AMELIA DIONISIO to Fraternity was celebrated on June 11, 2017.



JUBILEE

A CELEBRATION ON JUNE 11, 2017 marking the 25th year profession anniversary for **JOSEPH AND ANNA GERACI, OFS**, who were professed June 28, 1992.



BLESSING BAGS



Written by
PAT SPANA, OFS
Submitted by **TONI MACONI, OFS**
Little Portion Fraternity
Mount Vernon, NY

I learned a long time ago that when you reach out to someone in need, you walk away with so much more than you left behind. This was proven true, once again, when our fraternity came together to create bags with some needed items for the homeless of New York. The example was set for us last year when a few of us from the Little Portion Fraternity attended the *Quinquennial Congress* in St. Louis.

We were amazed that, from a simple request for toiletries, socks, some snack items etc., a room was filled and enough bags were made to fill a van and help so many in need. When we shared this with our fraternity, there was no question as to what we should do here at home.

At our March gathering, we put together enough blessing bags to fill more than eight boxes. The gathering concluded by our praying over the bags and for the people who would receive them.

We delivered them to the Lamp Ministries in the Bronx, a ministry started many years ago by Tom and Lyn Scheuring, OFS, members of the Servants of God Fraternity.

Always, when our fraternity comes together to do anything, we enjoy each others company and recognize that we are a family living out the promises we made on the day we were professed into the order.



Photos credit: TONI MACONI, OFS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

When we went to the National Chapter this past year, delegates were asked to bring or send medical supplies to be donated to Venezuela by Chelito Núñez, OFS, who is the CIOFS General Vice Minister who presided at our National Visitation and is from Venezuela.

Our OLTAR Region participated in this. The donations were wonderful. Here is the thank you from Chelito and from our National Minister, Jan Parker, OFS.

**DIANE MENDITTO, OFS
OLTAR REGIONAL MINISTER**



Dearest Sisters and Brothers,

Peace and good!

I am so happy to share with you this very beautiful letter of appreciation from our sister and General Vice Minister, Chelito Núñez, OFS. In it she describes our outreach as a "fraternal experience" and so it is, for all of us.

In giving we have received so much — such a treasure of love and prayers from here to there and back again. It is humbling. And a teaching moment. May God continue to guide all of us.

With fraternal affection,

**JAN PARKER, OFS
NATIONAL MINISTER**



C I O F S

A MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL VICE MINISTER

Dear Jan,

Below please find a letter coming from my local fraternity in Venezuela, where the medicines service takes place. It's very important for all of us that you please let everyone know in the USA National Fraternity, how much we have appreciated this fraternal experience.... we lack words to express our gratitude. One thing you should all know is that many, many times, the people getting meds from us, ask us "how much they have to pay", and we repeat to them ALL THE TIME, "please go right away to the Holy Sacrament.... that's all we need is that you pray for all those people who have contributed to make this donation possible". So, you may count that God's mercy goes back to all those who have had mercy with others! **Peace and all good, Chelito**



In the name of the local Fraternity of "Our Lady of Chiquinquirá" in Caracas and from the Secular Franciscan Order of Venezuela, I am writing to you to express our gratitude to all the brothers and sisters from the USA National Fraternity who have contributed with medicines to our project called in Spanish, "Remedio entre Todos" (translated as "sharing medicines among all".)

"Remedio entre Todos" is a project carried out by our Fraternity at the premises of the Parish Church where our Fraternity is located. It was launched in June 2015, as the imminent response to the big medicine scarcity Venezuelans are suffering in recent years. A long list of meds have disappeared from drugstores mainly due to the fact that local laboratories are not producing them. On the other hand, imported medicines have a very high price which most people are not able to pay.

We know that when our sister, Chelito, made a plea for a possible donation of medicines from brothers and sisters coming to the USA National Chapter, an action plan was immediately put forward, not only asking people to bring medicines, but also finding a way to deliver them to the Chapter site and later on to Venezuela.

Chelito (*below - left*) was able to bring around 17 lbs. in her luggage, and two boxes each weighing 44 lbs. were also later sent by a direct courier to Venezuela.



When the medicines and first aid supplies arrived, it made a tremendous impact in the inventory of "Remedio entre Todos."

continued on next page

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Photos credit: OUR LADY OF CHIQUINQUIRA FRATERNITY

Not only it was possible to fulfill the need of those coming to the service, but many medicines were sent to other locations, schools and Franciscan missions, especially outside the capital city of Caracas where the situation is even worse. It was certainly amazing to see how many medicines, vitamins, first aid supplies, etc. you were able to collect!

Through the invaluable contribution from brothers and sisters from the USA, we have experienced the gift of "fraternity" and the true living of the spirit of the Beatitudes to which we are all committed. On a weekly basis, we assist around 100 persons looking for medicines. We are able to fulfill their request in 60% of the cases.



We ask the Lord's blessings for each and everyone of our dear OFS brothers and sisters from the USA who have been so generous supporting and caring for others through *Remedio entre Todos*.
Peace and Good.



MY DAILY PRAYER FOR CONVERSION

by
DIANE VITALE, OFS
SAN DAMIANO FRATERNITY
NEWTON, NJ

DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, PLEASE HELP ME ...

To try harder and unceasingly, in my words, actions and thoughts, to avoid sinning against Father God and sinning against my brothers and sisters in humanity.

To be silent and curb my tongue, rather than to express myself in an uncharitable way toward anyone.

To avoid physical and mental action against others realizing that it is wasted energy and no good can ever come of it. Instead, to replace hurtful and damaging dialogue with actions of love and words of kindness.

To be spontaneous in my willingness to serve others and consider the need that we all share to be loved and accepted.

To acknowledge all people as children of the Father by birthright and the infusion of divine love given freely by the Holy Spirit.

To recognize in others, as in myself, the living presence of Jesus in everyone I meet so that I may know how to minister to them according to their present need.

To realize that God in His infinite mercy loves and forgives me more times in a lifetime than I could ever deserve, for all my sins and faults. How then could I refuse to forgive when He forgave from His cross?

To understand that if I am to follow Him and claim that I belong to Him and He belongs to me, I must take up my cross and follow Him.

Knowing joyfully, that I have been given a gift of intimacy through prayer with Jesus and in my suffering share in His sacrifice for the redemption of souls and the salvation of humanity to realize that only He has all of the answers and knows my soul's intimate needs.

To be willing to listen to others with understanding and keep their thoughts to myself as they have trustingly confided in me. To take care, for the soul is delicate and hearts are easily broken.

To remember that everyone is a child of the Father and like myself, they have been given a great inheritance, acquired through the blood of Christ, sons and daughters, a promise of eternal life.

To respect and serve others humbly, because I recognize in them the presence of our Lord who is my Master as I am His servant.

To look and listen when I see and hear the presence and voice of my Master who comes to me as the poorest of the poor in places least expected.

To look upon the Crucified Jesus and recognize our abandoned Lord. The sorrowful and suffering Lord in mental and physical pain. The rejected and betrayed Jesus, solitary, lonely and condemned.

The darkness permeates the room except for a single candle burning which brings hope of Resurrection and Salvation. The gratitude of your soul for His immeasurable love for you.

To understand that the passion of Christ is relived daily in a world where there is hatred and misunderstanding, resulting in human suffering. The hungry and homeless who thirst for a cup of water and are given a sponge soaked in vinegar on a pole long enough to keep them at a distance.

To remember to be merciful to the living body of Christ; when one part of the body hurts, all are hurt. When one is crucified, all suffer and die.

To remember always to cling to hope and foster this virtue in all of my relationships. Where there is hope, there are always possibilities and the certainty of Resurrection.

To have the courage to go forward - and wisdom to have learned something from the past.

To live in the present and always be aware of the Infinite Presence.

To pray, to hope and to work for the Kingdom of heaven and especially to love because love makes all my desires possible.

To understand the most powerful force and source of all good is love. Presented with love in its purest essence we see God as He truly is.

I desire as a child of my heavenly Father, to be loyal to my Catholic faith and to serve and love the Lord through my example. I will remain forever thankful for His grace, hopeful in His Divine Mercy, who is the creator and lover of my soul.

AMEN.



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGION

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM:

The TROUBADOUR MAGAZINE

e-TROUBADOUR

OFS E-VENTS NEWSLETTER

PUBLICATIONS EDITOR:

ANNA GERACI, OFS
161-B Cross Slope Ct.
Manalapan, NJ 07726

E-mail:

TroubadourEditor@aol.com

Website:

<http://olangels.tripod.com/troubadour.html>



REGION WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR
DIANE F. MENDITTO, OFS

REGION WEBSITE

www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org/



YAHOO LIST ADMINISTRATOR
PEGGY LEDGER, OFS

YAHOO GROUP

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



FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATOR
DIANE F. MENDITTO, OFS



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Our-Lady-of-the-Angels-Region-Secular-Franciscan-Order/257320867672618>



REGION DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR
ANNA GERACI, OFS

GENERAL INFORMATION

THE *TROUBADOUR* is a quarterly communications vehicle published by Our Lady of the Angels Region. It is published in 2 formats — printed and electronically.

- The printed magazine, *The Troubadour*, is published twice yearly—in March and September. It is mailed free to all Professed members and Formation candidates in the region.
- The electronic newsletter, *e-Troubadour*, is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. It is available on the Region website or by e-mail. It is available to all Professed and Formation members of the region with e-addresses from our database.
- Please notify me if you have a change in your name, address, phone, e-mail address or membership status. Please fill out the form below and surface mail it to Anna Geraci, OFS, 161-B Cross Slope Ct., Manalapan, NJ 07726, or e-mail: TroubadourEditor@aol.com Please write **TROUBADOUR** in the subject line. • Note that all changes submitted are also applied to the 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.

DEADLINES

All submissions for the next issue must be received by the 15th of the preceding month.

Submissions for the next issue (printed) of *The Troubadour*, September 2017, are due to Editor by August 15th.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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

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

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

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