

eTtroubadour

JUNE
2016

CONNECTING THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN
COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT OUR REGION.

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

Convivencia 2016



LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During the last few months, the question of “poverty” has come up in discussions during formation classes, at visitations, at fraternity meetings and in some podcasts I have been listening to. As usual, I wanted to share my thoughts with all of you.

Fr. Dan Horan, OFM, in his excellent series of lectures, ***The Saint and the Pope: What the Spirituality of Two Men Named Francis Can Teach Us about Christian Living***, speaks of poverty in three different ways:



“Abject or material” poverty: lacking the basic needs of life—poverty that is not experienced by choice;

Spiritual Poverty: “...the surrender or letting go of those things that are non-material or internal—our pride, selfishness, self-centeredness, opinions, judgments, prejudices, etc.”

(Here he cautions us not to use “spiritual poverty” in a “self-justifying” way); and

Evangelical Poverty which is called for in our Rule and Constitutions.

Evangelical poverty is a voluntary self-emptying—“*[it] demonstrates confidence in the Father, creates interior freedom, and disposes them [us] to promote a more just distribution of wealth.*” (GC 15.1) “*...it requires a strong personal commitment and the stimulation of the fraternity in prayer and dialogue, communal review of life, and attentiveness to the instructions of the Church, and the demands of society.*”(GC 15.2)

(Refer to Rule Article 11 and Constitutions Article 15 quoted on page 4.)

As I prayed about this and asked myself many of the questions you will read below, it came to me that the **fruit of Poverty is generosity**. Doesn't *that* sound strange! How can we be generous when we have nothing? Give it some thought. Even the truly poor can be generous, because generosity, just like poverty, doesn't always have to do with material possessions. Spiritual Poverty and Evangelical Poverty have to do with **how we handle our state in life** and **our relationships**. A person might not have money or possessions—in that sense, yes, he or she is poor. However, that person might **not** be “poor” in the way that we are called to be poor. The poverty of Christ was a **voluntary** self-emptying. Francis and Clare were poor temporally and spiritually by choice. This is the poverty that we are asked to imitate.



When we embrace **Spiritual/Evangelical poverty, we are free** to share with others anything and everything that has been given to us. We are generous when we give our **full attention** to our brothers and sisters. When they speak to us, **we listen!** How often have we stopped listening to someone because we don't agree with him or her? Do we reject and judge others because what they say does not sound like what we are so sure is right?

Could we be the one who is described as “not giving an inch” in challenging or difficult discussions?

LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER

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Listening also requires giving our **time** to another person. This might require us to put aside something we would rather be doing. This is a kind of **generosity that requires no material gift except the gift of ourselves.**

In fraternity are we willing to get out of our “comfort zone?” Do we fulfill our role as Franciscans, our call to follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, in a way that **leaves room for others to suggest new ways** of achieving the same goal?

When we gain **knowledge**, do we **share it** with others without forcing them to agree with us? Are we willing to let go of our own agendas and **collaborate** with others, or do we sulk and make things difficult for the group if things do not go our way?

Do we look at our Rule and Constitutions, *not* as **RULES**, but as **a way of life** to be lived by the imperfect beings that we are? We must remember that we are called to **daily conversion**—that means that we are not perfect today and are not likely to be perfect tomorrow either. When we are poor enough to **empty ourselves** of our personal desires and biases, we have room in our hearts and minds to **generously accept the ideas of others and to live the true spirit of what we have professed.**

Evangelical Poverty also calls us to reach out to the material poor and to work for causes that will help to make their lives better. As Franciscans, we are not only called to a contemplative spirituality. We are also called to action. Do we get involved with our fraternity apostolates? Are we willing to give up our time to volunteer in a soup kitchen or to visit the sick? This Year of Mercy gives us ample encouragement to work for justice and peace in our communities.



As Secular Franciscans living in the world, we are called to be **poor enough to be generous.** Through our Baptism, we are called to **make ourselves available** to bring others to God. As professed Franciscans this commitment is strengthened. We see Christ through the eyes of St. Francis who said,

*“So, let us go out into the world and remind everybody
by example as well as word to turn to God.”*

(Legend of the Three Companions)

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

Peace and blessings,

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

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LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL MINISTER

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REFERENCES

RULE 11:

*“Trusting in the Father, Christ chose for himself and his mother a poor and humble life¹⁸, even though he valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans **seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs**. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children.*

*Thus, in the spirit of “the Beatitudes”, and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to **purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.**”*

CONSTITUTIONS 15:

1. Secular Franciscans should pledge themselves to live the spirit of the Beatitudes and, in a special way, the spirit of poverty. Evangelical poverty demonstrates confidence in the Father, creates interior freedom, and disposes them to promote a more just distribution of wealth.

2. Secular Franciscans, who must provide for their own families and serve society by means of their work and material goods, have a particular manner of living evangelical poverty. To understand and achieve it requires a strong personal commitment and the stimulation of the fraternity in prayer and dialogue, communal review of life, and attentiveness to the instructions of the Church, and the demands of society.

3. Secular Franciscans should pledge themselves to reduce their own personal needs so as to be better able to share spiritual and material goods with their brothers and sisters, especially those most in need. They should give thanks to God for the goods they have received, using them as good stewards and not as owners. They should take a firm position against consumerism and against ideologies and practices which prefer riches over human and religious values and which permit the exploitation of the human person.

4. They should love and practice purity of heart, the source of true fraternity.



FR. DANIEL P. HORAN, OFM

The Saint and the Pope: What the Spirituality of Two Men Named Francis Can Teach Us about Christian Living.

www.nowyouknowmedia.com/spirituality-prayer/francis-the-saint-and-the-pope.html

Lecture series available through Now You Know Media:





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2014-2017
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2016 REGION CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETINGS

XIX NATIONAL QUINQUENNIAL

JUNE 30-JULY 4 AT ST. LOUIS, MO.

All registration materials are posted on our website:

<http://ourladyoftheangelsregion.org> 

2016 REGIONAL RETREAT

JULY 29-31 AT MT. ALVERNIA, WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY.

Retreat will be led by the Friars of Mt. Alvernia

Theme: Mercy-Essence of the Gospels

CHAPTER OF MINISTERS

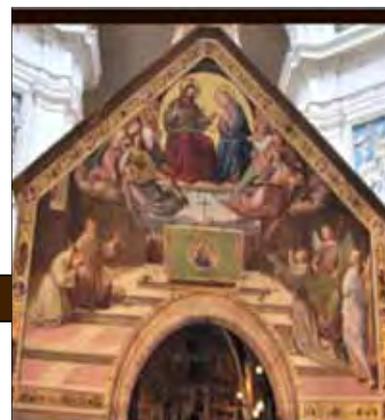
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2016.

To be held in Hackensack, NJ

Pastoral Visitor:

Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR

Fraternal Visitor: Mary Stronach, OFS



EIGHTH CENTENARY OF THE PARDON OF ASSISI 2 AUGUST

CONDITIONS FOR RECEIVING THE PORZIUNCULA PARDON ON AUGUST 2:

One must receive sacramental absolution and receive Holy Communion at Mass during the Period beginning eight days before the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels and ending eight days after August 2.

Additionally, on August 2 itself, one must visit a church where one prays at least the Creed and an Our Father for the intentions of the Pope.

Additionally, one must be completely free of any attachment to sin; if this condition is not met, the indulgence is partial rather than plenary.

The year was 1216. A little man called Francis went to Pope Honorius III, and asked for a special dispensation to help people in their search for salvation. This is the origin of the *Portiuncula Indulgence*, also called the “*Pardon of Assisi*.”

The year was 2015. On the 8th of December another man named Francis, that is Pope Francis, announced the opening of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which continues until the 20th of November 2016.

These two moments may be separated by 800 years, but Divine Mercy is eternal and is a constant challenge to us. What about us?

What do we make of this inheritance?
How will we celebrate it? When and Where?

May this 8th Centenary of the Pardon of Assisi on August 2, be celebrated in each fraternity in a special way.

<http://www.ofm.org/ofm/?p=10797&lang=en> 

FORMATION

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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

God's great gift to all humanity is the outpouring of His love and mercy through the Holy Spirit. God the Creator gave us life. God the Son redeemed us and forgave all our sins. God the Spirit animates us and give us the gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of the Lord. Before He left this world, Jesus promised His followers that we would not be abandoned, but rather to send the Holy Spirit, to be with us always until the end of time. It is the Gift of the Holy Spirit that forms the basis of our lives as Secular Franciscans and calls us to a life of evangelical poverty and conversion.

Pope Francis describes the Holy Spirit as a 'restlessness' that gives us ways to help 'promote your brothers and sisters'. The Holy Spirit unites us to Jesus Christ and the cross. The Holy Spirit is a cause for great joy in our lives. Our vocation as Catholics and Franciscans is a call to love through the Holy Spirit which 'attracts us and draws us out of ourselves' (*Deus Caritas Est*. 6) and liberates us 'towards authentic self-discovery and indeed the discovery of God'.

The Holy Spirit is essential to the life of a Secular Franciscan as a guide for our actions and deeds. The Holy Spirit is Mercy in action in our fraternity. Our Rule tells us that we are "raised up by the Holy Spirit in the Church" (*Rule* 2:4) and led by the Spirit to 'strive for perfect charity' (*Rule* 1:2). The Holy Spirit is the source of our vocation and the 'animator of fraternal life and mission' (*GC 11*) This is why our monthly gatherings must be focused on prayer, formation and fellowship. Although we often have to discuss the running of the fraternity, the business portion of our gatherings should be short and sweet. Formation and prayer always take precedence!

Our gatherings are a place of love where we assemble together to share our Franciscan vocation. It is a special place to share our joys and sorrows with our brothers and sisters. A place for us to rejoice and rejuvenate our spirit so that we can go out into the world, in our secular state, to spread the Gospel to everyone we meet.



Our challenge, then, is to live a life of love in the Holy Spirit. It is a challenge for us to be fully engaged with our fraternity and our life in community. Many of our fraternities are facing challenges with a decrease in vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order. However, if we live the Rule we professed and place our trust in the Holy Spirit, I believe that we will see an increase in vocations and a renewal in our Order. We face many challenges in the future, but through the continued blessings of the Holy Spirit on our Region, we will grow as a community of love and joy in the charism of Francis and Clare.

Pax et Bonum, **Ed**



Photo credit: Diane Menditto, OFS

SPIRITUAL TIDINGS

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

PENTECOST

“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”

(Acts 2: 1-4).

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.’ And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained’”.

(John 20: 19-23).

My brothers and sisters, I open with these two episodes from Sacred Scripture to make a simple, but important point. What we read in Acts 2 is often seen by us as a singular event that happened to the Apostles two thousand years ago and an event that sadly stayed there. But the enthusiasm of the Holy Spirit cannot be held to a singular event. John’s account is sometimes overlooked, but here we see a beautiful arrival of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. We are told that Jesus breathed upon the Apostles. Interesting. Look at *Genesis 2: 7*.

“...the Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being”.

Now Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit, the breath of Life, upon the Apostles and they *become* the Church! We know that Mary with her acceptance of her role as Mother of God was enveloped with the Holy Spirit and remained so in a way that is beyond us.

Simeon in the Temple was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognizes the Infant Messiah.

At Jesus’ own baptism, Mark tells us that the heavens were *torn* open and the Holy Spirit descended.

Mark’s description is nothing short of an avalanche of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is so active in the Book of Acts that is often referred to as the Gospel of the Holy Spirit. The enthusiasm of the Holy Spirit doesn’t stop there, but spills over into our lives.

When you are baptized the celebrant prays, “We pray for this child: set this child free from original sin, make this child a temple of Your glory, and send Your Holy Spirit to dwell within this child.”

As the water in the fount is blessed we hear: “By the power of the Holy Spirit give to the water the grace of Your Son...” This is Pentecost.

The promptings of the Holy Spirit direct us to the beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation. As we confess our sins, the Holy Spirit pours down upon us and embraces us in our return. This is Pentecost.

Whenever we feed the poor, it is Pentecost.

Whenever we visit the ill or lonely, it is Pentecost.

Whenever we pray, it is Pentecost.

Because of the enthusiasm of the Holy Spirit we are never left alone. Believe it.

Case in point:
GOD IS NOT CHEAP.



FRATERNITY SPOTLIGHT

Photo: This group picture was taken after our April 2015 elections, presided over by Ed Wojciechowski, OFS



Photo credit: Ed Wojciechowski, OFS

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**PORZIUNCOLA
FRATERNITY**

FIRST PROFESSION:
JUNE 12, 1993

**THE FRATERNITY IS LOCATED
IN EAST HANOVER, NJ.**

**FRATERNITY MEETINGS
ARE HELD ON**

THE 2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
FOLLOWING THE 9:00 A.M. MASS
FROM 9:30 - NOON.

LOCATION

ST. ROSE OF LIMA CHURCH
312 RIDGEDALE AVENUE
EAST HANOVER, NJ 07936

MINISTER

CHRISTOPHER A. LEONE, OFS

CONTACT EMAIL

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FRATERNITY CREDO:

“THE SMALL FRATERNITY
WITH THE BIG HEART.”

L-to-R: Dorothy Zoppi, OFS, Florence Vanacore, OFS, Linda Pasquale, OFS, Marie Manno, OFS, Christopher Leone, OFS, Victoria Robinson, OFS, Peggy Jankowski, OFS, and Regional Formation Director Ed WOJCIECHOWSKI, OFS
Missing from photo: Eileen Daly, OFS, and Bernice Gorman, OFS,

by
CHRISTOPHER A. LEONE, OFS

“The **S**mall Fraternity with the Big Heart”

The Porziuncola Fraternity has been in existence since the early 1990's and the first profession was held on June 12, 1993. Two of those members, Dotti Zoppi and Florence Vanacore, are still active members.

Our members are lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, homebound extraordinary ministers, RCIA team members, soup kitchen volunteers and prayer group leaders, to name just a few ministries.

That's a lot of activity for a fraternity of 8 members!

Our Spiritual Assistant, a diocesan priest, was recently reassigned as the director of migrant ministry for the Paterson Diocese and his workload precluded him from continuing. However, we were not without a Spiritual Assistant for very long. A newly ordained priest assigned to St. Rose of Lima parish in East Hanover, New Jersey, where we meet, Fr. Matthew Kranc, has graciously stepped into the role.

In addition to being blessed with a Spiritual Assistant within 2 months of losing one, the Holy Spirit has also blessed us with 4 seekers. Two of the seekers came to our April Regional visitation and then another 2 seekers showed up for our May meeting. We are confident they will seriously discern the call to our Order. We will employ a team approach to formation using the *F.U.N. manual*, *The Franciscan Journey* and other formation materials.

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We meet on the second Saturday of the month at St. Rose of Lima parish immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Saturday mornings have proven to be a good time for all of our busy members. Our meetings begin with the opening prayer from the Ritual, followed by Morning Prayer, reading and approval of the prior month's minutes, a treasury update, updates on ongoing and new initiatives, ongoing formation, closing prayer and blessing from the *Ritual*, along with a time to socialize and fraternize. Our current ongoing formation is from the book, *To Live as Francis Lived, a Guide for Secular Franciscans* by Leonard Foley, OFM, Jovian Weigel, OFM and Patti Normile, OFS.

Our fraternity sponsors the annual St. Anthony feast day Mass at St. Rose of Lima. At the Mass, the pastor, Fr. Owen Moran always makes it a point to announce that the Secular Franciscans are sponsoring the event. The bread is blessed immediately following the Mass and distributed to the parishioners along with St. Anthony medals by members of the fraternity. We then host a social in the parish hall serving coffee, juice, bagels, fruit salad and, of course, vocation brochures!

In November of 2015, the Catechetical Sisters of Arogyamatha, India spoke at the parish Masses. The sisters, a group of about 35, live and work among the poor where there is no electricity, no transportation and no safe drinking water. Some villages are really interior where there are no roads to get to the poor. There are some places that do not have any roads and the sisters have to wait for hours for public transportation. Concern for human dignity and caring for the poor and marginalized is the mission of the CSA Sisters.

The fraternity donated \$300 so the sisters could purchase a motor scooter. Because of the generosity of the fraternity, the sisters are now able to travel from village to village attending to the physical, pastoral and spiritual needs of the poor they serve.

The fraternity recently received a hand written letter and a photo from the sister who received the scooter, Sr. Manjula Panyam. She was truly grateful and humbled by the fraternity's generosity.

As Sister Manjula says in her letter,

"I sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness and good will to make our lives better.

I now visit the sick and families more frequently than ever. I cannot begin to say how much easier it is for me and for the sisters in my convent to visit the people in the villages.

This is the only transportation our community has."



Photo credit: CSA Sisters

Above is Sister Manjula with the scooter purchased for her and her community.

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The fraternity also made a donation to *Croatian Relief Services* so they could purchase a 100-pound bag of rice and a bag of beans as our apostolate of mercy for the Year of Mercy. Originally, the goal of *CRS* was to provide emergency humanitarian aid to victims of war in the Balkans.

In 2010, after the catastrophic earthquake hit, they opened the Cardinal Stepinac Orphanage in Port-au-Prince Haiti, which presently serves 46 orphaned children and many poor families in the region.

Last June, we sponsored a bus trip to the Padre Pio Shrine in Barto, Pennsylvania, providing water and vocation brochures to all the attendees! Linda Pasquale, OFS, our Vice Minister, is a member of a Padre Pio Prayer Group that met in Dover, New Jersey. That group was recently relocated to St. Peter the Apostle Church in Parsippany, New Jersey. Their sole purpose is simply to pray and to pray together. There is Benediction, recitation of the Holy Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and a reflection on Padre Pio's life. The prayer group is registered in San Giovanni Rotondo and was started by Father Leo Fanning+, who met Padre Pio during World War II when he was stationed in Italy and who ministered at St. Peter the Apostle early in his priesthood. St. Peter the Apostle Church is located at 179 Baldwin Road in Parsippany and the group usually meets at 3:00 p.m. on the first Sunday. All are welcome!

The fraternity is currently exploring an activity where we can all actively participate as a fraternity serving meals or ministering to the poor.

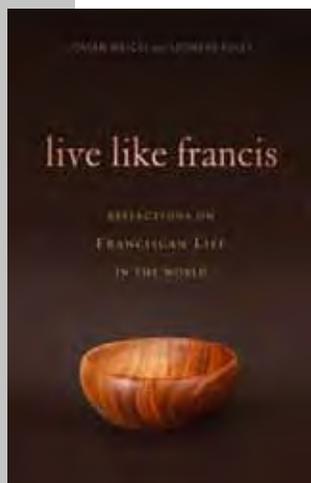
We may be small in number, but we are capable of doing big things!



RECENT BOOK RELEASES

Pub Date 16 March 2016

Live Like Francis



Written by Leonard Foley, OFM
Jovian Weigel, OFM

“Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to gospel.

—From *The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order*

The goal of Franciscans has always been to put the Gospel into action. Whether you are a professed Franciscan of many years or someone just beginning to seek a spiritual understanding of Francis and Clare of Assisi, *Live Like Francis* will give you the tools you need to live the Gospel—a directive that remains as simple and, at times, confounding, today as it was eight hundred years ago during Francis' life. Through a process of prayer, reflection, study texts, questions and connections to Scripture, you will gain a deeper understanding of the Franciscan way and, through it, the Gospel.

Live Like Francis: Reflections on Franciscan Life in the World is an updated edition of a book called *The Third Order Vocation* which was published shortly after the Rule for the Secular Franciscan Order was adopted in 1978. Edited by Diane M. Houdek, OFS, this book contains 52 short chapters on Franciscan themes under the headings of Foundation, Conversion, Prayer, Going out into the World, and the Franciscan Family. Each section contains an introduction and questions for reflection followed by connections with Scripture and Franciscan Writings, an application to daily life, and ending with a prayer.

208 pgs. • Publisher: Franciscan Media • ISBN: 9781616369712

<http://shop.franciscanmedia.org/products/live-like-francis>



NAFRA — JPIC

JPIC AWARD NOMINATIONS 2016

CAROLYN TOWNES, NATIONAL JPIC ANIMATOR

IT is that time again when we as a Franciscan community nominate those individuals who are doing exemplary work in the areas of peace, social justice and the care of God's creation. Only nomination forms will be accepted. Please prayerfully consider nominating that Franciscan who steps out into the extraordinary.

Nominations are only open to members of the worldwide Franciscan Family -
1st Order Friar or Brother; 2nd Order Poor Clare; 3rd Order Regular Sister; 3rd Order Secular.

To request the form (and to submit it back) please email me at: ctownes26@hotmail.com 

Please put JPIC AWARD in the Subject line as some emails mysteriously take a walk into the Spam Folder. I will send you an acknowledgment once I receive your form. If you do not hear from me, then I did not receive it.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NOMINATIONS IS FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016.

Any questions, please feel free to contact me. -- *Carolyn Townes*

FRATERNAL TIDINGS

Article written by: **KATHRYN BRYAN, OFS**
DAWN RUSINKO, OFS

CORTESIA FRATERNITY FROM MIDDLETOWN, NJ, (*pictured bottom right*) celebrated a May Crowning ceremony of the Blessed Virgin Mary during their May 15th fraternity meeting. The ceremony opened with Marian songs followed by consecrating the fraternity to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We then took turns leading the Franciscan Crown Rosary with prayers for the Pope's intentions. Formation Director, Patrick Mullen, OFS, gave a lovely talk on the love between St. Francis, the Blessed Mother and each of us as Franciscans. Each selecting a rose, we sang and processed to the beautiful statue of Mary and offered our flower. As the eldest member of our fraternity and with her incredible Franciscan charisma, we chose **TESS JORDAN, OFS**, (*pictured left*) to have the honor of crowning Mary during the May crowning ceremony.

Tess Jordan is 88 years young; she is a beautiful soul who felt she was Franciscan before she became Franciscan in Ireland many years ago. She has always loved taking care of the earth, not being wasteful and sharing her time, talents and gifts with others. When she came to America she decided to go through the process of ongoing formation to be professed here. She has a strong devotion to Mary and loves continuing her education by learning as much as she can about God and her faith even at the age of 88. She attends Ongoing Franciscan Formation opportunities, parish retreats, bible studies, seminars, etc. She helps prepare food to feed the poor and is very generous with everything she does and has.



Photos credit: DAWN RUSINKO, OFS



Hail, Holy Queen
enthroned above,
oh Maria...

...Heaven and earth
resound the hymn.

Salve, Salve,
Salve Regina.

COMFORT FOOD FOR THE SOUL

by
PENNY GLEESON, OFS
ST. PETER FRATERNITY
SOMERSET, NJ

Approaching God through the world of art was the focus of ongoing formation at our meeting on November 21, 2015. Joe McKenna, OFM, our fraternity ongoing formation leader had asked each of us to bring an example of art or poetry that has spiritual meaning. We enjoyed excerpts from the DVD *"The Face, Jesus in Art"*. Everyone revealed their special story about the images or writings they brought to share. These included:

- Desiderata by Max Ehrmann;
- Triptych Icons of the Holy Family;
- An Angel at the Cross statue;
- A picture of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini;
- The Pieta;
- A picture of Our Lady of the Mines from Hazard Kentucky Mines;
- A scene of Christ in Gethsemane; and
- A simple nativity scene.

After our meeting, everyone was excited to look closely at each image or statue. Our Lady of the Mines was an especially interesting and distinctive image that everyone asked questions about. Frank Cryan, OFS, shared more details about this unique image of Mary.

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Photos credit: St. Peter Fraternity



FRATERNAL TIDINGS

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by
FRANK CRYAN, OFS
ST. PETER FRATERNITY
SOMERSET, NJ

In August 1994, my son, Kevin completed his first year as a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC). He had lived in community with about five other volunteers. He had received no salary except for a small stipend of fifty dollars a month to pay for utilities, phone, food, and personal expenses. He had spent that first year (directly out of college) in Cleveland, Ohio, at a neighborhood drop-in center for drug addicted and mentally ill persons, some of whom were ex-convicts.

He re-enlisted in the JVC and was sent to Hazard, Kentucky to work in a Hospice program. This year 1995 to 1996 would be spent visiting patients and their families throughout a five county area. His task would be to bring comfort and solace to the families and to attend to their needs as best a young man was able. Many of the patients were terminally ill with black lung disease from their years working in the Kentucky coal mines. Coal mining is a major contributor to the economy there.

In the spring of 1996, my wife and I visited him in Hazard. We were there on Sunday and attended Mass at his church which had a small congregation of about 130 people. The priest and the people were extremely hospitable.



Photos credit: St. Peter Fraternity

During the Mass, the priest asked that any visitors identify themselves and tell a bit of their story. The priest then offered us a gift of the printed copy of what may have been a wood painting of Our Lady of the Mines.

My wife and I cherished that print because it told us so much about the kind of person our son had become. My wife said of Kevin that he had a good heart. We framed it and placed it in the entry to our bedroom where we would see it often during our activities in the house.

With only a small stretch of the imagination, the viewer can substitute one "of the Mines" with one's own occupation in life.

Be it a teacher, engineer, health care worker, detective, homemaker, or business person, Our Lady is there for each of us.

It was good to refresh our spirits. To hear the story behind the images, seeing Jesus through all types of art and culture was truly Comfort Food for the Soul.

Blessings and all good.

FRATERNAL TIDINGS

congratulations

ELECTIONS & PROFESSIONS

**Election results of April 24, 2016
ST. JOHN'S FRATERNITY #151, New York City, NY**

Council as pictured in photo:

L-to-R:

- CORAZON Y. PONTEJOS, OFS, Secretary
- FR. JOHN B. RIORDAN, OFM CAP, Spiritual Assistant
- RONALDE MARIE RAMEAU, OFS, Vice Minister
- ESTER S. LOPEZ, OFS, Minister
- PATRIA FAUSTO, OFS, Treasurer
- MARY HOPE O'BRIEN, OFS, Formation Director

Photo credit: Diane Menditto, OFS



**Election results of May 11, 2016
SERVANTS OF GOD FRATERNITY #168, Yonkers, NY**

- MICHAEL BRADY, OFS, Minister
- REGINA MARINO, OFS, Vice Minister
- JANET TORCHIA, OFS, Secretary
- SUSAN UPSHUR, OFS, Treasurer
- MARISE FRANGIE, OFS, Formation Director



**Election results of June 20, 2016
ST. ANNE'S FRATERNITY #101, Fair Lawn, NJ**

Council as pictured in photo: L-to-R:

Back Row:

- FR. FRANK M. MCHUGH, OFM, Friar Witness
- DCN. BILL JOYCE, OFS, Formation Director
- TOM BABICH, OFS, Minister
- RON PIHOKKER, OFS, Regional Presider

Front Row:

- JUDY JOYCE, OFS, Vice Minister
- ANNI WEISHAUP, OFS, Secretary
- SUE MOLETI, OFS, Treasurer



Photo credit: Angela Rodin, OFS

FRATERNAL TIDINGS

congratulations

PROFESSIONS & ADMISSIONS

CONGRATULATIONS to newly professed members, **ROBERT HINKES, OFS** and **JOANN JENSEN, OFS**, from **SAN DAMIANO FRATERNITY** in Newton, NJ, who celebrated their profession, October 14, 2015, at the Sacred Heart Center in Newton, New Jersey.

Photo credit: SAN DAMIANO FRATERNITY



Photo L-to-R:

Past Minister Ken Majewski, OFS; Director of Formation Christy Sherry, OFS; Robert Hinkes, OFS; JoAnn Jensen, OFS, and profession sponsor Olga Betlow, OFS.

Photo credit: SERVANTS OF GOD FRATERNITY



CONGRATULATIONS to newly professed member,

DENNIS P. BUCKLEY, OFS,

from **SERVANTS OF GOD FRATERNITY** IN YONKERS, NY,

who celebrated his profession on

April 13, 2016.

**WE WISH YOU EACH
GREAT JOY
AND EVERY BLESSING.**

SAN DAMIANO Fraternity Honored

Article/Photos Credit:

CINDY BELIVEAU, OFS; DIANE VITALE, OFS
SAN DAMIANO FRATERNITY, NEWTON, NJ

On October 21, 2015, the SAN DAMIANO FRATERNITY IN NEWTON, NJ, was honored to receive a beautiful replica of the "Homeless Jesus" statue for their participation in both the summer and winter outreach programs.

Deacon Ray Chimileski, the founder of "OPERATION CHILLOUT" marking 15 years of outreach service to Homeless Veterans presented the fraternity with the "Homeless Jesus" for our participation.

We are truly honored to have been chosen the recipients of this beautiful "Homeless Jesus" statue.



The park bench brings us up-to-date with our times as it is for the homeless, a place to sleep. Jesus as Himself shows us that the poor will always be with us and His timeless presence as one of the poor.

We thank the Lord for "Operation Chillout" and their work in helping our homeless Veterans

know that they will not be forgotten for their service and sacrifice in serving our country.



ABOVE: DEACON RAY PRESENTING THE STATUE TO PAST FRATERNITY MINISTER, KEN MAJEWSKI, OFS.



OPERATION CHILLOUT is an outreach organization dedicated to supporting homeless veterans. This is accomplished in a number of ways, including

both Summer and Winter collections. Various organizations collect cases of bottled water, new tee shirts and new baseball caps in the Summer and backpacks filled with sweat shirts, and toiletries for Winter distribution. The **OPERATION CHILLOUT** organization began its mission on December 21, 2000 and reaches out to homeless veterans in 13 New Jersey counties, as well as a few locations in Pennsylvania and New York.

BELOW: FRATERNITY MEMBERS AT WORK ORGANIZING A WINTER OUTREACH.

If your fraternity is interested in participating in this important cause, contact:

<http://www.operationchillout.org>



Pick-up of collected items can be arranged.



SISTER



DEATH



† **BARBARA A. SINATRA, OFS**

Called home to the Lord, April 14, 2016.

Barbara was a member of the MOST HOLY NAME FRATERNITY IN LITTLE FALLS, NEW JERSEY. Her funeral Mass was celebrated on April 18th.

Barbara had been spotlighted in the July 2015 issue of our *Troubadour* magazine as the award recipient of the 2015 *Vivere Christus Est* Medal. The Latin name which translates, "To Live is Christ." A medal which honors and celebrates award recipients for their service and contributions to the Catholic Church.

Professed on October 2, 2011, Barbara was an exemplary Secular Franciscan who gave of herself constantly in many ways to both her parish and her fraternity.



† **LOUISE JETTA, OFS**

Called home to the Lord, June 13, 2016.

Louise was a member of the ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY FRATERNITY IN STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK. Her funeral Mass was celebrated on June 17th.

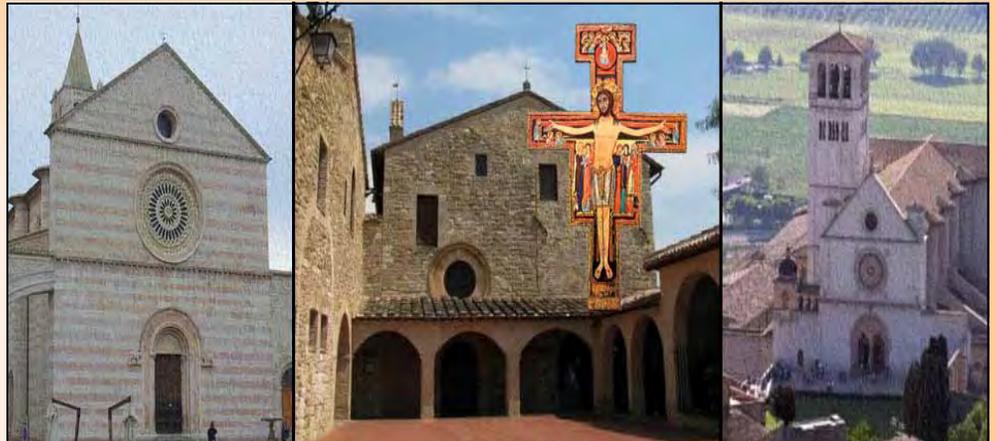
I

NTO YOUR HANDS, O LORD,

we humbly entrust our sisters, BARBARA A. SINATRA, OFS, and LOUISE JETTA, 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.

THE CRUCIFIX OF SAN DAMIANO RETURNS TO THE PLACE WHERE IT SPOKE TO FRANCIS.



During June 15-19, 2016, Assisi, Italy; the Crucifix of San Damiano was returned to the place where it spoke to the young Francis of Assisi.

During this Holy Year, Pope Francis has invited everyone to join "in the great mystery of God's mercy, contemplating the face of Christ."

To respond to this appeal, the community of Friars Minor of San Damiano and the Poor Clares of proto-monastery of St. Clare, with the patronage of the Diocese of Assisi-Nocera Umbra-Gualdo Tadino and the municipality of Assisi, have desired to return the Crucifix of San Damiano, after almost eight centuries, to its original location.

For information, schedules and a brief explanatory video, please visit

<http://www.assisiofm.it>



GENERAL INFORMATION



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OFS E-VENTS

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

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ANNA GERACI, OFS

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 Candidates of the region.
- The electronic newsletter, *e-Troubadour*, is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. It is available on our Region website or by email. It is available to all professed and Candidate members of the region with e-addresses from our database.
- If you do not have computer access to a website, it is recommended that you speak with your fraternity Minister.
- 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 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 NaFra database which I maintain for our region. If you are a professed member or Candidate and are currently not receiving a copy of the *Tau-USA* National newsletter, 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 (printed) issue of *The Troubadour*, September 2016, are due 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

Please change (or add) the following information to the region database:

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

E-mail address

Fraternity Name and Location

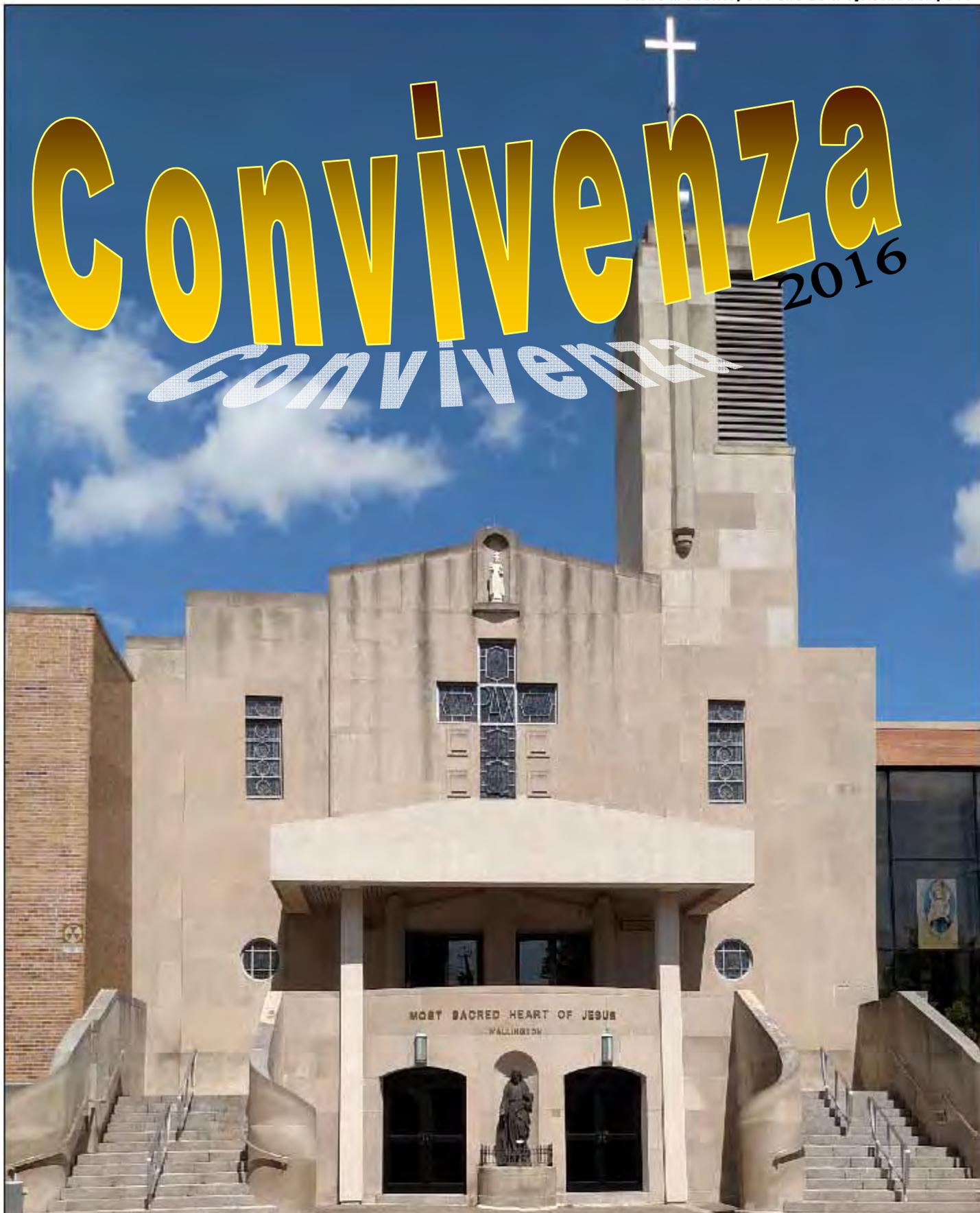
Date of Profession

Date of Admission

Convivenza

2016

convivenza



Our Lady of the Angels Region Saturday, April 23, 2016

Convivenza ²⁰¹⁶

ALMOST 200 SECULAR FRANCISCAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS GATHERED TOGETHER AT THE 2016 CONVIVENZA ON APRIL 23RD FOR A DAY FILLED



WITH INFORMATIVE AND THOUGHT PROVOKING SPEAKERS, FRATERNAL COMRADERIE, HOLY MASS WITH THE SPECIAL BLESSING OF THE JUBILEE INDULGENCE AS WE PROCESSED THROUGH THE DESIGNATED HOLY DOOR SITE OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN WALLINGTON, NEW JERSEY.



GUEST SPEAKER: REV. THOMAS A. DENTE

WHAT IS THE JUBILEE OF MERCY?

WHY IS IT SPECIAL AND

HOW DO WE CELEBRATE IT?



REV. THOMAS A. DENTE (ABOVE) IS PASTOR OF THE NOTRE DAME CHURCH IN NORTH CALDWELL; DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK AND CO-CHAIR OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN COMMITTEE FOR THE JUBILEE OF MERCY.

When Pope Francis became Pope on March 13, 2013, Fr. Dente remembers he was at the office of the Archdiocese in Newark, when the word went out through the building that they were going to announce the Pope. Running with several colleagues to a meeting room with a television, he watched as they made the announcement, and afterwards as the new pontiff stepped out onto the balcony and bid a “Buona Serra” to everyone.

Surprised, but pleased at such a normal and common act, Fr. Tom further noted that before the Pope gave his final blessing, he asked everyone to please pray for him, asking everyone to pray an Our Father and a Hail Mary.

“He’s a pastor of the people, leading everyone in prayer.” The Pope then gave his apostolic blessing, left the balcony- and things haven’t been the same since.

Francis in his first years as Pope has done many things that were considered different - he likes to be down with the people. His prayers include actions, symbols and signs that speak louder than words. The Pope was once asked, “Why are you doing this?” whereas he answered, ... “because it’s good for me.” And that is true, his model is servant leadership. And he does it first and foremost by example.

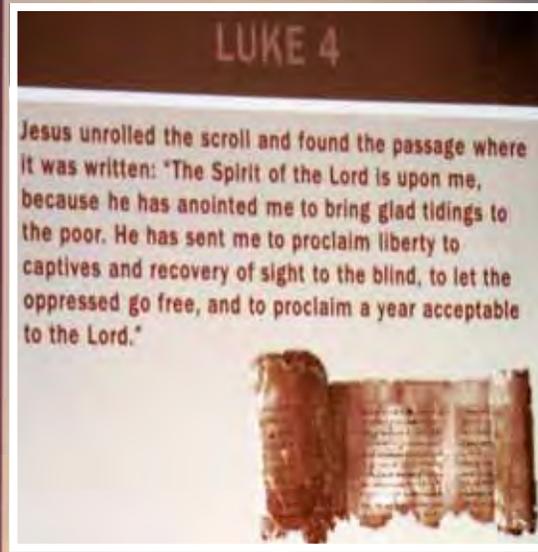
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Convivenza 2016

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Then perhaps his most powerful statement since becoming Pope up to that moment, was his letter, *Laudato Si*, on the care for our common home where he wrote extensively of concerns about the planet, the environment, and the poor.

He said, “teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature.”



So he sees Creation as a gift from God, not just something to be used or abused. He also said that we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach. It must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

So the lynchpin of his document is not just to make the earth a cleaner and safer place, but how when we abuse the earth, the people who suffer the most he says, are the poor.

So he's drawing the two together- you can't just live in isolation from your environment, but that you need to consider how that is going to affect the lives of real people, and of course, the needs of the poor are such a primary and important concern for Pope Francis.

There have been many times where as both Cardinal in Buenos Aires and as Pope, he has stopped to make sure people in need are being taken care of, and not just walking by the people most in need.

When the Pope announced a Jubilee of Mercy, it didn't surprise us.

Unlike the other Holy Years which commemorated events or anniversaries, this one is very connected with the Pope's work and Ministry in the Church- what he wants us to do and be and accomplish. Trying to get the world on board with that vision of mercy.

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Convivenza 2016

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What is a Jubilee Year? Where Did it Come From?

IT CAME ORIGINALLY FROM SCRIPTURE. SCRIPTURE AND JUBILEE!

The Old Testament, especially Leviticus, talks all about holy days and feast days of the Jewish people and counting out weeks and months and years... when to plant, when to sow, etc., but they did things in sevens, so after 49 years, you'd come to the 50th year, and they treated this 50th year as sacred, "...you shall proclaim liberty in the land for all its inhabitants, it shall be a Jubilee for you. ... this 50th year is your year of Jubilee."

There were many rules about the Jubilee year, but just like our Jubilee of Mercy, it is a time to stop, reconsider, forgive a debt, set someone free in a spiritual or a physical sense. It is a spiritual time to reflect and renew on our purpose and mission. So partly it's a nice thing to do, partly it's a thing to look forward to as well.

The title of this year called an *Extraordinary Jubilee*, sounds extra special, yet all it means is that it is out of the ordinary. It is outside of the 25-year cycle which is when the church celebrates a normal Jubilee year. Even though the Old Testament says a Jubilee is every 50 years, the church has been celebrating it every 25 years for the past several centuries. The year 2000 was a Jubilee year, 2025 should be a Jubilee year, but Pope Francis doesn't know if he's going to be around in 2025, so when you're a Pope you can make any year you want to be a Jubilee year, the only caveat is that it's extraordinary because it falls outside the 25-year cycle.

The Reason for the Jubilee.

Here, then, is the reason for the Jubilee: because this is the time for mercy. It is the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone, everyone, the way of forgiveness and reconciliation. May the Mother of God open our eyes, so that we may comprehend the task to which we have been called; and may she obtain for us the grace to experience this Jubilee of Mercy as faithful and fruitful witnesses of Christ. - Pope Francis

When is it Celebrated?

What is it's Theme?

IT BEGAN ON DECEMBER 8, 2015, the feast of the Immaculate Conception and will close on November 20, 2016- the feast of Christ the King. The theme and focus is Mercy. The Mercy that God has for us, and the Mercy that the Church should have on its people.

Why These Dates?

THE OPENING OF THE YEAR OF MERCY

also marks the 50th anniversary of the closing of the II Vatican Council, a council that sought to bring the love of God to the modern world.

You may remember the Year of Faith--it marked the opening of II Vatican Council and the theme of that year was, *Open the Doors to Christ*. So II Vatican, they opened the doors to St. Peter's, all the bishops of the world came in representing the whole world, and they had their meetings and did a lot of good things.

When Pope Francis became Pope during that Year of Faith, a couple of times he said that we can't just open the doors and expect the people to come in; we have to go out the door and bring them in. And so it's fitting that his year begins with the closing of the Council when it's over. Now open the doors, go out into the world and reach out. It's a huge theme for Pope Francis.

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What is the Image all about? What does it mean?



THE SYMBOL AND THE MOTTO TOGETHER PROVIDE A FITTING SUMMARY OF WHAT THE JUBILEE YEAR IS ALL ABOUT.

The motto *Merciful Like the Father* (taken from the Gospel of Luke, 6:36) serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn, but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (Lk 6:37-38).

THE LOGO - the work of Jesuit Father Marko I. Rupnik - presents a small *summa theologiae* of the theme of mercy. In fact, it represents an image quite important to the early Church: that of the Son having taken upon his shoulders the lost soul demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to completion the mystery of his incarnation culminating in redemption. The logo has been designed in such a way so as to express the profound way in which the Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity and does so with a love with the power to change one's life. One particular feature worthy of note is that while the Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, his eyes are merged with those of man. Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ. Every person discovers in Christ, the new Adam, one's own humanity and the future that lies ahead, contemplating, in his gaze, the love of the Father.

The scene is captured within the so called *mandorla* (the shape of an almond), a figure quite important in early and medieval iconography, for it calls to mind the two natures of Christ, divine and human. The three concentric ovals, with colors progressively lighter as we move outward, suggest the movement of Christ who carries humanity out of the night of sin and death. Conversely, the depth of the darker color suggests the impenetrability of the love of the Father who forgives all.

So Why Is It Now?

DO YOU GET A SENSE OF URGENCY ABOUT ALL THIS?

The Pope is saying now is the time to experience God's mercy and he wants everyone to have that closeness with Christ. As a church, we have a lot of doctrine and dogma, we have scriptures, we have canon law, roman missals, lots of stuff which make us a great church, and we love it all, but sometimes, you just need to know that you're loved and that God is part of your life, and that being a person of faith isn't all about what's in our head, but what gets into our hearts, and that's what the Pope is striving for.

Nowhere in the Gospel does Jesus say you must have a Master's degree in Theology to follow me, but what he does say is believe, believe, believe. You must have faith. The Pope is talking about an encounter with God that is merciful and loving; how can you not respond to that experience other than with faith, and we saw Jesus do it a bunch of times in the Gospel. He would save someone, heal someone, forgive someone and then they would change their lives and become a believer.

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Living Mercy

MERCY IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH'S LIFE. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness

she makes present to believers. Nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy. The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love.

So actions speak louder than words, right? Pope Francis is saying our credibility depends on our ability to show mercy and compassionate love. That is how we will be judged. And that's how we judge each other; people can talk a good talk, but when you spend a little time with them, you find out the true nature of their character.

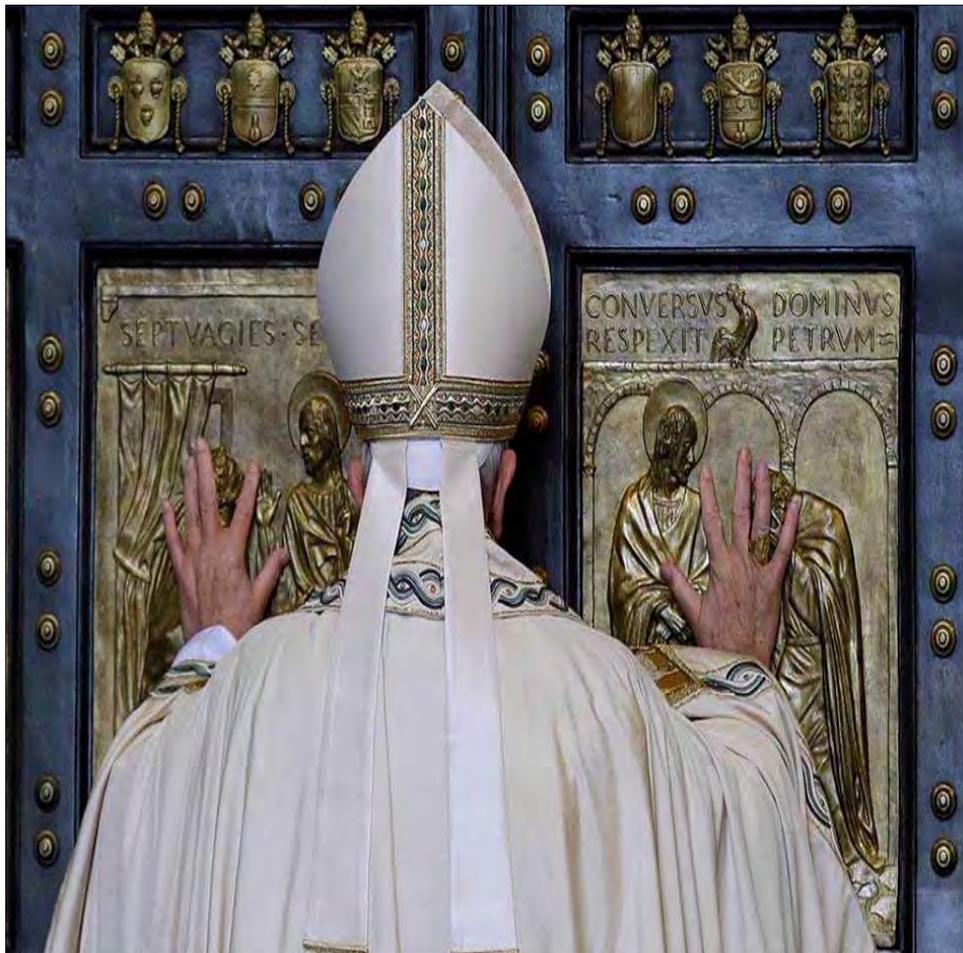
And it's the same thing with the body of the church. That we can talk a lot about Jesus, the Gospels, but it's when we feed the hungry, when we wash feet, when we are kind to one another, when we remember someone who's sick, those are the times that people say, "...wow, that church really has their act together, and they really do what they say."

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When the Pope declares a Jubilee year, a **BULL OF INDICATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY** is written to explain what the Jubilee is all about and what the Pope intends for that special year. View it at:

https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html



HOLY YEARS ARE ALWAYS MARKED BY THE OPENING OF THE HOLY DOORS AT ST. PETER'S.

The doors are always sealed, you can't go through it unless it's a holy year where they do a rather elaborate ceremony and then the Pope opens the doors for the Holy Year and says, "...the Holy Doors will become a Holy Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instills hope."

On December 8th, the Pope gave a homily where he said that to pass through a Holy Door means to rediscover the Infinite Mercy of the Father, who welcomes everyone and goes out personally, to encounter each of them.

So again, don't just open the door and wait. Go out and find them. That should make us think of a special parable of the lost son; the father didn't just leave the door open and say, "the door is always open if he wants to come back." No, on his way back, he meets the Father far from home because he's been looking for him.

The Pope went on to say that this will be a year in which we grow ever more convinced of God's Mercy. Quoting from St. Augustine,

"How much wrong we do to God and His Grace when we speak of sins being punished by His judgment, before we speak of their being forgiven by His Mercy."

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Even if you're not a fan of Pope Francis, he's quoting one of the main guys in the history of the church. And he's right—how often do we like to put limits on God's Mercy? We like to stop and think, "I deserve forgiveness, I deserve mercy, I deserve a second chance, but what SHE did could never be forgiven. It's true—we do that.

St. Augustine was a great saint, he was also a great sinner. He wrote about that in his own book, and so he would understand that hearing all about being judged by God before speaking of being forgiven by God's mercy. That's hard for us to do; and as we hear in other parts of the Scripture, God's ways are far above human ways.

To become like God means to let go of a lot of human baggage and to really try to imitate Christ. It's not easy. It's a challenge that we have to consider and live with all the time in our lives.



How It Works

Holy Doors are not limited only to the Vatican, they are put out throughout the world. What happens is they send out a letter to all the bishops throughout the world stating all the things they want you to do, and they designate Holy Door pilgrim sites in your own diocese. We have several in this Archdiocese, one of them is here at the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Wallington.

Any Cathedral Basilica is always included to have a Holy Door. Any church with the word Mercy gets a Holy Door. Then they look around geologically; for example, during the year of St. Paul—all the Pauline churches got a Holy Door.

PILGRIMS; PILGRIM SITES

The idea is that you travel to the site, part of it is the destination, part of it is the journey. Getting there, the trials and tribulations, also learning and traveling with other people, growing closer to them.

People make pilgrimages because they want to become spiritually enriched through the whole journey.

The idea is that you bring the spiritual experience home with you. There is that idea that it is not just about me, and what I got out of it, but rather how does that make me a better person, a better minister, a better disciple in my life and as a Christian.



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Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

KEY TO ALL DURING THIS YEAR OF MERCY, ARE THE CORPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY.

Those are things that we may have learned in Catholic school or Religious Ed, So now, here is Pope Francis taking a real adult view embracing all of these things and giving them a shot in the arm. It's definitively good to reconsider the **CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY:**

- **FEED THE HUNGRY**
- **GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY.**

Many parishes (including Fr. Dente's own church where he is pastor) are doing food collections, supplying a food pantry and going to soup kitchens, it keeps it in people's minds.

I like to say to them, "We can't eat the Body and Blood of Christ on the altar when we know that there are hungry people at the door. We have to feed the hungry people, or as St. Paul says, you're eating your own condemnation. You're not eating the body of Christ. So you've got to reach out from that table.

- **CLOTHE THE NAKED.**
- **SHELTER THE HOMELESS.**

Fr. Dente's parish is one of several that shelter the homeless throughout the year for a couple of weeks, there is also a clothing collection on the parish grounds. He knows many people also run clothing drives.

▪ **VISIT THE SICK.**

People might think, why on earth would anyone who is sick want you to show up at their door? Sooner or later, we all know someone who is sick- a neighbor, a family member, a friend, someone who is in the hospital ... It is so important that they feel remembered and are still a part of the community.

▪ **VISIT THE IMPRISONED.**

This is a harder one. More and more, Fr. Dente hears of the U.S. Prison system and how many people are in prisons. Happily, his parish had an established prison ministry in place when he arrived. Members go regularly to visit and they have a retreat once a year. It is a specific ministry, but there are opportunities to visit the imprisoned.

▪ **BURY THE DEAD.**

This may seem so obvious, but more and more among our Catholic population are deciding not to have wakes, or funerals, or committal services and that is unfortunate.

Active parishioners pass away and their children will just cremate them, not having any services held for them. Catholics- you must tell your kids what you really want because you can't assume it will be done. The church defines that time of life with prayer- the wake service, the funeral mass.

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY
(WORKS THAT TEND TO BODILY NEEDS OF OTHERS):

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

(WORKS THAT TEND TO SPIRITUAL SUFFERING OF OTHERS):

- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Admonish sinners
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive offenses
- Comfort the afflicted
- Pray for the living and the dead

ON THE

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY:

- **INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT.**
- **COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL.**

These are compassionate ministries. They've lost someone they love or are going through some grief and despair, while instructing the ignorant- maybe you're a Religious Ed teacher, in which case there's a special place in Heaven prepared for you. Maybe instructing your own children or grandchildren; raising them in the faith.

AND WE CONTINUE WITH:

- **ADMONISH SINNERS.**
- **BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY.**
- **FORGIVE OFFENSES.**
- **COMFORT THE AFFLICTED.**
- **PRAY FOR THE LIVING & THE DEAD.**

So how are you living out the Works of Mercy?

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“Pope Francis, much to his credit put in bathrooms and showers for the homeless at the Vatican, so they’d have a place to go. Here’s a guy thinking, I can talk about this till I turn blue in the face, but building a nice, clean bathroom for homeless people .. that’s what made the front page of the papers. It spoke louder than words and when we think about Pope Francis and his ministry, we see he is trying to make it a live reality in the life of the church.”

So Fr. Tom ends his excellent presentation by stating that he’d spoken quite a lot and at this time wanted to give us time to talk a little bit at our tables. Adding, “You’ve heard many things about the Year of Mercy, and you’ve heard of the things that the Pope has done. Maybe, if the Pope called you up tonight and asked, ‘what else could I do for this year of mercy?’ could you come up with something?”

Breaking out into discussion groups, the question we addressed was,

**“If you were the Pope,
what would you do
for this year of Mercy?”**

To view additional Convivenza photos, go to our website at:
http://olangels.tripod.com/region_links.html





ED WOJCIECHOWSKI, OFS
REGIONAL FORMATION DIRECTOR

PRESENTATION:

**“PRACTICAL IDEAS
FOR CELEBRATING
THE YEAR OF MERCY
IN OUR LOCAL
FRATERNITIES.”**

YEAR OF MERCY

RESOURCES FOR MERCY IN OUR FRATERNITIES.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE FACE OF THE FATHER’S MERCY.

Jesus of Nazareth, by His words, His actions, and His entire person reveals the Mercy of God. (*Misericordiae Vultus 1*)

WE NEED CONSTANTLY TO CONTEMPLATE THE MYSTERY OF MERCY.

It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace.

Our salvation depends on it.

MERCY: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity.

MERCY: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us.

MERCY: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life.

MERCY IS THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH’S LIFE.

The time has come for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more. It is time to return to the basics and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters.

MERCY is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.
(MV 10)

**THE CHURCH IS COMMISSIONED TO ANNOUNCE THE MERCY OF GOD,
THE BEATING HEART OF THE GOSPEL.**

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR THE

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. **AMEN.**



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MERCY in Our Fraternities

PRAYER

1. Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy.
2. Divine Mercy Chaplet.
3. Reflect on the Words of *Misericordiae Vultus*.

CONVERSION

1. Penance.
2. Pray for forgiveness and conversion.

FORMATION

1. Make Mercy the theme of initial and ongoing Conversion.

Formation TOPICS

- ❖ Spend time in reflection rejoicing in the love and mercy that was shown to you by God and others today. Where do you see God's love present in your life?
- ❖ Read Pope Francis's letter about this Jubilee Year, *Misericordiae Vultus*.
- ❖ In what ways can your fraternity be a "missionary of mercy" to others in your home, work, and community?

Formation RESOURCES

- ❖ Parables of Mercy Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. (*Our Sunday Visitor*)
- ❖ The Holy Year of Mercy, a Faith Sharing Guide by Pope Francis.
- ❖ Magnificat - Year of Mercy Companion.
- ❖ Mercy in My Pocket. (*St. Anthony's Guild Press*)



SPIRITUAL Works of Mercy IN ACTION

- ❖ Volunteer to help with religious education programs at your parish.
- ❖ In humility, strive to create a culture that does not accept sin, while realizing that we all fall at times.
- ❖ We should journey together to a deeper understanding of our shared faith.
- ❖ Let go of grudges.
- ❖ Write a letter or send a card to someone who is suffering.
- ❖ Request a Mass Intention for a friend or family member who has passed away.



CORPORAL Works of Mercy IN ACTION

- ❖ Contribute to organizations that serve the hungry.
- ❖ See if your parish or diocese is involved with a local homeless shelter and volunteer some time.
- ❖ Give blood.
- ❖ Visit the cemetery and pray for those you have lost.
- ❖ Skip the morning latte and donate that money to the poor.
- ❖ Contribute to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

Convivenza 2016

SPECIAL THANKS



TO THE CONVIVENZA
HOSTING FRATERNITIES:

ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY,
Wood Ridge, NJ;
ST. LOUIS FRATERNITY,
Wood Ridge, NJ;
and **ST. FRANCIS FRATERNITY,**
Hackensack, NJ.

This was a major undertaking,
yet you all made everything seem
effortless. We lacked for nothing!
Thank you for your efforts, hard
work, love and dedication.



DOLORES JULES, OFS,

for always offering her talents
in creating and producing the
“Save the Date” cards we always
receive prior to a regional event.



As Diane Menditto, OFS,
has previously stated, we
were also offered two concrete
opportunities to do Works of
Mercy by providing items to
several worthy organizations.

These were **BIRTHRIGHT AND
SEVERAL SOURCES AND FOR
“BLESSED BLOOMERS,”
A MYCHAEL’S MESSAGE PROJECT.**

Thank You to all participants.

