

OFS



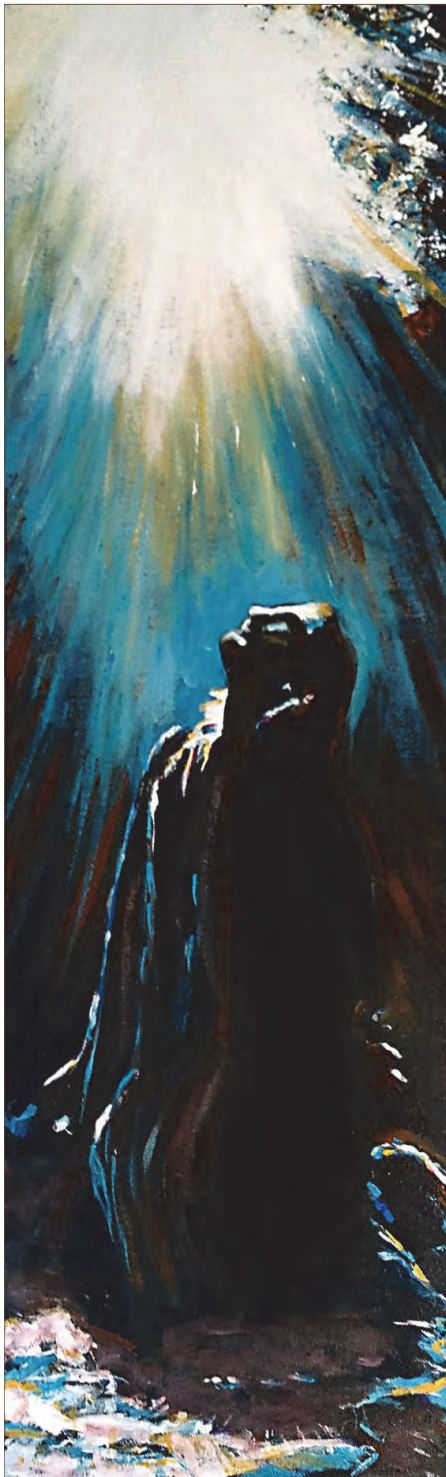
E-VENTS

APRIL

2017

PUBLISHED BY OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY
OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER IN THE U.S.A.

CONNECTING THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN
COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE REGION.



Here are some event listings that our brother and sister Franciscans and fraternities are holding throughout the region.

Come and gather with other Franciscans to observe, participate and celebrate together.

If your fraternity or church has planned a gathering or special event, please send me your information for e-publication by the 25th of the preceding month.

**Deadline for our May 2017
issue is April 25th.**

Send all event listings to:
Anna Geraci, OFS, Publications Editor

acpg@aol.com

MARK SUBJECT LINE: OFS E-VENTS



**IF THERE ARE NO FRATERNITY EVENT LISTINGS
RECEIVED FOR A PARTICULAR MONTH,
OFS E-VENTS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED
FOR THAT MONTH.**

2017 REGION CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETINGS

CONVIVENZA

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Church, 135 WEST 31ST STREET, NEW YORK CITY

Guest Speaker: Sr. Joann Sams, CSA

Director of *The Dwelling Place of NY*

CLUSTER FORMATION WORKSHOPS - SEE PAGE 6

SPECIAL FORMATION SESSION:

TOPIC: THE PRAYER LIFE OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

For the Manhattan and Westchester Clusters.

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

207 WEST 96TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY

SATURDAY, JUNE 24TH

For the North Jersey and Central Jersey Clusters.

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

ST. BONAVENTURE CHURCH

174 RAMSEY STREET, PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

REGION RETREAT - SEE PAGE 3

AUGUST 4–6, 2017

CHAPTER OF MINISTERS - ELECTIVE CHAPTER - SEE PAGES 8-12

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017

St. Francis Church

50 LODI STREET, HACKENSACK, NJ

2017 REGION RETREAT

We will once again be utilizing the beautiful facilities at Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, New York. Held on August 4 – 6, 2017, the cost is \$175.00 per attendee.



THEME: TO BE ANNOUNCED

**OUR RETREAT WILL BE LED BY
BRO. RUDOLPH PIERETTI, OFM CAP**
Join your Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters at our annual region retreat where you will share time in prayer, fellowship and spiritual growth.

Remember space is limited, so register now using the registration form provided below.

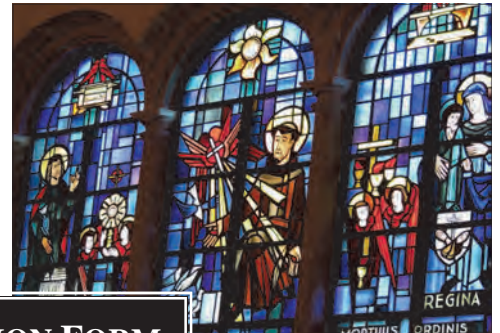


Photo credits: Diane Menditto, OFS and Ed Wojciechowski, OFS

2017 REGION RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

Please check one Professed Candidate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Fraternity: _____ Single room Double room

Special Needs: _____ Room with: _____

Send completed registration form with \$175.00 check, payable to “Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity” to: RICHARD SPANA, OFS • 170 East Hartsdale Avenue, 1F, Hartsdale, NY 10530-3536 • Phone: 914-478-2010.

The Registration Form will be available on our region website at: <http://ourladyoftheangelsregion.org>



FRATERNITY EVENTS

HERE ARE SOME EVENTS OUR
BROTHER AND SISTER FRATERNITIES

St. Leopolds Friary . 259 Nepperhan Avenue . Yonkers, NY 10701

Vocation Day / Lenten Day of Recollection

Saturday April 8 2017

10 am – 4 pm

*Is God calling you to walk in the footsteps
of St. Francis of Assisi in your daily secular life?*

*If you are a lay person (or diocesan priest) and have a Franciscan vocation,
you probably have a desire to do something more.*

Perhaps you feel a need for support in growing spiritually.

Or, deep down, you sense a need

*to serve God in a special way. Or, for years,
you have felt an affinity with St. Francis.*

He seems to pop up all around and you just don't know why.

Perhaps, God is calling you!

*Getting to know the **Secular Franciscan Order** better
may be a way to determine if you have a vocation.*

*Come and spend a Lenten Day with us ,
hear testimonies of SFO and pray with us.*

RSVP, please contact...

Regina Marino at 917.922.0412 or Email ServantsOfGodOFS@gmail.com

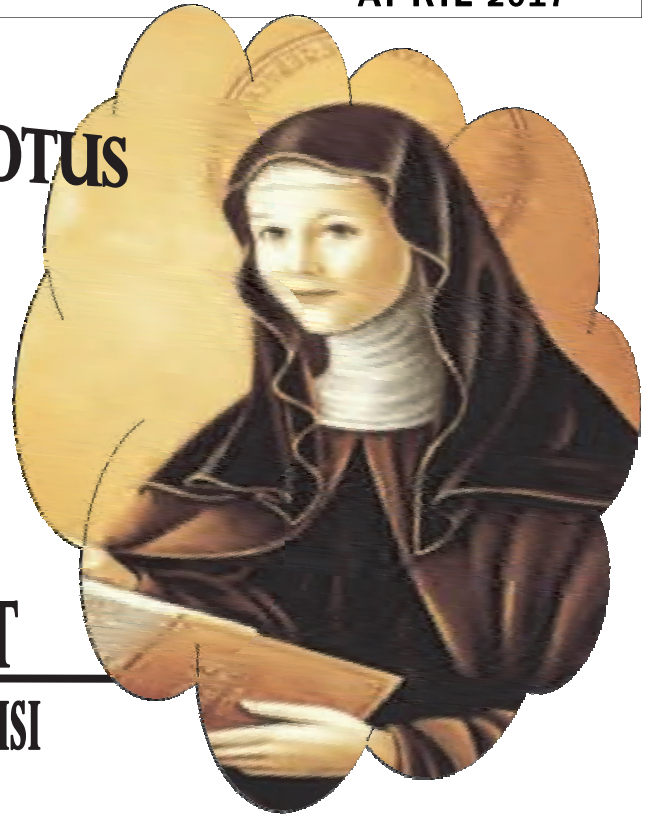
*Day will begin with Mass, includes talk,
testimonies, lunch, prayer time and concludes
with Holy Hour.*

Visit our Facebook pg... Servants Of God OFS Fraternity

A BLESSED JOHN DUNS SCOTUS FRANCISCAN LIBRARY PRESENTATION

Saturday, April 8, 2017

LEAD KINDLY LIGHT THE CHARISM OF CLARE OF ASSISI



**Presented by
Sr. Clare A. D'Auria, OSF**



Photo credit: OSF

DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 8

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

PLACE: Blessed John Duns Scotus
Franciscan Library
125 Thompson Street
New York, NY 10012

ALL ARE WELCOME.

If you plan to attend, we ask that you RSVP to Siobhan O'Dwyer, OFS:
smdfranciscanlibrary@gmail.com



During the dark days of the turn of the thirteenth century, when the divisive structures of feudalism separated the “have’s” from the “have not’s,” Clare of Assisi, along with Francis, envisioned a new way in which people could live in relationship with one another. Their dream, rooted in the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, created a fraternal model within whose framework all could live as sister and brother.

For Clare, this vision was realized in her design for the way of life lived by the Poor Ladies in San Damiano. Leading by example as sister, servant, and mother, Clare became a guiding light to her fledging congregation. In our own day, when the forces of division continue to frustrate the coming of the reign of God, Clare’s witness can illumine the pathway for those of us who desire to be faithful to the Gospel and to our Franciscan charism.

CLARE A. D'AURIA, OSF, a Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia, currently ministers as a staff member at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston, PA. For half of her fifty years in ministry, Clare has served in retreat work, offering spiritual direction, directed and conference retreats, as well as numerous workshops, especially in Franciscan spirituality, throughout the United States. She also serves on the staff of Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs, leading pilgrims through the holy sites in both Assisi and Rome. Her other ministerial experience has included congregational and provincial leadership, secondary and collegiate education, and a variety of additional administrative roles both within and outside of her congregation.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP

In order to provide a richer opportunity for Initial Formation, the Regional Formation Team, in cooperation with the Regional Executive Council, will begin offering Initial Formation Sessions at the cluster level in the Region. These sessions are meant to supplement the initial formation occurring on the fraternity level and provide an opportunity for Inquirers and Candidates throughout the region to meet and share their journey to Profession.

The first Initial Formation session will be led by Diane Menditto, OFS Regional Minister and members from the Regional Formation Team. The topic of this session will be **"THE PRAYER LIFE OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN"**.

AGENDA

9:30 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.

REGISTRATION

10:00 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

10:15 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

PRESENTATION AND
GROUP PARTICIPATION

12:00 P.M. - 12:30 P.M.

WRAP-UP AND CLOSING PRAYER

TWO SESSIONS ARE PLANNED

May 6, 2017

Church of the Holy Name of Jesus
207 West 96th Street, in New York City,
for Manhattan and Westchester Clusters.

June 24, 2017

St. Bonaventure Church
174 Ramsey Street, Paterson, NJ
for North Jersey and Central Jersey Clusters.

Sessions are intended for Inquirers and Candidates.

The Regional Formation Team urges all Inquirers, Candidates, Formation Directors and Formation Teams in the region to attend one of these two sessions. You may attend either of these sessions, but it is not necessary to attend both sessions as the same material will be presented at each cluster.

If you cannot attend the session intended for your cluster, you are welcome to attend the other session.

In order to help plan the meeting and provide copies of the presentation material for all the attendees,

RSVP by April 26 if you are planning to attend the session on May 6

RSVP by June 16 if you are planning to attend the session on June 24.

RSVP via phone or email **Ed Wojciechowski, OFS**

phone: 973-492-1035

e-mail: edwojo@yahoo.com

R REGIONAL NOTICES

A REGIONAL COMMITTEE has been formed for the purpose of reaching out to retired and infirm friars residing in Beacon (New York), Ringwood and Butler (New Jersey).

At the initial meeting, the group brainstormed ideas of how our region might best serve the friars.

Some ideas include:

- Sending cards ▪ Visiting
- Collecting toiletries for them throughout the year.

What the committee needs from you are additional suggestions as well as your participation, either individually or as a fraternity. If you are interested in being part of this Apostolate, email one of us with your name and contact information. Please put "OFS Ministry" on the subject line. Thanks.



PATRICIA FRANZ, OFS
pattycakes82045@aol.com

MADLINE ROMAINE, OFS
maddiromaine@optonline.net

JODY PIHOKKER OFS
jodysofo@gmail.com



JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

CHRIS LEONE, OFS

CHAIR — JPIC Commission

OLTAR REGION

cleone113@yahoo.com

At the February Regional Executive Council meeting, I was appointed to the Chair of the JPIC Commission which I humbly accepted.

I have a vision of how I will approach this new servant leadership role I was given. I see an approach built upon culture, conversion and call to action. By fostering a culture of encounter we put names and faces to abstract concepts like poverty, clean water, climate change and immigration.

If we can humanize these concepts we can get people to wrap their hearts around these issues, not just their heads. When the heart is involved, conversion occurs; and when conversion occurs it is easier to mobilize others for a call to action.

It is not my intention to lay out a detailed vision and mission statement now, but to tease you with a general sense of direction. When our committee is formed, a statement of purpose including our vision and mission will be the first order of business.

If you have an interest in JPIC and would like to be a part of an exciting opportunity to make the Commission come to life, please reach out to me at cleone113@yahoo.com or call me at 908-528-0865.



2017 OLTAR REGIONAL CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS

LETTER FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER

PEACE AND ALL GOOD!

Every three years it is the responsibility of the Regional Minister to announce the **Regional Chapter of Elections** (see GC article 51.2a). Our elective chapter will be held on **November 11, 2017**. The nominating procedure is lengthy so we must begin the process now. The Regional Executive Council has appointed **Pat Spana, OFS, to chair** the Nominating Committee. Pat has prepared this **packet** (pgs. 8-12) to request nominations from every fraternity. We thank Pat for the work already accomplished and for the work yet to come.

We are counting on your **prayer and collaboration** to help members discern if they will be able to serve our region. Our **2017 election is particularly important** since three members of the present Council must retire after having served three consecutive terms. The offices affected are Secretary, Treasurer and Westchester Councilor. Of course, we are hoping that many of our members will choose to accept nominations for any and all offices!

In the packet you will find descriptions of the **duties of the officers from the General Constitutions** and our Regional Guidelines. However, I also want to share with you some of the **outstanding servant leadership characteristics** demonstrated by our present council members. Please **keep these in mind** as you consider possible candidates.

- **Trust in the Holy Spirit**
- **Excellent Franciscan formation** and eagerness to deepen their **commitment** to our Order
- Deep awareness of **what they promised at Profession**
- **Positive attitude**
- **Readiness to move the Region forward**—without promoting a personal agenda
- Willingness to **make the time to attend monthly meetings** of the Regional Executive Council (usually held in Paterson, NJ on the second Saturday of the month)
- Willingness to **collaborate** with their brothers and sisters
- Willingness to **LISTEN** to one another
- **Fulfillment of the responsibilities** for which they were elected and **creativity** with new ideas
- **Excellent communication skills**
- Ability to use **digital communications**—we communicate **OFTEN** by e-mail
- Have the means to **provide their own transportation** to REC meetings
- Willingness to **assist with elections and visitations**
- Willingness to **attend other Regional gatherings**, workshops and the Regional Retreat
- **Experience in serving the Order** because they have **held office on the local level**

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire everyone one in our Region to nominate and or be nominated. Let's get another great team together to serve our Region!

Blessings,



Diane F. Menditto, OFS

Minister, Our Lady of the Angels Region

2017 OLTAR REGIONAL CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS

LETTER FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

MAY THE LORD GIVE YOU PEACE!

- Please circulate this information among the members of your Fraternities and publish it in your Fraternity Newsletters.
- The Chapter of Elections for Our Lady of the Angels Region is scheduled for **November 11, 2017** at the St. Francis Church, 50 Lodi Street, Hackensack, NJ.
- All professed members of the Fraternities within Our Lady of the Angels Region are eligible to nominate someone for election to serve on the Regional Executive Council.

TIMELINE:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| April 1, 2017 | ▪ Notice of Election published; Call for Nominations. |
| May 30, 2017 | ▪ Absolute deadline for submitting nominations. |
| June | ▪ Nominating Committee contacts Nominees, advises them of their nomination, and provides forms for return by August 1 st . |
| August 1, 2017 | ▪ Deadline for return of nomination acceptance forms from nominees. |
| September 9, 2017 | ▪ List of nominees and resumés to Region Executive Council. |
| September 25, 2017 | ▪ Resumés of nominees sent to voting members of the Elective Chapter. |

ELIGIBILITY FOR NOMINATION: (As stated in our Regional Guidelines)

Nominees must be permanently professed for three (3) years.

A local Minister may not serve as Regional Minister – if he/she is nominated and then elected, he/she must resign from office as local Minister.

Present Regional Executive Council Members may not serve more than three (3) terms.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES for each position, please refer to *pgs 10-11*.

PROCEDURE:

Please **fill out and return** the completed nomination form (*page 12*),

including all requested information, via snail-mail **OR** e-mail

(attached to an e-mail if possible) to **BOTH Pat Spana**, OFS Nominating Committee Chair, and **RoseAnn Cerbone**, OFS Nominating Committee Co-Chair—make copies as necessary.

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

We will continually cross reference nominations.)

Nominations are Confidential.

PAT SPANA, OFS
Nominating Committee Chair
Our Lady of the Angels Region
170 E. Hartsdale Avenue, 1F
Hartsdale, NY 10530
spanap@aol.com

ROSEANN CERBONE, OFS
Nominating Committee Co-Chair
Our Lady of the Angels Region
40 Fowler Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10701
rcerbone@aol.com



2017 OLTAR REGIONAL CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS

REGIONAL OFFICES DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

MINISTER - *General Constitutions Articles 63.1 and 63.2*

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

VICE MINISTER - *General Constitutions Article 52.1*

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

SECRETARY - *Article 52.2*

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

DIRECTOR OF FORMATION - *Formation Directors' Handbook*

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

continued on next page

2017 OLTAR REGIONAL CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS

REGIONAL OFFICES DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

continued from page 10

TREASURER - Article 52.4

4. The **treasurer**, or bursar, has the following duties: *(Also see below from Regional Guidelines, 19-22)**
 - a. to guard diligently the contributions received, recording each receipt in the appropriate register, with the date on which it was given, the name of the contributor, or the one from whom it was collected;
 - b. to record in the same register the items of expense, specifying the date and the purpose, in conformity with the directions of the fraternity council;
 - c. to render an account of his or her administration to the assembly and to the council of the fraternity according to the norms of the national statutes.

***TREASURER - Regional Guidelines, 19-22**

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

ARTICLE 52.5

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

COUNCILORS - Regional Guidelines Appendix A, Resolution #1

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

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

The Guidelines go on to say that it is expected that these councilors will be from the Cluster which they will serve.

**2017 OLTAR REGIONAL
CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS
NOMINATION FORM**

Date_____

Full Name of the Perpetually Professed person you wish to Nominate.

Full mailing address, phone number and e-mail address of this Nominee.

Fraternity where this Nominee is a Professed Member_____

Fraternity City_____ State_____

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

Please clearly circle or highlight.

Regional Minister Regional Vice Minister Regional Secretary Regional Treasurer

Regional Formation Director Councilor: North Jersey Councilor: Central Jersey

Councilor: Manhattan Councilor: Westchester

Name of Nominator:_____

Telephone:_____ E-mail address:_____

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

PAT SPANA, OFS

Nominating Committee Chair
Our Lady of the Angels Region
170 E. Hartsdale Avenue, 1F
Hartsdale, NY 10530
spanap@aol.com

ROSEANN CERBONE, OFS

Nominating Committee Co-Chair
Our Lady of the Angels Region
40 Fowler Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10701
rcebhone@aol.com



**All written Nomination forms are to be returned
to the Nominating Committee by May 30, 2017**



CIOFS MONTHLY OFS-YOUFRA PRAYER INTENTIONS

TO EMPHASIZE COMMUNION WITH THE POPE, WE OFFER THE HOLY FATHER'S MONTHLY INTENTION
AND AN OFS INTENTION, BASED ON THE LIFE AND MAJOR EVENTS OF THE ORDER.
THE LOCAL FRATERNITIES WILL PRAY FOR BOTH.

2017

April	<p>Universal: For young people, that they may know how to respond generously to their vocation, seriously considering the possibility of consecrating themselves to God in the priesthood or in consecrated life.</p> <p>OFS: For the National Fraternity of Venezuela, the Philippines and for the fifth Asia-Oceania Congress.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
May	<p>For evangelization: For Christians in Africa that they may give a prophetic witness of reconciliation, justice and peace in imitation of the merciful Jesus.</p> <p>OFS: For the National Fraternities of Romania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
June	<p>Universal: For the leaders of nations to commit themselves to put an end to the arms trade, which leads to so many innocent victims.</p> <p>OFS: For the National Fraternities of Italy, Malaysia-Singapore and the Netherlands, and for the Project Africa Formation Workshop in Abidjan-Ivory Coast.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
July	<p>For evangelization: For our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, that through our prayers and witness of the Gospel, they can rediscover the closeness of the merciful Lord, and the beauty of Christian life.</p> <p>OFS: For the National Fraternities of Capo Verde, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Bolivia and Pakistan.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
August	<p>Universal: For the artists of our time, may they, through the works of their genius, help everyone discover the beauty of creation.</p> <p>OFS: For the Project Africa Formation Workshop in Yaoundé-Cameroon, the National Fraternities of Egypt, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Denmark, Chile and Ireland.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
September	<p>For evangelization: For our parishes, let them be animated by a missionary spirit, and become places where faith is shared and where they are witnesses of charity.</p> <p>OFS: For the National Fraternities of Peru, Lithuania and Spain.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
October	<p>Universal: For those in the labor market, may they all be assured of respect and protection of their rights and may the unemployed be given the opportunity to contribute to the building of the common good.</p> <p>OFS: For the National Fraternities of Belarus and Thailand.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
November	<p>For evangelization: For Christians in Asia, as they bear witness to the Gospel in word and deed, let it be conducive to dialogue, peace and mutual understanding, especially with those who belong to other religions.</p> <p>OFS: For the CIOFS Presidency, the General Intermediate Chapter, our departed brothers and sisters, and the Malawi National Fraternity.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>
December	<p>Universal: For the elderly, may they be sustained by families and Christian communities, and may they work together in wisdom and experience to transmit the faith and to educate the new generations.</p> <p><i>Our Father...</i></p>



8th Summer Seminar for Secular Franciscans July 6-9, 2017



Endorsed by the National Executive Council of the Secular Franciscan Order - USA

"Multiculturalism and Diversity: Who is My Neighbor?" – Presenters



Mary Stronach, OFS - Multiculturalism has been at the center of Mary's life, vocation and vision. As a foreign language teacher at the high school and college levels in Spanish, Italian, French and Latin, she has addressed diversity and how to work with people from different backgrounds. She has presented on multiculturalism and cultural competency in her role as Outreach Coordinator for an interpreting/translation organization call the Multicultural Association of Medical/Legal Interpreters. The organization serves refugees and immigrants from dozens of regions of the world – from Myanmar to Mexico.

Mary has been a Secular Franciscan since 2003 and has served at all levels. On the local and regional fraternity levels, she has been Formation Director and Commission Chair. On the national level, she and her husband, Bob, have been Public Relations Chairpersons since 2003. More recently, Mary was elected International Councilor. Mary has also served as translator/interpreter for the Presidency of the OFS in Rome, Italy.

Carolyn D. Townes, OFS is a spiritual life and leadership coach and a loss to life mindset strategist, where she uses faith-based principles to provide spiritual and emotional wellness to women moving from the pain of grief and loss to a new life of purpose and peace. Her passion and mission is to help them go from a place of tragedy and trauma to a place of peace and joy.

Since professing in 2000, Carolyn has served in leadership roles in the Secular Franciscan Order, including local fraternity minister and regional secretary. She is currently the Animator for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) on the regional and national levels and serving on the International JPIC Commission. She is also an Action Commissioner and board member for the Franciscan Action Network.



REGISTRATION FOR THE 2017 OFS SUMMER SEMINAR IS NOW OPEN.

This year's topic, "Multiculturalism and Diversity: Who is My Neighbor," is particularly relevant to current issues, and our presenters, Mary Stronach, OFS, and Carolyn Townes, OFS, will provide a stimulating and informative program.

Please go to the following web site for complete information including a registration form that can either be printed and mailed or accessed directly online at:

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

Registration is limited to 100 participants.