

"Up To Now"



NEWSLETTER FOR ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGION, SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
COVERING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, MARYLAND, DELAWARE, VIRGINIA, AND PORTIONS OF WEST VIRGINIA AND PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 11, Issue 4

"Let us begin again, for up to now we have done nothing."

May 2008

From our Regional Secretary!

A Ritual for Transfer of Records

At our last Regional Executive Council meeting in April, Regional Minister Carolyn Protin handed out a document concerning the transfer of records and files from the outgoing council to the newly elected council. We offer it to you here as a practical way to ensure that the necessary documents of the fraternity change hands as the fraternity leadership changes, and that those who are assuming this new role have all the material they need to fulfill their responsibilities.

This "Ritual for Transfer of Documents" occurs immediately after the installation ceremony for the new council. It begins in this fashion:

"Will the members of the Outgoing Council please gather the records you wish to transfer to the new Council members and come forward to join me and the new Council?"

Files are handed over and the outgoing Council returns to their seats.

"As you accept these files so carefully preserved by your predecessors, I encourage you to follow in their footsteps by carrying out the duties associated with your Office diligently. I exhort you, and everyone present, in the words of St. Basil the Great:

'Do not allow someone else to do the work allotted to you lest the reward be taken from you and given to another, and someone else be honored with your riches while you remain empty-handed.

Be on your guard against shoddy service just as if God were watching you. Be afraid to render a service as if it were something superfluous or of no value even if the services of your hands are paltry.

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Dear Lord, I thank you for the gift of my vocation as a Secular Franciscan. You called me and I hesitated, I questioned and I prayed for direction. You took me by the hand and led me every step of the way. When I stumbled you picked me up, you showed me the way to go. I met my leper in a variety of places. No longer could I treat them as I did before. I learned to see your face, Lord, when I look at them and I learned to treat them as I would treat you. You changed my heart, Lord.

You gave me brothers and sisters who care for me, support me, and pray for me. And you gave me brothers and sisters to care for, to support and to pray for. The needs, the problems, the joys of one have become the needs and problems and joys of all. We are family, Lord! None of us are ever be alone. What a gift you have given us! It is a blessing to be Secular Franciscan, a blessing I'm not sure I deserve, but one for which I am truly grateful. T

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The work of serving is something great that brings to us the kingdom of heaven. It is a net of virtues containing within itself all of God's precepts.

It contains humility first and foremost which begets all virtues and brings with it an abundance of blessings. The blessing is particularly great when the service to be rendered is performed in humility without arrogance, irritation and murmuring.

Be a zealous follower of those who live an upright life and engrave their deeds upon your heart. Many indeed come to the life of virtue but few submit themselves to bear the yoke.'

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and keep us faithful to our promises to live as Francis did – faithful to the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

Congratulating the members of the new Council takes place now.

It is our hope that many of you will begin to incorporate this ceremony as you install new officers.

Ann Corro,
Regional Secretary

Looking for a Retreat Center?

Did you know that **Sue Tichy, SFO**, operates **Our Lady of Peace Retreat Center** in **Fairfield, Pennsylvania**, just 15 minutes from Emmitsburg, Maryland, and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania? The retreat center is an intimate 10-acre space that can accommodate about 30 people for day retreats and 8 to 10 people for overnight retreats. Visit her website, <http://olop.ihsweb.net>, for pricing information and photos. Sue can also be reached at 717-642-9353. T

IMPORTANT DATES MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



June 26-29 **Lay Leadership Seminar @ St. Francis University, Loretto, PA.** Fr. Bernie Tickerhoof, TOR and Anne Mulqueen, SFO are the presenters. Cost is \$225 for a single room and \$185 for a double room. All are invited to attend.

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Oct. 10-12 Annual Retreat at Priestfield

The following note was received from our International Councilor, Anne Mulqueen, following the death of her sister, Frances Holter.



Sisters and brothers,

A huge thank you for your prayer support. I don't think I fully understood intercessory prayer until it was all I had to support me during this bittersweet time of letting go. *Blessed are they that mourn for they shall [laugh] and be comforted!* I believe in the truth of this Scripture--for now I have experienced it for myself.

We have had 4 deaths in less than 2 years; 2 sisters and 2 sisters-in-law. (I think women are an endangered species in my family; however my elder brothers are speculating on their odds. :-) Truly, I am grateful for both my biological brothers ---- and my sisters and brothers in Christ and Saints Francis and Clare.

Please pass on my gratitude to the international, regional, and local fraternity members and to my brothers and sisters of St. Stephen parish. I received many notes. They made me cry and brought me exquisite joy because they expressed such love. I sincerely hope I have missed no one who wrote to me personally.

Again, my gratitude and appreciation to God for the gift of my Franciscan and parish families.

Affectionately, Anne

CONGRATULATIONS ST. CLARE FRATERNITY

The following was published in the Cape Gazette on Friday, March 14-Monday, March 17, 2008, with photos by Tom Walsh.



Above left, Catholic Diocese of Wilmington Bishop Michael A. Saltarelli met with local clergy and council members at St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church in Lewes Saturday, March 1, to canonically establish the new Secular Franciscan Fraternity of St. Clare.

This group of third-order Franciscans consists of married or single men and women united by the Catholic Church. The members are devoted to "living a life in Christ" and "developing a sense of direction according to the Gospel spirit of St. Francis of Assisi." After five years of building the fraternity, a Mass was held to make the local group official with a new headquarters at St. Jude's. Shown (l-r) are novice master of the Secular Franciscans at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Wilmington, Fr. Tom Gallagher; Fr. Matthew Palkowski, delegate of the minister general of Franciscans; Fr. George Brubaker from St. John's Catholic Church in Milford; Pastor of Saint Jude the Apostle, Father Jim Hrera; Pastor at St. Edmond's Catholic Church in Rehoboth, Father Ray Forester; and Bishop Saltarelli.

The Fraternity of St. Clare started with 11 members in 2003. Since then, the group has increased to 22 members and is now officially recognized by the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington. Meeting at noon on the second Thursday of every month, the group organizes community and environmental outreach programs. This year, the fraternity has raised money for an orphan charity program based in Haiti. The council of the new establishment shown above right includes (l-r) Minister Dick McCarthy, Secretary Janice McCarthy, Spiritual Advisor Buddy Bianco, Formation Director Lucy Deiaco, Treasurer Joe O'Neill, and Vice Minister Bev Stoner. T

**News from around
the region...**



♦ **Patrick Martin, SFO**, was professed on September 22, 2007 as a member of **St. Anthony of Nagasaki Fraternity** in DC. The profession took place at a Mass celebrated by Father Joe Nangle at the Franciscan Mission Service. Also I would like to make a correction from the last issue. **Mary Liepold, SFO**, **Karen Nolan SFO**, and **Steve Cardillo, SFO**, were professed on November 17, 2007 for **St. Francis Fraternity** in DC. Congratulations to all of these new Franciscan brothers and sisters. T

♦ We continue to congratulate all the Secular Franciscans who are celebrating anniversaries of their profession, but for those who have been faithfully following our Rule for more than **30** years, some special recognition is due. Please join in congratulating each of these long-time members who celebrate their profession anniversaries:

From **Little Flower Fraternity** in Baltimore, **Maureen Korzelius, SFO**, celebrated the **43rd** anniversary of her profession on March 21; **Shirley Wilson, SFO**, celebrated her **45th** anniversary on May 19; **Helen and Fred Terrinoni, SFO**, celebrate their **44th** on June 4; **Francine Hilton, SFO**, and **Bettie Onorato, SFO**, will celebrate their **40th** on June 4; and **Jim Davis, SFO**, will celebrate his **60th** on June 12.

From **St. Clare Fraternity** in Delaware, **Bill Walker, SFO**, celebrated the **53rd** anniversary of his profession on April 24.

From **St. Casimir Fraternity** in Baltimore, **Bernadine Kordaz, SFO**, celebrates her **36th** anniversary on May 21. T

♦ Elections were held in just one fraternity in our region recently. Please join in congratulating these council members:

St. Francis of Assisi in Triangle, VA: **Clair Hoagland**, Minister; **Marci Grattan**, Vice Minister; **Peter Farago**, Treasurer; **Steve Zawisa**, Secretary; **Mary Lou Coffman**, Formation Director. T

*"Praise be You, my Lord, through our
Sister Bodily Death, from whom no
living man can escape."*

Please join me in praying for the repose of the souls of several of our brothers and sisters who have experienced their Transitus. From **St. Francis Fraternity** in DC, **Tom Brubeck, SFO**, died in January; from **Mount St. Sepulchre Fraternity**, **Eileen Connor, SFO**, died in February and **Bertha Nowden, SFO**, died in April; and from **St. Thomas More Fraternity** in Harrisburg, PA, **Mike Portone, SFO**, died in March. T



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Please remember in your prayers over the next month, our own Fr. Bart Karwacki, OFM Conv. Fr. Bart will be having heart surgery on May 19th in Baltimore to repair a mitral valve that has prolapsed.

He has had the condition for a while, but his Dr and surgeon feel that it should be taken care of now. He will be in the hospital a few days and will spend about a month recuperating.

He should be able to resume his bicycle riding soon thereafter. He asked me to let all of you know that he needs and requests our prayers.

I assured him we would begin today and pray him through it all.

Peace, blessings & every good,
Carolyn Protin

A **formation booklet** is available which contains articles and sample letters of the following:

An Open House Flyer
Secular Franciscan Order Creed
Letter of Response to Inquiries about the Order
Application to the Secular Franciscan Order
Stages of the Formation Program
Candidate Request for Reference letter
Transfer Policy Procedure

The booklet can be obtained by emailing Victoria Spalding, SFO, at vspalding@verizon.net. The booklet will be sent to you through an attachment which can be printed out and modified for use by your fraternity. Pax et bonum! T

The Franciscan Action Network website is up and running.
For the latest information from FAN visit the site at
www.franciscanaction.org



"On this earth everyone has his cross. But we must act in such a way that we not be the bad but the good thief."

Padre Pio

Since April 24, 2008, St. Padre Pio's exhumed remains are being displayed in the Madonna delle Grazie Church in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy. Tens of thousands of pilgrims are converging on the southern Italian village to witness and venerate the body of the saint who died 40 years ago and is famous for his stigmata. T



Life Withers Like A Rose

As we begin our journey into life
we are like a tiny bud which begins
in darkness
and erupts within our Mother's
womb
until we are born into this world.

We are like a tiny rosebud which
shows our petals
one by one, until we reach full
bloom.

As we go through life, each petal is
like a stepping stone,
where we grow in strength,
knowledge, wisdom and love.

Only thru God do we blossom
into that beautiful, full blown flower,
which is so beautiful in our eyes.
It is like preparing for seeing the
Glory of God,
for which we are put on this earth
to attain, within our journey.

Life withers like the rose, as we
reach
the end of our journey.
And we in turn reach for our reward
Eternal Life

Regina Bankard Lovejoy, SFO
St. Casimir Fraternity
3/25/2008

Living the Gospel Life

St. John the Beloved Fraternity recently "took the H2O challenge". Maybe your fraternity wants to consider a similar project.

THE PROBLEM: In some countries, people do not have access to clean drinking water. Imagine no stores nearby to buy bottled water. No tap in your house to turn on. You have to walk a long distance to draw water from a river or stream. It is unimaginable!

THE SOLUTION: This year, Franciscan Youth groups around the USA and SFO fraternities will join together to collect money to help bring clean water to those most in need. How? By donating to the H2O project, which collects money for organizations that build wells in developing countries.

THE CHALLENGE: For two weeks (St. John the Beloved chose Lent/Easter) make water your only beverage. Then contribute the money you would have spent at the soda machine and coffee shop. (If that is too much of a sacrifice to give up your milk, coffee, soda, etc., for two weeks, you make drink what you want AND donate that amount to the cause or whatever amount you choose! \$1? \$5? \$10? \$50? Any amount is welcome! You do not have to submit your name with your contribution.)

THE DIFFERENCE: Preventable water related diseases kill one child every 15 seconds. That's 8,000 every day (and that's just the children!).

The fraternity would collect the money at the end of the two weeks and forward it to the national Franciscan Youth. If you would like to read more about the project you may log onto www.theh2oproject.org . A 5.5 minute impact video is available at http://theh2oproject.org/video_windowsmedia.html . The H2O Project is a donor-advised fund of Charities Support Foundation.

You'd be amazed at how your contribution adds up...

Beverage	Cost per serving	X	Tally the number skipped in 2 weeks	=	Savings
Milk, at home, 8 oz.	\$.20				
Milk, restaurant	\$1.50				
Soda, home, can	\$.25				
Soda, restaurant	\$1.50				
Soda, machine	\$.75				
Juice, home 8 oz.	\$.25				
Juice , convenience store	\$1.00				
Sports Drink, conv. Store	\$1.00				
Coffee or tea, home	\$.20				
Coffee or tea, restaurant	\$1.00				
Gourmet coffee/latte/etc.	\$3.00				

MY CONTRIBUTION \$_____



Formation Directors Workshop



Anne Mulqueen & Mary Simmons

On Saturday, May 3, 2008, Anne Mulqueen, SFO, International Councilor, held an open forum with the MD/PA/DE Area Formation Directors at Charlestown Retirement Community in Baltimore. The workshop was arranged by Mary Simmons, SFO, Regional Councilor for the area. Prior to the meeting, formation directors submitted specific questions that were important to them as they go about the formation process.

The main consensus was not surprising...Formation Directors need to place a great deal of emphasis on **"Discernment, Discernment, Discernment."**

Anne pointed out that from the beginning of the formation process until the end, it is important to tell the Formatee that they are discerning their vocation, and that we are discerning their vocation. The Formatee should be told this early on and they should be told this many times during the formation process. In this way, if either comes to the realization that they do not have a vocation, it will be earlier rather than late in the process.

Formation, she explained, is the responsibility of the whole Fraternity. Council Members and those who are mature in their vocation should be invited by their Fraternity to share in the formation process. Some of the fraternities present talked about having formation teams. For some fraternities, an alternating process works well with teams switching every four to six months. In this way, more people in the fraternity are available to help discern the potential Formatee's vocation.

Sometimes, it is very apparent that someone does not have a vocation, but other times, it is not so apparent to all discerning. Before recommending a Candidate to become professed, the Council should listen to the recommendation of the Formation Director and formation team. The Council should then take a secret ballot allowing every council member to vote. If the Council decides that the Candidate does not have a vocation, then the Council gets the benefit of the doubt and that person is not professed.

One suggestion Anne made was if there are some doubts by the Council, then the Council should take another secret ballot, asking the Council members to write down their concerns about the Candidate so that the Council can openly discuss these issues. In this way a wise and responsible decision about the Candidate can be made.

Anne asked that formation directors take this discernment process very seriously, because if those that we **know should not be Professed** are not weeded out, then eventually serious problems arise that need to be dealt with often on a regional or national level, when it could have been dealt with early on at the Fraternal Level.

Anne pointed out that all are not called to be Secular Franciscans. It is the **quality** of vocations that we are looking for, **not quantity**. Pope Benedict verbalized this same sentiment when discussing vocations to the priesthood. Let us continue to PRAY, PRAY, PRAY and ask God to send us committed Candidates.

Mary Simmons, SFO
Regional Councilor for MD/PA/DE



The Editor's Thoughts....

My heart is so full of thanks to those of you who offered such beautiful messages and prayers for Robin and me during these last few months. I am overwhelmed at the thought that so many Franciscan brothers and sisters prayed us through such a difficult time.

I'm sure that you have heard by now that the doctors were unable to perform the kidney transplant because Robin suffered a medical problem at the last minute and is now unable to donate her kidney to me. I have been placed on the National Transplant List until another matching donor is available. And thanks to your prayers and the goodness of the Lord, I am feeling well enough to wait patiently for as long as it takes. I do not need dialysis at this point and am slowly resuming some of my responsibilities, but am doing so with caution. Again, I thank all of you for the prayers and well-wishes that so lovingly came my way. May God reward your kindness!

I apologize that this issue is a week or so late. But hopefully, we will be back on track again by the next issue. You have been so good in sending me your newsletters and I hope that I haven't missed something that you considered important when I browsed through them. Please don't hesitate to drop me an email and remind me when something is coming up with your fraternity so that I can include it. I would also love to have your photos, your original poems, prayers and reflections...even your artwork and jokes!!! I try to use whatever is sent to me.

I hope that all of you are enjoying this lovely spring weather (in between the showers!) and getting those gardens in good shape for summer!

May God be with you all...

*Peace and all good,
Sharon*

Sharon Crews Hare, sfo
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Assisi bans begging!

It was a headline that caught my eye recently in the Catholic press...a story out of Italy that the Mayor of Assisi, Claudio Ricci, signed an ordinance in mid-April that virtually prohibits begging anywhere within the town. My first reaction was "what would St. Francis think of that?" Of all places that should understand the concept of sharing our bounty with the poor, one would think that the birthplace of St. Francis would be at the top of the list.

The mayor said he instituted the ban after receiving complaints from pilgrims, tourists and citizens. In their opinion, the beggars outside the city's medieval churches were "aggressive and insistent."

Conventual Franciscan Father Vincenzo Coli, the custodian of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, indicated that in his opinion the mayor's action might be a good thing.

"We need to see how it's applied," he said, "but if it brings about a certain respect for oneself, for the places and for others, it's not a bad thing."

He pointed out that St. Francis sometimes begged alms to share the experience of the poor, but said that this should be done only when it was not possible to support oneself through work.

It's difficult to say what the 13th century saint would do today, he added, because the times have changed dramatically.

"Today one needs to be attentive. We have people who are doing this as a profession," said Father Coli, "and others who are really in need."

I personally keep thinking of the words "it is in giving that we receive" and "the Lord hears the cry of the poor." What do you think?

Sharon Hare, SFO

Proclaim the Message!

SFO Ribbon Magnets are now available for \$5.00 each, plus postage. They can be obtained by emailing Mary Simmons, SFO, at marysfo_1@msn.com or calling her at 410-557-7586. T



Regional Retreat Registration Information

Where : Priestfield Pastoral Center, 4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV 25430-3742

When : October 10-12 2008

Who : All Secular Franciscans. Including candidates and inquirers and spiritual assistants

Registration Form Instructions:

1. Submit no later than August 22, 2008
2. Please Type or print all information clearly.
- 3 Only one participant per registration form.
4. Deposit (NON-REFUNDABLE) Payment (\$50.00) must accompany this form
5. Make your check to St. Margaret of Cortona Region and Mail this form with payment to:
Angela Gill (Regional Vice Minister)
4401 Aldie Road Catharpin, VA 20143 email agill3@verizon.net

First Name	Last Name
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Address	City	State	Zip
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Home Phone	Work Phone
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Fraternity	E-Mail Address
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Please check your preferred room

Single occupancy room: \$169.00 () Double occupancy room: \$148.00 ()

Single occupancy cabin: \$202.00 () Double occupancy cabin: \$158.00 ()

Dormitory: \$126.00 ()

Enclosed amount with this Form \$_____

Preferred Roommate Name_____