

"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 10, Issue 3

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

February 2007

Fraternity Record Keeping Words of Wisdom and Experience From our Regional Secretary

I am writing about record keeping at the local fraternity level. These are opinions based on experience. Every fraternity elects a secretary who is also a voting council officer. Some large fraternities may elect a recording secretary and elect/appoint a correspondence secretary.

Most ministers correspond directly with their fraternity members via e-mail and type their own correspondence so the need for a correspondence secretary is questionable. Whether the secretary should keep a record of all e-mail correspondence as a matter of record may be too overwhelming to consider.

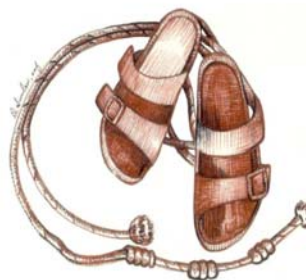
The fraternity secretary should at a minimum prepare the following documents: 1) council minutes, 2) attendance records, 3) a current membership list, and 4) fraternity meeting minutes. The newsletter is usually drafted by a newsletter editor, not the secretary. Many newsletters include monthly salutations of birthdays, profession anniversaries, and death dates of past members. Therefore, a record of birthdays, profession dates, and death dates needs to be maintained, probably by the secretary.

The Fraternity Register of Professions is also updated by the secretary. The Registrar should note death dates as well as transfers, dropouts, etc. New names should be entered into the Register after the Rite of Admission ceremony.

Generally, council meetings are held every month and the prior month's council minutes are read or circulated ahead of time and approved at the council meeting. At the monthly fraternity meeting, during a short business segment, fraternity meeting minutes for the previous month are read by the secretary and approved.

At the end of a three-year cycle, the above documents (plus the newsletter and important correspondence) should be compiled in an indexed notebook and passed

*Continued on page 2
Continued from page 1*



Oh, Lord, I am but a humble servant. I ask You for the strength and the courage to do for others each day what You Yourself would do if You were walking on this earth. Help me to love my family, my friends...and my enemies, too, Lord. Help me to hold my tongue and speak only the kindest words to all my brothers and sisters. Help me, Lord, to see You in everyone I encounter this day and in seeing You, to treat them with the utmost respect and dignity. And when my day is done, Lord, help me to rest in the knowledge that for this one day, I have tried to follow in Your footsteps.. T

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Promoting Peace & Justice
- 2 On the "Q"
- 3 Fraternity news
- 4 Calendar of Events
- 5 Reflections from the Shore
- 5 Submission information
- 6 Psalm 10 & Darfur
- 6 Pope Benedict XVI on St. Francis
- 7 Seven Ways to Pray

Promoting Peace & Justice

In a homily given on November 1, 2006, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Franciscan Capuchin, Archbishop Charles Chaput, head of the Denver Archdiocese, said, "The Franciscan tradition tells us that often in his life, Francis would meet with his community, and this man, who was one of history's greatest saints, would say to them, '*Brothers, up to now we have done nothing. Let us begin.*'" If you and I want to be what God calls us to be in the years that lie ahead, we need to be like St. Francis."

What is your fraternity doing to promote peace and justice in the spirit of St. Francis? I would like to suggest a few simple ways you can do more.

1. Pray the Franciscan Crown Rosary and encourage others to do the same. Before the monthly meeting each month, members of Mount St. Sepulchre Fraternity gather in the Penance Chapel of the Franciscan Monastery in D.C. and pray the rosary for their members, for an increase in Franciscan vocations and for world peace...and it does work. The fraternity now has 15 people in the Orientation program that began in January.
2. Offer a Mass for World Peace. Ask your fraternity as a group or as individual members to call the Seraphic Mass Association (1-877-737-9050) and donate \$5 to have a Mass offered for world peace. The money, which benefits Capuchin Missionary Friars, can be paid by credit card or they will send you a reminder statement. Think about it...if every fraternity in the nation would sponsor one Mass each month for world peace, imagine the graces that would pour forth upon our nation and the world!
3. Pray for Political Leaders and all of our Military. It is easy to stand back and criticize one another, but it is not productive towards the path to peace. Instead, pray for our political leaders to be God-fearing people, and to have knowledge of themselves, through the

Continued in the next column

Continued from page 1

on to the next secretary. Ideally, every fraternity should maintain a file of previous fraternity records in a safe and central location as an archival depository. How long to keep these notebooks is a question I can't answer. What do they say about tax records? You get a different answer depending upon who you ask. A tax accountant usually says indefinitely. A secretary would agree.

*...Ann Corro
Regional Secretary*

On the "Q.."

From our National Minister, Patrick Mendes...

"I am delighted to give you the good news that we have signed the contract for the site of our Quinquennial Gathering...the Raddison Hotel Green Tree, 101 Raddison Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15202. Details will be coming out soon and the new registration forms and instructions will be in the next edition of the TAU USA...the dates remain the same and there will be a bit of savings...I am delighted with the outcome. God has indeed been very good to us." T

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intercession of Our Lady, so that they may govern the world wisely...with Godly wisdom. And pray for our military soldiers. The great French preacher, Lacordaire, said "*The vocation of a soldier is next in dignity to the vocation of the priesthood, not only because it commissioned him to defend justice on the field of battle and order on the field of peace, but also because it called him to the spirit and intention of sacrifice.*" It was also a soldier who first uttered the words, recalled by the Church at Communion, "*Lord, I am not worthy to have thee come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant shall be healed.*" (Matt 8:8)

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

For more information, contact Vicky Spalding, SFO at vspalding@verizon.net or call 301-373-3955. Archbishop Chaput's full article, "How Would St. Francis Vote", can be found at <http://ncregister.com/site/article/712>.

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

Please remember in your prayers those in our Franciscan family who have died: **Nancy Roche**, SFO, former minister of **St. Francis Fraternity**, in DC; **Dorothy Buchholz**, SFO, **Melvina Schellenberger**, SFO, and **Marie Booth**, SFO, members of **Mary Our Queen Fraternity**, Baltimore, MD; and **Alice Turner**, SFO, a member of **Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity** in DC. T

Area Minister's Meeting

The next meeting of the **MD/PA/DE Area Ministers** is scheduled for Saturday, March 31, 2007 at Charlestown Retirement Community Center in Catonsville, MD, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The meeting this time will be in a different area in Charlestown. It will be held in Cross Creek, Classroom #2. When you get to the security gate, tell the guard that you will be attending the Franciscan meeting in Cross Creek and he will direct you there. When you get to the building, tell the desk attendant that you are meeting in Classroom #2. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Mary Simmons (410-557-7586) and please send a representative to take your place. Also, license plate holders will be available at the meeting. If you have sold any to your fraternity members, please bring the money to this meeting. Checks should be made to St. Margaret of Cortona Region. T



There are still some Secular Franciscan **license plate holders** available for \$5.00 each. They make a nice gift for the newly professed. Anyone interested in obtaining the license plate holders may contact Mary Simmons, SFO, at marysfo_1@msn.com or by calling 410-557-7586. T

News from around the region...

◆ Congratulations to **Susan Suprock**, SFO, and **Brandon Justice**, SFO, who were temporarily professed and **Connie Bockstie**, SFO, and **Marilyn Gilson**, SFO, who renewed their temporary profession as members of **St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity** in Ellicott City, MD; **Helen Anthony Bridges**, SFO, who was professed as a member of **Little Flower Fraternity**, Baltimore; **Dorothy Buchholz**, SFO, who was professed as a member of **Mary Our Queen Fraternity** in Baltimore; and **Phyllis Fowler**, SFO, and **Carol Purwin**, SFO, who were professed as members of **St. Casimir Fraternity**, Baltimore.

◆ As Secular Franciscans we rejoice in the anniversary of all our professions, but some special recognition is due to those who have faithfully followed our Rule for more than 30 years.

Three members of **St. Joseph Cupertino** in Ellicott City, MD, are celebrating special anniversaries: **Charles Ferra**, SFO, has been professed for **58** years, and **Jim Manning**, SFO, and **Jean Manning**, SFO, have been professed for **32** years.; Two members of **St. Francis Fraternity** in DC, have special anniversaries: **Verna Mize**, SFO, has been professed for **47** years, and **Margaret Stewart-Clomax**, SFO, has been professed for **43** years. **Lucy Deiaco**, SFO, a member of **St. Clare Emerging Fraternity** in Bethany Beach, DE, is celebrating the **41st** anniversary of her profession; and two members of **St. John the Beloved** in Alexandria, VA, are celebrating long-time professions: **Anita Olivette**, SFO, has been professed for **39** years and **Genevieve Strosser**, SFO, has been professed for **35** years.

◆ Several fraternities have held elections recently for **new council members**. Join us in congratulating:

Padre Pio Fraternity in Fallston, MD: **Kate McJury**, Minister; **Barbara Teller**, Vice Minister; **Pauline Tebo**, Secretary; **Jim Foxwell**, Treasurer; and **Margaret Wise**, Formation Director.

St. Francis Fraternity in DC: **Joseph Dunn**, Minister; **Joseph Massi**, Vice Minister; **Dan Evans**, Secretary; **Francisco Ramos**, Treasurer; and **John Francis Ross**, Formation Director.

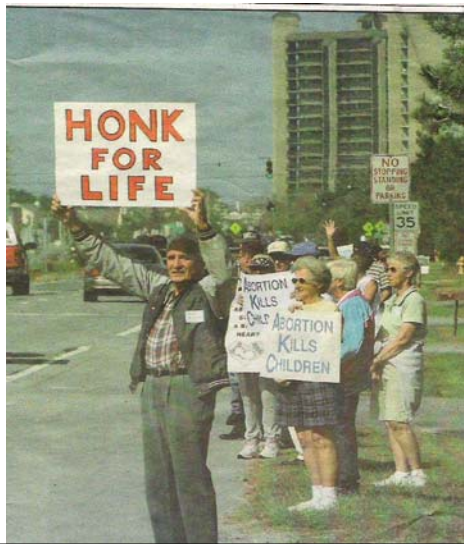
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Continued from page 3

St. Clare Fraternity in Olney, MD: **Gregory Choe**, Minister; **Cecilia Park**, Vice Minister; **Margaret Lee**, Secretary; **Anna Lee**, Treasurer; and **Clara Choe**, Formation Director.

Mount St. Sepulchre Fraternity in DC: **Marie Denyse Romain**, Minister; **Chris Cropper**, Vice Minister; **Larry Bleau**, Secretary; **Virginia Lyons**, Treasurer; and **Ray Apodaca**, Formation Director.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Fraternity in Emmittsburg, MD, held a special election in January because the Minister elected last year were unable to serve due to personal health and family issues. We congratulate **Gail Bunyan**, Minister; **Angie Walsh**, Vice Minister. *T*



Members of St. Clare Emerging Fraternity attended the Delaware Right to Life Chain in South Bethany Beach on October 1, 2006.

Congratulations, Angela!

Hats off to our Regional Minister, **Angela Gill, SFO**, for her commitment to the young people of Linton Hall School in Arlington, VA! Angela, a teacher at the school for 20 years, was the subject of an article in the February 8, 2007 issue of the Arlington Catholic Herald, Inc. Read the full article by visiting the paper's website: <http://www.catholicaherald.com/articles/07articles/gill.htm>. *T*

Fanning the Flame

The topic of “leftovers” came up recently and it’s funny how some ideas just won’t go away.

Forgive the awkward comparison, but it seems each new day brings with it a few “spiritual leftovers.” For me, it’s those pesky infidelities that end up in the “big chill” – that part of my heart so in need of conversion!

It makes sense to start fresh each morning, to dig in and finish or correct or adjust what yesterday’s “meal” had to offer – but we left unfinished. And I hope you’re a better person than I when it comes to appreciating the rich fare of each daily grace! Truly, we should never waste even *one!*

Let’s set our hearts on fire *today*, at this moment, by using the fuel at hand – yesterday’s “leftovers”, remembering that our imperfections are consumed in His love! Invite Our Lord to reheat what has grown cold and perhaps unpalatable. If we’re patient in this work, our joy will be in discovering the wonderful mystery of Love – or as Father Francis once said, *“Love softens all things and makes every bitter thing sweet.”*

...Joanne M. Robertson, Minister
St. John the Beloved, Alexandria, VA



Important Dates

Mark your calendars!

2007

- Feb. 15 “Up To Now” to be posted on the regional website.
- Feb. 21 Ash Wednesday – Lent begins
- Mar. 3 Regional Executive Council meeting at Capuchin College, 9:30 a.m.
- Mar. 31 MD/PA/DE Area Ministers Meeting at Charlestown Retirement Community
- Apr. 8 Easter Sunday – Happy Easter!
- Apr. 24 Deadline for submissions for the next issuer of “Up To Now”
- May 15 “Up To Now” to be posted on the regional website.
- July 3-8 Quinquennial in Raddison Hotel Green Tree, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Oct. 12-14 Regional Retreat @ Priestfield



The Editor's Thoughts...

As I write this, the temperature has risen slightly to somewhere around 20^o, so I am longing for spring with its pastel-colored flowering trees, the soft green leaves bursting forth from the branches and the vivid touches of color in the flower gardens! I wonder if God's plan for winter was to make it so desolate and barren that we would truly rejoice in the beauty of spring!

It's hard to believe this is my third edition of Up To Now...it's been an enjoyable task to pour through the many newsletters that you send and learn about the activities taking place in the various fraternities. I still don't receive newsletters from every fraternity, but in time, I am hopeful that more will choose to send them to me. One of the most interesting things I have found in reading your newsletters is the various ways that members have found to serve others...there's so many choices for living the Gospel message. I hope in a future issue to do an article on the many service projects that I've read about. Knowing what others are doing might just spark interest in a similar project with a different twist.

A regular feature of this newsletter is the news from around the region...professions, long-time anniversaries (over 30 years!) and new officers so that we know who to call when we try to reach out within the region. Some of that information is in your newsletters, but a lot of it isn't. And even if it is, I have been known to overlook things. So if someone in your fraternity is celebrating a impressive anniversary or if you recently held a profession ceremony in your fraternity, drop me a line and let me know about it. Or better yet, take a photo and email it to me along with the information.

I look forward to hearing from you and am open to comments, suggestions and ideas. Please continue to pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and wisdom as I prepare each issue.

*Peace and all good,
Sharon*

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Reflections from the Shore

It is a mild winter day at the beach. We moved to the coast of the Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean so that we could enjoy the beauty of the coast year round. Today, we are alone at the beach with the exception of a few hearty sea gulls and a small flock of sea ducks bobbing offshore, a brief respite from their southward migration. We reflect on the beauty and vastness of their natural environment. In stark contrast, we later read about the plight of many "farm industry" chickens. According to the Humane Society of the United States:

"More than 95 percent of the country's nearly 300 million egg-laying hens are confined to battery cages that are so crowded the birds cannot spread their wings...they live in these intensive conditions for more than a year – unable to nest, forage, dust bathe, or even walk. Egg-laying hens are among the most abused animals in modern factory farming."

Be aware that eggs labeled as "United Egg Production Certified" (with a large check mark) come from caged hens, each confined in a space smaller than a sheet of letter-sized paper. If a carton doesn't say "Certified Humane", "Free-Farmed", "Certified Organic", "Cage-Free", or "Free Range", the eggs are almost certainly from hens confined in battery cages (if your grocery store does carry these, express your interest/concern). For more information, contact the Humane Society of the United States at:

<http://www.NoBetterEggs.com>
<http://www.hsus.org>

or by mail to:

2100 L St., NW
Washington, DC 20037
202-452-1100

We hope to share more reflections from the shore in the future and encourage you to submit articles on ecology as well as related SFO endeavors.

*...Ron and Bev Stoner, SFO
St. Clare Fraternity*

Psalm 10 and the Novena for Darfur

In conjunction with our ongoing novena prayer for the appalling situation in Darfur, a reading of Psalm 10 provides additional ideas for deeper prayer. The description of the wicked who “sits in ambush in the villages; in hiding places he murders the innocent” might come from a current newspaper account. Even the simile “he lurks in secret like a lion in his covert” calls to mind an African scene.

The novena prayer petitions the Lord on behalf of three groups – victims of violence, those who perpetrate the violence, and world leaders who can act against its continuing. Psalm 10 complements these categories nicely. In reading it, we not only plead for the “hapless,” but we also ask God to turn around the headstrong will of the oppressor “so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.” We acknowledge our dependence upon God’s justice as well as His mercy when we read, “Break thou the arm of the wicked and evildoer.” Such a request is not a matter of vengeance, but of conversion, thus a truly Franciscan prayer. Consider the sentence as a metaphor for goodness disabling cruelty.

In the final analysis, people of compassion are called to pray more fervently for the oppressed in this world, and Psalm 10 not only places us in solidarity with Darfur’s victims, but also shores up our confidence that our prayers are being heard and answered.

...*Martha Pavlick, SFO*
St. Joseph Fraternity, York

GOD’S EXTRAVAGANT LOVE

A workshop opportunity offered by the
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Focusing on our Rich Franciscan Theological
Tradition
Franciscan Spiritual Center in Aston, PA

February 16 -18, 2007
May 11-13, 2007
September 14 -16, 2007
September 28 - 20, 2007

Beginning 6:30 p.m. Friday through 1:00 p.m.
Sunday
\$225 – Total cost includes Registration, Housing,
Meals & Resources

For additional information, contact Sister Kathleen
Moffatt, OSF by email: skmoffatt@aol.com or by
phone: 301-764-5657 T

Two Wolves

A Native American spirituality and wisdom story



One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, “My grandson the battle is between two wolves inside us all.

One is evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.

The other is good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.”

The grandson thought for a while, then asked the grandfather, “Which wolf wins the battle?”

The old Cherokee simply replied, “The one you feed.” T



In effect, the ‘Poverello [little poor man]’ embodied in an exemplary way the blessedness proclaimed by Jesus in the Gospel: ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God’ (Matthew 5:9).

The witness he bore in his time makes a natural point of reference for those who, also today, cultivate the ideals of peace, respect for nature, and dialogue among persons, religions, and cultures. It is nevertheless important to recall, if one does not want to betray his message, that it was the radical choice of Christ that provided him with the key to understanding the brotherhood to which all men are called, and in which even the inanimate creatures – from ‘brother sun’ to ‘sister moon’ – participate in some way.

And so I am pleased to recall that, together with this twentieth anniversary of John Paul II’s initiative of prayer for peace, there also falls the eighth centenary of the conversion of Saint Francis. These two commemorations shed light upon each other.

In the words addressed to him from the Crucifix [of the church of San Damiano] – ‘Go, Francis, rebuild my house...’ – in his choice of radical poverty, in kissing the leprous man, by which he expressed his new capacity to see and love Christ in his suffering brethren, there began that human and Christian adventure that continues to fascinate so many men of our time, and makes that city the destination of countless pilgrims.”

...*Benedict XVI, 9-4-06*
To the Bishop of Assisi

Seven Ways to Pray in 2007

For those who missed Teri Egan's presentation at the Regional Fraternity meeting in November
By Ryan Smith as printed in the World Vision Magazine, Winter 2006

Daily routines can become just that – routine. It can be difficult to find purpose in tasks such as showering and driving to work, but prayer can transform mundane tasks into something memorable. In 2007, World Vision – and the children it serves – covet your prayers. Here is a handy way to use your daily activities as reminders to pray for children living in poverty:

Bath Time :: Think Clean Water

Nearly 1.1 billion people are without access to clean water – that's more than the combined populations of North America and the European Union. Without access to clean drinking water, children are at a much higher risk for life-threatening diseases like diarrhea, intestinal worms, and cholera.

Off To Work :: Think Child Labor

The US national minimum wage is \$5.15 per hour. Many children worldwide earn less than \$1 a day, if they are even paid at all. Around 176 million children work in ways that are likely to harm their health, safety, or moral development – such as bonded labor, slavery, or sexual exploitation.

Lunch Time :: Think Hungry Kids

McDonald's serves nearly 50 million people worldwide each day. Three times that number of children go hungry everyday, leaving them undernourished, vulnerable to disease, and prone to stunted growth.

News Break :: Think Education

There are twice as many children worldwide – 117 million – who do not receive a primary level education as Americans who receive a newspaper each day. Without education, these children are condemned to carry out menial jobs and will struggle to provide for themselves and their families.

Heading Home :: Think Displaced Children

The number of displaced people in the world has steadily decreased over the last five years, but there are still an estimated 9.25 million children who have been forced to leave their homes – that's 2.5 times more children than there are homeless people in the United States.

Take A Vitamin :: Think Medical Access

Every year, 15 times more children die of readily preventable diseases than Americans who are killed by heart disease, the leading cause of death in the United States. Many children lack access to health care for diarrhea, malaria, and measles simply because they are poor.

Bed Time :: Think Orphans

There are more than twice the number of orphans in the world than children under age 15 in America. Africa is the only area of the world where the orphan prevalence rate is increasing, largely due to the AIDS pandemic. *T*