

Up to Now

Newsletter of the St. Margaret of Cortona Region of the Secular Franciscan Order

Covering the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia,
and portions of West Virginia and Pennsylvania



Fr. Philippus Philippus, OFM/Cap

Volume 16 Issue 1

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

August 2012

The 2012 Quinquennial: Claiming the Gift of Overflowing Love

It was 100 degrees in Skokie, Ill., between July 3 and July 8, when 29 Franciscans from St. Margaret of Cortona Region joined some 600 others at the U.S. OFS 18th National Quinquennial Congress. But inside the hotel, keynoter Sr. Iliia Delio refreshed us all with her image of the Trinity as “the overflowing fountain fullness of God’s love.” We shared that refreshment in daily liturgies, the first celebrated by Chicago’s Auxiliary archbishop George J. Rassas and the third by our beloved Fr. Lester Bach.

We came from around the U.S. and beyond to “Why Francis? Claim the Gift” —known to all, with Franciscan simplicity, as “The Q.” There was a sprinkling of children, including one very friendly chubby baby; a cluster of Young Franciscan (YouFra) delegates, some of whom went on to their own international congress in Lisieux, France; and quite a few seniors, including Mary Seale McManus, who had just entered her 67th year of profession. There were Franciscan scholars, social activists, Spiritual Assistants (including a growing number of lay people), and representatives from our Episcopal Franciscan siblings, the Third Order Society of St. Francis. General Minister Encarnita del Pozo carried greetings from our International Order and a medal from the Holy Father, blessed for this occasion at her request.



General Minister
Encarnita del Pozo, OFS

The overflowing Love that fills us inwardly must flow outward in community, Sr. Iliia teaches. So the planners gifted each participant with a Q Fraternity, a small group we met with on the first day and again after each of the seven plenaries. Groups took turns answering the



Sister Iliia Delio, OSF

discussion questions provided and getting to know each other. Meals and evening socials were times to get acquainted with a wider circle.

The outline for Sister Iliia’s three talks, my personal favorites, can be found at <http://www.quinquennial.org/p/pp-slides.html>, along with outlines for several of the other plenary presentations. On Friday Bill Short offered a fascinating history

(See “Q” on page 4)

In This Issue . . .

Regional Minister’s Message	2
Regional Formation Director’s Message	3
In Justice I Shall Behold Your Face	4
Around the Region	4
Forming the Formators DVD	6
What Are We Reading?	7
Annual Retreat Flyer	8
Annual Retreat Registration	9
Annual Retreat Directions	10, 11
Franciscan Saints and Blesseds	12
Featured Feast	13
Jan Benton Named as JPIC Award Recipient	13

Regional Minister's Message



A Heart Full of Love!

The month of August contains two very special feasts for our Franciscan Family. They are all the more significant as we bring to a conclusion our celebration of the eighth centenary of the foundation of the Order of the Poor Sisters of Saint Clare.

August 2 is the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula. Besides being the inspiration for the name of the second largest city in the United States (Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Ángeles del Río de Porciúncula, better known today as the City of Los Angeles), the feast commemorates a place. It was in the Chapel of Saint Mary of the Angels - which we call the Portiuncula—where the First Order had its beginning, where Francis died, and where, 800 years ago, a 19-year-old girl named Claire was received by Francis into the Franciscan movement.

August 11 is the Solemnity of St. Clare of Assisi. This great follower of Francis founded a religious order for women, made significant contributions to Franciscan spirituality and for 40 years resisted the efforts by successive popes to force a rule on her community that would water down the Franciscan way of life she wanted for her sisters. Finally, on August 9, 1253, Pope Innocent IV confirmed Clare's Rule for the entire Order, the first Rule known to have been written by a woman. St. Clare died two days later.

This juxtaposition of place and person speaks closely to the Franciscan charism. At San Damiano, the Lord said to Francis, "Go and repair my house, which you can see is falling into ruin." So Francis began rebuilding that little church on a hillside below Assisi. While working on the repairs, he prophesied, "Come and help me in the work of building the monastery of San Damiano, because ladies are yet to dwell here who will glorify our heavenly Father." So it seemed like a good idea to Francis to build a dormitory over the church. He finished his repairs in 1208; four years later, his prophecy came true.

Place and person. The Portiuncula and Francis. San Damiano and Clare. Our Rule teaches us that Christ valued created things "attentively and

lovingly," but still chose a poor and humble life. As Franciscans, we can truly appreciate the places and things of our life, but, like Francis and Clare, we must seek a proper spirit of detachment from these temporal things.

Celebrate the life and legacy of Clare this fall. Read, or re-read, her letters to Blessed Agnes of Prague, Google "St. Claire" and learn more about this remarkable Franciscan woman. Learn more about the depth and richness of her spirituality, by reading "Clare of Assisi: A Heart Full of Love," by Sr. Ilia Delio, O.S.F., our keynote speaker at this summer's Quinquennial.

Make St. Clare part of your Franciscan identity.

THE BLESSING OF ST. CLARE

I, Clare, a handmaid of Christ, a little plant of our holy Father Francis, a sister and mother of you and the other Poor Sisters, although unworthy, ask our Lord Jesus Christ through His mercy and through the intercession of His most holy Mother Mary, of Blessed Michael the Archangel and all the holy angels of God, and all His men and women saints, that the heavenly Father give you and confirm for you this most holy blessing in heaven and on earth. On earth, may He increase His grace and virtues among His servants and handmaids of His Church Militant. In heaven, may He exalt and glorify you in His Church Triumphant among all His men and women saints.

I bless you in my life and after my death as much as I can and more than I can with all the blessings with which the Father of mercies has and will have blessed His sons and daughters in heaven and on earth. Amen.

Always be lovers of God and your souls and the souls of your Sisters, and always be eager to observe what you have promised the Lord.

May the Lord be with you always and, wherever you are, may you be with Him always. Amen.



Regional Formation Director's Message

Greetings once again to all of my Franciscan brothers and sisters! I hope your summer is going well now that it is beginning to wane. Mine has and by the time this message reaches you, I'll be back to my school with this summer a mere memory.

Over the last three years, we've made some really heavy duty accomplishments in the realm of formation. I still need to come out and visit some of you, but I did manage to stop by the gatherings of a good two-thirds of the fraternities of the region. I really liked what I saw at these gatherings: formation as a priority and all going strong. Then there came that famous FUN manual from the National Formation Commission. All of your responses to the FUN manual as a formation resource were phenomenal. Many of you are referencing it in the formation programs you are currently running. A few of you have been rather resourceful in its use and have made up your own formation sessions right out of the manual using the guidance of the accompanying DVD, which has model lesson plans for you to adapt. However you are using it, many of you have grabbed onto it and gone full throttle with it in your formation activities just as we intended. This is terrific!

The regional formation team met again on July 21 at Ann Corro's home. We finalized plans for the Form the Formators regional formation workshop day held on August 4 at St. Francis of Assisi church in Triangle, Va. We also made plans for the youth/young adult formation subcommittee to begin meeting to set the framework and format of a region-wide youth/young adult formation program. The first meeting of this subcommittee was held right after the regional workshop day on August 4.

The workshop day was held for those fraternities that could not make it to the Form The Formators Regional Workshop Weekend held last March at the Bishop Claggett Retreat Center in Buckeystown, Md. Five participants from the fraternities of Our Lady of the Rosary and Immaculata attended, viewed, and discussed the first three of the five-DVD set of the National Formation Workshop presented by the NFC and held in May 2011. The formation topics of Introduction, History, and Layout of the FUN Manual; Pathways To Profession; Vocation, Charism, And Mission; Profession I and II; and Ecclesiology were presented and discussed at this workshop day. Also in attendance were Patrick Martin, our regional minister, The fourth and fifth DVDs of the National Formation Workshop deal with Franciscan Theology. On page 6 of this issue of the UTN, you can obtain the information on how to order this 5-DVD set. I would strongly recommend that the fraternities order a set and view the sessions of the NFW to reinforce

what you learned of the regional workshop last March

As I mentioned, the youth/young adult subcommittee met the same evening. During the past year, the subcommittee found that many dioceses are lacking programs for the young adult age range of 18-35. So for the time being, the subcommittee will concentrate on this age group to provide ideas and suggested programs for Franciscan formation. By these activities, it is hoped that seeds will be planted in young people of this age to consider a vocation in the Franciscan life and in the OFS. The subcommittee has also decided that since the region is so spread out geographically, a deterrent for economic travel, Jeanie McLees will coordinate activities in the southern area of the region while Barbara Countryman and I will coordinate those in the northern end. Occasional activities will be coordinated with both areas. The activities will center on Franciscan action project participation, as well as formation sessions. The subcommittee plans to meet again, possibly during the PriestField Regional retreat (October 5-7, 2012)

I look forward to another three years of working with all of you. Formation was, is, and always will be our priority as we continue to introduce more innovative ways to enhance our already strong sense of "franchristian" values as they apply to that Gospel life we are always trying to impart to our secular communities. Thanks for all of your past and present support!

Mike Huether, OFS



FAN's Fifth Anniversary Celebration

It is our pleasure to invite you to the Franciscan Action Network's Fifth Anniversary Celebration at 7:00 pm on November 9 at Trinity University in Washington, D.C. The event will honor FAN Board President Sr. Margaret Mary Kimmins, OSF, for her dedicated service.

RVSP to reception@franciscanaction.org by October 15, 2012. Tickets are \$50. We hope to see you there!

In Justice I Shall Behold Your Face

The readings for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time tell a story about God calling his prophets to go and spread the good news. In the first reading Amos, who is called a visionary, is commanded to go and prophesy. His reply is “I was no prophet nor have I belonged to a company of prophets” (Am 7:14). In the third reading, the Gospel from Mark, Jesus sends the Apostles out to preach the Gospel (6:7-13). I find it interesting that like most of the men and women God called, Amos did not consider himself a prophet. It is often said that God does not call the qualified but God qualifies the called.

Every day we are called to prophesy and preach. By right of our Baptism we are called to be priest, prophet and king. Do we prophesy or do we say, “Not me, God; I am not qualified?” Do we think that spreading the Gospel is only the work of the priests and bishops? Supposing Amos said, “No, I am a shepherd, not a prophet,” or the Apostles said, “We are too busy fishing to spread the word”? Many times when I felt unqualified I backed off from prophesying. I felt inadequate. But I realized that if I just said “yes” and surrendered to the Holy Spirit, God would qualify me. So how do we spread the good news? St. Francis made it very clear: preach the Gospel and use words only when necessary. St. Francis also made it clear that we should preach the Gospel to all of God’s creation.

The Entrance Antiphon for the 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time pretty much tells it all: “In justice I shall behold your face” (cf. Ps. 17:15). It is in justice that we see the face of God, and in our justice others see the face of God in us. But what does that mean? Are we talking about justice for those that are like us, justice for the saved? Do we mean only justice for human beings? How about justice for the unborn, or justice for generations yet to be born but already known to God? Can we see the face of God if we do not have justice for all of God’s creation? If we allow our beautiful earth to be destroyed will we see the face of God? In his book “The Christian Future and the Fate of Earth,” Thomas Berry, a Passionist, said: “There is hardly any religious or human activity that has prior claim to our concern, since everything else becomes irrelevant if the natural world undergoes further devastation.” We will have justice when we see the face of God in everything and everyone.



Lonnie Ellis

*Candidate, St. Anthony of Nagasaki Fraternity
Director of Organizing and Development
Franciscan Action Network
FAN Newsletter July 2, 2012*

(“Q” from page 1)

of the Franciscan order’s evolution over the centuries. For me it was also a useful context for the contemporary struggle between women religious and the hierarchy.

General Spiritual Assistant Fr. Amando Trujillo-Cano celebrated the closing liturgy Saturday evening. In Sunday’s final session, National Minister Tom Bello summed up the messages he had heard from speakers and participants as a three-fold assignment for us all: Commitment to the Triune God, to each other, and to our own continual growth and sanctification. Like Francis, we are called to build and rebuild.

The next Q will be held in 2017, and the one that follows may be moved up to 2021, to mark the 100th anniversary of the



Members of the St. Margaret of Cortona Region at the Q

first gathering in 1921. NAFRA historian Bill Wicks reports that 6,000 Franciscans attended that first Q. Seems we have some evangelizing to do!

Mary Liepold, OFS, St. Francis Fraternity, DC

Around the Region

RECEIVED AS CANDIDATES

Melanie Brinski, Sacred Heart of Jesus Fraternity,
Warrenton, Va.
John Clem, Sacred Heart of Jesus Fraternity,
Warrenton, Va.
Wilhelmine Dallas, Sacred Heart of Jesus Fraternity,
Warrenton, Va.

NEWLY PROFESSED

Patrick Caughy, ofs, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity,
Ellicott City, Md.
Jorge Class, ofs, St. Anthony of Padua Emerging Spanish
Cell, Harrisburg, Penn.
Cindy Mohler, ofs, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Ellicott
City, Md.
Maria Santos, ofs, St. Anthony of Padua Emerging
Spanish Cell, Harrisburg, Penn.
Guadalupe Sidhu, ofs, St. Anthony of Padua Emerging
Spanish Cell, Harrisburg, Penn.
Frances Staudenmann, ofs, St. Joseph Cupertino
Fraternity, Ellicott City, Md.
Theresa Wallace, ofs, Immaculata Fraternity,
Fredericksburg, Va.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED

Immaculata Fraternity

Minister: Barbara McCoy, ofs
Vice Minister: Irene Theriault, ofs
Secretary: Mary Ann Buccigirossi, ofs
Treasurer: Theresa Wallace, ofs
Formation Director (appointed): Rose McCeney, ofs



Photos by Beatriz Frometa, ofs

St. Anthony of Padua Emerging Cell newly professed. From left, Maria Santos, Spiritual Assistant Fr. Leon Leitern, Jorge Class and Guadalupe Sidhu.

Little Flower Fraternity

Minister: Al Geigel, ofs
Vice Minister: Mike Huether, ofs
Secretary: Marge Lane, ofs
Treasurer: Steve Kim, ofs
Formation Director (elected): Joe Stefan, ofs

St. John the Beloved Apostle, Alexandria

Minister: Sadie Martins, ofs
Vice Minister: Steve Piscitelli, ofs
Secretary: Diane Maple, ofs
Treasurer: Becky Hsu, ofs (appointed)
Formation Director (elected): Anne-Marie Pierce, ofs

LOSSES IN THE FAMILY

Beulah Mary Bridges, Mount St. Sepulchre Fraternity. She passed away on December 23, 2011. She was professed in 1965, and lived in a nursing home for the past several years.



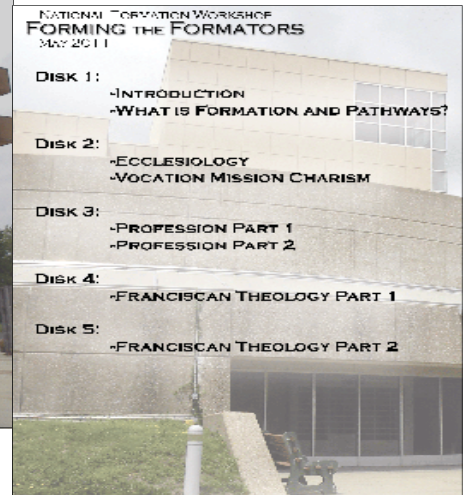
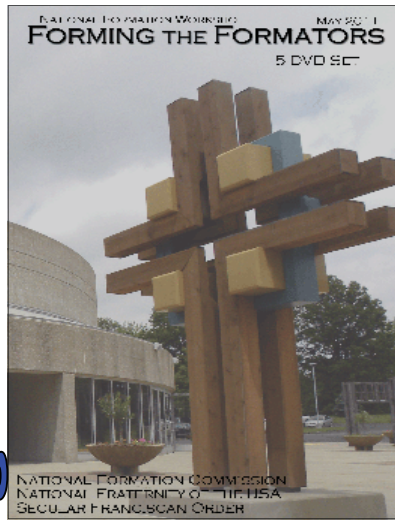
Members of the El Camino Fraternity and San Antonio de Padua Cell.

Members of the El Camino Fraternity, Santo Tomas More Fraternity and San Antonio de Padua Cell



Our Beloved San Francis

**DVDs made from
the presentations
at the
National Formation Workshop
ARE NOW AVAILABLE.**



DVD Videos of the Forming-the-Formator's Workshop from the Chapel of Our Lady of the Snows (where the workshop took place), are now available for \$13.00 plus shipping/handling costs.

Individual orders for the set are welcomed, but regions are encouraged to consider ordering in bulk, by doing so, you save substantially on s/h cost. (ie: mailing one DVD set, the s/h cost is \$5.00, mailing 100 DVD sets, the s/h cost is \$70.00, reducing the s/h cost per set from \$5.00 to .70 cents).

Special bulk pricing has been secured for a quality, durable set that includes:

- Five (5) DVDs with content topics printed on each.
- 1" thick DVD plastic case, with slots for each DVD.
- Color wrap-around label on the case, screen photo of the Chapel with "Forming the Formators" printed on the cover and content of DVDs printed on the back.
- Each case is shrink-wrapped.

TO PAY BY CHECK (payable to A. Stronach)
mail your payment to:

A. Stronach, PO Box 232, Marcy, NY 13403,
and place your order via email, fax, or postal mail.
Email: stonach@kateriregion.org
Fax: 1-800-986-0423

TO ORDER ONLINE:

using a credit card or PayPal: Go to website:
<http://www.kateriregion.org/FormationDVDs/FFDVD.html>
(We hope to have a link on the NAFRA website soon).

COSTS FOR A STANDARD VARIETY OF QUANTITIES:

- One (1) set of 5 DVDs: \$13 plus \$5 s/h = \$18
- 5 DVD sets: \$65 plus \$11 s/h = \$76
- 10 DVD sets: \$130 plus \$15 s/h = \$145
- 25 DVD sets: \$325 plus \$25 s/h = \$350
- 50 DVD sets: \$650 plus \$40 s/h = \$690
- 100 DVD sets: \$1300 plus \$70 s/h = \$1370

Note: more quantity options for ordering are available on the website.

If you would like to order another quantity, contact Bob and Mary Stronach, OFS at **315-735-8904**.



Mark Your Calendar

October 3 — Transitus of Our Seraphic Father Francis. Celebration at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land. Seculars are asked to bring finger food for reception following. Notification of local celebrations will be sent as they become known.



December 1 — Annual Meeting. Location TBA.

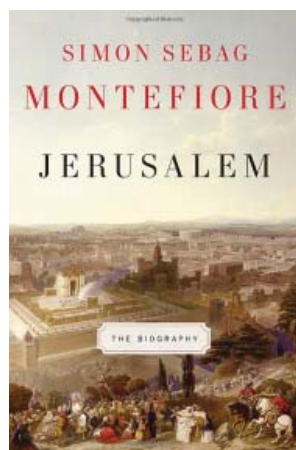
April 6, 2013 — **Fourth Annual Day of Reflection for Candidates and Newly Professed.**

St. Anthony Shrine, Ellicott City, Md.



October 5-7, 2012
— **Regional Retreat.** Priestfield Retreat Center, Priestfield, W.Va. (See registration form on p. 9.)

What Are We Reading?



JERUSALEM: THE BIOGRAPHY

By Simone Sebag Montefiore
ISBN: 978-0307266514/\$20.83/
www.amazon.com (Paperback
available in September)

It is not often that a book combines a survey of world history with emphasis on a particular city, as well as a review of the particularities and relationships among the world's three great religions based on the Bible. That is what this book does.

I first heard about this book through an appearance by former President Clinton on a December 2011 Today show. He was invited to recommend books for Christmas presents. This was his number one choice. He went so far as to say: one cannot understand the situation in the Middle East without knowing the background, and this book is the single best presentation of all the historical factors that complicate the resolution of the Israel-Palestine issue.

The book is a tour de force focused on the city of Jerusalem (the name may mean “dwelling of peace”) from its earliest appearance in recorded history (the Bible) to the present day. In the process, every major civilization of the Middle East, and indeed the world, seems to get mention. Some names, for many of us, are distant memories from courses in ancient history: the Babylonians, the Assyrians, the Persians, the Parthians. Other civilizations are relatively more familiar: Greece, Egypt, Rome, the Byzantine Empire.

Jerusalem opens with the pivotal historical event for the city – and certainly for the Jews: its destruction by Roman Generals Vespasian and Titus under Emperor Nero in 70 A.D. Based in large part on the writings of Jewish historian Josephus, an eyewitness to the razing of Herod's temple and the expulsion of the Jewish population from the city, the book describes the total and utter destruction of the city that Jesus knew. In fact, Our Lord saw the city at its high point, especially from the Garden of Gethsemane. From there He would have seen Herod's magnificent Temple with its golden doors, and the walls surrounding the city in both directions. The Romans destroyed all that, and then Hadrian returned in A.D. 130 to put down the Jewish Bar Kochba rebellion. They rebuilt the city in Roman style, called Aelia

Capitolina. The Jews were expelled and did not return for several centuries. The magnificent Roman roads built then have been rediscovered through archeological excavations conducted following Israel's victory in the Six-Day War of 1967.

The book surveys the close connection between the Jewish people and the city in Old Testament times (e.g., David's founding of his capital there; Solomon's construction of the first Temple), and continues past the Greek and Roman periods to the Byzantine Age, when many churches were built and Christians dominated the city. Jerusalem also has an important place in Islam: the Prophet rode his human-headed steed Buraq on the Night Journey from Jerusalem. Early in the Muslim period, pilgrimage to Jerusalem was almost as important as the Hajj to Mecca.

The Crusades brought another period of Christian domination, followed by rule of the Mamluks of Egypt and the Ottomans of Turkey. The latter rulers lost their dominion in favor of the British Mandate following World War I. The author, an ethnic Jew, includes materials from the archives of many countries to describe the Great Powers' interest in Jerusalem from the mid-19th century on, as well as the rise of Zionism, the development of the Balfour Declaration, the Muslim backlash to Jewish immigration in the early 20th century, World War II, the Partition and establishment of the State of Israel, and subsequent history. Closer to our present time, the book describes in detail the efforts by the Clinton Administration to mediate peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians, which failed because PLO Leader Arafat would not acknowledge the historic claim of the Jews to the Temple Mount.

The book is highly relevant, in that Jerusalem remains the center point of contention between Israel and the Arab countries, and by extension, a bone of contention between the West and Islam. The book has maps and other materials to provide a better understanding of each period and the events it describes. I found myself reading the book with my laptop open to constantly check points in Wikipedia. This book is a great way to connect our interest in the Bible, the Christian religion, and the complexities of the modern world.

*Review by Gilbert Donahue, OFS
From The Tau Signature,
newsletter of Tau Fraternity, Herndon, Va.*



Refresh

Restore

Renew

Join your brothers and sisters at the annual St. Margaret of Cortona retreat at the beautiful Priestfield Pastoral Center.

You will be refreshed by the serenity of the peaceful mountain setting.

You will be restored by the spirit-stretching presentations and discussions.

You will renew your friendships in fellowship with your brothers and sisters.

Go to the registration form on page 9.



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

When: October 5-7, 2012

Presenter: Fr. Michael F. Cusato, OFM (see bio on page 11)

Fr. Cusato will lead us through a weekend of seeing the world as a Franciscan.

Who: All Secular Franciscans, including candidates, inquirers and spiritual assistants

REGISTRATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Submit form no later than September 4, 2012.
2. Please type or print all information clearly. (This form can be filled in on your computer and then printed out.)
3. Only one participant per registration form.
4. NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of \$50.00 must accompany this form.
5. **Make your check payable to ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGION*** and mail this form with payment to:

Mary Lou Coffman, ofs
 2862 Beechtree Lane
 Woodbridge, VA 22191
 Phone: 703.221.1846
 e-mail: marylousfo@gmail.com

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

Fraternity _____

Please check room requirement:

Rooms are designed for double occupancy for maximum attendees.

- ~~A) Single occupancy room: \$200.00~~
- B) Double occupancy room: \$174.00
- ~~C) Single occupancy cabin: \$234.00~~
- ~~D) Double occupancy cabin: \$188.00~~
- E) Dormitory: \$152.00

There are only a few spaces left. Please call Mary Lou Coffman at 703/221-1846 before sending your registration form.

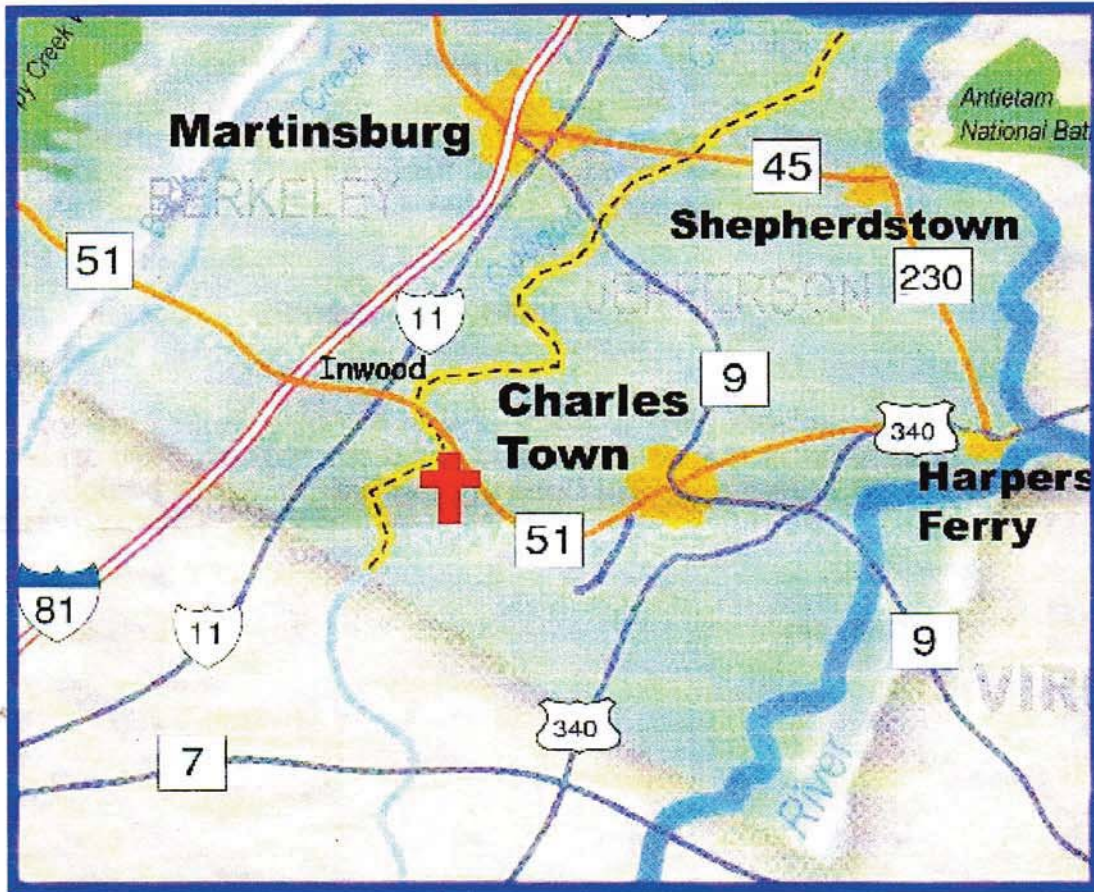
Please choose a roommate, or one can be assigned for you.

Name of preferred roommate _____

Amount enclosed with this form \$ _____

***Please make checks out to St. Margaret of Cortona Region, not to Mary Lou Coffman or to Priestfield.**

Directions To PriestField Pastoral Center



Located on State Route 51 between Inwood and Charles Town, West Virginia

From Northern Virginia

VIA ROUTE 7

Take **Route 7 West** to **Route 9 West** (approximately 4 miles from Leesburg) marked **"Charles Town"**. As you approach Charles Town, **do not** take the exit for the Rt 9 bypass. Follow Route 9, which becomes Rt 115 N inside the bypass to the **center of Charles Town**, West Virginia. Turn **left at the stoplight** onto Rt 51 West, go two more stop lights, continuing straight to the **stop sign and "Y"** in road. **Bear to the right** –and continue on 51 West for approximately **7 miles**. As you **descend a hill** you will see a bridge in front of you – **SLOW DOWN** – turn **LEFT** into PriestField **IMMEDIATELY BEFORE crossing** the Opequon Creek "green" **bridge**.

From Maryland/DC Area

VIA I-270 WEST/I-70 WEST/340 WEST

Take either **I-270** or **I-70** to **Frederick, Md.** Take **Exit 52** onto **340 West** to Charles Town/Harpers Ferry. Follow 340 into Charles Town. **Do not** take the Rt 340 bypass on the outskirts of town. Continuing straight the road becomes **Rt 51 West** going **through Charles Town**. You will go through several stop lights, **proceed straight** until you come to a **stop sign and "Y"** in road. **Bear to the right** and continue on Rt 51 West for **approximately 7 miles**. As you **descend a hill** you will see a **bridge in front of you** – **SLOW DOWN** – turn **LEFT** into PriestField **IMMEDIATELY BEFORE crossing** the Opequon Creek "green" **bridge**.

From Pennsylvania/Pittsburgh/Wheeling Area

VIA **I-79** South to **I-68** East to **I-70** East TO **I-81** South

From Hagerstown, Md. follow **I-81 South** (toward Roanoke, Virginia) approximately 30 miles to **West Virginia Exit 5**, Inwood, West Virginia. Turn left off the ramp on **Route 51 East**. Turn **right** at the **first stop light** and **left** at the **next stop light**. Continue on **51 East for about 4 miles**. Cross the "**green**" bridge over the Opequon Creek and turn **right immediately after the bridge**. Our driveway is adjacent to the bridge.

From Virginia/West Virginia

VIA **I-81 NORTH**

Take **I-81 North** to **West Virginia Exit 5**, Inwood, West Virginia. Turn **right off ramp** onto **Route 51 East**. Turn **right** at the **first stop light** and **left at next stop light**. Continue on **51 East** for about **4 miles**. Cross the "**green**" bridge over the Opequon Creek and **TURN RIGHT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BRIDGE** into our driveway which is adjacent to the bridge.



Fr. Michael F. Cusato, OFM, is a Franciscan from the Sacred Heart Province of Friars Minor (Chicago-St. Louis). Born in 1953 in Cleveland, Ohio, he entered the novitiate in 1975, was professed in 1980 and ordained a priest in 1981. He completed his M.Div. at the Catholic Theological Union (Chicago) in 1981 and a Master's in Franciscan Studies at the Franciscan Institute on the campus of St. Bonaventure University in western New York State. Upon completion of the latter degree, he enrolled in the doctoral program at the Sorbonne (Université de Paris IV) in France, receiving his PhD in early 1991 with a dissertation on the renunciation of power by the Franciscans.

After teaching history for five years at Siena College (Albany, NY), he was elected to the Leadership Council of his province, prompting him to move to St. Paul, Minn., where he taught part-time in the School of Theology and Ministry at St. John's University (Collegeville). In Fall 1999, he accepted a position as Associate Professor at the Franciscan Institute. Named director of the Institute and dean of its School of Franciscan Studies in 2004, he remained in these positions until early 2012.

He now lives at the Franciscan Monastery in Washington D.C. and teaches as an adjunct professor of Church History at the Dominican House of Studies. He has published more than sixty articles in the field of medieval Franciscan history, some of which are available in the volume *The Early Franciscan Movement (1205-1239): History, Sources and Hermeneutics*. He has just completed a translation of his doctoral professor's magisterial new book on St. Francis, due out from Yale University Press in early Fall 2012.

Franciscan Saints, Blesseds and Feasts

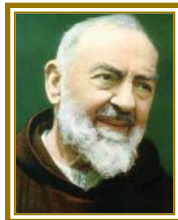
(click on the name to go to a Web link)

AUGUST

- 17 [St. Roch](#), III Ord.
- 18 [Bls. John-Louis Loir, Protase Bourdon and Sebastian François](#), priests, martyrs of Rochefort, I Ord.
(On this day the Conventuals celebrate Bls. Louis-Armand Adam and Nicholas Savouret, priests, martyrs of Rochefort, I Ord.)
- 19 [St. Louis of Toulouse](#), bishop, I Ord.
- 21 [St. Pius X](#), pope, III Ord.
- 23 [Bl. Bernard of Offida](#), religious, I Ord.
- 25 [St. Louis IX](#), king, Patron of the Third Order
- 27 [The Seven Joys of Our Lady](#)
(OFM Conv. on 8/26)

SEPTEMBER

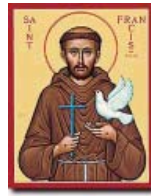
- 1 [St. Beatrice of Silva](#), virgin, II Ord., founder
- 2 [Bls. Apollinaris of Posat, John Francis Burté, Severin Girault](#), priests, and companions, martyrs, I and III Ord.
- 3 [Bl. Claudio Granzotto](#), religious, I Ord.
- 4 [St. Rose of Viterbo](#), virgin, III Ord.
- 17 [Stigmata of our Holy Father Francis](#)
- 18 [St. Joseph of Cupertino](#), priest, I Ord.
- 19 [St. Francis Mary of Camporossa](#), religious, I Ord.
- 22 [St. Ignatius of Santhia](#), priest, I Ord.
- 23 [St. Pio of Pietrelcina](#), priest, I Ord.
- 24 [St. Pacifico of San Severino](#), priest, I Ord.
- 25 [Finding of the Body of St. Clare](#)
- 26 [Bl. Aurelio of Vinalesa, priest, and companions, martyrs of Valencia](#)
[Ambrose of Benaguacil, Pedro of Benisa, Joachim of Albocácer, Modesto of Albocácer, Germaine of Cargagente, Bonaventure of Puzol, Santiago of Rafelbunol, Henry of Almazora, Fidel of Puzol, Berard Lugar Nuevo de Fenollet, Pacifico of Valencia], I Ord.
- [St. Elzear of Sabran and Bl. Delphina of Glandenes](#), husband & wife, III Ord.
- 28 [Bl. Innocent of Berzo](#), priest, I Ord.



St. Pio of Pietrelcina

OCTOBER

- 3 [St. John of Dukla](#), priest, I Ord.



- 4 [Our Holy Father Francis, deacon](#), Founder of the Three Orders
- 6 [St. Mary Frances of the Five Wounds](#), virgin, III Ord.
- 10 [St. Daniel, priest, and companions](#), martyrs [Angelus, Samuel, Donulus, Leo, Hugolinus and Nicholas], I Ord.
- [Bl. Mother Mary Angela Truszkowska](#), III Ord.
- 11 [Bl. John XXIII](#), pope, III Ord.
- 12 [St. Seraphin of Montegrano](#), religious, I Ord.
- 13 [Bl. Honorat Kozminski](#), priest, I Ord., founder
- 20 [Bl. James of Strepar](#), bishop, I Ord.
- [Bl. Contardo Ferrini](#), III Ord.
- 21 [Bl. Josephine Leroux](#), virgin, martyr, II Ord.
- 22 [St. Peter of Alcantara](#), priest, I Ord.
(Outside the U.S., he is celebrated on October 19)
- [Blessed John Paul II](#) – on Roman Calendar
- 23 [St. John of Capestrano](#), priest, I Ord.
- 25 [Saint Antonio de Santa Ana](#) (Frei Galvao)
- 26 [Bl. Maria Jesus Ferragut, virgin, and companions, martyrs of Valencia](#) [Maria Veronica Masiá, Maria Felicity Masiá Ferragut, Isabel Claduch Rovira, Milagros Ortells Gimeno], II Ord.
- [Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza](#), priest, I Ord.
- 31 [Bl. Angelo of Acri](#), priest, I Ord.
- ### NOVEMBER
- 3 [Bl. Teresa Manganiello](#) (OFS), Italy
(precise date of feast day not declared)
- 4 [St. Charles Borromeo](#), bishop, III Ord.
- 6 [Bl. Alfonso Lopez, priest, and companions](#), martyrs [Pedro Rivera, Modesto Vegas, Dionisio Vicente, priests; Francisco Remon, Miguel Remon], religious, I Ord.
- 7 [St. Didacus of Alcalá](#), religious, I Ord.
- 8 [Bl. John Duns Scotus](#), priest, I Ord.
- 13 [St. Frances Xavier Cabrini](#), virgin, III Ord., founder
- 14 [St. Nicholas Tavelic](#), priest, and companions, martyrs, I Ord.
- 17 [St. Elizabeth of Hungary](#), Patron of the Third Order.



Bl. John XXIII



St. Elizabeth of Hungary

Featured Feast – Venerable Solanus Casey [1870-1957]

Venerable Bernard Francis Casey (November 25, 1870 – July 31, 1957) was the first United States-born man formally to be declared “Venerable” by the Roman Catholic church. He is now a candidate for beatification. A Capuchin priest, Casey was known for his great faith, humility, and role as spiritual counselor and intercessor.

Barney Casey became one of Detroit’s best-known priests even though he was not allowed to preach formally or to hear confessions!

Barney came from a large family in Oak Grove, Wisconsin. At the age of 21, and after he had worked as a logger, a hospital orderly, a streetcar operator and a prison guard, he entered St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee—where he found the studies difficult. He left there and, in 1896, joined the Capuchins in Detroit, taking the name Solanus. His studies for the priesthood were again arduous.

On July 24, 1904, he was ordained, but because his knowledge of theology was judged to be weak, Father Solanus was not given permission to hear confessions or to preach. A Franciscan Capuchin who knew him well said this annoying restriction “brought forth in him a greatness and a holiness that might never have been realized in any other way.” During his 14 years as porter and sacristan in Yonkers, New York, the people there recognized him as a fine speaker. “For, though he was forbidden to deliver doctrinal sermons,” writes his biographer, James Derum, “he could give inspirational talks, or feverinos, as the Capuchins termed them” (18:96). His spiritual fire deeply impressed his listeners.

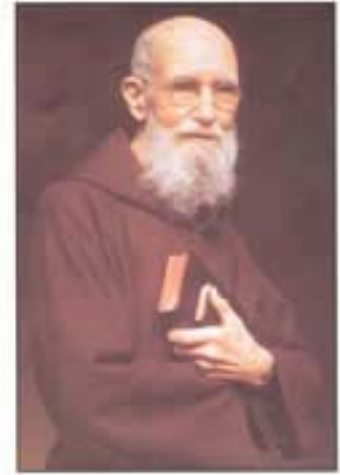
Father Solanus served at parishes in Manhattan and Harlem before returning to Detroit, where he was porter and sacristan for 20 years at St. Bonaventure Monastery. Every Wednesday afternoon he conducted well-attended services for the sick. A co-worker estimates that on the average day 150 to 200 people came to see Father Solanus in the front office. Most of them came to receive his blessing; 40 to 50 came for consultation. Many people considered him instrumental in cures and other blessings they received.

Father Solanus’ sense of God’s providence inspired many of his visitors. “Blessed be God in all his designs” was one of his favorite expressions.

The many friends of Father Solanus helped the Capuchins begin a soup kitchen during the Depression. Capuchins are still feeding the hungry there today.

In 1946 in failing health, he was transferred to the Capuchin novitiate in Huntington, Indiana, where he lived until 1956 when he was hospitalized in Detroit. He died on July 31, 1957. An estimated 20,000 people passed by his coffin before his burial in St. Bonaventure Church in Detroit. At the funeral Mass, Father Gerald, the provincial, said: “His was a life of service and love for people like me and you. When he was not himself sick, he nevertheless suffered with and for you that were sick. When he was not physically hungry, he hungered with people like you. He had a divine love for people. He loved people for what he could do for them – and for God, through them.”

His feast day is November 3.



Venerable Solanus Casey
1870 - 1957

*From The Instrument of Peace
Newsletter of Mary Our Queen Fraternity
Baltimore, Md.*



Jan Benton Named as JPIC Award Recipient

Jan Benton, ofs, a member of St. Francis fraternity in Washington, D.C. has been named as this year’s recipient of the NAFRA Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Award. Jan will receive her award at the NAFRA national gathering in Denver in October.

Jan has served for more than 30 years in the field of ministry and advocacy for persons with disabilities. She is currently Executive Director of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability.

She is Formation Director of St. Francis fraternity, and recently celebrated the silver anniversary of her profession as a Secular Franciscan.

St. Margaret of Cortona Region congratulates Jan on this honor as someone who is “in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives.” (Rule, 15).

God bless you, Jan!