

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 2

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

November 2012

Priest Field Hosts Largest-Ever Regional Retreat

The first weekend of October found the Priest Field Retreat House in West Virginia “filled to the brim” with Seculars from our region ready to participate in our annual retreat. We experienced time to learn, reflect, pray and enjoy fellowship at meals, in small groups and our evening socials. Our region is alive and well.

The theme of this year’s retreat was “thinking and praying socially as a Franciscan.” Our presenter, Father Michael F. Cusato, OFM, is one of the foremost historians of medieval Franciscan history. He has an M.A. degree in Franciscan Studies and a doctorate in medieval history. He is a “born teacher,” who shares his knowledge with passion and humor.

Father Michael took us on a journey through the life of Saint Francis and what it means for us today. It is important for modern Franciscans to understand Francis’ and Clare’s mentality and approach to important concepts, some of which have been altered over the centuries.

He explained how Francis’ encounter with lepers began his spiritual conversion. He had been socialized to avoid lepers,

who were invisible, excluded members of society, throw-away people. Francis’ unique insight was that all people are creatures created by the same creator God. Francis saw Christ in the human being who is marginalized.

The medieval concept of penance, as Francis understood it, was to distance oneself from acts that fray the fraternity. The Latin term *miser cordia* (to do mercy) really means the “heart aches because of the pain you feel for others’ sufferings.” Thus, conversion really means a radical re-orientation of values learned in the world (and an effort to pull closer to God’s vision of the Kingdom of Heaven). Penance is more than confession or the practice of penitential acts. It is an active effort seeking to right wrongs that fray human-God relationships. Francis’ conversion and ours is an upheaval in the way we see the



(See “Retreat” on page 4)



Fr. Michael Cusato, OFM

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Regional Minister's Message



BE THE BRIDGE! ACCEPT ALL PEOPLE AS A GIFT OF GOD!

What is it about a national gathering of Secular Franciscans? Perhaps we are reminded of the breadth and depth of our Order. Perhaps it allows us to see ourselves as part of a larger family. Perhaps we Franciscans always seem to have a good time when we come together.

Like my predecessors, I found my first national chapter, held in Denver the week of October 15, to be a profound and humbling experience. It was all the more significant since this was also a chapter of elections. But most satisfying were the drive and the decisions to answer the challenges and seize the opportunities presented to us by the Holy Spirit.

Those challenges and opportunities were laid out before us by our current (and also our re-elected) national minister, Deacon Tom Bello, ofs. In his annual report to the Order, Tom reminded us that just a few days earlier, on October 11, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Benedict declared this to be a "Year of Faith." As our Holy Father wrote, "The renewal of the Church is... achieved through witness offered by the lives of believers: by their very existence in the world, Christians are called to radiate the word of truth that the Lord Jesus has left us.... The Year of Faith, from this perspective, is a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord."

Tom went on to describe the challenges to the Order: the declining number of members and fraternities, the lack of vocations, especially vocations of young adults, the need for better formation and more spiritual assistants. And then Tom asked the hard question: **Do we offer a spiritual reality sufficiently attractive to bring us new life?** Tom also saw great hope in the steps we have taken and are taking: The great gathering at the Quinquennial in Chicago, and the spirit raised at the JPIC rally near St. Louis earlier this year, the new formation materials and the success in bringing them to each region, and the inspiration that the Year of Faith will bring to our future efforts.

The chapter approved "Be the Bridge! Accept All People as a Gift of God!" as our national theme for 2013, for it speaks directly to our Franciscan charism of seeing Jesus in all we meet.

Even those who are particularly difficult.

Even those we don't particularly like.

Even those with whom we strongly disagree.

This national gathering of regional ministers, the national executive council, the national council of spiritual assistants and commission and committee chairs also identified Communication, Formation, and Spiritual Assistance as the greatest priorities for our Order as we move forward. Within the context of these priorities, the chapter recognized the importance of vocations, youth, and outreach - particularly outreach that relates to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation - as pathways to these priorities.

The chapter concluded with a prayer for living the call to which we have been summoned:

God of All Good, You have blessed us with the
gift of Francis
and our call to the Franciscan way of Life.
But we are frail and often lacking in
understanding
of what this truly means to our life.
We pray, Good and Gracious Lord, that You will
guide us
in how to live our call
in our interior life,
our family life,
our fraternal life,
our Church life,
in the market place,
the work place,
and the quiet places of our hearts,
in Your Will,
Not our own,
always in the footsteps of Your servant Francis
toward Christ, the Son,
praying to be Spirit filled.
Amen!

Patrick Martin, ofs
Regional Minister
St. Margaret of Cortona Region

NOTE: The complete text of Pope Benedict's Apostolic Letter proclaiming the "Year of Faith" can be found at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/motu_proprio/documents/hf_ben-xvi_motu-proprio_20111011_porta-fidei_en.html.

Regional Formation Director's Message

Greetings to all my Franciscan Colleagues

We've had a busy year. The "Form The Formators Weekend" of early March, the Third Annual Inquirers' and Candidates' Day of Recollection, the make-up formation day in early August, as well as other regional and national events, have all come and gone. All of them have achieved their purposes of on-going training, formation, inspiration, and fellowship in the Franciscan spirit and ethic.

The beloved and world-famous FUN manual given to us by the National Formation Commission (NFC) in May 2011 has been a great hit. Some fraternities in other regions have done very creative and innovative things with it for their formation programs.

This has prompted our executive council to send out a survey form to all our fraternities to see where the FUN manual is going in our region. As of mid-October, about 15 fraternities have responded, and their comments regarding enhancements to their formation programs have been really useful.

Once all the fraternities have responded, I plan to compile the responses into a report as to how it's benefitting our formation programs, which I will send to the NFC.

I also plan to send the NFC all your suggested improvements for consideration when the manual is updated. So, if you have already sent in the survey— THANK YOU EVER SO MUCH!

To assure that all responses on the form are complete and accurate, it would be most effective if the formation director and his/her team collaborate when completing the survey. If you have already sent the survey form in and would like to make additional comments, I'll welcome any addendums or amendments to your surveys. I know that the electronic submission of the survey form to me has been a problem for some of you (computers have "minds" of their own as we all too often know). I welcome any and all submissions by the "old-fashioned" postal mail (it also has issues, but it still works for the most part). If you can, make copies for yourself and your team members before you send it to me for your records. I hope to have heard from all of you at or by the day of the annual chapter meeting of the region on December 1.

We are looking ahead to one more event: the Fourth Annual Inquirers' and Candidates' Day of Recollection. It is scheduled for the Saturday after Easter for next year, April 6, 2013, and will be held at its usual location of the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City. We are in need of a facilitator for this event. Any professed member, spiritual assistant, or member of the clergy is eligible to lead this day in reflection, discussion and devotion. The topic of the day, logistics,

and activities can be arranged with me as soon as I hear from someone ready to share his/her faith and Franciscan spirit with our sisters and brothers in initial formation. If you would like to do this, please contact me as soon as possible to begin to make the plans.

This is all for now, my fellow sisters and brothers. If you'd like me or any of my team members to come out to visit your fraternity gathering, formation session or other event, call or email me and let us know. If it is a specific event or date you want us, let us know as far in advance as possible. There are some fraternities who have not yet been visited by me, even though I have seen and spoken with you at regional events. I do plan to call on you in the near future.

The regional formation team will be meeting again on Saturday, January 19, 2013 at the usual place of Ann Corro's home. We are open for new team members, as always, so please come and join us. No previous formation experience necessary, just a willingness to be involved. We will "train" you.

Have a bountiful and blessed Thanksgiving and, most of all, a joyous, and Christ-child centered Merry Christmas season to all of my Franciscan sisters and brothers and their families!

Mike Huether, OFS
Regional Formation Director

Notes on the FUN Manual

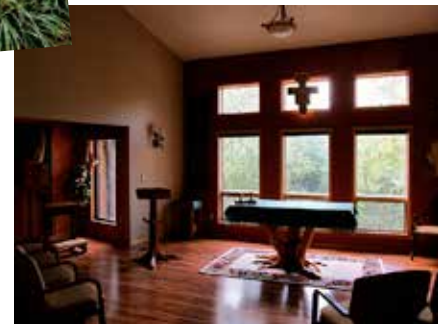
The FUN Manual will be available for purchase at the ministers' annual meeting on December 1. Many fraternities have found that this an excellent text for ongoing formation; you may wish to buy a copy for each member in your fraternity.

If you have not yet had a chance to do so, we strongly encourage that you purchase and view the DVD of the original National Formation Commission presentation on the content of the FUN Manual. This material is inspiring and informative, and you will find it very helpful as you plan your own presentations. Ordering information can be found on page 11.

A table of contents for the manual can be found at: <http://saintmargaretofcortona.com/funtable.html>.

The index can be found at: <http://saintmargaretofcortona.com/funindexmanual.html>.





world around us. We come to know that we belong to the universal fraternity of creatures. Our social awareness becomes the source of our spiritual journey.

Father Michael used the writings of Francis to show us how his understanding of God, salvation and living a Christian life developed through his lifetime. Francis' early Rule is quite general and simple. His later Rule becomes more specific and expresses the fruits of his spiritual maturity gleaned from his social awareness.

Father Michael brought us into the life of Medieval Assisi. He shared stories about the rise of the middle class, the commercial revolution and the birth of the market system with the use of money. Power came from the ability to mint coins. The rich got coins of pure metal and the poor were paid with debased coins of

lesser value. As a result, money was a way to manipulate the poor. Assisi was caught in this process during Francis' formative years. Francis' Early Rule (7:7b) shows the development of his approach to this issue: "and for their work, let them accept all they need, except money." This represents a creative response to the money problem.

This sensitivity to social awareness was also true of Francis' understanding of ownership. Ownership in Assisi was available only to the wealthy, and citizenship depended on how much a person owned. This was the structure of the class system and was diametrically opposed to Francis' understanding that we are all citizens of the Kingdom of God.

The Early Rule (7:14 and 13) stated that the brothers were not to claim ownership or defend property against someone else. The issue was not legal ownership, but rather, the attitude towards ownership. The historical context of the rule was the establishment of the Commune of Assisi in 1210. People in the aspiring middle class were allowed to obtain freedom from their bonds of obligation to the nobles by paying a head tax, or *hominium*. In addition to this payment, families had to own property to become free citizens. If they could not own property, they could not become citizens, and were therefore non-entities or non-persons.

The friars developed a spiritual remedy to social issues through the example of how they lived their lives. We learned much more than can be shared in this summary. Father Michael delved into the meaning behind other stories in the life of Francis including the stories of perfect joy,

Lady Poverty, the wolf of Gubio and Francis' visit with the sultan. Fr. Michael talked about the spiritual truths behind the stories. To live Incarnational Spirituality as a Franciscan we must be open to conversion every day in all ways. Our spiritual growth is deeply and intrinsically connected to our social awareness. We live in fraternity in order to share our stories and learn from each other. We support and challenge each other. We are blessed to have Francis as our spiritual father. All men and women have been given the grace of salvation and have value. All creation is a gift from God. We are all brothers and sisters.

In 1219, Francis succeeded in getting to the Holy Land, arriving in Acre, and then went on to Damietta, Egypt, where the Crusaders were fighting Sultan Malik al-Kamil. Although modern writers tend to express the view that Francis went to oppose the Crusade, he really went to "teach penance," that is, his vision of human life as God intended it to be. This certainly included the concept of conversion; however, his contact with Islam demonstrated cross-cultural borrowing. Francis called the Muslims "friends," meaning nothing sentimental, but rather "brothers" or "fellow creatures of God." Francis' visit to the Middle East was an effort to live out his vision of the universal kinship of creatures and thereby earn eternal life.

There is source material describing Francis' presence with

the Crusaders' armies at Damietta, indicating he met with the sultan. However, there is no record of what happened in that encounter. The fact that Francis and his fellow brother Illuminato both returned alive and unharmed from the sultan indicates they were respected. It probably also indicates that Francis did not say or do anything disrespectful of Islam. In his Letter to the Rulers (of Europe), Francis was struck by the Muslim call to prayer five times a day and stated it was the responsibility of the rulers to call all people to prayer (until then only the religious elite prayed during the day).

In 1224, Francis resigned as head of the Order, became ill, and went to the mountain of La Verna to spend the fast of St. Michael (September). On the occasion of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14), he received the Stigmata. At that time, he asked for a parchment. On the front, he penned the praises of God, on the reverse side, he wrote the prayer of Aaron. Brother Leo asked him for a blessing, and he wrote that, as well, on the reverse side. In addition, Francis made a drawing of a head on its side with a Tau cross coming out of its mouth. Fr. Cusato said that a close examination of the *Chartula* makes the head appear to have a beard and a turban style hat, like a Muslim ruler. He surmises this may be a representation of Sultan Malek al-Kamil, and it may indicate that Francis was praying for him, since he was again under siege by the Crusaders at that time. The Praises to God are similar to the Muslim 99 Names of Allah. Francis' writing reads, in poor Latin, "May the Lord bless you Br. Leo." However, the "blessing" can also be understood as "I weep for you," and it may have been intended for the sultan.

In conclusion, Father Michael led us on a sojourn not like any other. At each signpost he presented us with an historical perspective and historical interpretation for a frame of

reference. Father then fed us with information and questions to challenge each sister and brother to embrace our lepers. In many instances, he pushed the envelope for us all. In between all of the above, we meditated, discerned, prayed, got to know each other better, dined together and socialized. I would like to believe we were all a little more in tune with our Seraphic Father Francis; a bit more confident in our individual conversion; a bit closer to our sisters and brothers; rejuvenated to go back into the world; and closer to God. I cannot speak for all, but the weekend left an imprint on my mind, my heart and my soul.

Father Michael has a deep passion for the life of Francis and how it influences his life as a Franciscan. To live Incarnational Spirituality as a Franciscan we must be open to conversion every day in all ways. Our spiritual growth is deeply and intrinsically connected to our social awareness. We live in fraternity in order to share our stories and learn from each other. We support and challenge each other. We are blessed to have Francis as our spiritual father. All men and women have been given the grace of salvation and have value. All creation is a gift from God. We are all brothers and sisters.

by Bill Bouffard, ofs, and Gill Donahue, ofs, Tau Fraternity; Marci Grattan, ofs, St. Francis of Assisi Triangle Fraternity; photos by John Clem, Mt. LaVerna Charlottesville newly forming group of Sacred Heart of Jesus Fraternity

What Are We Reading?

FOOLS, LIARS, CHEATERS AND OTHER BIBLE HEROES

by Barbara Hosbach, ISBN: 978-1-61636-429-8 / \$14.99 / www.franciscanmedia.org

Scripture comes alive when you can identify with the ordinary people caught up in its extraordinary stories. God had a special mission for each of the 28 people profiled here, including:

- Hosea, who made himself a fool for God
- Rahab, the prostitute who lied to protect the Israelites
- the Samaritan woman who was the town tramp.

Questions for reflection and discussion following each chapter invite you to explore the way God is calling you and help you craft your own unique response.

"Many think that holiness is the same as human or moral perfection. The Bible and Barbara Hosbach will show you that God has always used little and imperfect instruments to do good and Godly things. You would be a fool yourself not to get on board."

Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM

Fr. Cusato's Bibliography

Francis of Assisi — A Revolutionary Life, Adrian House. Hidden Spring Books. ISBN 9781587680090 \$14.16 Paperback

Francis of Assisi — the life and afterlife of a medieval saint, Andre Vauchez, translated by Michael F. Cusato. Yale U. Press ISBN 9780300178944 \$23.10 Hardcover

The Early Franciscan Movement (1205-1239) History Sources and Hermeneutics, by Michael F. Cusato. Italy; ISBN 1-57659-223-5, 460 pages, Trade paper 2009, 90.00 Paperback

The Writings of Francis of Assisi — Letters and Prayers, Franciscan Institute Pub. Luigi Pellegrini et al ISBN 978-1 57659-230-4 \$29.95 Paperback

Francis of Assisi — a new biography, Augustine Thompson, O.P., Cornell U. Press. 9780801450709, \$29.95 Paperback

The Cambridge Companion to Francis of Assisi, ed. Michael J.P. Robson. Cambridge U. Press, ISBN 9780521760430, November 2011, \$29.99 Paperback

Poverty and Prosperity : Franciscans and the use of money, ed. Daria Mitchell, ofs, Washington Theological Union Symposium Paper. 2009, 112 pages , \$14.00 Paperback

Secular Franciscan Order Elects National Leaders

The Secular Franciscan Order in the United States elected national leaders Oct. 20 during its Chapter in Denver, Col. The elected leaders, along with the president-in-turn of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants, comprise the National Executive Council of the National Fraternity.



TOM BELLO RE-ELECTED NATIONAL MINISTER

Deacon Tom Bello, OFS, was re-elected national minister for a second three-year term.

Tom, who was professed in 1983, is a member of St. Thomas More Fraternity in Arlington, Va. He was elected vice-minister of his local fraternity in 1986 and became minister in 1988 and again in 1992. He was a member of the Provincial Executive Council, Holy Land Province from 1988 until the province became a region. He then was elected to the regional council of St. Margaret of Cortona region and has served in numerous positions, including regional minister. On the national fraternity, Tom has worked on the National Statutes and previously served as national vice minister.

He has worked as an ESOL teacher for more than two decades. Tom and his wife Judy have three children.



ELAINE HEDTKE RE-ELECTED NATIONAL VICE MINISTER

Elaine Hedtke, OFS, of Port Angeles, Wa., and former minister of Troubadours of Peace Region, was re-elected national vice minister.

Elaine, who was professed in 1965, has served the order at all levels. At her fraternity level she has served as Ecology Commissions chair and formation director. She was regional commissioner for liturgy and regional vice-minister and minister.

Most of her career has been spent as a law enforcement officer. She has four adult married children.



JAN PARKER RE-ELECTED NATIONAL SECRETARY

Jan Parker, OFS, of O'Fallon, Mo., and former minister of St. Clare Region, was elected national secretary for a second three-year term. She was professed in 1988.

Jan has served the order at all levels. She is a member of San Damiano Fraternity, where she served as formation director, secretary and minister. At the regional level she served both as minister and formation director.

A former full-time pastoral associate at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Jan is involved in liturgy and music. She works in a family construction business.



CECELIA MALJAN ELECTED NATIONAL TREASURER

Cecilia (Cyl) Maljan was elected national treasurer for a three-year term. Cyl hails from Pittsburgh and has been minister of Lady Poverty Region.

She has been executive secretary to the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants since January 1, 2010, and she was a member of the 2012 Quinquennial Committee as registrar.

Cyl is retired from Bank of New York Mellon. Professed in 2001, Cyl is a member of St. Augustine Fraternity in Lawrenceville, Penn., and has served in a variety of positions.



MARY BITTNER RE-ELECTED NATIONAL COUNCILOR

Mary Bittner, OFS, of Ypsilanti, Mich., and former minister of Divine Mercy Region, was re-elected a national councilor for a second three-year term.

She has been regional minister for six years. At her local fraternity of St. Joseph, she has been formation team member, secretary, minister and councilor. At the regional level, she has also been vice minister and on the regional formation team.

Mary is a research assistant professor at University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor, Mich.



MARY FRANCES CHARSKY ELECTED COUNCILOR

Mary Frances Charsky, OFS, of Binghamton, N.Y., and minister of the St. Kateri Tekakwitha Region, was elected national councilor for a three-year term.

A retired elementary school principal, Charsky has been a member of St. Francis Fraternity in Binghamton for more than 30 years. She served as local minister, vice minister, formation director, and councilor. In her church she has been Eucharistic minister, member of the parish council, and member of the adult formation and social justice committees.

For more than 20 years she has been Eucharistic minister at Wilson Memorial Hospital. She is also a board member of Holy Family Vocational Orphanage Foundation.



ARTURO VILLARREAL RE-ELECTED NATIONAL COUNCILOR

Arturo Villarreal, OFS, from El Paso, Texas, was elected national councilor for a second three-year term.

He has served as vice minister of Empress of the Americas region and was professed in 1981. He is member of St. Patrick's Fraternity in El Paso.

His wife, Sofia, is also a Secular Franciscan. He has three children, Diana, Ben and Natalie.

Arturo was also elected alternate international councilor.



MARY STRONACH ELECTED INTERNATIONAL COUNCILOR

Mary Stronach, OFS, of Marcy, NY, and formation director for St. Kateri Tekakwitha Region, was elected international councilor for a three-year term.

Professed in 2003, Mary is a member of St. Joseph Fraternity in Utica, NY, where she is vice minister.

Mary has served the national fraternity as public relations co-chair and the international fraternity as an interpreter-translator.

She teaches Spanish and Italian at Utica College, is outreach coordinator for the Multicultural Association of Medical Interpreters and operates Stronach Associates, a public relations consulting business specializing in working with non-profits.

Mary and her husband, Robert, also a Secular Franciscan, have two daughters, three sons and four granddaughters.



FR. KEVIN JOINS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR, is the incoming president-in-turn of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants and joins the National Executive Council as a member.

Prayer for Vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order
O, Good and Gracious God, God of mercy, compassion, generosity, and love,
As we live our lives today in the model of St. Francis, choosing daily to live the Gospel life,
Help us to help others hear Your call.
Help us to help others to recognize their vocation as a Secular Franciscan that You have already planted in their hearts.
Help us, so that together we all may work to bring the Gospel to life.
Amen!

20-year tradition of Franciscan Lay Missioners in Bolivia Continues

Franciscan Mission Service's newest lay missioners, Annemarie Barrett and Jeff Sved, are excited to follow the footsteps of nearly 30 men and women who have served in solidarity with the people of Bolivia through FMS.

After Annemarie and Jeff arrive in Bolivia in January, they will go through six weeks of language school while they mutually discern with the community where their skills and presence are needed.

The missioners look forward to learning about Bolivia's unique culture. It was their past experiences of building relationships and spending time with Spanish-speaking communities that inspired Annemarie and Jeff to serve in Bolivia with FMS.

During her junior year at Loyola University in Chicago, Annemarie studied abroad in El Salvador with Casa de la Solidaridad of Santa Clara University. For four months Annemarie visited with families over coffee. Learning about their faith allowed her to grow in her own faith.

Annemarie decided that after graduation she wanted to do something that built upon her time in El Salvador. She felt drawn to FMS because of the testimonies of returned missioners she found on our website and blog.

"The testimonies I heard about service through FMS spoke directly to my experience in El Salvador and what it means to spend time with people, to grow in relationship with them, to believe that what happens there in those relationships is the starting point for all the rest of [mission] work," Annemarie said.

As for Jeff, he volunteered last year with Franciscan Volunteer Ministries (FVM) in Wilmington, Del., serving in three prisons as a teacher and counselor. He also worked with the local parish's Hispanic and Hispanic young adult ministry and taught English as a Second Language. Before FVM, Jeff came to know the Franciscans while volunteering at St. Francis Inn soup kitchen in Philadelphia as a student at Villanova University.

"I've really enjoyed working with the Franciscan mindset for the past five years, and I appreciate the way in which they approach the ministry of presence and the really strong focus on relationships," Jeff said. "And I saw that in FMS, too."

Since Labor Day, Annemarie and Jeff have been in formation at the FMS headquarters in northeast Washington, D.C., to prepare for their minimum of two years abroad. Both missioners felt that the three-month training was an attractive part of the FMS program.

"I knew I couldn't go into foreign mission with a week-long or two-week orientation process," Jeff said.

Although no formation program can fully prepare anyone for every aspect of life overseas, FMS' comprehensive curriculum is designed to expose missioners-in-training to a wide variety of relevant topics and practical concerns so they can develop the necessary tools for life and ministry while on mission. Program highlights include lessons on Catholic Social Teaching, Franciscan history and spirituality, non-violence, simplicity and cross-cultural communicating.

You're invited to celebrate the end of Annemarie and Jeff's training and the beginning of their mission at their commissioning Mass on Dec. 2 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Camillus Catholic Church in Silver Spring, Md.

Please pray for Annemarie and Jeff as they wrap up their mission preparations. You can read their blog posts and make a donation in support of their mission at www.franciscanmissionservice.org.

Do you feel called to mission? We're accepting applications for next fall's formation class!

by Kim Smolik, Executive Director
Franciscan Mission Service



FMS's newest missioners Jeff Sved and Annemarie Barrett prepare for at least two years of service in Bolivia.



St. Conrad Fraternity Celebrates 40th Anniversary

St. Conrad fraternity (Annapolis) celebrated the 40th anniversary of its canonical establishment (November 7, 1972) with a Mass and luncheon on November 3, 2012, at Our Lady of the Fields Church, Millersville, Md.

During his homily, Fr. Bill Wiethorn, OFM Cap, who served twice as the fraternity's Spiritual Assistant in the early years, spoke about our charism and the centrality of Christ in our lives and in St. Francis' life. With regard to our future, he said that the life and love we have in us is to be given freely to those God puts in our lives; we are to do this with a new spirit... taking up the crosses God presents to us along the way.

More than 50 members, former members, and guests attended, including Regional Minister Patrick Martin and Regional Council members Mary Simmons and Teri Egan. Joan Robinson, a founding member of the fraternity and its first vice-minister, addressed the group briefly about the "old days." Barbara Petrisko, a former fraternity minister, was among several other early members who shared fond memories of apostolates, people and places from the past, including the beautiful chapel at the former St. Conrad's Friary in Annapolis, where the fraternity was formed. Throughout the luncheon, pictures of former members, spiritual assistants, and fraternity activities and slides containing historical information were projected on a large screen for all to see. Joan Faltot was responsible for creating the presentation.



Fr. Bill Wiethorn, OFM Cap, one of the fraternity's first spiritual assistants, presides at the anniversary Mass.

Fr. Bill also provided closing remarks and a blessing after the luncheon, reminding us that it is, perhaps, time to begin again, for so far we had done "but little." He also reminded us that we Seculars have inspired the many friars who have crossed our paths in the past to "return to their roots," just as the friars encouraged us regularly to return to ours.



Br. Jonathan Ulrick (left) and Denise Mianta (center in blue) lead the gathering in singing "Happy Anniversary to Us."



Joan Robinson, a founding member of St. Conrad's, reminisces about the early days.

And of course no Franciscan gathering is complete without the cake!



Barbara Petrisko, former fraternity minister, shares fond memories of apostolates, people and places from the past.

Advocate Receives 'Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation' Award

JANICE BENTON HEADS NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARTNERSHIP ON DISABILITY

"Don't think of disabilities as exceptional... We say it's a normal part of life." That's how Janice L. Benton, OFS, described her advocacy work Oct. 18 before the national gathering of the U.S. Secular Franciscan Order in Denver, Colo., where she was honored with the Franciscan Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Award.

"You should make assumptions that people with disabilities want to be part of our community."

A Secular Franciscan herself, Benton encouraged the 80 chapter attendees, representing more than 13,000 Secular Franciscans across the United States and Guam, to start building relationships, one on one. The Franciscan vocation, she noted, is about affirming the dignity of life, and that covers a wide range of people — those with such disorders as Down syndrome, refugees who come across the border, victims of human trafficking, elderly persons deteriorating physically and mentally, homeless children everywhere.

Recognizing the needs of people with disabilities is not just an issue of charity, Benton said. "You're not doing anyone any favor if you sentimentalize people with disabilities and their care givers.... It's an issue of justice."

Justice, first of all, means recognizing people as having value, she said, and fighting against such things as abuse in institutions and providing what people need to be able to participate meaningfully in life.

A big concern for her, she said, is that "our society, our culture is teaching that some people are disposable." These folks are "despised" because they're costly, inconvenient or require too much time. This involves everything from aborting less-than-perfect babies to organ donation pressure to so-called compassionate death.

That's where Franciscans come in, she said, because they understand, as Franciscan Theologian Sr. Iliia Delio put it at the Secular Franciscan Quinquennial Congress in July, that all of humanity is imprinted with the dignity of God and that nothing in creation is accidental and nothing is worthless.

Benton has been an advocate for 30 years, including the last eight as executive director of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) in Washington, D.C. She resides in College Park, Maryland, with her husband, Martin, and worships at St. Camillus Parish in Silver Spring, Md. Knowledgeable in sign language, she serves as formation director for St. Francis of Assisi deaf fraternity. Earlier this year she received the Harry A. Fagan Award from the National Association of Catholic Diocesan Social Justice Directors.

National Minister Deacon Tom Bello, OFS, presented the JPIC Award, a glass statue of a pair of hands enveloping

the globe, along with a \$2,000 prize, noting: "You are a hero for me. You are my *Secular Franciscan* Secular Franciscan."

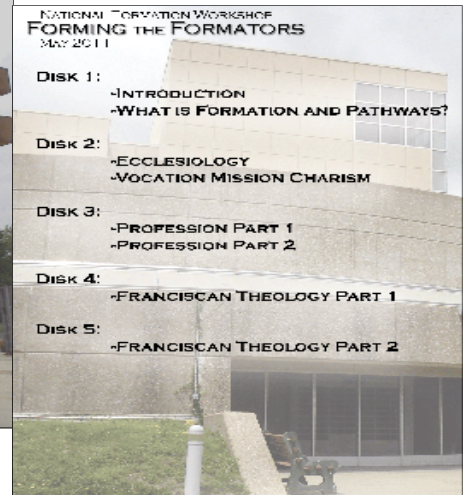
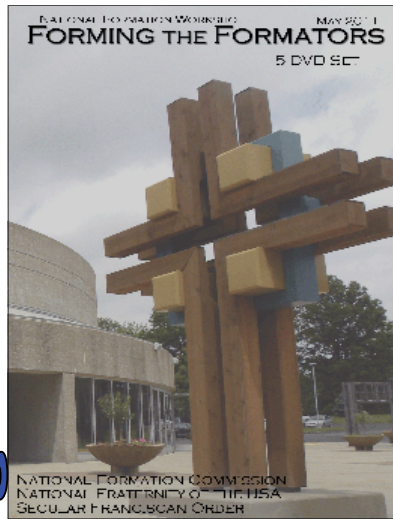
Formerly known as the Peace Award, the award was renamed to capture the significant inter-related efforts in the areas of justice, peace and the integrity of creation, noted JPIC Chairman Kent Ferris, OFS. "Our Franciscan Rule reminds us of our responsibility to 'individually and collectively be in the forefront of promoting justice by the testimony of our lives.' The JPIC Award allows us to recognize those who have modeled such courageous efforts."

The annual award was revived in 2007 after a lapse of several years. The 2007 award recognized the work of Dr. Tony Lazzara, an American physician and Secular Franciscan who operates a clinic and shelter for ailing children in Peru. The 2008 award honored Marie Dennis, a Secular Franciscan who directs the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns and who is immersed in advocating on behalf of people marginalized by society, poverty, abuse, war, violence, and human trafficking. The 2009 award went to Don Ryder, a Secular Franciscan from Wisconsin who helped save the Maasai people in Kenya from disease and drought by drilling water wells. In 2010 it honored Br. David Bauer, OFM, for his work with the homeless and marginalized in Tuscon and Las Vegas. Last year the award went to Fr. Louie Vitale, OFM, a Franciscan friar known for protests against war and torture and advocacy for the poor.

Among the more notable prior recipients were the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mother Teresa of Calcutta.



**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



December 1 — Annual Meeting. Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School, 1010 Larch Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. (see announcement next page).

April 6, 2013 — Fourth Annual Day of Reflection for Candidates and Newly Professed. St. Anthony Shrine, Ellicott City, Md. (see registration form on page 13)



St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Chapter

Place: Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School
1010 Larch Avenue
Takoma Park, Md.

When: December 1, 2012

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Our annual chapter requires the attendance of each fraternity minister (your fraternity covers the cost of the trip) but all are welcome!

Lunch is \$5 per person.

Free parking.

Please RSVP by November 25 to Patrick Martin
(jpmmartin@gmail.com).

[Directions to Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School](#)

Around the Region

RECEIVED AS CANDIDATES

- Melanie Bninski, Sacred Heart of Jesus Fraternity, Warrenton, Va.
Joan Bundy, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Ellicott City, Md.
Susan Burns, St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, Md.
John Clem, Sacred Heart of Jesus Fraternity, Warrenton, Va. (Mt. La Verna Charlottesville newly forming group)
Kathy Ford, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Ellicott City, Md.
Harry Ford, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Ellicott City, Md.

NEWLY PROFESSED

- Eileen Culatta, ofs, Mary Our Queen Fraternity, Rosedale, Md.
Nancy Focht, ofs, Mary Our Queen Fraternity, Rosedale, Md.
Mary Karth, ofs, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Ellicott City, Md.
Joan Popp, ofs, Mary Our Queen Fraternity, Rosedale, Md.
Mark B. Weist, ofs, St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity, Rockville, Md.



Joan Popp, Nancy Focht, and Eileen Culatta made their profession on October 21, 2012, during the Noon Mass at St. Clement Mary Hofbauer Church.



From left: Carl Stacy, ofs, receives John Clem and Melanie Bninski as candidates in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Fraternity (as part of the Mt. LaVerna Charlottesville newly forming group). They are also welcomed by Elizabeth Adams-Eilers, ofs.

NEWLY APPOINTED

- Father Orlando Reyes, OFM Cap, Spiritual Assistant to St. Anthony of Padua emerging community, Harrisburg, Penn.
Brother Michael Rubus, OFM Cap, Spiritual Assistant to St. Thomas More Harrisburg, Penn.

CORRECTION TO ELECTION NOTICE

Mary Our Queen Fraternity, Rosedale, Md.

- Minister: Carol Purwin, ofs [re-elected]
Vice Minister: Lud Jones, ofs
Treasurer: Shirley Sapp, ofs [re-elected]
Secretary: Joe Mantegna, ofs [re-elected]
Formation Director: Bill Lotz, ofs [reappointed by the Council]
Our Spiritual Assistant is Fr. Berard Dudek, OFMConv.

LOSSES IN THE FAMILY

Mary Ann Ellinghausen, OFS, Born March 12, 1925, died October 6, 2012. She had been confined by illness to her bed for 12 years. Mary Ann was a member of St. Conrad Fraternity, Annapolis, Md. She was professed on October 4, 1981. She is survived by her husband Herman, who is also a professed Secular Franciscan.



Winston Williams, OFS, died October 13, 2012. Winston was a professed member of Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity, Washington, D.C.



Adele Spellerberg, OFS, died October 26, 2012. Adele was professed as a member of Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity in Washington, D.C. on June 19, 1939. Her husband Francis, who died in 1988, was also a member of the fraternity.

Franciscan Saints, Blesseds and Feasts

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

NOVEMBER

- 17 [St. Elizabeth of Hungary](#), widow, Patron of the Third Order
- 18 [Bl. Salome](#), virgin, II Ord., virgin, II Ord.
- 19 [St. Agnes of Assisi](#), virgin, II Ord.
- 25 [Bl. Elizabeth of Reute](#), virgin, III Ord.
- 26 [St. Leonard of Port Maurice](#), priest, I Ord.
- 27 [St. Francis Anthony Fasani](#), priest, I Ord.
Manifestation of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (OFM Conv.)
[Bl. Umile de Bisignano](#), religious, I Ord.
- 28 [St. James of the March](#), priest, I Ord.
- 29 [All Saints of the Franciscan Orders](#) All Saints of the Franciscan Order ([We pray the Franciscan Litany of the Saints.](#))

DECEMBER

- 2 [Bl. Maria Angela Astorch](#), virgin, II Ord.
[Bl. Rafal Chylinski](#), priest, I Ord.
- 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron and Queen of the Franciscan Order
- 10 [Bl. Peter Tecelano](#), III Ord.
- 12 [Our Lady of Guadalupe](#)



Crypt, St. Francis Basilica

- 13 [Finding the Body of St. Francis](#)
- 15 [Bl. Mary Frances Schervier](#), virgin, III Ord.

- 25 Celebration of the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ

JANUARY

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- 3 Holy Name of Jesus
- 6 [Bl. Diego José of Cádiz](#), priest, I Ord.
- 7 [Bl. Angela of Foligno](#), religious, III Ord.
- 8 [Bl. Eurosia Fabris](#), III Order
- 12 [St. Bernard of Corleone](#), religious, I Ord.

- 14 [Bl. Odoric of Pordenone](#), priest, I Ord.
- 16 [Sts. Berard and Companions](#), protomartyrs of the Order
- 18 [St. Charles of Sezze](#), religious, I Ord.
- 19 [Bl. Thomas of Cori](#), priest, I Ord.
[St. Eustochia Calafato](#), virgin, II Order
- 20 [Bl. John Baptist Triquerie](#), priest, martyr, I Ord.
- 24 [St. Francis De Sales](#), bishop, doctor, III Ord., founder
- 27 [St. Angela Merici](#), virgin, III Ord., founder
- 29 [Bl. Roger of Todj](#), religious, I Ord.
- 30 [St. Hyacinth of Mariscotti](#), virgin, III Ord.
- 31 [St. John Bosco](#), priest, III Ord., founder

FEBRUARY

- 1 [St. Veridiana](#), virgin, III Ord.
[Bl. Andrew of Segni](#), religious, I Ord.
- 4 [St. Joseph of Leonissa](#), priest, I Ord.
- 6 [Sts. Peter Baptist, Paul Miki, and Companions](#), martyrs [Martin of the Ascension, Francis Blanco, priests; Philip of Jesus, cleric; Francis of St. Michael, Gonsalvo Garcia, religious; seventeen tertiaries], I and III Ord.
- 7 [St. Collette](#), virgin, II Ord.
- 8 [St. Giles Mary of St. Joseph](#), religious, I Ord.
- 15 [Transfer of the Body of St. Anthony of Padua](#)
- 17 [Bl. Luke Belludi](#), religious, I Ord.
- 19 [St. Conrad of Piacenza](#), hermit, III Ord.
- 27 [Bl. Sebastian of Aparicio](#), religious, I Ord.



May you have a blessed Advent and a holy and joyous Christmas season. Peace and all good to you from the entire Regional Executive Council.

A New Franciscan Saint: Bl. Marianne Cope (1838-1918)

Professed Sister of St. Francis, missionary to leprosy patients

Barbara Koob (now officially “Cope”) was born on January 23, 1838, in what was later West Germany, the eldest of 10 children. In 1839, the family immigrated to the United States and located in Utica, N.Y..

Barbara felt called to religious life at an early age, but her vocation was delayed while she worked in a factory to support her family after her father became ill.

In the summer of 1862, at age 24, Barbara entered the Sisters of St. Francis in Syracuse, N.Y., where she received the religious habit, took the name “Sr. Marianne,” and in 1863 was professed. She served as an elementary school teacher and principal, held several administrative positions, and helped establish two hospitals in central New York. In 1870, she was nurse-administrator and later head administrator at St. Joseph’s in Syracuse. She wrote, “The charity of the good knows no creed and is confined to no one place.”

In 1883, Mother Marianne, now the Provincial Mother in Syracuse, received a letter from a Fr. Damien de Veuster (known as the “Apostle to Lepers”), in which he asked for help in the Hawaiian Islands, mainly to work with leprosy patients. The letter touched Mother Marianne’s heart and she enthusiastically responded: “I am hungry for the work and I wish with all my heart to be one of the chosen ones, whose privilege it will be to sacrifice themselves for the salvation of the souls of the poor Islanders... it would be my greatest delight even to minister to the abandoned ‘lepers’”.

Mother Marianne, with six Sisters of St. Francis, arrived in Honolulu in late 1883 and set to work managing the Kaka’ako Branch Hospital on Oahu, which served as a receiving station for patients with Hansen’s disease. The Sisters cleaned the hospital and tended to its 200 patients. By 1885, they had made major improvements to the living conditions and treatment of the patients. In November 1885, they founded the Kapi’olani Home inside the hospital compound, established to care for the healthy daughters of Hansen’s disease patients at the hospital, as no others would care for close relatives of people with the disease.

After Fr. Damien was diagnosed with Hansen’s disease, Mother Marianne alone gave hospitality to the outcast priest upon hearing that his illness made him an unwelcome visitor.

In 1887, the new Hawaiian government decided to close the Oahu Hospital and receiving station and to send the sick into exile on the island of Molokai. Mother Marianne again responded and cheerfully accepted this work. She and two other sisters ran the Bishop Home for Girls and the Home for Boys. The workload was extreme, and Mother Marianne’s invaluable example of never-failing optimism, serenity and trust in God inspired hope in those around her. She taught the sisters that their primary duty was “to make life as pleasant and as comfortable as possible for those of our fellow creatures whom God has chosen to afflict with this terrible disease...” Mother Marianne never returned to Syracuse. She died in Hawaii on August 9, 1918, of natural causes and was buried on the grounds of Bishop Home. She was canonized on October 21, 2012.



Adapted in the October edition of The Chimes, the newsletter of Mt. Sepulchre Fraternity, Washington, D.C. from Bl. MARIANNE COPE (2005), Vatican, http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20050514_molokai_en.html



Sister M. Rosalia McLaughlin, Sister M. Martha Kaiser, Sister M. Leopoldina Burns, Walter Murray Gibson (Prime Minister of the Hawaiian Kingdom), Sister M. Charles Hoffmann, Sister M. Crescentia Eilers, Mother Marianne Cope



Come, Follow Me

Franciscan Day of Recollection For Inquirers and Candidates Easter 2013

Saturday, April 6, 2013, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Shrine of St. Anthony
12290 Folly Quarter Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042
(410) 531-2800

Sponsored by the St. Margaret of Cortona Regional Formation Team

Jesus invited his friends to follow him. Is he inviting us to follow him in the footsteps of Francis? Are we ready to answer his call? Spend the day in the company of your brothers and sisters, and consider what it means to answer the call.

(Formation teams and newly professed are also invited.)

Cost: \$30.00 per person.

Yes! I plan to attend the Franciscan Day of Recollection for
Candidates and Inquirers.

Name _____

Fraternity _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I am an Inquirer I am a candidate I am newly professed

I am a member of the formation team.

Please return this form with
payment by March 30 to:

Mary Lou Coffman
2862 Beechtree Lane
Woodbridge, VA 22191
(703) 221-1846
marylousfo@gmail.com

My heart is ready, oh God; my heart is ready.

Psalm 57:7

[Directions to the Shrine of St. Anthony](#)