

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 18 Issue 2

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

November 2014

Nominations for Regional Council

On April 25, 2015, the St. Margaret of Cortona Region will elect new officers. We need each fraternity to submit nominees for the offices of Minister, Vice-minister, Secretary, Treasurer, Formation Director, Area Councilor MD/PA, Area Councilor Metro D.C., Area Councilor VA/WVA and Area Councilor MD/DE. When submitting a name, give the fraternity name and the office for which the person has agreed to run. Those nominated for office must consent to the nomination. Ministers will receive nomination forms in December

Those nominated will be asked to submit a short biography, which is to include SFO experience, as well as other pertinent experience.

From the General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order:

THE OFFICES IN THE FRATERNITY

Article 51

1. While firmly upholding the co-responsibility of the council to animate and guide the fraternity, the minister, as the primary person responsible for the fraternity, is expected to make sure that the directions and the decisions of the council are put into practice and will keep the council informed about what he or she is doing.

2. The minister also has the following duties:

- a. to call, to preside at, and to direct the meetings of the fraternity and council; to convoke every three years the elective chapter of the fraternity, having heard the council on the formalities of the convocation;
- b. to prepare the annual report to be sent to the council of the higher level after it has been approved by the council of the fraternity;
- c. to represent the fraternity in all its relations with ecclesiastical and civil authorities. When the fraternity acquires a juridical personality in the civil order, the minister becomes, when possible, its legal representative;

- d. to request, with the consent of the council, the pastoral and fraternal visits, at least once every three years.
- e. to put into effect those acts which the Constitutions refer to his or her competence.

Article 52

1. The vice-minister has the following duties:

- a. to collaborate in a fraternal spirit and to support the minister in carrying out his or her specific duties;
- b. to exercise the functions entrusted by the council and/or by the assembly or chapter;
- c. to take the place of the minister in both duties and responsibilities in case of absence or temporary impediment;
- d. to assume the functions of the minister when the office remains vacant.

(See "Nominations" on page 5)

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Regional Minister's Message



BE THE JOYFUL FACE OF CHRIST TO ALL

The title of this column, brothers and sisters, comes from the theme for 2015 developed by the national fraternity (NAFRA) or our Order. It attempts to capture the spirit and energy Pope Francis has given to our church as we face the challenges of the 21st Century. Our Order faces many challenges as

well, and the 30 regional ministers gathered with the National Executive Council in Dallas last month to discuss and learn.

Our national minister, Tom Bello, OFS, presented these challenges as priorities for the next three years:

1. **Spiritual Assistance.** Tom reminded the regional ministers that as the number of vocations diminishes among our brothers and sisters in the First and Second Orders and Third Order Regular, the availability of suitable and well qualified spiritual assistants from these obediences is also diminishing. Fortunately, in our region, we are engaged in an active and dynamic Secular Spiritual Assistant Training program, like many other regions throughout the country. This program is already bearing fruit and will soon produce suitable and well qualified Secular Spiritual Assistants for our fraternities.
2. **Formation.** At the national level, we have a new Chair of the National Formation Commission, Mary Ann Lenzi, who is also overseeing the preparations for the next Quinquennial in Denver in 2016. As an Order, we will continue to use the "FUN Manual" to supplement and enhance our initial and ongoing formation. Every fraternity should have a copy of the "FUN Manual." It is a treasure trove of information, not only for inquirers and candidates, but as a source of on-going formation for everyone.
3. **Youth.** More than 50 percent of our Order is age 66 or older; less than 9 percent of our

Order is under the age of 50. Of that, less than 1 percent is under the age of 35. The numbers are discouraging. But as Franciscans we cannot allow ourselves to be defeated by discouragement. Nationally, we have two new animators for the Youth and Young Adults Commission, Sue and Christy Nelson. They are rolling out a multi-year plan for serving these communities. Our own Youth and Young Adult subcommittee of our Formation Team recently held its first meeting for young adults last month at the Shrine of St. Anthony. Read all about it in this issue of Up To Now.

4. **Outreach and Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation.** At the Dallas chapter, our Order awarded the annual JPIC Award to Bishop Gerald Kicanas the Bishop of Tucson, Arizona, for his heroic work and Christian witness along our nation's border with Mexico. Our Rule calls each of us to apostolates and ministries, "especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ." (Rule 13) As "messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others." (Rule 19) We do this through our apostolates and ministries.
5. **Communication.** Every professed member should be receiving the national newsletter, "TAU-USA," as well as "Up to Now," our regional newsletter. Please tell your minister if you are not!
6. **Vocations.** At the national level, NAFRA is gathering the best practices from all the regions. But it truly is at the local level where we recruit and welcome those who want to learn more about Francis and Clare. We even have a Pope named Francis. That ought to help! But it is through personal invitation and living our vocation every day that tells the world around us that we are Franciscan.

One of my favorite sayings is "Preach the Gospel at all times; use words if necessary." One way we can live our vocation for all the world to see is to Preach the Gospel at all times; use words if necessary. And we will truly be the joyful face of Christ to all.

Patrick Martin
Regional Minister

Regional Formation Director's Message

The Love of God be with all of you, my dear sisters and brothers in Saint Francis!

The regional formation team and youth/young adult subcommittee continues with our outreach efforts with young adults. With school back in session, our efforts on the college campuses resume. We start with continued thanks to Harry Ford and Rhett Engelking for getting the Franciscan Earth Corps chapter at Hood College in Frederick successfully underway Rhett now meets with these young college students to plan projects in their college area and Baltimore, as well.

Further south in the region, we have Jeanie McLees, who continues her work with the youth and young adults in her area. She has resumed various service projects such as fund-raising campaigns for the local SPCA and an ongoing food and blanket collection for a local homeless shelter with her high school students. She also continues successfully moderating a student-led ongoing discussion and service group on the Gospel life at her high school and promoting participation in fund-raisers for homeless shelters such as Soup Bowl Night (where you purchase a hot soup meal and get a designer bowl), with the proceeds going to the homeless shelters, clothing and food drives for the homeless. All these projects are coordinated with the Wesleyan College Campus Ministries. Jeanie also assists with the coordination of a collection for Catholic Charities by one of the Wesleyan college fraternities. Thanks, Jeanie, for all you do for our efforts down south!

As mentioned in the last UTN issue, we focus again on Harry and thank him for the success in orchestrating a very enjoyable and inspiring event at the Shrine Of Saint Anthony in Ellicott City, as we welcomed ten young adult participants to the "An Invitation To A Franciscan Feast" event on October 16. The young adults who attended were very much on fire with interest and curiosity in the Franciscan way of life, and a few even offered their services in taking the lead in setting up a follow-up for the evening, as well as a YouFra fraternity. As I mentioned in the last UTN issue, the purpose of this evening event was to introduce young adults with the various volunteer service ministries and opportunities offered under Franciscan auspices and to establish a core group of young adults who would take the time to be servant leaders and planners for Franciscan service and be willing to be a model YouFra fraternity for the region. So it appears that we may finally have a great advance in our campaign to attract the young people to our order. The three speakers that presented that evening were superb in their presentations on the Franciscan Volunteer Ministry, Franciscan Mission Service and Franciscan Earth Corps. A more detailed article on the highlights of this evening is elsewhere in this UTN issue.

As these and other activities with the youth and young adults develop, I will certainly be talking to you about them.

As always with your continued support, keep our efforts with the young adults and the calling of our young people to our Order in your deepest prayers and devotions.

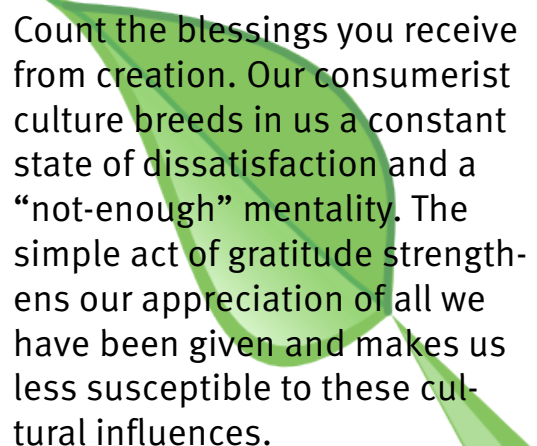
Once again, I mention the Sixth Annual Inquirers' and Candidates' Day of Recollection at the Shrine of Saint Anthony. It is to be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015, starting at 8:30 a.m., with morning refreshments. The cost is \$45 per person, and that includes breakfast refreshments, lunch, and program materials. A registration form for the event will be in this and the next issue of the UTN. The theme will be "Embracing the Leper," which will focus on identifying and addressing the lepers in our own lives. A clergy co-moderator/facilitator is still needed, and we are still open to suggestions and/or offers.

The regional formation team and youth/young adult subcommittee will still come to visit your fraternity (or area) to speak on any topic of formation, or how to establish and sponsor a YouFra fraternity or Franciscan Earth Corps. If you can invite any young adults of ages 18 to about 35 who you feel would be curious about the Franciscan way of life, why not invite them to your fraternity's gathering, and have us show them and your fraternity members a presentation. It can help us in our campaign of providing our young people opportunities to be a part of the workings of our Franciscan family.

Do not forget to look elsewhere also in this UTN issue for the fourth in the series of articles on the Franciscan Youth and Young Adults. As, always, I welcome any questions, comments, or requests.

To all of you, your families, and fraternities, have a happy, healthy, holy, and blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas, and a prosperous New Year!

*Mike Huether, OFS
Regional Formation Director*



Count the blessings you receive from creation. Our consumerist culture breeds in us a constant state of dissatisfaction and a "not-enough" mentality. The simple act of gratitude strengthens our appreciation of all we have been given and makes us less susceptible to these cultural influences.

Franciscan Youth and Young Adults

This is the fourth in a series of articles on Franciscan Youth and Young Adults. We begin with the “Draft Strategic Plan for Franciscan Youth in the United States.” Specifically, we will expound upon the long and short term goals for the National FYA Commission (some of which have already been issued in rough drafts) and goals for regional and local Franciscan Youth and Young Adult Commissions.

LONG TERM GOAL

Within the decade, there will be a national YouFra movement and network of young adults in fraternities that are embracing the Gospel Life, giving life to the Franciscan Charism and organizing themselves enough that the YouFra movement maintains its staying power to continue to mobilize each succeeding generation of young adults the Holy Spirit calls forth.

NATIONAL SHORT-TERM GOALS FOR THE NATIONAL FYA COMMISSION

1. Develop a strategic plan to guide the YouFra movement (draft already issued).
2. Facilitate national networking and communications with regional and local Secular Franciscan YouFra chairs and YouFra members.
3. Train regional and local Secular Franciscans to create, animate and mentor YouFra fraternities.
4. Train YouFra leaders to eventually take over responsibilities for building the basic YouFra organizational infrastructure to foster a perpetual, viable and dynamic YouFra network throughout the United States.
5. Develop a YouFra fraternity handbook (draft already issued).
6. Develop new YouFra initial formation and on-going formation curricula (draft already issued).
7. Disseminate successful models for YouFra fraternities.
8. Host annual regional gatherings for YouFra.

GOALS FOR REGIONAL AND LOCAL FRANCISCAN YOUTH COMMISSIONS

Four categories for goals are: Communication and Outreach, Formation, Structure and Capacity Building, and Events and Activities. These goals can be accomplished by a region, two or more regions, or all regions collaborating together.

YOUFRA COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

The purpose is to identify and attract young adults (ages 18–28+) who are already interested in putting faith into action and are attracted to the examples of Sts. Francis and Clare of Assisi. These young adults are active Catho-

lics already showing early signs of an orientation toward the Franciscan charism and spirituality.

REGIONAL SHORT TERM GOALS

1. Establish a YouFra social marketing and web committee to carry out communications and outreach.
2. Develop a YouFra website and consider its multiple purposes:
 - a. Outreach/publicity to describe YouFra and attract potential YouFra members.
 - b. Communications to connect existing YouFra members and network YouFra fraternities.
 - c. Post and download YouFra and Franciscan resources.
 - d. An outlet for talented YouFra members who want to blog, write or share photos.
3. Recruit and assign a webmaster/manager (volunteer or intern) to monitor and update the website and oversee bloggers and content developers.
4. Develop a digital map to show where existing and emerging YouFra groups are located.
5. Create a directory of contact information of existing YouFra groups and member contact information.
6. Outreach to existing YouFra groups in the United States and connect them to the website.
7. Reach out to young adults especially in the Hispanic, black and African, Native American, Asian, and new immigrant communities
8. Design and attract color poster/brochure/flyer and distribute to parishes. (Keep in mind that young adults do not generally read these brochures or flyers, but others who work with them might.)

FUTURE IDEAS:

- Include a web blog and recruit YouFra bloggers and content developers.
- Link to and make use of existing social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.).
- Include a periodical online journal for YouFra members.
- Create promotional flash videos with music for use on the website and for laptop promotional events.
- Reach out to those who might have contact with young



(See “FYA” on page 5)

("FYVA" from page 4)

adults, such as older family members, campus ministers and parish staff).

- Do YouFra presentations after Masses. (Use a banner and wear OFS/YouFra T-shirts).
- Develop a YouFra T-shirt to be worn to YouFra gatherings or events such as service projects. T-shirts are popular with young adults and could be worn at these events for witness value. Extra supplies of T-shirts can be purchased by newcomer young adults after these events as a memento of the experience. Another T-shirt promotion could be to have a picture taken of attendees wearing the YouFra T-shirt in unusual or remarkable places, and then posting it to the YouFra website.

- Host YouFra webinars and link recordings to webpages.
- Do witness interviews of existing YouFra members for the YouFra website.
- Create a video highlighting a typical gathering for an existing YouFra.
- Write YouFra articles in local newspapers.
- Appear on local television news shows, and radio shows for YouFra interviews.

In the next UTN issue, we will continue with the regional goals for Formation, Structure and Capacity Building, and Events and Activities.

—Mike Huether, Regional Formation Director



("Nominations" from page 1)

- The secretary has the following duties:
 - to compile the official acts of the fraternity and of the council and to assure that they are sent to their respective proper recipients;
 - to see to the updating and preservation of the records and the registers, noting admissions, professions, deaths, withdrawals, and transfers from the fraternity ;
 - to provide for the communication of the more important facts to the various levels and, if appropriate, to provide for their dissemination through the mass media.
- The master of formation has the following duties:
 - to co-ordinate, with the help of the other members of the council, the formative activities of the fraternity;
 - to instruct and enliven the inquirers during the time of initiation, the candidates during the period of initiation formation, and the newly professed;

- to inform the council of the fraternity prior to profession, concerning the suitability of the candidate for a commitment to live according to the Rule.
- The treasurer, or bursar, has the following duties:
 - to guard diligently the contributions received, recording each receipt in the appropriate register, with the date on which it was given, the name of the contributor, or the one from whom it was collected;
 - to record in the same register the items of expense, specifying the date and the purpose, in conformity with the directions of the fraternity council;
 - to render an account of his or her administration to the assembly and to the council of the fraternity according to the norms of the national statutes.

Additionally, the council has three/four regional area council members, representing the minister at fraternal visitations and local elections. The three/four areas are: the Virginia area, the Maryland/Pennsylvania/Delaware area, and the metro DC area.

Mark Your Calendar



December 6 & 7, 2014, 7:30 p.m. – Greccio – Living Nativity. St. Anthony Shrine, Ellicott City, Md. Attendees are requested to bring two dozen cookies.

April 18, 2015 — Sixth Annual Day of Reflection for Inquirers, Candidates and Newly Professed. St. Anthony Shrine, Ellicott City, Md.

January 4, 2015, 4:00 p.m. — Greccio Service. Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (Baynesville/Towson, MD area) Attendees are requested to bring finger foods.

April 25, 2015 — Regional Council Elections. Franciscan Monastery, Washington, D.C.



March 20-22, 2015 — Chapter of Mats. PriestField Retreat Center, PriestField, W.Va.



Where: Priest Field Pastoral Center, 4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV 25430-3742
When: March 20-22, 2015
Who: All Secular Franciscans, including candidates, inquirers and spiritual assistants
Presenter: TBA

REGISTRATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Submit form no later than March 6, 2015
2. Please type or print all information clearly.
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
email: 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: \$243.00 †
- B) Double occupancy room: \$223.00
- C) Single occupancy cabin: \$277.00
- D) Double occupancy cabin: \$252.00
- E) Dormitory: \$179.00

***Please make checks out to St. Margaret of Cortona Region, not to Mary Lou Coffman or to Priest Field. Thank you.**

Please indicate any special needs you have: _____

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

†Select single occupancy only if there is a serious or medical reason. Thank you!

Name of preferred roommate: _____

Amount enclosed with this form \$ _____

Around the Region

RECEIVED AS CANDIDATES

Andrea Bender, St. Thomas More Fraternity, Arlington, Va. (August)

Thomas Bender, St. Thomas More Fraternity, Arlington, Va. (August)

Sita Chakrawarti, St. Thomas More Fraternity, Arlington, Va. (August)

Mary Chandler, St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity, Baltimore, Md.

Michele Dunne, Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity, Washington, D.C.

Wendy Enderson, Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity, Washington, D.C.

Carl Fischer, St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity, Baltimore, Md.

John Handiboe, St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity, Baltimore, Md.

Charlie (Charlene) Heyden, St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity, Baltimore, Md.

Peter Hickman, St. Thomas More Fraternity, Arlington, Va. (August)

Laraine Hofmann, St. Clare Fraternity, Rehoboth Beach, Md.

Jeanne Kerins, St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity, Baltimore, Md.

Boniface Kim, St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity, Baltimore, Md.

Juliana Kim, St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity, Baltimore, Md.

Frank Klem, Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity, Washington, D.C.

Celine Mallonee, St. Clare Fraternity, Rehoboth Beach, Md.

Mark McPherson, St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity, Baltimore, Md.

Jim Mullen, St. Clare Fraternity, Rehoboth Beach, Md.

Thom Partenope, St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity, Baltimore, Md.

Jeri Pierce, St. Clare Fraternity, Rehoboth Beach, Md.

Patricia Riggles, St. Thomas More Fraternity, Arlington, Va. (August)

Charles Schuler, St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity, Baltimore, Md.



Akisha Townsend-Eaton, St. Joseph of Cupertino Fraternity, Baltimore, Md.

Cupertino Candidates: (L – R front row) Mary Chandler, Akisha Townsend-Eaton, Juliana Kim, Jeanne Kerins and Boniface Kim (L – R second row) Mark McPherson, Charles Schuler, John Handiboe, Thom Partenope, Carl Fischer, Charlie (Charlene) Heyden

NEWLY PROFESSED

Gary Burton, ofs, St. Francis of Assisi, Triangle, Va.

Tom Carter, ofs, St. Clare Fraternity, Rehoboth Beach, Md.



Tom Carter, ofs



Cho Christina, Kang Clara, and Jung Susan.

Heung Ren (Christina) Cho, ofs, St. Bonaventure Fraternity, Springfield, Va.

Mong Sook (Susan) Jung, ofs, St. Bonaventure Fraternity

Jee Eun (Clara) Kang, ofs, St. Bonaventure Fraternity



Our Lady Queen of the Angels Fraternity, Lancaster, Penn.: Roberta Stefanow, Kathy Arndt, Sue Rineer, Julie Rasp, Audrey Shadeck, Julie Rasp, Jim Stefanow, Lourdes Morton

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED

Our Lady Queen of the Angels Fraternity, Lancaster, Penn.

Minister: Jim Stefanow, OFS

Vice Minister: Lourdes Morton, OFS

Secretary: Sue Rineer, OFS

Treasurer: Audrey Shadeck, OFS

Formation Director: Julie Rasp, OFS

Councillor: Roberta Stefanow, OFS

Councillor: Kathy Arndt, OFS



Franciscan Youth Day

On October 16, 2014, the first meeting sponsored by the St. Margaret of Cortona region for young adults was held at the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City, Md. Speaking to the gathering of about 10 young adults were representatives from the Franciscan Earth Corps (Rhett Engelking), Franciscan Mission Service (Bridget Higgenbotham), and Franciscan Volunteer Ministry (Katie Sullivan). All the presenters were young adults who told those present of the many ways Franciscans serve those in need, both at home and abroad. From short term service projects to longer term immersion experiences, the Franciscans have places for them to use their youthful energy.

A couple of the young adults have stepped up to start a leadership team that will work on future events, by and for young adults. I am looking forward to a growing number of young adults being introduced to the Franciscan message of living out the Gospel in their daily lives.

Two days earlier, on October 14, the Franciscan Earth Corps led a group of about 15 Hood College (Frederick, Md.) students on a one-day experience at the Catholic Worker House and then to the Garden at the Franciscan Monastery, both in Washington, D.C. There was a lot of positive response to this trip. Comments from Beth O'Malley (Campus Minister at Hood) include the following:

“Wanted you to know we had a good experience in D.C. with the Franciscan Earth Corps. Thank you for helping us to connect and offer our support for the Catholic Worker community in D.C. and the monastery.”



Bridget Higginbotham of FMS presents to the crowd.

“We would like to thank you, and the Dorothy Day Catholic Workers, for being such gracious hosts to our Hood College students and chaperones. When students get an opportunity to experience the deeds that go along with catchy phrases like “environmental justice” and “urban sustainability,” the concepts come alive. Even a day of volunteering can change how people see the world!”

This appears to be the start of a good working relationship between the FEC and the Hood College community. I am also working with the local Catholic church to help rebuild outreach to the Catholic students at Hood. Keep us in prayer!

*Harry Ford, OFS, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity
and member Franciscan Youth Subcommittee*



Websites of Interest

A virtual choir

<http://stjosephcupertino.sfousa.org/music-videos/>

Thank you St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity.

<http://www.churchpop.com/2014/09/06/6-ways-to-turn-your-commute-into-a-daily-retreat/>

<http://www.calltoholiness.us/2014/08/10/terra-patris-a-new-pilgrimage-site/>

<http://www.aleteia.org/en/religion/article/what-is-the-origin-of-the-cross-so-loved-by-st-francis-5865948867198976>

Thank you John Clem

Purchase a Fraternity Register

<http://taupublishing.org/showPage.aspx?pageID=298>

Detroit ruins

<http://www.weather.com/travel/modern-ruins-abandoned-detroit-photos-2013071>

Thank you, Marci Grattan

Rare footage of St. Padre Pio

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nz3s1-aNVRo>

<http://taylormarshall.com/2013/09/padre-pio-a-rare-video-plus-stigmata.html>





Embracing the Leper Franciscan Day of Reflection For Inquirers and Candidates Easter 2015

Saturday, April 18, 2015, 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

St. Francis embraced the leper and found Christ in his heart. Are we willing to do the same? What does this mean to us today? 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: \$45.00 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 complete this form
and return by March 28
with check payable to

St. Margaret or Cortona Region

Send form and payment 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](#)

2014 Annual Chapter

The annual chapter of the St. Margaret of Cortona Region was held on Saturday, November 8, at St. Joseph Parish in Herndon, Va. Twenty-six of the 34 fraternities in the region were represented, as well as the emerging community, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and the newly forming group in Davidsonville, Md. After Morning Prayer, led by Bill Bouffard, Brother Kip Ledger, Mary Simmons and Sheila Solomon, the meeting began.

Highlights of the meeting were:

Patrick conducted a Franciscan game show about facts about Secular Franciscans. There were questions about the size of the order, etc. The bottom line is that we are declining in numbers. He also announced that at the international meeting, a new Minister General was elected: Tibor Kauser of Hungary.

Patrick also spoke about our National Minister's Annual Report. The subjects highlighted were: Spiritual Assistance, Formation, Youth, Outreach/JPIC, Communication, and Vocations.

Brother Kip spoke about the shortage of Spiritual Assistants and listed a number of fraternities that need them. He emphasized that when the ministers request a spiritual assistant, they need to do so from the province to which they are bonded. If the new spiritual assistant is not from that province, it needs the approval of the bonded province.

He then spoke about Blessed John Duns Scotus, whose feast day we were celebrating. He indicated that Duns Scotus was a proponent of free will. He also promoted the theology of the Immaculate Conception, that Mary was conceived without sin. He is one of the most influential Franciscans.

The program to train new spiritual assistants was discussed. The training is done by a team, including Brother Kip, Anne Mulqueen and Deacon Tom Bello. In approximately one year, the first group of new spiritual assistants will have completed their training.

Anne Mulqueen spoke extensively of the Servant Leadership Manual and the essence of Franciscan Servant Leadership. She defined all the items in her presentation in detail, highlighting the tools for individual spiritual growth and provided a PowerPoint handout.

Lisa Gough announced a Greccio service to be held on January 4 (Epiphany) at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Baltimore. It was requested that the fraternities provide refreshments.

After lunch, two presentations were made on the Franciscan Mission Service. Patrick mentioned that this is an important source for young people to learn about service. It can be a transformation by the spirit of Francis.

Laura Rainey spoke about her visit to a mission site in Bolivia that she visited from May 2-11. She considered it a life-changing experience and reported that the Lay Franciscan Missioners live on the margin. She cited examples of their insertion and participation in the lives of the Bolivianos.

The next speaker was Bridget Higgenbotham, a representative of the Franciscan Mission Service. She gave an overview of the programs, and mentioned that next year will be their 25th anniversary and there will be a special commemoration.

Patrick then spoke about regional business. He mentioned the upcoming election on April 25, 2015. He indicated that ministers need to be in attendance in order to vote. If this is not possible, then the vice-minister may vote. If the vice minister cannot attend, a member of the council may be chosen by the council, and a letter to that effect must be presented. He recommended that all fraternities have a copy of the most recent edition of Essential Documents of the Secular Franciscan Order.

There was also mention of the visit by the national vice minister and national spiritual assistant at the 2013 Annual Chapter and the recommendations they made. One was to add a fourth councilor, as our region is the second largest in the country. A draft map has been made delineating the new areas. Also, it was recommended that all travel by councilors be noted for mileage and reimbursement. Another recommendation that was stressed was the extension of the regional ministers meeting over a three day period. Patrick wasn't sure this would be possible because of our financial constraints. There was discussion about workshops just for all the fraternity treasurers, as an example of sharing ideas, etc. Patrick indicated that at the meeting next week (Regional Executive Council), this subject will be discussed further.

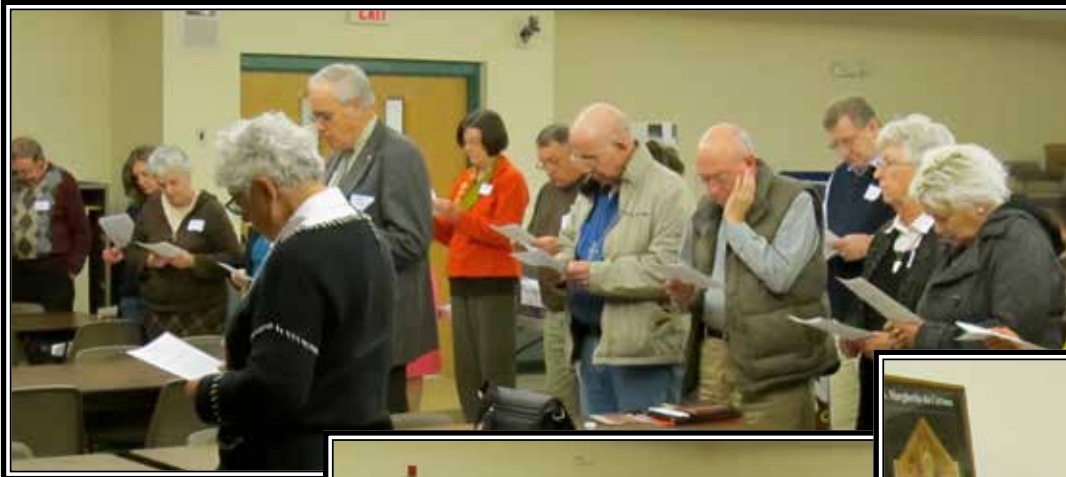
Bill Bouffard talked about his revision to the Guide for Chapter of Elections. Preparation is needed prior to the elections, and he is asking for comments.

The Treasurer's report was given by Mary Lou Coffman. She announced that Priestfield has raised its prices. There were questions about other options. Both Mary Lou and Patrick said they had researched this, and for our requirements, this is the most suitable venue. It is planned to hold the Chapter of Mats at Priestfield from March 20-22, 2015. The subject of the fair share came up again, as ours is the lowest in the country. The budget was then presented, and approved unanimously by voice vote.

Brother Kip gave the blessing, and the meeting was adjourned. We then gathered to remember those members who have passed way, with the remembrance ceremony.

*Teri Egan, ofs
Regional Secretary*

From the 2014 Annual Chapter



Photos by John Clem, ofm

Franciscan Mission Service

30TH CLASS OF LAY MISSIONERS READY FOR SERVICE OVERSEAS

After 14 weeks of training, five lay people under the age of 30 were officially commissioned as Franciscan lay missionaries.

The event took place on Sunday, November 23, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America in Washington, D.C. Fr. Paul Dressler, OFM Cap, celebrated the commissioning mass of our five new lay missionaries on the Feast of Christ the King.

Commissioning this new class is a wonderful way to kick-off our organization's 25th anniversary. We are particularly excited because with this new class we are reestablishing a Franciscan lay presence in Guatemala and Jamaica through new partnerships with the OFM Province of the Immaculate Conception and the OFM St. John the Baptist Province, respectively.

We are also thrilled to have a class of missionaries who are driven by their past experiences to dedicate themselves more fully and deeply to following St. Francis' example of love and service to the poor:

Brandon Newland (Jamaica) - Originally from Wisconsin, Brandon has a master's in international studies with a focus on community development from Oklahoma State University. In addition to spending several years teaching English in South Korea, he spent a summer in a small village in Mexico gaining a deeper understanding of global poverty.

Patrick Montine (Jamaica) - Raised in Seattle, Patrick graduated from Western Washington University where he studied anthropology and teaching English as a second language. He began to appreciate the ministry of presence, a hallmark of Franciscan mission, while on a service trip to Casa Immigrante in Tijuana.

Tom Little (Bolivia) - Tom grew up in Claremont, California and has a degree in crop science from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. His time volunteering at a homeless advocacy group in California helped him appreciate how to share in the lives of those on the margins as St. Francis did.



Amanda Ceraldi (Guatemala) - A native of Maryland, Amanda graduated from the Catholic University of America with a degree in theology and peace and justice studies. Working with kids on a service trip to Potmore, Jamaica, helped her realize the joy, laughter and love that transcended cultures.

Maeve Gallagher (Guatemala) - From the Chicago area, Maeve studied English language and literature at Christendom College. Befriending a girl named Wendy on a mission trip to Honduras helped Maeve learn the universality of friendship and love.

Thank you for keeping these five young lay people in your prayers. To make a donation in support of Class 30, please visit our website: www.franciscanmissionservice.org.

Save the date: The World Care Benefit and Celebration in honor of FMS' 25th anniversary will be Friday, May 1, 2015 in Washington, D.C. During the event former HNP provincial Fr. John O'Connor, OFM, will receive the 10th Annual Anselm Moons Award. The keynote speaker is Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, adviser to Pope Francis.

To see Fr. Paul's homily on the occasion, the theme of which was "When you had the chance, did you choose to love?", go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1xu-SNwyJQ&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=Thanksgiving+-+fr+Paul+homily&utm_campaign=thanksgiving+2014&utm_medium=email.



On September 27, the ministers in the Md./Pa./Del Region met. Regional Spiritual Assistant Anne Mulqueen offered a reflection on "Joy," and Regional Formation Director Mike Huether gave a presentation on YouFra. The ministers had much to take home to their fraternities.

Standing from left: Patrick Tyrrell, Al Gieger, Mary Simmons, Anne Mulqueen, Mike Huether, Dave Artz, Liduvino Medina, Steve Wolfe, Bob Longo. Seated from left: Kate Meire, Kathy Arndt, Sheila Solomon, Donna Willard and (seated on floor) Jeff Topper. Dale Edmunds had to leave before the picture was taken.

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 Secular Franciscan Order
- 18 [Bl. Salome](#), virgin, II Ord.
- 19 [St. Agnes of Assisi](#), virgin, II Ord.
- 25 [Bl. Elizabeth of Reute](#), virgin, III Ord.
Commemoration of all the Deceased of the Franciscan Family (I, II, 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.)
[St. Umile de Bisignano](#), religious, I Ord.
- 28 [St. James of the March](#), priest, I Ord.
- 29 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



Crypt, St. Francis Basilica

- 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 [St. Angela of Foligno](#), religious, III Ord.

- 10 [Bl. Peter Tecelano](#), III Ord.
- 12 [Our Lady of Guadalupe](#)
- 13 [Finding the Body of St. Francis](#)
- 15 [Bl. Mary Frances Schervier](#), virgin, III Ord.



Celebration at Greccio

- 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 Ord.
- 20 [Bl. John Baptist Triquerie](#), priest, martyr, I Ord.
- 23 [St. Maryanne Cope](#), virgin, II 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; 17 tertiaries], I and III Ord.
- 7 [St. Collette of Corbie](#), 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.

The entire Regional Executive Council wishes you a blessed Advent and a holy and joyous Christmas season. Peace and all good to you.

