

April 2007

Apostolic Action Newsletter

Mother Cabrini Region of the Secular Franciscan Order



St. Juliana Fraternity has 9 members in formation

“Even those who are not council members have a job. *Everyone* in the fraternity has a job.”

-Dale Blum, SFO, on the phone March 1st.

Wow! I had the impression that some of our fraternities are nearing the point where there's no choice but to go downhill. I am embarrassed to admit that St. Juliana's was one such in my mind as everyone who has spoken of them has mentioned that it is composed of quite elderly people. **I WAS WRONG!**

I got off the phone with Mrs. Blum with all new positive thoughts in my mind. Nine people in formation! How many fraternities can say that?!? Six will be professed this June.

How do they do it? Here's a beginning: Every member is given brochures and an assignment sheet. Each is to get the brochures to their assigned location.

I'm sure there are many other lessons one can learn from St. Juliana Fraternity, but let us all try to emulate this one action this year. Mrs. Blum also mentioned that she does not give up on the people in formation. If they leave, she keeps asking them to return. “I haven't lost one yet!” she said.

9 in formation! I'm still amazed!

Dates for Apostolate Action

April 22: Earth Day

May 4: May Day: Haymarket anniv.

May 12: Annual Hike for Life

Sept. 15: Its Our River Day

Oct. 4-5 Transitus

Oct. 5-6: Peace Event

News from the Field: Family

Joe Rice, SFO, is our Councilor for Family. Not only does he watch out for interesting articles that can help in this ministry, he has benefitted from the spiritual advise of some of the greatest Franciscan Friars in the Chicagoland area. He has much knowledge to share.

Recently, he wrote to me about an article about Faith Filled Family by Susan Hinly-Brigger. Ms. Brigger mentions that Parents give their children hope. “As Catholics, we are a people of hope. In fact, our faith comes out of the belief that out of tragedy will come triumph. Our faith also has a long history of denouncing violence and working for peace.”

More quotes from Brigger:

“Let your kids talk, because many incidents at school are prevented by kids talking to a confidant adult.”

“Be part of the solution: kids emulate what they see their parents doing. Therefore, set a good example and good impression. Also, let your kids see you working to be apart of the solution.”

As examples from his own life, Joe shared these remembrances:

How my father walked with me on Monday nights from his part-time job at Sears Roebuck & Co when I was about 7 or 8 years old: “How are you?” “How was school today?” “Did you play with the kids on the block?”

His father also called him if he was home sick from school or work. with the flu. “Dad was on commission so on Monday nights, ‘I’ll see you tomorrow night at supper, here come the customers,’ and when I got up for school Dad was gone to work although he went to mass first.”

“My parents were willing to skip their Altar & *cont'd. on p. 2*

Prison Ministries



1 stone = apostolate for the individual

Difficulty Level: easy

This could easily be a fraternity project as well

YOU DO NOT VISIT THE PRISON

Mother's Day Project

Staying in touch can be an insurmountable problem, especially if you do not have sufficient money to purchase paper or stamps. Each Mother's Day, Companions distributes packets containing good quality stationery, postage stamps, envelopes and pens or pencils to incarcerated women, enabling them to write to their children and mothers.

Pat Williams, SFO, has experienced this ministry and explained that the volunteers put together packages of five sheets of paper, five envelopes, five stamps, and a clear pens (no colored barrels on the pens). These are given to inmates so that they can write. For Christmas, cards are given to the inmates.

This simple apostolate makes a huge difference in the lives of the inmates and also of their families.

Contact:

Companions Journeying Together

P.O. Box 457

Western Springs, Illinois 60558-0457

(773) 406-9127

Family, Cont'd from p.1

Rosary Solidarity and/or St. Vincent De Paul meetings if/when I was sick & I could not get along by myself. There are more stories; these examples are very important for parents today, I feel."

Published occasionally by Nancy McKenna, SFO
Councilor for Apostolates,
Mother Cabrini Region

your comments and suggestions are welcome!

The opinions expressed here are my own. I hope you will be encouraged to say a prayer, write a letter, volunteer to help and... make a difference!

Workshop Wrap-Up

The Mother Cabrini Regional Council puts together several workshops per year: The Apostolic Workshop, the Candidates Retreat (which is open to more than the candidates), and the Leadership Workshop. These workshops are **very important!** They are how the region gets information to you - and are an excellent way for you to bring ideas to the attention of each other and to the council.

At the Apostolic Workshop, we had 46 Secular Franciscans from 12 fraternities. This means that 14 fraternities were not represented. The per-person cost was \$16.13 I am bringing the price into the picture because the more people that attend, the lower the cost per person since many costs are for the whole event and are not per-person costs. We do not pay the speakers much money - only a small travel stipend. The Regional Fraternity will not stop the Workshops because of cost. Rather, we expect that **YOU** will take advantage of these opportunities to learn, to share, to grow, and to ultimately take the message of St. Francis to the world.

Please read the SFO News and put the workshop dates on your personal and fraternity calendars. Please plan on attending. If you have members who cannot drive, or cannot afford the requested donations for these events, please act as a fraternity to make the event possible for these members.

The fraternity ministers often have a lot to do. Reading the newsletters is everyone's job.

PEACE EVENT -

Save the Date: Oct. 5 and 6, 2007

The Franciscan Sisters of Joliet and Frankfort are co-sponsoring a **PEACE EVENT** to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Third Order Rule, to take place on Oct 5th at Joliet, IL, and on Oct 6th, in Frankfort, IL. Both days will have keynote presentations by John Dear, SJ along with provision for twenty breakout sessions. All sisters, brothers, and associates are invited to participate.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Hook, OSF at 815-464-3810 or kathleenhook@provenahealth.com or Rose Marie Surwilo, OSF at 815-725-8735

Questions

Q: *How do I get rid of my old pills? Medications getting into groundwater is a problem. The drug store would not take them back, and the fire house would not take them.*

A: Yes, you're right. By flushing the pills down the toilet, they end up in the wastewater system. Our wastewater systems are not able to remove drugs, so these drugs are now showing up in the ground water. The EPA produced a multi-page document on this which, paraphrased, says that these pills are a danger and should be handled as hazardous waste. They should be incinerated in a facility that is made to handle waste such as this. Contact your town or township to find out when and where the next hazardous waste pickup will take place. The Illinois EPA will be sponsoring a pickup at the Schaumburg High School on May 5, and on June 2nd, there will be one at the County complex in Wheaton, 421 County Farm Road. Your fraternity can also sponsor a waste pick up day, call the Illinois EPA for details. 1-800-782-7860

Q: *There are too many people causing global warming. We're in trouble, what can we do?*

A: In about the year 1000, there were hundreds of farms on Greenland. They are being found as the temperature rises and the ice sheets recede. The world temperature dropped a degree and suddenly, these farmers could no longer make a living. The people went from being over six feet tall to about five feet tall with severe bone defects within a generation or two. The Vikings had to leave Greenland for North America and Europe. Temperature fluctuates, and the Earth can correct itself, if we work with it.

Awareness is the first step. I think many people are aware of the problem, now. The next step is to do something. One of the easier steps is to use less oil. Lower the thermostat in your house at night in the winter. Don't use the car for small errands. Carpool (or walk or bike ride if you can). Don't use disposable plastic containers or disposable plastic anything. If you must, then recycle it. Rather than use the plastic bags from the store, use re-usable fabric bags, or bring the bags back for refilling rather than getting new each time. Encourage others to do the same.

Harvest Time

Regional Chairs needed ASAP for Peace & Justice and Work commissions. If you wish to help, I'll need to know 1. what are your interests. 2. what you plan on doing 3. your ideas on getting many people to help you and 4. your goals for the future. The apostolates are not just what we do personally, they are a way of life. They are also to be visible, and are done in community.

Work:

This is the most difficult apostolate, I think. But here is something to think about: 30 year olds worldwide are making significantly less than 50 year olds did when they were 30. Housing costs are spiraling upward. This is a worldwide problem: A recent

French poll showed that only 5% believed young people had a better chance of

succeeding than their parents. In

Ireland, the UK and Spain

where unemployment is

relatively low, adult children

are still at home because of

the lack of affordable

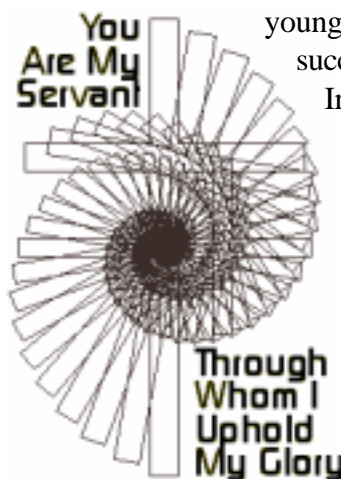
housing. In Italy, 45% of 30

to 34 year olds have not left

home. Work is a gift - and

one that more need to be

able to experience.



Many years ago, when I visited Europe, everyone knew 3 things about Chicagoland: Al Capone was from Chicago, and the Chicago Fire and the Haymarket Riot happened there. The Haymarket Riot was one of many at that time, but is what sparked the international labor movement. Living where we do, we have a unique opportunity to be visible.

Peace and Justice:

This is one of the apostolates where a lot is going on. If you feel called and are ready to do more, let's talk. There are many very active fraternity level peace and justice chairs. I'm sure whomever wishes to take on the regional post will have lots of ideas and helping hands to make a change in the world.

“The future starts today, not tomorrow.”

— John Paul II

Pope: Church Stands are 'non-negotiable'

As noted on page 1, Joe Rice, SFO, had a couple important priests as his spritual advisors. Here, Mr. Rice relates some of these words of wisdom:

“As far as writing about Fr. Albert Nimeth, OFM, here are some of [the words] that I heard him say. On Oct. 21, 1983, I was at St. Augustine’s Friary with Fr. Albert. As we finished he said, “I have food for thought for you:

1. What is your conversation?
2. What did you want to say?
3. What did you say?
4. How did it come out?

I just remembered Fr. Albert saying “If you cannot say anything nice about someone, dont say anything.”

“I was waiting for a 51st Street Bus. Fr. Albert came out of a hardware store, spotted me, and calling ‘Hello’ across the street, he asked if I had a minute. I mentioned I was on my way to St. John of God Church for the Archdiocese Holy Name mass. He said, “It seems like you are going to meetings, do you ever go on Social Events? If everyone was involved in the Church like me, it would be a better world. Join this one Catholic Club. It is up to you, but if you don’t join, you’ll be making a major mistake as people will listen to you, but they will not listen to me because I’m a priest. Therefore, join and bring people back to the Church, or closer to the Church, by your good example.”

Peace & Justice: fair trade



2 stones = apostolate for the fraternity



3 stones = community

Difficulty level: medium, due to planning/scheduling



Fairly traded coffee, tea, cocoa and sugar, from small farmer cooperatives around the world, was donated for our Apostolic Workshop by the Interfaith Program at Equal Exchange, a 100% Fair Trade, worker-owned cooperative. Visit them at <http://www.equalexchange.coop> or contact Daniel & Susan Willenborg, SFO at 815-462-3592 to hear how they are using this program at their parish.

Bologna, Italy: Pope Benedict XVI reasserted the church’s opposition to abortion, euthanasia, and gay marriage, saying Tuesday [March 13, 2007] that Catholic politicians were “especially” obligated to defend the church’s beliefs in their public duties.

“These values are non-negotiable,” the pope wrote in a 130-page “apostolic exhortation,” a distillation of opinion from a worldwide meeting of bishops at the Vatican in 2005.

“Consequently, Catholic politicians and legislators... must feel particularly bound, on the basis of a properly formed conscience, to introduce laws inspired by values grounded in human nature.”

The document released Tuesday repeated in a more comprehensive form postions that the Church has long held. (reprinted from the Chicago Tribune)

Patron Saint of the Internet

The Observation Service for the Internet who drew it’s mission from the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, researched the Internet and related technologies to select a patron saint that best reflects the concerns and ideals of computer designers, programmers and users. The saint chosen by the Observation Service for Internet was **Saint Isidore**. “The saint who wrote the well-known ‘Etymologies’ (a type of dictionary), gave his work a structure akin to that of the database. He began a system of thought known today as ‘flashes;’ it is very modern, notwithstanding the fact it was discovered in the sixth century. Saint Isidore accomplished his work with great coherence: it is complete and its features are complementary in themselves. After selection, the nominated saint is sent to the Vatican’s Congregation of Divine Worship and Discipline. Isidore was declared the saint of the Internet by the Vatican on January 14, 1999. For more infomation on the Internet in our Faith, go to the Vatican website www.vatican.va and search on ‘ethics in internet’.

“Faith cannot be a private matter...”

- Pope John Paul II, Jan. 14, 1999