

September 2007

Apostolic Action Newsletter

Mother Cabrini Region of the Secular Franciscan Order



Secular Franciscan Orders

Many of you know that there are branches of the Secular Franciscan Order in Christian faiths other than Catholic. Representatives of these were at the meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

However, not very many of you realize that there are Secular Franciscan Orders that parallel our SFO *within* the Catholic Church. Just as the Q Conference espoused our discovering the wealth of diversity that is around us in our Church, I believe we should know our brothers and sisters within the Franciscan Family.

Some are private apostolates that can easily be followed as a support for our work as Secular Franciscans. One such is the *Brothers and Sisters of Penance*. You can find information about them at: www.bspenance.org OR there is also the *Confraternity of Penance* at www.penitents.org

You may love Fr. Groeschel on EWTN. What you may not realize is that the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal are the spiritual assistants for the Franciscan Tertiaries of the Immaculate, an order of Secular Franciscans. You may find information at: <http://www.figuadalupe.com:80/tertiaries.asp>

I have asked these groups, and other *Secular Franciscan Orders* within the Catholic Church, to write a paragraph or two about themselves for us so that we may come to know and appreciate our Catholic Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters and the work that they do. This information will be in upcoming newsletters.

Catholic Mother's Exchange - a 2 page, bi-monthly newsletter for Catholic mothers. Faithful to the Magisterium. Suggested donation: \$10/year.
CME Secretary
7725 W. 80th Street
Bridgeview, IL 60455

Ecology: Zero Waste – The Journey to Waste Elimination

from the Toxics Action Network <http://toxicaction.org>



1 stone = apostolate for the individual

Waste is a social, environmental, and public health problem in our country. The production of 1 ton of trash by each American every year translates into an ever increasing challenge to municipalities' waste management departments and an ever increasing threat to the quality of our air, our drinking water, and our quality of life.

The Zero Waste Model provides a solution by shifting the one-use throw-away paradigm of our society to a cyclical pattern of reuse and renewal. The model is gaining popularity internationally, currently taking root from New Zealand to Scotland, from France to California. The key to implementation is the promotion of a close-loop approach to materials and manufacturing – industry must take responsibility for the waste associated with its products, government must set mandates that limit the entrance of virgin materials in the production stream, and consumers must exercise their power and support waste-conscious brands.

The steps toward zero are neither complex nor revolutionary:

- Separate waste, providing multiple-container curbside collection.
- Consider waste audits and pay-as-you-throw strategies.
- Promote the reuse markets: consignment stores and flea markets.
- Compost.
- Use recycling programs to their fullest potential.
- Promote volume source reduction – promote the reduction of packaging materials and the production of more durable products.
- Insist on producer responsibility, encouraging manufacturers to produce only what they will be able to recycle back into future production.

Ecology, Family, Youth, Peace & Justice: Owasippe Scout Reservation



1 stone = apostolate for the individual



2 stones = apostolate for the fraternity



3 stones = community

Environmentalists and those in peace and justice ministries rally against the leveling of the rainforests. They speak up for the indigenous people who utilize that land, even only seasonally. This land is very important - it gives us oxygen. It acts to regulate temperature for the entire earth. A clean watershed makes clean water and clean rivers that feed into our aquifers to give thousands of people clean drinking water. Clean water means viable fisheries and thus food for thousands.

But we're forgetting that northern climate forests and wild areas provide the same critical necessities to the Earth, and to us. Specifically to those of us living close to them. We cannot demand change in developing countries and turn our back on the same problems within our own.

Here in the Chicagoland area, we are inundated with chemicals. Our towns spray tons of dangerous neurotoxins willy-nilly at the faintest hint of a mosquito. We spread dangerous chemicals on lawns. We live with the fumes of thousands, millions, of vehicles and industrial pollutants.

Owasippe Scout Reservation near Whitehall, Michigan has been serving the children of Greater Chicagoland and other councils for 96 years. It is the oldest continuously running camp of this type in the United States. Once, it encompassed as much as 11,000 acres. It is now about 4,800 acres. This is most of watershed for the White River. Except for

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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!

the couple summer months where our youth are allowed to camp there, this area is left untouched to provide all of us with oxygen, clean water, and fish. The week that a young person from Chicagoland spends there may be the only week that they ever breath truly clean air.

This pristine land is being threatened by possibly imminent sale to developers. The loss of this land is as dire as the loss of a similar pristine section of rainforest. But this is here - in our backyard - and is currently serving the acute needs of our children and is only slightly more indirectly serving all of us.

Write to the Chicago Area Council, the Owasippe Staff Association, and the township of Blue Lake, Michigan to ask that this important parcel of land remain as it is. If you can help in any way, I am sure that the Chicago Area Council and the Owasippe Staff Association will be happy to accept your assistance. **PRAY THAT THIS SCOUT RESERVATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE PART OF THE SCOUTING EXPERIENCE.**

More information can be found at:
<http://www.owasippe.net/default2.asp>
<http://ooc.org/default2.asp>

Chicago Area Council, BSA
1218 West Adams, Chicago, Illinois 60607
Telephone: (312) 421-8800

Blue Lake Township
10599 Twin Lake Rd.
Mancelona, Mi 49659

The Owasippe Staff Association
P.O. Box 7097
Westchester, IL 60154

“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

- Aldo Leopold, U.S. Environmentalist

The earth which sustains humanity must not be injured, it must not be destroyed.

- St. Hildegard of Bingen, 1098-1179 AD

Family: Pro Life Vigils



1 stone = apostolate for the individual



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A new Planned Parenthood Abortion Clinic is opening in Naperville/Aurora at 240 N. Oakhurst Drive on September 18th. A daily Vigil is being held. Two and three person shifts are praying at the site 24 hours a day. Please help if you can. Even if you cannot participate at this site, please pray as the community does not want an abortion clinic. For more information call Eric Scheidler at 773-777-2900

But wait! (sadly) there's more...

Monthly Prayer Vigils

September 29th 10:00 AM until Noon. 1567 North Aurora Road, Naperville (repeats monthly) for information, call Steve Obendorf at 630-357-4910

October 6 10:00 until Noon. 14770 LaGrange Road, Orland Park. (repeats monthly) for information, call Bill Beckman at 312-422-9300

Marriage cont'd from column on the right.

year National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage. The simple exhortation to do something for your marriage is the practical advice promoted by the Web site and the entire campaign.

The For Your Marriage Web site, and the TV and radio spots are funded by the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign, which collects money in parishes nationwide to support church media efforts.

For media inquiries, e-mail us at commdept@usccb.org

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Family: Support for Healthy Marriages

WASHINGTON (August 6, 2007)—Putting a modern image on traditional values, the U.S. Catholic bishops recently launched a Web site designed to promote healthy marriages. The Web site which is located on the Internet at www.foryourmarriage.org, can aid couples of all faiths. With everything from daily marriage tips to statistics on divorce and cohabitation, this site is an up-to-date resource.

The For Your Marriage Web site includes resources for everyone, including engaged and married couples, and facts about Catholic marriage. The Web site is designed for a wide and varied audience and is part of larger campaign which includes television public service messages which can be viewed on the site. In just one month, the site has received nearly 500,000 hits with the average visitor viewing 6-12 pages.

The site offers daily marriage tips that suggest simple ways to cultivate a healthy marriage. A link on the home page also gives couples a tool to find Catholic marriage information locally. A monthly marriage quiz can serve as a conversation starter on sensitive issues.

Information on conflict resolution, communication, and financial concerns is posted throughout the Web site. Topics such as intimacy and parenting also are featured. Visitors also can view stories and advice from married couples.

“The Internet has become a crucial means for evangelizing, especially among younger people,” said Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, Chairman of the bishops' Marriage and Family Life Committee. “We hope youth especially will find inspiration and hope at the stroke of a key.”

The contemporary design of the For Your Marriage Web site has versatility and accessibility to enable the Internet to be a medium for evangelization and education.

The For Your Marriage Web site is part of a multi-
cont'd in column to the left.

Work:

1 stone = apostolate for the individual

Fall and Labor day brings to mind going back to school. But there are many parallels between school and work. During the summer, the workplace often becomes more relaxed. After Labor Day, it becomes more serious. People wear more business-like clothes, more formal business-wear. Projects come due. This is a good time to take stock, and improve.

1. School supplies. Assess what you have on and in your desk. Get rid of what you don't use, and stock up on the things you are low on that you use all the time.

2. Education. Does your company offer education benefits? Do they offer informational classes? Now is a great time to look at your experiences and your education and decide what you need to get to the next level or to just make you more productive. Discuss educational goals and benefits with your employer.

3. clothes. Rotate your wardrobe. I noticed that many of the fashions at the big name stores reflect what Jackie O wore as president's wife, but in updated fabrics. If you sew, pull out those old patterns. Reach into the back of your closet, too. Dress for success - wear business clothes, not beach clothes back to work this fall.

4. Fall cleaning. In the process of making room for the new, recycle the old by sending items that are still good to your local school, or to the office/school supply drive that many churches have at this time of year. Do the same with your clothes. Take a bucket and soapy water to your desk as well as to your house this fall. Taking pride in your work area shows your boss you are serious about your work. It reflects pride. And it makes the work area nicer to work in and will help you be more productive.

“Nothing is too wonderful to be true if it be consistent with the laws of nature.”

- Michael Faraday

Work: The less understood apostolate

There is a bumper sticker that says: **Work is a Gift.** It is. It is a gift to have a job, and a gift to be able to offer a job to someone. A job well done is a gift to your employer - and to the world.

The work commission is dedicated to “helping Secular Franciscans and other people of goodwill to discover the Good News in the work we do and the way that it helps us grow in holiness and dignity as we share our gifts with the world.”

But it is not just about the work we do as Franciscans, as a fraternity or in the official capacity as a Franciscan. It is about the work we do as individuals. We all remember the story about Francis going into a town with one of his companions. They went there to spread the Good News. They helped repair, they helped clean, they helped anyone who needed help. At the end, the companion asked when they would start preaching the good news - and the reply was that they did, through their work.

We all have full time jobs. Some of us are raising children. Some are full time volunteers for non-profits. Some are working full time outside the home. Some work in comparative isolation. Others work among a great many people. But we are all seen, working at something.

How is your work-life a statement of your life as a Franciscan? As a faithful Catholic?

As another bumper sticker says, “If someone accused you of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?” If someone saw you at work, would they believe that you are a Christian? A faithful Catholic? A Franciscan? Are you using your time at work as an opportunity to share the Good News through your actions?

We need a Regional Work Councilor. The requirements are not difficult. Contact Nancy McKenna

“... respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which ‘bear the imprint of the most High’ ...”

-Rule of the SFO, article 18