

OFS News

Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order

www.ilsfo.org

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Minister's Message

By Vickie Klick, OFS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this, it's still technically spring – tomorrow is the first day of summer. However, solstice aside, we're well into summer. I hope you are able to take advantage of the long days and warm weather to enjoy being outdoors, especially out in nature, and finding time to relax with friends and family. Many of our fraternities have picnics during the summer months; if yours is one of them, lucky you!

With vacations, reunions, and other special summer events, there are more reasons than usual for missing our monthly fraternity meetings. As you seek a balance in your life, please do consider that your presence at your fraternity meeting is even more appreciated when numbers are low, and attend if you reasonably can. Also, if you won't be there, always let your minister (or someone else on the council) know. That keeps you connected with the fraternity and helps avoid having people worry about you unnecessarily. (If needed, they will also pray for you and that is ALWAYS good!)

Summer is a good time to consider some alternative activities with your fraternity sisters and brothers. It's always good to get together at times other than fraternity meetings, and if you are away at the regular meeting time, you can "catch up" by doing something else during the month. Maybe some of you could take a road trip to one of the nearby shrines, such as Holy Hill in Wisconsin or the Shrine of Christ's Passion in Indiana. For those who don't mind driving long distances, remember that this is a gift to be shared, and a service to your fellow members who aren't able to drive so far, or don't enjoy it. As 1 Peter 4:10 says, "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace

." If it's easy for you, don't assume it's easy for everyone else, and don't feel bad if something that's hard for you is easy for someone else – be glad that we have those varied gifts and can make up what each other lacks!

Another possibility is to find a service project. Franciscan Outreach is looking for volunteers during the summer months, and many organizations are short of volunteers during the summer. If even a few of you can find a convenient time and task, you can grow together by serving others.

Finally, for many people the summer is a good time to read. If some of you can decide on a book to read, that can be a good reason to get together for a pleasant discussion (maybe on the deck, with beverages of your choice). Several people in my fraternity have been reading and discussing the book *15 Days of Prayer with Saint Francis of Assisi* by Thaddée Matura, OFM. Of course, the discussion takes many detours along the way – and so it should be; it's more important that we share our faith and strengthen each other with our experiences than that we get through a book in a set period of time!

There are many other reasons you can come up with to get a group together (a sewing or craft project, performing music, attending a special event, etc.) What really matters is being together and sharing experiences. I hope you have the opportunity to do that this summer.

Peace and blessings, Vickie 

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The *OFS News* is the official publication of the Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Submission deadline is the
20th of each month.

CALENDAR

Unless otherwise indicated, all events are at Mayslake Village (Oak Brook).

- **Election & Visitation dates subject to change. (E=Election/V=Visitation)**

January

- 12: Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m. (transition meeting)

February

- 03: St. Bernardine of Siena Fraternity (E)
- 17: St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity (E)

March

- 01: Fair Share, Census, and Annual Reports due
- 10: St. Anthony of Padua, Joliet (V)
- 16: Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 17: St. Anthony of Padua, East Side(V)

April

- 7: St. Francis St. Louis Fraternity (E)

May

- 18: Chapter of Ministers , Mayslake

June

July

- 13: Council Meeting,, 9:30 a.m.
- 21: St. Francis Assisi Fraternity, Algonquin (E)
- 27: St. Anthony of Padua, Rockford (E)
- 28: St. Anthony of Padua, Oak Lawn(V)

August

- 03: Regional Gathering, Feast of the Portiuncula

September

- 14: St. Anthony of Padua, Joliet (E)
- 25: San Damiano Fraternity(E)
- 28: Study Day/Leadership Workshop

October

- 05: Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 06: Living Water Korean Fraternity (E)
- 15: Brother Jacoba Community (E)
- 12-20: NAFRA Meeting – Denver, CO
- 27: St. Francis of Assisi , Steger (E)

November

- 17: Mother Cabrini Feast Day Celebration

Spiritual Assistant’s Message

By Br. Joe Middleton, OFM

SFO/OSF News July 2013

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I send you officially and truly, warm Summer Greetings with the hope that you are thriving out there in your happy Franciscan lives. Don’t you just love being Franciscan, especially in the summertime? I sure do for a thousand reasons, not to mention all the things we can do and the places we can go. At the top of the list of special events might be the 5th Summer Seminar for the OSF at St. Francis University in Loretto, Pa. July 5 – 7 (any day now). The topic of this national gathering is “Finding Our History” that will deal with the modern history of the SFO in the United States featuring the great works of Bill Wicks, ofsf, our former national minister and historian. Then another activity could be a satisfying *staycation* that might include a good summer read like Fr. Lester Bach’s new book “What it takes” which I am told would be appropriate for individuals or for group ongoing formation. I just ordered two copies today from Smokey Valley Printing (see your latest TAU-USA).

Another summer idea for use in or near Chicago might be a visit to the National Shrine of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini at 2520 North Lakeview Avenue just off of W. Fullerton Parkway. Last weekend the St. Francis – St. Louis fraternity of St. Peters church in the loop hosted a day of prayer and reflection there for about thirty or so secular Franciscans

While there we were given wonderful insights in to our regional patroness Mother Cabrini’s life and mission which was charming as well as insightful. She was led by God to serve the church of her time and to show us all the noble example and model for us to aspire to as we seek righteousness and communion with God, and to each other.

Another interesting and relevant part of her history is the Chicago connection to Mother Cabrini. And then there is another point of interest there at that site that is the beautiful Chapel there and the evolution of this Chicago architectural treasure. The Chapel and the recently completed shrine surroundings have very recently reopened after a very careful restoration. The art and architecture are worthy of our attention. It was a very good place for our gathering and I can’t say more than how sweet, holy, and beautiful it was. We will return.

I send you my warmest summer wishes,

Your Brother, Joe 

In Memoriam:

Fred Baier died on June 5 at the age of 101!

Dorothy Adelman on March 6, 2013. She was 94. St. Anthony Fraternity in Joliet was blessed to have these two beautiful Franciscan spirits that spent their entire lives living the Gospel of our Lord.

Belle Vasquez, of St Bernardine of Siena Fraternity passed away on May 27th.

Gene Alfonsin died on May 13, 2013, and Paul Obenauf, died on June 7, 2013, both from St Maximillian Kolbe Fraternity.

May they all rest in the Peace of Christ.

Pilgrimage to Assisi for the Feast of St Francis

Join **Fr. Chuck Faso, OFM** and **Kieran Lyons** on a pilgrimage to Rome, Cascia (St Rita), Assisi for the Transitus & Feast of St Francis, Siena, San Gimmignano, and Florence.

Date: September 29-October 8, 2013

Contact: Fr. Chuck (773-844-1267) or Kieran Lyons (773-580-3220) or TWT Trans World Travel in Highland Park IL, (847-432-2400)

In-Formation – Regional Formation Council

The Franciscan View of Creation

About two decades ago, I became interested in astronomy and stargazing. I don't think I qualified as an "amateur astronomer," but I did spend many hours looking at stars and galaxies, and reading about what I saw. However, my astronomy venture lasted only 4-5 years as more of my time was taken up by a new job and a more demanding workload. But I learned from that experience to "look up" and appreciate the sun, moon, stars, galaxies, and to have some understanding of time-space, relativity, movements of the universe and evolution. Also, my wife had tutored me for years on how to "look around" and appreciate nature in all its glory. So before I ever became Franciscan, I did appreciate the material aspects of nature and creation. But integrating the spiritual with the material would come later.

Each Sunday, as we recite the first line of the Nicene Creed, we acknowledge our belief in God the Father as maker (Creator) of heaven and earth, and all things visible and invisible. We have repeated the line so many times, it has become routine. And for many, it is no longer as awe-inspiring as it may have been hundreds of years ago when people "looked up and around" and saw the work of God. Many writers emphasize that Creation is really the first book of revelation, and the Bible is second. St. Bonaventure saw the world as a book in which the Creator, the Trinity, shines forth and is revealed through trace, image and likeness. But since the Reformation, Christianity has put the Book of Creation on the shelf and seldom refers to it, even though there are continual revisions as scientists learn more about both the macro and micro levels of creation. Elizabeth Johnson, in her 1996 address to the Catholic Theological Society of America, criticized the theological profession for ignoring God's good creation in its thinking, and treating the world as no more than a stage on which salvation history is played out. But if the world is a stage, it is a moving and evolving stage, and we are in it, not on it. Thomas Merton describes the movements of the cosmos as God's general dance, and he writes "we are in the midst of it, and it is in the midst of us, for it beats in our very blood, whether we want it to or not." (New Seeds of Contemplation, p. 297).

Recognizing and gratefully accepting the gift of God's good creation has always been and continues to be a pillar of our Franciscan spiritual tradition. So perhaps, we Franciscans have a role to play in helping to repair the spirituality of the Christian house. Of course, the Franciscan tradition begins with Francis of Assisi. According to St. Bonaventure, Francis was able to see that all of God's creation is "good," and that all things exist in God, a contemplative vision that Bonaventure called "contuition." The *Canticum of Creatures*, which Francis wrote two years before his death and when nearly blind, reflects Francis' mature vision and recognition that all created things, human and non-human, have the same Father and Creator. St. Bonaventure and Bl. John Duns Scotus extended the Franciscan tradition by expanding upon Francis' insights and the tradition continues through present-day Franciscan theologians. At the risk of oversimplifying, let me conclude by summarizing the basic tenets of our tradition. Future articles will discuss the details and implications.

- 1) Creation, which is still evolving and groaning, flows forth from the infinite love of God, the Trinity. All creation is good, sacramental, and holy. And the entire cosmos might be thought of as the house or body of God.
- 2) As Francis recognized, all created things, human and non-human, have the same Father and Creator. Therefore we are all family, and are brother and sister to each other and to Christ. And each created being deserves to be treated with respect and dignity.
- 3) We live in a Christ-centered world and universe. Christ, the "first-born" of all creation, is the exemplar or model for all creation. God creates everything through the Son (the Word, the Christ) and each created thing, human and non-human, is unique and is being/doing Christ in its own unique way. Therefore, to live is Christ.
- 4) Not only are all things created through and in Christ, but for Christ. Creation is and was made for the incarnation, and God became human, not because of sin, but because of God's infinite love. With our help, creation will become more Christ-conscious and eventually the world and universe will have the fullness of Christ. **¶**

AN EASY WAY TO BE AN ACTIVIST:

FILING WITNESS SLIPS FOR BILLS IN ILLINOIS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY StephenLanterman, OFS,

JPIC Councilor



Recently I participated as a witness in testimony before the Illinois Senate Committee on Criminal Law; and did not even have to place a telephone call or drive to Springfield. It was easy, yet meaningful. I learned a lot. Here is how you can, too!

As explained by the Legislative and Policy Committee of the County Assessment Officers Association of Illinois, a Witness Slip is a person or group's position on a particular bill. It can be filed by individuals on behalf of themselves, or on behalf of organizations. A Witness Slip can be filed for any bill scheduled for a hearing in the Illinois Senate or House Committee, during the week prior to the hearing taking place. A Witness Slip can be filed electronically at www.ilga.gov by selecting the ILGA Dashboard Link in the upper left hand corner and following the subsequent directions. An easy to follow powerpoint of the process is available by typing in "presentation filing witness slips" in the search box of the home page of www.countyofkane.org.

The Bill for which I placed my name on record on behalf of the Secular Franciscans as JPIC Councilor was HB 1063, to amend the criminal code in the State of Illinois to provide for the prosecution for any sex offense of a minor under 18 (including sexual trafficking) at any time.

It provides that an adult victim who remembers or discovers their childhood sexual trauma in adulthood may initiate its prosecution within one year of their adult discovery. This will greatly help those traumatized victims whose fear and childhood vulnerability precluded their self-defense in childhood. The Bill will hold perpetrators and institutions (like the Catholic Church) more accountable for a time far more reasonable than a mere three years after the commission of the crime itself when it was perpetrated in the victim's youth. Also supporting the Bill is S.N.A.P—Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests. Please contact me with your comments or concerns. 

Please Pray For:

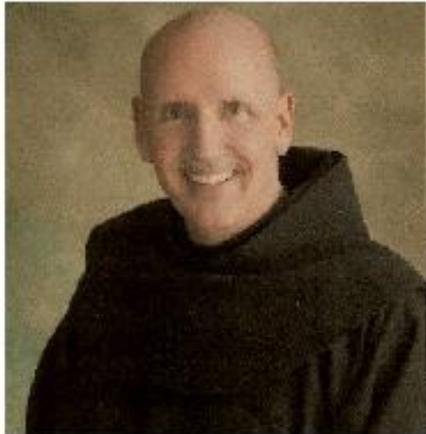
Muriel Baum OFS, of the St. Maximillian Kolbe Fraternity, for a medical condition requiring urgent prayer.

*A MORNING WITH FR. ED SHEA, OFM
"The Four Commandments of Contentment"*

Do you want to be happy for the rest of your life?

Are you practicing these four commandments?

What exactly are these four commandments?



Allow Father Ed to
rejuvenate your spirit
through his beautiful gift
of storytelling and song
as he shares with us
*"The Four Command-
ments
of Contentment"*

Saturday, July 27, 2013

Timber Creek Inn and Suites Convention Center

3300 Drew Avenue, Sandwich, Illinois, 60548

This morning is for everyone... and bring friends too!

8:15 Registration/Continental Breakfast

9:00 Morning Prayer/Introduction

12:00 Liturgy

Please register by July 17, 2013

\$25 registration fee

Contact Le Anne Tjelle 630-553-5922 email : mjtjell@cbcast.com