

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,

I hope that summer has brought you opportunities to enjoy relaxation, family, and friends, including our Franciscan family.

If you are reading this before our August Gathering, please make an effort to attend, and bring a dish to share for lunch. It will be a special event celebrating the ethnic diversity of our region, and should be a great time.

Please also mark your calendars for the Regional Study Day and Leadership Workshop on Saturday, September 28. Fr. Bob Hutmacher, OFM, will speak to us on the documents of Vatican II related to the role of the laity.

As we conclude the Year of Faith, this is a very relevant and important topic. If you are currently serving on your fraternity council, or might serve in the future, please plan to stay for the breakout sessions at the end of the day for ministers/vice ministers, formation directors, and treasurers. Even if your role isn't specifically included, please join us!

One of the parts of our Rule that is most meaningful to me is the direction to go from Gospel to life and from life to the Gospel. Reading the Bible with the expectation that God is speaking to me personally through it changes everything! It certainly provides ample opportunity for conversion. I want to share one such experience with you this month.

We recently heard the parable of the Good Samaritan at Sunday Mass. That reading contains a phrase that has been stuck in my mind for a while now: "because he wished to justify himself, he said..." In going from Gospel to life and from life to the Gospel, I've started realizing how often I say things because I want to justify myself.

It's human to want to be right. When we are told, "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect," it seems as though God wants us to be right, too.

Justifying ourselves, unfortunately, isn't the same thing as being right. Sometimes it's deciding after the fact that whatever we did must have been right, because we did it; sometimes it's finding reasons beforehand to defend what we've already decided we're going to do. It gets worse when we make ourselves right by making someone else wrong. Sometimes it's easier to draw attention away from our own deficiencies by pointing out the failings of others. (As good Christians and Franciscans, we never do this, right? Yeah...right.)

Since my attention has been drawn to this phrase, I know that it's an opportunity for conversion for me. Can I keep my mouth shut when what I'm about to say is only an attempt to justify myself? Can I let my actions stand on their own merits (or lack thereof)? All I can say is that it seems as though learning to let some things go without trying to be right is an improvement for the relationships in my life, and that's encouragement enough to keep trying.

May God nudge you – gently! – in the area where he wants you to become more perfect at this time. May your life with your brothers and sisters in fraternity provide you opportunities both to hear God's voice more clearly and to practice those good habits that God is encouraging in us all.

Peace and all good... VickiePeace 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

Brother Joe is on vacation this month...

A Franciscan Celebration:

The Mother Cabrini Region of the Secular Franciscan Order’s Annual Portiuncula Celebration - Saturday August 3rd at Mayslake Village

Come celebrate the vibrant ethnic diversity found in our region

The day begins with registration at 8:30 followed by a life-giving multilingual celebration of The Mass at 9:00 o’clock presided over by Fr. Ed Shea, OFM and Fr. James Hwang, OFM in the chapel there.

Following Mass we will move to the auditorium for the remainder of the day. We will begin with a simple continental breakfast followed by Fr. Ed Shea’s first Conference at 10:30.

Lunch: One of the most exciting elements of culture is the wondrous variety of ethnic food. Today’s pot luck luncheon will be a great example the ethnic diversity in our region. Each person or group is asked to please bring a generous contribution from their ethnic background to share with your brothers and sisters. If you do, we should have a world class feast to enjoy and to nourish our bodies and spirits.

After lunch Fr. Ed will have one more conference for us to wrap up his lively presentation for us that day.

Then finally, we are still in the planning stages for one more piece of ethnic diversity in the form of entertainment. These details of this part of the program are incomplete at this time but soon will be resolved favorably we hope.

This very special event will be one of the highlights of our regions rich annual calendar of activities and should not be missed. The Portiuncula Celebration should conclude around 3:30 with warm hearts for everyone. 

Save the Date:

Please join us at our annual Open House, hosted by the Young Professionals Board on August 24, 2013 from 11 am-2 pm.

Enjoy complimentary light food and drinks while learning more about FO and touring the Marquard Center. Saturday, August 24, 11am - 2pm.

OFS member uses musical skills to honor St. Anthony in a concert that he created for all those at St. Peter’s, June 19 -

George Tarasuk is a member of the San Damiano Fraternity of Secular Franciscans which meet here at St. Peter’s in the Loop. He has been an organist and choirmaster in the Chicagoland area for the past 25 years. During this time he spent 14 years at Our Lady’s Chapel at Mayslake Village in OakBrook.

He currently plays at All Saints Anglican Church in Bolingbrook, Illinois. George holds a BA/Music and an MBA from DePaul University.

He is an active member and former Dean of the Southwest Suburban Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. By day, George works as a network administrator for the Illinois Arts Council Agency. He and his family live in west-suburban LaGrange Park.

Pilgrimage to Assisi for the Feast of St Francis

Join **Fr. Chuck Faso, OFM** and **Kieran Lyons** on a pilgrimageto 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

In-Formation

By Sr. Marilyn Renninger, OSF
Regional Formation Commission

Even though the month of August has several Feast Days, my Franciscan mind automatically thinks of two, the Feast of the Portiuncula, August 2, and the Feast of St. Clare, August 11. August is also a time when some Third Order Regular Franciscan Communities gather all their members together for Community Days. One of those Communities is mine. Therefore, I am usually unable to (even though I want to and would if I could) join you all for the Regional Gathering at Mayslake on the Saturday near the Feast of the Portiuncula. May you celebrate big time.

Now for a little review of Franciscan history - the Portiuncula (small portion) refers to the land in Assisi, Italy, that belonged to the Benedictines. On this land was an old church dedicated to the Virgin Mother of God but abandoned. Francis had a great devotion to Mary and was especially fond of this little chapel. When he saw that it was deserted, he began to live there and repair it. He heard that the angels often visited it, so it was called St. Mary of the Angels.

In order to remain faithful to Lady Poverty, Francis did not accept the church as a gift from the Benedictines but rented it with the annual compensation of a basket of fish. Francis made this place the heart and center of the Franciscan Order. It was here that the Order had its beginning; here that Clare consecrated her life to God; and it was here that Francis died commending this spot above all others to the friars.

Francis was told in a vision of Our Lady, surrounded by angels that a special pardon, a plenary indulgence, would be obtained for the dead as often as a person would visit the chapel of St. Mary of the angels on August 2

This indulgence was then granted by Pope Honorius III and extended to all churches belonging to the Franciscan Orders. I read that this privilege now is from noon on August 1 until midnight on August 2. The usual conditions must be met.

Let us in a special way honor Mary, Queen of Angels, as we celebrate this Franciscan Feast, August 2.

Another great Franciscan feast in August is the Feast of St. Clare. One thing that comes to my mind when I think of Clare is relationships. Clare had a special relationship with Francis and with God. We know how relationships develop - over time spent together conversing and listening. Clare spent much time conversing and listening to God. As Franciscans we are called to keep the gospel central and prioritize our relationship with God. Communication is the key to having a deep relationship with God.

I suggest that during the month of August we spend time with Clare's letters to Agnes of Prague especially her third letter to Agnes and take to heart her message "look into that mirror (Christ) daily and study well your reflection," This was Clare's form of conversing and listening to God: gaze, consider, contemplate, and then imitate.

The Feast of St. Clare, August 11, falls on a Sunday this year. As we prayerfully celebrate her feast let us resolve to prioritize our relationship with God by spending more time conversing and listening to God. In the words of St. Clare I pray, "May God always be with you, and may you always be with God." 

The St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity (Algonquin) is happy to announce the profession of two new members on Sunday, June 30; Catherine Bondi and Joan Boyum.

JPIC-A Religious Crisis

By Nick Noe OFS, Regional Formation Director

“We are losing the attitude of wonder, contemplation, listening to creation. The implications of living in a horizontal manner is that we have moved away from God; we no longer read His signs.” (Pope Francis I, June 5, 2013, World Environment Day)

A few weeks ago, I attended a presentation on climate change, or as it sometimes called “climate disruption.” Much of the presentation consisted of a series of slides (probably over 100) that showed the dramatic effects of the most severe natural disasters, such as hurricanes, tornados, floods, wildfires, droughts, and melting glaciers, that occurred world-wide over the last two years.

The presentation was narrated by a minister from a small Christian church and he gave a very effective talk. His knowledge of the subject was evident from the way he described the startling images on the screen and made projections about what we will face in the future.

Of course, one, or even several, severe disasters, or heat waves, does not prove climate disruption is at work. But scientists have proven the frequency and severity of these disasters in the last several years are far beyond predictable levels and are the result of climate change. Climate change is a reality and almost all scientists (98%) agree it is not only a reality, but is caused by human activity. The primary culprit is our burning of fossil fuels in plants, cars, and elsewhere, which raises carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. Higher levels of carbon dioxide raises the temperature of the atmosphere, which causes the kind of climate disruptions shown on the slides. Scientists disagree on the maximum level of carbon dioxide and temperature increases that can be tolerated by the earth and its inhabitants, but we have either passed that level or are rapidly approaching it. And if significant action isn’t taken quickly by countries and individuals, the climatic effects may be possibly irreversible.

Although it was a good presentation, I felt something was missing. Finally, during the question and answer period, someone asked, “isn’t there a spiritual dimension to this?” The minister said “yes,” but he said he covered that in another talk he gives on our “consumer society.”

It was not the answer I expected to hear. Certainly, it cannot be denied, the environmental crisis we are beginning to address is due to over-consumption and distorted patterns of consumption, especially by the Western World. And it not just our over-consumption of fossil fuels, it’s our over-consumption of almost everything. If the rest of world consumed as Americans do, the earth would have to be five times larger than it is. And that doesn’t consider that the world’s population is projected to grow from the current 7 billion to 9 billion by the year 2050.

The answer I expected to hear from the minister was “yes, our environmental crisis is in no small part a religious crisis.” Why is it a religious crisis? Because our vertical relationship with God and our horizontal relationships with nature and creation are both broken (hopefully this not true for Franciscans). As Pope Francis stated on World Environment Day, “we have moved away from God...and no longer we read His signs.” We seem to have forgotten the earth and creation is God’s loving gift, a gift which is still being given to sustain us and not to be exploited. And it seems in our relationships with nature and creation, the attitudes of “domination and subjection” still seem to prevail over attitudes of stewardship, respect, and care for creation. As Article 18 of our Rule states, we are to respect all creation and “strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation t It was not the answer I expected to hear. Certainly, it cannot be denied, the environmental crisis we are beginning to address is due to over-consumption and distorted patterns of consumption, especially by the Western World.o the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.” **T**

Please Pray For:

Muriel Baum OFS, of the St. Maximillian Kolbe Fraternity, as she heals from a medical condition requiring prayer.