

Minister's Message

Dear brothers and sisters,

I must start my article this month with the sad news that our former Councilor for Visitations, Muriel Baum, has died. She was forced to resign from the REC just over two years ago due to the health issues that finally took her life. Four members of her fraternity, St. Maximilian Kolbe, visited her at her family's home in Maryland a few weeks before she died. THAT is fraternal love! Muriel was a very special person, and I join her family, friends, and especially her fraternity in mourning her passing.

As I thought about what to write this month, a couple of snatches of Scripture came to me. Here they are in more complete form (searching online makes this SO much easier):

Be patient, therefore, brothers [and sisters], until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Indeed we call blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of the perseverance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, because "the Lord is compassionate and merciful". (James 7-8a, 11, NABRE)

I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the Lord! (Psalm 27:13-14, NABRE)

I am generally not a patient person, and that's not always a bad thing. We don't need to put up with a lot of things - they can be improved instead! However, these passages speak to me of the patience of enduring the current situation until the Lord is pleased to make the way - or even the next step - clear. That is a patience that I've learned out of necessity, and as in so many things, it gets easier with practice. To me, this kind of waiting is not passively sitting in God's waiting room. It is wing up" to do what you can with what God

put before you, whether it is boring, unpleasant, something you'd rather not do, or worse. It is trusting that, as the Psalm above says, if I hang in there, I will see the Lord's goodness. I find myself calling this "patient perseverance" rather than "patience" because I can relate more to "perseverance" as action. Another active component of this patient perseverance is watching for the Lord's goodness in the present situation. It will be there! Sometimes I've been able to recognize the gift when it is given; more often it is clear in hindsight. A spiritual director can be very helpful in seeing how God is working in our lives, and of course, our brothers and sisters in fraternity can help us see God's work as well.

Our Franciscan charism helps us to see God's presence in all things, and to me that is one of the great gifts of our vocation. We have confidence that God does have a purpose and makes "all things work for good" (cf Romans 8:28), even if we can't see how.

Finally, we need to be alert for when God is giving us the opportunity to move on. I love the joke about the man trapped on a roof during a flood, who refuses to go in two boats and a helicopter because he is trusting that God will save him. When he drowns and goes to heaven, he asks God why he didn't rescue him, and God tells him, "I sent you two boats and a helicopter - what more did you want?" We must be watchful and ready to act when the time is right, and be willing to wait until that time comes. As I mentioned in last month's article, this summer I've celebrated 35 years of marriage, 35 years at my company, and 30 years of profession. Of course, reaching all of those milestones has required some of this patient perseverance. I pray that all of us may be patient as God sends the "rain" that causes the seed He has planted in us to grow and bear fruit, and persevere with courage and confidence that we shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. **T**

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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.

REGIONAL CALENDAR 2015

All events are at Mayslake Village
unless otherwise noted

~~Saturday, January 17
Regional Executive Council
Meeting~~

~~Monday, March 2
Per Capita/Census/Fraternity Annual
Reports due~~

~~Saturday, March 21
Regional Executive Council
Meeting~~

~~Sunday, April 5—Easter~~

~~Sat./Sun., April 11-12—
Candidates Retreat (tentative)~~

~~Saturday, May 16—
Chapter of Ministers~~

~~Thursday-Sunday, July 9-12
Summer Seminar—Loretto, PA; topic
“Servant Leadership”s~~

~~Saturday, July 18—
Regional Executive Council
Meeting~~

Saturday, August 1
Regional Gathering – Feast of the
Portiuncula

Saturday, September 19
Formation/Leadership Workshop

Saturday, October 3
Regional Executive Council
Meeting

October 13-18
NAFRA Chapter/Chapter of Elections,
Clinton, NJ

Sunday, November 15
Mother Cabrini Feast Day
Celebration location TBA

Saturday, December 5
Regional Chapter of Elections



Spiritual Assistant's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This month I am sending you a section of an article that I am working on for St. Peter's church bulletin about the Secular Franciscan Order.

Presenting! The Brothers and Sisters of Penance; The Secular Franciscan Order

Any time one looks at or examines anything Franciscan it is wise to look first at St. Francis himself, and not just a point or a particular event in his story but the whole story and the wonderful way it came about, how he evolved. Other things to consider are the historical context of his times, the state of the church in his day, the wide variety of influences in his life, and we must always remember in whose footsteps he ultimately followed. After all that we can recognize and understand how profoundly he influenced so many people at his time as well as all that has happened in the last 800 plus years. Of course we know how God gave him brothers from the beginning; the first order was born and grew into three branches, each following a rule written by St. Francis and approved by the church.

We know also the story of The Lady Clare who radically changed her life to follow Francis' dream as a model for a contemplative community of women that she would form with poverty as an essential and central element. The Poor Ladies known today as Poor Clares are called to live simply, devoted to profound experiences of Prayer and Contemplation. This they do within an enclosed community setting with a rule that St. Clare struggled to have approved. The second order was born and these faithful Franciscan women have prayed for us and for the whole world from the beginning which gives me great comfort. The second order was born and these faithful Franciscan women have prayed for us and for the whole

World from the beginning, which gives me great comfort. Now, on to the story of the brothers and sisters of penance who most people don't fully understand or even know about, but it's a wonderful story. It begins in response to the evangelizing actions of our emerging saint, our father Francis, the holy man of Assisi. Just as Francis' first order immediately began to attract new brothers and the poor ladies of the second order also quickly drew in many new sisters, so too there was an interest among the laity in developing organized fraternities so that they might commit their lives to following the Franciscan Spirit in their secular state. Often time's whole communities were passionately swept up in thrilling acts of conversion as well as enlivening their celebrations of liturgical events which were open to include a place for everyone. They developed, like Francis showed them, a commitment to serving the needs of the poor and marginalized little ones. The evolution of their Rule is a most interesting story. The first direction established for the lay Franciscans was Francis' groundbreaking Admonitions. Then Francis's advisor and confidant and Cardinal protector of the friars Pope Gregory IX, formerly Cardinal Hugolino composed statutes which served as legal guidelines for the third order known as 'Memorial of the manner of life of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance living in their own homes' aka "Memoriale Propositi". This stayed in effect until 1289 when Pope Nicolas IV, formerly Jerome of Ascoloi who was Bonaventure's successor as Minister General of the order became the first Franciscan Pope in 1288. In response to the collective longing of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance for a "Rule" that would confirm their official status as an order of penance of the Church founded by Francis of Assisi. He obliged them by giving them a more Franciscan Rule in August of 1289 known as "Supra Montem" which stayed in effect (cont. below)

In-Formation

The MARY month of August!

With 3 feast days of the Blessed Mother this month, we could also call August, along with May, a month of Mary.

Let's begin with a focus on Article 9 of our Holy Rule: The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.

On August 2nd we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula. In our Mother Cabrini Region, we gather as a Franciscan family to celebrate this feast on the Saturday closest to August 2nd. We begin with Mass, followed by breakfast and on going formation and luncheon which is our major social time to visit with each other and catch up on what is new since "I last saw you!" It is always a joy filled day as we continue into the afternoon.

It occurs to me that this is a feast of forgiveness as well. We know of the Portiuncula Indulgence which is obtained under the usual conditions. So, while we beg God the indulgence for the forgiveness of our sins, it is good to take some time to reflect on whether there is someone we need to forgive or from whom we need to ask forgiveness. From God, forgiveness is the remission of sin. God loves us and forgives us.

Articles 12 and 13 of our Rule point the way "...they should set themselves free to love good and their brothers and sisters." "As the Father sees in every person the features of His Son..."

Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ. Reflecting on these articles of the Rule, help us to forgive and seek forgiveness.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - August 15th and Queenship of Mary, August 22nd.

We look at these two feast days which occur a week apart because they are closely related.

This feasts would be a good time to pray our Franciscan Crown Rosary, since the 7th Joy reflects on these two events.

Our Lady, assumed into heaven sits before the throne of God to intercede for us. She has shown us the way to heaven: humble servant of the Lord; open to His every word and call;

Praying earnestly and confidently.

We are invited to reflect on our humble service to the Lord as we see Him reflected in our brothers and sisters and all the people with whom we interact.

Are we daily praying "earnestly and confidently" not just for our own needs but those of others? Are we lending a helping hand, no matter how small, with a joyous heart and attitude of compassion?

I wish you all a blest MARY month of August!

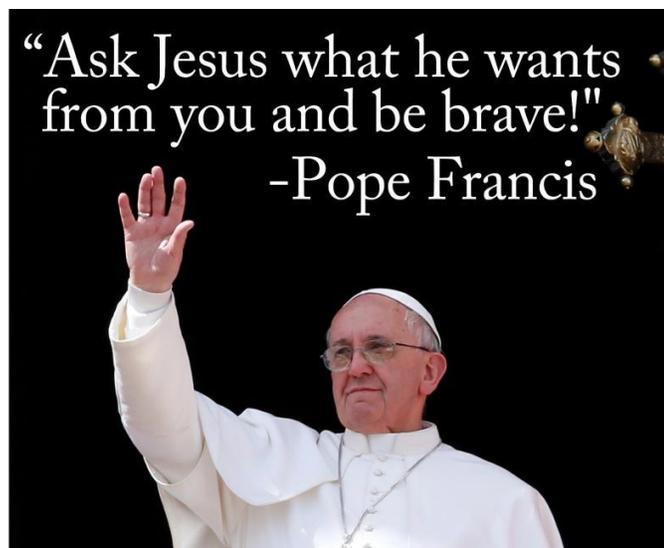
Patrick Mendés, OFS

Regional Formation Commission 

(Brother Joe's article, cont. from above)
almost 600 years until 1883. Tbc...

One more thing I would like to bring to your attention. On Thursday evening September 17th at 5:00 till 8:00 P.M. here at St. Peter's Church our own Fr. Robert Karris, ofm invites the Friars and the Secular Franciscans to attend a presentation of his newly revised book on The Admonitions of St. Francis followed by a little Franciscan Hospitality (snacks). This exciting event will be a great opportunity to more deeply understand this most important document in our Franciscan history.

Beyond all this I send you my best wishes, your
Brother Joe M, ofm. 



Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

That You May Seek Truth Boldly

By Barbara Elkins, OFS, JPIC Councilor

I entered the church feeling tired, annoyed, contrite and unsettled. Too many thoughts were rolling around in my mind before 9 AM Mass. In a matter of minutes, my thoughts were replaying my words and actions of the morning that made me annoyed, the subsequent feelings of regret and the to-do list for after Mass in anticipation of the day's events. As I tried to settle into a more peaceful state of mind, the cantor was sharing this week's announcements. I repeated *Come Holy Spirit, calm my thoughts and open my heart to your Word* yet my mind and emotions were still unsettled. Before I fully realized it, I was rising for the Gospel reading. Up until that time, my thoughts were calming down but still drifting. Trying to formulate this month's JPIC column was part of these drifting thoughts.

Several key events have occurred in the past few weeks on which to comment on. I am still reading and reflecting on Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*, the encyclical on the interrelated relationship between humans and the environment. There was the Supreme Court ruling on same sex marriage rights on June 26th. The news of the Planned Parenthood scandal involving the sale of fetal body parts demonstrated how far our culture has strayed from respecting life. I was looking for a connection and found it in our division.

My pastor began his homily stating that he would like to reflect on today's second reading instead of the Gospel. The letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (2:13-18) tells us that Jesus is our peace. Jesus "broke down the dividing wall of enmity... He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father."

There are many current issues that challenge the social teachings of our faith and divide us as a society. I often reflect on how I should respond when asked about these issues or act when opportunities present themselves to me. I try to live by the Learn - Pray - Act approach but it is an ongoing struggle to stay informed and follow through. How can I bring the message of peace to those who are far off and to those who are near.

One thing I have learned is that people tend to act on what is important to them. They ask how can this be and what will happen next? It needs to become personal and the way to that personal connection is through our feelings.

My pastor ended his homily with a Franciscan blessing that spoke of these feelings. After Mass, I searched the Internet for the prayer and found many references to it as a Franciscan blessing but only one that cited an author. It may not be Franciscan after all but the message is timely and pertinent. I ask you to seek truth boldly and in many small ways, make a difference.

A Four-Fold Benedictine Blessing Sr. Ruth Marlene Fox, OSB - 1985

May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really CAN make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

And the blessing of God the Supreme Majesty and our Creator, Jesus Christ the Incarnate Word who is our brother and Saviour, and the Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Guide, be with you and remain with you, this day and forevermore.
AMEN.

http://www.worldprayers.org/archive/prayers/invocations/may_god_bless_you_with_a_restless.html



Sponsored by the Northwest Franciscan Community of the IHM (Palatine), Fr. Robert Pawell, OFM will present a Day of Recollection on 22 August entitled: "Going from Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel: Secular Franciscans Celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life" at St. Colette Catholic Church, 3900 Meadow Dr., Rolling Meadows.

All Secular Franciscans in the Mother Cabrini Region are invited to attend. The event is free, and lunch will be provided. Aside from Mass, all activities will take place in Halpin Hall, located in the church's basement. **It would be helpful if ministers or their delegates RSVP on behalf of their fraternities. Please RSVP by fraternity** by August 08 (Saturday) to Lisa Wathen, OFS

About the Speaker

Fr. Robert was born in Chicago and grew up on the city's northwest side. He entered the Order of Friars Minor in 1959 and was ordained in 1966. Fr. Robert holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and Psychology from Quincy University, Illinois; a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University Antonianum, Rome; a Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University Chicago, Institute of Pastoral Studies; and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from the Institute for Spiritual Leadership, Chicago. After 20 years of working in a variety of ministries around the country, in 1996 he returned to Chicago, where he cofounded Holy Evangelists Friary on Ashland Ave. He is currently the Director of Programs at St. Peter's Church in the Loop, and also serves as confessor, preacher and Eucharistic minister. On weekends, he assists at St. Bonaventure Oratory in Chicago.

Fr. Robert is an experienced spiritual director, parish mission preacher, retreat director and preacher, and days of recollection speaker for priests, religious, and laity. In his preaching, he makes use of poetry and story, the wisdom of saints and mystics, and insights from contemporary psychology to illuminate the Good News of the Gospel.

Agenda

9:00 a.m.: Registration and Continental Breakfast (Halpin Hall, in the church's basement)

9:45 a.m.: Presentation

10:45 a.m.: Mass (upstairs Chapel, behind the main altar); Celebrant/homilist: Fr. Bob

11:45 a.m.: Lunch

1:00 p.m.: Franciscan Crown and quiet prayer (Chapel)

1:45 p.m.: Break

2:00 p.m.: Concluding Presentation

3:00 p.m.: Evening Prayer (bring your copy of *Liturgy of the Hours*)

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO THE MOTHER CABRINI REGION'S 2015

FRANCISCAN GATHERING

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS OF THE PORTIUNCULA

FEATURING AS GUEST SPEAKER

FRIAR JOHNPAUL CAFIERO, OFM
FROM THE HOLY EVANGELIST FRIARY

SPEAKING ABOUT

REFLECTIONS ON THE PEACE PRAYER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2015

MAYSLAKE VILLAGE

1801 35TH STREET
OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS

REGISTRATION AT 8:30 A.M - MASS AT 9:00 A.M.
SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR FULL AGENDA AND MORE INFORMATION

CATERED LUNCH - \$15.00 PER PERSON

YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN IF YOU PREFER

**PLEASE LET ME KNOW HOW MANY WILL BUY LUNCH AND HOW MANY WILL BRING THEIR
LUNCH**

PLEASE RSVP BY FRATERNITY TO BONNIE MICHELS, OFS **BY JULY 25**

FRANCISCAN GATHERING

AUGUST 1, 2015

AGENDA

8:30 A.M.	REGISTRATION
9:00 A.M.	MASS
9:45 A.M.	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
10:15 A.M.	ADDRESS
11:45 A.M.	LUNCH
1:00 P.M.	ADDRESS
2:00 P.M.	EVENING PRAYER

(TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE)

ABOUT FRIAR JOHNPAUL CAFIERO, OFM

Friar Johnpaul Cafiero, OFM is a Franciscan Priest of the Sacred Heart Province of Chicago/St. Louis. Born and raised in the New York Metro area, Friar Johnpaul is the oldest of an Italian/Polish Catholic family. He is a former NYPD police officer and has also worked as a counselor and chaplain at the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center in Chicago. His work has included counseling with gang members and their families, with Adult Children of Alcoholics both in private therapy and in the 12 Step Programs. This work has brought him to minister to survivors of physical and sexual abuse. As a follower of St. Francis of Assisi, Friar Johnpaul's love of the poor and outcasts is only surpassed by his love of the scripture. This comes through his many speaking and preaching engagements. Friar Johnpaul has lectured and preached throughout the United States and internationally. Formally the Vice President of Spiritual Life and Pastoral Counseling at Hales Franciscan High School on the south side of Chicago. Friar now serves on the board of trustees of Hales. Friar Johnpaul is a pastoral associate and preacher at Holy Family Parish in Inverness, formerly the assistant vocation director for his Franciscan order and now serves as chaplain for the Illinois State Police-District 15, PSU (Protective Service Unit) & District Chicago.

HOW TO RSVP

It will help us a lot if fraternities could have one person call with the total for your group. Many thanks for your understanding and assistance! RSVP to Bonnie Michels, OFS

GENERAL INFORMATION, DIRECTIONS AND PARKING

All events will be inside at Mayslake Village; the day will begin in the chapel. Presentations and lunch will be in the Senior Center. Directions: Get to Route 83 from wherever you're coming from; exit at 31st Street; go west to the first signal (St. Pascal to the left; Regent to the right); turn left and follow to where road dead ends into 35th St.; turn right (only way you can go) and continue to main (chapel) entrance to Mayslake Village (3rd street on your left). Parking: Suggest parking at chapel entrance first; if that gets full, park in Senior Center lot (next entrance west on 31st St.); if that's full, drive around to the back of the building facing north in the Senior Center lot – you would find parking at the back of that building.