

OFS News

Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order

www.ilsfo.org

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Please note that the views expressed herein represent those of the individual contributors,
and may or may not reflect the collective view of the Region.

Minister's Message

Since I last wrote to all of you, our Mother Cabrini Region has experienced a great loss. Our beloved John Daniel Patrick Mendes, OFS, met his Beloved Sister Death on Monday, June 5th at St. Joseph Hospital in Reading PA.

Patrick was a longtime resident at Mayslake Village, where we have been holding our regional gatherings for many years. While at Mayslake Village, Patrick served on the Mayslake Village Board, holding positions of Vice President and Secretary. Over the years, Patrick has served our Secular Franciscan community as a Local Minister, Regional Minister and National Minister.

He has also served as a local formation director, local Spiritual Assistant and regional formation director. For almost the last year, Patrick served our Region as interim Spiritual Assistant, following the death of Br. Joe Middleton and until we welcomed our recently installed Spiritual Assistant Br. Marc Sheckells.

Whether you had known Patrick for many years, or just a couple weeks or months, I am certain you were touched by him in one way or another. Maybe it was by his beaming smile, or his energetic personality. Perhaps it was his sense of humor. For me, I know, it was the way he had an answer to any question I asked him. Even though he admitted to me that formation was his "baby" (so to speak), he also could tell

one how to preside at an election or where in our General Constitution one could find out what to do if a sister or brother wanted to transfer to another fraternity. It seemed to me that he knew everything!

I received an email from Ed Lai, a nephew of Patrick's. He wanted me to let everyone know that if they want to send a bereavement or memorial card, or perhaps a picture, they can be sent to:

Eddie Lai
[PRIVATE; CONTACT
EDITOR FOR DETAILS]

Eddie said that the cards and pictures will be posted to all of his family online. Gifts sent will be gratefully used for his services, entombment and luncheon afterwards. They can be made out to "The estate of Patrick Monahan/John Mendes".

I hope to see many of you at Patrick's wake and funeral mass on Saturday June 24th.
We will miss you Patrick.
May you rest in peace.
Lorna

Lorna Miressi, OFS
Regional Minister 

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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 2017

All events are at Mayslake Village unless otherwise noted

**Saturday, January 21st——
Regional Executive Council Meeting**

Monday, March 6th Per Capita/Census/Fraternity reports due

**Saturday, March 11th——
Regional Executive Council Meeting**

Sat./Sun. March 18-19th Candidates' Retreat

Sunday, April 16th Easter

**Saturday May 20th——
Chapter of Ministers/Visitation from NAFRA**

**Saturday, July 15th
Regional Executive Council Meeting**

**Saturday, August 5th
Regional Gathering – Feast of the Portiuncula**

Saturday, September 16th Formation Leadership Workshop

**Saturday, October 7th
Regional Executive Council Meeting**

NAFRA Chapter – Date and location TBA

Sunday November 12th Mother Cabrini Feast Day Celebration – location TBA

Spiritual Assistant's

Message by Bro. Marc S. ofm

The Lord sends us what we need, when we need it! I am truly a believer in God's divine providence. So many times in my life I have been in need and, in sometimes miraculous circumstances, my need has been fulfilled. Interestingly, this need is not always fulfilled the way we want or plan. I also know that God's ways are not our ways and God's plans are not our plans! When I was discerning my response to the invitation to be the regional spiritual minister for the Mother Cabrini Region, Patrick Mendes filled my mind and eased my worried heart. I had decided, upon hearing the news of Patrick's passing, to dedicate this week's column to him. I do this, not only to honor and remember him in my life, but to celebrate the life of a man who has given of himself freely in an attempt to fully live Christ's mission as envisioned by Saint Francis. I believe he was a true Franciscan saint who walked among us!

When I think of Patrick, I immediately conjure up images of his smile and laugh; both were infectious! There were so many times that I would share with him concerns about my life, worries about a personal problem, or was just down about something that was not working out in my life. Patrick would inevitably smile and say, "My happy child of God, RELAX!" He was someone who was so capable of calming all of one's fears and putting one at ease. I was so often the recipient of that calming presence.

I hope that I am able to live life with such joy and I hope that whatever joy I am able to radiate is as infectious as Patrick's!

Additionally, Patrick was so generous. He knew how much I loved Irish soda bread and would often bake it and send a loaf or two

with the friars to give to me. Additionally, he went out of his way to send me cards and emails to remind me of his prayer and fraternal support. Furthermore, he was so generous with his time. He always made time to chat. If I was ever feeling overwhelmed, Patrick would tell me to "Come over for dinner. I will work in the kitchen and whip something up." Besides being a generous giver of his time, Patrick was an outstanding cook. Those dinner invites were often a Godsend and were so beneficial to me. I cannot imagine that I was the only person who enjoyed long conversation and dinner at Patrick's house. It is my hope and prayer that I am also able to be Christ to those who need it.

Lastly, Patrick was truly a Franciscan. Besides having a long list of roles he fulfilled throughout the Third Order, Patrick took his Franciscan vocation very seriously. During my formative years, he would often ask me to share with him the books I was reading for spiritual growth and personal ongoing Franciscan formation. We would exchange thoughts and book titles and together we were able to keep our Franciscan spirits alive. Besides his personal formation, Patrick made sure to attend every Franciscan gathering, get together, party, and meeting he could. He enveloped himself in all things Franciscan and found great inspiration in the many Franciscan men and women that had gone before him.

It is my firm belief that, although Patrick has passed, he is brining his joy, fraternity, and great gifts to the saints in Heaven. Who knows, maybe he is helping to calm down a frantic brother Saint Anthony who is overwhelmed with petitions to help find lost items? Wherever Patrick may be, his loss to both the Order and the Church will be both painful and great. I, like so many I know, miss him greatly. He was a good man and I am certain, even in death, he will continue to bless us and pray for us. I hope that the life of Patrick will help each one of us become better followers of Christ and Saint Francis. Thank you, Patrick, for all that you did and were! May you, and all of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen. ☩

IN-FORMATION

In-Formation

Nicholas Noe OFS

St. Bonaventure (1217-1274)

(July 15-Feast)

"There is no other teacher who takes the vision of Francis and Clare to the level of a theology and philosophy, a fully symmetrical worldview, as well as Bonaventure of Bagnoregio, Italy. As Paul did for Jesus, Bonaventure did for Francis."

(Richard Rohr OFM, *Daily Meditation*, 6/18/17)

Only a month's time separates the feasts of two famous Franciscan saints who have been given the honorary title of *Doctor of the Church*. On June 13, we celebrated the feast of *St. Anthony of Padua*, and on the 15th of July, we celebrate the feast of *St. Bonaventure of Bagnoregio*. For most people, *St. Anthony* (1195-1231) is a more popular saint. But for Franciscans, *Bonaventure* is looked upon as the second founder of the Franciscan Order. He was not only an admired theologian and capable leader, but a mystic as well. His influence on our Franciscan spiritual and intellectual traditions is immense.

Bonaventure was born sometime between 1217 and 1221. The friars at Bagnoregio apparently recognized his spiritual and intellectual potential, and in 1235-36, he was sent to the University of Paris, where the Franciscans and Dominicans held faculty chairs in theology and philosophy. Bonaventure studied under *Alexander of Hales* and others who had become Franciscans, and Bonaventure entered the Order around 1243. He excelled as a student, teacher, theologian and philosopher during his 20 years at the University. His writings are numerous, and he and *Thomas Aquinas* are considered to be the two greatest theologians in the Scholastic era. Although they were colleagues and agreed on many things, they also disagreed on many. It has been said Bonaventure was more about the theology of love while *Thomas* was more about love of knowledge.

Bonaventure left academia in 1257 when he became the seventh Minister General of the Franciscan Order. He continued to lecture at the

University, but less frequently. And he had to occasionally debate the secular masters who felt the Mendicant Orders should not hold faculty chairs. But his greatest challenges were within the Order, an Order that had grown to 30,000 friars located throughout Europe. The primary tension within the Order existed between the *Spirituales*, who wanted to live by the Earlier Rule, and the *Relaxti*, who thought the Later Rule was too strict. Bonaventure took a middle road between the two groups to reduce the tension, and he succeeded. But the tension had only been reduced, and it resurfaced after the resignation of Bonaventure as Minister General in 1274. Bonaventure had been named Cardinal-Bishop of Albano by Pope Gregory X, and told not to refuse the position. Also, he was assigned the task of preparing questions for the 14th Ecumenical Council to be held in Lyons. He died during the Council on Sunday, July 15, 1274 under mysterious circumstances.

Bonaventure proved to be a very capable leader during a difficult time for the Order. But his time as Minister General was also a time of personal transformation. In 1259, Bonaventure began the steep walk up Mount La Verna where Francis had received the Stigmata in 1224. He wrote in the Prologue to *The Soul's Journey Into God* that he was hoping to find that peace which Jesus had proclaimed and Francis preached. His deep reflections on the six-winged Seraph and the Stigmata in *'The Journey'* resulted in spiritual and mystical writings centered on the humanity of Christ, primarily the Crucified Christ, with Francis as the perfect exemplar of Christ. His theological writings had always been God-centered, but now his writings were very Christo-centric. He was convinced the journey into God could not be made on the intellect alone, but must proceed from a heart centered on Christ Crucified. And as followers of Jesus and Francis, we are to be mirrors of the humility, poverty, love and compassion we see on the cross.

(An excellent reference is: *The Soul's Journey Into God*, a DVD lecture series by Br. William Short OFM-available from Now You Know Media) 📺

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

By Luana Leinhart, OFS

Peace and all good, brothers and sisters! This is the hardest column I've written thus far because it will make some of you uncomfortable. It makes me uncomfortable too.

A year ago, Philando Castile, a black man traveling with his fiancé and four-year-old daughter, was pulled over by police for a broken tail light. He was dead 90 seconds later. Mr Castile was shot six times by a police officer as he reached for his license and registration, as the officer had directed him. Even when people of color do as we're told, we're still at risk of dying during a routine traffic stop. The officer was recently acquitted of Castile's killing. Once again, a black man dies in police custody, and no one's held accountable. Even when it's caught on tape. Even when he cooperated fully with the officer. Even when the officer violated protocol and fired six bullets into a car with a child in the back seat. The truth is that black and brown lives really don't matter to this country. We just don't. We never have. The system continually fails people of color because it wasn't written for us, or with our dignity in mind.

Independence Day is two weeks away, and I can only see it as a celebratory day for white men, because our founders only intended for white men to have rights; only their lives were supposed to matter. How else can a country declare its freedom while defending and maintaining slavery? The Declaration of Independence claims freedom for white men, while referring to Native Americans as 'merciless Indian savages'. Seriously. Google it.

Frederick Douglass gave a powerful speech on the meaning of July 4th to the Negro. His words are as fitting today as then. And I look forward to the day when they are no longer true. "This Fourth of July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice; I must mourn. What, to the American slave, is your Fourth of July?

I answer, a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; ... your national greatness, swelling vanity; your denunciation of tyrants brass fronted impudence; your shout of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; ... your sermons and thanks-givings, ... are to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy ... There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of the United States, at this very hour."

This week, the Church will begin the annual Fortnight for Freedom. It starts on June 21st, the vigil of the feast of Sts Thomas More and John Fisher, martyrs for the faith. St Thomas More is my patron saint, so the Fortnight has great meaning for me. It's a time to pray for our conversion against all forms of systemic oppression.

Each day we will pray for a specific intention related to our religious freedom and it will touch on everything from abortion to the contraception mandate in the Affordable Care Act, to interceding for our sisters in brothers who cannot openly practice their Catholic faith for fear of persecution. If you're committed to praying with us, you can find more information on its official page: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/fortnight-for-freedom/>



St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity members cordially invite you and the members of the Steger and Joliet Fraternities to our annual cluster picnic this August. More details are in the attachment above. Please let us know if you and your members plan on attending by August 1, 2017. We look forward to sharing in the fun with our brothers and sisters! Enjoy the summer weeks ahead!

Peace and all things good,
Rosalie Leitelt, OFS
Secretary

"Only to do the right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Mi 6:8)

St. Francis - St. Louis Fraternity will have a "Day of Recollection" at
The National Shrine of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini
2520 North Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614

On Sunday, July 16, 2017 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

All Franciscans, family and friends of the Mother Cabrini Region are invited to join us.

AGENDA

- 10:00 AM Sunday Mass in the Chapel at the National Shrine
(Optional for those who do not attend Sunday Mass at their own Parish)
- 11:00 AM Day of Recollection begins in meeting room in the basement
Opening Prayer, remarks, welcoming and Reflection
- 11:30 AM Small group discussion
- 12:00 PM Break for lunch
- 1:00 PM Presentation "*Laudato si*: and the Care for Creation in Practice"
Including questions and discussion
- 2:30 PM Cleanup of all food items and equipment
- 3:00 PM Dismissal from the National Shrine

The National Shrine has public transportation available with a CTA Bus that stops right at the front door of the Shrine. The Shrine also has free limited underground parking for those attending the National Shrine. All the details and more information about the Shrine can be found at:

<https://www.cabrinationalshrine.org/>

Our "Day of Recollection" will have a "Pot Luck" type of lunch served. For those who are able, we ask that you bring some type of food and/or drinks for the lunch. There is a large Refrigerator available, but there is no Microwave or oven available for the food we bring. For those who want to drive to the Shrine we ask that you car pool within your Fraternity so we will have enough parking spaces available for everyone. There is no reserved parking, and all parking spaces are "first come first served" for everyone who comes to the National Shrine, not just our group.

There will also be a "Free will donation basket" for those attending.

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

MOTHER CABRINI REGION'S 2017

FRANCISCAN GATHERING CELEBRATING

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE PORTIUNCULA

FEATURING AS GUEST SPEAKER

FR. ED MCKENZIE, OFM, PROVINCIAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT WITH THE

PROVINCE OF THE SACRED HEART, ST. PETER'S CHURCH,

SPEAKING ABOUT

LAUDATO SI' AND THE 3 VOICES OF POPE FRANCIS,

ST. FRANCIS AND FR. PHILIP MARQUARD O.F.M.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2017 - AT MAYSLAKE VILLAGE

1801 35th STREET, OAK BROOK, IL.

REGISTRATION AT 8:30AM-MASS AT 9:00AM

CATERED LUNCH - \$15.00 PER PERSON

YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN IF YOU PREFER.

FEAST OF THE PORTIUNCULA FRANCISCAN GATHERING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2017
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 FR. ED MCKENZIE, OFM

Fr. Ed was ordained in 2011, he was professed in the SFO in 1981. Before that, he was in the minor seminary in Oakbrook, Il. between the years 1963-1967. Most of his life has been spent within the charism that we call "our life with Christ and Francis."

He left the minor seminary in 1967 and soon after that was drafted. His first assignment was with NASA from 1968-1969. He was on the Apollo 11 team flying cover for all of the astronauts. Soon after, he was sent to Vietnam where he worked in combat rescue as a hoist operator on helicopters, an unpleasant time in his life that still haunts him today. He suffers from Post Traumatic Stress, as many combat veterans do. But he is one of the lucky ones in that he has a support group that helps him through it all.

He is on two retreat teams for combat veterans and finds great satisfaction in that God can use his experiences to help others with similar problems. He asks for our prayers and support for this important ministry in our country today.

He joined the First Order in 2003 and journeyed toward priesthood May 5th 2011. He truly loves his priesthood and looks forward to offering his service for the good of the Province and our Region.

HOW TO RSVP (by July 28th)

Please RSVP by Fraternity. 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 Sue Gribbon, 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 the 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.