

Up to Now

Newsletter of the St. Margaret of Cortona Region of the Secular Franciscan Order

Covering the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia,
and portions of West Virginia and Pennsylvania

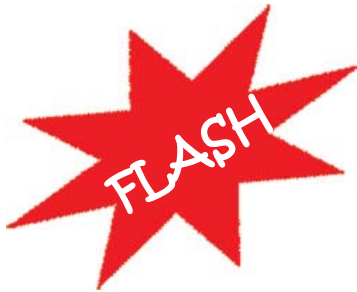


Fr. Philippus Philippus, OFM Cap

Volume 14, Issue 4

Let us begin again, for up to now we have done nothing.

May 2011

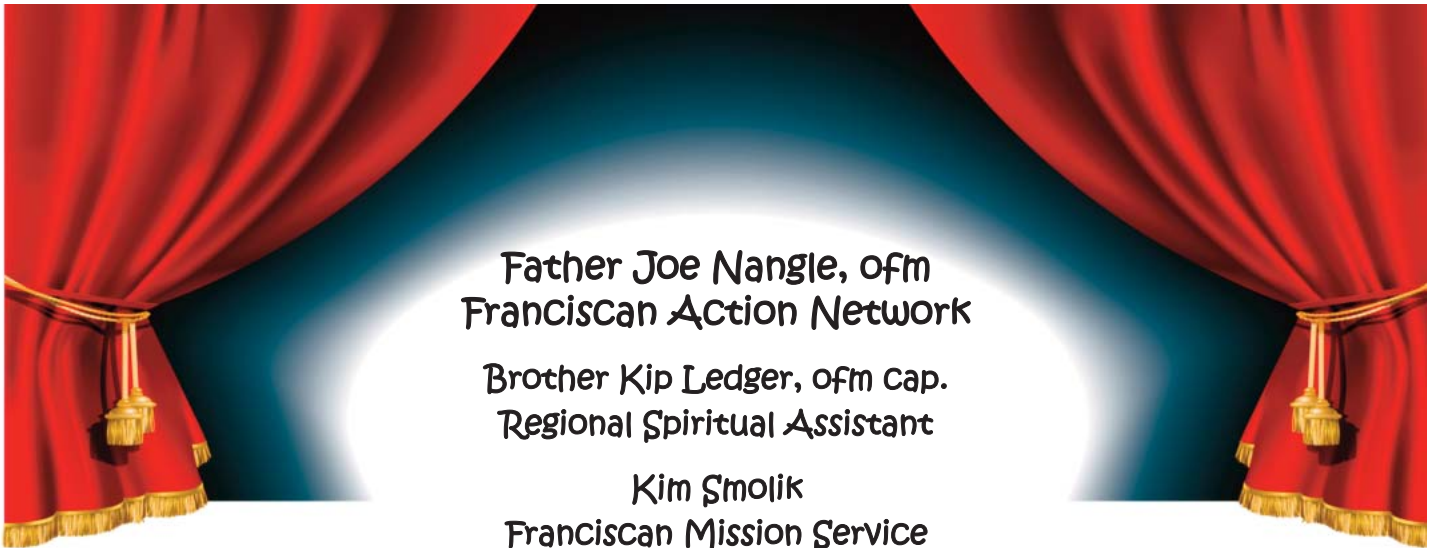


There is no Regional Retreat this year!

Instead we are presenting

THE CHAPTER OF MATS

Featuring



Father Joe Nangle, ofm
Franciscan Action Network

Brother Kip Ledger, ofm cap.
Regional Spiritual Assistant

Kim Smolik
Franciscan Mission Service

AND

For your dining pleasure....

a wide assortment of delicious food

At all meals.

**JOIN US FROM JULY 15-17
FOR THIS SPECIAL FRANCISCAN EVENT
LET US BEGIN AGAIN!!!!!!**

**See Registration Form on Page 10
Registration must be received by June 1**

Minister's Message



Hello Brothers and Sisters!

When you elected me to serve as your regional minister two years ago, I had no idea of the challenges that lay ahead for me and for all of us as we try to live our vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order — from Gospel to life and life to Gospel. Glib words aren't they — but

real words with real meaning, real challenge!!! How do we accept this challenge?

Our plans for this year's Chapter of Mats on Catholic Social Teaching with our guest presenter, Fr. Joe Nangle, OFM, is a challenge to open our minds and hearts to what living the Gospel means. It seems that this is very uncomfortable for many of you. This makes me very sad. I am



Mark Your Calendar



June 23–June 26 — Fourth Annual Summer SFO Seminar, “Aspects of Fraternity Life,” St. Francis University, Loretto, Penn. See flyer, pages 14-17.

July 15–17 — Chapter of Mats.

National Conference Center, Leesburg, Va. Accommodations are single rooms only. Some rooms accommodate two persons, but the price remains the same for each person registered. Registration form on page 10.

There will be no Regional Retreat this year.

December 3 — Regional Meeting. Location TBA.

praying that you will be willing to have the courage to accept this challenge. Come hear Fr. Joe! See his bio on page 12. You may be surprised at what you learn — what our Holy Fathers have been saying to us for years.

Perhaps you have learned that in our spiritual journey, in the conversion of our souls to become more Christ like — we either move forward or fall back. There is no way that we can stand still and not change. Come hear Fr. Joe! This just may be your opportunity to become more Christ-like. This is an opportunity to live the gospel in a deeper and more meaningful way.

In addition to all this, the rooms are comfortable, the view is beautiful and the food is great!

As always my prayers are with you as I hope your prayers are with me and with each other.

In the peace and joy of Francis and Clare,

Mary Thuman, sfo
St. Margaret of Cortona
Regional Minister

In This Issue . . .

(Click on item to go to article)

Regional Formation Director's Message	3
Second Annual Day of Reflection for Inquirers and Candidates	4
National Prayer for Vocations	4
What Are We Reading?	5
Around the Region	5
Losses in the Family	6
What Are We Doing?	7
Holy Family Lenten Retreat	8
Websites of Interest	9
Chapter of Mats Registration	10
CoM Directions and Agenda	11
Fr. Joe Nangle	12
Why Chapter of Mats?	12
10 Tips on Living from Blessed John XXIII, SFO	12
Papal Encyclicals on Social Justice	13
Franciscan Saints and Blesseds	14

Regional Formation Director's Message

Happy Spring and all my blessings, my Franciscan sisters and brothers!

Since my last message to you, we had the opportunity to celebrate two fantastic and spiritually uplifting days of recollection. The first, on March 5, was presented by Fr. Andre Cirino, OFM, and was entitled, "The Geste of the Great King." This day of recollection centered on how to pray the *Office of the Passion of St. Francis*. The *Office of the Passion* was the order of prayer practiced by both Francis and Clare that, unfortunately, has gone to disuse in the centuries following Francis's death. Fr. Andre not only talked to us about its history, but also instructed us on the many ways it can be prayed frequently and spiritually on a regular basis even today as our personal office of prayer or liturgy of the hours. Everyone who attended was given an opportunity to purchase a book of the office and invited to use it as their daily or weekly personal prayer. We wish to thank the McGeadys and St. Conrad's Fraternity of Annapolis for sponsoring this great day held at Our Lady of the Fields Parish in Millersville.

The second annual Day of Recollection for orienters, inquirers, candidates, newly professed, formation team members and ministers was held on April 2 again at the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City. Bill Bouffard, Minister of Tau Fraternity of Herndon, Va., and Brother Kip Ledger, OFM Cap., Regional Spiritual Assistant, both led us on a journey of reflections on the Admonitions of St. Francis, presenting them in a spiritually practical way, with many applications to Scripture. They both did a superb job in their use of audio and visual aids and video clips from many of the movies of the current day. These did much to bring the many messages of St. Francis found in his admonitions home to all of us. Please take the time to read more about the particulars of this day on page 4 in this issue.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to make any fraternity visits since the last issue of *Up To Now*, but again I stress that if any fraternity wishes me or any member of our formation team to visit them at a specific time, date and/or place, let us know as far in advance as possible. We all look forward to making these visits with you.

As you read this issue, Mary Lou Coffman and I have returned from our trip to be trained "Formators" for the Region at the National Formation Workshop at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Ill. More

information on this trip will be provided in the next issue of *Up to Now*. As I have mentioned before, Mary Lou, I, and the rest of the formation team will be calling together all the formation directors and ministers of the region to present to you all the latest information and formation material this workshop imparted to us. We are looking to doing this sometime later this summer just after the Chapter of Mats. The Regional Council will be meeting on June 18 and at that meeting, a date, time and place will be set. All will be notified by either email or phone as soon as the meeting is set by the council and formation team.

Once again, I wish to mention the proposal of the region-wide formation programs for Franciscan youth and young adults. So far, we have Jeanie McLees, Harry Ford and myself willing to form a subcommittee of the formation team to do the planning. If anyone else wishes to be a part of this subcommittee and planning, please let me know. We hope to get started on this sometime by the end of summer. We, of course, are open to any ideas of topics along the lines of living and practicing the Gospel life that will instill and be attractive to the age group of 14 to 30 years. Thank you, Harry, for your willingness to be a servant leader to our young people. We will be talking in the near future.

May all of you have a safe, restful and joy-filled summer!

Mike Huether
Regional Formation Director



Fr. André Cirino, OFM, presents workshop on his book *The Geste of the Great King*, also known as the *Office of the Passion* written by St. Francis. Nearly 70 members, representing 14 fraternities in the Region, attended the workshop at Our Lady of the Fields parish in Millersville, Md. St. Conrad fraternity sponsored the event. During the morning sessions, Fr. André explained the history and form of the 15 Psalms written by St. Francis, which constitute the heart of the *Office of the Passion*. In the afternoon, he discussed in detail two of the Psalms and led the group in the recitation of one and singing of the other.

Second Annual Day of Recollection for Inquirers and Candidates

The second annual Day of Recollection for inquirers, candidates, newly professed, formation team members and ministers was held on April 2 at The Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City. Tremendous thanks and kudos go to Bill Bouffard, minister of Tau Fraternity of Herndon, Va., and Brother Kip Ledger, OFM Cap., our Regional Spiritual Assistant, for leading all 60 of us on a deeply moving journey with our Seraphic Father Francis through some serious reflections on Francis's greatest admonitions. The topics of the day centered on four relationships in our personal lives:

GOD, with reflections on Francis's admonitions on The Body of Christ (I); On the imitation of the Lord (VI); and On recognizing the spirit of God (XII).

OTHERS, with reflections on Francis's admonitions on Let no one make himself superior to others (IV); Avoiding the sin of envy (VIII); Let no one be corrupted by the evil of another (XI); Correction (XXII); and Compassion for one's neighbor (XVIII).

SELF, with reflections on Francis's admonitions on The wickedness of self will (II); Perfect obedience (III); Let no one be proud, but rather glory only in the Cross of the Lord (V); The chastisement of the body (X); Patience (XIII); Poverty of spirit (XIV); Cleanliness of heart (XVI); A humble servant of God (XVII, XIX); The good and the vain person (XX); and Humility (XXIII).

LOVE, with reflections on Francis's admonitions of Love (IX); True love (XXIV, XXV).

Bill and Brother Kip began by asking the audience to approach the topics of the day with the usual attitudes of attentiveness, teachability, wholeheartedness, willingness to apply the learning obtained, and respect for all contributions and their contributors to the discussions, which are expected for any day of recollection or retreat. Then they introduced each of the four main groups of admonition topics listed above, making use of the technology of PowerPoint to present audio and video clips of familiar songs and current and recently-run movies. The idea here, of course, was to relate the admonitions to opportunities to best serve anyone we encounter in our everyday secular lives as Christians. Ultimately, it is hoped that all in attendance will more deeply realize the challenges of servant leadership, the watchwords of the SFO, and how we as sis-

ters and brothers in Francis can support each other to do this work in the best possible way.

We also wish to specially thank Fr. Steve Frenier, OFM Conv., the new director of the Shrine, as well as Brother Jerry, for their superb facilitation and accommodations of the day's events. Fr. Steve provided the sacrament of reconciliation and the celebrants of the noon Mass in the Shrine's chapel. Brother Jerry provided us with an outstanding luncheon. The whole day was orchestrated very smoothly.

And yes, we have plans for a third annual day of recollection. The tentative date is April 21, 2012, (after Easter, which is April 8, 2012, this time) with final approval by the regional council at their next meeting of June 18. Another of our servant leaders and a member of the regional formation team, Mary Lou Coffman, has already stepped forward and asked to be the facilitator of the third annual event. She will be seeking a clergy partner to team up with her in presenting this day. Clergy volunteers are most welcome: just contact her. The team will decide the topic, but suggestions are also most welcome.

Note: If you do not have a copy of The Admonitions of St. Francis of Assisi, you can find them online at <http://www.franciscan-sfo.org/ap/Admonitions.html>.

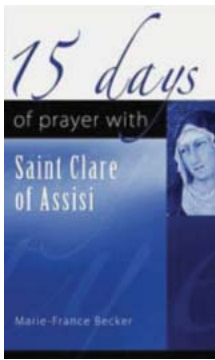
NATIONAL PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

O, Good and Gracious God,
 God of mercy, compassion, generosity, and love,
 As we live our lives today in the model of St. Francis,
 choosing daily to live the Gospel life,
 Help us to help others hear Your call.
 Help us to help others to recognize
 their vocation as a Secular Franciscan
 that You have already planted in their heart.
 Help us, so that together we all may work
 to bring the Gospel to life. Amen!

Marian R. Crosby, SFO



What Are We Reading?

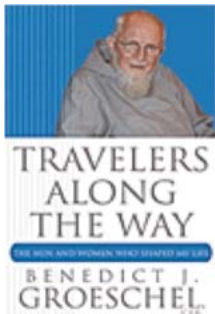


15 DAYS OF PRAYER WITH SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI

By Marie-France Becker
New City Press
ISBN-978-1-56548-371-2 / \$12.95 / www.newcitypress.com

To enter into a relationship with Clare of Assisi for fifteen days is to race along carried by the momentum of a woman burning with love. What a paradox: the cloister of Saint Damian — closed in upon itself — opens to the infinite. Clare, a pilgrim of the interior adventure, always redirects her readers onto the road towards the Lord. The loving kenosis of Christ captivates her and incites her to a Passover, brisk as a dance step, on the path of happiness. The love that fills Clare with life springs forth like a fountain in her heart.

About the Author: Marie-France Becker, a Poor Clare in the Monastery of Malonne (Belgium) for 40 years, is internationally known for her work on the writings of Clare of Assisi. Occasionally, she facilitates conferences or retreats based upon Clare of Assisi's spirituality.



TRAVELERS ALONG THE WAY: THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SHAPED MY LIFE

By Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel, CFR
St. Anthony Messenger Press
ISBN #: 978-0-86716-984-3 / Item #: T16984 / Price: \$13.99

<http://catalog.americancatholic.org/product.aspx?productid=T16984>

In his first-ever memoir, Fr. Benedict Groeschel introduces you to the men and women who have influenced him over the course of his life. Some are unknown, such as Mr. Graff, a Jewish man who tailored the suit the young man would wear to the seminary. His advice: "Look, I don't understand about monasteries, but I'll give you a piece of advice. Be a good boy." Some are famous, such as Mother Teresa, Cardinal O'Connor, and Fr. Solanus Casey who once, in Fr. Benedict's presence, stepped unprotected into a swarm of angry bees, pulled out his harmonica, and played "Mother McCree" to calm them.

All of them changed his life in big and small ways. Their stories will not only inspire you, but also help you appreciate those you have met over the years who have enriched and deepened your own life and inspire you to make a difference in someone else's life.

About the Author: Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R., is popular around the world for his bold and powerful witness to the Gospel. For many years Fr. Groeschel has tirelessly worked with the poor and needy, spoken to tens of thousands of Catholics, and written numerous articles and books.

In May 1987 he founded, with eight other friars, the community of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. The Community, which follows the Capuchin Tradition, now has over 135 friars and 30 sisters. It is dedicated to preaching reform within the Church and caring for the homeless in the South Bronx and Harlem sections of New York City, as well as in London, Limerick, Honduras and Nicaragua.

*from The Tau Signature,
Newsletter of Tau Fraternity, Herndon, Va.*

Around the Region

NEWLY PROFESSED

Rob Karalis, sfo, St. John the Beloved Fraternity, Alexandria, Va.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED

St. Padre Pio Fraternity, Forest Hill, Md.

Minister: Barbara Teller, sfo
Vice Minister: Donna Willard, sfo
Secretary: Mary Simmons sfo
Treasurer: Joan Jackson, sfo
Formation Director: Joy LaCour, sfo

THELMA'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY!

Thelma Billow was professed in 1951; Fr. John Metz was the Spiritual Director at the time. We were called the Third Order of Saint Francis, St Patrick Cathedral Fraternity. Much has changed over the years, but one thing remains firm, they promise to follow Jesus Christ and to live the gospel in fraternity by entering the Secular Franciscan Order. In this way they manifest the priceless gift of baptism and realize it in a fuller and more fruitful way.



Thelma Billow and Kathy Giera: our senior member and our newest professed member of St. Thomas More Fraternity.

Losses in the Family

ANNE POWERS, SFO, JULY 9, 1921 –APRIL 13, 2011.

Ann was professed at Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity in Cleveland, Ohio, on November 27, 1983, and transferred to St. Mary of the Angels in Rockville, Md., on April 15, 2003.

PRISCILLA M. DIMOND, SFO, OCT. 14, 1931–MAY 2, 2011

Priscilla Dimond was born in Boston, Mass., on October 14, 1931. She graduated from Holy Trinity High School in Roxbury, Mass., and Catholic University in Washington, D.C. She entered the convent of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia and received the name Sr. Christalena, OSF. (Little one of Christ)

Sr. Christalena taught the first and second grades in Florida and at St. Steven's Bradshaw in Harford County, Md., for a total of 25 years.

Priscilla left the convent and settled in Harford County, Md. She continued her teaching career at Beechfield Elementary School in Baltimore and Riverside Elementary School in Joppatowne. She loved teaching the little ones and from what I've been hearing they loved her, too. She retired in 1995 after teaching for 42 years.

Priscilla joined the St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina Secular Franciscan Fraternity in 1998. There was an immediate affection between Priscilla and the members of the fraternity. She was received as an inquirer on November 23, 1998, and was professed on January 16, 2000.

Priscilla enjoyed the whole process of becoming a secular Franciscan. I mentioned to Priscilla that she might get bored since she had already received Franciscan Formation as a Franciscan Sister. "You can teach us," I said." She answered, "Oh no, I want to go through all the lessons just like everyone else."

Priscilla was a pleasure to be with; a humble and happy lady. She wrote in her letter to the Fraternity Council: "Being a Franciscan is very important to me. I want to follow God's Will for my life."

In true Franciscan charity, Priscilla treated everyone with kindness and always had a friendly smile and good word for others. She freely gave to anyone that she thought needed help – with never a thought of her own needs.

On the day after Divine Mercy Sunday, Priscilla quietly left this earth and went to live with her Father in the house He had prepared for her.

The little church of St. Mary's in Pylesville was filled with her friends; she had no living relatives. The Mass was a beautiful celebration of Priscilla's life.

This is from an article written by Fr. Joseph Breighner for a friend of mine, Alice Eckhart, in *The Catholic Review*, January 12, 2006.

We are the bits and pieces of all who have touched us. In those touches, I believe I feel the hand of God. You and I are a mosaic of God's handiwork. Honor the great people in your life by allowing God to work well through you. Choose kindness. Choose goodness. Forgive. Speak gently.

Here's to the all the people who have loved us and touched us with their kindness. Priscilla was one of those people and I am so grateful I had the opportunity to be her friend. She was loved by all and will live in our hearts and memories.



Priscilla Dimond, sfo

Priscilla's journey is complete. She did what was hers to do. Her soul is at peace.

— *Barbara Teller, SFO*

Odds and Ends

If anyone is interested in Md. SFO license plates, please contact Mary Simmons, sfo. Cost \$25.00 plus old tags.

SFO Magnets are available at \$5.00 each plus postage, and SFO coffee mugs are available at \$8.00 or 2 for \$15.00, plus postage. Please contact Mary Simmons at marysfo_1@msn.com or 410-557-7586.

What Are We Doing?

GOD'S BEAUTIFUL WORLD

In March, I had the opportunity to travel to Guatemala once again to visit my CFCA (Christian Foundation for Children and Aging)-sponsored friends.

The country is as beautiful as I remembered from my previous trip in 2009. The CFCA Mission Awareness Trips (MATs) I take offer me the opportunity to visit my sponsored friends in their own countries. I am fortunate to have sponsored friends in Nicaragua as well as in Guatemala. (It is interesting to see the difference in the poverty levels in the areas where I visited in the two countries.) During a MAT trip, we visit the projects — the villages where sponsored children and families live. We visit their homes, which are without even the barest necessities, things that we take for granted in our rich country.

Yes, we do have poverty in the United States, but somehow we don't see it. I remember when Mother Teresa visited our country, she remarked that ours is a country with great spiritual poverty. Knowing my dear friends in Guatemala and Nicaragua, their poverty is material. Spiritually, they are rich beyond our understanding. What a joy to attend Mass there and experience their simple faith. They are humble, hardworking people so open and generous with their friendship and love.

I look forward to my next trips to Guatemala and Nicaragua. God willing, I will be able to continue making these trips even though I am up in years. I started to write, "getting up in years," but I think I am already there!

These are pictures taken of my dear friends on March 7. Olivia is now 75 years old and her granddaughter Melany is 6. I have a new sponsored friend this year. His name is Emilio, a bright teenager of 17 years!

CFCA is in great need of sponsors for the many children that are hoping for sponsors some day. If you think you might be interested in sponsoring one of these beautiful children or an elderly person, please check out the CFCA website for more information at www.hopeforafamily.org. Many of our brothers and sisters in Holy Family Fraternity are already CFCA sponsors.

—Jeanne Davis, from *The Troubador*, newsletter of Holy Family Fraternity



Tau Minister Bill Bouffard tends the stove — the entrée: shepherd's pie — while the Sisters wash up.

THE GIFT OF PEACE HOSPICE is operated by the Missionaries of Charity, Mother Teresa's order. Located in northeast Washington, D.C. it is a residence for the homeless and terminally ill, including persons with AIDS.

Every other month, Tau Fraternity volunteers to prepare a meal for the residents. They've found that it's not necessary to be an accomplished chef — the ability to stir a pot, slice bread or shred a salad works just fine.

Tau Fraternity has found it to be a great way for them to do a charitable work together, and the sisters are always appreciative of the help.

For more information, go to <http://www.wix.com/mequity/giftofpeacehouse>.

Holy Family Lenten Retreat

April 16, 2011

Father Terry Cramer of Blessed Sacrament Parish presented the retreat. The first part of this article is a transcript of his homily; the second is based on notes of his reflection and commentary on the Beatitudes. Notes taken by Margaret Gregory and Adelaida Lower.

The Cross: There is an ancient tradition that the wood of the Cross was taken from a tree planted by Adam's son Seth over the place where Adam was buried. On that very spot, known as Golgotha, the place of the skull, Seth planted a seed from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the tree in the midst of the Garden of Eden. Through God's providence, the work of the Evil One would be undone by turning his own weapons against him.

Suffering and death, which had been a consequence of sin, were to become the very means by which sin was vanquished. Christ, our God, was slain on the altar of the Cross, and yet from the Altar of the Cross the power of evil was destroyed by the power of self-sacrificing love.

The Cross, then, speaks to all who suffer — the oppressed, the sick, the poor, the outcast, the victims of violence — and it offers them hope that God can transform their suffering into joy, their isolation into communion, their death into life. It offers unlimited hope to our fallen world. A world without the Cross would be a world without hope.

Rightly does Saint Andrew of Crete describe the cross as "more noble, more precious than anything on earth... for in it and through it and for it all the riches of our salvation were stored away and restored to us."

The cross that our Lord bids us to take up leads to freedom and victory over sin and death and has to do with the marriage of our will with His. Regarding the way of the cross in our lives, St. Mark the Ascetic teaches us. "Do not seek the perfection of the law in human virtues, for it is not found perfect in them. Its perfection is hidden in the Cross of Christ"



In every intersection of our human will with the divine there is a lesson, and we remember the lesson better when we have suffered to learn it.

Christ our God foresaw His rejection, suffering and death, yet did not flee them. He embraced them as a way of showing us what divine love, *caritas*, looks like. Saint John reminds us, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

The path to conform our lives to God's holy will is surely full of blessings, but it has its share of crosses. We should not become discouraged even if we fall a thousand times, as long as we love the fight and not the fall.

The effort of a prolonged battle can please Christ more than an easy victory.

The Beatitudes: Father Cramer began his reflection on the Beatitudes by reminding us of their importance in the New Testament. The Beatitudes, he said, are the Gospel in a nutshell. Of course, as Secular Franciscans, we are called to live the Gospel, as our Seraphic Father Saint Francis did. The Beatitudes can be seen as a ladder, or rather as rungs of a ladder, which help us ascend to God. The Church, our sanctuary, is where heaven and earth meet. Father Cramer said that we must strive to possess all beatitudes: Every rung of the ladder is important.

The Beatitudes are also called The Sermon of the Mount.

The actual mount is more like a hill, but the idea of mountains as places where God may be found is all through the Old Testament. For that reason, the altar of churches is placed several steps up. The tabernacle is sometimes higher yet.

Now then, who gathered at that mount with Jesus? Matthew 5 says "Seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain and when he was set down, his disciples came unto him. A multitude gathered — everyone. Father Cramer said that there were poor, rich, men, women, children,

THE BEATITUDES (according to Matthew)

- Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.
- Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land.
- Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice for they shall have their fill.
- Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
- Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
- Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(Continued on page 9.)

(Continued from page 9.)

gentile and Jew. Jesus comes for everyone’s benefit. Jesus ascends the mountain, showing us how to encounter God. He is amongst his disciples, as a teacher and “opens his mouth,” that is he speaks with authority.

Each Beatitude begins with “Blessed are....” In the original Greek, the word is μακάριος (pronounced mak-ar’-ee-os) which means “blessed” — not “happy” as it is sometimes translated.

The Beatitudes give us the necessary steps toward God: “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.” Then it is the meek. These two Beatitudes teach that we must be beggars before God. Father Cramer reminded us how we enter the low threshold of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem by bowing deeply. The Beatitudes then illustrate the opportunities for grace that mourning or infirmity provide. Jesus

is not calling us to pity those who mourn, but to do acts of mercy, pity with action. As we keep climbing the rungs of the ladder of the Beatitudes, we continue turning to Christ. The downtrodden, the clean of heart — not only chaste but pure of conscience — the peace-makers, one leads to the other without skipping. We can’t skip on the way to holiness. And at the end, what is at the end? What can we expect? Persecution, for so “they persecuted the prophets....”

We must forsake all, as Christ did. First renounce, then follow and at the end, expect a cross. Be ready for the Cross for the sake of Caritas, love. As Phil 2 states: *Fulfill my joy, that you be of one mind, having the same charity, being of one accord, agreeing in sentiment. Let nothing be done through contention, neither by vain glory. But in humility, let each esteem others better than themselves, Each one not considering the things that are his own, but those that are other men’s.*†



Members of Holy Family Fraternity enjoy table fellowship at lunch during their Lenten Retreat.

Websites of Interest

Gratefulness.org

<http://www.gratefulness.org/index.htm>

This international nonprofit organization provides resources for living in the gentle power of gratefulness, which restores courage, reconciles relationships, and heals our Earth.

WORD FOR THE DAY

Monday, May. 9

As human beings, our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world — that is the myth of the “atomic age” — as in being able to remake ourselves.

Bread for the World

The Price of Immigration

<http://vimeo.com/21723990>

This video comes to us from our National JPIC Coordinator Kent Ferris and Bread for the World. Please share it with your fraternity members and other friends and neighbors...it speaks to Catholic Social Justice issues.

60 Minutes Overtime

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504803_162-20056220-10391709.html

Behind-the-scenes travelogue to holy Mt. Athos

What comes up is a 7-minute trailer. Scroll down to find links to the entire broadcast.

REGISTRATION FORM 2011 CHAPTER OF MATS

\$100.00 Non-refundable Deposit due before June 1

Name: _____

Fraternity: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cost: SINGLE: \$235.00 _____

DOUBLE: \$470.00 (\$235.00 per person) _____

DAY RATE: \$68.00 (per day - \$204.00 for three days) includes lunch-_____ days x \$68.00 _____

(Indicate name of roommate for double):

(Double rooms consist of a full or queen bed and a pull-out sofa.)

PHYSICAL DISABILITIES: For those requiring assistance, the conference center has a shuttle bus at the registration center that can accommodate a wheelchair. There are elevators in our building.

Please list other requirements: _____

FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED: Kits that include a strobe light door knocker, strobe light smoke/fire alarm, TDD for the phone, closed captioning television, and vibration alarm clock are available. Be sure to indicate your need so the room will be prepared.

Yes, I need a kit for hearing-impaired occupancy.

Send completed form with check (made out to St. Margaret of Corton Region) to:

Theresa Egan, SFO
8604 Wandering Fox Trail, Apt. 408
Odenton, MD 21113

For questions, call 410-695-2925
or ortygia77@verizon.net.



Directions to National Conference Center

18980 Upper Belmont Place
 Lansdowne, VA 20176
 800-640-2684
 www.conferencecenter.com

From Baltimore/Pennsylvania Area:

Proceed as though going to Priestfield, taking I-70 towards Frederick.
 Take exit for Leesburg/Charlestown US 15/US 340
 In a short while, look for signs for LEESBURG US-15S
 Entering VA 19.7 miles
 Take the exit toward VA-7 E/Tysons Corner
 Merge onto E. Market St. 3 mi.
 Turn LEFT at Belmont Ridge Rd./Xerox Training Center Rd. 0.4 mi
 Continue onto Upper Belmont Place 0.6 mi
 Turn left into conference center.

From Washington Beltway

Take exit 267 West, the Dulles Toll Road (stay in local lanes on right).
 Remain on this road for about 20 miles following signs to the Dulles Greenway West towards Leesburg.
 Take the Dulles Greenway (you will go through a second toll) for about 6 miles, exiting at Rte. 659 North (Exit 4), which is BELMONT RIDGE ROAD.
 Proceed on Route 659 North for about 3 1/2 miles (crossing Route 7, Harry Byrd Highway and Riverside Parkway) to Upper Belmont Place.
 Follow signs to the entrance of the National Conference Center located at the end of Upper Belmont Place.
 Check with Gatehouse Security for directions to parking lots and registration check-in.



Tentative Agenda

**WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? WHAT WOULD FRANCIS DO?
 WHAT WILL I DO?**

ST MARGARET OF CORTONA REGION CHAPTER OF MATS

July 15-17, 2011

National Conference Center, Lansdowne, Va.

Friday 7/15

3:00 pm Arrival and Sign in
 5:30-6:45 pm Dinner
 7:15 pm Evening Prayer
 7:30 pm 1st Session: Theological Reflection
 "Presence"
 Fr. Joe
 9:00 pm Social

Saturday 7/16

7:30-9:00 am Breakfast
 9:15 am Morning Prayer
 9:30 am 2nd Session: History of Catholic Social Teaching
 Fr. Joe
 Break
 11:00-11:45 am Small Group Discussion: Has Catholic Teaching been part of your spirituality of the years?
 Noon Lunch
 1:30 pm 3rd Session: SFO Rule and Catholic Social Teaching
 Fr. Joe
 Break
 2:45-3:45 pm Small Group Discussion: How is the Franciscan Tradition in our times impacted by Catholic Social Teaching?

4:00 pm Mass
 5:30 pm Dinner
 7:00 pm 4th Session: Really Living Catholic Social Teaching
 Fr. Joe/Br. Kip
 9:00 pm Social

Sunday 7/17

7:30 am Breakfast
 9:00 am Morning Prayer
 9:30 am Wrap-up: What Will I Do?
 Kim Smolik
 Noon Lunch and Departure

More About the Chapter of Mats

FR. JOE NANGLE, OFM



Rev. Joseph Nangle, OFM, presently serves as the treasurer and secretary for the Franciscan Action Network (FAN) Board of Directors. Rev. Nangle has previously been involved in missionary work in Latin America and has recently retired from Franciscan Mission Service (FMS) in Washington, DC, of which he was a co-founder. A member of the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province he currently ministers to the Hispanic community at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Arlington, VA. He has lived at the Assisi Community, an intentional community in inner city Washington, DC, for the past twenty-two years. Consisting of two vowed members and a number of lay women and men, the community strives for a simple lifestyle while engaging in a variety of activities and ministries for social change. For more information about FAN, go to www.franciscanaction.org.



WHY CHAPTER OF MATS?

In 2009, 2,000 friars from 65 different countries came to Assisi to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Pope Innocent III’s approval of the first Franciscan rule of life. The 1209 approval marked the beginning of the Franciscan Order.

The celebration was called the Chapter of Mats, a historical reference to a chapter in 1221 when 5,000 friars gathered in Assisi. And as in that earlier chapter, this year, the friars first congregated in front of what is today the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels, inside of which stands the Portiuncula. The Portiuncula — a small chapel — was the friars’ early home and much beloved by St. Francis.

For only the second time in its history — the first being in the year 1221 — the order invited all Franciscans to gather for what is called its “Chapter of Mats.” Given the growth of the order world-

wide, the event was known as the “International Chapter of Mats.”

In the early 1200s, St. Francis gathered the friars at the Portiuncula Chapel in Assisi. He told them to bring their mats. At that time they lived in huts and tents made of reeds. A Chapter of Mats was a time of renewal and an occasion to make decisions for their community. It was also a time to get to know one another and to learn from each other. Franciscan Religious communities have repeated this experience ever since.

In our region we hold the Chapter of Mats approximately every three years. For us too, it’s a time to get to know one another, learn from each other, and renew our commitment to our Franciscan charism.



TEN TIPS ON LIVING FROM BLESSED POPE JOHN XXIII, SFO

1. Only for today, I will seek to live the livelong day positively without wishing to solve the problems of my life all at once.
2. Only for today, I will take the greatest care of my appearance: I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behavior; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone except myself.
3. Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one.
4. Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.
5. Only for today, I will devote 10 minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.

6. Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.

7. Only for today, I will do at least one thing I do not like doing; and if my feelings are hurt, I will make sure that no one notices.

8. Only for today, I will make a plan for myself: I may not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.

9. Only for today, I will firmly believe, despite appearances, that the good Providence of God cares for me as no one else who exists in this world.

10. Only for today, I will have no fears. In particular, I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful and to believe in goodness. Indeed, for 12 hours I can certainly do what might cause me consternation were I to believe I had to do it all my life.

From The Franciscan Sun-Herald, newsletter of St. John the Beloved Apostle Fraternity

Papal Encyclicals and Apostolic Letters on Social Justice



POPE LEO XIII

Rerum Novarum: On the Condition of Workers

Issued on the fifteenth of May 1891. Literally “Of New Things,” on capital and labor and the condition of the working class. This was the most significant of all the encyclicals before

or since. *Rerum Novarum* broke down the barriers that separated the church from the worker. Rarely had the Church spoken on social matters in such an official and comprehensive fashion.



POPE PIUS XI

Quadragesimo Anno: On the Reconstruction of the Social Order

Issued May 15, 1931. Literally “In forty Years,” commemorating the fortieth anniversary of *Rerum Novarum*. This encyclical repeated many of the themes of *Rerum Novarum*: the dig-

nity of labor, the rights of workers to organize, etc. *Quadragesimo anno* also emphasized the immorality of keeping economic control in the hands of a few. It recognized the principle of subsidiarity, which held that higher levels of authority should act only when lower levels cannot deal with a problem.



POPE JOHN XXIII

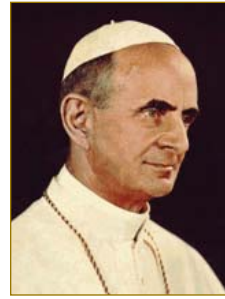
Mater et Magistra: Mother and Teacher

Issued May 15, 1961. Literally “Mother and Teacher,” on Christianity and Social progress. This encyclical gave an updated interpretation of the classic theme of private property

and introduced the notion of private initiative as an extension of private property. While *Rerum Novarum* and *Quadragesimo Anno* left responsibility for social justice with the individual, *Mater et Magistra* placed some in the hands of the state. (this encyclical needs to be read in conjunction with *Pacem in Terris*, literally “Peace on Earth,” Pope John XXIII’s other great encyclical.)

Pacem in Terris: Peace on Earth

This information is adapted from <http://faculty.cua.edu/pennington/law111/papalsocialencyclicals.htm>.



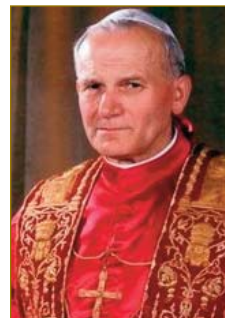
POPE PAUL VI

Octogesima Adveniens: A Call to Action

May 14, 1971. Apostolic letter issued for the Eightieth Anniversary of *Rerum Novarum*.

Populorum Progressio: On the Development of People

Issued March 26, 1967. Literally “On the Progress of Peoples.” As a vigorous endorsement of *Mater et Magistra*, *Populorum Progressio* presented Catholicism as an advocate of a pluralistic, decentralized approach to economic problems.



POPE JOHN PAUL II

Laborem Exercens: On Human Work

Issued on September 14, 1981. Literally “On Human Work.” *Laborem Exercens* focused on the themes that work is central to the social question and that work has potential not only

to dehumanize but also to be the means whereby the human person cooperates in God’s ongoing creation.

Sollicitudo Rei Socialis: On the Twentieth Anniversary of Populorum Progressio

Issued on December 30, 1987. Literally “On Social Concerns,” commemorating the twentieth anniversary of *Populorum Progressio*. *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* presented an overview of modern social problems with some guidelines for action. It dealt with authentic human development and adopted a critical attitude toward both capitalism and communism. *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* warned that economic development alone may not set people free but only enslave them more.

Centesimus Annus: The Hundredth Anniversary of Rerum Novarum

Issued on May 1, 1991. Literally, “The Hundredth Year,” commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of *Rerum Novarum*. *Centesimus Annus* brought *Rerum Novarum* up to date and tied it to “the preferential option for the poor” done in the context of the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, *Centesimus Annus* still criticized by both capitalism and communism.

Franciscan Saints, Blesseds and Feasts

(click on the name to go to a Web link)

MAY

- 16 [St. Margaret of Cortona](#), III Ord.
- 17 [St. Paschal Baylon](#), religious, I Ord.
- 18 [St. Felix of Cantalice](#), religious, I Ord.
- 19 [St. Crispin of Viterbo](#), religious, I Ord.
[St. Theophilus of Corte](#), priest, I Ord.
- 20 [St. Bernadine of Siena](#), priest, I Ord.
- 21 [Blessed Franz Jägerstätter](#), martyr, III Ord.
- 24 [Dedication of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi](#)
- 28 [St. Mariana of Jesus De Paredes](#), virgin, III Ord.
- 30 [St. Ferdinand](#), King, III Ord.
- 31 [St. Camilla Battista of Varano](#), OSC



St. Margaret of Cortona



Blessed Franz Jägerstätter

JUNE

- 2 [St. Felix of Nicosia](#), religious, I Ord.
- 8 [Bl. Nicholas of Gèsturi](#), religious, I Ord.
- 12 [Bl. Florida Cevoli](#), virgin, I Ord.
[Bl. Jolenta](#), religious, III Ord.
[Bl. Antoninus Bajewski](#), priest, and companions, martyrs [Pius Bartosik, Innocent Guz, Achille Puchala, Herman Stepien, priests;
[Timothy Troianowski](#), Boniface Zukowski, religious], I Ord.
- 13 [St. Anthony of Padua](#), priest, doctor, I Ord.
- 16 [Bl. Anizet Koplín](#), priest, and companions, martyrs of Poland [Henry Krzystofik, Florian Stêpniak, Fidelis Chojnacki, Symforiam Ducki], I Ord.
[Bl. Guy \(Guido\) Vignotelli](#), priest, I Ord.
- 17 [St. Albert Chmielowski](#), religious, III Ord., founder
- 22 [St. Thomas More](#), martyr, III Ord.
- 23 [St. Joseph Cafasso](#), priest, III Ord.
- 26 [Bl. Andrew Hyacinth Longhin](#), bishop, I Ord.
- 30 [Bl. Raymond Lull](#), martyr, III Ord.

JULY

- 1 [Bl. Junipero Serra](#), priest, I Ord.
- 4 [St. Elizabeth of Portugal](#), queen, III Ord.

- 7 [Bl. Davanzato](#), bishop, III Ord.
- 8 [St. Gregory Grassi](#), bishop, and companions, martyrs, I and III Ord.
- 9 [St. Nicholas Pick](#), priest, and companions, martyrs, I Ord.
- 10 [St. Veronica Giuliani](#), virgin, II Ord.
- 12 [Sts. John Jones and John Wall](#), priests, martyrs, I Ord.
- 13 [Bl. Angeline of Marsciano](#), religious, III Ord.
- 15 [St. Bonaventure](#), bishop, doctor, I Ord.
- 16 [Canonization of St. Francis](#) - Canonized 16 July, 1228, by Pope Gregory IX
[St. Francis Solano](#), priest, I Ord.
Outside of the U.S., he is celebrated on July 14
- 18 [St. Simon of Lipnica](#), priest, I Ord.
- 21 [St. Lawrence of Brindisi](#), priest, doctor, I Ord.
- 23 [St. Cunegunda](#), religious, II Ord.
[St. Bridget of Sweden](#), widow, III Ord.
- 24 [Bl. Louise of Savoy](#), widow, II Ord.
[Bl. Modestino of Jesus and Mary](#), religious, I Ord.
[Bl. Antonio Lucci](#), bishop, I Ord.
- 27 [Bl. Mary Magdalene of Martinegro](#), virgin, II Ord.
- 28 [St. Mary Teresa Kowalska](#), virgin, martyr of Poland, II Ord.
[Bl. Mattia Nazarei](#), virgin, II Ord.



St. Mary Teresa Kowalska

AUGUST

- 2 [Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula](#)
- 3 [Bl. Frederic Janssoone](#), priest, I Ord.
- 4 [St. John Baptist Mary Vianney](#), priest, III Ord.
- 7 [Bls. Agathangelus and Cassian](#), priests and martyrs, I Ord.
- 8 [Holy Father Dominic](#), priest, founder, Order of Preachers
- 9 [Bl. John of La Verna](#), priest, I Ord.
- 11 [St. Clare of Assisi](#), virgin, II Ord.
- 13 [Bl. Mark of Aviano](#), priest, I Ord.
- 14 [St. Maximilian Kolbe](#), priest, I Ord.



St. Clare