



AVE MARIA

The Newsletter of Our Lady Queen of Angels Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order
at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Rocky Point, NY

February-March 2011

***So God created human beings
in his own image.
In the image of God he created
them.***

(Genesis)

***When I consider the heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
What is mankind that you are
mindful of them?
human beings that you care for
them?
You have made them a little
lower than the angels,
and crowned them with glory
and honor.***

(Psalm 8)

In just a few sentences, Scripture defines for us an anthropology of human existence. It tells us who we are and where we are in this vast expanse we call the Universe. We are told that we were created *a little lower than the angels*; however sometimes I wonder about that niche. For the Word never assumed the form of an angel; only that of Man. And that fact differentiates us from the balance of creation. *In the image of God he created them...*No angel can make that statement.

Among all of God's creation, this makes us something special. If we are made in His *image and likeness*, we are, in a sense, the face of God reflecting back on

Himself. We are unique creatures with a unique purpose. And that purpose is spelled out for us in the commandment: *Thou shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.* This is our prime directive; our specific purpose. No other creature is bound by this mandate. In all of creation, Humanity was and is the soil which the Word chose to make His presence palpable in the Universe. We are the vehicle of that Incarnation brought forth uniquely in the person of the Blessed Mother.

On a purely natural level, the composer of this psalm is recognizing man's superior position in a created world. He is conscious of his ability to control the world about him. However, he also understands Man's limitations, his littleness when confronted with the immensity of the Universe. Yet, he is thanking God for the favor he has bestowed on Man; his awareness of God, his own self-consciousness and the fact that, in spite of his limitations, God has chosen Man as the object of His love. In short, it is a humble acknowledgement of who he is in relation to all of creation and to God, Himself. *What is mankind that you are mindful of him?* It is the expression of a right relationship with

God and the world about him. In fact, we are really nothing without God's love. Without Him, regardless of our talents, we would cease to exist. There is no pride in this hymn of praise and thanksgiving. We are merely a reflection of God's image, love and glory; nothing more. That is who Man is and, if we understand this, that *prime directive*, that *purpose* for our existence becomes so much more important. It's a rewrite of the old Baltimore Catechism: *God made me to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this world...* A few scientists have actually proposed the possibility of Man possessing a faith or religious gene in his DNA!

By our very nature, we, as a species, are an inquisitive, restive lot. We are forever busy, constantly on the move, always asking questions and searching for answers; no more so than now. Perhaps this is as it should be, as God so planned it. And it may remain this way until we come to understand that all of life's mysteries are solved in the light of this prime directive:

*Thou hast made us for thyself,
O Lord, and are hearts are
restless until they rest in Thee.*

*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
NAFRA Chapter 2010
Scottsdale, AZ,

**Pope Benedict's Intentions for the Months
February and March**

February

-Family: That all may respect the family and recognize its unmatched contribution to the advancement of society.

-Those suffering from Disease: That the Christian communities may witness to the presence of Christ in serving those who suffer from disease in those mission territories where the fight against disease is most urgent.

March

-Latin American Nations: That the nations of Latin America may walk in fidelity to the Gospel and progress in justice and peace.

-Persecuted Christians: That the Holy Spirit may give light and strength to those in many regions of the world who are persecuted and discriminated against because of the Gospel.

*Novena Prayer for Darfur,
Orissa and Pakistan*

(To be said between March 6 and March 14)

Merciful Father, Prince of Peace, Spirit of Wisdom, and Compassion, please look upon our brothers and sisters in Darfur, Orissa and Pakistan.

We humbly pray:

For those who have been subjected to violence: women, children, young and old men, we ask for healing, consolation and relief of further suffering.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

For those who have done violence, we ask for healing, forgiveness and the grace of conversion.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

For those in authority throughout the world, we ask wisdom, creativity, compassion and courage in addressing this situation.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Lord Jesus, Your Sacred Heart burns for love of all your people. Please place in our hearts that same love and inspire us to have the courage, wisdom and ingenuity to take what measures we can personally to relieve the suffering in Darfur, Orissa and Pakistan. We pray this in the Name of Jesus, our Lord, through the intercession of the sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Memorare

Remember, O Most gracious Virgin Mary that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto you O Virgin of virgins my Mother; to you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen

Fraternity & Regional News:
Member Updates

Just to bring you up to date on a few retired members who are no longer able to attend:

Carol Grant is now in assisted living at the Medford Multi-Care Center. If you wish to send her a card or note her address is: Medford Multi-Care Center

Unit 2A, Room 214
 3112 Horseblock Rd.
 Medford, NY 11763
 631-730-3168.

Loretta Slawinski recently had a successful repair to her Aorta. She is living at home and doing well and thanks us for continuing prayers.

Vinny Ascione has successfully completed cataract surgery and is also doing well.

In March we will be welcoming into our fraternity Gene and Gale Durney who are transferring from St. Lawrence of Brindisi in North Patchogue. The Durney's have been SFO's for a number of years. O.L.Q.A. is more conveniently located since they live in Wading River. We look forward to their presence at fraternity gatherings and the SFO experience they will bring.

We have \$163.39 in Checking and \$137.16 in Savings. The \$25.00 Fair Share for this year is now due. Make checks payable to O.L.Q.A. Fraternity or see Bob Heslar at our next gathering on February 20. If we are to sponsor a day of recollection this year, we will be needing funds.

Regional Updates

The Tau Cross Regional Retreat will again be held at Cor Maria in Sag Harbor. The dates are 4/12-4/14 and the cost is \$170.00. To make a reservation please see me or send a \$25.00 deposit to Bob Campbell, 135 Centre Ave. East Rockaway, NY 11518-1010. His phone number is (516) 599-4256. You can also send the info and deposit to Pete D'Amato, PO Box 447, Miller Place, NY 11764. Tel: 331-7680.

FLIC 2011 (Franciscans Living In Community) will be held August 8-11 (Monday thru Thursday lunch) at Mount Alvernia, Wappinger Falls NY. Cost is \$250. To register, send \$25 deposit to Bob Campbell, 135 Centre Ave, East Rockaway NY 11518.

The Region will once again be participating in the **Lenten H2O Project**. The idea is to select a time period during Lent in which we drink only water and donate the money ordinarily used for beverages to a project intended to provide clean drinking water for children and families in need. The money is collected at the fraternity level and sent to **Kathy Taormina, SFO, 920 Whitney Dr., Apple Valley, MN 55124**. You can send your donation to Pete D'Amato (address above). **Lent** begins this year on Wednesday, **March 9, Ash Wednesday. Easter Sunday is April 24.**

Please see page 2 for prayers which we are being asked to recite for various intentions.

*Franciscan Calendar for
February:*

- 4. St. Joseph of Leonessa, Priest I Order
- 6. Saints Peter Baptist, Paul Miki, and companions, martyrs of I and III Order
- 7. Saint Colette, virgin of II Order.
- 19. Saint Conrad of Piacenza, hermit of III Ord

March

- 2. Blessed Agnes of Prague, virgin of II Or
- 9. Saint Frances of Rome, religious of III Or
- 24. Blessed Didacus Joseph of Cadiz, priest

Happy Birthday:

Maryfrancis Meow	February 12
Ralph Goodwin	February 27

We ask you to Pray For:

Vinnie Ascione - illness
 Joseph Ascione - illness
 Albert Veranth - illness, Sp. Int.
 Loretta Slawinski, SFO, Illness
 Carol Grant, SFO, Illness
 Br. Patrick Murphy, OSF, Illness
 Terri Campbell, Illness
 Marie Scalisi, SFO, Illness
 Pio Paniccia, SFO, Illness
 Sandy Clay, Sp. Intentions
 Jim Steger, Illness
 Br. Ed Bacon, OSF
 Clare Oakes, SFO
 Gale Durney, SFO

*+ Memento +
Our Fraternity Deceased:*

Nicholas Alaimo
 Vita Alaimo
 Jennie Bongiorno
 George Erick
 Charles Hensel
 Anne C. Lambert
 Ellen Maloney
 Monica McCaffrey
 Louis Minerva
 Mary Ruocco
 Mary Lou Stegle
 "Perry" Sicurezza
 Rose Slawinski

Our Recently Deceased:

Clare Oakes, SFO

The Last Word:

**Bring my soul
 out of prison,
 That I may give
 thanks unto thy
 name.**

Psalm 142

