



AVE MARIA

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

June/July, 2011

I, by the grace of God, renew my baptismal promises and consecrate myself to the service of his Kingdom. Therefore, in my secular state, I promise to live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its rule of life. May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy father St. Francis, and the fraternal bonds of community always be my help, so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love.

We are a people of the "Promise," children of the 'Covenant' God made with the patriarchs and fulfilled in Christ's life and death on the cross. Our act of commitment, our profession as Secular Franciscans is a public acknowledgement of our identity with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the Patriarch in faith. It is not simply a renewal of our baptismal promises but a commitment to enter into them more deeply.

By our profession we bind ourselves to this Divine Promise in a specific manner; that is to follow Christ as Francis of Assisi, our Holy Father, set down for us. We unite ourselves to the great Franciscan Family, its traditions, its forebears, and its unique spirituality, redefining and intensifying our relationship with God and his Church.

Profession, then, is not a one-act play. It is not an agreement which

we made casually once upon a time and, perhaps, recall annually as time permits. It is an ongoing, daily act of conversion; a lifelong striving for Christian perfection inspired by the vision of St. Francis and enabled by the Holy Spirit. It places upon us the responsibility to get to know our Father Francis more intimately and to understand our Secular Franciscan way of life more thor-



oughly; for, by this commitment, we accept it as our primary spiritual niche, our fundamental vehicle of sanctification. So, then, not only are we people of the "Promise," we identify that "Promise" through our unique Franciscan charism. By it, we enter into a special relationship with Jesus and his Church; one that brings with it special graces.

Each time we celebrate a new members profession, while it is a cause for joy, it also gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on its meaning and the progress of our own life within our Franciscan fraternity; to dwell upon the words of commitment and

rededicate ourselves to fraternity, Order, the Rule and to these spiritual ideals.

May we live of lives in this special charism and ultimately earn for ourselves and our brothers and sisters in St. Francis our special reward next to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob AND Francis as people of the "Promise."

And....

May whoever observes all this be filled in heaven with the blessing of the most high Father, and on earth with that of his beloved Son, together with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, and all the powers of heaven and all the saints (St. Francis)

PAX et BONUM!



*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

May

That those who work in the media may always respect truth, solidarity and the dignity of each person.

That the Lord may grant the Church in China the capacity to persevere in fidelity to the Gospel and to grow in unity.

June

That priests, united to the Heart of Christ, may always be true witnesses of the caring and merciful love of God.

That the Holy Spirit may bring forth from our communities numerous missionary vocations, willing to fully consecrate themselves to spreading the Kingdom of God.

July

That Christians may contribute to alleviating the material and spiritual suffering of AIDS patients, especially in the poorest countries.

For the religious who work in mission territories, that they may be witnesses of the joy of the Gospel and living signs of the love of Christ.

*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:***Fraternity Updates**

Upcoming Fraternity Gatherings: Sunday, June 19 and Sunday July 17 at 1:00 PM. No Meeting in August.

Please keep in mind that sometime during the year, the fraternity will have its triennial elections as well as fraternity and pastoral visits in all probability conducted by Regional Minister, Joan Geiger, and Regional Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Matthias Wesnofske.

The fraternity donated \$50.00 to the Lenten H2O Project. We also donated \$100.00 to the Terri Campbell Lung Transplant Fund. Terri has been a close friend of Alicia's for many years. She is in need of a transplant and the family has little or no resources beyond basic medical insurance which pays only for surgery. If anyone else wishes to donate, please contact Alicia at 631-331-7680. This is a family that has fallen recently on hard times in more ways than one and certainly can use community based support and encouragement.

On May 7 twenty-four of us from three fraternities attended the day of Recollection at Villa Immaculata. The director was Brother Louis Miritello, OSF who spoke on the resurrected "Christ Within Us."

On May 12-15, Alicia accompanied Regional Minister, Joan Geiger, in attending the NAFRA conference in Belleville, IL. on "Forming the Formators." More to follow at a later date

Regional Updates

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.

Day of Recollection sponsored by St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fraternity, N. Patchogue on **Saturday, August 27 9:30-3:00 PM at Our Lady of the Island Shrine**, Eastport. Director Fr. Matthias. Bring your lunch or buy it at the shrine cafeteria. Fee is \$10.00. For information please call: 631-475-3426. **DIRECTIONS to the Shrine:** Traveling East, take the L. I. Expressway to Exit 70. At the stop sign turn right. Continue for two miles to Eastport-Manor Road. Take this road 1/2 mile to the Shrine's entrance. -OR- Sunrise Highway to exit 61. Keep to the left. At the stop sign turn left (be careful as it is a 4 lane,divided road). Cross over Highway 51 at the traffic light. The Shrine's entrance is 2 miles on your left.

St. Helen's Fraternity, Howard Beach, will hold its annual "**Getting to Know You Picnic**" at Forest Park, Woodhaven on September 17 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Alicia and Peter will probably attend. If you wish to come along, let us know: 331-7680.

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

Franciscan Calendar for

June:

- 13. St. Anthony of Padua, I Order
- 22. St. Thomas More, martyr, III Order
- 30. Bl. Raymond Lull, martyr, III Order

July:

- 1. Bl. Junipero Serra, I Order
- 10. St. Veronica Giuliani, II Order
- 12. Sts. John Jones & John Wall, martyrs, I Order
- 13. Bl. Angeline of Marciano, III Order
- 14. St. Francis Solano, I Order
- 15. St. Bonaventure, I Order
- 21. St. Lawrence of Brindisi, I Order
- 23. St. Bridget, III Order
- 23. Bl. Cunegundes, II Order
- 24. Bl. Louise of Savoy, II Order
- 27. Bl. Mary Magdaline Martinegro, II Order

Happy Birthday:

- Theresa Ascione, 5/21
- Bob Heslar, 6/24
- Barbara Hansen, 6/28
- Pete D'Amato, 7/7
- Margaret Goodwin, 7/30

+ 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

We ask you to Pray For:

- 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
- Br. Ed Bacon, OSF
- Gertrude Crean, SFO
- Fred Rigolini, SFO
- Annette Schmitt, SFO

Our Recently Deceased:

- Br. Marius Grone, OSF
- Robert Henry, SFO
- Clare Oakes, SFO
- Florence Keegan, SFO
- Theresa Rapiejko, SFO
- John Stewart, SFO
- Peggy Keyes, SFO
- Frances Cervasio, SFO
- Virginia Kilcheski, SFO

The Last Word:

True, one can also follow St. Francis and take him as one's model and leader without joining the Third Order. But as a member of the Third Order one becomes a son or daughter of St. Francis, a member of a supernatural family that has existed over seven hundred years;...one shares a treasury of graces and merits and an abundance of prayers of intercession; one is taken into the arms of him who, when dying blessed his sons with crossed arms, like Jacob

(D. von Hildebrand)