



# AVE MARIA

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

October-December, 2011

*“After the Lord gave me some brothers, no one showed me what I had to do, but the Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel. And I had this written down simply and in a few words and the Lord Pope confirmed it for me.”*

### Testament

In these fifty-six little words, Francis speaks volumes about who he is and the dream, the ideal to which he strove: to live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel. The Gospels are an immense spiritual city concentrated in a few pages. You do not simply plunge into a life according to the Gospel. It involves a dream; an ideal, a *Way*. We enter it through a virtuous door and with the assistance of a guide. We find an opening which fits the size of that dream. For monastics, that door is the hidden life of Christ; apart, in the desert, in prayer and fasting. They find their Christ alone and in communion with his Heavenly Father. But it is not a lonely life of complete isolation. There is a life that is separated from the world yet in communion with the Trinity and in the company of their confreres. It is not that the world is a bad place. It is, more precisely, that the place which they find is better! It is their Tabor; where they can rest and be absorbed in the wonder and mystery of Jesus and his saints.

So in one place in the Gospel, Jesus asks his companions: “Could you not spend an hour with me?” The monk offers Him more. To offer more than is asked is the secret to following Jesus in the Gospel. It is where duty ends and love and commitment begins. It is where “no one showed me

*what I had to do, but the Most High Himself...”* and the vastness of the Gospel becomes intelligible.

Francis had many dreams, many omens, many prophetic events in his lifetime. And for a long period of time, he wandered about somewhat aimlessly in search of that gate into this immense city. There were false starts and blind alleys as the *Most High Himself* directed his way. Spiritual GPS does not always hone in on the correct satellite. :-) The *Way* never comes easily. It makes demands-lots of prayer and sacrifice; lots of just listening to that inner voice; conversion.

Eventually Francis unlocked the mystery which made sense of the Gospels; made them intelligible. A light went on in his soul. And that *Way* was the way of the humility and the poverty of Jesus; not to see him in majesty on Tabor but in an unassuming little town as a tiny baby in Bethlehem and on a cross outside Jerusalem. The way for Francis was to walk precisely in Jesus’ footsteps; which is to say, not only in prayer and contemplation but in all of his travels and relationships. He did, for a time, consider the life of a hermit but decided that it was not his calling, his gate, although he valued the hermitage and what it offered. No, his calling was to meet God in prayer and in the silence of the cave and then proclaim Him to a world which was sanctified by His creating hand. The world was a good place to be. When he began attracting followers, he mapped out that road through the Gospels for them and *had this written down simply and in a few words.*

Those few and simple words form the

basis of who we are as Seculars. They color our world view and inform our spirituality. The Rule we follow is the descendant of these simple and few words and, very appropriately, it was *confirmed* by the *Lord Pope* for us.

There was, perhaps, a time in our lives when the Gospels were a confusing place; a time before we met Francis on his journey through its pages. Then we met him somewhere along the way in much the same manner as the disciples met Christ on the road to Emmaus. Then they became crystal clear and spiritually nurturing and we began our own pilgrimage. It is no mistake that the opening Reflection in To Live as Francis Lived is titled *Beginning Again*. That is what we did in Initial Formation and continue to do throughout life.

The Rule which Francis gave us is our roadmap. It is the product of his Gospel dream and his wish for his spiritual children; us! In our Rule, he is our guide along with the Holy Spirit who points the way. For we Seculars, it keeps the Gospels relevant and the presence of Francis’ spirit always fresh. He says that he had it “*written down simply and in a few words.*” Not many were necessary. Maybe, the most effective words in any rule of life are those not written but whispered between lines by the Holy Spirit.

*When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.*

**Jeremiah**

**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**

##### **October:**

***New Evangelization:*** That the New Evangelization may progress in the oldest Christian countries.

***World Mission Day:*** That the celebration of World Mission Day may result in a renewed commitment to evangelization

##### **November:**

***Ministers of the Gospel:*** That bishops, priests, and all ministers of the Gospel may bear the courageous witness of fidelity to the crucified and risen Lord.

***Pilgrim Church:*** That the pilgrim Church on earth may shine as a light to the nations.

##### **December:**

***General Intention:*** That migrants throughout the world may be welcomed with generosity and authentic love, especially by Christian communities.

***Christ, light for all humanity:*** That Christ may reveal himself to all humanity with the light that shines forth from Bethlehem and is reflected in the face of his Church.

### *Novena Prayer for Darfur, Orissa and Pakistan*

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:*

**UPCOMING GATHERINGS:** Next Fraternity Gatherings will be on October 16th and November 20th. As usual, there will be no gathering in December and the January 2012 gathering will be held on January 8th at St. Matthews, Dix Hills, where we will join New Pentecost Fraternity at the annual Christmas Party. Bring a covered dish. If you have questions, contact Alicia or Pete 331-7680

On December 3, we will have our third annual day of recollection in the chapel at St. Anthony's High School, 9:00 AM-2:30 PM. Morning refreshments will be available; however bring lunch. The retreat master will be, once again, Brother Richard Contino who will speak on an appropriate Advent topic. Brother has also written a new book for Advent. See below for details. Fee is \$15.00

Please see page 2 for prayers which we are being asked to recite for various intentions. While the Novena for Darfur, Orissa and Pakistan were intended for March and September, it is worthwhile to continue them at your convenience. Also, there are certainly other areas of the world where our prayers are needed—the entire Middle East comes to mind. Feel free to substitute or add. Also, on page 2, we have again included our National Prayer for Vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order and Pope Benedict's intentions for each month.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Tau Cross Region will have its annual Fall Gathering at St. Joseph's Parish Hall in Babylon on November 5 between 9:30 and 3:00. Everyone in the region is invited. Our guest speaker this year will be Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM. Bring lunch. If you wish to attend, please speak to Alicia or Pete.

**ADDITIONAL NOTE:** A new book from Brother Richard Contino, OSF entitled: *"To the Stable: Encounters on the Way to Bethlehem"*:

"An innovative but spiritually reflective portrayal of the Gospel accounts of the birth of Christ. This imaginative and prayerful narrative of the Christmas story uses literary creativity to stir the soul, touch the heart and give pause in order to praise God and give thanks for the greatest gift possible—that of his son, Jesus Christ."

Available at: [booklocker.com](http://booklocker.com); [amazon.com](http://amazon.com); [BarnesandNoble.com](http://BarnesandNoble.com); [Booksamillion.com](http://Booksamillion.com) and [Ingram.com](http://Ingram.com)

A good beginning to the Liturgical Year!  
\$14.95

*Franciscan Calendar for:*

*October*

- 4. Our Holy Father St. Francis
- 12. St. Seraphin of Montegrano, I Order
- 21. Bl. Josephine Leroux, II Order
- 22. St. Peter of Alcantara, I Order
- 23. St. John of Capistrano, I Order
- 26. Bl. Bonaventure of Potenza, I Order

*November*

- 4. St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop, I Order
- 6. All Souls of the Franciscan Order
- 13. St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, III Order
- 17. St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Patron III Order
- 19. St. Agnes of Assisi, II Order
- 29. All Saints of the Franciscan Order

*December*

- 8. Immaculate Conception
- 12. Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 15. Bl. Mary Frances Schervier, III Order

*+ Memento +*

*Our Fraternity Deceased:*

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

*Anniversaries:*

- Teresa Ascione, 11/10/91
- Maria Maloney, 11/25/91
- Peter D'Amato, 11/25/91
- Margaret Goodwin, 10/10/76
- Maryfrancis Meow, 11/1/92
- Mary Mihalitsianos, 10/24/98
- Loretta Slawinski, 10/24/98
- Carol Grant, 11/1/92
- Valarie Johnson, 11/18/89

*We ask you to Pray For:*

- Vinnie Ascione - illness
- Joseph Ascione - illness
- Loretta Slawinski, SFO, Illness
- Carol Grant, SFO, Illness
- Br. Patrick Murphy, OSF, Illness
- Terri Campbell, Illness
- Marie Scalisi, SFO, Illness
- Gerry Crean, SFO Illness
- Sandy Clay, Personal Int.
- Kevin Maloney, Illness
- Fred Rigolini, SFO, Illness
- Fr. Herman Czaster, OFM Conv.

*Happy Birthday:*

- Maria Maloney, 10/23
- Caroline Kush, 11/21
- Gene Durney, 12/8

*Our Recently Deceased:*

- Hugh Cassidy, SFO Bl. John XXIII
- Dcn Larry Miskell, SFO
- Mary Eddy, SFO St. Mary Qn of Ang

*The Last Word:*

In whatever way you think you will best please our Lord God and follow in his footsteps and in poverty, take that way with the Lord God's blessing and my obedience. And if you find it necessary for your peace of soul or your own consolation and you want to come to me, Leo, then come.

**LETTER to BROTHER LEO**

**Good advice!**

