

# TAU CROSS REGION

The Newsletter of the Secular Franciscan Order for The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties of New York

## Minister's Message

Joan Geiger, SFO  
Regional Minister

Dear Friends,

As you are aware, I attended the National Fraternity Chapter held at the St. Francis Renewal Center in Scottsdale, AZ from October 26-31. I will give you a brief summation of the meeting. The theme was *Bringing the Gift of Gospel Living to Life* "Our Credible Witness." We might say our "incredible witness." This year NAFRA had a Fraternal Visitation by Tibor Kauser, OSF, from Hungary and a Pastoral Visitation by Fr. Amanuel

**"...[Fraternity] should be a place for developing ...the Franciscan vocation ..."**

Temelso, OFM, Cap, from Africa. In addition there were presentations by Fr. Larry Janezic of Family Action Network (FAN), Kim Smolik of Franciscan Missionary Services (FMS), Fr. Mike Lasky of Franciscans International (FI) and Alan Ouimet of Franciscan Family Apostolate (FFA). Reports were also made by the many Commissions: Formation, Archives, Historian, JPIC, International, Tau-USA and the Budget.

**"National is ... looking for more consistency ...in Initial formation..."**

Last year national priorities were set in terms of the areas of need in the Order. They fell into four categories: fraternity, formation, communication and youth. Our basic unit is the local fraternity. Article 22 of our Rule reads that "This [Fraternity] should be a place for developing a sense of Church and the Franciscan vocation

and for enlivening the apostolic life of its members." Fraternity will be the focus of the Seminar held at St. Francis University in Loretto, PA next summer. Having made over 50 new Franciscan friends, Fraternity was evident in our discussions. While National is not dictating or mandating one text, they are looking for more consistency and coherence in initial formation across the United States. A "Forming the Formators" workshop will be held next May to see if a National Formation Manual should be a prescriptive across the entire NAFRA family. Both NAFRA and CIOFS have made significant strides in communication. In addition to English, essential Franciscan docu-

**"I encourage you to visit the National ([www.nafra-sfo.org](http://www.nafra-sfo.org)) and International ([www.CIOFS.org](http://www.CIOFS.org)) websites for information ...in the area of ongoing formation."**

ments are now available in Spanish, French, Italian, Korean, Portuguese, Polish and Vietnamese. I encourage you to visit the National ([www.nafra-sfo.org](http://www.nafra-sfo.org)) and International ([www.CIOFS.org](http://www.CIOFS.org)) websites for information especially in the area of ongoing formation. Kent Ferris, our new JPIC (Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation) Chair, has scheduled a webinar in mid-January. NAFRA/JPIC and a representative from each Region will dialogue with CRS in their Campaign to Confront Global Poverty. Kent kept stressing the need to pray, learn, act, activate and give if we are to attract youth and young adults to consider a vocation to the SFO. A *National Prayer for Vocations to the SFO* was adopted. It is printed in the newsletter. Kindly clip the prayer and put it in your Office, Bible or a prayer book

you use each day and recite the prayer daily. I would also ask that when a disaster happens, as in Haiti, the Philippines, and Louisiana (Katrina), and your Fraternity wishes to make a donation, write the check payable to NAFRA and send it to Peter D'Amato, Regional Treasurer. Peter will send the monies collected from the Regional Fraternities to NAFRA. While we're not looking for recognition, it's important that NAFRA is aware of our generosity. NAFRA presented the 2010 Peace Award to Brother David Buer, OFM. Brother works with the homeless and margin-

**"A National Prayer for Vocations to the SFO was adopted. It is printed in the newsletter." (See p 4)**

alized in Tucson and Las Vegas. NAFRA also declared solidarity with the migrants unanimously declaring "some current harsh attitudes toward migrants as intolerable and deploring the fear and anxiety paralyzing our immigrant brother and sisters."

Congratulations to the recipients of our Regional Awards: Barbara and James O'Neill, Peace Award and Santa and Daniel Matarazzo Family Award. Congratulations also to Robert Campbell who celebrated his Silver Jubilee as a Deacon.

Save the Date: The 18<sup>th</sup> Quinquennial, July 3-8, 2012 – Chicago, Illinois Theme: *Why Francis? Claim the Gift!* Presenters: Bro. William Short, OFM and Sister Ilia Delio, OSF.

Peace and All Good,  
Joan

## Fr. Matt's Reflection Angela of Foligno

Fr Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap  
Regional Spiritual Assistant

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, Pope Benedict gave his weekly catechesis on St. Clare of Assisi. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, it was on St. Elizabeth of Hungary. On October 13<sup>th</sup> he spoke on Blessed Angela of Foligno. We have often heard of St. Clare and also of St. Elizabeth, Patroness of the Secular Franciscan Order. I would like to mention a few things on Blessed Angela.

***"On October 13<sup>th</sup> (Pope Benedict) spoke on Blessed Angela of Foligno."***

Blessed Angela was born in 1248, married at age 20, and had children. A violent earthquake in 1279, a hurricane, and an endless war with Perugia affected her life and made her aware of death. In 1285 she called upon St. Francis in prayer, made a general confession, sold her possessions and 'enrolled in' (the Pope's words) the Third Order of St. Francis in 1291. She died in Foligno on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1309. This year her feast is celebrated for the entire Third Order on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Our Holy Father, in his catechesis, began by saying something that we ourselves often find true. He said, "People are usually fascinated by the consummate experience of union with God that she reached, but perhaps give too little consideration to her first steps, her

***"People are usually fascinated by the consummate experience of union with God that she reached, but perhaps give too little consideration to her first steps,"***

conversion and the long journey that led from her starting point, the 'great fear of hell,' to her goal, total union with the Trinity." How true it is that we find the stories of St. Francis and the birds, or Francis as the composer of prayers

***"Angela was a penitent. Our Holy Father speaks of a few of the steps Angela took on her journey."***

and songs, as interesting, rather than Francis as a man of penance and con-

***"The first...was the knowledge of sin' ..."***

tinuous conversion. Penance and conversion are not attractive or pleasant topics. In our own lives, how true it is that we are willing to abstain from sugars or fats on a doctor's orders, or are willing to diet in order to look better, but we shun from the idea of fasting. Or we sell things at a garage sale, or trade or lend items, or auction them off on Ebay, but are reluctant to just give the stuff away. Or, as I had mentioned during Advent, we put great effort into preparing for Christmas, but not in preparing for Christ.

Angela was a penitent. Our Holy Father speaks of a few of the steps Angela took on her journey. "The first, 'It was the knowledge of sin,' she explained, 'after which my soul was deeply afraid of damnation; in this stage I shed bitter tears.'" The Pope went on, "This dread of hell corresponds to the type of faith that Angela had at the time of her conversion; it was a faith still poor in charity, that is, the love of God. Repentance, the fear of hell and penance unfolded to Angela the prospect of the Sorrowful Way of the Cross, which was to lead her to the way of love."

***"Eventually, what would save her from her 'unworthiness' ... was Jesus Crucified, ...For this reason she preferred to contemplate Christ Crucified."***

Eventually, what would save her from her 'unworthiness' and from 'deserving hell' was Jesus Crucified, 'his crucifixion for me', his love. For this reason she preferred to contemplate Christ Crucified. Here she found the perfect balance: the precarious balance between love and suffering, God in the supreme act of suffering, which was a supreme act of love. She said, "No one can make excuses because anyone can love God and he does not ask the soul for more than to love him, because he loves the soul and it is his love."

The Holy Father went on to say; "From conversion to mystic union with Christ

Crucified, to the inexpressible. A very lofty journey, whose secret is constant prayer." The Holy Father concluded by saying, "Blessed Angela's life began with a worldly existence, rather remote from God. Yet her meeting with the figure of St. Francis and, finally her meeting with Christ Crucified reawakened her soul to the presence of God. And this is how Blessed Angela speaks to us. Today we all risk living as though God did not exist; he seems so distant from daily life. However, God has thousands of ways of his own for each one, to make himself present to the soul, to show that he exists and knows and loves me. And Blessed Angela wishes to make us attentive to these signs with which the Lord touches our soul."

***"Today we all risk living as though God did not exist; he seems so distant from daily life. However, God has thousands of ways ...to make himself present ...Blessed Angela wishes to make us attentive to these signs with which the Lord touches our soul."***

('Angela of Foligno, Complete Works' is available through the Classics of Western Spirituality, Paulist Press)



***"Humility exists only in those who are poor enough to see that they possess nothing of their own."***

**Bl. Angela**

## The Formation Corner Incarnation in Our Lives

Ralph Di Cicco, SFO  
Regional Formation Director

The origin of the Christmas crèche is not unknown by Franciscans. Indeed it was our beloved Francis who in 1223 made the birth of Jesus come alive in the hearts of the townspeople of Greccio. Long before Cecil B. DeMille,

**“Francis knew the significance of the Incarnation ...God’s unconditional love and faithful presence ...”**

Francis created what was undoubtedly a deeply moving reminder of the birth of Jesus with live action, a live infant, and live animals (and, no doubt, plenty of dung).

Francis knew the significance of the Incarnation – and he wanted everyone else to know it as well. He wanted everyone to know of God’s unconditional love and faithful presence in their human lives. Even with the dung. And, of course, the same is true today! God is here! With us. Right now. Unconditional love and faithful presence. We didn’t have to do anything to earn it. God loves us completely and fully. And there is nothing we can do to change God’s mind. But we can open our eyes and try to comprehend what all this means! And, if we do, we will be compelled to respond!

**“But we can open our eyes and try to comprehend what all this means!”**

God breaks into our complacency and says. “Wake up! You just gave birth to me! Maybe you’re still a bit groggy from the anesthesia...”

In the *Exhortation of St. Francis to the Brothers and Sisters in Penance* (in the Prologue to our *Rule*), Francis teaches us that “we give birth to him through a holy life which must give life to others by example (cf. Mt 5:16).”  
“WE GIVE BIRTH TO HIM through a holy life which must GIVE LIFE TO

OTHERS by example.”

This is not meant to be a spectator experience. In his Greccio reenactment, Francis held the infant, symbolically the “Babe of Bethlehem” in his arms – and we are invited to do the same.

When Mary said to the angel, “Be it

**“God breaks into our complacency ...’we give birth to him through a holy life which must give life to others by example’ (cf. Mt 5:16).”**

done to me according to your Word,” she was saying “yes” not only to the pregnancy but to years of loving, nurturing presence – and everything that comes with it. She was in it for the long haul. And so are we invited to be.

Fortunately, we are not an order of hermits. Article 22 of our *Rule* reminds us that “The local fraternity... established canonically... becomes the basic unit of the whole Order and a visible sign of the Church, the community of love... the privileged place for developing a sense of Church and the Franciscan vocation and for enlivening the apostolic life of its members.”

One of our fraternities recently celebrated the anniversary of its canonical establishment, during which the professed members were invited to share their reflections on life in fraternity and renew their profession commitments. Months in advance, these Franciscans were asked by their minister to specifically ponder these questions in preparation for this celebration: “(1) *What is the meaning of fraternity to me?* (2) *What is its place/ priority in my life?* (3) *(Life makes demands that take our time, but...) where is my heart in the times of absence from meetings?* (4)

**“All of us have messy lives – including plenty of dung. And it is in just such lives that the Babe of Bethlehem is born, nurtured, and grows. “**

*What are my desires for the future in*

*[our] fraternity?”*

Simple questions. Profound answers. The sharing that evening revealed a depth of connectedness, fraternal support, and a commitment to God that was a deeply moving reminder of what everyone probably already knew in their hearts, but perhaps hadn’t had the opportunity to reflect on and articulate to one another.

**“...each of us...can say “yes” to years of loving, nurturing presence. And so the significance of the Incarnation is not lost. “**

All of us have messy lives – including plenty of dung. And it is in just such lives that the Babe of Bethlehem is born, nurtured, and grows.

It is in the privileged place of our fraternities that each of us, like Mary, can say “yes” to years of loving, nurturing presence. And so the significance of the Incarnation is not lost. Not to us Franciscans.

*For reflection:*

+ *How is God speaking to me in Mt 5:16 (the passage cited in the Exhortation): “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

+ *How do I give birth to Jesus? In what practical ways do I give life to others?*

+ *How would I answer the four questions about the meaning of fraternity cited above?*



## Transformation & Formation

Margaret Birth  
St. Michael Fraternity

When I began attending Secular Franciscan fraternity reunions at my parish, I was intrigued by the notion that formation was an ongoing process - - not only for inquirers or candidates, but also for those who have already professed. Early on, I also learned that the idea of transformation plays a significant role in the lives of Secular Franciscans; even as I type this, I can look at a postcard nearby, with a drawing showing St. Francis of Assisi kissing a leper, beneath which is the word "tranSFOrmation" - - written just like that, with the letters SFO, as in Secular Franciscan Order, within the larger word-and then, beneath the word, these sentences: "God doesn't call the qualified. God qualifies the call."

**"Transformation, however, does not only take place within the fellowship of formation, but also within the privacy of our hearts. "**

A life of going "from life to Gospel and from Gospel to life" is what I've been striving for since I became a believing Christian as a teenager; it's often a struggle, though, to focus my life on Christ's values rather than on the values I see so many people pursuing in the world around me. Blessedly, I've derived much encouragement the last couple of years I've been associated with SFO, as I've learned how I can not only model myself after Jesus (who is perfect) but also after Jesus' devoted follower St. Francis of Assisi (who was a fallible human being). Jesus will always be my ultimate model, but St. Francis provided a great example of how any human being can achieve not the perfection of Christ, but the pursuit of a life spent living the Gospel He preached.

Formation takes place within the fellowship of SFO, as we read the Bible, and as we pray and sing hymns, as we learn about how St. Francis of Assisi and some of his better known followers have striven to understand and to live the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, and as we discuss how we can

understand and live that Gospel message more effectively ourselves. Transformation, however, does not only take place within the fellowship of

**"Early on, I also learned that the idea of transformation plays a significant role in the lives of Secular Franciscans..."**

formation, but also within the privacy of our hearts. One of the Bible passages that caught my eye, as I started looking at the New Testament from a Secular Franciscan perspective, was Romans 12:2. "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect" (NRSV). The Greek word translated here as "transformed" could more accurately be translated as "metamorphosed"- but, unlike a caterpillar, which builds a cocoon around itself and eventually emerges "metamorphosed" into a butterfly, this is not a finite physical metamorphosis; rather, it's an ongoing spiritual metamorphosis that St. Paul highlights here. Aptly, the Greek translation of the word "repentance" (which we must experience to become reconciled to Christ) means "to change one's mind." As we repent - - as we change our minds from their fascination with and conformation to the things of this world and transform our minds - - the metamorphosis we seek is one that draws us closer to living the "good and acceptable and perfect" Gospel, which is "the will of God." Undergoing the continuous process of formation in the Secular

**"Formation takes place within the fellowship of SFO..."**

Franciscan Order, then, we also undergo the continuous process of transformation within ourselves — and as we hopefully change for the better and grow more into our heavenly Father's image, we share that better self with our sister and brother Secular Franciscans...and so the processes go on and on — apart and yet together, just as we are.



## National Prayer for Vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order

Marian R. Crosby, SFO  
NAFRA Chapter 2010, Scottsdale, AZ

**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!**

### The TAU CROSS

The TAU is published quarterly, in January, April, July and October. Articles by fraternity members are welcome. If accepted, they may be edited. Please submit copies by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

**Please send items of interest (elections, professions, anniversaries, events, recognition) to Regional Secretary Alicia D'Amato, PO Box 447, Miller Place, NY 11764 or email at: [damato1@optonline.net](mailto:damato1@optonline.net)**

Address correspondence to editor Peter D'Amato, PO Box 447, Miller Place, NY 11764-0447. TEL: (631) 331-7680 or email at: [damato1@optonline.net](mailto:damato1@optonline.net).

## Rosemary Sheridan, SFO Awarded St. Agnes Medal

Nancy Gentilesco, SFO  
Our Lady of the Atonement Frat



Rosemary Sheridan, SFO, of Our Lady of the Atonement Fraternity, pictured above with Msgr. Donald Beckmann, Pastor of St. Ignatius, Martyr, was the third Secular Franciscan to be awarded the St. Agnes Medal of Service by Bishop William Murphy. Rose received her medal at Vespers on September 17.

Professed in 2002, Rosemary has participated in many apostolates at the Long Beach parish. She is presently in the Ministry of Consolation and the bereavement program as well. She attends daily Mass and is a Eucharistic Minister. She is also a hostess on Hospitality Sunday and has volunteered her time in the religious education program. In the words of Msgr. Beckman, "Rose has a strong and lasting commitment to the mission and welfare of Saint Ignatius Martyr."

That "strong and lasting commitment" both to parish and the Church in general, has also expressed itself by her participation in the Renew Program study group and also by her profession as a Secular Franciscan where she has served her fraternity as its Treasurer since 2007.

A mother of two sons, Patrick and Philip, Rose was widowed about 18 years ago. She was raised in The Bronx and married to Phil Sheridan. She was chosen to receive the award by the unanimous consent of the Pastoral Council; a recognition of her devotion to parish and people.

We congratulate Rose on her richly and justly deserved award and wish her many more years of service.

## Regional Awards

Peter D'Amato, SFO  
O.L.Q.A. Fraternity

Each year the Tau Cross Region recognizes individual members nominated for both the Peace and Family Awards for their contributions to the Region, Order, Church and Community. In 2010, these were conferred at the Fall Regional Gathering held at St. Joseph's Parish Hall in Babylon.

The Peace Award was presented to Barbara and James O'Neill of Blessed Raymond Lull Fraternity and St. William the Abbot Parish, Seaford for their long and dedicated services.

Of course, we all know Barbara as our recently retired Regional Minister, a position she held for 8 years. However, she also served the Region as Vice-Minister and Formation Director. She has also held various offices in Bl. Raymond Lull Fraternity, most recently (and currently) as Formation Director. She was a Girl Scout Leader and a volunteer at the local school library. She also taught in the Religious Ed program and is a member of the RCIA team.

Jim served as Provincial Minister prior to regionalization, Vice Minister and District Councilor. He also held a variety of offices in Bl. Raymond Lull Fraternity, was a Boy Scout Leader and a Merit Badge Councilor. He has been a member of the American Legion for 54 years serving as Commander, Chaplain, and Treasurer. He has also been an usher and Eucharistic Minister at St. William the Abbot Parish.

Both Jim and Bobbi were nominated for the National Peace Award as well.

Dan and Santa Matarazzo, members of Bl. John XXIII fraternity and parishioners at St. Joseph's, Kings Park, received the Family Award for an equally long, distinguished record of service. Santa has been a member of the Children of Mary and Legion of Mary, a Girl Scout leader, she also chaired the Diocesan Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts, has been a Eucharistic Minister and a member of the

Respect Life Committee among other services. Dan has served as a lector and also a Eucharistic Minister. Both are members of the Kings Park Civic Association, Order of the Sons of Italy and Friends of the Smithtown Library. Dan is a regular attendee at Kings Park School Board Meetings. Santa is also a Catholic Daughter of America, participates in a Small Christian Community and the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Finally, while there is no award for such a service, we must also recognize our own Bob Campbell as he celebrated his Silver Jubilee of ordination to the Diaconate in May, 2010. Bob served our Region as its Secretary for 3 terms (9 years) and most recently as Formation Director. We are all aware of his responsibilities as the Regional Database Manager and committee member of FLIC and the regional retreat coordinator.

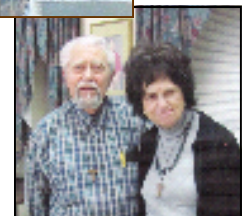
We cannot thank these members enough for their long histories of service and dedication to their communities, religious and otherwise. A willingness to serve requires not only a faith in God but also a belief in the inherent goodness of all of His creation. It is a validation of this fundamental tenet of Franciscan Spirituality: that God lives not only in all of His creation but in Man in a special way. As such, we are all precious in His eyes. Thank you!



Bobbi & Jim.  
O'Neill



Deacon  
Bob C.



Dan & Santa Matarazzo

## AROUND the REGION

*Bob Campbell, SFO  
Regional Data Base Manager*

### Rite of Admission

On May 22, in The Bronx, Jacqueline Bilbao and Betty Ann Soto were admitted into Poor Clare Fraternity. Dorothy Madden, SFO, Minister, presided.

On October 16, in Howard Beach, Patrick Delaney, Dolores Pullara and Mary Jo Venditelli were admitted into St Helen Fraternity. Lorraine Arcella SFO, Minister, presided.

### Rite of Profession

On September 18, in Howard Beach, Agnes Cummings, Dorothy Esposito, Mary Ann Kellen, Thomas Naef and Joanne Trusherska were professed into St Helen Fraternity. Lorraine Arcella, SFO, Minister, presided. Fr. Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap, was Friar Witness

On October 10, in Dix Hills, Arturo Esguerra, Mary Alice Heizman, Florence Marie Luna and Robert Martin were professed into New Pentecost Fraternity. John Hack, SFO, Minister, presided. Fr. Robert Hewes was the Church Witness.

On November 16, in Brooklyn, Marianne Bellucci and Jacinta Uguy were professed into Blessed Josephine Leroux Fraternity. Anita Jackson, SFO, Minister, presided. Fr. Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap, was Friar Witness.

On November 21, in Sunnyside, Corazon Bustamante was professed into St Mary Queen of Angels Fraternity. Margaret Fleming, SFO, Minister, presided. Fr. Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap, was Friar Witness.

On November 28, in Brooklyn, Er-linda Franco, Elaine Mauro and Michelle Vixaman were professed into Canticle of the Sun Fraternity. Rose Canepa, SFO, Minister, presided.

On December 3, in Hewlett, John Bergius was professed into Blessed Raymond Lull Fraternity. Augusta Van-

Duzen, SFO, Minister, presided. Fr. Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap, was Friar Witness.

### Deaths

Margaret McDermott, Canticle of the Sun, October 1, 2008

Anthony Francis, Canticle of the Sun, October 14, 2009

Genevieve Rogus, Canticle of the Sun, November 20, 2009

Doris Whitney, Canticle of the Sun,

Dominic Terrone, St Lawrence of Brindisi, September 14

Cecilia Soto, Blessed Raymond Lull, October 12

Ann Ray, New Pentecost, October 19

William Sembler, St Monica, November 11

Eileen Reilly, Poor Clare

Vita Alaimo, SFO, Our Lady Queen of Angels, November 21

Charles Hussey, Queen of the Seraphic Order, December 14

Margaret Olah, St. Adalbert, Dec. 17

Alfred Warner, St. Bonaventure, Oct. 9

### Elections

November 15, Ave Maria, Joseph Coniker, SFO, Minister

December 12, Louella Clark, St.

Monica, SFO, Minister

December 12, Canticle of the Sun,

Carolee Lawrence, Minister

### Anniversaries

55 Years: Margaret Dolan, Frances Fudge, Alice Gremillot, St. Mary Queen of Angels

30 Years: Rose Alba Zilly, St. Mary Queen of Angels

25 Years: Mark Crean & Helen Grimes, St Lawrence of Brindisi

20 Years: Donald & Lorraine Dunlay, Our Lady of the Atonement

### Activities

**December 4, Day of Recollection** at St Anthony HS, Melville, sponsored by New Pentecost Fraternity; presenter: Brother Richard Contino, OSF; topic: From the Carpenter's Shop to the Stable: Joseph's Pilgrimage to Bethlehem

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

Brunch: third Tuesday of each month at 11:45 am at the Premier Diner, Com-mack Road. Seculars from several fraternities gather to promote a fraternal bond between our SFO fraternities on

Long Island. We talk about Franciscan subjects with brothers and sisters - we're not afraid to speak about spiritual things in public; a grand time is had by all. Contact Frank Harnos (631) 499-0074 for directions.

**April 12-14: Regional Retreat** at Cor-maria, Sag Harbor; cost \$170, contact Bob Campbell (516) 599-4256 for information.

**April 16: Regional Chapter** at St Adalbert, Elmhurst; Fraternity Ministers are required to attend; all others are welcome as observers.

**August 8-11: FLIC (Franciscans Living In Community)** at Mount Alvernia, Wappinger Falls, NY; Teresa Baker, SFO, (former National Formation Co-Chair) will be the principal presenter; cost is \$250; contact Bob Campbell (516) 599-4256 for information.

NEED FORMS? RESOURCES?  
VISIT OUR TAU CROS S WEBSITE

[www.taucrossregion.org/taucross.htm](http://www.taucrossregion.org/taucross.htm)

## A LITTLE HUMOR

Jim O'Neill, SFO  
Bl. Raymond Lull Fraternity

A man and his wife sat down with their morning cups of coffee and listened to the weather report on the radio. "There will be 3 to 5 inches of snow today," the announcer said. "You must park your cars on the odd numbered sides of the street." The man said, "Geez..OK" and headed outside.

The next day, the announcer said, "There will be another 2 to 4 inches of snow today. Park on the even numbered side of the streets." The man shook his head and headed outside again.

Two days later, the announcer said, "There will be 6 to 9 more inches of snow today. Park your car on----" Right then the power went out. The man muttered "What am I supposed to do now?" Without looking up from her newspaper his wife replied, "Why don't you just leave the car in the garage today?"

# APOSTOLATES...

## Worth Mentioning

### St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fraternity Baby Shower

St. Lawrence of Brindisi celebrated its seventh annual baby shower at its December fraternity gathering. The program, known as the "Spiritual Adoption Prayer Program" was initiated by the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

For nine months prior to the "shower" prayers were offered daily by fraternity members for unknown, "adopted" prenatal babies in danger of abortion. At the end of the nine month period, gifts were brought to the gathering and placed on the chapel altar. Following the offering, they were transported to the Mercy Center Ministries in Pat-chogue, a center for homeless and/or pregnant teenage girls, where they were accepted by its director Briana Taylor.

If you are interested in donating in like manner, you can contact Mercy Center at 631-447-3978 or FAX 447-0113 or go to <http://mercycenterministries.org>.

### St. Agnes of Assisi Fraternity In Support of Needy Indian Family

This fraternity has adopted financially a needy family in Kerala, S. India. This service has had a profound impact on this distressed family. If you are interested in learning more about this program, contact Al Rocco, Minister at 631-447-6251

### Helping the Homeless New Pentecost Fraternity

New Pentecost Fraternity at St. Matthew Parish in South Huntington travels into Manhattan regularly on the third Saturday of each month in order to provide the population of a shelter for homeless men with prepared food, clothing and other necessities which are otherwise unavailable to these individuals. If you are interested in finding out more or how to contribute, contact either Frank Harnos at 631-834-1549 or John Hack, Minister at 631-220-00032

## Worth Supporting

### Amazon Relief

Amazon Relief is a program administered by Secular Franciscan, James Flickinger, of Our Mother of Sorrows Fraternity, Grand Rapids, MI, a member of the Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity in Lower Michigan and Toledo, Ohio. Its mission is to bring aid to the "at risk" population 1200 miles up the Amazon River. These people live mostly in abject poverty in areas available only by foot, in overcrowded shacks on stilts without food, proper sanitation, no education and virtually on top of disease laden sewage.

Amazon Relief provides humanitarian relief and funds for education in order to attempt to raise the quality of life for these populations to a livable standard.

The operating budget for Amazon Relief is \$250,000 all of which goes directly to provide these services. There are no administrative costs funded through charitable donations.

Amazon Relief is an approved tax-exempt charity which accepts donations either in cash or by credit card. You can learn more about this Franciscan based charity at: [www.amazonrelief.org](http://www.amazonrelief.org) or calling 616-453-9104. You may also contact Jim at [flickingersfo@prodigy.net](mailto:flickingersfo@prodigy.net). You can also write to:

Amazon Relief  
c/o James Flickinger, sfo  
1456 Blythe Drive NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504



## Membership Reports

Peter D'Amato, SFO  
Regional Treasurer

By now every fraternity in the region should have received an envelope from me containing a greeting letter, a copy of the Fraternity Membership Report and a form requesting updated fraternity information. All of these are necessary in order for us to maintain accurate records and plan for the upcoming year. As you are already aware, the regional budget and the Fair Share we submit to the National Association are based upon the information that each of you provide on the Membership Report. The Executive Council cannot finalize a budget for the Region until we receive this information from each fraternity.

In order to make it more convenient, I have included a self-addressed stamped envelope for you to use when you have completed both forms and are ready to send them to me. We are requesting that both be returned no later than January 31. Equally important, the membership count should reflect the number of professed, candidates and inquirers in your fraternity as of December 31, 2010. The earlier we receive both forms, the easier it will be for us to plan. We appreciate your cooperation. Any questions, feel free to call me at any time. Many thanks!

Pete D' 631-331-7680

### Regional Executive Council:

**Joan Geiger**, Minister: (718) 347-4470; [geigerjmm@hotmail.com](mailto:geigerjmm@hotmail.com)  
**Raymond Clarke**, Vice Minister: (516) 374-1521; email [Raymond.Clarke1@verizon.net](mailto:Raymond.Clarke1@verizon.net)  
**Alicia D'Amato**, Secretary: (631) 331-7680; email [damoto1@optonline.net](mailto:damoto1@optonline.net)  
**Peter D'Amato**, Treasurer: (631) 331-7680; email: [damoto1@optonline.net](mailto:damoto1@optonline.net)  
**Ralph DiCicco**, Formation Director: (631) 423-7431; [ralphsfo@verizon.net](mailto:ralphsfo@verizon.net)  
**Constance Watz**, Councilor: (718) 821-1875, [cwatz711@aol.com](mailto:cwatz711@aol.com)  
**Fr. Matthias Wesnofske, OFM, Cap.**  
Spiritual Assistant: (212) 564-9070 ext 244; email [Mwesnof1@aol.com](mailto:Mwesnof1@aol.com)

**Around the Region in Photos**



Greccio Service at St. Adalbert December 18



Profession at Canticle of the Sun Fraternity with Fr. Francis Hughes, Pastor St. Columba Parish December 19



Br. Richard Contino, OSF Retreat Day, December 4.



Helen Grimes & Mark Crean, St. Lawrence of B. celebrate their 25th anniversary by renewing promises, Oct. 3



Christmas Gifts for Mercy Center St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fraternity



Minister Joan Geiger opens Fall Gathering on November 6



Welcome to Inquirer, Sylvia Murolo, at St. Lawrence of Brindisi



Fred Rigolini, New Pentecost Frat., Retreat Day-St. Anthony H.S.



Lorraine & Donald Dunlay O.L. of the Atonement Frat. celebrate 20th as SFO's.



Elections at Ave Maria Fraternity Nov.15 at St. Peter's, Islip Terrace



Profession at New Pentecost Frat. St. Matthew Church, October 10