
Tau Cross Region

Secular Franciscan Order for The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk

Minister's Message

Raymond Clarke, ofs
Regional Minister

How Do We Begin to Serve?

My dear Sisters and Brothers, I wish you God's continued blessings throughout this Easter season and beyond. I also thank the fraternity ministers of our region for honoring me with the gift of service to our region, as its minister. As I consider the responsibilities of the office, I am at once awed but equally exhilarated. It is my intention, with the help and prayers of you, my sisters and brothers, to help foster an even closer sense of brotherhood and mutual responsibility among our fraternity sisters and brothers, and the communities that we serve.

As St. Francis sought happiness, in his youth, through capricious activities and self-gratification; lifestyles that lead only to unhappiness, despair and destruction, we, too, often look inward for paths to happiness and contentment. However, one of the messages that St. Francis left us is that: "The beggar on the street, the leper in the hospital, the criminal, the dying patient, the abused child: each of these are reflections of the suffering Christ, each mirrors of the incarnate God."(1) It is in service to these, "the least of my children" that we find true paths to

happiness and inner contentment; not to mention, God's pleasure!

We already engage in many activities, around the region, that do, indeed, serve the least of God's children. And this is good. But it is no reason to sit on our laurels and/or pat ourselves on the back. Our work is far from over. In fact, we must accept that our work will never be done and reflections of the suffering Christ, can be found everywhere. The fact that our work will never be done should not be a source of frustration, but rather a source of inspiration. Every day we can pick up where we left off yesterday. Every day we can seek to please God with our service to His children. Every day we can seek and receive God's forgiveness for our failures in service to His children. Every day, we can give God thanks for the talents and resources with which He has blessed us; talents and resources that we can use to serve the least of His children.

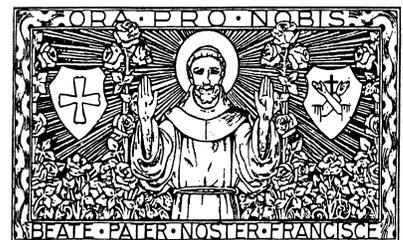
So, how do we begin to serve? We first begin to serve, especially in the Year of Mercy, by recognizing that earthly pleasures of self-indulgence, over-consumption, intolerance and insensitivity do not lead to happiness. These are sins against God's people and the

environment. Instead, true paths to inner peace and contentment are found within our embrace of service. We look within ourselves for areas where we have been blessed with talents and/or resources that enable us to serve. We ask ourselves, which of our works is still undone? We open our ears to God's call to service and be not afraid to answer and say yes, to God.

As I begin my term of service, as minister, I encourage you, my sisters and brothers, to call upon me and the executive council in your efforts of service. One of our strengths is our ability to communicate and cooperate with each other. To that end, let not only Email be our friend but also good old telephone calls. The new council and I will be coming out to visit all of the region's fraternities and we look forward to seeing you all.

Again, I welcome and thank you for your prayers. May God continue to bless and keep you.

1) from *Perfect Joy: 30 Days with Francis of Assisi* by Kerry Walters



Fr. Matthias' Message

Fr. Matthias Wesnofske, ofm, Cap.
Regional Spiritual Assistant

To Wonder

On Friday, March 4th, it snowed all day. It was a light snow, covering the grass and shrubs. The streets were black, but I knew I had to clean off an inch of snow from my car. Another friar and myself were sitting at the kitchen table the following morning; the sun was shining brightly, and suddenly we noticed a robin sitting in the tree outside the window. It made my day! Here we were in the middle of Lent, snow on the ground and yet we knew spring was coming. I'm not a great fan of hot weather, but here was a sign that the snow and ice of winter was coming to an end. The robin also told us that new life and resurrection were near.

The Ven. Solanus Casey, a Capuchin friar, had written, "Every day you shall wonder at yourself...at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God." It is good for us to stop and consider the richness of life which has come to us. We can become so discouraged in listening to or watching the news; the stabbings, the 'hit and runs', shootings, the wars in the Middle East, terrorism, and the seemingly never ending presidential campaign. We don't deny that there are problems in the world and we, in sometimes a small way, are called to alleviate these problems. But, perhaps it is also time to wonder at the richness of life. "Where there is sadness, let

me sow joy," is part of our vocation as Secular Franciscans. But in order to do this we must rejoice in the wonders of life, the wonders of God's action in our lives and in the world.

We are so blessed in having a Pope who has given the example in so many ways of living our Franciscan vocation with his life of poverty, simplicity and humility. We are grateful for his encyclical "Laudato si," and for proclaiming this year as a Jubilee Year of Mercy. He has called us to see the richness of God's grace, both in creation and in the infinite mercy of God. We rejoice in the wonder of God's action in the Church and in the world.

During Lent, here at the parish where I reside, we had 7 sessions of hearing confessions of children. To listen to the honesty, the firm purpose of amendment, the sincere sorrow and willingness to try again of these children is an inspiration and once again, a moment to rejoice at the wonders of God's action in the world. Yes, we strive to grow in the awareness of those who are depressed, those who feel rejected, those who are lonely, those who are chronically ill, those who are mentally or physically challenged, those who feel that their lives have lost value. We pray for enlightenment to discover ways in which we can pick up their spirits and to acknowledge their self worth and to experience the joy of being accepted once again. But in order to do this we must wonder at the graces we have received, to

rejoice in the mercy shown us, the richness of life which has come to us through the mercy and grace of God.

REGIONAL ELECTION

Results

On Saturday, April 9, the Region gathered at Holy Family Parish Hall, Queens, to conduct our triennial election of officers to the Regional Executive Council. The election was presided over by NAFRA rep. Jerry Rousseau, ofm and Fr. Matthias with the following election results:

Minister: Raymond Clarke
Vice Minister: Frank Scotto
Secretary: Augusta Van Dusen
Treasurer: Charles Zeiss
Formation Dir: Eugene Keenan
Councilor: Jean Thomas
Councilor: Alicia D'Amato
Councilor: Anthony DaVino

We offer our congratulations to the new REC and our prayers for a successful term guided by the Holy Spirit and that of our Father, St. Francis of Assisi.

St. Adalbert Fraternity Retreat

June 24-June 26

Mount Alvernia Retreat House
Wappinger's Falls, NY

Theme: The Mercy of God

Meet bus on Friday 12:15

Bus leaves Sunday 2:00

Cost: \$175; Bus add, \$30

TOTAL by Bus \$205

Interested:

Contact Connie Watz

cwatz711@aol.com

What Are We To Do Now?

Gene Durney, ofs
Our Lady Queen of Angels Frat

Lent is a challenging time for faithful Catholics, especially Secular Franciscans who might be getting a little long in the tooth and are thinking often that they should be doing more to bring about the Kingdom. Yes we often pray, "Dear Lord... The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" as we contemplate what we can do with our limited energy and mobility. We pray each day that the Lord will help us to find ways to help others in effective and meaningful ways. The corporal works of mercy are there to remind us that we should try to help to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and care for the orphan. But how?

I was thinking and praying about this not too long ago at Sunday Mass when a friend of mine named Peter who I hadn't seen for many years, suddenly appeared at the lectern after Mass and spoke of a charity which his wife Pattye and other faithful Catholics created some 15 years ago.

The name of the group is Sobornost*. It is a "Fair Trade" organization that helps support thirdworld farmers, artisans and laborers by purchasing what they produce at fair prices. They then sell their quality goods here on good old Long Island. In this way the worker/producers are paid a much higher amount for their goods than if they sold them to a profit making commercial wholesaler or attempted to sell them in their home countries. The fact that poor people are being paid fairly for their labor and the things which they produce

would be reason enough to support this effort... BUT HERE COMES THE BEAUTY PART, Sobornost then returns every cent of the proceeds derived from these sales to charitable efforts in India, Zambia, presently and will be expanding to other locations to include more children. These efforts feed and fund education for orphans. These children are being fed, placed in schools while being sheltered and being provided proper school uniforms...

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?
At our last Fraternity gathering we hosted Sobornost. After sharing the details of their mission with us, we had the opportunity to see some of the merchandise available through the program and to make purchases. We then discussed ways we might as a Fraternity assist them in spreading the word... Would your Fraternity or your parish be interested in hosting Sobornost at your next gathering, special event, retreat or day of recollection? If so, you can visit the organizations web site for more information at www.sobornostfoundation.org or call them directly at 631-255- 1995

Think about it. Pray about it. This might be the answer you have been searching for.... Peace And AllGood.... gene

*Sobornost has received the endorsement of both OFS-JPIC (Justice Peace & Integrity of Creation) and CRS (Catholic Relief Services).



Youth/Young Adult Update

Jean D'Onofrio, ofs
Regional Chairperson YYA

Update on Youth/Young Adult ministries: Currently NAFRA is studying which direction we, as an Order, should pursue as we endeavor to be present to the younger population. However, Jan encouraged me to continue our efforts, whatever they are, in our Region. Please let me know, what activities, projects, or programs your fraternity has done with youth and/ or young adults. We are mandated to do this by our rule, let alone the Gospel, which impels us to proclaim the Gospel to all! Please check out the website as a very detailed resource Program for Young Adults/ High School students will be on our webpage. The resource is quite complete, (no need to print it all, just print out what you want to use) and is very adaptable and easy to break down into smaller bits of time. In fact, I would encourage you to do just that, choose something that tugs at your heart and start small then build upon it. If anyone is interested in using this, please call or email me and I will be most delighted to assist you!

In His Joy, Jean D'Onofrio, OFS
Regional Chairperson YYA
jld10756@optonline.net
631 928- 7894



Peter & Pattye Pece
Sobornost

The Chrism Mass

Frank Scotto, ofs
Regional Vice Minister

On Holy Thursday, March 24, 2016, I had the honor of representing my parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary, at the Chrism Mass held at the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph, with the Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, P.H.D, D.D., Bishop of Brooklyn, as Celebrant.

If you ever have the opportunity to be invited to a Chrism Mass, you will discover the wonder, and awe of a most inspirational liturgy. Upon entry, I was escorted to my seating behind the Deacon section where I could clearly see the sanctuary and the cathedra (Presider's chair) from where Bishop DiMarzio would celebrate mass, and in the area where the sacred oils would be blessed. As I sat in quiet prayer before mass, I was caught up in the beauty that surrounded me: the high vaulted ceilings; gigantic marble columns; and the breathtaking murals, all capsulated in a domed structure of large stained glass panels. This visit to the Co-Cathedral was my third and each time, I am more taken-back by its serenity and beauty.

The organ music and voices of the choir elevated the spirituality of the event as hundreds of priests, religious, seminarians, and lay people processed into the Cathedral in a sea of white vesture. As I looked upon them, I could envision the span of ages from the very young priests newly ordained to those that have served and continue to serve God in His church. It was wonderment in motion.

The Holy Gospel was proclaimed according to Luke 4:16-21. Immediately following the warm and tender homily by Bishop DiMarzio, the Renewal of Priestly Promises took place. There may have been hundreds of ordained but yet they cried out in one voice! Once the Priests had concluded their renewal, the deacons followed in the same manner, dedication and resolution.

I was fortunate to be seated forward in the Cathedral with a monitor up to my right where each action and blessing could be observed. From my vantage point, the Blessing of Oils and Consecration of the Chrism took on a new meaning. For the first time, I was able to see Bishop DiMarzio breathe onto the vat containing the Holy Chrism... in the form of a cross. At this moment, the priests extended their right hands toward the Chrism in silence, when the words were begun "And so Father by the power of your love....." At the completion of the Blessing of the Oils, the congregation then chanted the Our Father, followed by the Ave Verum :

*Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin
Mary,
who having truly suffered,
was sacrificed on the cross for
mankind,
whose pierced side flowed with
water and blood:
May it be for us a foretaste of the
Heavenly banquet in the trial of
death.
O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus
O Jesus, son of Mary, have mercy
on me. Amen*

The Liturgy was eloquently carried to an end, with beauty and splendor, glorifying God.

After the closing prayer, we processed out singing "Go, My Children, With my Blessing"

And so we did, in His joy.

The Chrism mass is not simply an elaborate liturgy with the blessing of new oils but so much more. Each time I am witness to this beautiful rite, it becomes a life changing moment. It is one thing to know you are in the presence of the Lord, but with the sights, sounds, music, holiness, spirituality and love surrounding me, I truly felt His visible appearance was imminent! In a humble way, I was frightened.

Well, perhaps in the depths of my own mind and heart, He DID appear!
Amen.

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gkeen238@optonline.net

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damato1@optonline.net;

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(631)974-4097

leadmetotherock@aol.com

**Fr. Matthias Wesnofske, ofm,
Cap. Spiritual Assistant:** (631)

286-7921 ext 28;

mwesnof1@aol.com

Around the Region

Professions

- 2/21:** Jim Totino, Jackie Totino,
Richard J. Cantwen, Sr.
St. Agnes of Assisi Frat.
4/10: James Cunningham, Angela Di
Nunzio, Clara Inez Loudis,
Holy Child Jesus Fraternity

Anniversaries

65 Years

Al Rocco, St. Agnes of Assisi

60 Years

James O'Neill, O.L. of Atonement
Robert Woessner, St. Lawrence of B
Miriam Baskin, St. Thomas More

55 Years

Patricia Johnson, Cure of Ars
Ronald Chirco, St. Lawrence Brindisi
Mary Lou Hughes, Il Poverello

45 Years

Dorothy Rawlinson, Il Poverello
Marjorie Fusco, Il Poverello

35 Years

John Hack, New Pentecost
Carl Riccio, Immaculate Conception
Ruth Leskovicz, St. Maximilian Kol.
John DeRiso, St. Helen
Yolanda Rinaldi, St. Helen

30 Years

Grace Haynes, Holy Child Jesus
Alice Haynes, Holy Child Jesus
Juan Ramirez, O.L. of Guadalupe
Marilyn Cooke, O.L.Q. of Angels
Inetha Freeman, Holy Cross (Deact.)
Jane Walsh, Cure of Ars

25 Years

Virginia Tidd, Il Poverello
Rocco Mastronardi, St. Barnabas
Joseph Guardino, Cure of Ars
Crusita Castellano, O.L. of Guadalupe
Mary Cammarato, O.L. of Atonement
Katherine Smith, Immaculate
Conception

Deaths

- ND** Neil Engenberger, OLQA Fr.
2/22: Jack Reilly St. John XXIII
2/25: John Yaegel, St. Adalbert
2/29: Catherine Brown,
Bl. Josephine Leroux Fraternity
3/01: Thomas Dolan, Il Poverello
3/06: Rosa Roa, St. Louis Frat.
3/11: Virginia Mendoza, St. Louis
3/29: Dcn. Tom Bello, National
Minister, OFS.

Activities

- 1/08:** Bl. Raymond Lull Fraternity
Epiphany Celebration
1/10: New Pentecost Fraternity
Epiphany Celebration
4/09: Regional Chapter of Election
Held at Holy Family School Hall.
(See page 1 for results
4/19-21: Regional Retreat at
Cormaria Retreat House,
Sag Harbor, NY

Upcoming Events

6/18: Day of Recollection
sponsored by Our Lady of the
Atonement and Bl. Raymond Lull
Fraternities; Speaker Frank
Scotto, ofs, Tabor Retreat House,
Oceanside, NY.

6/25: Regional Picnic at Elwood
Park, 309 Cuba Hill Road,
Huntington, NY, 10 AM-3:30 PM.
All invited. Bring your appetite!

8/15-8/18 F.L.I.C. (Franciscans
Living In Community) to be held at
Mount Alvernia Retreat Center
Wappinger's Falls, NY
Retreat Master: TBA
For further information please
contact Deacon Bob Campbell, ofs
at arcyc@aol.com or 516-599-4256
Fee will be \$275 per person.



Regional Picnic

Where: Elwood Park, 309
Cuba Hill Rd, Huntington, NY.
When: June 10 to 3:30
All are invited. No Charge
Just bring your appetite!
Information: Contact Frank
Harnos at 631-834-1549 or
fharnos@aol.com or...
Pete D'Amato at 631-331-7680
or [damato1@optonline.net](mailto:damoto1@optonline.net)

Save the Date for FLIC

8/15-8/18 F.L.I.C. to be held at
Mount Alvernia Retreat Center
Wappinger's Falls, NY
Retreat Master: TBA
For further information please
contact Deacon Bob Campbell, at
arcyc@aol.com or 516-599-4256
Fee will be \$275 per person.

TAU CROSS REGION

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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, etc. to
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**The Last Word:
Joan Geiger, ofs**

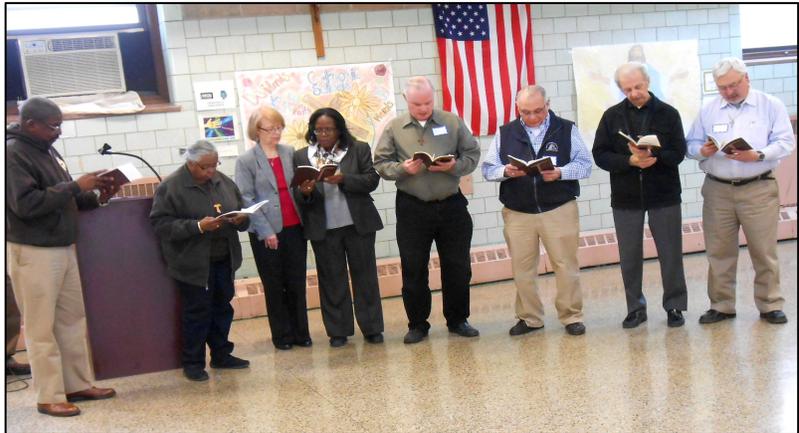


We would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing minister, Joan Geiger, ofs for her nine years of service to the Tau Cross Region as Minister, Vice Minister & Councilor.

She guided the Region particularly in the last six years through some of its most difficult times with dedication, commitment and wisdom.

As she moves on to a new challenge as a member of the National Council, we offer her our congratulations prayers and best wishes.

Thank you, Joan, for a job well done.



Newly Installed Tau Cross Region REC Promise...

L-R Raymond Clarke, Minister; Augusta VanDusen, Secretary; Alicia D'Amato, Councilor; Jean Thomas, Councilor; Eugene Keenan, Formation Director; Charles Zeiss, Treasurer; Frank Scotto, Vice Minister; Anthony DaVino, Councilor.



Franciscan Joy!

Holy Child Jesus Fraternity, joyously professed: James Cunningham, Angela DeNunzio and Clara Ines Loudis
Left to Right Alicia Levano, OFS, John Kausilas, OFS, Jimmy Li, OFS, Elva Kausilas, OFS, James Cunningham, OFS, Angela DeNunzio, OFS, Father Matthias Wesnofske, OFM, Cap., Clara Ines Loudis, OFS, and Joan Brancato, OFS.

**Franciscan Day of Prayer
Justice * Peace* Integrity
of Creation**

Frank Scotto, ofs-Presenter
Saturday, June 18 9:00 AM
Mass at St. Anthony's Church
Oceanside, NY
Light Breakfast at Tabor House
60 Anchor Ave.
Bring Lunch

Cost: \$25.00 per person
Sponsor: O.L of Atonement
and

Bl. Raymond Lull Fraternities
Reservations please Call:
Mary Cammarato, ofs 516-432-4370
marymcam@msn.com

or
Louise Sandberg, ofs at:
louyes2god2@aol.com



Minister, Louise Sandberg (L), of Bl. Raymond Lull, welcomes new transferee Geraldine Lecesse (R)



It's early Spring and occasionally we need to reminisce about the warmth of Summer times past. OLQA Fraternity & OFS friends