

Tau Cross Region

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

Minister's Message

Raymond A. Clarke, OFS
Regional Minister

Is There a Certain Temperament Required to Reside in heaven? – Part 1

Sisters and Brothers, if you are anything like me, the Lenten season is a period of intense reflection and self-examination. During my reflections, I've thought about the wide array of interactions, that I've had with, who else? God's children. Our sisters and brothers, within our Order and beyond. I've got to tell you, there have been plenty of times that I wish that I would have been more patient, less eager to respond to unpleasantness with unpleasantness, more understanding than I need to be understood.

Now don't think that that's it for me. The entire list would make "War and Peace" seem like a Sunday newspaper insert. Let me tell you what these reflections said to me: "Do I have the temperament to be in heaven?" The question chilled my bones. For I imagined that if I were to make it into heaven, I'm pretty certain that I would find a place with no barriers, no high-rent districts, no other side of the track neighborhoods, no places segregated for high society or a place for short people and another for tall people. I think that you get the idea. We'll all be in the mutual

presence of God.

With this in mind, I thought, how would I interact when I inevitably run into someone, who, while I was on earth, I was impatient with, or not sufficiently sympathetic with or I didn't take the time to understand or say I'm sorry or worse? Oh, I have a lot of work to do. Though heaven is promised to those who are "pure of heart, for they shall see God", what does "pure of heart" really mean. If we think that we're going to heaven, we really need to examine our hearts.

How about that twenty-year-old grudge that you've been holding against a good friend or family member, how will you be moved to behave, when both of you are in heaven? Umm. Or that relationship or even a marriage that ended badly? Oh yeah, some of those people might end up in heaven too! What do you think heavenly decorum demands? And are we practicing it now, here on earth? Or what about that terrible criminal, who has committed horrible crimes against society, yet has been truly remorseful and repentant on earth. How would you see that person now, here on earth and how you would see that person in heaven? God forgives even the worst of criminals and sinners, provided they are sincerely remorseful, repentant and ask God for forgiveness. Furthermore, God's mercy is so great that He erases our sins altogether! Like they never happened. How quick are we to

anger and sin? Yet how slow we are to forgive. Of all the people that have hurt or offended us, here on earth, who among them would we intercede for God's mercy and forgiveness? Truly our lives, here on earth, provide ample opportunities for us to forget what we, in the Order, as well as, Catholics at large, are supposed to remember most!

We are blest and Jesus teaches us to strive to be blest. As in "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" And we'll need plenty of God's mercy, in order to get into heaven.

Now, I really do want to get into heaven. And the way I see it, I need to re-examine my attitudes and impulses, right now! I need to commit to finding ways to recognize those attitudes and impulses, that will have no place in heaven, before I act upon them. I must correct my sinful ways by reforming and looking for ways to live more in accordance with and in a manner more acceptable and deserving to be in God's presence.



H2O Project in Action

Louise Sandberg, ofs, Minister
Bl. Raymond Lull Fraternity

Abstain from my favorite drink for 2 weeks and give that money to those who don't have anything safe to drink. That is our Lenten H2O project and has intrigued me since I first heard of it. I have participated in giving ever since my first meeting in 2000, and I never really expected to see the project in action.

In 2016 I went with a Secular Franciscan, Stephen H. Smith, OFS, who had organized a mission trip to Uganda. His organization is called "To The Nations" and it operates from Atlanta. He is a retired school Principal who is very involved with "Life Teen", an international Catholic youth movement. Stephen was at our 2016 Quinquennial and invited us along. I joined his December mission trip. I am going again in

July 2018. Are you called to join me?

Imagine my surprise when we went to a remote village in the middle of the African bush, and I saw with my own eyes the fruit of 16 years of giving to the NAFRA H2O project! Our 2016 Lenten H2O project was given *To The Nations* to establish a water line for a village that was without a clean source of water. They had to walk quite a distance to even get to a questionable water source, shared with a motorcycle and car wash. The cement that houses the faucet – yes, one faucet for the whole village—has painted on it "PACE E BENE OFS T – TO THE NATIONS".

We were greeted by the villagers, given pineapples, and Stephen cut the ribbon. Scores of yellow jugs waited to be filled to supply water for each household. There was a big celebration and ceremony complete with speeches. The

village elder said they have been waiting for water for centuries. Centuries!! And God has given them water now, thanks to our Lenten H2O project.

On our NAFRA website our national budget indicates that *To The Nations* is again receiving money to build more sources for clean water. I expect to see another water source dedicated on my next trip, and I will be touched to see our H2O project answering centuries of prayers of another village.

We are making a difference and doing God's work. If you want to go on mission with Stephen, contact him at Stephenhsmith@gmail.com. It is the experience of a lifetime. We prayed all day every day and performed the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy everywhere we went. Thank you, God, for inviting us to share your work. Help us to hear your call and receive your grace to answer



H2O Project in Action "I saw with my own eyes the fruit of 16 years of giving to the NAFRA H2O project!"

A YouFra Update

Jean D'Onofrio, ofs
Regional Young & Young Adult
Animator

Peace and good! Oh the places you'll go....! Amazing how our regional online website sparked a conversation across "the pond" with a Aldora, a Secular Franciscan in the UK about starting up a youth group for teens! I directed to the Program for use with High School and Young Adults and also to the proper CIOFS documents to assist her. May God bless her efforts !

And then off to Egypt! In December was the release of a PBS docudrama The Sultan and The Saint. It is the story of Francis' encounter with Sultan Malik al-Kamil of Egypt in the 13th century amid the Fifth Crusade and it has become an important symbol of interfaith dialogue and the pursuit of peace, even in the midst of great conflict. It is a blend of scholarly, documentary-style interviews with dramatic reenactments of the story. Academy Award-winning actor Jeremy Irons is narrator. This idea that a simple Christian friar met with a mighty Muslim leader and together they had a relatively brief encounter may have had enormous consequences.

Most Franciscans know the story from "our" side. It was so insightful to hear the additional input provided by learned scholars from many disciplines as to the rest of the story! And , as the film ended, I felt challenged as to "what is my part to do"-- to be a *bridge* in our society, to be a *peacemaker*, and *harbinger of hope and good will*? We need to ask ourselves- How do we respond when we encounter

Muslims in our community? Watching the DVD may give you some additional and surprising information that may "ignite" the Franciscan fire within you to act in some way for peace! I hope that if you missed the show that you check it out of your public library! It's in the system.

Knowing that the DVD is not just meant for professed Franciscans, but that it can be a wonderful tool to spark vocations, interreligious dialogue and meaningful conversations with our young adults, my husband and I donated a copy of the DVD to the Newman club at Stony Brook university. The Newman club executive board will review the DVD and we are hoping that they will schedule an on-campus viewing party together with the Muslim Community. If this sounds like something you might like to bring to the attention of your local parish Director of Religious Education or Youth Minister, or Director of Adult Education, give me a phone call and I can assist you in facilitating the dialogue.

For the spring break, members of the Newman club went on a mission trip to Appalachia this year. I believe that their chaplain may have reached out to several fraternities who assisted them last year. Thank you to those fraternities who responded with financial assistance.

In His Joy,
Jean D'Onofrio OFS
Animator Youth and Young Adults
631 928 7894
jld1075@optonline.net (put
Secular Franciscan in the RE:
section)

Tau Cross Regional Retreat at Cormaria Sag Harbor

**April 17-19, 2018
(Tues/Wed/Thurs)**

**Cost \$200
Deposit \$25 (refundable
until 3/31/18)**

**Make checks (full amount
or deposit) payable to
TAU CROSS REGION**

**Mail to Bob Campbell
135 Centre Avenue, East
Rockaway NY 11518
Email arcyc@aol.com or
call
(516) 599-4256 for
information and
reservations**

EARLY REMINDER FLIC 2018

August 7-10
at
Mount Alvernia
Wappingers Falls, NY

Presenter:
Br. Richard Contino, OSF

For Additional Information
contact
Dcn. Bob Campbell, ofs
at
Phone: 516-599-4256
or
Email: arcyc@aol.com

A JPIC Moment

Frank Scotto, ofs
JPIC Animator

Life in the Pressure Cooker

Global warming! Terrorist bombing! Mass shootings! Ethnic cleansing! Rifts within our own government! Hatred; Impatience; Inter and intra generational infringement upon liberties; increase in domestic violence; maltreatment of the marginalized! The world's general discontent with just about everyone and everything! When does it end?

Unfortunately, there is no end in sight. Our lives have become a pressure cooker and we are in it. It is depressing to hear the stories today in the news which bring to the forefront how cruel humanity can be, in total contrast to the definition of the word 'humanity' which is defined as: compassion, brotherly love, fraternity, fellow feeling, philanthropy, humaneness, kindness, consideration, understanding, sympathy, tolerance and more. There is such a constant stream of 'bad news', that we wonder "Where is the good news?" It is at times such as these in our history that we feel powerless to change, correct, adjust, or rectify the evils brought to bear upon us and our world, but it is at times like these when we must be strong not weak, resolute not succumbing, faithful not doubting, and hopeful not despairing.

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation are coming under attack from all sides. JPIC seems to be making a last stand in a transcendent citadel besieged by the onslaught of in-humanity, and the disregard for what God has given us: a place to live in stewardship, and even more so, in kinship with all that exists.

Fear not! There IS hope!
"Eye has not seen, ear has not

heard, or has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love him: (1 Corinthians 2:6-10a)
I'm not one for politics but when our own government sees global warming as 'fake', and places industry and capitalization first, should we not wonder where we are really headed?

So what is the root cause of what seems to be worldwide discontent and upheaval? Maybe the answer can be found in the words of St. Peter: "Stay sober and alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, solid in your faith". (1 Peter 5:8-9a) If that is so, what can we do as the children of God, in seeking the Lord's divine intervention in rebuking Satan, and all his evil spirits, who feed on human weakness, and exploit us seeking the ruin of our souls?

Faith, prayer, devotion and courage are our 'Knights-in-shining armor' against the soldiers of Satan and the evil he wroughts upon the earth. The power of prayer can never be underestimated!

I believe that the gospel of Mark says it best: "And he said to them, this kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer." (Mark 9:29)

The Prayer to our protector, St. Michael the Archangel, is most powerful in combating the evils of Satan, and is part of my daily prayer regimen: *St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle ...*

Pray my brothers and sisters, and when you believe you have prayed enough, then pray some more. "Pray without ceasing". Let us remember, 'With God all things are possible' (Matt 19:26)

Pace e Bene
Frank

Around the Region

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Admissions:

03/11: Michael Ciervo, ofs
New Pentecost Fraternity

Professions:

01:09: James Garvey, ofs
O.L of the Atonement Frat.

02/15: Paul Hernandez, ofs
Holy Family Frat.(Em)

03/17: Paul Auwarter, ofs
St. Helen Fraternity

Deaths

03/04: Martin Glenn, ofs
Sr. Thea Bowman Frat

03/08: John DeRiso, ofs,
St. Helen Fraternity

Activities

01/27: Tau Day of Formation
held at St. Andrew Byzantine
Church, Westbury

Upcoming Events

04/07: Tau Day of Formation
held at St. Anthony H.S.
(See notice on Page 5)

04/17-19: Regional Retreat
Cormaria Retreat House,
Sag Harbor

06/16: Tabor Retreat Center
Anchor Ave,
Oceanside, NY
(See Notice on Page 5)

08/7-10: F.L.I.C. to be held at
Mt. Alvernia, Wappingers
Falls, NY presenter will be
Br. Richard Contino, OSF

RESURRECTION!

I sought him whom my heart loves – I sought him but I did not find him. The watchmen came upon me as they made their rounds of the city. Have you seen him whom my heart loves? I had hardly left them when I found him whom my heart loves. I took hold of him and would not let him go.

Song of Songs

Woman why are you weeping? Who are you looking for? John 20:15

Day of Recollection June 16, 2018

at
Tabor Retreat Center
60 Anchor Ave.
Oceanside, NY
9 AM-3PM, Parish
Mass

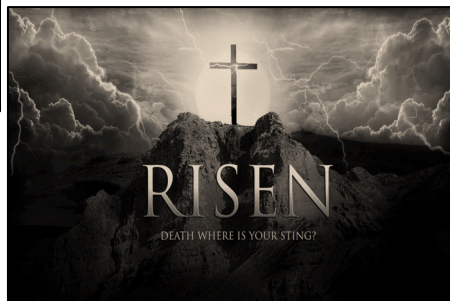
Breakfast Provided
Bring Lunch
Fee: \$25,

Register with:
Louise Sandberg, ofs
516-318-7798 or:
louisesandberg54
@gmail
or
Mary Cammarato, ofs
at 516 -432-4370, or
Marymcam@msn.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Tau Cross Region
Annual Chapter
Saturday, May 26th, 2018
at
Mary's Nativity - St. Ann
Roman Catholic Church
4602 Parsons Blvd,
Flushing, NY 11355
Registration: 9:30 AM,

Morning Prayer: 10:00 AM
Sharp



PLEASE NOTE

To all Formation Directors:
Save the Date- 4/5/18

Formation Directors
Conference Day

For All Formation Directors
and
Ministers

Info: Contact Gene

Keenan genekeenan238
@optonline
net

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TAU CROSS REGION

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Please send items of interest (elections, professions, anniversaries, events, etc. to Regional Councilor Alicia D'Amato at P.O. Box 447, Miller Place, NY 11764 or email at: damato1@optonline.net. Address correspondence to editor, Peter D'Amato, P.O. Box 447, Miller Place, NY 11764 or email: damato1@optonline.net. TEL: 631-331-7680

A Look Back in Photos & Some Big Thank-Yous!



Frances Schmidt
St. Mary of the Angels Frat
For all you have done for our
Region & Beyond



+ Gerry Crean
St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fr.
A mentor and friend for all
you did for the region & the
Order



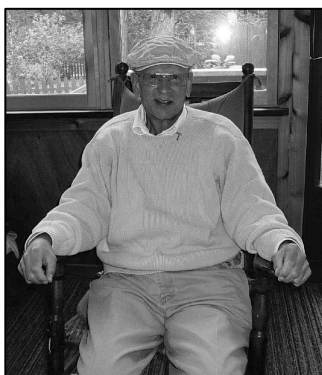
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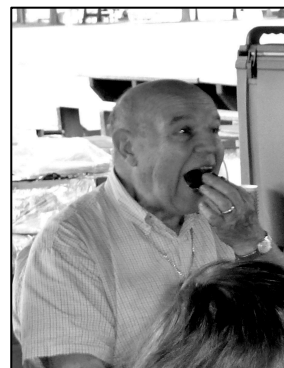
John Hack
New Pentecost Fraternity
Everyone's Friend. Thanks



Louise Sandberg & Dcn Bob Campbell
Bl. Raymond Lull Fraternity
For your contributions here & help



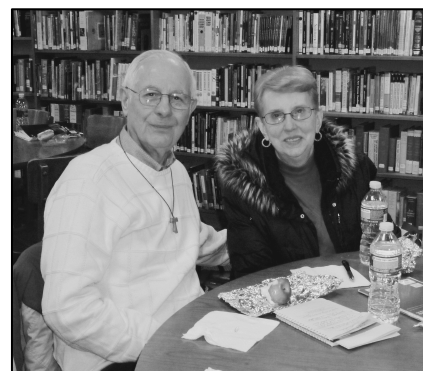
+ Bill Sosnicki
St. Lawrence of Brindisi Fr.
A thank you with prayers &
affection for a life well spent
in the service of our Region



Hurry Frank! Eat fast. "No time to
say 'Hello,' 'Good Bye.'" Another
frank to be served & back pack
dispensed. "You're late... for a very
important date!" Really Thanks!



Fr. Matthias
For your presence in &
guidance to fraternities &
region. Get Well Soon



Pat & Barbara Consorte
Our Lady Queen of Angels Frat
For your hard work, consistency
& dependability