

Minister's Message

by Vickie Klick, OFS

Dear brothers and sisters,

I am writing this as I wait in the Denver airport to return home from the national elective chapter. As always, the best part of being at our annual chapter is being with my sisters and brothers from around the country. It is a unique experience of fraternity in that we spend most of our time together for several VERY full days. We truly live the fraternal life, praying together, eating and socializing together, and working together. An elective chapter is a particularly busy time, as it entails fitting nearly an extra day of work into the "regular" annual schedule.

As I reflect on life in fraternity, I recall the challenge from Blessed Pope John Paul at our General Chapter in 2002 to be a "community of love" and as such a sign to the Church and to the world. If others can see us as a sign of the Good News that God loves each of us unconditionally, then we will truly make a difference in the world (and vocations will not be a problem!). However, being a community of love does not mean any of us stops having faults, failings, and weaknesses. For me personally, I would like for those I love to be PERFECT. That's a recipe for disaster. Not only will I tend to deny their faults until forced to do otherwise, but also will tend to overreact when my illusion is destroyed. That does no one any good.

In the spirit of love we make a realistic assessment of each other – and of course of ourselves. This should not make us love one another any less. I believe this approach may reduce conflict because this realism enables us to provide corrective feedback in a more loving way, when a problem is less acute. With a healthy sense of ourselves, we can also be better prepared to accept such feedback

when it is offered, and remember that "power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

There are good reasons that our Rule talks about daily conversion! Our fraternities are clearly the "privileged places" where we can practice this way of living among those who share our goals – and even there, we are all well aware that it isn't always easy. Then we can keep practicing with our families, our coworkers, and all those with whom we come in contact.

We have a lot to cover in this month's newsletter, so I will keep this article a little shorter than usual. I ask for your prayers for our newly elected National Executive Council, and for the Regional Chapter of Elections which will be held in December. Please keep our slate of candidates (listed below) in your prayers. While I would like to have at least two candidates for each office (to give the Holy Spirit room to work), we have at least one person who is willing to serve in each position, for which we can all be grateful.

Peace and good,
Vickie☩

Regional Executive Council Slate of Nominees

Minister – Vickie Klick, OFS
Vice Minister – Lorna Miressi, OFS
Formation Director – Nicholas Noe, OFS
Secretary – Jerry Stecker, OFS
Treasurer – Dale Marzano, OFS
Councilor at Large - LeAnne Tjelle,
OFS and Agnes Junk Sook Kim, OFS

Editor's Note: The other positions are appointed by the new Regional Council.

Council Members

Minister

Vickie Klick, OFS
▪ minister@ilsfo.org

Vice-Minister

Lorna Miressi, OFS
▪ viceminister@ilsfo.org

Formation Director

J. Patrick Mendés, OFS
▪ formation@ilsfo.org

Secretary

Monica Marko, OFS
▪ secretary@ilsfo.org

Treasurer

Stephen Lanterman, OFS
▪ treasurer@ilsfo.org

Councilor At-Large

Elisabeth Shin, OFS
▪ atlarge@ilsfo.org

Councilor for Communications/ Public Relations

Gloria J. Huerta, OFS
▪ pr@ilsfo.org

Councilor for Fraternal Life

Bonnie Michels, OFS
▪ fratlif@ilsfo.org

Councilor for JPIC

Stephanie Sormane, OFS
▪ jp@ilsfo.org

Councilor for Visitations

Muriel Baum, OFS
▪ visitations@ilsfo.org

Councilor for Vocations

Norman Mosk, OFS
▪ vocations@ilsfo.org

Councilor for Youth/Young Adults

Kristi Loar, OFS
▪ youth@ilsfo.org

Spiritual Assistant

Br. Joe Middleton, OFM
▪ spiritualassistant@ilsfo.org

Newsletter Editor

Gloria J. Huerta, OFS
▪ sfnews@ilsfo.org

The *SFO News* is the official publication of the Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order.

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20th of each month.

CALENDAR

Unless otherwise indicated, all events are at Mayslake Village (Oak Brook).

- **Election & Visitation dates subject to change. (E=Election/V=Visitation)**

January

- 14: Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 15: St. Francis, Crystal Lake Fraternity (V)
- 22: St. Anthony, Oak Lawn Fraternity (E)

February

- 18: Apostolates Workshop
- 26: St. Anthony, Rockford Fraternity (V)

March

- 01: Fair Share, Census, and Annual Reports due
- 10: St. Anthony, Joliet Fraternity (V)
- 17: Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 25: St. Francis, Steger Fraternity (V)
- 28: San Damiano Fraternity (V)
- 31: Candidates' Retreat, Day 1

April

- 1: Living Waters Fraternity (V)
- 17: Brother Jacoba Community (V)

May

- 05: Candidates' Retreat, Day 2
- 19: Chapter of Ministers

June

July

- 3-8: Quinquennial Congress, Chicago, IL
- 14: Council Meeting 9:30 a.m.

August

- 04: Regional Gathering, Feast of the Portiuncula
- 23: San Jose Fraternity (V)

September

- 08: Junipero Serra Fraternity (E)
- 08: Wellspring Community (E)
- 10: NW Franciscan Community (E)
- 29: Leadership Workshop

October

- 06: Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 16-21: NAFRA Meeting – Denver, CO
- 28: St. Thomas More Fraternity (V)

November

- 04: St. Elizabeth Hungary Fraternity (E)
- 11: Mother Cabrini Feast Day Celebration
- 17: St. Francis, Fox Valley Fraternity (E)
- 18: St. Juliana Fraternity (E)

December

- 04: St. Clare Fraternity – Oak Brook (E)
- 08: Regional Chapter of Elections

Spiritual Assistant's Message

by Br. Joe Middleton, OFM

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy November! These are a few of my favorite things about the sweet month of November. There is the amazing variety of pumpkins and the amazing variety of things that can be done with them as food and decorations. Then somewhat related are the amazing variety of leaves and the colors that they change to at the beginning of the month before they fall and blow all over creation at the end of the month; all an indication of the beautifully familiar patterns and order in God's creation.

Also in November the church leads us to a place and a time to remember. First, as I'm sure you remember, we remember the lives and lessons of the Holy Assembly of all the Saints on the first of the month; The Feast of All Saints. Then on the next day we celebrate The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, which I prefer to remember it as The Feast of All Souls.

In south Texas and south Louisiana where I come from, this day in early November is one of the most animated liturgical and cultural event festivals of the year. This is most evident in the cemeteries which are cleaned and decorated and populated by the dead and the living together again. And the Feast of All Souls used to be a state holiday in Louisiana.

Then, toward the end of the month, our attention shifts through the national lenses of remembering in gratitude the great American feast of Thanksgiving. As an American and as a Franciscan I find such great potential for grace and satisfaction from this holiday. I'm particularly fond of the experience of gathering around the table with the family or with the fraternity to feast to the extreme.

So this month I am sending two recommendations to you. First, at the beginning of the month as a part of "All Saints" and "All Souls" remembrance, spend some good prayer time as a fraternity calling to mind your departed brothers and sisters. One way of doing this is to create an altar of honoring and remembering. It could include crosses, candles, flowers, statues and relics, lots of photographs, or any symbol of the group or culture. Along with all these elements, place a book where the names of those we remember and honor can be inscribed and added to in the future.

Now, with just a few words, let me submit a request for your prayers to the Holy Spirit to inspire suitable and well prepared brothers and sisters to participate in the program for Secular Franciscan Spiritual Assistants. You will continue to hear more about that from me. Till then, I remain

Your Brother Joe M, ofm 

Recent Professions:

Congratulations to the following members of St. Juliana Fraternity who were professed on October 21st:

- Jackie Campbell, OFS,
- Joanie Fabiano, OFS,
- Laura Hickey, OFS

MOTHER CABRINI CELEBRATION

The Mother Cabrini celebration will take place on **Sunday, November 11 at Marytown beginning with Mass at 11:00 a.m.** Buffet dinner will follow Mass and there will be time to visit the Gift Shop and Holocaust Museum. Beginning at 2:00 p.m. participants will gather in the Conference Center for the afternoon program ending around 4:00 p.m. We thank Junipero Serra, NW Franciscan Fraternity of IHM and St. Maximillian Kolbe for hosting this year's celebration.

In-Formation

By Sister Marilyn Renninger, OSF
Regional Formation Commission

YEAR OF FAITH

Pope Benedict XVI announced the “Year of Faith” in his Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei* (*The Door of Faith*). With great joy the “Year of Faith” began October 11, 2012, on the 50th anniversary of the opening of the **Second Vatican Council**. It is also the 30th anniversary of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The special “Year of Faith” will end a year from now on November 24, 2013, the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

Some of us can recall 50 years ago when over 2000 bishops, theologians and lay participants from 116 countries assembled in St. Peter’s Basilica. This 21st ecumenical council of the Church, Vatican II, was called by Pope John XXIII. It was not only the biggest meeting in the history of the world but it certainly changed the Church. How blessed we are to be living at this time.

In his Apostolic Letter Pope Benedict said “The Year of Faith” is a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord (*Porta Fidei*, 6). It is a call to turn back to Jesus and enter into a deeper relationship with him. As Third Order Franciscans that call echoes over and over because daily conversion is our charism.

Have you thought about how you will participate in this “Year of Faith”? I can offer some ideas. An article I read suggested two ways: 1) to catechize ourselves, to learn our faith in a more deeper sense, and; 2) to evangelize others, to bring others to our faith. It is a call to first deepen our understanding of the content of our faith through prayer and study, and then also to share it with others.

It follows then that during this special year we are to study, learn, and meditate on three books in particular: the **Scriptures**, the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** and the **Documents of Vatican II**. Can these three books be seen in your home without dust on them?

Another suggestion that is recommended - the Nicene Creed is our profession of faith, which is central to the “Year of Faith”. Perhaps the Nicene Creed could be part of our daily prayer. The early Christians had to learn the Creed by heart. If we pray it daily, by the end of the year we won’t be stumbling over the new translation for we will have it memorized.

I encourage you that during this “Year of Faith” to take the Holy Father’s call to be heroes of faith, to keep your gaze fixed upon Jesus Christ (*Porta Fidei*, 13). If you haven’t already, make it your goal to begin now to pass through the door of faith by study and prayer.

Let us keep each other in prayer that as Franciscans we may become the persons of faith God has created us to be. Peace and all good! ☒

In Memoriam

We remember the following SFO brothers and sisters of the Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity who passed to eternal life between November 2011 and October 2012

Eleanor Granko - St. Francis-St. Louis, Dec. 4 2011
Stella Waiter - St. Juliana, No date provided
Steven Kordek - St. Juliana, February 19, 2012
Lorna VanZytveld - St. Juliana, February 23, 2012
Betty Hagerty - St. Maximilian Kolbe, April 14, 2012
Jae Moon Peter Lee - Living Water, May 19, 2012
Mary Seymour - St. Clare - Oak Brook, May 25, 2012
Cathy Vosicky - St. Clare - Oak Brook, June 13, 2012
Angela McNamara - St. Elizabeth of Hungary, June 22, 2012
John Kamuda - St. Anthony - Oak Lawn, July 27, 2012
Mary Frances Consola - St. Elizabeth of Hungary, August 3, 2012
Diane Kocsis - St. Elizabeth of Hungary, September 7, 2012
Dolores Karnia - St. Anthony - Oak Lawn, September 11, 2012
Joan Mader - St. Bernardine, September 15, 2012
Shirley Erd - Northwest Franciscan Community of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, September 15, 2012
Eileen Rogers - St. Elizabeth of Hungary, September 20, 2012
Gertrude O’Brien - Northwest Franciscan Community of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, September 26, 2012

May God grant eternal life, happiness and peace to these brothers and sisters and all our loved ones who have passed into the Lord’s embrace. Amen. ☒

JPIC NEWS—FAN Retreat with Richard Rohr, OFM

By Stephanie Sormane, OFS, JPIC Councilor

On October 11-14, 2012, at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, AZ, the Franciscan Action Network staff, Action Commission and guests participated in a retreat with Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM, entitled “The Conversion to Right Relationship.” Fr. Richard presented seven sessions, with small and large group discussions intermingled. I’m reproducing here the summary Fr. Richard gave us.

The Eight Core Principles:

1. The teaching of Jesus is our central reference point.
2. We need a contemplative mind in order to do compassionate action.
3. The best criticism of the bad is the practice of the better. Oppositional energy only creates more of the same.
4. Practical truth is more likely found at the bottom and the edges than at the top or the center of most groups, institutions and cultures.
5. We will support true authority, the ability to “author” life in others, regardless of the group.
6. Life is about discovering the right questions more than having the right answers.
7. True religion leads us to an experience of our True Self and undermines our false self.
8. We do not think ourselves into a new way of living, but we live ourselves into a new way of thinking.

At the conclusion of the retreat, Fr. Richard was asked if he saw any reason for hope in the future. He responded that the globalization of religion was to him a great hope. There are various religions, Christian and non-Christian, willing to work together for the common good.

As an example, we joined a Hispanic community in Phoenix in front of the State Capitol for a vigil prayer service for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. The Vigil was mainly the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, in Spanish, but there was true solidarity in that group – the locals who were praying are suffering, and they truly appreciated our support – and we felt very good about being there. ☑

New Councilor for Communications Needed

Gloria Huerta, OFS

It has been my privilege to be your newsletter editor for these past three years. I’ve produced the *OFS News* for a total of six years now. During that time I’ve seen that many of our members publish quality newsletters and have talents equal to or better than mine.

Due to recent events in my personal life, I won’t have the capacity to continue as newsletter editor for the next term. I ask that those of you who have the talent consider if the Holy Spirit may be nudging you to serve at the Regional level. It would be good to have someone new with fresh ideas and perspective in this role.

If you are interested in taking on the role as Councilor of Communications, please contact either me (pr@ilsfo.org) or Vickie Klick at (minister@ilsfo.org). Thank you. ☑

Franciscan Outreach

November Events

Strong Like Tree

Wednesday, November 7, 2012
Maggiano's Little Italy, Oak Brook

Cocktails at 6:00 pm,

Dinner at 7:00 pm

Tickets are \$125 by Nov 3 and \$150 after. Buy tickets online at www.franoutreach.org/dinner.htm, by phone to Carin at 773-278-6724, or by mail to us at 1645 W LeMoyne, Chicago, 60622.

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Grit ‘N Grace Blues Jam for the Homeless

Bottom Lounge

1375 W. Lake St., Chicago

Doors open at 6:00pm

Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. VIP Tickets are \$125 in advance and \$150 at the door. Food and open bar until 10PM for VIP ticketholders. 50/50 Raffle and Live Auction. Contact Kevin Morrissey at 773-278-6724 X17. ☑