

OFS News

Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order

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Minister's Message

By Vickie Klick, OFS

Dear sisters and brothers,

It was great to see so many of you at the Mother Cabrini Celebration! Even the tornado warning didn't interfere with the day (though it was good we were in the basement!). Thanks to the many who worked for months to prepare for this day, and of course to those of you who made the trip to Frankfort – it wouldn't have been a celebration without guests!

While we make our Advent journey this year, I'd like to call your attention to a prayer from the second reading on November 3.

Brothers and sisters:

We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith, that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, in accord with the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12)

When I heard this, I thought, "Wow! That's how I'm supposed to be praying for all my brothers and sisters in the region!" This is what we should ALL be praying for each other. I hope that you will pray this for your family, your fraternity, your council, your spiritual assistant, your pastor, and all those who serve in leadership in the Franciscan Family and in the Church. Ask God for this for yourself, too! These are the requests that I have complete faith that God will say YES to, even if the way it comes about may be completely different than what we expect.

The following Sunday, I saw that the second reading contained another prayer for us.

Brothers and sisters:

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word. (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

This is complementary to the prayer from the previous chapter. We want to be instruments of God's peace (to paraphrase), but we often need encouragement to be able to hope that we really ARE glorifying the name of Jesus and being made worthy of God's calling. That encouragement is most powerful if we experience God's love in a way that is personal and immediate. As we approach Christmas, let us immerse ourselves in whatever traditions help us accept more fully God's unconditional love that led to Jesus' birth in a stable in Bethlehem.

Let us join St. Francis this Christmas in savoring the wonder of the birth of the "Babe of Bethlehem." May the Lord give you peace and everything good!

Vickie 

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

Submission deadline is the 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)**

November 2013

- 3: Living Water Korean Fraternity (E)

- 17: Mother Cabrini Feast Day Celebration

December 2013

- 14: Wellspring Community (V)

January 2014

- 18: Regional Executive Council Meeting

March 2014

- 1: Per Capita/Census/Fraternity Annual Reports Due

- 15: Regional Executive Council Meeting

April 2014

- 20: Easter
- 26-27: Candidates Retreat (no overnight)

May 2014

- 16: REC meeting w/National Visitors (late afternoon/evening)
- 17: Chapter of Ministers – Fraternal and Pastoral Visitation

July 2014

- 10-13: Summer Seminar – Spiritual Assistance
- 17-20: Korean OFS Meeting – St Mary of the Lake, Mundelein

- 19: Regional Executive Council Meeting

August 2014

- 2: Regional Gathering – Feast of the Portiuncula

September 2014

- 27: Study Day / Leadership Workshop

October 2014

- 11: Regional Executive Council Meeting
- 21-26: NAFRA Chapter, Lake Dallas, TX

November 2014

- 16: Mother Cabrini Feast Day Celebration and 20th anniversary of establishment of the Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity – Location TBD

Spiritual Assistant’s Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I begin to organize my thoughts in preparation for this feature for the newsletter at the beginning of the new liturgical year with the season of Advent I hear again and again the familiar old standard “Come O long expected Jesus, born to set your people free.” With that phrase “long expected” in mind I am compelled to ask myself and all of you to examine our own expectations and then of course to consider what are we going to do about these expectations? First of all, I’m sure we all will follow the directions in place of all our church’s charming advent traditions and lessons. We will recall, recreate, and put into context the history of God’s coming among us in such close and simple beginnings, humbly becoming one of us. By this act our human state and our futures full potential was elevated out of some primitive and dark mire. But as you will recall this didn’t happen instantly or overnight it came after hundreds of years or longing and expectation. Humanity had to wait and prepare just as we do during Advent.

Consider also as Franciscans the good spirit that we can wrap ourselves in to help us live well and to come closer to God and to each other as brothers and sisters. This comes gradually and is strengthened and polished by the process of continuing formation and preparation that we subscribe to with excellent results. It seems to me that this pattern fits well into the design of advent which is in great part a process of formation: preparation for God’s arrival and the formation of our response. What do we do now?

Finally, ponder our own history of advent style preparation. What are our memories of this season and what are our priorities today? I don’t know about you but I love planning and being involved in the special events of this

season both religious and secular, and I am warmed by the happy memories of time spent in the loving company so many good people who like me are enlivened by the activities of the holidays. We have time to assume the place of Mary as we sit at the feet of the Lord listening to the storied traditions and contemplating the relevance and applications in our lives. And we also have the opportunity to take on the essential role of Martha as we joyfully (hopefully) busy ourselves with the activities and hospitality required for production of the coming special events for us and for our families. All else that want to add is this little tirade. None of what we are considering here has anything to do with the crass commercial activities of “Black Friday” sales and now that people are being invited to leave their Thanksgiving Tables to head to the stores I want to scream, Nooooooo!

But I’ll say no more except to extend my blessing and best wishes for Advent.

Your Brother Joe 

Br. Jacoba Community held their election on October 15. Their new council and details of the election are included below:

Date of election: October 15, 2013
 Secretary of election: M. Marko, OFS
 Tellers: James Vezina, OFS and Rose Lotarski, OFS
 Presider: Norman Mosk, OFS
 Spiritual Assistant Witness: Br. Joe Middleton, OFM

Minister: Celi Ramos, OFS
 Vice Minister: Marilyn Infante, OFS
 Secretary: M. Marko, OFS
 Treasurer: Connie Tiglao, OFS
 Formation Director: Helen Chathas, OFS

In-Formation – Regional Formation Council

By Sr. Marilyn Renninger, OSF
Regional Formation Commission

I write this in the quiet of our Motherhouse after a jubilant day of Franciscan fraternitas. As we celebrated our Regional Patroness, Mother Cabrini, I could feel the smile and affirmation of Saints Francis and Clare, as well as all the Franciscan saints. Perhaps the storm we encountered during the event was their joyful clapping!!! Our cluster was blessed with your presence. I pray that you returned home a bit richer and stronger in your Franciscan vocation. Since singing is twice praying, our celebrant and homilist, Fr. Arthur Anderson, brought us a step closer to heaven. The 2013 Mother Cabrini celebration is now an experience and a memory as we continue our Franciscan journey.

We move on now into Advent and the month of December. These weeks for me have a strong Marian focus for we celebrate our loving Mother's Immaculate Conception (patronal feastday of the U.S.A.), her appearance to Juan Diego as Our Lady of Guadalupe, and then those precious last days of waiting before the birth of her son, the Son of God. We know how St. Francis had a special love for the Feast of Christmas. He was so taken up with the mystery of the Incarnation, God becoming human like one of us and dwelling with us, then giving himself in the Eucharist for food for our journey, and suffering and dying so we may live forever with Him.

Jesus has come to us in his humanity as each of us entered the world, through our mother. St. Augustine said that Mary conceived Christ in her heart by faith before she conceived him in her womb. Mary's continual "yes" to God is our model of faith and holiness.

Through the example and intercession of Mary, may we prepare our hearts and homes for the celebration of the great feast of Christ's birth into our world in the middle of that silent, holy night. The crib we put up in our homes "help us contemplate the mystery of God's love that was revealed in the poverty and simplicity of the Bethlehem Grotto" (Pope Benedict XVI).

Our Lord is near. In our yearning let us increase the mantra, "Come, Lord Jesus, come." The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light and now rejoice for "a child is born to us, a son is given us" (Isaiah 9:1a,5a), Jesus, the perfect image of God, who came to make God's presence visible. Come, with true Franciscan joy, and adore him, Christ the Lord! **I**

St. Francis - Steger held their elections Sunday, October 27. Their entire council was re-elected! Thanks to them all for their continued service to their brothers and sisters.

Election date: 10/27/13

Secretary of election: Louise Hosmer, OFS

Tellers: Kendra Duncan, OFS, and Rosemarie Scofield, OFS

Presider: Le Anne Tjelle, OFS

Spiritual Assistant Witness: Br. Joe Middleton, OFM

Minister: Jeanette Dargert, OFS

Vice Minister: Art Martlink, OFS

Secretary: Louise Hosmer, OFS

Treasurer: Joseph Czajka, OFS

Formation Director: Kendra Duncan, OFS

Living Water Fraternity invites all their brothers and sisters to celebrate with them as they profess five new members.

Date : December 1, 2013

Time : 2:00p.m - 3:00p.m

Presider : Fr. James Hwang, OFM

At : Korean Martyr's Catholic Church

4115 N. Kedvale Ave

Chicago, IL 60641

After Profession, please stay and enjoy a Korean dinner!

Please RSVP by **November 15** to:

Steve Cha , Therese Shin

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

“What did Francis Do?”

By Barbara Elkins, OFS , JPIC Councilor

Mary Lopata and I meet last month to discuss the role of JPIC in our region. I met Mary at the 2012 JPIC Rally held at The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL. She is now our region’s representative for the Franciscan Action Network (FAN). Over a delightful breakfast, we learned that we shared many thoughts about how we can bring the spirit of JPIC to our region. This spirit can best be described as daily conversion through our daily actions.

I was pleased to see that the fall issue of the Tau-USA contained an article entitled “*What Did Francis Do?*” relating to this year’s JPIC/Youth Confab. I was even more delighted to read that many of the points discussed at the meeting were the same ones Mary and I discussed. The discussion on living our Rule was best described by one of the JPIC “faculty members” Rhett Engleking, OFS. “It is easier to LIVE yourself into a new way of thinking than to think your way into a new way of living.” It’s not just about what you do but how your actions can deepen your Franciscan spirituality.

As I mentioned in past articles, the goal of JPIC is to build relationships because relationships can build possibilities. With this in mind, we would like to learn more about what fraternities and OFS individuals are presently doing regarding key issues on justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Our goal is to create a network of resources, contacts and formation ideas to assist those in our area who would like to get involved. We would like to celebrate the good works of our Franciscan family and to build on this foundation in order to strengthen our Franciscan voice.

Our goal is to make this a positive and active ministry that bridges our fraternities. In the article, Rhett also points out that there are four “dis-orders” that sometimes afflict fraternities: discord, disengagement, disorganization and disassociation. We would like to change these “dis-orders” to a more ordered approach to achieving our common goals.

In the next month or so, we hope to send each fraternity a preliminary survey that will help us to assess the current activities, interests and resources used by our regional members that relate to JPIC issues.

We ask that you prayerfully consider this and return it promptly so we can share the results.

The Advent season, beginning December 1st, invites us to enter a time of hopeful waiting. My prayers this Advent will include gratitude for all the good works so many of our OFS brothers and sisters do and I will hope for joyful collaboration within our Mother Cabrini region to share our actions as St. Francis did.

Let us turn to these five actions shared by Carolyn Townes, OFS, our National JPIC Chair. This is how she suggested we DO PEACE.

P – Prayer, the beginning and the end, the source the core. “In a life of prayer, our will and God’s will act together.”

E – Empathy, the ability to imagine yourself in another’s place and understand his/her feelings.

A – Active Listening. Not selective listening. “Listening is probably the greatest opportunity to enter into another’s world.” It takes work.

C – Compassion. It recognizes suffering in others, and leads to a disposition to relieve suffering. “Compassion moves us from empathy to action.”

E - Evangelical love. Love others and expect nothing in return.

To learn more, visit Carolyn’s blog at **Animate Peace**
<http://animatepeace.blog.com> 

Living Water Fraternity had their election on, November 3. (It’s been a pretty active couple of months for elections!) The results appear below. As always, we are grateful to the outgoing council for their leadership for the past three years, and to the newly elected council (most of whom are recently professed) for their willingness to serve.

Fraternity: Living Water
Date of election: 11/3/13
Presider: Lorna Miressi, OFS
Spiritual Assistant Witness: Vickie Klick, OFS
Secretary of Election: Therese Shin, OFS
Tellers: Maria Kaga, OFS, and Magdalena Lee, OFS

Minister: Hyo Gil Steven Cha, OFS
Vice Minister: Min Ja Scholastica Lee, OFS
Secretary: Young Ki Maria Magdalena Lee, OFS
Treasurer: Young Sook Christina Cha, OFS
Formation Director: Pok Wha Kawk Maria Kaga, OFS