

OFS News

Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order

www.ilsfo.org

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Minister's Message

By Vickie Klick, OFS

Dear sisters and brothers,

After the busyness of April and May, June has been a welcome change of pace! I hope you have been able to spend some time outdoors enjoying the longer, warmer days.

As you make your plans for the rest of the summer, please mark your calendar and make a special effort to be part of our August gathering this year (which actually falls on the official Feast of the Portiuncula, August 2). We will be having a day of reflection led by two Secular Franciscans from Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region, Cricket and Jerry Aull. The preliminary title for the day is, "Following Francis – Being the merciful and joyful presence of God." I believe this is the first time we've "officially" called it a day of reflection, AND the first time we've had Secular Franciscans as the leaders for the day! I think it will be a welcome "pause" in our summer activities, and I am very much looking forward to seeing you all there. Cricket and Jerry are accomplished musicians, so the day will include song as well as reflection. They will have some of their CDs for sale to help support their ministry to the Order. **As usual, we need a count in advance to ensure we have enough food; please let your fraternity minister know as soon as possible if you plan to attend, and at the latest by July 24.**

Many today talk about "work-life balance" in terms of something that takes place over time, rather than on a daily basis. Whether you are employed at this point in your life or not, I think we all recognize that there are weeks and months where we have to focus on one area of life, then put it aside while we pursue something else.

After months spent largely on work and Secular Franciscan activities, I've devoted more of my time in the past month to spending time with my husband (biking hundreds of miles) while school is out for the summer.

As Ecclesiastes says, "To everything there is a season." The good news for us is that it's all part of living the Secular Franciscan life!

The challenge is to not get so caught up in our current focus that we lose sight of other things. The classic example of the person who is at church every night and isn't spending time with family comes to mind; getting involved in something new and interesting that conflicts with our fraternity gathering *every month* is another example.

We expect to miss gatherings now and again – it's part of life. The risk is that the more often we miss being with the fraternity, the easier it gets to stay away. The better we do at staying in touch with the fraternity even when we can't be together, the less likely it is that we'll "fall away." *Always* let your minister (or someone else on the council if necessary) know if you're going to miss the gathering, in advance if possible (so the fraternity doesn't worry about you).

Our lives are made up of relationships, with family, friends, colleagues, all of humanity, and all of creation. Our relationship with our fraternity brothers and sisters is our training ground for relationships with everyone and everything else. I strongly encourage you (and me too) to make a special effort to strengthen those relationships in another way during *any* month where you cannot participate in the monthly gathering. Maybe you can write a note to one of the shut-in members, or pray for a different member of the fraternity each day (and share your calendar of prayer with the fraternity), or go out for coffee (or ice cream) with someone you don't usually talk to.

The possibilities are only limited by your imagination and time! Try it – I think you (and your fraternity) will like the results. I hope to see you on August 2! 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.

7 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
- 28: St Thomas Moore – (E)

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 Sisters and Brothers,

I bring you all back greetings and best wishes from Scotland and England which is where I was last month. The time spent there was so wonderful for me on so many levels. I learned a lot about historical facts and events; I saw beautiful well known places and many surprises. My first time to Scotland will not be my last I hope. Then, as they say, “If you tire of London, you must be tired of living.” I am not tired of either, but I am happy to be home again. But enough about all that, if you want more just ask me next time we meet and I will rattle on and on about my travels.

As I ponder the question of what to write about that will honor God and hopefully stimulate the Franciscan spirit in you I have been somewhat stumped. Certainly Independence Day on the 4th of July is worth mentioning, for it is a monumental event that defines our lives here in the U.S. But I believe all the modern trappings of the celebration are just as valuable. Perhaps the fraternity could gather to first honor and thank those who have served and are serving these days in our military. Then a fourth of July picnic could be a great Franciscan experience together. Then find some fireworks. I’m sure Francis would love the fireworks displays and rousing music we have come to expect. Celebrate our independence, our freedom, our liberation as well as the dream of Peace and All Good that we still cling to.

Then I checked the Guide for the Liturgy of the Roman Seraphic Calendar (The Ordo) and the Proper Offices of Franciscan Saints and Blesseds in the Liturgy of the Hours

and I found that unlike the month of June, the month of July is loaded with Franciscan events to celebrate. There are martyrs galore and a full array of holy Franciscan men and women to bring to mind and to honor. I won’t list them all in this limited space; instead I will send you on a Franciscan Scavenger Hunt to explore our glorious necrology

Finally, as I search for other Franciscan appropriate activities it hits me like a large water balloon. The most Franciscan thing to do during the month of July is to go outside. Especially when you consider the winter that we have just survived. Now, as we all know, Francis spent many good hours in any number of churches both ruined and glorious but I am convinced that he was the happiest when he and Brother Leo were just sitting in prayerful contemplation at one of his many places of solitude. Let us all find a nice slice of time this month to observe the sky both night and day, let us gaze upon Brother Sun as it rises or sets and upon Sister Moon and Stars as they follow their courses. Sit down on our Mother Earth and if you can dangle your feet in Sister Water, and by all means roast something in brother Fire. Let’s not miss a thing.

Let us all continue to bless each other till we meet again.

Your Brother, Joe **7**

Some good news –new professions

Profession at St Bernardine of Sienna on May 18th–

Patricia Cetera ofs
Diane Heliker ofs
Lucina Sherman ofs
Joseph Wolfe ofs

In-Formation – Regional Formation Council

By Patrick Mendes, ofs

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS!

We see that familiar saying in the Sermon of St. Anthony of Padua! (l.226) What he said precisely was “Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak.”

A more recent expression is “walk the walk and talk the talk.” Both expressions invite us to be authentic Christians.

We have a sterling example of the lived experience of these well known sayings in Pope Francis! His actions “speak.” Don’t we see him caring for the sick, visiting the imprisoned, showing real concern and love for the poor and marginalized?

His words teach the Gospel values. We need only read his “Joy of the Gospel” to get a real sense of letting one’s words teach.

In our ordinary, everyday world, where are our opportunities to let our actions speak? We can begin at home helping with any number of small things, without being asked.

We can let our actions speak by the ministries we do in our parishes. We can plan to make regular donations to the nearest food pantry and volunteer our time to help out there if we are physically able. Franciscan Outreach and the Port always welcome volunteers.

We need just look around us and see the many things large and small of which we can be a part. What can we do to help our own local fraternity? How about the Regional Fraternity. The Regional Executive Council needs a new secretary? Can you/will you help?

Where do our words “teach?” Do we have the opportunity to show someone how to do something? Perhaps we can volunteer for the formation team of our fraternity or Region.

Article 6 of our Holy Rule sums it up nicely. “They have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by Profession. Therefore, they should go forth proclaiming Christ by their **life and words...**(emphasis mine) ... fostering an open and trusting dialogue of apostolic effectiveness and creativity.”

Therein lies our challenge. Come on in, the water’s fine! I wish you all a joy filled and happy summer 

Pope Francis on Saturday evening told future nuns and priests and consecrated laypeople to keep “freshness” and “joy” in their lives, as he said: “There is no holiness in sadness”.

The world which is seemingly so clearly defined, distinct, sure, and so utterly concrete, is in fact none of these things; in it God is effecting a constant process of transformation. Under cover of the old, in day-to-day events, encounters and actions, grows the new world, which will be completed at the second coming of Christ.

~ Fr. Romano Guardini, *The Art of Praying* via [The Integrated Catholic Life](#) 

In Memoriam:

Stephanie C. Sormane
Born: August 20, 1938
Died: June 21, 2014

Stephanie C. Sormane, 75, of Schaumburg, died Saturday, June 21, 2014 Stephanie was very devoted to her religion being an active member of Resurrection Catholic Church and member in St. Bernardine of Siena Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in Wayne, IL.

Visitation Thursday June 26, 2014 4:00p.m. until the time of mass 6:00p.m. at Resurrection Catholic Church 30W350 Army Trail Rd., Wayne, IL 60184. 

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

Liberty and Justice for All

By Barbara Elkins, OFS, JPIC Councilor

“Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak. We are full of words but empty of action, and therefore are cursed by the Lord since He Himself cursed the fig tree when He found no fruit but only leaves.” ~ Saint Anthony of Padua

Caroline Townes, our national JPIC animator, shared this quote on the feast day of St. Anthony of Padua with a special message for prayer and action for our nation’s immigrants. As our country celebrates our Independence Day, let us remember two important events this month sponsored by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. Both events call us to action through prayer and social responses. Please take some time to review the information and share these with your fraternity.

The websites provide simple fact sheets regarding immigration issues and information on threats to religious liberty at home and abroad. They provide current updates and electronic postcards that can be sent to our government representatives. Feel free to print these fact sheets and postcards as a JPIC activity for your next fraternity gathering.

July 7-10, 2014

The National Migration Conference is a gathering hosted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Migration and Refugee Services, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, and Catholic Charities USA. It’s intended to build the capacity of the Catholic Church and society to advance the life and dignity of the human person in our work with immigrants, migrants, refugees, unaccompanied migrant children, victims of human trafficking, and other vulnerable people on the move.

June 21 – July 4, 2014

Fortnight for Freedom: Freedom to Serve

This third annual event comes during the time when our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power – St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome.

The theme of this year’s Fortnight will focus on the freedom to serve the poor and vulnerable in accord with human dignity and the Church’s teaching. For more information, visit the following websites:

www.RemainFreeUSA.org or
www.Fortnight4Freedom.com

JPIC Surveys

To date, I have received survey responses from five fraternities. Please take the time to fill out this survey so we can celebrate and build on our efforts to bring the Gospel to life. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. My contact information may be found in our new directory.

Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty

O God our Creator, from your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.

Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome—for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us—this great land will always be "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen . 