

Minister's Message

By Vickie Klick, OFS

Dear sisters and brothers,
November is a month for memories, especially of those separated from us by Sister Death. Nature reinforces thoughts of endings in November in our part of the world, as the last stubborn leaves fall from the trees and the lively sounds of nature are quieted.

Fortunately, not all of our memories of November are somber, as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of our regional fraternity along with our patroness' feast. I hope you will join us at Mayslake Village on Sunday, November 16, for a morning talk by Fr. Bob Powell, OFM, followed by a catered lunch (free to all) with pot-luck desserts, a period of sharing our remembrances, and Eucharist. We will end the day with a video on Mother Cabrini and our customary evening prayer for the recently deceased of our Region.

As I reflect on our region's history, one of the first things that strikes me is how many of the "movers and shakers" back in 1994 are no longer with us. From our early days, I remember Dorothy Biesinger, Adelaide Sabath, Betty Hagerty, Vito Redono, and of course our first and fourth Regional Ministers, Earleen Soprych and Stephanie Sormane. My dear friend Alice Zoda was one of the reviewer/editors of Fr. Benet Fonck's *Fully Mature with the Fullness of Christ*, a breakthrough formation work at the time. May they and the many others in whose footsteps we all follow rest in peace.

As an Order, we've also come a long way in twenty years. In 1994, we were six years away from having official Constitutions to help us live out the Rule of 1978. It is no wonder that St. John Paul II exhorted us to "study, love, live also your General Constitutions!" in his address to the Tenth General Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order in 2002. His comments at that time emphasized the fact that our renewed Rule, given us by our

Blessed Pope Paul VI, our Ritual, our Constitutions, and the International Statutes approved at that General Chapter are "optimal instruments for carrying out and fully expressing the unity of your Order and its communion with the Franciscan Family..." I strongly encourage everyone to obtain a copy of the *Essential Documents of the Secular Franciscan Order* (available via the order form in the back of TAU-USA). It starts with St. John Paul II's Message and includes not only the four documents he mentioned, but also our National Statutes and the *Statutes for Spiritual and Pastoral Assistance to the Secular Franciscan Order*. (Please note that in the United States, we continue to use the *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order* as translated by Fr. Benet Fonck, available from Franciscan Media via outlets such as Amazon, as our official edition of the Ritual.)

In addition to our foundational documents, of course, we have a wealth of scholarship and formation material available to us that did not exist twenty years ago. The three volume set of *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, which replaced the *Franciscan Omnibus of Sources*, is just one example.

The extensive guidance from the International Fraternity on the necessary content for initial formation, enhanced for the United States into the *For Up to Now* formator's manual and related formation materials such as Fr. Lester Bach's *The Franciscan Journey*, give us a much better opportunity to appreciate the meaning of the Secular Franciscan vocation, whether we have been professed a long time or are still discerning an initial call. What a blessing it is to be a Secular Franciscan in this time and place!

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 2014

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

The 2015 Calendar is in the final stages of refinement and editing.

It should be ready for publishing in December.

The elections for St. Thomas More Fraternity were held on Sunday, September 28, at St. Paul Ha Sang Church, Des Plaines, IL. Regional Vice Minister Lorna Miressi, OFS, presided, and Regional Spiritual Assistant Br. Joe Middleton, OFM was the spiritual assistant witness. Paul Chang served the fraternity as secretary of election, and Josephine Yang and Christin So served as tellers.

We thank the outgoing council for their years of service, and the incoming council for their willingness to serve (several were in different roles in the previous council). All ministers, please remember to update your regional directories. The new council members are:

Minister: Columba Lee, OFS

Vice Minister: Paul Chang, OFS

Secretary: Angela Park, OFS

Treasurer: Agnes Kim, OFS

Formation Director: Elisabeth Shin, OFS

Spiritual Assistant's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Welcome to the Harvest Season and all its wonders. We celebrate on at least four occasions this month with the great solemnity God's great harvest. On the first day we enjoy the solemnity of the Feast of All Saints then the next day we remember with great affection our own loved ones on what we've always known as "All Souls Day" as you all know. And then for us Franciscans we commemorate All Souls of the Seraphic Order on the 5th and then on the 29th we honor All Saints of the Seraphic Order. These are for me some of the most important and relevant events of the calendar, giving us an occasion to focus and connect to God's goodness and the natural patterns of life that remarkably unite all of us without exception.

We will be remembering the departed brothers and sisters of our region as we always do at our annual Mother Celebration on the 16th. The day begins at 10:00 at Mays Lake Village as I'm sure most of you already know. There are two things I would like to say about this event. First, please let us know how many are coming so that we can plan and provide enough food for the luncheon. Second we are asking that people bring an item for our Potluck dessert buffet. Let there be an abundance of cakes and pies and cobblers and cookies and candies and tarts and fruit and jello and custard and yogurt and flan and crême Brule and ambrosia and pudding and all sorts of assorted surprises. Our special presenter on this day will be Fr. Robert Pawell, ofm who many of you know from St. Peter's church where he is a confessor, a presider at Mass, as well as his position as Program Director. There will be some other special Mother Cabrini

as well. I would suggest that you don't miss it, don't even be late.

Now one more thing for us to consider at this harvest time of the year is the great American feast of Thanksgiving. You've probably heard from me before on the subject of this national occasion to express our gratitude and thankfulness. It is my favorite holiday due in great part the happy memories of feasts past but also the occasion to cook up a storm for the preparation for this year's occasion to gather around the table again with the family God provides us to feast. I am quite convinced that our father Francis would love this holiday too, especially the glorious Macys Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Sweet November Blessings to you all from your humble little Brother Joe M, ofm

In Memoriam

Josefina Ponce de Leon, passed away Sunday, October 19, at the Little Sisters of the Poor in Chicago. She was 88 and a Secular Franciscan (Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity) professed in 1981. She was the mother of Dcn. Juan Ponce de León, OFS. Her family appreciates your prayers during this difficult time.

We often say that the Secular Franciscan Order is the Church's best-kept secret, but I recently learned an even better-kept one: Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside has a section set aside especially for Secular Franciscans! This has been kept so secret that they haven't had many takers. Let's change that SOON, before they need to open the space to the broader community! Please contact Deacon Glenn Tylutki at 708-236-5441 for more information.

In-Formation – Regional Formation Council

Patrick Mendés, OFS

Regional Formation Commission

Shall we celebrate 4 Thanksgiving Days?

I hope that question caught your attention because we should “always and everywhere give thanks to the Lord our God.” Let’s reflect on those “4 Thanksgiving Days” which we celebrate in November.

The first Thanksgiving Day of November is November 2nd, the Feast of All Souls also called the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. We remember our brothers and sisters of our fraternity and our Region, and we remember our beloved deceased family members. For some of us, the pain of loss is still fresh. It is good for us to remember all the joyous times we spent with our loved ones, both family and in fraternity. Certainly, as we think of them, a smile comes to our lips. This is the moment to thank God for putting them in our lives and to thank them for being in our lives and asking their prayers for us.

The second “thanksgiving day” is November 13th, the Feast of Mother Cabrini, Patroness of our Region. Our Regional Family will celebrate the feast day together on November 16th. Mother Cabrini served the poor and the marginalized Italian Immigrants and expanded her outreach and love to all peoples in need, as we are called by our vocation, to do so as well. Article 13 of our Holy Rule spells it out for us.

Perhaps we could some of our prayer time this day, following the example of Mother Cabrini in some manner of caring for the poor and the marginalized. Personally, I will be sending a donation to Franciscan Outreach and I will ask Mother Cabrini to come to the aid of this generation’s poor, as well as offer prayers for the care of the immigrants of our time who find the crosses they bear so difficult. Let us pray for

Peace and social justice for them.

Our third thanksgiving day, comes November 17th as we celebrate the feast day of the Patroness of our Order, St. Elizabeth of Hungary. She models for us great compassion.

She founded a hospital, she herself assisting in the care of the sick. She has modeled Franciscan love for us. Today, a “prayer in action” could be visiting a sick or shut in person or sending them a note. How about making a phone call?

Our prayer of thanks today, can be one of thanks for our vocation and the loving Christ who led us to it following the example of our holy father, St. Francis.

And of course, the 4th Thanksgiviing Day is the National Holiday. This is a wonderful holiday and HOLY day for us and our families. It is probably the perfect celebration day.

We are together with those we love, sharing a wonderful meal and fellowship. There will be a lot of laughter as we remember the funny things we have shared in our lives. Let our prayer today be one of thanks for the love and presence of family and dear friends; a prayer of thanks for the abundance of food and especially a prayer of thanks for the gift of one another. And can we say to one another, Thank you for being you!

The Regional Formation Commission and I wish you an abundance of blessings of peace and all that is good on all of those Thanksgiving Days.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus surround you with His love and fill your lives with His abundant blessings.



Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

Faithful Citizenship

By Barbara Elkins, OFS, JPIC Councilor

With the upcoming midterm elections on November 4th, I would like to draw your attention to some valuable resources from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) regarding faithful citizenship. In 2007, the USCCB published *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, a teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. This statement was re-published in 2011 with a new introduction.

This document is used to share Catholic teaching on the role of faith and conscience in political life. As noted in the introduction, "it does not offer a voters guide, scorecard of issues, or direction on how to vote...In short, it calls Catholics to form their consciences in the light of their Catholic faith and to bring our moral principles to the debate and decisions about candidates and issues." The introduction concludes by stating, "In this coming election and beyond, we urge leaders and all Catholics to share the message of faithful citizenship and to use this document in forming their own consciences, so we can act together to promote and protect human life and dignity, marriage and family, justice and peace in service of the common good. This kind of political responsibility is a requirement of our faith and our duty as citizens."

You can read the document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* on the USCCB website www.faithfulcitizens.org and/or download a copy (45 pages) or purchase a copy for \$3.95. This website also provides plenty of resources for individual and fraternity formation and practical applications for putting our Rule into action.

One such way is to view the 30 different short videos on topics related to Faithful Citizenship. Father Greg Friedman, OFM offers nine videos that last for just 4 minutes each. Each of Father Friedman's videos highlight a different aspect of this Guide to Faithful Citizenship: Civility; Religious Liberty; Conscience Formation; Life Issues; Marriage; Immigration; the Economy; War & Peace; and Using Faithful Citizenship Correctly.

Formation; Life Issues; Marriage; Immigration; the Economy; War & Peace; and Using Faithful Citizenship Correctly.

Another way is to read their practical reference entitled *Praying like a Faithful Citizen*. It states that "our action as faithful citizens should flow from prayer. If we want to truly be faithful citizens, we must know how to come to God in prayer, experience God in ourselves and others, and listen to the ways God is calling us to respond."

One of the suggested ways to pray as a faithful citizen is to create a prayer box. Fill your box with slips of paper highlighting issues from *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. During your prayer time, pick one or two slips of paper from the box and pray for those impacted by injustices related to the issues, for policymakers and for the ability to listen to how God might be calling you to respond. This would be a wonderful fraternity activity.

Please remember to pray for our elected officials and to fully participate in our election process. Your vote is your voice.

Prayer Before an Election

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, Men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.

We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.

We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order

What: Mother Cabrini Celebration/Region's 20th Anniversary

When: Sunday, November 16, 2014

Where: Mayslake Village, 1801 35th St. Oak Brook, IL 60523

Detailed Schedule (times approximate):

10:00 Sign-In / Register/Gather in **Frigo Hall** (downstairs)
10:30 Speaker: Fr. Bob Powell, OFM
12:00 Lunch (main meal catered, pot-luck desserts)
1:00 Reflections on 20 years of Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity
1:30 Break
1:45 Mass (Chapel) (upstairs)
3:00 Video of Mother Cabrini (Frigo Hall) (downstairs)
3:30 Evening prayer/remembrance of deceased
4:00 Departure

Please note:

- We need a count of attendees for lunch to Bonnie Michels by **November 1** (fratlife@ilsfo.org)
- If you have a Fraternity Banner, please bring it.
- Dessert for the lunch will be pot-luck.