

# OFS News

Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity of the  
Secular Franciscan Order

www.ilsfo.org

September 2015 • Vol. 21, No.10

## Minister's Message

Dear sisters and brothers,

As summer ends, it's time to review our calendars for the remaining four months of 2015. We have significant Secular Franciscan activities that need your presence and/or your prayers every month!

First, we have our Study Day/Leadership Workshop coming up on September 19. Our topic for this year is "Forming the Formators and Formation." Remember that formation is the responsibility of the entire fraternity, so this is for EVERYONE. I guarantee that you will come away with something that benefits your personal formation as a Secular Franciscan, as well as improving your understanding of formation as we are directed to do it by the International and National Fraternities. Our Order is very concerned with having us share a common sense of what it means to be a Secular Franciscan; that means (among other things) that we need shared experiences as well as shared knowledge. Please join us!

In October, our National Fraternity needs your prayers as we gather in Clinton, New Jersey, for our triennial Chapter of Elections. I believe our presider will be our new Minister General, Tibor Kauser. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the National Council in its work, most particularly in the election of the new National Executive Council on Saturday, October 17. Please also continue to pray for the health of our National Minister, Dcn. Tom Bello.

We'll have a local event, of course, in November. Our Mother Cabrini Celebration will be at St. John Neumann Church in St. Charles on November 15. Fr. Chuck Faso, spiritual assistant to St. Francis

– Crystal Lake and St. Clare Satellite, will be our celebrant and speaker. Watch for more details from the planning team in the west/northwest cluster, and block out the day on your calendars NOW.

While we will remember our beloved dead in many ways in November, including Evening Prayer at the Mother Cabrini Celebration, I encourage you to consider another opportunity to pray for the Secular Franciscans who have gone before us. Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside has a section reserved for Secular Franciscans, and they will have a prayer service on "Cemetery Sunday" – November 1 this year – at 2 or 2:30PM. (It will be listed in the *New World*, so if you are in the Archdiocese of Chicago, you can check the exact time there.) If you have time that afternoon, please consider joining others at the Interment Chapel at Queen of Heaven and wear your Tau while praying for all the dead, and especially those of our Order.

Finally, on December 5, we have the regional election. I ask you to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide the decisions of the Regional Council (local ministers/delegates plus elected members of the Regional Executive Council). As always with elections, we need suitable and well-qualified candidates to accept nomination; ideally, we'd have two good choices for every ballot. If someone has suggested that you might have the gifts to serve the regional fraternity in an elected or appointed capacity, please prayerfully consider the possibility of offering yourself to serve your brothers and sisters for the next three years. Observers are welcome to attend, in addition to the required voting

## Council Members

### Minister

Vickie Klick, OFS  
▪ [minister@ilsfo.org](mailto:minister@ilsfo.org)

### Vice-Minister

Lorna Miressi, OFS  
▪ [viceminister@ilsfo.org](mailto:viceminister@ilsfo.org)

### Formation Director

Nick Noe, OFS  
▪ [formation@ilsfo.org](mailto:formation@ilsfo.org)

### Secretary

Jerry Stecker, OFS  
[secretary@ilsfo.org](mailto:secretary@ilsfo.org)

### Treasurer

Dale Marzano, OFS  
▪ [treasurer@ilsfo.org](mailto:treasurer@ilsfo.org)

### Councilor At-Large

LeAnneTjelle, OFS  
▪ [atlarge@ilsfo.org](mailto:atlarge@ilsfo.org)

## Councilor for Communications/Public Relations

Marc Golab, OFS  
▪ [pr@ilsfo.org](mailto:pr@ilsfo.org)

## Councilor for Fraternal Life

Bonnie Michels, OFS  
▪ [fratlif@ilsfo.org](mailto:fratlif@ilsfo.org)

## Councilor for JPIC

Barbara Elkins, OFS,  
[jpic@ilsfo.org](mailto:jpic@ilsfo.org)

## Councilor for Visitations

(Acting) LeAnne Tjelle, OFS  
▪ [visitations@ilsfo.org](mailto:visitations@ilsfo.org)

## Councilor for Vocations

Norman Mosk, OFS  
▪ [vocations@ilsfo.org](mailto:vocations@ilsfo.org)

## Councilor for Youth/Young Adults

Kristi Loar, OFS  
▪ [youth@ilsfo.org](mailto:youth@ilsfo.org)

## Spiritual Assistant

Br. Joe Middleton, OFM  
▪ [spiritualassistant@ilsfo.org](mailto:spiritualassistant@ilsfo.org)

## Newsletter Editor

Marc Golab, OFS  
▪ [ofsnews@ilsfo.org](mailto:ofsnews@ilsfo.org)

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

**Submission deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

## **REGIONAL CALENDAR 2015**

All events are at Mayslake Village  
unless otherwise noted

~~Saturday, January 17  
Regional Executive Council  
Meeting~~

~~Monday, March 2  
Per Capita/Census/Fraternity Annual  
Reports due~~

~~Saturday, March 21  
Regional Executive Council  
Meeting~~

~~Sunday, April 5 – Easter~~

~~Sat./Sun., April 11-12 —  
Candidates Retreat (tentative)~~

~~Saturday, May 16 —  
Chapter of Ministers~~

~~Thursday/Sunday, July 9-12  
Summer Seminar – Loretto, PA; topic  
“Servant Leadership”s~~

~~Saturday, July 18 —  
Regional Executive Council  
Meeting~~

Saturday, August 1  
Regional Gathering – Feast of the  
Portiuncula

Saturday, September 19  
Formation/Leadership Workshop

Saturday, October 3  
Regional Executive Council  
Meeting

October 13-18  
NAFRA Chapter/Chapter of Elections,  
Clinton, NJ

Sunday, November 15  
Mother Cabrini Feast Day  
Celebration location TBA

Saturday, December 5  
Regional Chapter of Elections



## **Ministers Message cont.**

I hope you will be able to participate  
in one or more of these events.

Thanks in advance for your prayers  
for all of them! Vickie

## **Spiritual Assistant's Message**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This month I am sending you  
a section of an article that I am  
working on for St. Peter's church  
bulletin about the Secular Franciscan  
Order.

## **Presenting! The Brothers and Sisters of Penance; The Secular Franciscan Order!**

Any time one looks at or  
examines anything Franciscan it is  
wise to look first at St. Francis  
himself, and not just a point or a  
particular event in his story but the  
whole story and the wonderful way it  
came about, how he evolved. Other  
things to consider are the historical  
context of his times, the state of the  
church in his day, the wide variety of  
influences in his life, and we must  
always remember in whose footsteps  
he ultimately followed. After all that  
we can recognize and understand  
how profoundly he influenced so  
many people at his time as well as all  
that has happened in the last 800 plus  
years. Of course we know how God  
gave him brothers from the  
beginning; the first order was born  
and grew into three branches, each  
following a rule written by St. Francis  
and approved by the church.

We know also the story of The Lady  
Clare who radically changed her life  
to follow Francis' dream as a model  
for a contemplative community of

women that she would form with  
poverty as an essential and central  
element.

The Poor Ladies known today  
as Poor Clares are called to live  
simply, devoted to profound  
experiences of Prayer and  
Contemplation. This they do within  
an enclosed community setting with a  
rule that St. Clare struggled to have  
approved. The second order was born  
and these faithful Franciscan women  
have prayed for us and for the whole  
world from the beginning which gives  
me great comfort.

Now, on to the story of the brothers  
and sisters of penance who most  
people don't fully understand or even  
know about, but it's a wonderful  
story. It begins in response to the  
evangelizing actions of our emerging  
saint, our father Francis, the holy man  
of Assisi. Just as Francis' first order  
immediately began to attract new  
brothers and the poor ladies of the  
second order also quickly drew in  
many new sisters, so too there was an  
interest among the laity in developing  
organized fraternities so that they  
might commit their lives to following  
the Franciscan Spirit in their secular  
state. Often time's whole communities  
were passionately swept up in  
thrilling acts of conversion as well as  
enlivening their celebrations of  
liturgical events which were open to  
include a place for everyone. They  
developed, like Francis showed them,  
a commitment to serving the needs of  
the poor and marginalized little ones.  
The evolution of their Rule is a most  
interesting story. The first direction  
established for the lay Franciscans was  
Francis' groundbreaking  
Admonitions. Then Francis's advisor  
and confidant and Cardinal protector

## In-Formation

### LORD, SHOW US YOUR FACE AND WE SHALL BE SAVED

Sandra Kisel, OFS—Formation Commission

People ask...**WHERE IS GOD?** My husband and I recently returned from visiting my son and his family in New York. He always dreamt of farming and now has acreage near Niagara Falls.

We took three of our grandchildren with us. It was a great homecoming! Two of our grand-children hadn't seen their uncle for thirteen years and had never seen their younger cousins. Not only was it a homecoming and vacation but there was much work to be done and my son is unable to do much of the work himself due to injury. Our grandchildren had never run a tractor or used an auger to drill holes in the soil, or mixed and poured concrete. They were thrill-ed to learn! A windmill was being installed to supply more efficient energy for the farm and there were animals to be tended.


While there I had a gifted opportunity to sit on a ladder half in the above-ground pool, gazing out over the farm; at the tall trees swaying in the breeze and at the horses in pasture. I was sitting in God's garden; *in Him*, in the *stillness of a great out-door chapel*. I was able to rest in Him there recalling a Scripture passage about *listen-ing for God in that wee, small voice*. We visited Niagara Falls too and I was there reminded of Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF's statement *about God's love being far greater than all the overflowing power of Niagara Falls!*

Now, while in the process of training a new volunteer for M.I. Prison Ministry and giving him a moment free of me looking over his shoulder, I glanced on a book, "*A God Who is Threefold Love*" by Michelle K. Borrás. I opened it and read about Pope Benedict's audience in Aus-tralia with the youth; how he spoke to them of the stars above them and how naming the con-stellation of the Southern Cross, he told them that, "*though the world they live in may seem at times to be as dark as the night, they are the children of the light.*" This made me think of the Prologue of our Rule, the gospel and our Profession into the Secular Franciscan Order. We are *called* to be *children of light* filled and overflowing

with the gospel; mother's, brothers and sisters of Christ who carry Him out into the world in darkness and make Him present; called to become spouses of the Holy Spirit, intimately united with Him, full of faith and children of our Heavenly Father wherever we are. We are call-ed to be the face and embodiment of Christ.

Pope Benedict explained to the youth that, "*They may feel helpless when they see 'the unity of God's creation...weakened by wounds of a suffering 'divided and fragmented world.'*" Yet he told them they have received the gift of a unity so great that it surpasses all the divisions in the world. And although they may not know it, they carry in themselves a love that is greater than their own failures at love." Through baptism, "*they have become 'children of Christ's light,' illumined by the 'light that no darkness can overcome.'*" They have already entered God's life."

Everyone wants to belong, be loved, recognized and forgiven! In all of us there is an unquench-able thirst for a life shared yet so many are for-gotten, rejected and judged harshly. Inside us, our defenses try to protect us from the strife in the world. We want to discover that disunity, conflict and suffering do not have the last word. We want the world to be beautiful even if we don't always believe that it is. Pope Benedict said... **"Everything we wish for has already been given to us as a gift. 'God has given himself to us as a gift in his Son Jesus Christ, through the Spirit who leads us into God's own inner life.'**"

**God's Trinitarian love is a consuming flame, in continual motion which illuminates all that draws near to it. It's real, incomprehensible, everywhere and in everyone whether we choose to see and acknowledge it or not. Let us be grateful!** Don't miss reading this book and Pope Francis' newest Encycle, '**Laudete Si!**' Christ's peace to all!!! 



POPE FACTS	
	NAME Jorge Mario Bergoglio
	POPE # 266
	BIRTHDAY December 17, 1936
	NATIONALITY Argentinian
	START DATE March 13, 2013

## Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

Season of Creation

September 1 – October 4

By Barbara Elkins, OFS, JPIC Councilor

*"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens."* So begins the third chapter of Ecclesiastes and if you add the words "Turn! Turn! Turn!" you may begin to sing the song written by Pete Seeger in 1962. This passage tells us that there is a time to be born and to die; to plant and to uproot the plant; to kill and to heal; to tear down and to build; to weep and to laugh; to mourn and to dance; to scatter stones and then to gather them; to embrace and to be far from embraces; to seek and to lose; to keep and to cast away; to rend and to sew; to be silent and to speak; to love and to hate; and there is a time of war and a time of peace. So goes the life cycle of creation.

Pope Francis recently designated the "World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation" which, beginning this year, will be celebrated on the 1st of September, as the Orthodox Church has done since 1989. In his letter to the heads of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, Pope Francis writes "the annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvelous works that He has entrusted to our care, invoking his help for the protection of creation and his mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

[http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/08/10/pope\\_francis\\_announces\\_day\\_of\\_prayer\\_for\\_creation/1164087](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/08/10/pope_francis_announces_day_of_prayer_for_creation/1164087)

Inspired by the *Laudato Si'* encyclical and following the example of other Christian denominations and the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines, The Global Catholic Climate Movement encourages all Catholics to observe the Season of Creation which begins on September 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The Global Catholic Climate Movement <http://catholicclimatemovement.global> offers information about this special season through a unique website <http://seasonofcreation.info/>. Here you will find an historical prospective, proposed activities and practical resources for each week of the Season of Creation. In his letter, Pope Francis reminds us that "we live in a time where all Christians are faced with identical and important

and we must give common replies to these in order to appear more credible and effective."

Caring for our common home, which God so beautifully created for us, plays a significant role in our vocation as Secular Franciscans. Let us make use of this special season to learn, share and act on issues relating to the health of our planet. I encourage you to read and reflect on Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* during this season of creation. You can read it online, download it to your computer or print it (184 pages). It is also available for purchase through the USCCB website. It may seem daunting but this inspiring encyclical consists of six chapters. Each of the 246 designated paragraphs provides inspiration for a daily reflection. Ponder these words in paragraph 11 where Pope Francis references St. Francis:

"If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously. The poverty and austerity of Saint Francis were no mere veneer of asceticism, but something much more radical: a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled."

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html).

The way we treat our natural resources affects more than just our surroundings. The health of our planet affects the health of all living creatures, especially the most vulnerable in our society. There are many resources available about this topic and I wish to offer you one from a different perspective. To learn more about how our changing climate affects our health, please check out the recent release from the prestigious medical journal "The Lancet". The 2015 *Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change* provides a comprehensive look at the health risks associated with climate-related disasters, rising temperatures and the air quality to the world's population. One of the Commission's central findings is "Tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century."

[www.thelancet.com/commissions/climate-change-2015](http://www.thelancet.com/commissions/climate-change-2015)

Remarkably, both the Lancet Commission report and the *Laudato Si* encyclical speak to the same issues with a particular respect for the most vulnerable and a joyful sense of hope. Let us prayerfully enter into this season of creation. **I**



## **Spiritual Assistant's Message cont.**

of the friars Pope Gregory IX, formerly Cardinal Hugolino composed statutes which served as legal guidelines for the third order known as ' Memorial of the manner of life of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance living in their own homes' aka "Memoriale Propositi". This stayed in effect until 1289 when Pope Nicolas IV, formerly Jerome of Ascoloi who was Bonaventure's successor as Minister General of the order became the first Franciscan Pope in 1288.

In response to the collective longing of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance for a "Rule" that would confirm their official status as an order of penance of the Church founded by Francis of Assisi. He obliged them by giving them a more Franciscan Rule in August of 1289 known as "Supra Montem" which stayed in effect almost 600 years until 1883. In May of 1883 Pope Leo XIII partly because of his concern for the effects of the Industrial Revolution upon the lives of the poor and his hope to promote Catholic Lay Ministries, he promulgated a "New Rule" for the Franciscan Third Order which radically modified Pope Gregory's rule, appropriately bringing it into modern times. And then in the fullness of time which was coincidentally around the time the whole Church gathered for the Second Vatican Council, a commission was formed to write a better new rule which for the first time included the leadership and selected members of the Third Order Franciscans Secular themselves. This process went on for many years but in 1978 the job was done. Essential was vital reciprocity with the other branches of the Franciscan Order without any trace of subservience to the first order. From that point on they were no longer the "third order" they were and are now "The Secular Franciscan Order" and this holy rule was approved and promulgated by Pope Paul VI, which was incidentally the last official act of his pontificate. It is now known as the Pauline Rule and it is taken very seriously by the Secular Franciscans today.

*Among the many spiritual families raised up by the Holy Spirit in the Church, the Franciscan family unites all members of the people of God – laity, religious, and priests – who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi.*

## *The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order*

In the wake of this process of developing the Rule, the seculars have devised statutes and constitutions which are formulated to define and guide the entire order. Between 1980 and 1990 the local Fraternities in the U.S. were separated into regions. Our region, the Mother Cabrini Region was established in 1992. Each local fraternity is led by a leadership council made up of a Minister (president), a vice-minister, secretary, treasurer, and a formation minister as well as a spiritual assistant which can be an able and well prepared friar, or a sister, or a secular Franciscan who has been especially prepared for this service. The next level of leadership would be each region's Executive Council which manages the records, the planning and execution of a wide variety activities and special events, the formation council, as well as serving as a conduit between our Region and the National Fraternity Council; they in turn represent all of us to the International Council based in Rome. The Secular Franciscans are truly a world order of the Church.


Here in the Mother Cabrini Region there are 19 fraternities plus a thriving satellite group. There are approximately 500 professed members in those communities. Here at St. Peters there are three groups that regularly meet here. First is perhaps the oldest fraternity around which is The St. Francis/St. Louis fraternity that meet on the first Sunday of the month beginning after the 12:30 Mass. Then we have The Brother Jacoba Community that meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:00 P.M. We also have San Damiano Fraternity whose meetings are held every Wednesday from 12:10 till 12:55. They all have hospitable attitudes which encourage interested persons to "come and see" them as they gather together.

Maurice Carmody author of *The Franciscan Story* St Francis of Assisi and his influence since the thirteenth century, which is a great Franciscan resource beautifully says, "*The Rule of 1978, with its emphasis on personal and communal spirituality, social justice, peace, and the integrity of creation provides the guidelines for the contemporary Brothers and Sisters of Penance: the Secular Franciscans. It contributes to that dynamic diversity which has been part of the whole Franciscan Order since the beginning.*"


## Spiritual Assistant's Message cont.

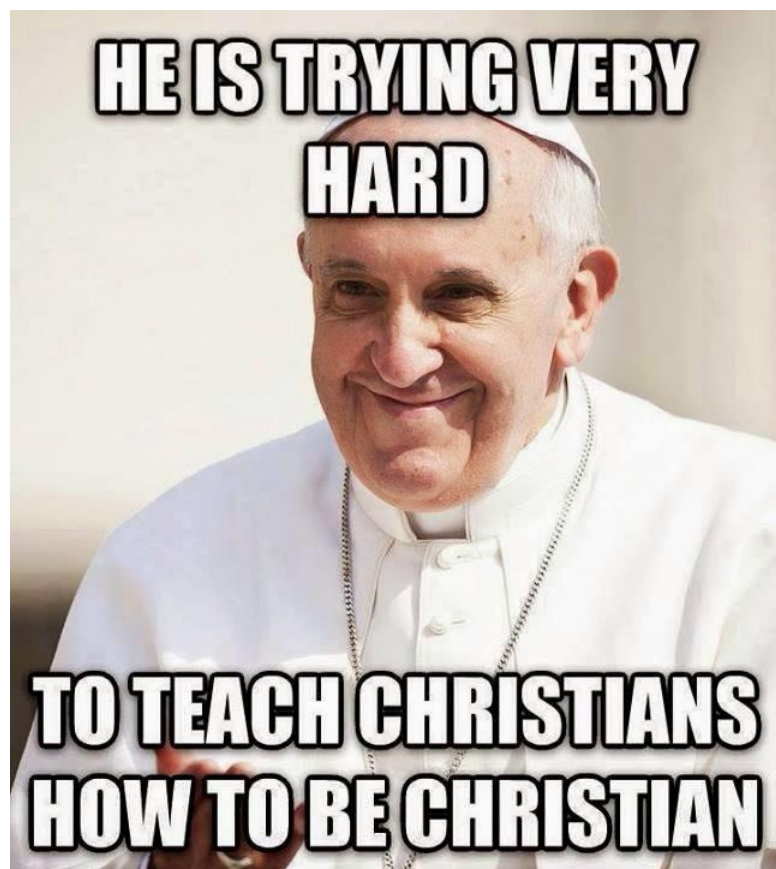
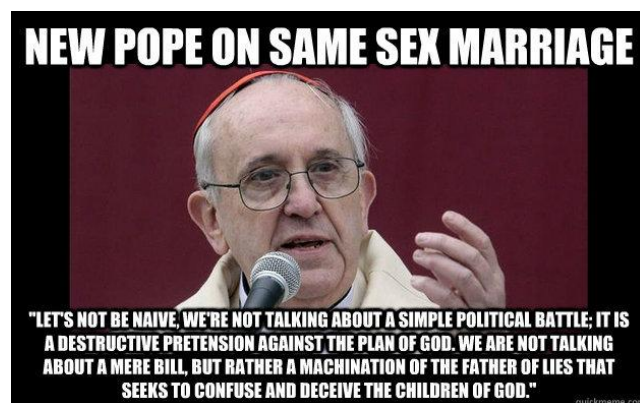
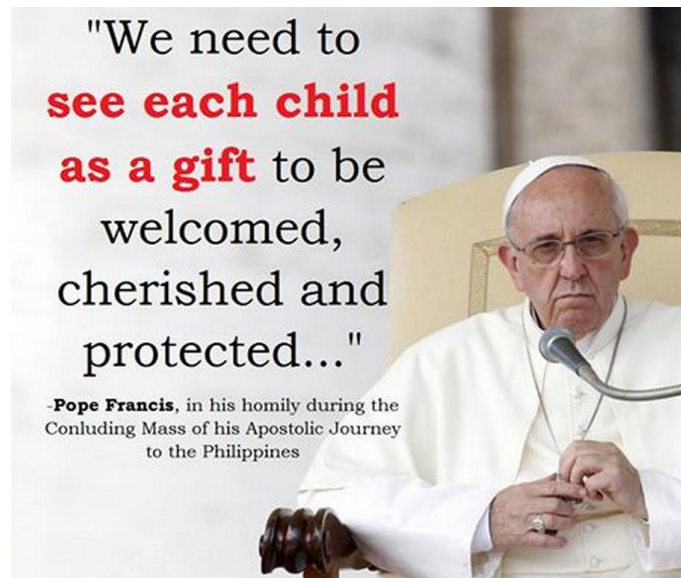
Maurice Carmody author of *The Franciscan Story* St Francis of Assisi and his influence since the thirteenth century, which is a great Franciscan resource beautifully says, *"The Rule of 1978, with its emphasis on personal and communal spirituality, social justice, peace, and the integrity of creation provides the guidelines for the contemporary Brothers and Sisters of Penance: the Secular Franciscans. It contributes to that dynamic diversity which has been part of the whole Franciscan Order since the beginning."*

One more thing I would like to bring to your attention. On Thursday evening September 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 till 8:00 P.M. here at St. Peter's Church our own Fr. Robert Karris, ofm invites the Friars and the Secular Franciscans to attend a presentation of his newly revised book on *The Admonitions of St. Francis* followed by a little Franciscan Hospitality (snacks). This exciting event will be a great opportunity to more deeply understand this most important document in our Franciscan history.

Beyond all this I send you my best wishes,  
your Brother Joe M, ofm. 

---

For the Brother Jacoba Fraternity, our September gathering will also be our celebration of our 15 years. It will be potluck, so feel free to bring goodies. It will Tuesday, September 15, after the 5 o'clock Mass @ at Peter's, downstairs in St Flare auditorium. 



***Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity***

**Study Day/Leadership Workshop**

***“Forming the Formators and Formation”***

**Saturday, September 19, 2015**

**Mayslake Village**

**1801 35<sup>th</sup> St. Oakbrook, IL**

<b>Registration</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>
<b>Mass</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
<b>Continental Breakfast</b>	<b>9:45 am</b>
<b>Session #1 “What Has Worked Well for You in Doing or Participating in Initial Formation” (Nick Noe Facilitator-Small Group Discussions)</b>	<b>10:15 am</b>
<b>Session #2 Pathway to Profession/<i>Required Topics</i> (Sandy Kisel OFS and Patrick Mendes OFS) “Discussion and Questions”</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>
<b>Lunch **</b>	<b>12:00 pm</b>
<b>Session #3 Formation Curriculum, Franciscan Journey &amp; The FUN Manual (Nick Noe OFS)</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>
<b>Session #4 Fostering Transformation (Vickie Klick OFS)</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>
<b>Session #5 Leadership Breakout Sessions</b>	<b>3:00 pm *</b>

**\*session will end no later than 4pm**

**\*\* lunch provided at no charge**

**Organized by the Regional**

**Formation Commission:**

**Nick Noe OFS, Regional Formation Director  
Vickie Klick OFS, Regional Spiritual Minister  
Br. Joe Middleton OFM, Regional Spiritual Asst.  
Patrick Mendes OFS, Comm. Member  
Sr. Marilyn Renninger OSF, Comm. Member  
Sandy Kisel OFS, Comm. Member**

**Please RSVP by Fraternity to Bonnie Michels OFS by Sept. 14**