

## Minister's Message

by Lorna Miressi, OFS  
Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Happy New Year! Peace and all good to you and your family for 2016. Not only are we beginning a new calendar year, we also are beginning a new Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity Year. This past December 5<sup>th</sup> our regional fraternity elected a new Regional Executive Council to animate and guide our region over the next 3 years. Our newly elected council members who will serve over the next three years are:

- Vice-Minister: Barbara Elkins, OFS, St. Juliana Fraternity (Chicago)
- Formation Director: Kristi Loar, OFS, St. Francis/Fox Valley Fraternity (St. Charles)
- Secretary: Liza Ann Acosta, OFS, Wellspring Community (Chicago)
- Treasurer: Connie Tiglaio, OFS, Brother Jacoba Community (Chicago)

Councilor At-Large: LeAnne Tjelle, OFS, St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity (Joliet)  
The remaining council members will be appointed when the new council meets this month. We will announce who is appointed in the next newsletter and on our website, [www.ilsfo.org](http://www.ilsfo.org)  
I would like to tell you a little about myself. I was born and raised in the Chicago-land area, having always lived in the western suburbs. I met my husband while working as a registered nurse.

We were married in 197 and had one daughter, Stephanie. My husband died suddenly in 2014. I have two grandchildren; Asher who is 4 ½ and Liliana who was born this past December 7<sup>th</sup>. They are the joys of my life!

In 1982, when my daughter was 2 years old, I converted to Catholicism, having been raised Lutheran. I was professed as a secular Franciscan in 2002. Since then I have served my local fraternity, St. Bernardine of Siena, as both vice-minister and minister, and the Mother Cabrini Regional fraternity as Vice-Minister for 2 terms. This month I was elected to serve our Mother Cabrini Region as Minister.

I am truly looking forward to serving in this role as best I can for the next 3 years.

At this time, my main goal is to get to know as many brothers and sisters as I can in our regional fraternity. I have had the opportunity to meet several fraternities serving as vice-minister, however I still have much more to do in this area. I had an awesome predecessor in Vickie Klick (along with the other REC members) and I certainly want to continue with what we have started.

I am looking forward to meeting many more of my brothers and sisters and to serving all of you over the next three years. May God grant you peace! ☩

## Council Members

### Minister

Lorna Miressi, OFS  
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### Vice-Minister

Barbara Elkins OFS,  
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### Formation Director

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### Secretary

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### Treasurer

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### Councilor At-Large

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## Councilor for Communications/Public Relations

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## Councilor for Fraternal Life

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## Councilor for JPIC

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## Councilor for Visitations

(Acting) LeAnne Tjelle OFS  
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## Councilor for Vocations

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## Councilor for Youth/Young Adults

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## Spiritual Assistant

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▪ [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.

Saturday, December 5 (2015)  
Regional Chapter of Elections

**REGIONAL CALENDAR 2016**

All events are at Mayslake Village  
unless otherwise noted

Saturday, January 16  
Regional Executive Council  
Meeting

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

Saturday, March 19  
Regional Executive Council  
Meeting

Sunday, March 27 *Easter*

Sat./Sun., April 9-10  
Candidates Retreat

Saturday, May 14  
Chapter of Ministers

Thursday-Monday, June 30-July 4  
*Quinquennial Congress,  
St. Louis, MO*

Saturday, July 16  
Regional Executive Council  
Meeting

Saturday, August 6  
Regional Gathering – Feast of the  
Portiuncula

Saturday, September 17  
Formation/Leadership  
Workshop

Saturday, October 1  
Regional Executive Council  
Meeting

November 1-6 *NAFRA  
Chapter/National Visitation –  
Winter Park, FL*

Sunday, November 13  
Mother Cabrini Feast Day  
Celebration – location TBA

**Spiritual Assistant's Message**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Once again we celebrate the new life of the babe of Bethlehem and the opportunity of coming closer to God so that this amazing event begins a particular opportunity for us to be free forever. And once again we celebrate a new year, 2016, which offers us an opportunity to begin the rest of our lives with new fresh resolution. Then beyond all of this those of us in the Mother Cabrini Region can celebrate the election of a new Regional Executive Council [REC], as you probably already know. The former REC will meet with the newly elected REC this month to pass the baton so to speak and the files and authority. We will consider the appointed positions and those to fill them as well as to plan the events and activities for the coming cycle. All of this newness could continue to grow into something more and something better I'm sure. As Franciscans we are encouraged to recognize God's gifts of the incarnation, as well as to be charmed by the nativity. We always apply ourselves I hope to move forward led by our hearts desire and the Franciscan spirit as individuals and as active parts in the community – our families, or fraternities, our parishes, neighborhoods, our cities, the whole nation and the entire world; whew!, we've got a lot of work to do don't we? "For up until now" sometimes isn't enough it seems. It's a good thing that we have so much Hope available and such an abundance of Mercy.

Speaking of mercy, as all of us, as the body, the church have just begun a Jubilee Year of Mercy as directed by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. So here's a holiday recommendation to all of you for your understanding and edification. Down load the 15 page papal Bull of indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy - "Misericordie Viltus."

I believe that this document and the topic it contains would be excellent material for ongoing formation discussions within the fraternity as well as for private processing. For those of you who don't have the technology to download and print documents, perhaps one of your brothers or sisters would make you a copy. Remember though to thank God for "giving you brothers and sisters" to serve and exploit.

The letter gives us all the details of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, and the place of The Holy Door in designated churches [such as St. Peter's in the Loop], the details of the plenary indulgence, as well as the expressions of the heart and soul of our wonderful pope.

All else that I can add to all of this is my blessing and best wishes upon all that is coming.  
Your Brother Joe , ofm 

## INFORMATION

By Kristi Loar OFS

Regional Formation Commission

Peace, Love and Joy

Greetings my brothers and sisters.

Along with your Christmas celebrations and activities, I hope you also find time for peace and reflection. As we enter into the new year I am taking a moment to reflect on my own preparations for the new year, and would like to share them with you.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love – let me share with others the love God has demonstrated to me; love of self, love of others, love and respect for all the earth.

Where there is injury, let me forgive – let me mend and heal broken relationships, pardon any slights and let go of misunderstandings.

Where there is doubt, let me have faith – let me respond to the Lord in a way that He desires, and in a way that He deserves; let me have the courage to live a gospel life.

Where there is despair, let me have hope – let me trust in Jesus; and offer encouragement to others who have given up hope, or who are angry or are indifferent.

Where there is darkness, let there be light – let me clearly see the path you have placed before me; so that I may have confidence in my journey and show the way to others.

Where there is sadness, let me feel joy – let me not dwell on disappointment and instead accept what is, while looking forward to what can be; let me rejoice in the Lords promise.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, today and always.

May Peace, Love and joy come to you, and to you glad Christmas too, and God bless you and send you a Happy New Year! 📖

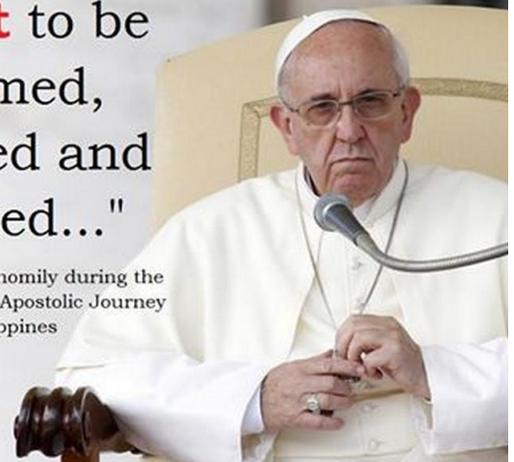
Re-published by popular demand:

Items of interest from our spiritual assistants - Need a gift for someone who finds God in nature? Consider the just-published book by Fr. Jonathan Foster, OFM, *Return of the Swallows: A Traveler's Companion for the Migratory Soul*. The book is a compilation of essays written between 1982 and 2008. According to the description on Amazon.com, "In this collection of essays, you will be both challenged and amused by his delightful way of seeing and honoring creation, including God's dearest creature - all of us. The author's attention and gratitude for the natural world will warm your heart and renew your sense of awe." The price is \$15; besides Amazon, the bookstore at St. Peter's may be able to get it for you as well. 📖

If you are looking for a pilgrimage opportunity in 2016, then you'll want to consider "A Franciscan Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Francis" being led by Fr. Chuck Faso, OFM, September 26<sup>th</sup> through October 7, 2016. This pilgrimage includes the feast of St. Francis IN Assisi, along with Rome, Greccio, and many other Franciscan sites. Cost per person is \$3805 double occupancy and \$4235 single occupancy, airfare included. For more information, contact A. Greg Gregori, tour coordinator. 📖

"We need to  
**see each child**  
**as a gift** to be  
welcomed,  
cherished and  
protected..."

**Pope Francis**, in his homily during the  
Concluding Mass of his Apostolic Journey  
to the Philippines



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

By Barbara Elkins, OFS, JPIC Animator

As I was reflecting on my topic for this month's article, this message appeared in my email:

"Furthermore, when media and the digital world become omnipresent, their influence can stop people from learning how to live wisely, to think deeply and to love generously."

This is how the 47<sup>th</sup> paragraph of *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home* begins. This sentence gave me pause, for I live and work in a media-rich world. As a librarian, I acquire, evaluate, analyze, create and share information using a variety of multimedia tools and formats. I am well aware of the influence the media and digital world has in our culture. I also admit that there is much I don't care to know about the far-reaching tentacles of the digital world. This rapidly changing technology often makes my head spin and evokes a strong desire to curl up with a good book.

Today, I would like to reflect on the latter part of that sentence. Each year on the anniversary of my December profession, I recall the promise I made to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis and I look to this time of rebirth as we celebrate the Incarnation. Looking back on the last few years, I would like to share what I have learned.

### To live wisely

Later in that paragraph, Pope Francis refers to true wisdom "as the fruit of self-examination, dialogue and generous encounter between persons." Through my initial formation, my transfer to the Mother Cabrini region, my role as formation director for my local fraternity and regional JPIC councilor, I have been blessed by the generous encounters I have had with my Franciscan family. These encounters have enriched my life and increased my awareness of God's presence and grace. I'm

Finding that self-examination has led me to more authentic dialogues with God and with those whom I encounter.

### To think deeply

My Franciscan journey has challenged me to learn more about our faith. I have returned to the basics of the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church. As a JPIC animator, I have tried to highlight the beauty of how our Franciscan Rule, the Gospel message and our Catholic Social Teachings work together to bring justice and peace to our world. My pursuit of knowledge and understanding of this relationship has led me to think deeply and differently. I've become more contemplative. I'm beginning to understand Paul's words to the Corinthians. "When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. (1 Cor 13:11) There is much room for growth.

### To love generously

One constant throughout these last few years has been change. I moved here from South Carolina to spend time with my family, I've changed jobs and have become an active servant leader within my parish and Franciscan communities. I have shared in the joys and sorrows of births, deaths, graduations, professions, birthdays, illnesses, celebrations and trials of my friends and family. These changes have often taken me outside my comfort zone and have pushed me to deal with challenging situations. It is here that I am learning how to love generously.

I am grateful to the many people who have shared their generous love with me. This is what we are called to do as we promote justice and peace by maintaining the integrity of all of God's creation.

As we begin this new year, take some time away from your televisions, radios, newspapers and computers to cultivate and maintain real relationships with others. Through your words and actions, you can bring the joy of the Gospel into the lives of those you encounter. 

## St. Francis of Assisi Shrine

### Queen of Heaven Cemetery

#### A Burial Site exclusively for Secular Franciscans and their families.

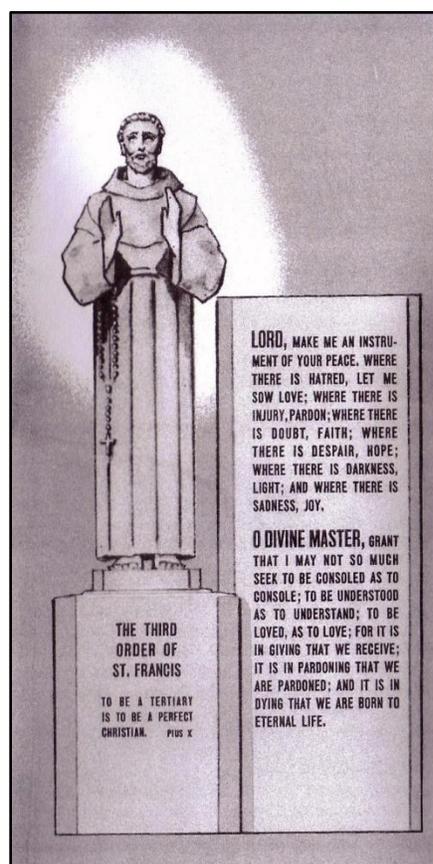
**History:** "In 1960, Rev. Luke Dittman, OFM and the members of the St. Louis and St. Francis Fraternities of the Third Order conceived the idea of a special shrine specifically designed for the burial of Tertiaries and their families. This section of Queen of Heaven Cemetery was opened for selection of graves in April, 1961 and the first burial was made on May 26, 1961. The life size statue of St. Francis on a pedestal and flanked by a granite tablet was designed by Bert Gast Jr. of Chicago and is fashioned of Salisbury granite. Individual grave markers incorporate the Third Order symbol. This shrine was established for members of the Third Order, its use will be limited to members in good standing and to their families. 'Families' has been defined to include spouse and parents of the member." ~ 1962 Dedication Documents

#### Contents of the Burial Rites Inclusion

- Grave site
- Vault (outer concrete burial container)
- Interment fee
- Use of the Interment Chapel for the final prayers of committal
- Individual granite grave marker

**Total package cost is: \$3,380.00**

Easy extended payment terms are available on purchases.  
Grave space is still available.



#### Contact Information

Deacon Glenn Tylutki, CCCE  
Queen of Heaven Cemetery  
1400 South Wolf Road  
Hillside, IL 60162-2197  
[www.CatholicCemeteriesChicago.org](http://www.CatholicCemeteriesChicago.org)

All Secular Franciscans are invited to tour the Cemetery and Mausoleum where relics of St. Francis are located. The Mausoleum contains rooms, statuary and stained glass dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi. Contact Deacon Glenn for more information.