

August 2016 • Vol. 22, No.9

Minister's Message

by Lorna Miressi, OFS

Brothers and Sisters,

June and July have been busy months for both our regional as well as national fraternities. In my message this month I hope to give you information about what has happened and what is to come in the months ahead.

Before I do that, I want to introduce to you our new Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation councilor who will be taking over Barbara Elkin's job for the next three years. Her name is Luana Lienhart. She is a newly-professed member of St. Juliana Fraternity. She is very excited about being asked to take on this position, as the Regional Executive Council is very excited to have her do so. Expect to hear and see great things from Luana in the months to come.

Looking back on the month of June I, as well as several other members of our region, were fortunate to have participated in the XIX Quinquennial Congress held June 30th-July 4th in St. Louis, Missouri. The theme, as you may recall, was "Reviving our Spirit" and we were all given many opportunities to do just that.

For me, personally, it was Awesome!!!

The keynote speaker (for those of you who were not able to attend) was Fr. Daniel Horan, ofm. Fr. Dan is a Franciscan friar of Holy Name Province in New York. He has written many books and has also lectured to both large and small audiences across the country and Europe. Fr. Dan spoke to us every day and what he had to say was both informative and, at times, a bit disturbing.

Let me explain why I said what I said. The main theme of his talks was "Mercy and Minority in the Franciscan Tradition". Each day had a different sub-theme. On Friday the sub-theme was Creation and Poverty. Saturday he spoke specifically on Violence and Peacemaking.

Sunday the sub-theme was Racism and Xenophobia. For me, the theme on Saturday (Racism and Xenophobia) was the disturbing one of the three days. I think, just from the


title of it, one can figure out why it might be disturbing.

I would like to pose to you a particular question connected to each sub-theme for you to reflect on; maybe even bring back to your own fraternity to discuss at a future gathering. Here are the questions:

- 1) For Friday's theme "Creation and Poverty" I give you this question; In what ways do I recognize how the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are connected in my own community?
- 2) Saturday's theme "Violence and Peacemaking" poses this question; How can I work for reconciliation and peace over violence and division in my local community?
- 3) Sunday's theme "Racism and Xenophobia" brings us this question; Of whom or what am I most afraid?
- 4) Finally, I would like to remind all of you of our exciting up-coming regional events. In August we will be celebrating the Feast of the Portiuncula, August 6th at Mayslake Village. All of you should have received information on this gathering already in our last month's newsletter. Our speaker, Br. Marc Sheckells, OFM, will speak on "Where We've Been: Understanding Our Past to Energize the Future".

In November we will celebrate our Mother Cabrini Feast Day Celebration. The location is still being determined, as well as the theme for the day. I do, though, encourage as many of you who are able to attend this event as well as our Portiuncula gathering in August. Regional events always prove to be informative as well as exciting.

Peace to All!

Lorna 

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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.

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 For Brother Joe, via Sr. Marilyn Renninger, OSF

I have been on cloud “Q” since the Quinquennial Conference in St. Louis. The theme, “Reviving Our Spirit” certainly did revive my spirit from the powerful opening Mass on Thursday evening, June 30, to the dynamic closing Mass on Sunday evening. The Renaissance Hotel was alive with nearly 700 Franciscans. Each morning we were blessed with a moving and challenging presentation from the keynote speaker, Fr. Dan Horan, OFM. During those days we were enlightened by the Minister General of the International Council, two other International Councilors, and the General Spiritual Assistant for the OFS and YouFra. A thing that amazed me was the YouFra activities in Africa and a couple middle eastern countries where I would least expect it.

Actually, all the various presenters during those three days were very good. The Holy Spirit sure was busy. Now comes the task of integrating this into my life and thus follow Christ and the Gospel more closely. The Quinquennial was dedicated to St. Louis IX, patron of the Secular Franciscans. His feast day is August 25.


As we journey through this last month of summer let us remember the special Franciscan Feasts, the first being the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula. St. Francis was especially fond of the little old abandoned church, dedicated to the Virgin Mother of God, down the hill from Assisi situated on a small portion of land (thus the name “Portiuncula”) which belonged to the Benedictines. Francis made the Portiuncula the heart and center of the Franciscan Order. As we know, it was here that the Order had its beginning, here Clare consecrated her life to God, and the Second Order began. Here, Francis gathered his brothers for Chapters, and it was here that Francis died.

Those of you who have made the pilgrimage to Assisi, I’m sure like me,

were awed at this little church that today sits in the midst of the glorious Basilica, Our Lady of the Angels.

This day is also called “The Feast of Pardon,” whereby we see the unfathomable Mercy of God. I understand that one night Francis was deep in prayer for the forgiveness of sins of mankind when Jesus and Mary appeared in a cloud surrounded by a multitude of angels. Francis asked Jesus to give a special pardon to those who would enter the Portiuncula and are truly contrite and have confessed their sins. Jesus told him to go to his Vicar, Pope Honorius VI, and seek the indulgence. Francis did and the Pope granted the Plenary Indulgence of Forgiveness of Assisi.

This feast is certainly a Feast of Mercy so let us celebrate it specially during this Holy Year of Mercy. As we focus on the **unfathomable Divine Mercy of God**, may “Jesus Christ, the face of the Father’s mercy”, be our vision as we continue to intentionally take the gospel to life and life to the gospel. May our celebration continue into our Regional Gathering on Saturday, August 6. I am so happy that this year I will be able to join you at Mayslake. Usually the first weekend of August is our Community Days but this year we held them in April as we are celebrating 150 years of our founding in Germany. Ten of the German Sisters (who have the same founder) came to celebrate with us. Twelve of our Sisters just returned from Germany from the celebration of the closing at their Motherhouse in Gengenbach. We in America will be closing the 150th anniversary on the Feast of Christ the King. Please keep us in prayer. Because of space I will just remind us all of the Feast of St. Clare, August 11. Like St. Francis, we celebrate her with both a Transitus Service and a Feast. I am convinced that Francis would not be St. Francis without Clare, and Clare would not be St. Clare without Francis. May all Franciscans be blessed with peace and every good!

Sr. Marilyn 

INFORMATION

For Today, Tomorrow, and Every Day

I spent this past week camping in Wisconsin's 'Apostle Islands' with my family and some close friends. The islands are a rugged and beautiful archipelago of 22 islands in Lake Superior. We hiked the long sandy beaches, bluffs, and woodlands of Stockton Island by day; and slept under the stars listening to the waves gently caress the shoreline at night. Our group worked together to make it a unifying and enjoyable experience for all. We went to sleep on the last night content with the memories of our time on the island.

Early in the morning on the day we were to leave, a terrible storm hit the island. Just before sunrise we heard what sounded like a freight train come right through our campsite (yes, it was *THAT* kind of storm) and within minutes trees were down, 3 of our 4 tents were uprooted and collapsed (tent poles snapped and mangled), and our rain tarp was all but shreds; and as quick as it came, the worse part of the storm had passed. Everyone in our party made their way to the tent that remained standing to wait out the heavy rainfall; carrying with them only the critical items that needed to stay dry. Remarkably no one was injured (thought I'd tell you that so you can enjoy the story).

The worse part of the storm only lasted maybe a half hour after which we were able to leave the tent, assess damages and retrieve what we could.

The rain eventually stopped, the dawn was upon us, birds were chirping and it was a new day. In the morning sunshine, the forest creatures began their cleanup activities just as we humans worked together to retrieve items from the tent and around the campsite, draped sleeping bags, and assorted items, over the downed trees to dry.

Together we packed up what was salvageable, and pulled together what needed to be discarded. Then we headed down to the trail to hike back to the dock. As we hacked our way along the trail we were shocked at the damage the storm had done and it took quite a bit of

effort to clear the way. As we carried out the remains of our gear we couldn't help but express great admiration for a land that can endure and restore itself as these islands do. God's plan for creation is evident in how the land and its creatures respond to natural conditions both pleasant and challenging. We eventually made our way to the dock where we made some coffee, and patiently waited for our passage back to the mainland.

I wanted to tell this story because I found it most encouraging that throughout such a terrifying experience, everyone worked together to ensure each other's safety, to encourage each other, to show respect for the land by leaving a clean campsite, and clearing the trail for others. And when the sun arose it truly was new day – for each of us, the forest creatures, and this beautiful island. Terrible events happen but if, in our response to them, we can be the best forms of ourselves, and demonstrate the best form of humanity, we can be the people I think God intended us to be.

'And tomorrow will be like today, or even far better' (Isaiah 56.12).

Peace and all good...

Kristi

Kristi Loar, OFS 



Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

By Luana Leinhart, OFS

Peace and grace to you, my sisters brothers!
My name is Luana Lienhart, and I've been appointed by our Regional Executive Council to serve as JPIC Councilor.

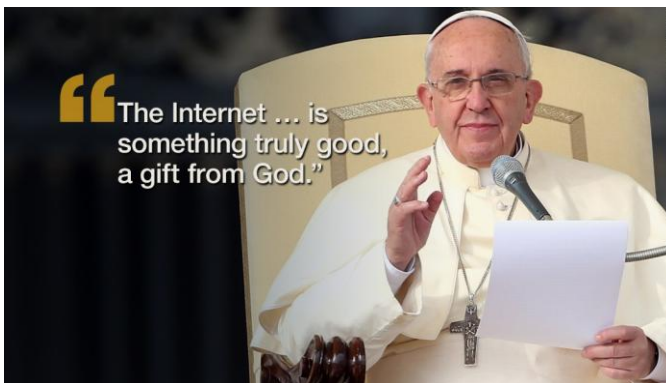
I was professed on April 17th of this year, but Franciscan spirituality has been part of me since I first learned of Clare and Francis in a high school religion class.

This led me to live my faith as a social worker, and I now teach in the Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies Department at DePaul University in Chicago.

My class empowers students to become agents of change and non-violent peacemaking in the Franciscan tradition.

I think peacemaking is one of the hardest charges in our Rule to follow; because it's just hard, and also because it requires that we be constant, active participants. We are always and everywhere to be 'bearers of peace, which must be built up unceasingly', which can be difficult and exhausting, especially in our political climate. All the more reason for us to be trying.

I definitely don't have all the answers, but I look forward to pondering the questions with you. With a humble and joyful heart, I embrace this mantle and look forward to serving you. Please pray for me, and be assured of mine for you. **T**



What can I do to practice JPIC?

From: <https://hnp.org/justice-and-peace/jpic-in-action/thrift-stores-clothing/>

Thrift Stores/Clothing

There are many stories of Br. Francis giving away his cloak – or mantle – to those in need. In his "Tales of St. Francis, Ancient Stories for Contemporary Living," Fr. Murray Bodo, OFM, points out that the laying on of one's mantle in Sacred Scripture can be a symbol of imparting one's spirit to another, as when Elijah gave his mantle to Elisha (1 Kings 19: 19-21). Fr. Bodo encourages us to "wrap others round with a warm mantle," letting our "spirit of love flow into others by divesting [ourselves] of that excess which really belongs to them and laying it upon their cold and naked shoulders." You would be 'shocked' to see the 'labels' and 'bargains' that can be had at local Chicagoland Goodwill stores, at tremendous bargain prices. The benefits of doing this? (1) save money ! (2) By donating your used but serviceable clothing, households goods, books etc. you generate for yourself a tax deductible charitable donation (see #1 above – save money by reducing your taxable income). This also generates an unexpected double benefit of what you are NOT doing – adding to landfill volume! And most importantly, (3) the proceeds from sales help to employ people in jobs that provide dignity. **T**

Last month's mystery church was St. Mary of the Angels in Bucktown.



Which Chicago Archdiocese church is this one? The answer will be in next month's issue. **T**

**YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO THE MOTHER CABRINI REGION'S 2016**

FRANCISCAN GATHERING

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS OF THE PORTIUNCULA

FEATURING AS GUEST SPEAKER

**BROTHER MARC SHECKELLS, OFM
FROM ST PETERS IN CHICAGO**

SPEAKING ABOUT

**WHERE WE'VE BEEN: UNDERSTANDING
OUR PAST TO ENERGIZE THE FUTURE.**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2016

**MAYSLAKE VILLAGE
1801 35TH STREET
OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS**

**REGISTRATION AT 8:30 A.M - MASS AT 9:00 A.M.
SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR FULL AGENDA AND MORE INFORMATION**

**CATERED LUNCH - \$15.00 PER PERSON
YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN IF YOU PREFER**

**PLEASE LET ME KNOW HOW MANY WILL BUY LUNCH AND HOW MANY WILL BRING THEIR
LUNCH**

PLEASE RSVP BY FRATERNITY TO SUSAN GRIBBON, OFS BY JULY 29th

FRANCISCAN GATHERING

AUGUST 6, 2016

AGENDA

8:30 A.M.	REGISTRATION
9:00 A.M.	MASS
9:45 A.M.	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
10:15 A.M.	ADDRESS
12:00 P.M.	LUNCH
1:00 P.M.	ADDRESS
2:00 P.M.	EVENING PRAYER

(TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE)

ABOUT BROTHER MARC SHECKELLS, OFM

Brother Marc is a recent graduate from DePaul University and has extensively studied History and Education. A Chicago native, Brother Marc currently resides at St. Peters in downtown Chicago. In 2014 Brother Marc professed his final vow and will begin priesthood studies in the fall at Catholic Theological Union.

HOW TO RSVP

It will help us a lot if fraternities could have one person call with the total for your group. Many thanks for your understanding and assistance! **RSVP to Susan Gribbon, OFS**

GENERAL INFORMATION, DIRECTIONS AND PARKING

All events will be inside at Mayslake Village; the day will begin in the chapel. Presentations and lunch will be in the Senior Center. Directions: Get to Route 83 from wherever you're coming from; exit at 31st Street; go west to the first signal (St. Pascal to the left; Regent to the right); turn left and follow to where road dead ends into 35th St.; turn right (only way you can go) and continue to main (chapel) entrance to Mayslake Village (3rd street on your left). Parking: Suggest parking at chapel entrance first; if that gets full, park in Senior Center lot (next entrance west on 31st St.); if that's full, drive around to the back of the building facing north in the Senior Center lot – you would find parking at the back of that building.

Brother Marc's outline

Where We've Been Understanding our Past to Energize the Future.

10:15-11:00

The birth of the Church: 33-1054

(The Apostles, Monastic life and the Orthodox problem)

11:00-11:15 Question and answer session

11:15-12:00 The Church grows and develops: 1054-1517

(The Great Schism, Mendicant Life and the Protestant Reformation)

LUNCH

1:00-1:45 The Church today: 1545-present

(The Council of Trent and Vatican Councils)

1:45-2:00 Question and answer session

Day of Recollection for Secular Franciscans



**Purgatory,
the Gift of God's Mercy**
A fresh, new and non-gloomy insight

**September 10 (Saturday)
9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

RSVP by Fraternity by August 27 (Saturday)

About the Event

Sponsored by the Northwest Franciscan Community of the IHM (Palatine), Fr. James M. Ciaramitaro, OFM CONV. will present a Day of Recollection on *Purgatory, the Gift of God's Mercy* at St. Colette Catholic Church, 2900 Meadow Dr., Rolling Meadows, Illinois.

All Secular Franciscans in the Mother Cabrini Region are invited to attend. The event is free, and lunch will be provided. Aside from Mass in the Chapel, all activities will take place in Halpin Hall, located in the church's basement. Please RSVP **by fraternity** by August 27 (Saturday) to Stephanie Heavey, OFS, at minister@nwfranciscans.org

About the Speaker

Fr. Jim holds a master's degree in Franciscan Studies from St. Bonaventure University (New York), and is the pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Rockford. In addition, he is the Provincial Spiritual Assistant for the St. Bonaventure Province of the OFM Conv. and spiritual assistant for St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Rockford. Fr. Jim is an engaging and knowledgeable speaker who will, in this Year of Mercy, provide us with a fresh, new and non-gloomy look at Purgatory and God's loving mercy.

Agenda

9:00 a.m.	Sign-in and breakfast (Halpin Hall, in the church's basement)
10:00 a.m.	First Conference: Purgatory, the Gift of God's Mercy
10:45 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	Mass (Chapel); Celebrant/homilist: Fr. Jim
Noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Second Conference: Continued Reflection on Purgatory, the Gift of God's Mercy
2:00 p.m.	Break
2:15 p.m.	Holy Hour
3:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer (bring your copy of <i>Liturgy of the Hours</i>)
3:30 p.m.	Concluding remarks and dismissal