

OFS News

Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity of the
Secular Franciscan Order

www.ilsfo.org

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Please note that the views expressed herein represent those of the individual contributors,
and may or may not reflect the collective view of the Region.

Brothers and Sisters,
Happy Summer! I pray that everyone is enjoying their summers, and will continue to do so for a few more weeks.
Thanks to Mary Frances Consola, minister of St. Elizabeth of Hungary fraternity in Frankfort, this section of our regional newsletter is taking on a slightly different tone. We are being blessed to hear about the many exciting, fruitful activities that St. Elizabeth fraternity does on a regular basis. Furthermore, if anyone would like more specific information about anything Mary Fran writes about, I am certain she will be happy to talk with you.

Lorna

I heard someone once say that as Secular Franciscans, everything we do is JPIC related. There is no difference between living the Gospel according to the Secular Franciscan Rule and being involved in JPIC activities.

Just what are JPIC activities? The list could easily go on and on; but rather than listing the Works of Mercy (corporal and spiritual), the Beatitudes, the Simple Prayer attributed to Francis, other works of charity, caring for the environment, and all they encompass, JPIC activities present themselves to us often in our daily activities of living.

Members of the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity have been doing JPIC activities, a few for quite some time. The following are highlights of some items:

Christian Help of Mingo County - Under the direction of Sr. Therese Carew, a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart, Christian Help serves the poor of Mingo County, WV with a

food pantry, clothing store (free to low-income persons and families), furniture and household goods, school supplies, local transit services to wherever clients need to go (doctor appointments, post office, Social Security Office, pharmacy, store, etc.), and assistance with other needs. Before school starts, members of the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity collect and deliver school supplies to Christian Help. Children's shoes and clothing are also collected and delivered. Members of the fraternity supply financial assistance and donations throughout the year. For more information about Christian Help, please visit their website:

<http://www.christianhelpmingo.org>

Catholic Charities - In the overall work of Catholic Charities, the members of our fraternity play a small, but important, part is assisting immigrant families to start a new life. Members donate gift cards from Target, Walmart, Kohl's, J.C. Penney, and other retailers so that immigrant families can purchase needed items for their households. A member of our fraternity collects and delivers the gift cards to Catholic Charities.

Unbound - Since 2015, our fraternity has sponsored a woman in a Third World country through Unbound, an international non-profit organization founded by lay Catholics to assist children, youth, and the aging, primarily in Third World countries. Besides financial assistance, our sponsorship includes building a

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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 2018

All events are at Mayslake Village unless otherwise noted

~~Saturday, January 20th—Regional Executive Council Meeting ?Per Capita/Census/Fraternity reports due~~

~~Saturday March 10th—Regional Executive Council Meeting~~

~~Sat./Sun. March 17th/18th Candidates' Retreat~~

~~Saturday May 19th—Chapter of Ministers/ Election of New REC~~

~~Summer Seminar, Loretto PA (Date TBA)~~

~~Saturday July 14th Regional Executive Council Meeting~~

Saturday August 4th Regional Gathering - Feast of the Portiuncula

Saturday September 15 Formation Leadership Workshop

NAFRA Chapter - Date and Location TBA

Saturday October 6th Regional Executive Council Meeting

Sunday November 11th Mother Cabrini Feast Day Celebration - Location TBA

December Chapter of Elections (Date TBA)

(continued from previous page)

relationship with our “adoptee” through letter writing by members of the fraternity. Additionally, individual fraternity members are sponsoring others through Unbound. More information about Unbound can be found on their website <https://www.unbound.org>.

Pro Labore Dei - An international organization dedicated to performing the works of mercy for the very poor, Pro Labore Dei provides services in Robbins, IL one of the poorest communities in the Chicago area. One of our members volunteers weekly in Robbins. For more information about Pro Labore Dei, please visit <http://www.prolaboredei.org/usa.html>

Letters to Congress - From time to time, members of the St. Elizabeth of Hungary write letters to our two senators and representatives in Congress. Most recently letters were written to Congress not to cut funding to programs, which assist the poor. Such programs include the following:

Housing Choice Voucher Program (formerly Section 8) Making Home Affordable Program
FHA loans and HUD homes
Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income Programs

As citizens, we have a responsibility to make our views and concerns known to not only members of Congress but also to our state legislators.

Dr. Tom Catena Sudan Relief Fund - Dr. Tom Catena is an American medical doctor working in Sudan. A collection is taken each month to benefit Dr. Tom's work. The financial assistance is sent to his organization. To learn more about Dr. Tom Catena and his work helping the Sudanese people -

https://sdnrlf.com/our_team/dr-tom-catena/

Prescription and Non Prescription Drug Turn in - Unused and/or expired medications are collected and turned in to a local police department to dispose of. In the past, these medications may have been simply tossed with the risk of them either falling into the wrong hands or polluting water sources and the environment.

Recycling Plastic Bottle Caps - Members of St. Elizabeth of Hungary collect plastic bottle caps from water, pop, juice, and other beverages to repurpose this material into benches and playground equipment. Members bring the caps to our monthly gatherings. The material is passed on to be repurposed.

In addition to the above JPIC activities, members of our fraternity are actively involved in their individual parishes serving in liturgical ministries, religious education programs, sacramental preparation, parish leadership positions, visiting the homebound with the Eucharist, and wherever there is a need to serve others.

Mary Frances Consola osf 

IN-FORMATION

The Learner - Take Two

It is still summer and I am in no hurry to rush it along! In fact, I received my 2019 calendar this past week, but it has been just so lovely outside lately, that I haven't completed much on my 'to do' list, let alone plan for the next year and a half. I have, however, spent quite a bit of time sitting on my patio, doing very little other than listening, looking, and observing the abundance of life around me (I understand this is a good thing to do every now and then).


So, I was amused when I read an article the July edition of 'This Day' written by Sr. Genevieve Glen which is titled 'Sacred Sauntering and Holy Lollygagging'. It was a good reminder to me that while there is much service needing to be accomplished, there must also be time well spent by just breathing. Sr. Genevieve encourages readers with a definition of 'vacation' as "...to empty out, to be idle'...make space for God". I should like to take that advice!

Yet, I do sense a bit of a 'back to school' feeling creeping upon us. Those of you in an academic environment are surely preparing for a season of learning. This month for myself and the regional formation team means preparation for our September Regional Study Day & Leadership Workshop.

The theme this year is in honor of the 40th anniversary of our Rule as approved by Blessed Paul VI (a Secular Franciscan himself). Naturally there is much focus this year on the Rule and a lot of information has been published in honor of this milestone; be sure to check some of them out on our national website at <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/>, and international website at <http://ciofs.org/portal/index.php/en/>.

This year's one day workshop event is scheduled for **Saturday, September 15th from 8:30am - 2:30**, and will be held at our usual location - **Mayslake Village in Oakbrook IL.**

An invitation communication (complete with registration information and draft agenda) will be distributed shortly. Please watch for it!

This time of year reminds me that we are all 'learners'. And as the school year preparations begin, I find myself pausing in gratitude for those who took time to impart their wisdom, and realize how blest we are when we learn and expand our understanding of this gift of creation. Regardless of where your classroom is, pay attention to the lesson, do your homework, and have a terrific school year!
Kristi Loar, OFS 

Spiritual Assistant - Br. Marc Scheckells ofm

"Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick - no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic." This Gospel passage, taken from the Gospel of Mark, may sound familiar to us for many reasons. Most recently, it was the Gospel that was read on Sunday, July 15th. In a larger context, it was the Gospel that inspired our founder and holy father, Saint Francis. It was after reading this passage that he resolved to leave all his possessions behind and live as he determined the Gospel commanded. As Followers of Francis, this passage is usually evocative, meaningful, and the core of our Franciscan life.

Part of why this passage is so powerful is because it challenges the very core of what society believes is important. We live together in a world that uses stuff as an indicator of importance, affluence, and self-worth. This social concept of stuff translating into self-importance is not some new one. Francis was obviously aware of the cost of owning many things while Jesus was clearly cognizant of the human desire for people to gather "stuff" and carry it with them. For them, there were greater things in life than owning stuff. Their goal of eliminating stuff was challenging and a necessary element of Preaching the Gospel. Now, I need to point out that stuff is not bad. Most things have a worthwhile purpose and, when used properly, resolve struggles, simplify difficult tasks, and/or make life easier. A life made easy because of stuff does not necessarily represent a bad thing. The struggle with having stuff is that it weighs us down. Having stuff requires resources, usually money, to

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)

Luana Lienhart of

Grace and peace to you, in the Lord Jesus!
Brothers and sisters, I'd like to introduce you to a brother in Christ; Servant of God, Father Augustus Tolton, the first African American man ordained to the Catholic priesthood in the U.S. John Augustus Tolton was born into slavery in 1854 in Missouri. Martha, his mother, led him and his siblings to freedom in Quincy, Illinois. Upon their arrival, Martha said to her son, "John, boy, you're free. Never forget the goodness of the Lord."

Augustus discerned a call to the priesthood as a child, but Catholic seminaries in the US didn't admit Black men. Two priests (one a Franciscan) tutored him privately for a few years, and he completed his education in Rome, where he was ordained. The Cardinal who ordained Tolton told him he would serve in America because "America needs Negro priests. America has been called the most enlightened nation; we will see now whether it deserves the honor... Can you drink from this cup?"

Tolton replied, "'*Posso*'. Yes, I can."
He said his first Mass at St Benedict the Moor (a Black Franciscan! Aka Benedict the Black), a Black parish in New York City.
He returned to Quincy in 1886 and was assigned to St Joseph Church. Word of his pastoral and preaching skills grew and he soon attracted Black and White parishioners. Though many in Quincy supported him, just as many were openly hostile. A brother priest even called him racial slurs from the pulpit to whip up antagonism toward him. Some went so far as to accuse him of 'luring' White Catholics to his church.
Fr Tolton was transferred to Chicago, and with the financial support and prayers of St Katherine Drexel, founded St Monica, Chicago's first Black Catholic church in 1891. It was a welcome alternative to the 'White-run' churches Black

Catholics attended, which were usually segregated. Whites sat in front of the church and were admitted first to Communion. Black worshippers sat or stood in the back and were often denied Communion because they weren't included in the Communion count. The Church at that time saw Blacks as less than, and some doubted that Black people could even go to heaven. In Peru, St Martin De Porres was disallowed from becoming a First Order Dominican (he was admitted to the Third Order though) until God worked such wonders through him that they couldn't deny his holiness. When asked about this contradiction, Fr Tolton once said, 'It was the priests of the Church who taught me to pray and to forgive my persecutors... In this Church we do not have to fight for our rights because we are Black. She (the Church) had colored saints- Augustine, Benedict the Moor, Monica. She is the Church for our people.'
Fr Tolton embraced Sister Death on July 9th, 1897, at the age of 43. Cardinal Francis George opened his cause for canonization. The Vatican has recently announced the next phase in the process will commence February 2009, and if God wills, he may then be elevated to 'Venerable'.

If you've ever wondered why groups like "Black Catholic" or Black this or that exists, it's because we and other people of color are still excluded in some ways, like representation in statues of saints of color, parish leadership, or incorporating their cultures into the liturgy as appropriate. It's my hope that as more people learn of Fr Tolton, St Kateri Tekakwitha and other saints of color, the Church on earth will be as it is in heaven. ☒

(Spiritual Assistant, cont. from above)
Obtain the stuff. Stuff usually requires some type of storage, which requires additional resources. Stuff also requires maintenance, which requires further resources. The requirement for all of these resources, then, stands in the way of being able to devote our lives to living, preaching, and serving the Gospel. Furthermore, we cannot survive without stuff. The world needs doctors, teachers, and other professions and those professions require stuff. Additionally, I do not think that living the Gospel requires us to be homeless, penniless, and/or



AUGUST 18 CLUSTER PICNIC

FUN SUMMER INDOOR EVENT

We invite our Brothers and Sisters to join us for a fun day of prayer, fellowship, BINGO, prizes, and good food!

For more information contact:

Mary Fran Consola
Rosalie Leitelt

R.S.V.P. BY AUG. 4 with a count of possible attendees ☺



OFS
CLUSTER
PICNIC

BINGO BLAST
WIN PRIZES

LUNCH at
12:00 NOON

A side dish or a
free-will offering is
welcomed ☺

ST. ELIZABETH OF
HUNGARY
FRATERNITY

FRANCISCAN SISTERS
MOTHERHOUSE
St. Francis Woods
9201 West St. Francis Rd.
Frankfort, IL 60423

communities of the school, and enhancing an October symposium focused on Franciscan lifelong formation, the show's title comes from the Franciscan rule of 1223. Its 5th chapter states the friars are to "work faithfully and devotedly so that...they do not extinguish the Spirit of holy prayer and devotion to which all temporal things must contribute."

Our goal is to mount a show that records and celebrates contemporary artists' efforts to work "faithfully and devotedly," filled with the "Spirit of holy prayer and devotion."

Artists who belong to any branch of the Franciscan family or who work with Franciscan themes in all media are invited to submit up to 3 original works for consideration by July 10, 2018. There is a \$25 application fee. Submit work

at: <https://ctu.edu/event/prayer-and-devotion-franciscan-art-franciscan-artists/>

starving. We are called to take care of our basic needs and called to take care of those for whom we are responsible. If you notice, Jesus does not say "get rid of everything." He is not sending his disciples out naked and alone. Instead, he is subtly telling his disciples to take what is needed for the journey – nothing more, nothing less – and go together in fraternity. Hence, owning stuff is not the problem, but our attachment to the stuff we own can be a problem if that is what is driving us. When our decisions are completely influenced by stuff, or the resources necessary to obtain stuff, then we are putting aside our call to depend on God and his providence. There are greater things than stuff, and the Gospel emphasizes this truth over and over again.

Throughout this article, I purposefully use generic terms, like stuff and resources, because stuff and resources can mean so many different things. It can be money, it can be anger, or it can be the desire to always be happy. For Francis, it is clear that living a Gospel-centered life means reordering and reprioritizing our goals and mission in order to better preach the Gospel to those we encounter. Christ becomes the center of his life and everything then flows out from Christ. I encourage everyone to take time and reflect on what "stuff" is holding you back from better embracing and living the Gospel. Furthermore, I encourage everyone to pray for one another and continue to cherish that we are on this journey together. May God continue to bless us, protect us, and bring us to everlasting life! 🙏

On Saturday, November 17, 2018, at 10:00 AM our Spiritual Assistant, Bro. Ed Tverdek, will be Ordained a Priest at St. Peter Church. Everyone is welcome to attend the Ordination and Reception afterwards – Note: *Bro. Ed Tverdek currently serves as Spiritual Assistant to the St. Francis - St. Louis Fraternity at St. Peter Church in downtown Chicago.*

The Mary-Frances and Bill Veeck Art Gallery at the Catholic Theological Union at Chicago announces a juried exhibition: **Prayer and Devotion: Franciscan Art, Franciscan Artists.** From the tradition of the Christmas crèche to art inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* which quoted St. Francis of Assisi's Canticum of the Creatures, there has been a longstanding relationship between Franciscans, Franciscan spirituality, and the arts. This exhibit seeks to bring together work by contemporary Franciscan artists without regard to its content, and work from artists that use Franciscan themes. Mounted in conjunction with the school's 50th anniversary, acknowledging the Franciscans (Sacred Heart Province) as one of the three

Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula
Saturday, August 4, 2018



The Portiuncula, Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, Assisi, Italy

*You and Your Family and Friends are cordially invited to this Franciscan
Gathering hosted by the Mother Cabrini Region of Secular Franciscans.*

*It will be held at: Mayslake Village
 1801 35th Street
 Oak Brook, Illinois*

GUEST SPEAKER: FR. ROBERT HUTMACHER, OFM



Robert M. Hutmacher, ofm has been a Franciscan friar since 1968 and was ordained a priest in 1979. Music has been his life since he was 4 and flowed through his education. He holds degrees in sociology, an M.Div. in theology and liturgy from Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, and the MA in music and liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame. Music studies were also done at the University of Memphis, Quincy University, Northland College along with private study of harp and piano.

He has recorded 13 collections, the most recent being *The Nature Suite*, recorded in Italy in 2015 and released numerous compositions through five U.S. and Italian publishers. He was founder and artistic director of Chiesa Nuova for 17 years, a Franciscan ministry devoted to the performing arts; Chiesa Nuova presented over 530 artists since 1996 all over the U.S. and Europe. He has concertized throughout the U.S., Canada, Italy, Germany and Singapore. Friar Bob has been associated with St. Peter's in the Loop since 1993 and was Director of Worship there until 2012. A resident at St. Peter's he presently serves as an assistant at Ascension Parish, Oak Park, and continues to compose, inspire and bring people to God through liturgy, preaching, the arts and a great sense of humor.

AGENDA

8:30 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m.	Mass
9:45 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
10:15 a.m.	The Porziuncula – Its History
11:45 a.m.	Break
12:00 p.m.	Lunch (see below)
1:15 p.m.	Transformation in the Lives of Francis and Clare
2:15 p.m.	Break
2:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer

(Times are approximate)

CATERED LUNCH - \$15.00 PER PERSON

(You can bring your own lunch, if you prefer)

PLEASE RSVP BY FRATERNITY TO: Susan Gribbon, OFS, by July 28, 2018