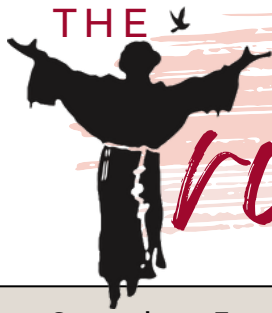


FALL



# rourbadour MAGAZINE

2023

Connecting Secular Franciscan Fraternities throughout our region.



Frances Acosta, OFS Editor

St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity, Charlotte, NC

smfranciscanministry@gmail.com

## Season of Thanksgiving

*"The land yields its harvest; God our God blesses us. – Psalm 67:6.*

Summer sun and fun has diminished and soon the green landscape will change. The leaves on the trees will begin to turn into the vibrant colors of orange and red. Let us praise God for Mother Earth in all her splendor. We thank the Lord, giver of grains and seeds, of fruits and all that grows from earth. Lifting our hearts in gratefulness for brother sun which together with rain work in harmony to produce a bountiful harvest. We send blessings to all who plant and sow, for we reap the fruits of their labor. This season of Thanksgiving reminds us of the abundance we have been given we are to share with others. Let us remember to clothe the naked, feed the hungry and shelter the homeless.

"Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible." "For it is in giving that we receive."  
"Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received—only what you have given."

St. Francis of Assisi

May the seeds of faith we plant in our families and communities continue to grow in abundance.

Peace and Grace to all,



Frances Acosta, OFS Founder of Stella Mundi Franciscan Ministry



### Regional Council Members:

Chris Leone, OFS  
**Regional Minister**

Ed Wojciechowski, OFS  
**Vice Minister**

Debbie Wickham, OFS  
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**Interim Regional Formation Director**

Mary-Frances Reavey, OFS  
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Jim Andreano, OFS  
**Councilor North Jersey**

Barbara Lyne, OFS  
**Councilor Manhattan**

Richard Spana, OFS  
**Councilor Westchester**

Fr. Frank McHugh, OFM  
**Regional Spiritual Assistant**



**Listen, Discern, Go Forth**

2022-2023 OFS-USA THEME



Minister, Our Lady of the Angels Region

Formation Director, Porziuncola Fraternity

cleonofs@gmail.com

## God's Children Are Not For Sale

If you have not yet seen the movie "Sound of Freedom," I highly recommend this true, heart wrenching story. The movie is produced by the Mexican actor, Eduardo Verastegui and distributed by Angel Studios.

Angel Studios also produces and distributes "The Chosen."

The movie tells the story of the intrinsically evil reality of child trafficking, which continues to be a multi-billion industry (\$150 billion!). The film is based on the true story in which two children, a brother and sister, are taken from their home and sexually exploited at the hands of a network of child traffickers. This is an evil that is being avoided or ignored by media outlets. In fact, none of the major studios would touch it and none of the major television networks would even advertise it. It has grown in popularity by word of mouth. As of August 1, the film has grossed over \$150 million beating "Mission Impossible" and "The Flash."

Tim Ballard, the main character played by Jim Caviezel, who played Christ in Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," is a CIA agent whose job is to find and arrest child traffickers.

When the CIA balks at his proposal to shift the focus to rescuing the children, he leaves the agency and, with a small group, goes out on his own and dedicates his life to eradicating the sacrifice of children.

Without giving away the details of the story, the dramatic rescue of nearly 100 children in a sting operation sheds light on the indifference of so many, which in turn, allows evil to flourish in our society affecting the most defenseless within the human family. Tim Ballard and the group he assembles are determined to do anything in their power to "love God above all things and their neighbors as themselves" by way of their communal effort to end this evil.

The phrase uttered by Ballard, "God's children are not for sale" has gone viral on social media and has become the motto for anyone who wants to see this tragedy of child trafficking come to an end. This evil enslaves more than 27.5 million victims worldwide of which 20 percent are estimated to be children by the US Department of State, UN.

After watching the movie, which has great Christian undertones, one easily concludes that goodness (as well as evil) can never grow in isolation, thus proving true what Dante wrote more than 500 years ago – "the darkest places of Hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crisis." Every person must choose a side since remaining neutral makes one an accomplice.

For anyone who is unable to afford a ticket, one need only request a free ticket using the following link:

[www.angel.com/pay-it-forward/sound-of-freedom](http://www.angel.com/pay-it-forward/sound-of-freedom).

For additional resources, visit:

[www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org)

[www.ijm.org](http://www.ijm.org)

[Catholic Social Teaching and the Church's Fight to End Trafficking](#)  
| USCCB





**Regional Spiritual Assistant**

**Our Lady of the Angels Region**

**Fmchugh77@aol.com**

## LIKE TREASURE HIDDEN IN A FIELD

I believe all of us like stories, especially ones that teach us a lesson. In the Middle Ages, such stories were called “Legends” and some of you are acquainted with or have heard of the Franciscan collection of stories known as the “Legend of the Three Companions.” So, I like to share with you a different story that goes like this:

“In the Legend of the Golden Windows, a young boy works hard all day on the family farm, tending to the cows. And each evening at sunset, when the workday was through, the boy had an hour to himself before the evening meal. When the time came, the boy would go up to the top of a nearby hill and look across the valley to a house with windows that shone like gold and diamonds. One day, the boy’s father told him, ‘You have been a good son, always working hard; take this day for your own and try to learn something good.’ So, the boy set out for the house with the golden windows. After a long journey, he came to the distant hill and the place he was looking for. And to his bitter disappointment, he could see the windows were only clear glass with no gold or diamonds. A kindly woman came to the door and asked him what he wanted.

‘I saw golden windows from the other hill where I live,’ he said, ‘and I came to see them, but now they are only glass.’

‘Come with me,’ the woman said, ‘and I will show you the house with the golden windows. They can be seen now during this glorious sunset.’ The woman then pointed to a hill in the distance. And there, on that hill, stood the house with the golden windows. And it was then that the boy learned it was his own house. When he returned home, his father asked what good thing he has learned that day. ‘Father,’ the boy replied, ‘I have learned the most beautiful thing of all! It is our house that has the golden windows.’ -1

This past summer, we have been hearing from the Gospel of St. Matthew as he recounts the numerous parables Jesus shared about the kingdom of God/ the kingdom of heaven. On the last weekend of July, some of us were blessed to attend our Regional Retreat at Mt. Alvernia in Wappingers Falls, NY. Fr. Sam Fuller, ofm, Cap, shared his personal insights in discovering how the Lord touches us with His grace, many times when we least expect it.

As Franciscans, we should strive to marvel at the tremendous love God showed us in sending his Son to lead us to salvation.

The lesson is clear: the Kingdom of God is the ultimate Treasure in life. This discovery’s value and importance takes precedence over everything else in life. Whether it comes as an unexpected find or as a sudden realization of a life-long search, the Kingdom is the supreme Treasure that eclipses all else. It reminds me of the young man who asked Jesus, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus answered, “You lack one thing. Go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (Mk. 20:17,21.) And “Where your treasure is,” Jesus said, “there will your heart be also.” (Lk. 13:34) My sisters and brothers, we stand beneath the cross of Christ because it is the “Tree of Life.” It will always be our anchor as we follow in the footsteps of our holy father, St. Francis of Assisi.







*Interim Regional Formation Director*

*St. Elizabeth of Hungary fraternity S.I.,NY*

*jtk1024@verizon.net*

## You CAN go home again!

In the fall of 2014, our fraternity, St Elizabeth of Hungary on Staten Island, lost our Franciscan home. St Francis Friary, was sold to the Coptic Orthodox Church, where services and retreats are now held, along with numerous youth activities for the large, local Egyptian population.

Though not a shock, where we should turn proved to be a challenge. Many parishes, short of parochial help, were not looking to house an extra group. We no longer had a spiritual assistant.

Through the connections of one of our members, we were able to attend a parish Mass together once a month, followed by a meeting in a small house on the grounds of the parish of St Teresa. Attendance was good, despite the grumblings of some older members! Alas, the room we could use was just too small, and after some time, we knew we had to move on.

Again, through a fraternity member, we were given permission by the priest Principal of Msgr. Farrell High School to use their library and chapel after school hours once a month. Joyously, a former Provincial, Fr Justin Biase, OFM Conv., a friar well known to our members, agreed to become our spiritual assistant.

He traveled from Brooklyn each month to guide and direct us with his gifts of grace and humor.

After two happy years, we were informed by the office that the library was to be repurposed for the further technological use of the students. We would have to cease meeting thereafter our next meeting! Whoa!

Another fraternity member came to our rescue; he had not only been a benefactor, but also the fellow who subsidized and set up for each Sunday Mass at the Eger Home and Rehabilitation Center – we moved to Saturdays and enjoyed meeting there in a huge, brightly lit community space where our new spiritual assistant, Fr. Michael Lorentsen, OFM Conv. came to us every month, despite being the pastor of two parishes in Seaside Park, New Jersey.

Then the pandemic hit. No longer could we meet at Eger. Our fraternity Minister, Denise Enright, went to the monthly priest's meeting and made a direct appeal for a parish to help us to meet. The Vicar of Staten Island arranged for our new home to be Our Lady Queen of Peace, but due to the logistics of CCD, sports, and parish meetings, we could only gather at night. What to do? Many members no longer wished to drive at night, and our numbers tumbled from 30 active to an average of 12.

As a fraternity, we refused to be daunted. We were growing...those new members, younger than many of us, accepted the changes gracefully.

Our fraternity had been established in 1945, when the Friary was a seminary for Friar novices. We took for granted the huge stained glass windows of the Franciscan saints, the lovely choir stalls, and the altar from the tomb of St. Francis in Assisi. It was all ours; and now we felt we were nomads.

We needed to think outside of the box. We decided to create a brochure to be included in our monthly newsletter, sent to every member. It would be called Franciscan Framework. The first year focused on a Pilgrimage to Assisi, and the second year was based on the book Franciscan Prayer by Sr. Ilia Delio.

We gathered those who, for many reasons, chose not to drive at night for a parish Mass monthly, followed by a fraternity meeting just for them. They came! It was obvious that we had a Franciscan identity apart from the building to which we had once grown so attached.

continued. on page 5





Interim Regional Formation Director

St. Elizabeth of Hungary fraternity S.I.,NY

jtk1024@verizon.net

continued...

Many of you have probably seen the television commercials for the tunnel to Towers Foundation. Gina Siller Vogt is a fraternity member, newly elected to be our Vice-Minister. Her brother Russell had gone through St. Francis Friary when it was a college seminary, and, although he was not ordained, he remained close to the Friars. Recently, the Siller family renovated the gym there in Russell's memory -it is delightful to see so many teens and tweens there – and we do see them. Because Frank and Gina have arranged for us to meet, once again, at our old stomping grounds, St. Francis Friary.

The area where we always met has been upgraded. We do not use the chapel, as the Coptic congregation has renovated it and uses it during our meeting time.

But we have had a chapel altar donated to us, and all the sacred vessels, liturgical books and vestments were generously donated by our members as soon as the need was mentioned. Four candidates will be professed in October and we have at least one Inquirer on the horizon.

While it isn't possible for Fr. Lorentsen to be with us on Saturday mornings,

Brother Thomas Barton of the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn, pilgrimage leader and expert on St. Clare has graciously accepted to be our spiritual assistant, and, also a member of our newly established Formation Team!

We've learned a big lesson along the way. It isn't where you are, it's who you are. May the continued blessings of Our Lord, with the intercession of St. Francis and St. Clare grace and guide us along our spiritual journey!

*Joanne*

About our Interim Regional Formation Director

Joanne Malick, OFS



Recently elected Minister of her fraternity, Joanne is also the Interim Regional Formation Director for Our Lady of Angels Regional Fraternity. She was professed in 1992, and after teaching in Catholic grammar school, she obtained her Masters Degree in Theology and went on to teach Morality and Church History at Msgr. Farrell High School. Before retiring, she was the Assistant Director of St. Francis Center for Spirituality for fourteen years, and a teacher of Catechists for the Archdiocese of New York.

## WISDOM of the Saints

St. Charles Borromeo



1538 -1584

FEAST DAY: November 4th

"Charity is that with which no man is lost, and without which no man is saved."

St. Charles Borromeo

PAUSE &



Reflect

Saint Charles Borromeo made his own the words of Christ:

"...I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:35-36).

Borromeo saw Christ in his neighbor, and knew that charity done for the least of his flock was charity done for Christ.



Councilor, North Jersey

Most Holy Name, Little Falls NJ

[jimandreano@gmail.com](mailto:jimandreano@gmail.com)

## P is for Peace

Today let's talk about the "P" in JPIC - Peace.

I remember reading somewhere (can't personally verify it) that the phrase "Peace be with you" is Jesus' most frequent statement in the four Gospels. So peace must be pretty important at all levels - individual, societal, global. But what exactly is peace?

Let's start by talking about what it is NOT:

- Peace is not merely the absence of overt hostility. Nor is it mere civility. These things are essential, and may be important steps on the way to peace, but in themselves they are not enough.
- On the other hand, peace is not the avoidance of conflict at all costs.
- Nor does it mean tolerance of injustice for fear of "rocking the boat", "making waves", or whichever other cliché you care to use. Those of us of a certain age will remember the phrase "No justice, no peace". As Pope Francis has often said, everything is connected.

So then, what is peace?

At the global level, I would define peace as the state in which the use of violence as a means of resolving conflict is simply not thinkable. I offer as an example the relationship between the USA and Canada. These two nations often disagree on various policies. Conflicts do ensue which are resolved through various diplomatic means.

No one ever worries that a conflict will lead to violence. That, to me, is geopolitical peace. Unfortunately, there are many nations with whom our "peaceful" relationship falls well short of this ideal.

Obviously, world peace is something that we all work and pray for. But it is at the personal level that we can more directly bring peace to the world. Or as the JPIC Animators Handbook defines it, BEING Peace. As the late Pope Benedict XVI has stated, "Like Francis, always start with yourselves. We are the first house that God wants to restore."

The JPIC Animators Handbook lists the following five "Peace Principles":

- **Prayer** - The Handbook defines prayer simply as "The source and summit." Prayer is where it all starts. (Regardless of what the "it" is.)
- **Empathy** - Empathy is the ability to put yourself in another's shoes, and understand their feelings, desires, ideas, and actions. We all try to be empathetic, but sometimes we miss the mark. I think this is a "guy thing".
- Instead of empathy, we feel the need to give advice and try to "fix" the problem. Sometimes, what's needed is not fixing, but presence. From the Handbook: "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."
- **Active Listening** - We all fancy ourselves to be good listeners. But listening takes effort.

Absent that effort, we become selective listeners, hearing what we want to hear and making judgments about what we don't. The Handbook offers the following advice: When in a potentially volatile situation, ask directly "What do you need me to understand?". Then just listen. Remember, we Franciscans seek not to be understood, but to understand!

- **Compassion** - This is one of my favorite words in the entire language. It literally means "to suffer with". Not easy to do, since nobody likes to suffer, especially voluntarily. Compassion involves the recognition of the suffering of another, AND the decision to do something about it. It takes us from empathy to action.
- **Evangelical Love** - We tend to think of love as a feeling. But evangelical love, also known as agape, is not a feeling. It is a chosen behavior. We can't always control our feelings, but we can always control our behaviors. Evangelical love is an act of the will, one which we can always undertake, regardless of whether or not we feel like it.

I close with the Franciscan question "What is ours to do?" The JPIC Animators Handbook offers a one word answer - **PRACTICE!**

Being peace is a learned skill. Practice each and every day living and being mindful. Speaking mindfully. Listening mindfully. And mindful silence. Soon, everything you do in your daily life will be a reflection of mindful living.





## My Canticle

Shimmering light at dusk dances on the water as the landscape and sky expose a variety of hues and tones. No wonder artists find it an optimal location to paint. An impossible task for a mere mortal. The attempt to duplicate Gods' beauty on canvas is a noble challenge for sure, one that true artists can't resist. Not driven myself with talent to brush or palette paint on canvas, I reside myself to be a subject praying within the portrait. Praise be you, my Lord.

Winter on the east end of Long Island can be difficult. It signals the end or the beginning. It is bitter-sweet or like a good Italian aperitif it can be sweet- bitter. It's a personal perspective. We can ignore the harsh environment and bundle up warmly indoors or embrace the splendor of the cold, windy, stormy weather that God offers us. Praise be you, my Lord.

Several afternoons a week I can be found at Louse Point. Temperatures ranging anywhere from 20s to 40s. I'll exit my little gray pick-up truck and walk to the water's edge. The sound of the lightly frozen sand that crackles under my feet accompanies my solitude. The white crust of snow on the eyelid where the water meets the beach's edge welcomes me to its bracing cold.

Quickly I'll remove my warm red outer garment and hang it with my towel on a kayak rack. I'm left wearing my red bathing suit, rubber booties and a one neoprene glove that I wear on my left hand. It holds a toy yellow duck that's both a thermometer and timer. My other hand is bare and holds my rosary beads. Praise be you, my Lord.

Without hesitation and always with faith I enter the bay, scooping the salty brine of my precious "Sister Water" with my right hand, bringing it to my face then making the sign of the cross. I continue walking until with a deep breath I lower myself to a kneeling position so the water is shoulder height. Then I begin "Our Father, who art in heaven....". Praise be you, my Lord.

The sea water is so frigid it feels hot like "Brother Fire." It stings yet does not burn. After a few minutes a euphoric feeling envelops my body. The rhythm and mystery of prayer continues as I become part of God's mosaic, water, land, sky, sun and creatures. The low western "Brother Sun" winks at me, warming my face. It never fails to make me smile in gratitude. Praise be you, my Lord.

My gloved hand stayed submerged in water to record the temperature and time. My right-hand stays above the water with my fingers strumming down the beads. After five decades of Hail Mary's, interspersed with an Our Father, I stroll out renewed, invigorated, and blessed. Praise be you, my Lord.

Paul Frediani, OFS  
St. Benedict the Moor Fraternity  
in NYC



Photo credits: Paul Frediani, OFS

Louse Pt, East Hampton, NY





## *A Sacrament of Eucharistic Love*

In God's house the touch of holy water begins the dance of faith with the Trinity of love.

I kneel in reverence to God Almighty honoring his infinite glory of truth and beauty that reveals our captivating story.

I sing psalmist songs of thankful praise as the priest leads his flock to the sanctuary of redemptive wonder set upon the sanctifying altar.

*As you give me your body and blood, Jesus, I offer you my covenant of love.*

As a child I received my loving Savior from a small wafer, holding God in my tiny hand of divine faith and grace.

The paschal mystery dwells within my inner sacred temple transcending the seasons of life on wings of adoration prayers before the Blessed Tabernacle.

Battles are mightier and cries of anguish to my Beloved draw me closer to His loving vineyard where our hearts beat together as one in intimate stillness.

*As you give me your body and blood, Jesus, I offer you my covenant of love.*

My brokenness is a blessing in God's suffering wounds but the living spring of communion carries me into Jesus' arms of tenderness within His eternal forgiveness.

Rejoicing in God's Garden of hopefulness waters of tranquility flows upon the rosebud blossoming within the light of His holiness.

In the Sacrament of love, the body and blood of sacrifice refreshes my earthly soul in union with Him to make my spirit splendidly whole.

I long for the healing gift of life, the Eucharistic kiss, upon my lips, with a promise to never part from my Bridegroom of heavenly bliss.

Blessed and broken like the bread, the mystical presence of God holds me ever so close in everlasting peace and hope.

*As you give me your body and blood, Jesus, I offer you my covenant of love.*

Jeannie Sweeney, OFS Inquirer  
Servants of God Fraternity, Westchester, NY

## *Eucharist : The Visible Christ*

This winter, on February 18, Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity hosted a "Eucharistic Day of Renewal in the Spirit of Francis", held at nearby Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

In unity with our current "Listen; Discern; Go forth!" message and theme, our retreat leader Father John Gordon, OFS Director of Charismatic Renewal (Newark, NJ) guided us through our day of prayer, lecture, fellowship and adoration with a true Franciscan spirit of insight and understanding of what he called "The Four Pillars of Eucharistic Renewal".

Those pillars and my reflections on them are as follows:

### 1) Personal Encounters with Christ.

It's very simple. Bring yourself to Him. He's available to us everyday in the Eucharist, on the altar, in the tabernacle for free. He waits for us. He gave His life for this very encounter.

### 2) Re-invigorating Devotion to Christ.

Also simple. Devotion is coming before the Most Humble Savior in the Blessed Sacrament through the gift of Adoration. This is Christ's most precious gift to us. His own body and Spirit, freely given to us for the enrichment of our own spirit, where we can come with our pride and leave with His humility.

### 3) Deepening Formation:

What better Formation Director have we than Christ in the quiet, spirit filled space of the Adoration Chapel. Silently there, fully available to us. Visibly contained in that monstrance. The only words are: "*Be Still and Know That I AM God*".

Continued on next page....

# FOLLOWING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS



To enter with the pure intention of surrender to God's will for us in this Holy Encounter is all we need to receive the grace He has waiting for us.

## 4) Missionary Sending-

To exit the Holy Encounter with the continued pure intention of God's will for us is what we need to extend this given grace as freely, as humbly, as lovingly as we have received it.

Extending the grace of our Holy Encounters with Christ is the joy of our calling, of our mission as brothers and sisters of Francis and Clare!

*"We all become tabernacles of the unseen Christ when we receive Him in the Eucharist. We should equally become monstrances of our Lord."*

Fr. John Gordon.

Being the monstrance, making Christ seen through the grace in which we receive Him through our personal encounter, reinvigorating devotion and deepening formation is fulfilled in the fourth pillar of Father Gordon's lecture and the third directive in our Franciscan theme. The Missionary Sending and Go Forth are synonymous.

For others to see Christ, we're called to "be Christ". We can't spell EUCHARIST without C H R I S T !

Peace and love in Him,

Karyn Fusco, OFS  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity  
Red Bank, NJ



Photo credits: Karen Fusco, OFS



# NEWS AROUND THE REGION



## ANNUAL RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS

“Bearing the Light: Learning to Love One’s Life Through St. Francis and St. Clare.”

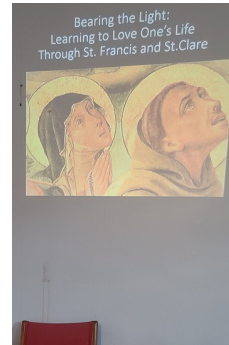
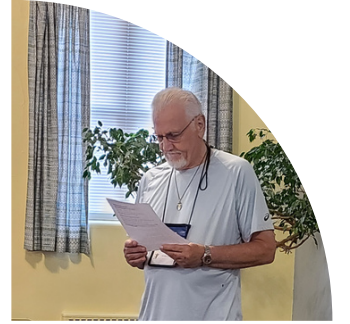


Photo credits:  
Diane F. Menditto, OFS  
&  
Antonia Fusco, OFS



# NEWS AROUND THE REGION



## PROFESSIONS, ADMISSIONS & ELECTIONS, ETC

### Elections



Photo credit: Chris Leone, OFS

#### St. Elizabeth of Hungary fraternity Staten Island, NY

June 3rd 2023 elective chapter  
Fr. Michael Lorentsen, OFM Conv.  
was the delegated ecclesial witness.

Pictured below, from left to right:  
Fr. Michael Lorentsen, OFM Conv.,  
outgoing Spiritual Assistant

Susie Micu, OFS, Treasurer  
Maria Gorga, OFS, Secretary  
Regina Vogt, OFS, Vice Minister  
Joanne Malick, OFS, Minister  
Bro. Thomas Barton, OSF, incoming  
Spiritual Assistant



Photo credit: Chris Leone, OFS

#### Sts. Elizabeth and Louis fraternity New York City

On June 11, Fr. Basil Joseph, OFM Cap.  
was the delegated ecclesial witness.

From left to right:  
Barbara Lyne, OFS - Director of Formation  
Maria Teresita De Chavez, OFS - Treasurer  
Fr. Basil Joseph, OFM Cap - Ecclesial Witness  
Kathy Feldman, OFS - Minister  
Frank Pamias, OFS - Vice Minister  
Victoria Angeles, OFS - Secretary

### New Inquirer

#### Servants of God Fraternity Yonkers, New York



On August 12, 2023,  
ROSA CERRATO  
was Welcomed into  
the Servants of God Fraternity

(left to right standing): Susan Upshur, OFS;  
Rosa Cerrato (Inquirer), Jinny Piniero, OFS;  
Thomas Upshur, OFS; Pamela Mosca,  
Susan Leyden, OFS (Sponsor)  
(left to right seated): Tom Scheuring  
(Fraternity Minister); Fr. Lawrence Joseph  
Schroedel, CFR (S.A.)



Photo credit: Susan M. Leyden, OFS

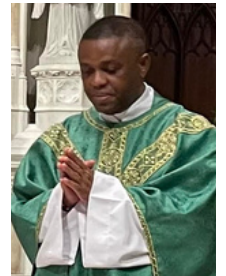
Also shown are Fr. Lawrence  
blessing the book,  
"St. Francis of Assisi,  
A Biography" by Omer Englebert,  
along with Tau Cross,  
St. Clare medal,  
and "Jesus" heart.

### Profession

#### St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity New York City



Photo credit: Marianne Bellucci, OFS



Catherine Maria Skurka, OFS, was professed  
at the 5:30pm parish mass.  
Our pastor, Fr. George Sears allowed us to have  
the profession at the regularly scheduled mass. He  
felt it would let the people of the parish get to  
know us better. Because, Fr. Sears was out of town,  
Bishop Gerald Walsh of the Archdiocese of New  
York celebrated the mass, assisted by Deacon  
Andre Alexandra. Fr. Simon, a chaplain at Lenox Hill  
Hospital concelebrated. Also joining the  
celebration was Catherine.

What a Great day for our fraternity!

*"In a spirit of humble gratitude and  
heartfelt joy, I presented myself  
before the LORD, my brothers and  
sisters in fraternity, my family and  
friends, for the Rite of Profession in  
the Secular Franciscan Order. This  
moment in time was profoundly  
meaningful and sacred. I am deeply  
grateful to Saint Mary of the Angels  
fraternity for embracing and  
supporting me on this journey of  
discernment and conversion. Amen. "*

Catherine Maria Skurka, OFS,  
Chaplain

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. Psalm 116:18





## PROFESSIONS, ADMISSIONS & ELECTIONS, ETC

### Admonition 17. Of the Humble Servant of God.

Blessed is that servant who is not more puffed up because of the good the Lord says and works through him than because of that which He says and works through others. A man sins who wishes to receive more from his neighbor than he is himself willing to give to the Lord God.



### WEBSITES



TO EXPLORE

Just click on the icon



## SERVING THE NEEDY



### PORZIUNCOLA FRATERNITY EAST HANOVER, NJ

Members serving ice cream and food to the poor at St. John's Church in Newark, NJ.



God of Justice, open our eyes to see you in the face of the poor.

Open our ears to hear you in the cries of the exploited.

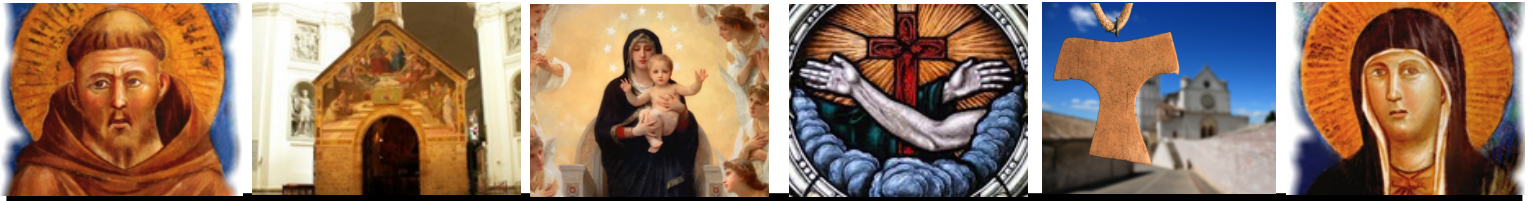
Open our mouths to defend you in the public squares as well as in private deeds.

Remind us that what we do to the least ones, we do to you.

Amen.







## WE REMEMBER

### *Marian Licameli, Secular Franciscan for 75 Years, Dies at Age 95*

The St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity (Middlesex, NJ) is mourning the passing of a sister its members considered a legend, even a living saint. Marian Kathleen Licameli, née Abrahams, was just 22 years old when she was admitted to the Franciscan Third Order at the Capuchin Church of St. John the Baptist in New York City, in October 1948. Pius XII was Pope and Harry S Truman was the President of the United States.

Marian was professed the following year, taking the name of Sister Dorothy, after her beloved mother.

After residing in New York and Florida, Marian moved to Metuchen, New Jersey, in 1970, where she resided until her death. In Metuchen, she became an active member of, fittingly, St. Francis of Assisi Parish (later the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi). In her parish, Marian was a member of the Legion of Mary and the parish pastoral council, and served as a catechist, RCIA sponsor, reader, and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. Marian transferred to the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in 1991.

"I've always believed the Holy Spirit was behind me moving next to Marian," says neighbor and fellow fraternity member Pat Walsh. "Her example was a blessing. As a true Franciscan, she had a welcoming heart for everybody." Former Minister, Italia Testa, recalls, "Marian was truly an inspiration to our fraternity. She taught us by how she lived to walk in the footsteps of St. Francis in humility. She was a deeply spiritual woman who made the Beatitudes come alive."

Over the last several years, the infirmities of age restricted Marian to her home, where she lived almost as an anchoress, spending the day in prayer and listening to religious programs. Before her eyesight failed, she prayed the Liturgy of the Hours daily, always concluding her prayer for the day by singing the Salve Regina. (She died on July 16, the Memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.) The highlight of any day was to receive Holy Communion from one of the parish priests or an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. Says Pat Walsh, "Marian suffered a long, long time and suffered very much like St. Francis, accepting her suffering as God's will and never letting it deter her giving glory to God."

During a long life spent close to the Church, Marian had the grace of meeting Blessed Solanus Casey and Servant of God Dorothy Day.

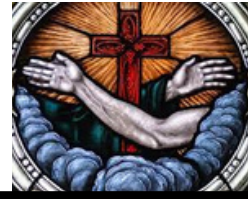
Marian was predeceased by her husband, Deacon Paul Licameli; a sister and two brothers, including Fr. Pius Abrahams, OFM. She is survived by two sons, a daughter, a granddaughter, and her brothers and sisters in the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity. Requiescat in Pace.



Rev. Msgr. William Benwell, OFS Minister  
St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity, Middlesex, NJ



# GENERAL INFORMATION



## Calling for articles, poems, event photos

THE TROUBADOUR is a quarterly communication vehicle published by Our Lady of the Angels Region. It is published digitally.

The electronic format of The Troubadour is published quarterly — Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. It is available for downloading on our Regional website.

To become a subscriber, you must be an active, professed member, or candidate in formation of our region, and your complete e-mail address must be registered in our database.

Wherever you see the spirit of Saint Francis at work in the world, in your lives, in your fraternity, in its members, and in your hearts—we want to hear from you. Come, share with us.

### PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

**All submissions for the next issue of The Troubadour, Winter, January 2024, are due to the Editor: [smfranciscanministry@gmail.com](mailto:smfranciscanministry@gmail.com) by December 15th.**

### ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS:

- The right to copy all material printed in The Troubadour is granted provided you credit the Troubadour and author.
- When submitting articles for publication consideration, please state fraternity name and location, as well as your name and address.
- Photos are limited to 2 or 3. Some submitted photos will be used.

Because of our magazine article regional submission requirements, I am limited in the number of accepted submissions. Therefore, not all articles, poems or event images can be published in the current edition. I will give consideration for future publication.

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