



# SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

## Five Franciscan Martyrs Region

Fall 2017

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Five Franciscan Martyrs Region of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States is the organic union of all Secular Franciscan fraternities in the State of Florida, South Georgia, and Lower Alabama. We desire to promote in the world a deeper presence of the Catholic Faith and the Franciscan tradition; and we seek to bring the Gospel Beatitudes of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, as personified by St. Francis of Assisi, to all our secular, daily lives. We foster a spirit of prayer, conversion, reconciliation, justice and service, especially to the marginalized in our society. We invoke the intercession, honor the memory, and advance the Cause of the patrons of our Region, the Five Franciscan Martyrs of La Florida, who, in A.D. 1597, freely gave their lives in testimony to the dignity of Christian marriage and family life. (Rewritten from original 1991 version and approved in February 1999)



### REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**Marie Thomas, OFS**  
Regional Minister

**Jeane Swaynos**  
Regional Vice Minister

**Patricia Gagnon, OFS**  
Regional Treasurer

**Pat Wolfert, OFS**  
Regional Secretary

**John Deaton, OFS**  
Regional Spiritual Assistant

**Hans Huemmer, OFS**  
Regional Formation Minister

### REGIONAL COUNCILORS

**James Grant, OFS**

**Carlos Calderon, OFS**

**Genevieve LoRicco, OFS**

**Jeff Majewski, OFS**

**Patrick Chalmers, OFS**

**Sheila Solomon, OFS**

## GRATITUDE

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By Marie Thomas, OFS, Regional Minister

When I get discouraged or when I get down, the thing I've found that works—and works every time, and works the best, and works the fastest—is gratitude. I don't know anything that can change my internal state as powerful as getting into a space of gratitude, just to drawback from whatever it is that's going on, to drawback from whatever it is that got me discouraged or got me down, and to ask myself, "What do I have to be grateful for today?" Or "OK, what is beautiful today?" And just start to list the things, and the people, and the opportunities, and the experiences of sight, sound, smell, etc., and just mentally get myself into a place of gratitude is a really powerful technique.

There are going to be times in our journey when we are going to get down. There are going to be times when we're going to get discouraged. There are going to be times when people are going to criticize us and it's "gonna" knock us off our true north. We're going to feel disoriented, and we've got to find a way to get back on track, to refocus, to build that inner strength, to relight that flame within us. And gratitude is a very, very, very powerful technique for that.

So what are you grateful for today? Sit down, take 5 minutes, grab a notepad . . . just make a gratitude list. What are you grateful for? Write down all the things you're grateful for, the people you're grateful for, the opportunities and experiences you're grateful for.

I'm grateful for running water. Until you've been in a place where they don't have running water, it's easy to take that for granted. I'm grateful for the incredible people that I'm surrounded with in my family life and here in the Secular Franciscan Order. I look at some people in my life who are really struggling and I realize, "Wow, they don't have a group of people around them like I have around me." And sometimes that makes all the difference.

I'm grateful for a lot of things, but you know what? I forget about that sometimes. I lose sight of that. I could get focused in on the smallest thing, the darkest thing, and when I lose that sense of gratitude, things go south pretty quickly.

So I repeat: What are you grateful for today? Take 5 minutes, 10 minutes . . . sit down with a blank pad and make a gratitude list. It's amazing how it changes the way we think about life, changes the way we feel about life, changes the way we think about ourselves, and refocuses us on what God wants us focused on.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

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**Bonnie Barlow, OFS**  
Database Manager

**Fred Schaeffer, OFS**  
Webmaster

**Andy Buchleitner, OFS**  
Justice, Peace, & Integrity of Creation  
Liaison

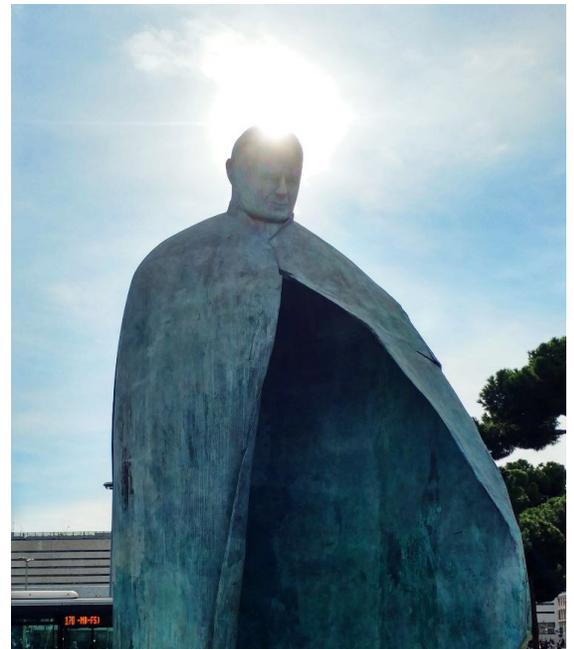
**Theresa A. Zesiewicz, MD, OFS**  
Electronic Newsletter Editor

**Jim Beck, OFS**  
Ecumenical Council & Leadership

**Janice Novello, PhD OFS**  
Young Adult Apostolate

**Hilda Aguilera, OFS**  
Spanish Liaison

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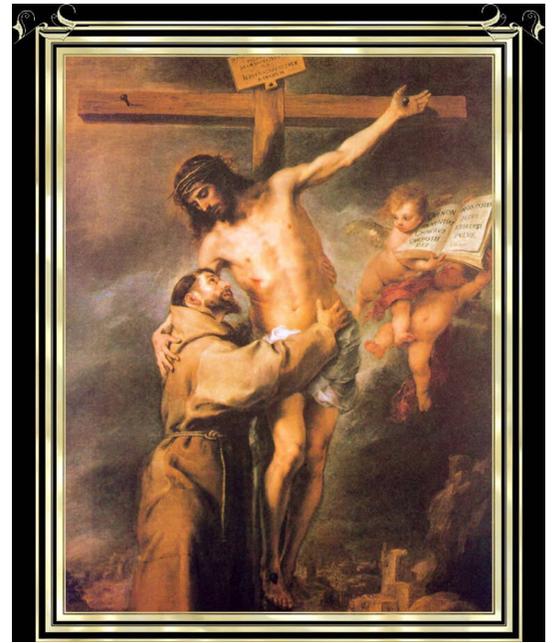
## MOUNTAIN OR MOLE HILL?

Fraternity Councils have many responsibilities so things that are not immediately visible to them, get forgotten or pushed aside. One of those things is keeping your database updated! It may seem like a waste of time or just more unnecessary paperwork but – in truth, it is very important.

To emphasize its importance, the Regional Councilors will use only the database information to conduct your elections. If a person's name is not on the database list they may neither vote, nor may they be elected.

We are emphasizing its importance because the entire Secular Franciscan Order (CIOFS, NAFRA, REC) all use that information for the many reasons. If someone writes to a Secular Franciscan who is from CIOFS or NAFRA, he/she is at a loss. They cannot respond because they know nothing about the person, the fraternity, etc. This means he/she must send the information to NAFRA, who sends the information to the Region and ultimately, the Region contacts your fraternity. The information will also be used to ascertain the amount of Fair Share that should be paid from your fraternity, from the Region and, ultimately from NAFRA to CIOFS.

Therefore, please update your database information immediately if anyone transfer into or from your fraternity, dies, becomes a Candidate or is Professed, changes their address, phone number or email! In other words, give this membership duty to someone reliable who will contact our Database Manager, Bonnie Barlow at [bonniebarlowsfo@gmail.com](mailto:bonniebarlowsfo@gmail.com)



## REASONS FOR REVISED AREAS

### Marie Thomas OFS, Regional Minister

The REC revised the areas in the region for the following nine (9) reasons:

1) A need to create more Fraternal Family Feelings

2) A need to help fulfill the Rule, Constitutions and Statues which encourage:

To foster communion among members, the council should organize regular and frequent meetings of the community as well as meeting with other Franciscan groups

They should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon. A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people

3) The fraternities from the same diocese were placed in the same area to encourage compliance with Rule, Article 6:

They have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by profession. Therefore, they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.

Called like Saint Francis to rebuild the Church and inspired by his example, let them devote themselves energetically to living in full communion with the pope, bishops, and priests, fostering an open and trusting dialog of apostolic effectiveness and creativity.

4) It gives the members a better sense of the “larger” (REC, NAFRA) Franciscan family by widening their focus from “my local fraternity”

5) It gives the councilors more flexibility

6) It gives the councilors greater responsibility

7) It provides constant communication in the event a councilor resigns, moves, dies, etc.

8) Frequent Family Meetings gives more face-to-face time, increases communications with the members to & from the REC, encourages sharing among the members, etc. Eventually, all REC members will attend at least one such meeting

9) Lastly, to be in compliance with the last REC Visitation Report from NAFRA where we can encourage :

· Fraternities should be encouraged to be more visible as a group

· Fraternities should encourage ALL its members to be actively involved

· Fraternities should bond and pray and socialize with other fraternities

· Fraternities should re-imagine ways to encourage new vocations

· OFS should make a statement as a group based on JPIC or a pressing local issue

· Fraternities should always use Franciscan topics for on-going formation

· OFS should work with the larger Church: Bishops, Provincial SA's, etc. by sending newsletter, visitation reports, etc.



## DR. JOHN DEATON, OFS

FFMR Regional Spiritual Assistant



Greetings,

I am honored and a bit anxious to have been approved to be your new Regional Spiritual Assistant (RSA), replacing Fr. Kevin. I am humbled and appreciate the vote of confidence. When I discussed this appointment with Hans Hummer I mentioned that I felt honored to have been selected from what was probably several outstanding candidates. Hans quickly burst my bubble by stating no one else wanted the job! Thanks, Hans! I hope I can do justice to the ministry! I will certainly do my best. Please pray for me! J

A little bit about my background for those who do not know me: I am a full time Professor at the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). My doctorate degree is in Psychology, but I have a master's degree in Christian Spirituality from Loyola University. As such I am responsible for directing the Human Factors program at FIT (Human Factors is a branch of Psychology that combines Engineering and

Psychology). I'm a retired Naval Officer having worked as an Aviation Psychologist while in the Navy and completing flight school. What all this means is that I was actively flying while attending to my duties in the Navy. I was affectionately (I hope), called "The Flying Shrink"! It was after I retired from the Navy that I began my tenure at FIT where I have been for the last 17 years.

Enough of myself....on to more important things. We will be beginning a newly revised Spiritual Assistant Training Program shortly. It will be primarily online (which means you need to have a computer or access to one and internet connection), consisting of monthly assignments (readings and papers). The program will continue for 18 months. I am in the process of developing the syllabus that will detail the texts that are required (you probably already have these) and what candidates will be responsible for each month (readings, etc.). My plan is to begin the program in September, 2017. The one constraint (and this is very important) is that the course/training will be conducted as would be any training course. That is, it will begin this September and finish in 18 months. Once the course begins I cannot accept late entries. So those who begin this Fall will work as a cohort; that is, they begin the same time and finish the same time. What this means for you is if you are interested in beginning the training you need to apply soon, as the next cohort will not begin for another 18 months after we begin. It's far too disrupting to have candidates join our group sometime after the course begins as the syllabus needs to be followed in a logical manner. For those interested, please contact me soon at: John E. Deaton (vespers49@aol.com). I can provide more detail and send you the application form. It requires completion of the application and a letter of endorsement, and a personal statement regarding why you wish to attend this program. But don't delay! Once we start you would have to wait another 18 months to join the next cohort group.

I hope everyone has a blessed summer and I am here to serve you so don't hesitate to contact me either by email (see above) or phone (407.782.9259).

Peace,

\*\*John\*\*

Dr. John E. Deaton, OFS

## Formation

In the spirit of gathering together as a Franciscan Family, the National Formation Commission hosted a National Formation Workshop for all the Regional

Formation Directors the United States. The workshop took place from Aug. 17 through Aug 20 at the Renaissance Marriot in St Louis. It was a good location for everyone to meet for 4 days of training and fellowship.

It was my privilege and honor to be able to represent our region at this gathering. I'd like to share my experience of the workshop in the s article.

*The relationship between the Franciscan Formator and the Spiritual Assistant.*

Anne Mulqueen OFS was the first person to give a workshop. She is the Spiritual Assistant to the National Formation Commission. The purpose of her talk was to help us better understand and appreciate the important relationship and bond that exists between the Formation Team and the Spiritual Assistant, and to help everyone understand the responsibilities that exist within that relationship.

We learned that the Spiritual Assistant's primary responsibility is to assist the Formation Team, by participating actively in every aspect of the formation process. We also learned that the role of the Regional Formation Team is to serve the local formation directors and provide them with information inspiration and training for the ministry.

Franciscan Formation is always centered on Christ and the Gospel. Our rule tells us that the life of a Secular Franciscan is to observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Frances and St. Clare.

Formation is ongoing and open ended. Our formation doesn't end when we profess; rather it is a lifelong process.

As a Franciscan community, we are on a journey of conversation, we are called to love and support each other on this journey.

*Learning Who We Are---Implementing the F.U.N. Manual*

After Anne's presentation, Diane Menditto OFS, a member of the Formation Commission, gave the workshop on the F.U.N. manual. The participants were divided into groups so that they could create a sample formation section from the F.U.N. manual. This exercise lasted for more than 5 hours over two days. It was called "Learning Who We Are – Implementing the F.U.N. Manual". Diane led this section and helped each of the groups to attain our goals.

In this session, we learned that we are not teachers but formators. The goal is to help those in formation understand what a vocation is, to discern whether or not they have a vocation, and to intensify their understanding of the Catholic faith.

We also learned that Franciscan formation the understanding of being a Franciscan and the importance of the Rule in our lives.

After a short presentation by Diane, we broke up in to our assigned team to develop a formation session using the materials from the F.U.N. manual, and each team delivered a short presentation on their assigned topic and everyone shared with each other what they learned from the exercise.

## Ongoing Formation

Friday afternoon, Francine Gikow OFS, a member of the Formation Commission, treated us to a presentation on ongoing formation. We learned that ongoing formation is a process of renewal for the entire fraternity that results in developing an environment of continual conversion. We learned that ongoing formation is Trinitarian.

As our past National Formation Director Bob Fitzsimmons OFS said, "the real purpose of formation is to set one's feet on a path leading to an ever-deepening Trinitarian relationship, until we can fully say it is Christ who lives in us".

Ongoing formation should be given by all professed members of the fraternity, not just one or two members.

The National Formation workshop was a great opportunity to deepen my understanding of formation and to mingle with other likeminded Secular Franciscans. I have some suggestions for ongoing formation:

1. For an ongoing formation for the fraternity council, "Guidelines for Initial Formation in the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States" can be obtained by ordering from the back of the TAU-USA. It is an old manual, but it will give you an inside look into initial formation.

2. For on-going formation, any of Fr. Bach's material is very good. Example: "Capturing the Spirit of Frances and Clare". It has a Leader's guide and has 12 Chapters so one year of ongoing formation can be obtained by going to the back of the TAU-USA.

Look for future articles and training. Again, it was my honor and privilege to represent our region at this National workshop. NOW, I like to say "Thank you to those who completed the formation survey, and i wish to remind the others to do so. I would very much appreciate it, because it will help me serve you better.

Thanks for all the support given to me from everyone in our region

Pax,  
Hans



## **DAYS OF REFLECTION**

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**Praying the Psalms in the Light of The Lord's Prayer**

**A Day of Reflection with Fr. Tom Murphy, ofm**

**Saturday, November 11th, 2017**

**9:30 am – 4:00 pm**

### **Schedule**

**9:30** Registration and Light Breakfast

**10:00** 1st Talk

**11:30** Mass

**12:30** Lunch of Soup and Bread is provided.

**2:00** 2nd Talk

**3:00** Confessions with Fr. Tom and Group Discussions

**4:00** Dismissal

**5:00** Saturday evening vigil Mass is available at Holy Faith Parish

**Hosted by: The Family of St. Francis Fraternity**

### **Location:**

**New Parish Life Center at Holy Faith Catholic Church**

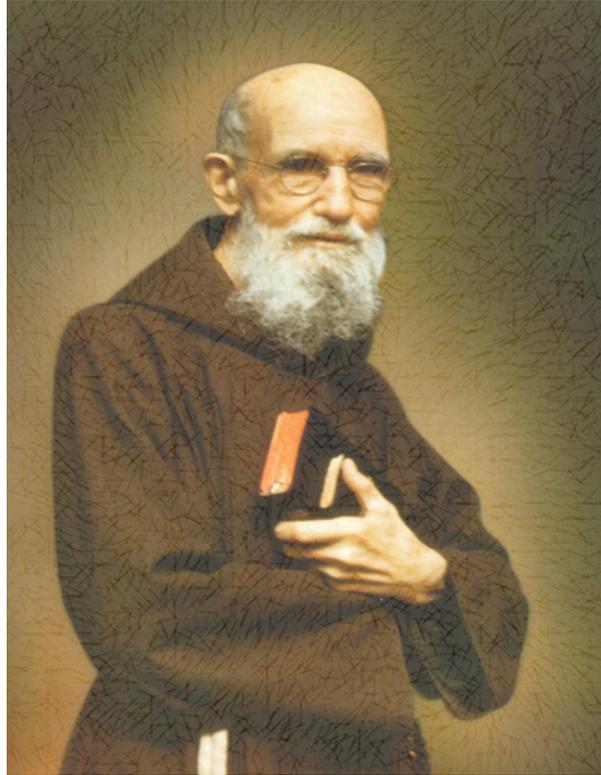
**747 NW 43rd St, Gainesville, FL**

### **Cost:**

**FREE. There will be an opportunity to make a Freewill Donation**

**To RSVP: Please contact Mary Jo Hayes, ofm (352) 281 – 8998 or hayesmj@yahoo.com**

**Copies of Fr. Tom's book, A Pater Noster Psalter: Praying the Psalms in the Light of the Lord's Prayer will be available at the Day of Reflection by pre-order only. Suggested donation is \$20.00 Please let Mary Jo know, by November 5th, if you want to have a copy reserved for you.**



**Saint Maximilian Kolbe Secular Franciscan Fraternity**  
invites you to join us for a

Celebration of the Beatification of Blessed Solanus Casey ofm

Saturday, November 18th 10AM

St. Katharine Drexel Parish Hall  
1922 SW 20th Ave, Cape Coral, FL

We will celebrate the Mass of Blessed Solanus Casey ofm cap.

Hear some wonderful words about his life

Share a potluck lunch.

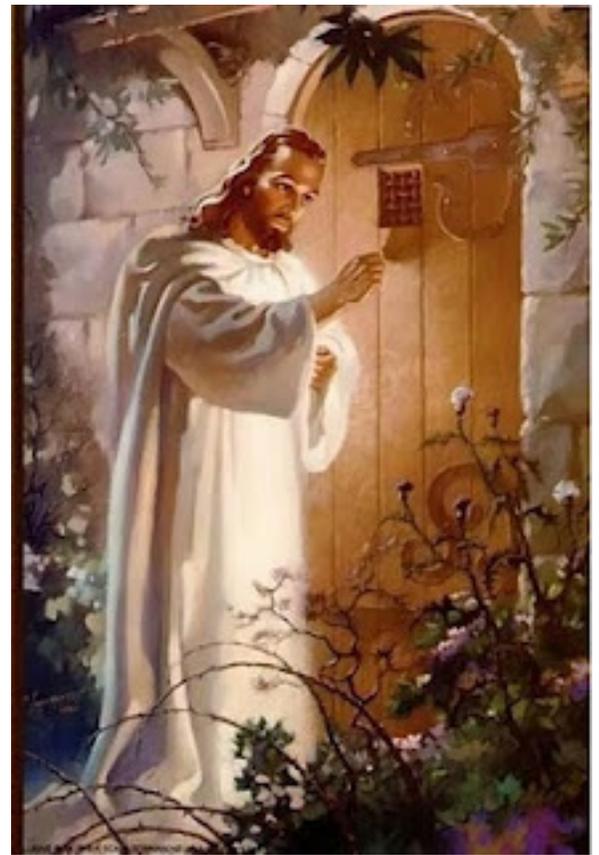
Have some great fellowship!

Please **RSVP** to Marguerite (239) 540 – 9480

**Email:** [sfomom@msn.com](mailto:sfomom@msn.com)

## ALL INVITED TO A “DAY OF REFLECTION”

November 10, 2017 – Friday The San Damiano Fraternity of Sun City Center and St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity in Clearwater are sponsoring their Sixth Annual Day of Reflection at the Franciscan Center in Tampa. The address is: 3010 N Perry Avenue, Tampa, FL 33603. The day will begin at 8:30 AM with Registration and a light Continental Breakfast. A Noon Lunch will be served and the day will conclude at 3 PM. Our leader for the day will be Sister Jean Williams, OSF, Franciscan Sister of Allegany, NY. The theme is “Beauty in the Franciscan Journey to God,” which will include “God as the Divine Artist” for the morning presentation and “The Art of Living a Good Life” in the afternoon. Mass and confessions will be available.

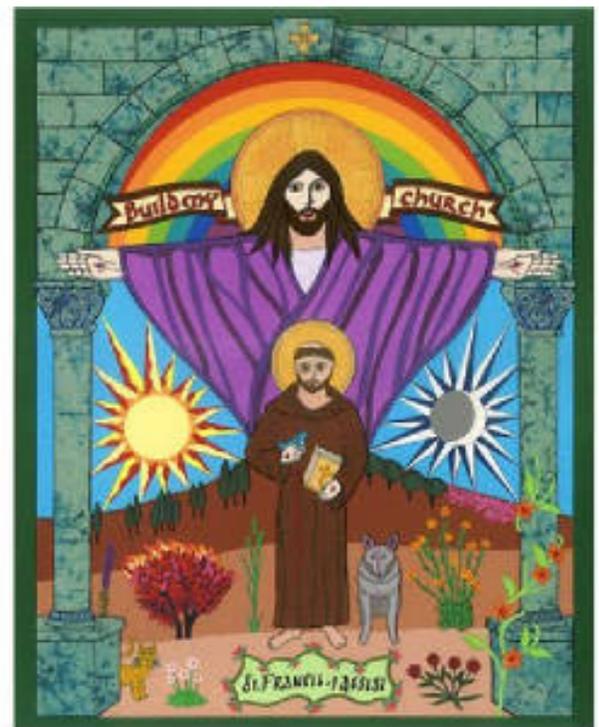


Call **Kristine Littrell** at  
**813-633-3107**  
or her email at  
**kmlittrell@gmail.com**  
for further information.

**Cost is \$40**

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**WANTED:** Someone to fill the position of ARCHIVIST for The Five Franciscan Martyrs Region; someone who would be interested in telling the story of our Region - Past, Present and Future so as to preserve our history. An “Archivist” assesses, collects, organizes, preserves, maintains control over and provides access to records and archives that have long-term value to the FFM Region. This person would work directly with the Regional Secretary. Please call Pat Wolfert, OFS at 813-210-5902 if able to volunteer to fill this position.



## THE POWER OF A WORD (OR TWO)

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### From the Desk of Andy Buchleitner OFS

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit a man in prison who gave me an idea for this month's reflection. He is a big, and to most people, a scary man who I have known for twenty years. I originally met Mark through his communications as he was applying for entrance into my faith-based rehabilitation and re-entry program that helped recently released men re-integrate back into society.

Mark was, in fact, one of my first residents. He had a typically tragic story of a loveless childhood and early introduction into gang life. Now, twenty-eight years old, he was just getting released from a ten-year sentence, five for robbing drug dealers and giving the money to the poor and five more for beating men up in prison. For the first few months of his stay, Mark was a recluse. He didn't talk to anyone, myself included. I finally did corner him one day as his tenure with us was about up and he convinced me that he just needed more time. My acceptance, however, was contingent on him becoming a more active participant in the program. Over the next months he spent with us, Mark did become more involved, but his interests were centered outside the program, working several jobs at once and helping some needy individuals. During our time together, I never could figure him out. He just didn't communicate. But he said something at our recent visit that put things into perspective.

When I first knew Mark, he was not a religious person. He had never had an opportunity to meet and know God. At times, I felt that the faith aspect of the program we were providing was perhaps just wasted effort on him. It was certainly a pleasant surprise at this recent reunion as he came to me wearing a cross and gave me a big hug. There was love in him that I had never seen displayed before.

In our subsequent conversation, Mark related his impressions from his initial stay with us. He admitted his caution, that he felt out of place among who he felt were Christians who seemed to be too good for him. Rather than participate, he preferred to be a spectator. One thing he said that really got me thinking, and said had been the turning point in his life, was a short quote about right living I must have included in one of our weekly meetings. For Mark, it was a defining moment

in his conversion. I tell this story to leave you with a couple quotes that just might encourage all of us to come to a greater personal conversion as we strive to work for peace and justice.

"Justice and peace can only thrive together, never apart."  
(Oscar Arias)

"I want to live in a world where people become famous because of their work for peace and justice and care. I want the famous to be inspiring; their lives an example of what every human being has it in them to do – act from love." (Patch Adams)

"Let us be renewed by God's mercy... and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish." (Pope Francis)

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

"First keep peace with yourself, then you can also bring peace to others." (Thomas A Kempis)

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." (Mother Teresa)

Ps. Mark is currently serving a twenty-five-year sentence for taking the blame for a friend's actions. Please pray for him!

## YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

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### Dr. Janice Mary Novello, OFS

A group of eleven Franciscans met in St. Louis this summer to review and revise our Youth/Young Adult Program. Kathleen Molaro has been appointed Chair to lead this National Group with volunteers from Regions throughout the County. The core group will be meeting in November to build a time line and begin writing necessary documents.

At this time each Fraternity in our Region should have a designated Chair for Youth/Young Adult. Many Fraternities in our area previously had few young adults in their parishes. Things are rapidly changing. As one priest shared with me, "I looked out at the congregation last Sunday and saw a sea of young people that we never had. Where did they come from?"

Please send me the contact information for the Chair in your Fraternity. Information can then be passed quickly and directly. God is moving to send us His young and we need to be ready to welcome them with open arms and the Gospel.

[jmnovello6@gmail.com](mailto:jmnovello6@gmail.com)

## Secular Franciscans

B X V S Z M S I H C I T A C D G E G N G  
 H N L A U T I R I P S P A D R E J E F G  
 O L A W B Q T W X X T J C B Q Q E X O G  
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BONAVENTURE

CATICHISM

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FRANCISCAN

INQUIRY

NAFRA

PADRE

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STATUTES

CANDIDACY

CHARISM

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FELLOWSHIP

FRIARS

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SPIRITUAL

TOR

CAPUCHIN

CHURCH

CONSTITUTION

FORMATION

GATHERINGS

MEMBERS

ORIENTATION

PROFESSION

SECULAR

SPIRITUALITY

**THANK YOU to Linda Bertino, OFS for the word puzzle!!**

## Irma devastated the Keys this year, except for one little spot

Jim Maun of Key West wrote that the following story was on his mind when he looked around the area spared by Hurricane Irma. The area immediately surrounding Our Lady of Loretto Grotto was indeed spared this year while the rest of the Keys in Florida took huge devastating hits, and even loss of life was reported due to the storm.

### “Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto”

Proximate to the west and to the south of the Church ... (a grotto shrine) ... was dedicated on May 25, 1922, ... (one) of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. Sister Gabriel designed this artistic structure ... Sister Gabriel had survived three major hurricanes since her arrival in Key West on August 25, 1897. Because of the devastation and heartache she had witnessed as a result of these terrible storms, her deep desire to keep Key West and its residents safe from future storms generated her passion to build the Grotto to seek protection from Our Blessed Mother Mary. Tradition tells us that Sister Gabriel is said to have remarked on that dedication day that as long as the Grotto stood, “Key West would never experience the full brunt of a hurricane.” And as all residents can attest, there has not been a severe storm on the island since the erection of the Grotto in 1922. This Grotto is featured in guided tours of Key West and television news crews broadcast from in front of the Grotto when a hurricane threatens.

More importantly, it has become the center of prayer in advance of hurricanes and tropical storms. Masses are celebrated. Candles are lit. People also come to pray before the grotto night and day throughout the year. In front of the Grotto, inlaid stones indicate a rosary. The Mysteries of the Rosary are named in bronze plaques at the beginning of the prayer decades.” [excerpted from - [stmarykeywest.com/grotto](http://stmarykeywest.com/grotto)]

Yes, miracles do happen and Jim Maun, OFS, our Brother in Key West saw Key West around the Grotto saved once again. Miracle?

What do you think?

## NEWS FROM THE FAMILIES

**St. Bonaventure Fraternity** has postponed the January retreat due to the number of people in our area affected by the hurricane. The retreat *Christan & Muslim Spirituality: Building Bridges* is based on the book, *the Sultan & the Saint*. This is also a docudrama which will be on PBS, December 18th. Our fraternity will be celebrating our 50th year anniversary in July. Watch for information for upcoming events to celebrate the occasion.

The **Portiuncula Fraternity** participated in a Mass for all deceased members of our Fraternity on October 3 at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church, Sarasota. The mass was celebrated by Fr. John Connolly. Some members of the Fraternity participated in a liturgy for the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on October 4 at Our Lady of the Angels in Lakewood Ranch. Fr. Mike Scheip shared the joy of being a Secular Franciscan and invited the parishioners to meet the Fraternity after Mass.

(Photo is of Portiuncula on Oct 3 after Mass for deceased members of Fraternity.)



**Back Row:** Roy Dunlap; Mary Ann Dunlap, OFS; Minister Dan Friedrich, OFS; David Isbell; Treasurer Mike Novello, OFS; Elizabeth Densmore, OFS;

**Front Row:** Cris Skidgell, OFS; Luci Majikas, OFS; Regional Minister Marie Thomas, OFS; Counselor Peg Brady, OFS

**Photo by Janice Novello, OFS**

**Lady Poverty** celebrated the Transitus on Tuesday, October 3rd at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center in Winter Park, Florida. The celebration included Franciscan readings, song, and the breaking of the bread (Not Eucharist). The Franciscan Friars TOR were in attendance.

On Sunday, November 5th, the fraternity will celebrate the Permanent Profession of Ester Martinez. Let me know if you need more information. Peace, Bill Shade OFS

## HOLY CROSS CHURCH, VERO BEACH

### Divine Mercy Fraternity

We had a profession of Mrs. Joanne Giordano, OFS at **Holy Cross Church in Vero Beach**. It was a wonderful ceremony.



From left to right: Helen Caldarone, OFS Vice-Minister; Fred Schaeffer, OFS Minister; Joanne Giordano, OFS; Deacon Richard Blake, OFS, officiating; Virginia Davis, OFS (rear), Donna Haro, OFS; Jean McGovern, OFS. Helen's husband Gene is behind Joanne, and Ginny Davis also back row but cannot be seen except for her heads., Nancy Thomas, OFS (rear right);

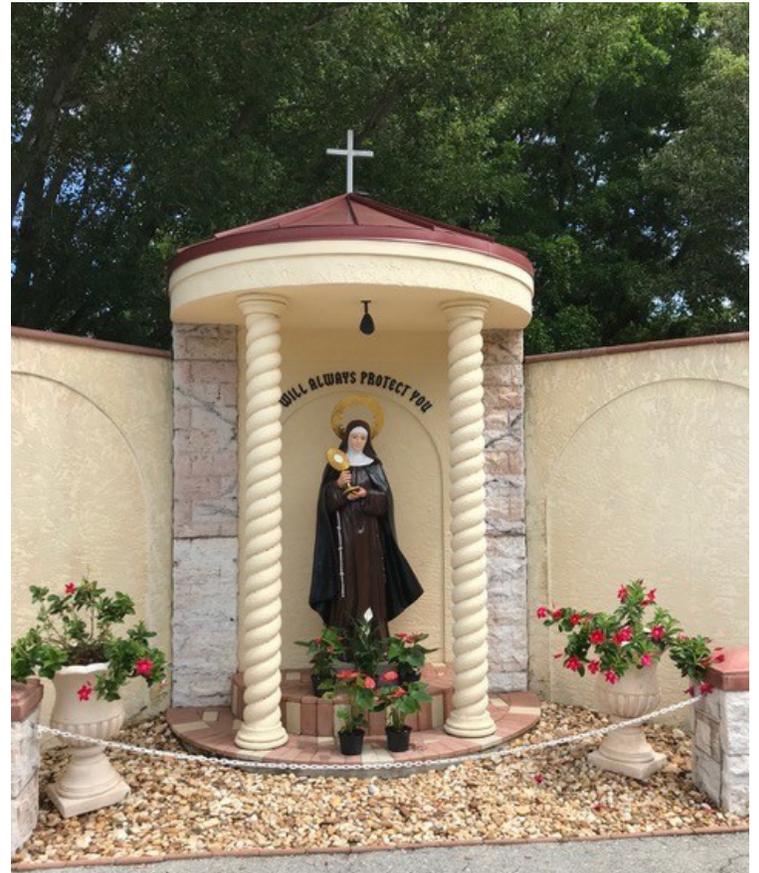
The ceremony took place on July 15, 2017 at Holy Cross Parish in Vero Beach, FL

Divine Mercy Fraternity Fred Schaeffer, OFS Minister



## ST. CLARE

August 11, 2017 the St. Clare Fraternity in Naples celebrated the Feast of St. Clare at the San Damiano Poor Clare's Convent located near the Church of Ascension at Fort Meyers Beach. The day began with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Dwayne and Fr. Regis Armstrong in the little chapel at the convent and ended in typical Franciscan style with lunch and an auction fundraiser. We were blessed to host our brothers and sisters from neighboring fraternities along the west coast - whose attendance greatly enriched our gathering.



October 15, 2017 – The St. Clare, Naples Fraternity welcomes four candidates into the Order during the “Rite of Admission”.



Lamia Chami, Linda Palmer, Anne Marie Hovancsek, Margie DeFrancesca