

FROM MY CORNER OF THE WORLD

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And now we go to the news from around the world!

INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 2011

I just received word that the XIII General Chapter of the SFO will be held in San Paulo, Brazil, from October 22 to 29, 2011, at the “Santa Fe” Pastoral Center.

This is the first time a Chapter will be held in South America. The SFO in South America constitutes one third of our Order, and I hear that Youfra is thriving there.

The theme of the Chapter will be *Evangelized to Evangelize* and the sub-themes will be: (a) *specific vocation for a particular mission* and (b) *builders of a fraternal and evangelical world (instruments of peace and reconciliation)*. When I receive further information I will pass it on to you.

CIOFS CENTRAL THEMES OF ONGOING FORMATION

The January–June 2010, CIOFS Topic I theme was dedicated to *Profession in the SFO*. In July 2010, Topic II was introduced, *A Sense of Belonging to the Secular Franciscan Order*. I wonder how many of you use this material in your fraternities or for personal enrichment. If you do, and I hope you do, would you write and comment on your experience with the material. Then I will be in a better position to discuss it from your point of view at the General Chapter in Brazil. In the coming year the ongoing formation material that I send to your Regional Minister will be dedicated to the theme of the General Chapter. This will give you an opportunity to help me prepare and, in the process, you will be prepared to understand and better equipped to implement the priorities set at that time.

THE SFO IN HAITI

In mid-April, the Presidency wrote to the Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters in Haiti, expressing compassion, communion, and assurance of prayer for those who lost loved ones, homes, employment, etc., as a result of the devastating earthquake of January 2010. In the letter to the Haitian fraternities, the Presidency told them that a delegation from CIOFS would visit Haiti in mid-June. When I have information on that visit, I will pass it along to you.

Our Minister General Encarnita refers to Haiti as “... an icon of the wounded body of Jesus—wounded but risen.” I pray this is true not only for the Haitians but for all who endure personal wounds yet live in the hope of the resurrection. Please remember in prayer those Haitian brothers and sisters who lost their lives in the earthquake:

(from the *Saint Antoine de Padoue Fraternity*) Assilien Roseline and Salomon Marie-Ange, (from the *Saint François d’Assise Fraternity*) Marcel Hector, Anaise Barhelus, Met Mme Duton Emmanuel, Louiza Bonaventure, Andréa Louis-Charles and André Gilbert Baptiste.

**Give them eternal rest,
O Lord, and may Your Light shine
on them forever.**

WORLD YOUTH DAY (WYD) 2011

As some of you know, in 1984 Pope John Paul II inaugurated World Youth Day, which is celebrated annually on a diocesan level on Palm Sunday. Every three years, it is celebrated internationally with youth participating from all over the world.

I did not make it clear when I first began these articles—and I prefer to think of them as letters—that I want them to be personal, informal and informative. And, I want you to be an active participant through communication. Therefore, I have set up an email address for you to contact me. The address is:

Amulqueen.icusa@gmail.com

(The *icusa* stands for
International Councilor, USA)

If you do contact me, tell me about yourself. Ask questions, give comments—whatever—but it would give me joy to hear from you because it is **you** I represent.

The 2011 celebration will be held in Madrid, Spain, August 16-21, 2011. The theme will be *Rooted and built up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the Faith* (Col 2:7). Franciscan youth from across the globe will gather as one body to participate in this event and to bear witness to the Charism of our common Seraphic Father, Saint Francis. These gatherings give our youth and young adults an opportunity to broaden their understanding of fraternity by interacting with brothers and sisters who live in completely different circumstances. This mutual exchange of culture will have a significant impact on their Franciscan formation.

Quoting Holy Scripture, I close this letter with St. Paul’s words and my prayer for you.

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. —Philippians 1: 9-11

Hope to hear from you,
Your sister, Anne