

GATHERINGS

by **LORRAINE KAPOLKA, SFO**
ST. ANTHONY FRATERNITY, BELLE VERNON, PA

On a bus trip organized by Renee Mancini and Pat Polachek, members of three Secular Franciscan fraternities, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Washington, PA; St. Alphonsis, Wheeling, WV; St. Anthony, Belle Vernon, PA; along with Br. Bob Herrick, and a youth group from Bishop Donahugh High School in Wheeling, WV; and several others, traveled to Washington, DC January 23 and 24 to attend the *Annual March for Life*. It was a show of support for the protection of human life from conception to natural death and overturning of Roe v Wade which legalized abortion on January 22, 1973. Hundreds of thousands attend this event each year.

Preceding the *March for Life*, a Vigil Mass was celebrated in the packed-to-capacity, National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Basilica. A Youth Rally and Mass was also celebrated at the DC National Guard Armory. It was also a packed-to-capacity event which handled the overflow crowd from a packed-to-capacity Youth Rally at the Verizon Center. An estimated thirty thousand young people participated in these two rallies alone. Other Masses and events were held in churches all over the area.

Along the *March for Life* route, which extends up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court, these Secular Franciscans and the others in the group met up with Sean Cardinal O'Malley, a Capuchin Franciscan from the Pittsburgh province of St. Augustine. They were also privileged to participate in Masses which were presided over by two other Cardinals from the Pittsburgh area; Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Bishop of Washington, DC; and Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Bishop of Galveston, Houston. Enthusiasm for a 'Culture of Life' in our country is the guiding principle for this yearly pilgrimage to our Nation's Capital.



PICTURED L-TO-R:
Marty Schumacher, Al Colcombe,
Terri Schumacher and Br. Bob Herrick.



PICTURED L-TO-R with Sean Cardinal O'Malley:
Front Row: Rita Sukel & Mary Margaret Gorney
Back Row: Lorraine Kapolka, Br. Bob Herrick,
Sean Cardinal O'Malley, Renee Mancini and
Pat Polachek.

Members of the **HOLY ASSUMPTION FRATERNITY, FLORENCE, NJ**—Saint Katherine Drexel Region—attended a special weekend retreat entitled, "Fraternal Life". The presenter was Anne Mulqueen, SFO International Councillor. The retreat was held on March 11-13th at the St. Francis Retreat House in Easton, PA.

Special thanks to fraternity minister, **ROSE VIRAGH, SFO**, for this submission to Fraternal Sharing.



The picture with four in a row from the left is Chris Moran, SFO, Director of Formation; Maria Schultes, SFO, Vice Minister; Rose Viragh, SFO, Minister; and Lita Holgado, SFO, newly professed 6 June, 2010.

CONGRATULATIONS

APPOINTMENT



FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL (FI)

is pleased to welcome

SR. LILIANE ALAM, FMM, as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Sister brings with her a strong financial background and a broad experience of working within the NGO sector. She has served in numerous countries and speaks several languages including Arabic, French and Spanish. Sr. Liliane will work out of the FI office in NY.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

CINDY WESLEY, SFO, REGIONAL MINISTER
AND ALL THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE
BLESSED JUNIPERO SERRA REGION

HANS HUEMMER, SFO, REGIONAL MINISTER
AND ALL THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE
FIVE FRANCISCAN MARTYRS REGION

KIM PAPPAS, SFO, REGIONAL MINISTER
AND ALL THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE
QUEEN OF PEACE REGION

SHERRY STEVENSON, SFO, REGIONAL MINISTER
AND ALL THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE
SAINT CLARE REGION

CONGRATULATIONS TO J. Patrick Mendéz, SFO; former national minister of the SFO, and current Formation Director of the Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity, who celebrated his 50th anniversary of profession on April 16!

Ad Multos Annos, Patrick!

NOTEWORTHY / SISTER DEATH



MAJOR GENERAL RAYMOND CHARLES BONNABEAU, JR., MD, PHD, SFO, was a tireless husband and father of four with a zeal for life. A humble, hard worker, he served as a physician at the Minneapolis Veterans Medical Center up until his death on February 26, 2011. He was 77. In addition to his devotion to military veterans, Bonnabeau was a devout Catholic and Secular Franciscan who served the Saturday vigil mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul.

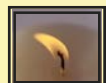
Richard Morton, SFO, former national minister of the Secular Franciscan Order recalled Bonnabeau who professed in his local fraternity and, after several years transferred to a fraternity closer to his home. But the doctor had other accomplishments as well.

For example, a mountain in Antarctica is named for him!

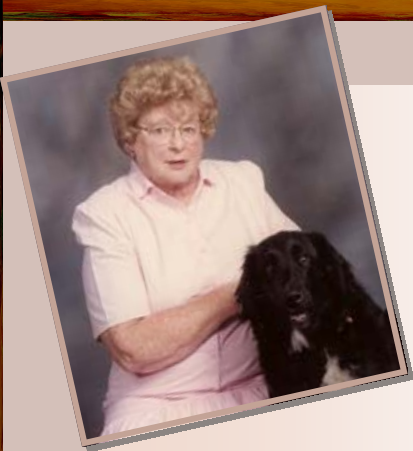
Bonnabeau went to the Antarctic in 1960 as physician for the University of Minnesota Geological Expedition that discovered the Jones Mountain Range. The **"BONNABEAU DOME"** is a prominent ice-covered dome mountain rising on the west side of Gopher Glacier.

Born and raised in Valley Stream, NY, Bonnabeau obtained his medical degree from the State University of NY medical school in 1959. He went on to earn a doctorate in surgery from the University of Minnesota, becoming a clinical professor of surgery and participating in pioneering work in heart surgery with Dr. C. Walton Lillehei. In his nearly 30 years in the Army, he served in a number of notable posts which including Vietnam as chief of surgery at the 95th Evacuation Hospital (China Beach). He retired in 1994 as a major general. After that, he went to work at the Veterans Medical Center, a job that became a passion.

"He respected the vets tremendously," said Bonnabeau's son Raymond. "He treated the vets with the respect they needed and deserved. Being a doctor was a vocation for him. It wasn't just punching the clock. He tried to treat everybody like they were him, regardless of who you were."



SISTER DEATH



MEMORIAL TO JEAN PLATZ, SFO

by ED BOSS, SFO

LAVERNA REGION
ST. PASCHAL BAYLON FRATERNITY

Throughout much of her eighty-one years, JEAN PLATZ, SFO, displayed little ambivalence about how she wanted to integrate time and ministry opportunities into her Secular Franciscan vocation. When she was twenty-two years old, Jean professed into the Secular Franciscan Order at St. Francis Fraternity in Milwaukee in 1951, and in 1966 became the recipient of the National Third Order Achievement Award.

She held the following offices and council positions: local fraternity minister, vice-minister, treasurer and formation director. On the Provincial level Jean served as minister for three years, and as regional representative for six years. While serving as LaVerna Region council member, she was vice-minister and director of formation.

Jean was an inspirational member to her local St. John Neumann Fraternity in Rhinelander, WI. On April 11, 2011, she died at the Josephine Haus in Rhinelander after a courageous battle with cancer.

Throughout her Franciscan years, she gave to community and the world; Jean Platz never remained motionless at integrating Christ in her life's work. A graduate from Alverno College in Milwaukee where she earned a nursing degree, and she later became the recipient of the 1974 Outstanding Alumnae Award. She worked as a nurse at Milwaukee County Hospital (1955-1959); Milwaukee County Emergency Hospital (1962-1963); Minh-Quy Hospital in Kontum, South Vietnam (1964-1971); and St Mary's Hospital in Rhinelander as evening supervisor and ER nurse (1972-1993).

In further education, she attended Marquette University to become a parish nurse.

When she was seventy-six years old, Jean called me one evening and asked if I would be interested in replacing her as the *LaVerna Vision* regional newsletter editor.

Over the phone, she gave me a little chuckle and admitted that computer technology for newsletter editing, writing and production was becoming a little too advanced for her speed.

I agreed only if she mentored me through the next few newsletter editions. "No problem," she answered, "I can do that."

In the Winter of 2007, Jean wrote her final newsletter article on the importance of ongoing formation. At that time she was the LaVerna region formation director and voiced concern about what has become epidemic with many professed SFO's.

Her article titled, "Too Busy" addressed the often-heard excuses members gave concerning attendance or regular participation at the monthly meetings, days of reflection, retreat, apostolate, and socials.

"In our day and age," Jean wrote, "it seems that everyone is so busy. Maybe it's time to re-evaluate our lives and determine what's important and urgent. We need to put off or leave undone many things, and birth that radical interior change in which we are called."

Perhaps she was saying that her 60-years of Franciscan journey would be just as fulfilling for the "too busy" members as it had been for a large-hearted spirit as Jean Platz.

Her courage and persistence to press on was rewarding to all who met her and wish to exemplify her fine Franciscan Way.



SISTER DEATH

Jean was a wonderful Secular Franciscan and served the SFO and our Capuchin Province for many years. She was a valiant and dedicated Secular and remained involved with the SFO until just recently, serving as the Regional Formation minister for LaVerna region. As we said with some truth—it took five members to replace her—ie our regional formation team of five who took over when Jean could no longer do it. She remained a Formation director Emeritus until her death.

FR. LESTER BACH, OFM CAP

CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS—PRESIDENT-IN-TURN

Jean had suffered with illness these past few years—I must say very quietly. She never complained or was she one to feel sorry for her self. Jean will be remembered as one who ran the race and ran it very well. She is finished and now enters her eternal reward. Jean is with our Lord Jesus in heaven.

What a glorious time to be there—to be able to join the heavenly choir as they sing the praises of the Risen Lord. She is welcomed home by our Brother Francis and Sister Clare.

KEN BEATTIE, SFO
REGIONAL MINISTER
LAVERNA REGION

In our serving the SFO at whatever level we do, we are so privileged to meet some rare, dedicated, hardworking, loving and I will say “HOLY” people. Jean Ann Platz was one of those. You can read all her self-giving accomplishments in the opposite page, I was in awe of her total self-giving. She told us stories of being bombed out of the hospital where she worked in Vietnam.

I marveled at her going to Liberia as a substitute for a nurse who needed a vacation. Beyond all the beautiful work Jean Ann did for the sick and poor, I came to know her kindness to me, personally. After regionalization, we would meet at various SFO gatherings, National and Regional. She was an example of true dedication. Jean Ann Platz was, and is someone that the SFO can point to with pride as being one of us.

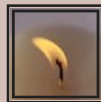
May she pray for us as we honor her memory.

MARIE AMORE, SFO
NAFRA—MINISTER OF VOCATIONS

I remember Jean from the “early” Province days. I also ran across her name while researching our (SFO) history.

She was a “HOLY” lady, who served God well.

BILL WICKS, SFO
NATIONAL SFO HISTORIAN
FORMER NATIONAL SFO MINISTER



CAROLE AMARAL, SFO

It is with sadness that I share the news of the death of **CAROLE AMARAL, SFO**, in St. John's Arizona on April 27th. Her daughter and son were with her, and she received communion and the sacraments before leaving our world.

It would be a year in May that her husband, Kenneth Amaral passed away. She told me each time we spoke that she would soon be with Kenneth. May she and Ken rest in peace and love with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

CHARLOTTE COLLORD, SFO
REGIONAL MINISTER
OHANA 'O KE ANUENUE REGION

Carole will be remembered for her outgoing personality. She was instrumental in the establishment of the first Region: Ohana O Ke Anuenu. She was the first Regional Minister. She and Ken planned and carried out the wonderful Hawaiian Franciscan Experience in 1994. She and Ken exemplified the Hawaiian spirit of "Welcome." Frances and I experienced it first hand. Carole will be rejoined with Ken, who will, perhaps, greet her with a heavenly lei and the heavenly Hawaiian sign. Rest in peace my dear friend!

BILL WICKS, SFO, NATIONAL SFO HISTORIAN
FORMER NATIONAL SFO MINISTER

As Bill mentioned, I, too, have very fond memories of that Franciscan Family Gathering so many years ago in that eternal garden of Hawaii. The generosity of Carol and the Franciscan Community there was one of the finest examples of family. It will always be a memory of great joy because of the people who made it so.

KEN BEATTIE, SFO
REGIONAL MINISTER, LAVERNA REGION