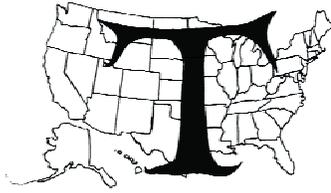


REGIONAL ROUNDUP

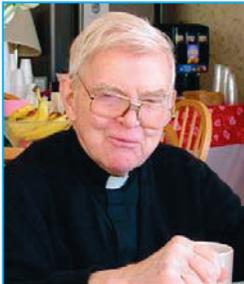


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St. Francis Region

On April 16, sixteen Seculars attended their first orientation class for lay spiritual assistants and certified formators.

The St. Francis Region Fund for the Tsunami disaster has reached almost \$10,000. The funds are sent to NAFRA to donate to Catholic Relief Services for the victims.



Blessed Kateri Region

Fr. Leon Dicks, OFM Conv., 79, stepped down in March as spiritual assistant to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Region, retiring to St. Francis Center for Spirituality on Staten

Island, NY. He had been the regional spiritual assistant since regionalization created the Blessed Kateri region. While celebrating Mass at his last regional council meeting, he offered these parting words: *"I call myself a Secular Franciscan - because my heart is with the Secular Franciscans."*

St. Joan of Arc Region

On Feb 15, 2005 the Fraternity of St. John The Evangelist in Lafayette, Louisiana celebrated the profession of **Jordan Henry, SFO** at St. Paul's Friary. Many were in attendance, including his mother, Mrs. Mary Irene Henry, his sister, April Henry, and her son, Brad, the fraternity and the bible study group. A reception followed.

Our Lady of the Angels Region



L to R: Ernest Sulat, SFO; Teodora Reyes, SFO; Julia Cleary, SFO; Rev. Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM; Leonardo Gutierrez, SFO; Larry Meyers, SFO; Deacon Joseph DeMonte, SFO and William Harris, SFO Photo by Hydelyn Bermoy, SFO

St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity elections took place on June 13, 2004 at the St. Francis Hospital in Jersey City. The elected were Leonardo L. Gutierrez, SFO, Minister; William Harris, SFO, Vice Minister; Teodora Reyes, SFO, Secretary and Ernest Sulat, Formation Director.

The St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity has been serving the poor in Jersey City, through its various ministries such as Food and Bread for the poor, 2000 Turkeys for the poor on Thanksgiving Day, Clothing, Prison Visitation, and Shelter for the Homeless, Soup Kitchen, Pantries. Fraternity members and other Secular Franciscans in the Region started a Soup Kitchen and Clothing and Healing Ministries at the St. Ann's Church and St. Antoninus Church in 2002.

Lady Poverty Region

Serious about peace, members of **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Fraternity** erected a "Peace pole" on the front lawn of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Northern Cambria, PA. In a special ceremony, on October 3, Robert Bailey, SFO, Minister and Father Christopher Panagoplos, S. A. dedicated the pole with its message of peace. On the pole "May Peace Prevail on Earth" is inscribed in eight languages. Saint Clare Fraternity from Johnstown, PA and the Boy Scouts joined fraternity members for this event.

Contributed by Carol Pio, SFO

Franciscans from New York to Hawaii are celebrating!

Mother Marianne Cope, a Third Order religious from Utica, NY, was honored as Venerable in 2004. Beatification date is May 15, 2005. Secular Franciscans from the Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Region and St. Joseph Fraternity in Utica, NY are especially proud because Mother Marianne spent the convent at the age of 24, in St. Joseph-St. Patrick's Parish where the fraternity meets. Franciscans in Hawaii are just as proud because of last half of her life helping the lepers throughout the world may have the footsteps of Francis.

Mother Marianne spent the last 30 years of her life nursing the lepers of Molokai. Known as Mother Marianne of Kalaupapa, she and a handful of Sisters of St. Francis left Central New York to do what no one else dared to do. Fear of contracting the disease kept others away from the island. Mother Marianne, on the other hand, wrote that she joyfully accepted the assignment. In her letter responding to a priest asking for assistance in managing the hospitals and schools on the Hawaiian Islands, she said: "I am hungry for the work and I wish with all my heart to be one of the chosen Ones, whose privilege it will be, to sacrifice themselves for the salvation of the souls of the poor Islanders.... I am not afraid of any disease, hence it would be my greatest delight even to minister to the abandoned 'lepers.'"

After she and six sisters arrived at Oahu in November of 1883, they began to clean the hospital and caring for the 200 patients. By 1885, the



sisters had made major improvements in the treatment of the patients and their living conditions. They also founded a home within the hospital grounds for the non-patient daughters of Hansen's Disease (leprosy) patients.

By 1888, Father Damien of Molokai, knowing that he was dying from Hansen's disease himself, invited Mother Marianne and her sisters

to Kalaupapa to care for the most severe cases who were confined there. Despite the trepidation which some of the sisters felt, Mother Marianne and two other sisters accepted the invitation. Through her optimism and example, Mother Marianne gave the sisters strength.

Mother Marianne never returned to New York. She remained in Kalaupapa until her death in 1918. The sisters continue today to serve the few patients left. No Franciscan sister who has served there has ever contracted the disease.

As per the directives of beatification, Mother Marianne's body was exhumed in January and returned home to the Sisters of St. Francis Motherhouse in Syracuse, NY. Before settling in her final resting place, she was brought to Utica for a special Mass. Members of St. Joseph Fraternity and the community at large welcomed mother home.



Betty Frank, SFO of over 50 years, played a major role in bringing Mother Marianne to Utica. Here, she stands in front of a stained-glass representation of Barbara Cope (Mother Marianne as a child) in a chapel at St. Joseph-St. Patrick's Parish Center where The St. Joseph Fraternity meets monthly. After she was exhumed, Mother Marianne was brought home to her home parish for a special Mass. Over 1200 packed the church. She now rests at the Franciscan Motherhouse in Syracuse, NY.