

Regional Roundup



Franciscans of the Prairie Region

Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity reports that, recently, a part of the St. Boniface Cemetery in Edwardsville, IL was dedicated to the Secular Franciscan Order for the burial of Seculars and their families. A beautiful life-size statue of St. Francis was erected for this occasion.

Holy Trinity Region

Our Lady of the Presentation Fraternity sponsored an International Day of Peace Education and Prayer Service, a community wide, interfaith, multicultural, Franciscan peace and justice celebration for world peace, at the Presentation Ministries Center, in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Sunday, September 21, 2008. Mayor Mark Mallory of Cincinnati proclaimed the event as the Secular Franciscan International Day of Peace Day.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region mourns the loss of Vincent Carsano, SFO, Regional Vice Minister. Vince went to be with the Lord on October 14th. On behalf of the National Fraternity, Patrick Mendés extends our sympathy and prayers. "May the angels lead him to the Kingdom of God and may our heavenly Father receive Vince into that place of joy to live with Him forever and to pray for us. Let us give thanks to the God who loves us, for making our brother Vince a part of our lives and for the joyful service he lovingly gave our Order. God give us His peace!" Vince will be truly missed. May the Lord Himself comfort his family and his fraternity.

St. John the Baptist Fraternity, of the Greater Waterville, ME area, gathered on October 3rd for the Transitus, with Brother Rex Norris, SSF, as leader, followed by a simple soup supper. On the feast, the fraternity attended Mass, followed by Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours. At 2 p.m., we gathered at the local animal shelter for the blessing of the animals.

Our Lady of the Angels, Solanus Casey & Tau Cross Regions

FLIC - An Overview

By Bob Campbell, SFO,
Regional Formation Director - Tau Cross Region

35 Seculars and 1 Capuchin Friar from 3 SFO Regions (Our Lady of the Angels, Solanus Casey and Tau Cross) gathered at Mount St. Alphonsus Retreat Center, Esopus, NY, from August 11 through 15, for FLIC 2008. This was the "reincarnation" of former gatherings called SELF. First and foremost, it was truly "Franciscans Living In Community." Whenever Franciscans get together, it's like a family gathering. Some of the people knew each other from previous gatherings, but there were many who met for the first time; nonetheless, we were all IMMEDIATELY brothers and sisters.

The Retreat Center is a former Redemptorist Seminary, built over 100 years ago. It's a castle-like building, overlooking the Hudson River - truly beautiful and in harmony with our Franciscan spirit.

FLIC is NOT a retreat – it's a gathering, so we do the things we do whenever our local fraternities gather: some prayer, some formation, a bit of business announcements, and a LOT of socializing.

We had Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Mass every day. Father Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap., was with us the whole time and gave – as always - inspiring homilies on Franciscan spirituality. Brother Salvatore Patricola, OFM Cap., a Deacon, came on Wednesday and led Holy Hour which was awe-inspiring. Carol Gentile, former National Minister, the principal speaker, gave a presentation every morning on the theme: Call and Community. Those who know Carol know how that went: informative, inspiring, breath-taking!

Our other speakers, Joan Geiger (Tau Cross Regional Councilor), Otto Schaefer (former Solanus Casey Regional Formation Director, now involved in prison ministry) and Lori Pieper (renowned for her research on our Patroness, St. Elizabeth of Hungary), also gave excellent presentations.

Every evening, as well as all afternoon on Wednesday, was "free time" for socialization – snacks, walks, talks, and, on the last night, "flicks at FLIC." One of our brothers created our new theme song: "Flic-a-di-dodah."

At the end, some of the new candidates for profession shared how valuable it was for them to EXPERIENCE Franciscanism being lived out in real life. This was applauded and affirmed by all!

Maximilian Kolbe Region

On Sunday, October 26, 2008, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Fraternity celebrated the 70th Anniversary of canonical establishment with a Mass of Thanksgiving at Our Lady of Angels Church in Cleveland, Ohio. The main celebrant was Fr. Michael Joyce, OFM Cap., Spiritual Assistant. Concelebrants were Fr. Eric Gauchat, OFM Cap., former Spiritual Assistant and Fr. John Cregan, Pastor of Our Lady of Angels Church.

Approximately 100 guests were present for the Liturgy and a bountiful reception followed. Guests included members of the First, Second, and Third Orders of St. Francis and extended family and friends of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Fraternity.

Special recognition was given to nine members who were professed 50 or more years ago. They included **Gerald Corrigan** and his wife, **Catherine Corrigan**, **Margaret O'Neill**, **Nancy Sweeney**, **Mary Ellen Grecol**, **Mary Cotner**, **Lois Hillenbrand**, **Bernard Wirtz** and his wife **Mary Ann Wirtz**. Bernie and Mary Ann currently serve on the Region Council as Minister and Secretary.

We gratefully and prayerfully acknowledge those Seculars and spiritual assistants, living and deceased, who have guided and inspired us through the years. Above all, we thank God, from whom all blessings come.

Our Lady of the Angels Region

Lena Delutis, SFO (almost 102 yrs. old) went to be with the Lord in April of 2008. She was a member of St. John Vianney Fraternity in Colonia, NJ.

Norman Reilly, SFO passed away in March of 2008, in the 49th year of his profession. He was a member of St. Thomas More Fraternity in New York City, NY. The fraternities will miss these saints.

The Lazarus Program, a ministry that buries the unwanted dead with love and dignity had a funeral Mass for five abandoned infants on December 7, 2007.

Results of the Regional Election held on Nov. 1, are:
Regional Minister: **Ronald L. Pihokker, SFO**
Regional Vice Minister: **Diane F. Menditto, SFO**
Regional Secretary: **Kate Asselin, SFO**
Regional Treasurer: **Richard Spana, SFO**
Regional Formation Director: **Virginia Chin, SFO**
Councilors:

Central New Jersey: **Alexander Kiczek, SFO**

Manhattan: **Julia McCants, SFO**

North Jersey: **Andrew Klutkowski, SFO**

Westchester: **Sheila Tuohy, SFO**



St. Anthony of Padua by artist Sunhee Joo, SFO
[www. sunheehart.com](http://www.sunheehart.com) or sunheejoo@aol.com

+++

St. Clare Region

Mary Wainscott, SFO, Regional Formation Director, is facilitating a monthly class based on the text, "Build with Living Stones: Formation for Franciscan Life and Work." The first class was held on August 20, 2008.

Our region celebrated the **Feast of St. Louis**, patron of the Secular Franciscan Order, on Sunday, August 24th at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish Church in St. Louis. The celebration began at the regular parish Sunday Mass at 10:30 a.m. We brought our fraternity banners, were given special seating and were recognized by the pastor at the beginning of Mass. We then invited everyone present, all parishioners included, to a Feast Day Dinner. The celebration closed with a Holy Hour, including special prayers for the Feast of St. Louis, and Benediction.

Next, the region will celebrate the **Year of St. Paul** by sponsoring a special professional production on the life of the saint entitled "The Journey of St. Paul."

Mother Cabrini Region

The annual Mother Cabrini Celebration took place on Sunday, November 16th at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Rockford, IL. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Donald Blaeser, OFM, Regional Spiritual Assistant, and concelebrated by Fr. Peter Sarnicki, OFM Conv, Pastor of St. Stanislaus and Spiritual Assistant of the host fraternity. Fr. Peter conducted a tour through St. Stanislaus School, which featured displays of Polish crafts, costumes, and various mementos, along with a Polish museum of historical artifacts. As part of the tour, the "2007 Quinquennial Quilt" was available for viewing. It was a blessed day for all of us.