



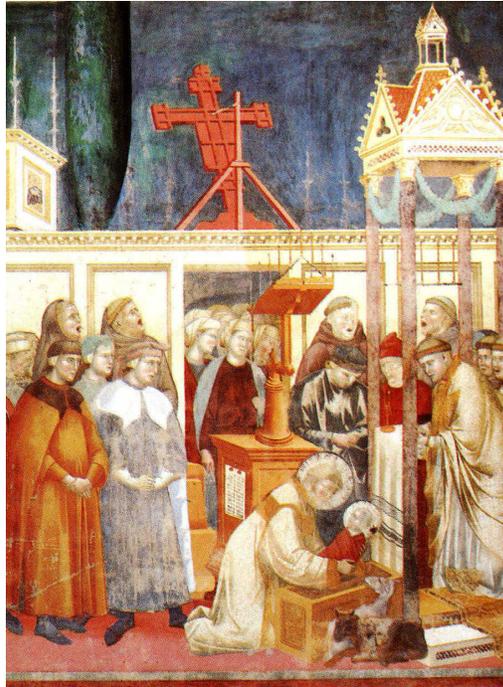
The Herald

Newsletter of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Regional Fraternity

Secular Franciscan Order
Winter—2008

ADVENT and CHRISTMAS Anamnesis or Amnesia?

Every time you and I go to Mass, we are engaged in the exercise of anamnesis; that is, the action of remembrance – the total recall of past events. In this case, the salvific event of Christ’s dying and rising from the dead and His return to us in glory. In fact, the Memorial Acclamation which is said immediately after the consecration is called the anamnesis of the Mass. Think of what we say at that moment: Christ has died (the past), Christ is risen (the present), Christ will come again (the future). Or, When we eat this bread and drink this cup (present), we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus (past), until you come in glory (future).



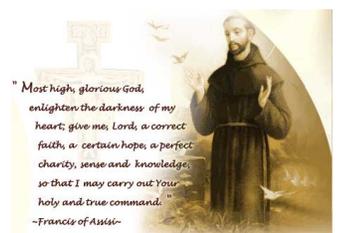
The Manger at Greccio (Used with Permission)
<http://www.christusrex.org/www1/francis/>

It’s very natural to remember an event which took place in the past, but, how can we call to mind a future event? How can we remember something which has not yet happened? This is the essence of the season of Advent. The first two weeks of Advent call to mind the coming of the Lord in time – in history. The last two weeks celebrate His coming again in His glory. Actually, Advent is a celebration of where our lives are now. We have one foot in this world and one in the world to come. We look back to what was as we read the Advent prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zacharia and Zephaniah who, while totally rooted in their own day, look forward to a new and different world brought about by the birth of the Messiah.

The birth of Jesus seems very easy to celebrate, especially for us Franciscans. We dust off our crèches, take out the little figurines (perhaps from one of those nice souvenir stores from a recent trip made to Assisi or Rome), and are pleased with ourselves as we behold that tender scene which recalls how it might have been in Bethlehem all those many years ago. I know for me, it is a comforting scene which reminds me of Christmases past with my family as I was growing up in Brooklyn. As I get older, it reminds me of how quickly one year is progressing into another!

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The prophets and pious Jews who awaited the Messiah could almost taste His coming. The descriptions of what the world would be like would tempt even the most cynical of people to believe in the Old Testament prophecies. Well, those prophecies have been fulfilled. He is born... et Verbum caro factus est ... the Word became flesh, et habitavit in nobis ... and dwelt among us. This has all happened in the past. So then, for Whom and for what do we wait? Are we just playing liturgical games?

In the first place we remember the coming of the fullness of revelation of God by God to us in the birth of His Son. That is the past – our Advent anamnesis. Secondly, Advent urges us to deal with the Word of God present and living among us ... the Emmanuel ... the “God with us”. It is not something which can be ignored or forgotten – try as we might to have that amnesia. But this birth of the Word of God, by living among us, obliges us who believe, to have a transformation of ourselves so as to take on the divine in our lives. This is the present. When that happens, we, and others who experience us as transformed, begin to see the way things will be like in the future.

As those who are imitating Jesus in the manner of Francis, do we see all of this as we set up those crèches every year? Does it bring on an examination of conscience – a review of where our lives in the Spirit have been since the last Advent and Christmas? Do we engage in the anamnesis which transforms or the amnesia of mediocrity? As Francis moved the hearts of the onlookers at Greccio, may we, through our professions as Franciscans, move the hearts of those still waiting – still hoping for the coming of the Kingdom. We know that it is here already, perhaps not in its fullness, but here nonetheless. Let’s show it to them so that their hoping will not be in vain.

Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM

“Spirit and Life” At Work in the Region

By Miriam Kennedy, SFO

Our September 26-28 SALT Conference at the Franciscan Center in Andover was greatly blessed with a record attendance of 70 SFO’s from 16 fraternities in St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region, and two from Solanus Casey Region. SALT [which stands for Spirit and Life Team] is an SFO experience of extended fraternity, focused on re-visiting and refreshing our calling to a secular Franciscan vocation.

The presenters, Father Steven Gross, OFM, conv., Richard Morton, SFO, and Pat Brandwein-Ball, SFO, have given the SALT weekend in several Regions and fraternities throughout the US, and were impressed and encouraged by the enthusiasm of our 70 SFO’s from St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region.

The gifts we, the participants, received, need to be re-gifted to our brothers and sisters in fraternity. The SALT presenters encouraged us to form “mini” SALT fraternities within our districts, and several of our districts have come together to reflect and process what we received on the weekend. We were encouraged to honor the integrity of SALT, and to use the SALT Prayer as a guide. We were “discouraged” from problem solving.

SFO’s in District 4, who experienced the SALT Conference in late September, met after the SFO Day of Prayer at the Franciscan Center Saturday, November 8th. It was a chance to share what the Holy Spirit has been doing in our lives and in our fraternities since we were last together. Clearly, many of us saw the same kind of gentle, compelling movement – a new sense of peace, and a fresh wind blowing – a sense of “letting go and letting God”. There was a feeling of trust and freedom in not having to “fix” things.

Certainly, there is much to “fix”, in ourselves, our lives, our families, our fraternities and our world. But our “solutions” often cause more issues than they solve if they are not grounded in prayer, humility and trust in God. The Franciscan journey is one of walking the narrow road – that road between being oblivious to the problems around us and being dragged down by them. It is a path of hope, trust, humility, and a deep commitment to discerning, and working for the realization of the Kingdom.

(SALT Continued on page 3)



(SALT Continued from page 2)

SALT, and other opportunities to gather with SFO's throughout our region, help us to see more clearly, and to reinforce the work that the Spirit is doing in us through our Secular Franciscan charism.

XII General Chapter Updates:

The following is a condensed description of the elections that took place at the XII General Chapter on November 19th in Budapest from the CIOFS web site.

The full, multi-language version can be found on <http://www.ciofs.org/>.

Proceedings to elect leaders of the world-wide Secular Franciscan Order got under way at 9 a.m. Today during the 12th General Chapter being held near Budapest, Fr. Marco Tasca, General minister of the Conventual Franciscans, is the presider.

Candidates for the office of general minister are: Encarnacion Del Pozo of Spain, current general minister; Benedetto Lino of Italy; Doug Clorey of Canada, and Rosalvo Goncalves Mota of Brazil.

Candidates for vice minister are: Conseulo Nunez of Venezuela, Tibor Kausser of Hungary, Benedetto Lino of Italy, Doug Clorey of Canada, and Rosalvo Goncalves Mota of Brazil.

The office of the Presidency of the Order consists of general minister, vice minister, and the presidency's international councilors. Councilors are elected according to a combination of major language groups and geographic areas.

Father Marco began by offering his gratitude, on behalf of all the general ministers of the first order and third order regular families, "for your service to the Secular Franciscan Order." With Secular Franciscans in over 110 countries, he said, "This is a vast army for good in the world!". Father Marco noted the conversion of St. Francis of Assisi. "Francis started changing his way of thinking," thus accomplishing a conversion of the mind. Francis moved from being centered on himself to being totally centered on Christ, with his mind giving full attention to the Jesus of the Gospel.

The assembly sang a hymn to the Holy Spirit, "Veni Creator Spiritus," before taking roll call and proceeding to the first round of balloting.

A secretary for the election and two scrutineers, or tellers, were appointed, and the secretary began the roll call. A total of 68 delegates and other leaders were recorded as being able to vote. Therefore, a majority of 35 is needed to elect someone to office. The tellers distributed ballots for the office of general minister.

On the first round of balloting, with an overwhelming majority, **Encarnacion del Pozo of Spain was re-elected general minister** of the world-wide Secular Franciscan Order Nov. 19 during the Order's 12th General Chapter being held near Budapest, Hungary. By accepting she will serve for a six-year term.

Doug Clorey of Canada is the new vice minister of the Secular Franciscan Order, elected by a majority vote on the second round. Clorey was previously a Presidency councilor for English-speaking countries group 1 (North America and Europe), and before that, he was Canada's international councilor. Clorey by avocation is a musician and song writer who sang one of his original compositions to the assembly when he was introduced as a candidate

- **Consuelo Nunez** has been re-elected as Presidential councilor for Spanish-speaking areas.
- **Tibor Kausser**, the international councilor for Hungary and a host for the general chapter, is the new Presidential councilor for English-speaking area 1 (N. America and Europe).
- **Lucy Almiranez** has been re-elected Presidential councilor for English-speaking area 2.
- **Michèle Altmeyer** is the new Presidential councilor for French-speaking areas.
- **Maria Aparecida Crepaldi** has been re-elected Presidential councilor for Portuguese-speaking areas.
- **Ewald Kreuzer** of Austria is the new Presidential councilor for German-speaking areas.
- **Benedetto Lino** of Italy has been re-elected Presidential councilor for Italian-speaking areas.
- **Ana Fruk** of Croatia is the new YouFra international councilor.



End of Life Conference

St. Mary of the Portiuncula Fraternity in Hanover, MA
Linda Edmonds, SFO

Our fraternity offered a morning conference on “End of Life” issues presented by Patricia D. Stewart. Pat is an attorney and has been a frequent guest on the cable TV program Fatima Today, discussing medical health issues for Catholics, and advanced health care planning. She has authored The Health Care Decision Guide for Catholics handbook, which has an Imprimatur of the Church, and assists Catholics in making faith-based choices for medical care and life-sustaining treatment. Here is a synopsis of Pat’s presentation.

End of life issues are really end of health issues because the same questions can arise in many situations, such as illness, developmental disability, or accident. Anyone at any time may need to make medical decisions for someone else, or may need to have someone make medical decisions for them. To make faith-based choices that meet Catholic guidelines, you have to answer just four questions: who is the patient; 2) what is the treatment; 3) what is the expected result; and 4) how will the treatment affect the patient, and the patient’s family and community?

The Health Care Decision Guide walks you through the answers to these questions and leads you to a reasonable choice in every case. The Church’s position on nutrition and hydration was also discussed. The Church teaches that a patient should receive food and water, even if given by artificial means, as long as doing so provides the patient nutritive benefits and relieves suffering. Nutrition and hydration may be withdrawn only when they no longer can help the patient.

How can we plan for the future? Following a four-step plan will help to alleviate stress of those who may have to make medical treatment decisions for you. First “share” your beliefs about your health care and treatment with anyone who may be involved with your future medical care. Second “select” a person whom you trust to be your health care agent to make medical decisions according to your wishes and select another person to be your alternate agent. Third “sign” a Health Care Proxy (HCP) to appoint the people you selected to be your agents. Fourth “send” copies of your HCP to your agents, health care providers and any family members whom you wish to advise. Review your HCP periodically. If you need

to change it, sign a new HCP and send it, as before, to those who may be involved with your future medical care.

There is much confusion about living wills. A living will is not the same as a health care proxy. A living will provides instructions for when to end life-sustaining treatment. For this reason, it is not in line with the standards of Catholic Church. Moreover, in Massachusetts, a living will is not a legally binding document. For these reasons, a living will is not a good choice as a health care planning document. If you don’t have a health care proxy, consider getting one. To prepare a HCP that is based in the Catholic faith you may want to purchase Pat’s handbook, as I did. You may order it on the web at www.sweetapplepress.com or by mail: Sweet Apple Press, P.O. Box 770-B, Norwell, MA 02061. If you would like to have Pat speak to your fraternity or at your Church you may contact her directly by email at pstewart@sweetapplepress.com or by telephone at 781-659-9966.

Advent Liturgy

By Bette Brunell, SFO

After cooking and cleaning, shopping and wrapping and endless company I used to welcome listening to the soloist’s beautiful rendition of O Holy Night at Midnight Mass and placing the Baby Jesus in the creche on the mantle just before I went to bed. After the gifts tomorrow, it would be over and life would return to normal. No, I wasn’t Scrooge; I was just tired and welcomed December 26th. I just didn’t get it! It was years before I understood that Christmas was not the end but, rather, the beginning of my redemption. Like Scrooge, I had an epiphany and came to realize that if Jesus hadn’t been born, I would not be able to look forward to eternal life in Heaven. At that point in my life, Christmas took on a whole new meaning. All the work wasn’t about one day but about eternity.

True, St. Francis was concerned that people had forgotten to observe the birth of Jesus and brought the villagers to remembrance by recreating that scene at Bethlehem. He was so successful that even today, although many towns and cities won’t erect a manger scene anymore for fear of being politically incorrect, parishioners throughout the United States humbly re-enact the living manger scene on their Church lawn or carefully place Mary and Joseph, the Christ Child in the manger, Angels, shepherds and later Three Kings on their Church’s altar. That part of the



(Advent Liturgy, Continued from page 4)

celebration is necessary to prepare for what comes after.

The Readings in the Liturgies of the Season of Advent are chosen to show the importance of Christmas but looking closely I realized they showed much more. On the first Sunday, Isaiah begs God to return and “rend the heavens and come down,” (Is. 63:19) , Paul talks of preparation as the Corinthians “wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (I Cor 1:6) and Jesus warns, “Be watchful! Be alert!” (Mk.13:33) On the Second Sunday of Advent Isaiah prophesies, “A voice cries out in the desert prepare the way of the Lord!. (Is.40:3), Peter writes, “The Lord does not delay His promise,” (2 Pt.3:9) and Mark quotes Isaiah saying, “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths.” (Mk.1:3). The Third Sunday of Advent brings a different tone and a different color. The beautiful rose vestments remind us that Advent is almost over. Isaiah says, “ I rejoice heartily in the Lord,” (Is. 63:10). Paul tells the Thessalonians, “Rejoice always.” (1 Thess.5:16) and John quotes Isaiah saying, “I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord,” (Jn. 1:23) But as we come to the Fourth Sunday of Advent the tone changes a again and we hear that the fulfillment of the Promise is near and the ramifications are eternal. The Lord speaks to Nathan and tells him to speak to King David telling him, “Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me,”(2 Sam.7:16), and the Angel Gabriel says to Mary, “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of David his father, and He will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” (Lk. 1:31-33)

Jesus was born to redeem us! Rejoice and have a Blessed Christmas!

SFO RETREAT IN ANDOVER

There will be a SFO Retreat weekend in Andover on June 19-21, 2009 given by Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM. The theme will be “Profession and Our Sense of Belonging”. It will include input on prayer and Franciscan spirituality. There will be time for confessions and quiet walks. I know many fraternities plan their own retreats.

Won't you consider bringing your fraternity to Andover?

Franciscans and the Economy: Serving the Christ Before Us

by Russell Testa, FAN Executive Director

The news is filled with stories of people facing financial chaos and hardship; many for the first time. While the middle class undoubtedly is experiencing great pain, those all too familiar with financial hardship, persons who are poor, now find themselves in even more dire straits.

So many among us, be they middle class or poor, find themselves having to seek help. Many are in need of the most basic of resources – “survival” supplies. They are filled with fear and panic, for their families and for themselves. They also experience shame for “needing to ask for help.” In our individual-focused culture, such actions are seen as weak.

As Franciscans, how are we invited to respond?

Clearly, our tradition invites us to care for the poor and marginalized among us, both those who have been on the margins for a while, and those who have just arrived as a result of a foreclosure or unemployment notice. Our task is two-fold: we are called to care for their immediate needs and to care for their very personhood. These two charges arise out of our Christian belief, one perhaps held even more fervently by those with a Franciscan heritage, that the person before us IS Christ.

The two aspects of our response may seem obvious, but the ability to care for the actual person -- to listen to their story, to show solidarity -- is often easier said than done. We readily can see the immediate needs of those before us. Consequently, we focus on taking care of the problem they face (e.g., lack of food, lack of housing, the utilities are to be turned off...) and often fail to provide the care they need as persons (e.g., listening to their story, sitting with them in the struggle...).

So, how do we aptly care for the person of Christ before us?

One step each of our ministries can take right away is to begin to prepare for the increased number of people we already may be seeing or will see in the next months, as the crisis continues. These preparations will allow us to serve the full person and not just focus on providing for their immediate needs.

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(Franciscans and the Economy Continued from page 5)

Obviously each of our ministries cannot do everything for everyone. So, each ministry should put together (or access) a listing of local resources for those needs the ministry cannot provide. Such a listing (a "cheat sheet") will enable ministries to more efficiently direct people to the organizations they need and allow the ministries to focus on caring for the complete person.

Suggested categories to include in basic assistance listing:

- Food—pantries, kitchens
- Shelter—emergency shelters, rental assistance, mortgage counseling
- Spiritual and Emotional—Crisis Hotline
- Utility assistance
- Medical resources
- Transportation
- Clothes
- Other (credit/debt counseling)

Compiling this list will take some time, but having it will enable a ministry to focus on the person as "Christ among us" instead of as "a problem to be solved."

Where might one find this type of information? Here are some places to begin:

- Diocesan Catholic Charities/Catholic Social Service Organizations
- Lutheran Social Service Organizations and other religious service groups
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Neighboring church communities

This particular action may seem obvious and somewhat meager in the face of the financial crisis we are experiencing; however, it does allow us to be our most fully Franciscan selves by enabling us to be wholly present to the persons in need before us. Obviously, many other actions can be taken to offer immediate assistance to our brothers and sisters in need. Since FAN is all of us, we need to continue this conversation.

We invite you to share your best practices and ideas for how to be assistance, and to reflect on what others have to share by visiting the discussion groups section of the FAN website. (Member login required. Select "Economic Justice" in the "topics for discussion" drop down list at the top of that page.)

A Woman for Our Times, St. Elizabeth of Hungary

By Lori Pieper, SFO

After some delays and uncertainty, I'm very happy to be able to announce that the latest round of filming for "A Woman for Our Times, St. Elizabeth of Hungary" will start next week in the land of her birth. There is other good news to report as well.

The filming will take place in Hungary, on November 15-22, mostly at the Manreza Spiritual Center in Dobogoko, where the General Chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order is being held. The order is contributing to the filming of this historic chapter and the documentary.

We will be able to videotape a number of things for our video documentary, including:

-- Interviews with the Secular Franciscans attending the chapter about how their knowledge of St. Elizabeth has grown during the two-year centenary, and their reflections on various aspects of her life.

-- The ceremonies that close the two-year centenary celebrations for St. Elizabeth, including the Mass celebrated in Esztergom by the former primate of Hungary, the Franciscan Cardinal Laszlo Paskai.

-- A tour of Esztergom castle, the seat of the medieval royal family of Hungary, where Elizabeth would have lived as a young child

-- A tour of Budapest, where we will see the modern Church of St. Elizabeth in "Roses Square" and visit the Heroes' Monument, where famous figures of Hungarian history, including Elizabeth's ancestor, St. Stephen, her father, Andrew II, and her brother, Bela IV, are commemorated by monumental statues.

I am also happy to announce that the film now has a new DP (Director of Photography). He is Michael Eaton, of Pasadena, CA, who has shot video for a number of productions, and who co-directed a DVD released by a major distributor, Lionsgate, called The Case for Christ. You can watch the trailer for it at :
<http://www.wingclipscinema.com/caseforchrist>

This part of the filming should be quite an adventure. Please pray for its success.



From the Minister's Desk

I want to thank all of you for your prayers and notes of encouragement over the last five weeks. I returned to my home (from my daughter's where I was recuperating) the day after Thanksgiving, minus my gallbladder. I thank God that I did not get sick while in Nashville. I was able to eat a small Thanksgiving dinner. I have much to be thankful for.

*Brothers and Sisters:: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen
(1 Thessalonians 3:12-13)*

Wishing you and your loved ones, a blessed, holy and joyful Christmas!

Love, Jackie

Secular Franciscans Condemn Violence in Orissa, India,

Call for International Action and News Media Attention: The U. S. Secular Franciscan Order, at its national chapter in Nashville Oct. 14-19, condemned the violence against Christians in Orissa, India, and called for immediate international attention and action.

“Christians are being persecuted in a shocking display of a type of ‘religious’ cleansing,” said a statement unanimously approved by the delegate body. “According to impartial observers, there is a systematic attempt to remove all Christians from the area. Many Christians have already been killed. In addition, thousands of homes have been burned, and Catholic and other Christian churches have been targeted in an organized manner, burned and looted.”

“We Secular Franciscans stand in solidarity with our suffering brothers and sisters in India and pledge our continued prayers,” the statement said. “We denounce all violence.”

They commended Franciscans International for speaking out against the atrocities, noting: “This situation merits increased coverage in the national and world media”

**Nafra Chapter – Nashville, TN
October 14-19, 2008**

Jackie Walsh, SFO

I was proud to represent St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region at the national chapter. It was a very busy 5 days. I enjoyed most the formation sessions given but the highlight was the opportunity to network with other regional ministers and to meet in small geographic groups to discuss our concerns. I have included some items of interest in this newsletter but there is much more on the Nafra website (<http://www.nafra-sfo.org/>), go to meetings and resources where you will find a list of topics. Many more of these topics will be covered in the Tau-USA.

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary – Elective Chapter
April 24-26, 2009 in Andover**

I am pleased and encouraged with the nominations coming in. Ministers, I hope you are planning ahead to attend this elective chapter. One thing I have seen at the national chapters is that there is always 100% attendance of the regional ministers/or delegate (unless someone is in the hospital) and I expect no less for our regional chapter. It is the responsibility of every local fraternity to send a representative to the chapter – preferable the minister or vice-minister. This is your region, you are part of the regional council. Please start praying for those nominated that they will be moved to serve their region and that the Holy Spirit will be in charge of our elections.

Peace and love Jackie

**BENEDICT XVI'S PRAYER INTENTIONS
FOR DECEMBER**

VATICAN CITY, 1 DEC 2008 (VIS) - Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for December is: "That, faced by the growing expansion of the culture of violence and death, the Church may courageously promote the culture of life through all her apostolic and missionary activities".

His mission intention is: "That, especially in mission countries, Christians may show through gestures of brotherliness that the Child born in the grotto in Bethlehem is the luminous Hope of the world".

BXVI-PRAYER INTENTIONS/DECEMBER/...VIS 081201 (90)



YouFra Enters New Phase in U.S.

YouFra, or Franciscan Youth and Young Adults, is entering a new phase in the United States aimed at having youth not only run the movement themselves, but also elect leaders to represent them on fraternity councils at all levels.

The National Council of the Secular Franciscan Order, meeting in Nashville, Oct. 14-19, unanimously voted to disband the Youth/Young Adult Commission and resurrect it as the Franciscan Youth/Young Adult (FYA) Council.

The FYA Council – featuring four young adults, a spiritual assistant and two professed Secular Franciscans serving as fraternal animators – now enters a two-year transition with the aim of:

- Encouraging local fraternities to sponsor YouFra groups, while continuing to minister to youth with one-time or on-going activities.
- Having each local YouFra group elect a president who sits on the local fraternity council and represents youth/young adults on a regional FYA council.
- Having each regional FYA council elect a president who will serve on the SFO regional executive council and represent regions on the national FYA Council.
- Having regional FYA presidents elect a national FYA president to represent youth and young adults on the NAFRA Executive Council.

There is more information on this transition phase in the Tau-USA.

African Dolls

By Carole Reilly, SFO

On my vacation to the mountains last year, I met a wonderful couple from New Jersey who had just come back from Fr. Lawrence's Boarding Schools in Uganda, Africa. They showed me slides of the schools they had visited and the work that they were involved in during their trip. They also talked about a program called "Change a Life" Sponsorship Program, started in 2006. This Program is working in two areas in Uganda, Nabbingo and Migyera.

Some children are in boarding schools because their living situation is detrimental to their well being. Boarding schools are a common practice in Uganda if you can

afford to pay. Sponsorship includes providing for a child who may have HIV or AIDS; that child will get medical attention, receive medication, will be provided one meal a day, and the opportunity to go to school, including uniform and books. If Africa is to be rid of this terrible disease, it has to start with Education.

I got together with several members of my Franciscan fraternity and some friends as well, to sponsor (\$300 per year) a child. Her name is Teddy. She has learned to write letters in English, receive an education (a wonderful student), and knows that we care about her. We have been doing this for two years.

While making baby blankets for the various hospitals, I met a woman who made Duduza (Comfort) dolls; soft huggable dolls that symbolize love and caring, and she was curious as to where she could send them. I became so excited because I knew exactly where we were going to send them—Uganda.

The Holy Spirit works in so many ways. Workshops were held to learn to make the dolls, and last May, I brought 100 Duduza dolls to a Breakfast Workshop in New Jersey. At this meeting, I met Fr. Lawrence personally and many others involved with this Sponsorship program. In addition to the dolls I brought to New Jersey, we have sent an additional 250 to Uganda. Oh, to see the pictures of the faces of these children who have absolutely nothing? To go from starvation and abuse to perhaps, someday, living in a dormitory (plans are underway for 2010), all there to begin the Education process. There are currently just over 300 children in the two boarding schools and 102 are currently being sponsored. It is truly miraculous!!

I approached my Fraternity to sponsor a child as a group ministry. They were delighted to become involved in Sponsorship, and are now awaiting the name of their child.

What a wonderful opportunity to be a part of Fr. Lawrence's dream –to improve the lives of Ugandan children through Education and income-producing activities. I should tell you that Fr. Lawrence is a product of this Sponsorship program from Primary school through the Seminary, and now his life's mission is to expand the opportunities he was blessed with to hundreds of impoverished children in Uganda.

Fr. Lawrence continues his search for new sponsors...



Be Present to God’s Will

Jackie Walsh, SFO

At a formation session given by Teresa Baker at the national chapter in October 2008, she made a distinction between apostolic life, which is doing good works, and evangelical life, which is a call to be the image of God, to be present to His will “wherever we are at the moment”. “ Being a presence means being available to what God would have us do, the life of the Gospel.” “Don’t trip over God at the doorstep in the rush to go out to do good works,” she said.

She continued, “it’s similar with the penitential aspect. Penitential life is not a matter of ‘doing penance,’ but rather, the openness to grow in God’s gift. It’s turning over our lives to God. Our participation in God’s gift depends on our capacity to be receptive – to dwell in Christ, and with Christ, and to live in bountiful love and service to others.”

She added, “the wonderful thing about the secular aspect of ‘our vocation’ is that we are called to be what we already are – living in service of the Lord in the world. We are to be ‘leaven’ wherever we find ourselves. We are to be a gift to the world, bringing joyful optimism.”

POPE ENCOURAGES PASTORAL CARE IN PRISONS

VATICAN CITY, 30 NOV 2008 (VIS) - After praying the Angelus today, the Holy Father invited people to pray "for the many victims of the brutal terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, and of the clashes in Jos, Nigeria, as well as for the injured and for everyone who has been affected by the violence, in whatever way.

"The causes and circumstances of these tragic events are different", he added, "but the horror and censure at the outbreak of so much cruel and senseless violence is one and the same. We ask the Lord to touch the hearts of people who delude themselves by thinking this is the way to resolve local or international problems, and we feel urged to give an example of mildness and love in order to build a society worthy of God and man".

Pope Benedict then turned his attention to the recent Latin American Meeting of Prison Pastoral Care, promoted by the Episcopal Council for Latin America, expressing his encouragement "to those who work in

favor of men and women who have lost their liberty, but not their dignity.

"Also in cases such as these", he concluded, "fundamental human rights have to be respected and attempts made at recovery and re-education so as to enable prisoners to be reintegrated into society. I express my closeness to them, I remember them in my prayers and I bless them, inviting them not to feel alone and to maintain hope in the Lord, Who is always faithful to His promises of salvation and Who comes to visit His vineyard, which He Himself planted among men".

ANG/TERRORISM PRISON PASTORAL CARE/.VIS 081201 (280)

Vincent Corsano, SFO

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region SFO’s joined in a tribute of prayer and celebration of the life of Vincent Corsano, SFO, our Regional Vice Minister, who was born into eternal life on October 14th. Vince was 76, and suffered from a heart condition.

Vin was professed in St. Francis of the Cape Fraternity on January 30th, 2000, and served as Treasurer and Minister there before being elected as Vice Minister of the Region. Vin was an active member of St. John the Evangelist Church in Pocasset MA. He embraced leadership roles in the SFO as he had done all his life in Massachusetts Maritime Academy, where he served as president of the Alumni Association, vice president, and, most recently, treasurer.

In spite of his active career in civil and environmental engineering, he still had time for his beloved family and his community. Vin and his wife Helen of 48 years, who passed away in 2004, had four children. They were blessed with 11 grandchildren and 1 great grandson. In addition to being a devoted husband, father and grandfather, Vin served the community in the Elder Services of Cape Cod, the Council on Aging and the Jonathan Bourne Public Library.

Vince’s passing was felt by many who came together for his wake and funeral. Members of his fraternity, as well as many other SFO’s from around the area honored him with a traditional Franciscan Wake Service, which was very much appreciated by his lovely family.

Vinnie’s unforgettable smile and his passionate devotion to the Secular Franciscan Order will be long remembered. Pax et Bonum, Vince!



The Position of the Catholic Church on Immigration Policy

Why does the church care about immigration policies? The Catholic Church has historically held a strong interest in immigration and how public policy affects immigrants seeking a new life in the United States. Based on Scriptural and Catholic social teachings, as well as her own experience as an Immigrant Church in the United States, the Catholic Church is compelled to raise her voice on behalf of those who are marginalized and whose God-given rights are not respected.

The Church believes that current immigration laws and policies have often led to the undermining of immigrants' human dignity and have kept families apart. The existing immigration system has resulted in a growing number of persons in this country in an unauthorized capacity, living in the shadows as they toil in jobs that would otherwise go unfilled. Close family members of U. S. citizens and lawful permanent residents must wait years for a visa to be reunited. And our nation's border enforcement strategies have been ineffective and have led to the death of thousands of migrants.

The Church has a responsibility to shine the message of God on this issue and help to build bridges between all parties so that an immigration system can be created that is just for all and serves the common good, including the legitimate security concerns of our nation.

Novena of Intercession

The SFO in the United States is instituting a "perpetual" novena for at least one year on behalf of suffering people both home and abroad, especially for those in Orissa, India, as we did in 2007 for Darfur.

Every day for the next year, members of the SFO will be praying the novena prayer. The first Sunday of December, members of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region will begin praying the novena and again on the first Sunday of June.

If you want to pray before or after your week/month you can certainly do that. You can pray daily for the next year. You are also encouraged to share the novena with people in your parish, youth groups, or other organizations to which you belong.

Franciscan Peace Award Goes to Advocate for Marginalized People

Marie Dennis, a Secular Franciscan who is director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, received the National Peace Award from the U. S. Secular Franciscan Order during its annual chapter held October 14-19 in Nashville, TN.

Marie is the first lay co president of Pax Christi International, a founding member of the Assisi Community in Washington, D.C., mother of six children, grandmother of seven, and author of seven books. She resides in the Washington, D.C. area.

"Marie Dennis has immersed herself in missionaries' work among the poor and suffering around the world and in advocating on behalf of people marginalized by society, by poverty, by abuse, by war, by violence, by human trafficking," noted Peace Award Chair Deacon Tom Bello, SFO.

"As Franciscans, we are called to be instruments of peace, so likewise we want to recognize and support individuals whose work has an impact on peace and justice in their communities or their nation or around the world," he continued.

The award comes with a St. Francis trophy and a \$2000 prize.

Marie said she was "really touched to be honored by an order so intimately associated with peacemaking." The annual award was revived in 2007 after a lapse of several years. The 2007 award recognized the work of Dr. Tony Lazzara, an American physician and Secular Franciscan who operates a clinic and shelter for ailing children in Peru. Other recipients included, among others, the Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr, and Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

New Spiritual Assistant:

Rev. Jerry DiGiralomo, SA has been appointed as the new Spiritual Assistant to the Blessed Lucius Fraternity in Brockton, MA.

On behalf of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region, we thank him for his commitment to the SFO.



The Franciscan Center
459 River Road, Andover, MA
Program Listing Winter 2008

Franciscan Center Wish List:

Donations of the items are a great help to the Center in controlling costs.: **Coffee, Dinner Napkins, Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent, Windex and Pledge.**

Christmas Day Liturgy

Thursday, December 25th, 2008—9:30 am

Ring in the New Year with the Friars!

Wednesday, December 31st, 2008

Evening begins at 6:00 pm with dinner, followed by a movie at 8:00 pm. The evening concludes with Benediction followed by all-night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Liturgy on New Year’s morning, and breakfast. Call the Center to make your reservation! \$60 per person includes room and all meals.

Regional Executive Council

- Jacquelyn Walsh SFO - *Minister*
- Miriam Kennedy, SFO - *Vice Minister (appointed to serve out Vince's term)*
- Susan M. Ronan, SFO - *Secretary*
- TBD - *Treasurer*
- Theresa Pratt , SFO - *Formation Director*
- Claire Reid, SFO - *Councilor District 1*
- Steve Shields SFO - *Councilor District 2*
- Joseph Makley, SFO - *Councilor District 3*
- Roselle Neely, SFO - *Councilor District 4*
- David Amara, SFO - *Councilor District 5*
- John Sheridan, SFO - *Councilor District 6*
- Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM - *Spiritual Assistant*

St. Josephs Fraternity, Berlin, NH

On November 2, 2008. St. Joseph Fraternity in Berlin, NH’s “Altius Moderamen” was officially transferred from St. Joseph Province in Canada to Holy Name Province, USA by Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM, Provincial Spiritual Assistant. They also held their elections, presided over by Joe Makley, their District Councilor. It was to be a happy day but that morning when they arrived at their church they found it had been vandalized during the night and there was a lot of damage.

Please pray for these folks, both in their joy and their sorrow.

Region Announcements:

St. Anthony Fraternity, Boston

Birthdays:

Margaret Ross, SFO, 100th birthday, Oct 26, 2009

Deaths:

Louise Killilea, SFO, who was professed on 06/11/1983, died on 11/20/2008.

St. John the Baptist Fraternity, Waterville, ME

Anniversaries:

Jack Fortier, SFO -58 years
Fern Bernier, SFO - 52 years
Richard Boudreau, SFO -51 years

Deaths:

Arthur Bernier, SFO, died on 12/02/2008.

St. Francis Fraternity, Andover

Anniversaries:

Charles and Kathy Kelley, SFO – 25 years, Nov 13th

Professions:

Andrew Genovese, SFO - September 21st

Deaths:

Jane Lancaster, SFO, September 19th
Lena Cerasella, SFO, November 3rd

Regional Formation Team

- **Tom Giblin, SFO** – *District 1*
- **Alice Aubuchon, SFO** – *District 2*
- **Patricia Mountain, SFO** – *District 3*
- **Lisa Cyr, SFO** – *District 4*
- **Vacant** – *District 5*
- **Theresa Pratt, SFO** – *Formation Chair & District 6*

The Herald

Franciscan Center, 459 River Road, Andover, MA 01810

Email submissions to:

Steve_shields@comcast.net

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**Schedule of Newsletter Deadlines:
Next Issue**

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Regional Fraternity of
the Secular Franciscan Order
Franciscan Center
459 River Road
Andover, MA 01810

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Mission Statement

The Mission of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Region of the Secular Franciscan order is to proclaim and witness to the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, inspired by the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, by promoting and supporting the local fraternities in the Northern New England area.

Together, through the lives of diverse Catholic men and women in local fraternities, we profess commitment to these ideals. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we strive to humbly serve all people, especially the poor and forgotten.

We celebrate joyfully the gift of life in all creation and recognize God's living presence in the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapter of Elections in Andover
April 26-28, 2009 for a new regional council

National Formation Workshop
Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL
May 28-31, 2009

"Profession and The Sense of Belonging"
Presented by Fr Richard Trezza, OFM
June 19—21, 2009
The Franciscan Center
Andover, MA

A Summer Seminar for SFO's
"Franciscan Spirituality"
June 25-28, 2009
Saint Francis University
Loretto, PA

Fall Conference (open to all)
"Formation Issues"
September 25-27, 2009
Agenda TBA