



# The Herald

Newsletter of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Regional Fraternity

Secular Franciscan Order  
Spring—2013

"Gospel to life and life to Gospel"

John 18:1-11

As Lent begins, I've been pondering the Passion of Jesus. What strikes me at this time is His arrest. John's gospel regarding this is different than Matthew, Mark, and Luke. John's gospel tells us about a conversation between Jesus and those who have come for him.

I invite you to reflect on three words of Jesus in this scripture. These words have a great effect on your life and mine.

"He said, I am He."

In His final hours of darkness, Jesus prayed in agony in the garden of Gethsemane. His prayer was filled with pain. His sweat was turned to blood. (Luke 22:4) As we know, He even asked His Father to take this suffering from Him wondering if there was any other way.

The cohort came to take Him and He was betrayed by the kiss of a friend, the kiss that bound Him to the cross—the cross that is our salvation.

This experience in the Garden of Gethsemane is a very profound one for all of us. When the cohort said they were looking for Jesus, the Nazarene, and Jesus said, "I am He", His answer changed the world.

"I am He", He said. It is I you seek, I'm the One you want. "I am He".

I wonder how many of us would admit to being Christians, knowing everything that was going to happen to us, like Jesus.

In our own hours of darkness, we are in our own gardens. As we search for answers, the weeds grow around us like the thorns around the Head of Christ. As we look into His Eyes on the cross, fully knowing how much He endured for us, we realize how much we are worth to Him. Yes, our souls are worth this much.

As we continue to look into Jesus' Eyes, we become more aware of our own sinfulness and our hearts go numb at the thought of what He endured to free us.

So often we are reminded of the poor being turned away. There are countless unborn children that the world's neglect has killed. All around us there are signs of brokenness—broken families, drug addiction, homeless people, loose morals. Yes, we are in need of Jesus healing.

His Words cut like a knife. When we cry out "Oh Lord where is my strength", His answer changes our lives.

"I am He", He says; "It is I you seek, I'm the One you want. I am He. You have found me now, I have come for you. I am He".

Peace and all good,  
Alice Aubuchon, OFS

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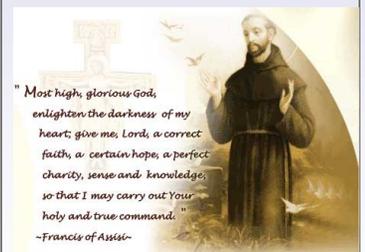
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"Most high, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart; give me, Lord, a correct faith, a certain hope, a perfect charity, sense and knowledge, so that I may carry out Your holy and true command."  
—Francis of Assisi—



### FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

The memories of meeting and sharing fraternity with so many of you have kept my heart warm over the quieter Winter months. As I write this, we are snowed in— forced to slow down and

reflect, and to lift up in prayer all those affected by the storm and those helping us to “dig out”.

These past few months I have been living the Paschal Mystery. A health crisis with my sister, Carole, has led me to a deeper understanding of the spirituality of suffering. Carole and I have gone through all the stages of grief together as doctors tried to find the reason for her severe anemia and loss of energy. Carole is a young, active 70-year-old who has survived three heart valve replacements since her early 30's. She now has congestive heart failure and another surgery is most likely out of the question. Her life has changed dramatically, and we both mourn the loss of her plans and dreams of traveling and living an active lifestyle.

A pastor friend of mine, with whom I serve at Living Waters, a faith-based drop-in and outreach center for the homeless in Lowell, wore a T-shirt at Christmastime that provided much food for thought. On the front it simply said “*The reason for Christmas ...*”, and on the back, “*... Is Easter*”. Every single moment in the life of Jesus is part of the Paschal Mystery, and every single moment in our own lives is meant to be embraced and lived out in faith, hope, and love. This life is not just a “Vale of Tears”, but a whole landscape of “ups and downs”, all filled with grace and opportunities for conversion.



Carole and I have done some mourning over the loss of her active lifestyle, but we are learning to embrace this new leg of the journey. She has her good days and her not-so-good days. Christian living is never an “either/or” proposition, it's always “both/and”. We experience joy and suffering as part of

the same mystery, not avoiding or seeking either, but living each as a moment of grace.

### Upcoming Events

#### I/2 Days for Candidates and Newly Professed

##### Day of Community

Saturday, April 20, 2013  
St. Pius Tenth Church  
101 Wolcott Rd., Milton, MA  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

##### Day of Recollection

Saturday, May 4th, 2013  
8:30 AM (after the 8 am mass) until 12 noon  
St. Anthony's Shrine  
Arch Street, Boston

##### Regional Chapter

##### New Council Training

April 12th – 14th, 2013  
St. Anthony Monastery, Kennebunk, ME

#### Secular Franciscan Regional Retreat “My God and My All”

May 17th– 19th, 2013  
St. Anthony Monastery, Kennebunk, ME  
Retreat Master: **Brother Bob Brady, OFM**

##### OFS Summer Seminar

##### History of the OFS

July 4th—7th, 2013  
St. Francis University, Loretto, PA

##### JPIC/Youth Rally

July 25th—28th, 2013  
Our Lady of the Snows  
Belleville, Illinois

##### Franciscan Day

Saturday, August 24th, 2013  
St. Anthony Monastery, Kennebunk, ME

#### Workshop for Spiritual Assistants

September 18th, 2013  
St. Anthony Monastery, Kennebunk, ME  
Offered by the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants (CNSA)

#### Secular Franciscan Formation Conference

November 8th—10th, 2013  
St. Anthony Monastery, Kennebunk, ME



**2013 Regional Chapter**

**New Council Training**

Servant leadership is one of the great graces of our vocation as Secular Franciscans. Our Constitution tells us that we all must be willing to accept, and to relinquish,

leadership in our Order. To this end, we hold elections every three years, and have term limits that allows for the opening up of opportunities to other members.

In 2012, we had 13 local Fraternity elections—nearly half of our Fraternities. We have a lot of new Councils. We seldom have a newly elected Council with all new members, but just as a Fraternity becomes new again when a new member comes in, so too does the Council become “new” when a new member is elected. It’s a new dynamic—a new way for the Holy Spirit to move.

Our annual Chapter is a meeting of the Regional Council—all our local Ministers and the Regional Executive Council. At every Regional Chapter, business must be conducted: the budget and the “State of the Region”, otherwise known as the Annual Regional Minister’s Report, are reviewed and voted upon. Every third year, we have an election (that was last year), and a Fraternity/Pastoral Visitation from National (which was in 2011). So, every three years, we have what we call a “free” year, for which we can set our own agenda for the non-plenary sessions of the weekend. This is our “free” year, and we’re devoting it to one of the priorities our local Ministers defined at our last Chapter—the training of the local Fraternity Councils.

Although, as always, all local Ministers are expected to be present, this year’s chapter meeting is open to all members of the local Councils, and also to non-Council members who are discerning a servant-leadership role. In other words, really everyone. We will talk about resources and priorities, and the preparation and conduct of elections. We’ll talk about successful transitions. We will have a little fun with a “mock” election, and serve up some great offerings in “Francesco’s Café”, an idea borrowed from our last National Chapter, and a great way to provide individual attention from our current Regional Executive Council

members, and allow attendees to focus on their particular areas of interest.

We start with dinner on Friday evening at 6:00 pm on April 12th, and end with Mass and lunch on Sunday, with lots of opportunities for building community in between.

Our Chapter will be held at the Franciscan Guest House in Kennebunk, ME. The cost is \$110 per person, double occupancy, and \$165 for a private room. This includes all meals for the weekend. For reservations, call:

**Franciscan Guest House**  
**26 Beach Ave.**  
**Kennebunk ME 04043**  
**(207) 967-4865**

We also ask that you notify our Regional Secretary, Francine Gikow, OFS, (gikow0-ofs@yahoo.com) that you have registered so that we can prepare your name tag. Please include your full name, your current position on the Council (if applicable) and your Fraternity name.

See you in Kennebunk!



**Ministers’ Reminders**

**Annual Minister’s Reports** are due by March 1st. An electronic copy of the blank report was sent to you in November 2012 by our Regional Secretary, Francine Gikow, OFS. These reports are critical input

to my report to National for the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region. The **Fair Share and Treasurer’s Report** is also due at this time.

Please register for the **Regional Chapter** in April (4/12-14/2013), and our **Regional Retreat** in May (5/17-19/2013)—directly with the Franciscan Guest House. See articles and contact information in this edition. **N.B.:** All Fraternity Ministers (or, if necessary, the Vice Minister, or a delegate from the Council) are expected to attend the Chapter.

**Franciscan Day** will be held on August 24th at St. Anthony’s Monastery/Franciscan Guest House in Kennebunk, ME. This is meant to be a gathering of the Franciscan Family, including 1st, 2nd (by way of prayer!), 3rd Order Regular, and Secular Franciscans. Please invite all the Franciscans you know! Of course, your biological families are most welcome, too!



**Regional Formation Team Update  
Theresa Pratt, OFS  
Regional Formation Team Chair**

Since the last Herald, the district formation team has released a number of documents to the Regional Formation Director's Manual. These documents can be found on our region's web site ([www.stelizabethsfo.com](http://www.stelizabethsfo.com)).

We updated the section 2.4 Discernment and released two additional sections:

- 2.4.1 "Practical Suggestions for Discernment"
- 2.4.2 "Orientation Discernment Activities"

In the section 2.4.1, "Practical Suggestions for Discernment" provides a "discernment examen." This is not an examination of conscience but looks at when we chose or did not choose Christ in our life.

In section 2.4.2, "Orientation Discernment Activities", a discernment exercise is suggested for each of six months of orientation.

We presently have a draft version of our Orientation Syllabus. If you have people starting Orientation and would like to have a copy of this document, please contact your district formation team representative or myself. The syllabus provides a list of formation topics to be covered. For each topic, information from chapters within "Franciscan Journey" and the "FUN Manual" are listed for you to use when preparing your sessions. Each session also includes:

- ⇒ Bible readings,
- ⇒ Original sources (writings or prayers by St. Francis or St. Clare)
- ⇒ Sections of the Rule
- ⇒ Chapters in a biography of St. Francis
- ⇒ Franciscan symbols to be covered
- ⇒ Additional optional resources are included that may be used to enhance your orientation classes.

We have started work on the Inquiry Syllabus and hope to have a draft version of this document by Summer 2013.

If you have any formation questions or suggestions for the District Formation team, please contact us.



**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Regional Retreat May 17th—19th, 2013, with Brother Bob Brady, OFM**

**My God and My All!**

The theme of this year's retreat, to be held at the Franciscan Guest House in Kennebunk, ME, May 17th through 19th, was suggested by our Regional Spiritual Assistant, Alice Aubuchon, OFS. This essential and simple prayer sums up Francis' relationship with God—one of passionate love, intimacy and profound humility.

We are very eager to hear where Brother Bob Brady, OFM, member of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants with a long history of service to the Secular Franciscan Order, will take us with this theme. He is a member of the OFM Province of Saint Barbara in California.

The cost is \$110 per person, double occupancy, and \$165 for a private room. This includes all meals for the weekend. For reservations, call:

**Franciscan Guest House  
26 Beach Ave.  
Kennebunk ME 04043  
(207) 967-4865**

**Regional Formation Team**

- Tom Giblin, OFS - District 1
- Stephen Shields, OFS - District 2
- Patricia Mountain, OFS - District 3
- Teresa Baker, OFS - District 4
- Francine Gikow, OFS - District 5
- Jack Sheridan, OFS - District 6
- Theresa Pratt, OFS - Formation Chair
- Alice Aubuchon, OFS - Regional Spiritual Assistant



**Requiescat in Pace!**

**Sacred Heart– Plattsburgh N.Y.**

Correction: Dolores Harris, OFS– 9/23/12  
Sandra Miller, OFS-1/18/13

**St. Anthony, Boston MA**

Mary Maguire, OFS– 01/08/2013  
Louis Cogliano, OFS-12/20/2012

**St. Bernard’s, Fitchburg, MA**

Fr. Frank Liistro, OFS  
(See article on page 6)

**St. Francis– Methuen, MA**

Frances Squires, OFS-01/13/2013  
Barbara DeCristofaro, OFS-12/24/2012

**St. Maximillian Kolbe– Fair Haven VT**

John Killian, OFS-11/2/2012

**St. Mary of the Angels, St. Johnsbury, VT**

Gerald Bullock, OFS– 02/13/2013



**Kim Tison, OFS,  
Appointed Regional  
FYFA Chair**

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Kim Tison, OFS, from the 7 Joys of the BVM Fraternity in Kennebunk, ME, as our Regional Chair for Franciscan Youth and Young Adults (FYFA).

Kim has been actively promoting Franciscan evangelization of the youth in Maine for several years. She has worked closely with the Franciscan Youth movement in Lithuania, and has coordinated evangelization opportunities with the Lithuanian YouFra group when they visited Kennebunk.

Outreach to and evangelization of young people in the United States has many challenges. As Robert Breen, OFS, said in his recent TAU article, “This generation of young people is not made up of joiners, and they are often too busy to make long term, serious commitments to any particular group or cause”. All the same, they are eager to make a difference in people’s lives with direct service, and long for support and direction from elders and mentors willing to share their faith.

One needs only to look around at our regular Fraternity gatherings to see that we have a critical “generation gap” as Secular Franciscans. We are grateful for Kim’s passion of bridging this gap, and for sharing the joy of our Franciscan charism with young people.

Thank you, Kim, for your dedication and spirit!

**Assisting The Charism Update!**

The "Assisting the Charism" Spiritual Assistant course continues to move along well. We remain a strong community of fourteen-past the halfway mark in our text.

Letters have gone out to the SA's in our region requesting the possibility of having class members as interns in their fraternities.

Please continue your prayers for us as we go on with this journey. Your support, as always, is appreciated.

The commitment and dedication of this class is edifying.

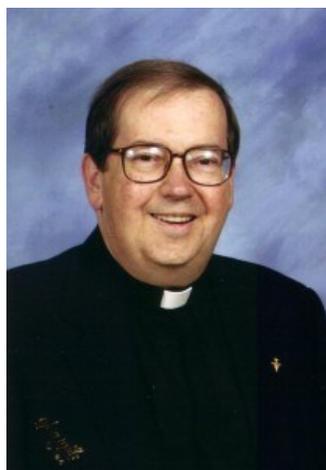
Peace and all good ... Alice, OFS

**The Herald**

Email submissions to:  
**gikow0-ofs@yahoo.com**

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Schedule of Newsletter Deadlines:  
Summer Issue: June 1, 2013  
Winter Issue: October 1, 2013



**Father Frank Liistro, OFS**  
12/3/1945—1/26/2013

Father Frank, OFS, Spiritual Assistant to St. Bernard's Fraternity in Fitchburg, MA, was very dear to all who knew him, especially his Franciscan family.

Father has been in the Region's prayers for some years now, as his health began to fail. Even with frequent visits to the

hospital, he was still present at any Fraternity gatherings he could possibly attend. He is remembered as a devout, deeply spiritual and jolly priest, and a dear friend. When Father Frank walked into a room, spirits were lifted.

St. Bernard's Fraternity gave Father a great sendoff with a Franciscan Wake Service. We unite ourselves with our brothers and sisters of St. Bernard's as they grieve the loss of their good friend and Spiritual Assistant.

### Congratulations to the newly Professed!

#### St. Michael and the 9 Choirs of Angels Rochester, N.H.

Bill Roberts, OFS— 04/29/12

#### Bl. Lucius Fraternity, Brockton MA

Marie Hegarty, OFS 01/13/2013

Anne Daunt, OFS 01/13/2013

"May whoever observes all this be filled in heaven with the blessing of the most high Father, and on earth with that of his beloved Son, together with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, and all the powers of heaven and all the saints."

#### Regional Executive Council

- Miriam Kennedy, OFS - Minister
- Susan Ronan, OFS - Vice Minister
- Francine Gikow, OFS- Secretary
- Bill Pansire, OFS - Treasurer
- Theresa Pratt , OFS - Formation Director
- Sarah Anderson, OFS - Councilor District 1
- Ray Raboin OFS - Councilor District 2
- Linda Strohecker, OFS - Councilor District 3
- Andy Gray, OFS - Councilor District 4
- Charles Falla, OFS - Councilor District 5
- Jack McDermott, OFS - Councilor District 6
- Alice Aubuchon, OFS - Regional Spiritual Assistant



**Carmelle Boisvert, OFS, Celebrates 100th Birthday!**

Carmelle Boisvert, OFS, a member of St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity in Manchester NH, was born on February 23rd, 1913. She was professed as a Secular Franciscan in 1984.

We join her Franciscan brothers and sisters at St. Anthony's Fraternity in honoring Carmelle on this wonderful occasion. God's choicest blessings, Carmelle!

#### St. Elizabeth of Hungary Regional Website

The Region has a website! It's a work in progress, but there is already great content out there, including online copies of the Herald and links to some of your favorite Franciscan websites.

The website address is <http://stelizabethsfo.com/>

Please take a look! You can use the "Contact Us" page to send feedback.





**Fr. Gene Pistacchio, OFM, Appointed Holy Name Provincial Spiritual Assistant**

It is with great joy that we welcome our new Provincial Spiritual Assistant for the Holy Name

Province. Father Gene replaces our beloved Father Richard Trezza, OFM, in this capacity, and resides at St. Anthony's Shrine in Boston. It's wonderful to have another Provincial Spiritual Assistant who resides in our Region.

Father Gene joins our other Provincial Spiritual Assistants: Father Vit Fiala, OFM, Immaculate Conception Province, Father John Bacevicius, OFM, St. Casimir Province, and Father Matthias Wesnofske, OFM Cap, St. Mary's Province.

Fr. Gene was ordained to the priesthood in 1989, and has served as a Spiritual Assistant to Secular Franciscan Fraternities in New Jersey and Virginia. He holds a Master of Divinity Degree from the Washington Theological Union and a Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Companionship from the Shalem Institute of Spiritual Formation.

The Provincial Spiritual Assistant is delegated by the Provincial Minister of each 1st Order and TOR Province to canonically establish fraternities and to provide spiritual assistance, including the conduct of Pastoral Visitations to local fraternities.

These responsibilities are often delegated to the Regional Spiritual Assistant (in our case, Alice Aubuchon, OFS) due to distance. Local Spiritual Assistants are appointed by the Provincial Spiritual Assistant of the Province to which the Fraternity is bonded.

We look forward to seeing Father Gene at our Regional gatherings, and hopefully "popping in" at local Fraternity gatherings. The Fraternities bonded to the Holy Name Province are: St. John the Baptist in Waterville ME, Sowers of the Word in Windham ME, St. Joseph in Berlin NH, St. Anthony in Manchester NH, St. Anthony in Boston MA and St. Francis and Clare in Dorchester MA.

A warm Franciscan welcome, Father Gene!

**A heartfelt Farewell to the Little Brothers of St Francis**

For many years now, the Little Brothers have been welcome and regular guests at our Secular Franciscan events, and served as Spiritual Assistants to St. Paschal Baylon Fraternity in Roxbury MA. Their distinctive blue denim habits were always an inspiring sight knowing that this urban, contemplative community served the poor and homeless in Boston.

In their last newsletter in November 2012, Brother Didacus-Maria, LBSF, shared the sad news that the community was to disband. Their founder, Brother James Curran, LBSF, will be the only remaining vowed member of the community. Brother James founded the Little Brothers in 1970, and now lives at the Don Orione Nursing Home in East Boston MA.

Brother Didacus thanked all who had supported the community over the years in their ministry to the poor in these words:

"We could not have lived this beautiful life without your generosity all these years. We are so grateful for your financial and material support. Your encouragement and prayers for us, especially these past few years, have been a source of hope and strength for us. May God bless you abundantly for the sacrifices you have made for the Little Brothers of St. Francis and the poor we have had the privilege to serve."

We lift up in prayer all the brothers that Brother James has shepherded through the years, and we continue to embrace Brother James Curran himself in prayer, Franciscan love, and gratitude.

**Spiritual Assistant Workshop**

The CNSA (Conference of National Spiritual Assistants) will be meeting in September in Kennebunkport. They are offering a Spiritual Assistant Workshop for the SA's in our region on Wednesday, September 18th.

All SA's in our region (and some other regions) are invited as well as those in the SA course.

This is "awesome"! What a wonderful time to get together and share our experiences.

Ministers, please encourage your SA's to come.

Fraternally, Alice, OFS

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Regional Fraternity of  
the Secular Franciscan Order  
c/o Francine Gikow, OFS  
41 Sagamore DR  
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

#### Regional Chapter New Council Training

April 12th – 14th, 2013  
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