

Minister's Message

by Vickie Klick, SFO

Dear brothers and sisters,

For me, November is a tough month. The trees are mostly bare and the days are getting far too short. Even as I write this, I've already had frost on my car, so the delicate plants like tomatoes are already finished, and the perennials are starting to join the trees in leafless dormancy. The squirrels are still running around madly collecting food for the winter; most of nature is getting ready to hunker down for the cold months to come. Sometimes it seems that we don't see the sun for weeks at a time.

Perhaps those who decided this was the month to remember and honor the dead had some of the same issues with November that I do. It certainly is a time when our mortality is all too easy to remember as the last leaves blow away in the wind. Remembering those who have gone before us comes naturally. In fraternity, we should especially honor the part of Article 24 of our Rule that says, "The communion continues with deceased brothers and sisters through prayer for them." There are two special days for that prayer in November: a memorial for all Franciscan deceased on November 6 and the feast of all Franciscan saints on November 29.

However, November follows the harvest as well. This is a time when the fruitfulness of nature is "fully mature" - the natural time to give thanks for the bounty we have received as the land settles down for a well-deserved rest and a good excuse for a colorful feast in the gray days of November. In the church, we celebrate ending and fulfillment as well with the feast of Christ the King - the end of the liturgical year and the fullness of Christ's reign.

We Secular Franciscans of the Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity have more to celebrate in November than most, since our patroness' feast day is November 13. I am hoping to see many of you at the celebration at St. Peter's in the Loop on the feast itself, **Saturday, November 13, 10 A.M. - 3 P. M.** This year's celebration is notable for being hosted by the entire cluster of fraternities that meet at St. Peter's, and will include new

events to add deeper meaning to our celebration as well as giving us ample opportunity to "be fraternity" - one of the most important elements of ANY of our Franciscan events. I encourage you to either carpool or take the train together, and make even your travel time part of that "privileged place" of fraternal life.

In next month's column, I expect to be telling you about what happened at the National Chapter (coming up next week as I write this, October 26-31). This year is special because it is our fraternal and pastoral visitation from the Presidency of the Order, which only takes place once every six years. This will also be the first Chapter for the National Executive Council elected in 2009, and the first Chapter for many of new the Regional Ministers like me, so we'll be doing a lot of getting acquainted while we do the work of the Order. It'll be a very full week, but also a lot of fun! If you are reading this before Halloween, please include all of us at Chapter in your prayers. See you at St. Peter's on the 13th!

Peace and good, Vickie ☑

Announcing New Councilor for Youth and Youth Adults

The Regional Executive Council is very pleased to announce that Kristi Loar, SFO, is the newly appointed regional councilor for Youth and Young Adults. Kristi is a recently professed member of St. Francis - Fox Valley Fraternity. She has extensive experience working with youth and young adults, and brings a joyful and enthusiastic spirit to the position. If your fraternity is interested in taking steps to connect youth with St. Francis and the Franciscan charism, Kristi is ready to work with you! Please contact Kristi at youth@ilsfo.org if you would like to be come involved or have ideas for her.

Council Members

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Councilor for JPIC

Stephanie Sormane, SFO
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The SFO News is the official publication of the Mother Cabrini Regional Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order.

CALENDAR

Unless otherwise indicated, all events are at Mayslake Village (Oak Brook).

** Election & Visitation dates subject to change.*

February

14: Elections, St. Bernardine Siena

March

- 01: Fair Share, Census, and Annual Reports due
- 07: Elections St. Mary of the Angels at the Port
- 14: Visitation, St. Maximillian Kolbe
- 27: Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

April

- 10: Candidates' Retreat, Day 1
- 11: Elections St. Francis St. Louis
- 18: Visitation, St. Anthony of Padua, East Side

May

- 01: Candidates' Retreat, Day 2
- 15: Chapter of Ministers
- 16: Visitation, Nuestra Sra. de Guadalupe

June

26: Elections, St. Clare Kankakee

July

- 10: Leadership Workshop
- 17: Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 18: Elections, St. Francis Assisi Crystal Lake
- 25: Elections, St. Anthony of Padua, Rockford
- 25: Visitation, St. Anthony Padua, Oak Lawn

August

07: Regional Gathering, Feast of the Portiuncula

September

- 11: Elections, St. Anthony Padua, Joliet
- 17-19: Regional Retreat, The Port, Frankfort
- 26: Elections, St. Francis of Assisi, Steger

October

- 3: Elections, Living Waters Korean Fraternity
- 16: Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 19: Elections, Brother Jacoba Community
- 26-31: NAFRA Meeting

November

13: Mother Cabrini Feast Day Celebration (St. Peter's Church in the Loop)

Spiritual Assistant's Message

by Br. Joe Middleton, OFM

Dear Sisters and Brothers,


I am happy to let you know that I have safely returned to Chicago-land after a delightful Franciscan Study Pilgrimage in Italy. All of which will be the subject of future articles and conversations. However, this month's feature is about the special event which will occur at St Peter's Church in the Loop in honor of our regional patron Mother Cabrini on Saturday November 13th.

The day will begin earlier than in the past at 10:00 a.m. even before the church normally opens. You will be warmly received and admitted through the east door; the main doors won't be opened until 11:00 a.m. You will first check-in and register, receive your name tags and your schedule for the day, and then you will be invited to go up stairs (in the elevator) to the friars chapel for a prayerful visit. On your way there you can pay your respects and record your petitions at the shrine of Mother Cabrini which most people never get to see. Next you will be directed to go down one level to the choir loft to view close at hand the Cararra marble bas reliefs which depict some of the pivotal events in the life of St Francis. You will also have a demonstration of the great pipe organ of this church as well as another lofty view of this beautiful sacred space. You then will be invited to go down to the basement to visit St Peter's Books and Gifts which will be opened especially for our group on that day and don't forget to ask for your special 15% Franciscan discount.

We will then gather in the church for a solemn celebration of the sacred mysteries (Mass) and Mother Cabrini beginning at 12:00 noon. Following that we will return to the basement to the St Clare auditorium. There you will hear a little about St Peter's and

meet the Pastor Fr Kurt Hartrich. And then we will be treated to a presentation from Fr Bob Hutmacher who is the Director of Worship at St Peter's. He is also the founder and artistic director of Chiesa Nuova; nourishing the arts in Franciscan peace. This very gifted friar and composer will share some of his music with us as well as some stories from his Franciscan experience and heart. Then finally after all that we have done and all the grace poured out upon us there's nothing left for us to do but to feast, and feast we will with an abundant world buffet followed by a glorious array of heavenly desserts.

So there, now you have an idea of what to expect. This full day of Franciscan activity should conclude around 3:30/4:00. I encourage you to have a hearty breakfast before you come and I look forward to seeing you for this annual regional gathering.

I send my blessings and best wishes. Your brother Joe M, ofm 

Rest in Peace

Alice Zoda, SFO, long time fraternity member of the St. Francis Fox Valley fraternity, died on October 8th. Alice would have celebrated her 50th Anniversary as a Secular Franciscan in November.

Alice was not only very active in fraternity life (having served many roles on Council), but also served for many years on the Regional Council and was very active in St. Patrick's parish, particularly in the area of RCIA. She was also responsible for introducing many of the present day members of the fraternity to the SFO. She will be greatly missed.

We give thanks for the gift of Alice's life to our Order and pray that God grant comfort and peace to her friends and family.

Gloria Huerta, SFO
Editor 

In-Formation

By Patrick Mendes, SFO
Regional Formation Director

“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good ...”

As we reflect on these words from the Psalms, we can focus on the virtue of gratitude. This month we celebrate our Regional Feast Day, Mother Cabrini and the National holiday of Thanksgiving. November 13th, the feast of Mother Cabrini is also the anniversary of the establishment of our Region.

We have a vibrant, loving Regional family with brothers and sisters who are truly welcoming and filled with generosity of spirit. And so we strive to live more perfectly article 13 of the Holy Rule “As the father sees in every person the features of His Son, the first born of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.” We give thanks to the Lord for the gift of one another, companions, indeed brothers and sisters on the Franciscan journey together.

Paraphrasing article 22 of the Holy Rule we give thanks to the Lord for the local fraternity which is the basic unit of the whole Order and a visible sign of the Church, the community of love. Here is where we support each other on our Franciscan journey. A community of love” is a community with a grateful heart because we recognize God’s goodness to us and in us. We give thanks for the leaders of our local and Regional Fraternities who serve us faithfully and tirelessly.

As Thanksgiving day moves into the forefront of our minds, it is good for us to pause and reflect on all that we have been given, our vocations, our fraternities, our entire Order, our families, our health, our joys and even our sorrows for even they call to our attention God’s unfailing love as He strengthens and comforts us.

An idea I think worth sharing: perhaps we could select one or two things for which we are thankful, each day leading up to Thanksgiving Day, and reflect on God’s hand in them and His goodness to us and conclude our reflection with a simple “Thank you, Lord, for all your goodness to us. Help me to mirror that goodness to others each day.”

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus surround you with His love and fill your lives with His abundant blessings. I wish you a blessed and truly grateful Thanksgiving. 🙏

JPIC – Franciscan Mission Service

by Stephanie Sormane, SFO
Councilor for JPIC

I’m sure many of you receive mailings from Franciscan Mission Service, as do I. But how many of you know who they are and what they do? I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Mariam Mitry, one of their full-time volunteers, and am excited to share with you what I learned about what they do.

Franciscan Mission Service was founded in 1985 to give North American Catholic laity the experience of international mission in the Franciscan charism. Since the lay mission program sent its first missionaries in 1990, Franciscan Mission Service has trained, commissioned, and supported over 140 women and men for mission in 19 different countries. The majority of them have returned to take up work in the United States which allows them to engage in mission to the so-called developed world.

In the tradition of Sts. Francis and Clare, Franciscan Mission Service prepares and supports Catholic lay people for a mission of presence and service in solidarity with poor communities overseas. This transformational experience equips our women and men for a lifelong mission of social change in North America.

Franciscan Mission Service provides Catholic lay women and men the opportunity to serve and partner with poor and oppressed communities around the world. They train, commission, and support missionaries to serve others in a way that is respectful and honoring of cultural, religious, and personal differences.

Through their organization's mission, they continue the charism of the Franciscan family which has served in foreign lands since St. Francis himself went on mission to Egypt in 1219. Initially, the lay missionaries may not have extensive knowledge of the Franciscan charism; however, prospective missionaries need only show an openness to the Franciscan values of service to the marginalized, simplicity of lifestyle, and the desire to work actively for justice, peace, and integrity of all creation.

After 3-6 years of service overseas, the returning missionaries commit to a lifelong mission of social change in North America, serving in the places where they feel called.

JPIC - The DREAM Act

by Stephanie Sormane, SFO
Councilor for JPIC

Their core statements are:

- Belief in the transforming power of Christ's love in the world.
- Provide cross-cultural and theological mission formation.
- Support a "ministry of presence" according to the Franciscan charism.
- Have confidence in the wisdom of poor communities.
- Belief in the possibility to transform North American people and society through Returned Missioners
- Invest in partnerships to build global community

Their programs include:

- *Lay Missioner Formation* – prepares Catholic lay men and women for the spiritual and practical challenges of mission in a foreign country and culture
- *International Lay Mission* – supports missioners as they minister in impoverished communities, bearing witness to the Gospel in their actions and lifestyle.
- *Returned Missioner Support* – supports Returned Missioners in utilizing their mission experience for the renewal of North American Church and society.
- *Domestic Volunteer Service Program* – provides young Catholic Laity with the opportunity for service in our national office (like Mariam Mitry, with whom I met).

Their Board of Directors consists of 2 Returned Missioners (one of whom is President), 4 OFMs, 1 OFM Conventual, 1 OSF and 1 SFO (Tom Bello). Their staff is all lay people.

It's a huge commitment to become a missioner for 3-6 years, but some of us are called to this kind of service, and for those of us who are not, they deserve our support. The purpose of this article is to encourage support for Franciscan Mission Service, which I hope you will feel called to do now that you know more about them. For more information, check out their web site at www.franciscanmissionservice.org. ☑

Congratulations to Newly Elected Council Members:

Brother Jacoba Fraternity

Minister	Monica Marko, SFO
Vice Minister	Lyz Amarillo, SFO
Secretary	Araceli Ramos, SFO
Treasurer	Juanita Liepelt, SFO
Formation Director	Estrella Hernandez, SFO

Living Waters Fraternity

Minister	Agatha Song, SFO
Vice Minister	Min Ja Helena Oh, SFO
Secretary	Young Ki Magdalena Lee, SFO
Treasurer	Berta Kang, SFO
Formation Director	Therese Shin, SFO

Newly Professed

Congratulations to **Sue Bohlman, SFO** and **Cyndy Szymaszek, SFO** of Northwest Franciscan Community of the IHM (Palatine) who made their Professions on October 11.

Adult Education Opportunity

Fr. Tony Fox OFM Conv. will give a 6 week series of talks **beginning on Wednesday evening Nov. 3rd**, on the "History of the Catholic Church" at Marytown, 1600 W. Park Ave. Libertyville, IL. 60048 Phone 847-367-7800. www.marytown.com
The talks will follow Mass at 7:00 p.m. and last until 9:30 p.m.

November is the month for remembering all our dearly beloved who have gone before us. Let us pray...

Prayer (All Souls Day)

O God, the Maker and Redeemer of all believers: Grant to the faithful departed the unfathomable benefits of the passion of your Son; that on the day of his appearing they may be manifested as your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Amen