



The Herald

Newsletter of St. Elizabeth of
Hungary Regional Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order



Amazing Grace

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed."

This lovely old hymn was composed, as probably you already know, by a slave-ship owner and enslaver who, through the gift of God's grace, had a massive conversion of heart, mind, soul, and spirit over the period of his life. John Newton's hymn is an outpouring of gratitude and one of the most popular Christian hymns ever composed, I would imagine. I always weep whenever and wherever it is sung. Perhaps you do as well.

I've been thinking about the beatitudes today and how this hymn perfectly picks up on the first beatitude listed in Matthew, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." When we come to the marrow-deep understanding of our own wretchedness, we are at that point, "poor in spirit", and the kingdom of heaven opens. 'Tis an awesome grace to experience the gate swinging open, and the Light landing on us in our puddle of misery.

Jesus goes on to teach that blessed are they who mourn and who are meek, for they will be comforted and will inherit. There is something about remembering who we are in the eyes of God that brings us a deep healing, even as we mourn our state, and the state of the world. We are loved beyond and out of our wretchedness, once we embrace the fact that we are, indeed, wretched without God...very poor in spirit.

(Continued on Page 2)

Winter 2022

Spiritual Assistant's Message	1
From the Minister's Desk	2
Congratulations to the Newly Professed!	3
News from our Regional Spiritual Assistants	4
Regional Formation Director's Message	5
Blessed Lucius Fraternity 50th Anniversary	5
Justice, Peace and Care of Creation	6
New Fraternity Councils	6, 7 & 9
Local JPIC Award	7
FYIYA (YouFra) Update	7
Growing in Vulnerability	8
Our Franciscan Family—Featuring the Poor Clares	10
Requiescat in Pace	11
New Regional Council	12
Upcoming Events	12
Franciscan Day, 2021	12

(continued from page 1)

Without God, we do wretched things both to ourselves and others, even those we love. Once we begin to move out of the land of the lost; once we begin “to go thru many dangers, toils and snares,” Jesus teaches us that we ‘hunger and thirst for righteousness’, and we “will be satisfied.” There is a caveat, however, stated here and in the middle of the Lord’s prayer: we must remember to be “merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” We ‘forgive’ because we ‘have been forgiven.’

Jesus enjoins us to be ‘clean of heart’ to see God. The clean of heart are, only then, able to be the peacemakers who are the sons and daughters of God. And, growing in this amazing grace, they are also strong enough...not in themselves, but in Jesus who is in the Father...to be persecuted for the sake of righteousness, as were the prophets who were strong in His Spirit and went before us. The beatitudes start with the smallest admission of our poverty before God and through a series of ever-widening, ever-awakening states of grace, place us among the prophets before God! “When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise, Than when we’d first begun.” Amazing Grace!

Sarah Anderson, OFS
Regional Spiritual Assistant

From the Minister’s Desk
Theresa Pratt, OFS

Happy New Year! We can only pray that this year we will get back to pre-Covid normal.

In 2021, the Regional Executive Council was able to conduct a few Fraternal visits and a few fraternity elections. I would ask all councils to get their requests in to me for visits in 2022 as soon as possible. Our 2022 regional calendar is filling up fast.

On November 6, we had our Regional Elections. I hope you all received my announcement of the results, but just in case here is your new Regional Executive Council (see photograph on back cover):

Minister: Theresa Pratt, OFS
Vice Minister: Joe Makley, OFS
Treasurer: Robert Swegart, OFS
Secretary: Margaret Jankins, OFS
District 1 Councilor: Jane Hosmer, OFS
District 2 Councilor: Mary Stavro, OFS
District 3 Councilor: Dan Spofford, OFS
District 4 Councilor: Sue Ronan, OFS
District 5 Councilor: Ronald Lacey, OFS
District 6 Councilor: Donna Sullivan, OFS
(See photograph on back cover)

I look forward to working with the new council. When you see members of the Regional Executive Council, please thank them for their service. Please pray for our Regional Executive Council.

As you know from the Tau, National’s Chapter was via Zoom in October and their election chapter has been rescheduled to October 2022. The whole National Executive Council agreed to serve for an extra year. God bless them all!

The National Chapter was a wonderful gathering that included prayer, handling of business issues, sharing, and formation. Each year a Ceremony of Remembrance is held for our brothers and sisters who have died over the year. As always, it was a moving ceremony.

A new National theme was chosen ***Be strong, take courage, all you who hope in the Lord! (Ps. 31:25).*** My prayer is we all take these words to heart and contemplate them. May they inspire us to boldly work to strengthen and enliven our fraternities.

During the National Chapter, Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, talked to us about prophetic creativity. You can check out Jan Parker’s article in the past Tau for additional information on what this term means and resources available to you for on-going formation. Sr. Agnes said “look at your hands, the future of the Secular Franciscans in in your hands”.

We all need to look at our hands and consider what we need to do to build up the Secular Franciscan Order, starting with our local fraternity. We are all called to serve our order. We all have skills. Pray to the Holy Spirit to show you how to better serve the Secular Franciscan Order.

When we make our profession, after our three answers of “yes, this is what I want”, the Minister of the fraternity says:

The local fraternity is a visible sign of the Church, a community of faith and love. Together with all the members, you now pledge yourselves to spend your efforts to make the fraternity a genuine ecclesial assembly and a living Franciscan community.

Let us recommit ourselves to building up our fraternities through our service to our brothers and sisters using whatever God given skills we have to accomplish that.

In closing, I’d like to highlight a new series of Herald articles. In an effort to highlight our sisters and brothers in Franciscan first and second orders, we will have an article in each Herald introducing us to a community of Poor Clares or Franciscan Friars. If you would like to highlight a community for the next Herald, please let me know.

God bless! Theresa Pratt, OFS, Regional Minister

Congratulations to the Newly Professed!



Sowers of the Word, Windham ME
Shaun'h Fuegen—7/11/2021

Left: Shauna'h and her son Vincent, Deacon Peter Bernier, OFS, Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Peter Kaseta, OFM, Deacon Dennis Popadak, Sue Guertin, OFS, Minister, and Deacon Larry Guertin, OFS, Vice Minister & Formation Director.



Saint Michael & the 9 Choirs of Angels, Rochester NH
Joseph Blair—9/11/2021

Above: Joe Blair, Ed Hayes (Sponsor) and Gloria Hayes (Minister)



Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Fair Haven VT
Peter Patten—8/26/2021

With Fr. Maurice Moreau, OFM Cap, and Fr. John Tokaz, OFM Cap.



Saint Mary Portiuncula, Hanover MA
Joan Wolent—10/23/2021
Lauren Lyman—10/23/2021

Right: back row: Carol Draheim, Myra Doran, Margaret Jankins, Dave Tonaszuck. Front row: Newly professed Joan Wolent and Lauryn Lyman with her daughter.



Saint Francis, Tewksbury MA

Elaine Lareau—11/13/2021
Jacqueline Hebert—11/13/2021
Jose Javier Guevara—11/13/2021

With Fr. Quillin Bouzi, OMI
(celebrant, 3rd from left)

News from our Regional Spiritual Assistants

Welcome new RSAs

During my years as your Regional Spiritual Assistant, I have wanted to form a conference of RSAs. With a shortage of Spiritual Assistants, we are blessed to have three who are willing to form this conference.

Sarah Anderson, OFS, and **Pam Deres, OFS**, have been appointed by the First Order to serve with me as Regional Spiritual Assistants. Just as the Wise Men brought different gifts to Jesus, we each bring different gifts as servant leaders in our region.

Sarah has recently completed her term as a Regional Councilor and is a Spiritual Assistant to St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity in St. Johnsbury, VT. They love her as she loves them. She is a member of Sacred Heart Fraternity in Plattsburg, NY.

Pam has been an assistant to me helping with Pastoral Visitations and is a Spiritual Assistant to St. Bernard Fraternity in Leominster, MA, where she is a calming presence. She is a member of Greccio Fraternity in Derry, NH.

Some of the goals we will be looking at for our region are:

1. Facilitating the SA course
2. Establishing a connection with all of the SAs across our region via Zoom meetings, quarterly or monthly, offering support, answering questions, giving updates regarding their ministry, etc.
3. Brainstorming regarding our aging fraternities and hopefully engaging them and seeking their wisdom in Franciscan spirituality

Join me in thanking them for their "fiat" (Yes, Lord) in answering this call.

"Praise God from Whom all blessings flow",

Alice

Spiritual Assistant Course

We are ready to offer a Spiritual Assistant Course. Hopefully, Covid will cooperate.

If you believe you have a call to be a Spiritual Assistant, let Alice know. If you believe someone in our region would be a good Spiritual Assistant, recommend this person to Alice.

Meanwhile, I recommend you read "Franciscan Family Connections", a book required for the course. Pray with it, discern with it, decide if you are called to this ministry and, if this is what you want. Remember your Profession, saying "This is what I want". You can get this book at:

Smoky Valley Printing
PO Box 189
Lindsborg, KS 67456
lindabce@kans.com

All requests to take this course must be in by April 15, 2022 (Good Friday).

This will give you a lot of time to pray and discern. What a wonderful reflection for Lent! Are you ready to be a Servant Leader in this ministry?

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Alice at: (978) 345 6609, aliceofs@comcast.net

Be assured our new Conference of RSAs will be praying for you in this time of discernment and thanking God for your willingness to serve as a Spiritual Assistant in our region.

Many blessings to you in this New Year,

Sarah, OFS
Pam, OFS
Alice, OFS

Visitations

As you know, Covid has interfered with Fraternal and Pastoral Visitations. Be assured, we miss meeting with you. We miss you, we care about you and we look forward to coming together to see how you are doing, to offer our support and our help in these chaotic times.

Our plan is to arrange a schedule so that you will have a connection, at least once a year, with your regional servant leaders-one year for elections, one for a fraternal visitation and one year for a pastoral visitation.

We need you to make a request 6 mo. ahead for what you need. It is part of our vocation to receive visitations.

It will take time to "catch up"-"we are ready and willing"! May this New Year bring all of us to a better place and gift us with wholeness of body, mind and spirit.

Much Love, Alice, OFS

Formation

Stephen Shields, OFS

Hello Everyone - I pray that all of you are having a wonderful and hope-filled New Year. God knows the past two years have been difficult for all of us, and have challenged us in many ways. We have all been impacted by this pandemic and we have all felt loss.

It is a sad observation with this pandemic that while some people can have very light symptoms, others may become very ill, and others die. This same disparity seems to apply to families, institutions, businesses and organizations. While some fraternities have done very well through the pandemic, others have struggled. Some of our brothers and sisters have grown with their fraternities through these difficult times, while others have disengaged. It is important to recognize that to be purveyors of hope, we must all grow in our Franciscan charism and continue the process of formation.

This year, our formation team has been asked to focus our efforts on increasing Servant Leadership throughout the Region. Just as St Francis' willingness to embrace poverty was a response to his times, our growth as Franciscan servant leaders can be a response to ours. It represents a Gospel-centered approach that helps us prepare for leadership and problem solving in a time when it is most needed. Servant leadership is not just for those members who are ministers, or on councils or committees. All of us encounter situations where servant leadership is needed on a daily basis. Our growth as servant leaders has a positive impact on us and on our Order when it is most needed.

Through 2022, our Formation team will be rolling out new ways for you to better understand servant leadership and grow as servant leaders. This year we will be reaching out to you in multiple ways, including a Formation Conference (scheduled 9/30 through 10/2).

Along with our local and regional efforts, we will also continue to share the "Formation Fridays" emails that are being sent out by Diane Menditto (National Formation). If you are not receiving these emails, please reach out to your Formation Director to make sure they get you on their distribution.

Our Regional Formation team is looking forward to working with all of you in the coming year. If you have any questions about formation, please don't hesitate to reach out to your District representative on the formation team, or to me directly, and we will work to get you the answers you need.

District 1: Tom Giblin, tomg@sover.net

District 2: Steve Shields sms.sfo@gmail.com

District 3: Pat Brandwein-Ball, patbball76@yahoo.com

District 4: Teresa Baker, tbakerofs@gmail.com

District 4: Mary Galpin, galpinmh@comcast.net

District 5: Francine Gikow, gikow0-ofs@yahoo.com

District 6: Jack McDermott, ljm003jack@netscape.net

Peace and All Good!

Steve Shields, OFS
Regional Formation Director
sms.sfo@gmail.com



Blessed Lucius Fraternity, Brockton MA 50th Anniversary Celebration

Blessed Lucius Fraternity, Brockton, Massachusetts, was established on February 16, 1971 at the Chapel of Our Saviour at Westgate Mall. The Friars of the Atonement had come to Brockton from Garrison, New York, at the request of Cardinal Cushing of Boston. He wanted to establish chapels at malls, so that it was convenient for people. Two were established: the

Chapel of Our Saviour and St. Francis Chapel in the Prudential Center, Boston.

Cardinal Cushing contacted a friar at the Chapel in Brockton and told them that there was a group of Secular Franciscans meeting at St. Edward's in Brockton (they were professed in Boston) and they should be meeting at a Franciscan Chapel. The five members moved to the Chapel and for the last 50 years, Franciscans have met at the Chapel of Our Saviour.

We celebrated our 50th anniversary with a Mass and reception open to all on August 14, 2021. It was a joyous occasion!

Front row left to right: Roberta Fitzgerald, Anne Daunt, Heather Cherniack, Maureen Pratt, Mary Carew, Mary Hughes

Back row left to right: Theresa Pratt, Kevin Smith, Fr. Ken Cienik, SA, Fr. Paul Ring, Maria Joia, Nancy Smith, Mark Haggerty

Justice, Peace and Care of Creation How Can I Serve You?

Lynette Dobbs, OFS

As I think about Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation, I see many areas where action is needed. At home, there are issues within families such as the lack of communication, love, and structure. So many of our families are broken! In our communities, many are dealing with issues of poverty, mental health, unemployment, drugs, and the list can go on. In our nation there are issues of racism, dignity of life, immigration, climate change and this list can also go on. As can the list of issues facing us worldwide. Things like the potential for war, economics, and religious freedom. The list of injustices against one another and against creation in our world today is inexhaustible and many of these result in a struggle for peace.

God calls each of us to respond to these injustices. The Bible guides us with the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. It enriches us with the stories of how Our Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles dealt with many of these same concerns in their time. Our Seraphic Father, St. Francis follows the example of Christ and becomes an example of how we can respond in our time. The Rule of 1978 gives us a guide using Articles 14-19 to show us how to live in a way that promotes Justice, Peace, and Integrity for Creation.

But where do we start? Prayer! Through prayer and contemplation, God will show us what is ours to do. We must then educate ourselves as to how to accomplish that which God has called us to. Then we must act on it and be an example for others to follow.

You don't have to start big. Some are called to live the Rule in very simple ways; others are called to bigger ways. St. Francis has been quoted as saying, "Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

Through prayer and contemplation, I have come to understand the role God has for me as one that serves the lost and forgotten. Throughout my life, I've often enjoyed spending time with people who 'didn't fit in' with those in their communities. This was true whether I was at work or at home. Several years ago, our parish decided they wanted a way to get to know the people served at the ecumenical food pantry housed in the parish basement. It was suggested I set this up. But how?

Knowing that many people seeking assistance with food would want to get their food and go, we decided to develop a Resource Café. Here we not only would offer free refreshments, but also resource material to help folks know where they could access help from surrounding

agencies and businesses. It took time, but it worked! People have gone from dashing in and out without making much eye contact, to taking a seat and sharing what is new in their life, what is troubling or exciting them, or just enjoying the hospitality of a hot cup of coffee on a freezing cold day. It's amazing to watch how relationships develop between those being served with one another and with the volunteers or parishioners who decide to stop by and sit a while. Not only evident is the dignity and respect people are feeling, but all involved (those serving, those being served and those visiting) are learning how much we all have in common. Many people have also benefited from the resources we have available. Who knows where this will lead as we move forward?

I share this as we all have stories and I'd love to hear yours. What are you as an individual or as a fraternity doing to bring about peace and justice? What are you doing to help with the care of creation? What issues 'set you on fire'? What would you like to know more about? Whether as an individual or as a fraternity, how can I help you to live out Articles 14-19 of the Rule of 1978 that we have all professed to live by?

Remember, I am here to serve you! As St. Francis said as he was dying, "I have done what is mine to do, now may Christ teach you what is yours to do".

Congratulations to the new Council of 7 Joys of the BVM, Kennebunk ME Elected 9/19/2021



Treasurer—Donna Landolfi, Formation Director—Lisa Arbogast, Spiritual Assistant—Fr John Bacevicius, Minister—Pat Brandwein-Ball, Councilor at large—Debby Bean, Vice Minister—Suzanne Legg, Secretary—Lucille Roy

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Regional Website
Webmaster—Stephen Shields, OFS, sms.sfo@gmail.com
The website address is: <http://stelizabethOFS.org>

St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity Presents Local JPIC Award

On July 18, 2021, St. Mary of the Angels Secular Franciscan Fraternity in St. Johnsbury presented Mary Hahn Beerworth a JPIC award for her 25 years of dedicated service as Vermont Right To Life Executive Director.

Over 70 years ago the United States Secular Franciscan Order established the JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) Award to recognize those persons who are dedicated to promoting justice, peace and care of creation by the testimony of their lives.

Our local fraternity, St. Mary of the Angels, has chosen to take this one step further and seek to acknowledge an individual in our local area who promotes these values in a significant way.

Mary Hahn Beerworth has been exceptionally committed to this vital ministry of protecting, respecting and care of all life. She has exemplified this through media, speaking engagements, supporting Right to Life groups, marches, pregnancy centers, and distributing information to schools, civic groups, churches and Vermont Legislature. A plaque was presented to Mary by Anne Cote, Fraternity Vice Minister. The fraternity was joined in the presentation by Caledonia Right to Life members followed by a potluck meal.

If anyone is interested in more information about these two groups, they may call Caledonia Right to Life secretary Sally Young @802 748-3930, or Secular Franciscan Anita Wellman @ 802 751-5318.

See another article about peace and justice activities on page 8.

Congratulations to the new Council of St. Francis, Milton MA Elected 10/5/2021



Vice Minister—Norma Springer, Minister—Roberta Oliveira, Councilor—Donna Sullivan, Treasurer—Linda Belliveau, Spiritual Assistant—Sr. Mary Dolorey, Secretary—Mary Ann Barresi, Director of Formation—John Barresi, Presider—Margaret Jankins

Where Do We Go From Here? FY/YA Update

Heather Cherniack, OFS

The good news is that this article will be short. The bad news is that this article is incredibly difficult to write. New Year's brings time for recollection and assessment. What is probably our last Holy Spirits series will soon be posted to the Regional Website and it was amazing for the small group that attended. However, I was saddened to hear that not everyone heard the news about the series.

I have been the FY/YA (YouFra) Commission Chair for six years. For those that do not know I was professed in 2015 and was appointed to this position shortly after. I also hold a Masters in Pastoral Studies with a Concentration in Pastoral Care and Counseling and am a member of the National FY/YA (YouFra) Commission. Last year we added a YouFra Regional Spiritual Assistant, Fr. Joe Powell, OFM, to the Regional Commission team. He is the Parish Administrator for St Thomas Aquinas Parish in Derry, NH. We have conducted three in-person Holy Spirits Sessions, Two Advent Virtual Holy Spirits Series, One Lenten Holy Spirits Series, and one Covid Holy Spirits Series. We have also conducted four Fraternity education sessions as well as one Mass at the Beach as an outreach session. I, myself, in order to be better educated in what we would need going forward attended and became certified as a Protecting God's Children Facilitator in the Archdiocese of Boston. This was so that our team could better serve and assist Fraternities moving forward in youth and young adult ministry.

However, we have had very small turn out at events. This does not mean that videos are not available to use as formation sessions for later years, but we see the same small group. We love them and there is much formation being done. However, the mission is not being met. Fraternities are not engaging in the program. We have also asked for a volunteer to start training, in this position. During the National Animator training we did have three Franciscans complete the Animator training. However, two of those Franciscans are already in Regional level positions. The third is a Fraternal Animator. We have received no volunteers. At this point Fr. Joe and I will be recommending that we enter into a period of discernment of where to go from here. This will need to be discussed and voted on by the Regional Ministers. However, it may be time for the Holy Spirit to guide us into the next Chapter and find a different starting point and jumping off place.

Thank you to all who have supported this ministry and given feedback through the last six years.

Growing In Vulnerability

Sarah Anderson, OFS

One of the most powerful Christmas sermons I ever heard was given by a pastor about 40 years ago who had visited a state institution outside Boston where youngsters were housed because they were born with developmental disabilities affecting intelligence. It was a heart-rending sermon where questions of “Where is God in all this misery?” kept surfacing through the descriptions of horrific conditions inflicted on the poor innocents who inhabited that institution. The conditions imposed upon people, like today, are inflicted because of ignorance, lack of humility, apathy, indifference, fear, and blindness. They are not, necessarily, the result of worker cruelty, although that did and does occur as well. It is easy to blame the state, the government, the understaffed administrations, the individual workers, or even Government with a BIG G. But in truth, every heart that closes itself off to the misery of brother and sister becomes guilty of the state of the world. And every heart that excuses itself from doing what it can is complicit. Thank God we have Jesus to lift us out this collective guilt, cleanse us, and **send us back into the fray** to simply do what we can, in His name. For He Himself was born in a most vulnerable state, slept in a manger for feeding animals, and smelled dung his first wee Christmas night.

I think Franciscans are meant to pray and to descend time and time again into that fray of vulnerability with God’s nudge or all-out push behind us. This is the story of one such descent by Sacred Heart Fraternity in Plattsburgh, NY which, over the past year from December 2020 to the present, has been growing into the vulnerability of brothers and sisters housed at a place called “City Motel.” The City Motel is symbolic of what happens to people who have fallen through most of the protective layers that government and non-government entities have tried to weave. When the people fall, they land in rodent and bug-infested small motel rooms, with lack of sanitary water, and very poor heating. They end in space once meant for folks who would vacation for a few days when the rooms were posh. Now, in totally rundown conditions, the rooms are relegated to people and families who are also rundown, where they live sometimes for years, if they aren’t living outside under bridges.

Fraternity members who have passed this motel for years began to see that they could, as a group, begin a new apostolate. And so, they tentatively began. To celebrate 60+ years of Father Norman Cote being a priest in the area (and the Spiritual Assistant of Sacred Heart), the members, for a very special 2020 Christmas project, put together a care packet to the 31 residents of the City Motel each comprised of two gift cards to Family Dollar

and Stewart’s, a religious Christmas card, and a copy of the Gospel of St. John printed off and tied with ribbon. The residents loved the surprise and there was not a single surly response but rather tears and laughter. And, the Franciscans’ hearts all grew larger and more loving. As one member put it, “Now I actually feel like a real Franciscan!”

It didn’t stop there...in April of 2021 the group went to the motel and cleaned, from top to bottom, one resident’s room. This resident could be one of the most distressing cases at the motel, so challenging is this person’s life! A new bed and trips to purchase food were part of this service weekend. In July of 2021, the fraternity gave its annual picnic...but chose to hold it near the Motel and invite the residents. Only six residents ventured forth to frolic with the Franciscans but the bonds were strengthened immeasurably as families of Franciscans assisted in transporting, serving and socializing with these folks, now becoming friends. Bibles were given to those who indicated they would like a Bible.

From the picnic came the idea to serve a meal, once a month and beginning in September individual members have rotated to take the lead. A menu flyer is sent a few days in advance asking for residents to ‘reserve’ a meal if interested by calling. Then the meal is taken and given to those who have responded...plus a few extra to those who have no phone. Our most recent distribution took place in December 2021 with 20 meals. The meals were given in conjunction with this year’s Christmas project which was the distribution of a warm blanket to every resident of the motel with a religious Christmas card rejoicing in God’s gift of Jesus to all. Who knows what 2022 will bring, but everyone at Sacred Heart Fraternity has agreed that the residents of City Motel have helped us make our professions come alive! We are becoming Franciscans in the fray, and, please God, we will continue to grow in vulnerability by caring for others who are at their most vulnerable. When we do that, we are right there in the stable with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Photo Credits:

Front Cover: Nicole Montereina

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/montereina/4000341320/>
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Back Cover inset: Leo Reynolds, “Benedicat tibi Dominus PAX et BONIM”,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/lwr/30158802562> (Creative Commons License—permission by attribution)

All other photos in this issue were shared by members of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Region. A sincere thank you to all our photographers. Keep the great pictures coming!

Congratulations to Newly Elected Councils

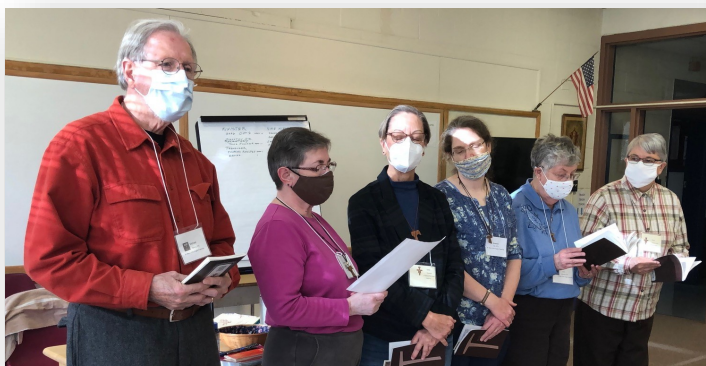
(Continued from Page 6 and 7)

Greccio—Derry NH Elected 10/2/2021



Spiritual Assistant—Br. Damian Johnson, Treasurer—Don Brown, Vice Minister—Mary Galpin, Formation Director—Jim Monteiro, Minister—Sue Ronan, Councilor—Larry Magnoni, Councilor Diane Cunningham, Councilor—Al Howard

St. Mary of the Angels, St. Johnsbury VT Elected 11/21/2021



Secretary—Michael Morely, Minister—Anne Cote, Formation Director—Jane Hosmer, Vice Minister—Shoshana Cote, Councilor—Joan Ouimette, Treasurer—Frances Rawden

The Herald

52 Frederick St Unit 18,
Dracut, MA 01826

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Schedule of Newsletter Deadlines:

Summer 2022 Issue—June 15, 2022

Winter 2023 Issue: December 31, 2023

St. Michael & the 9 Choirs, Rochester, NH— Elected 11/21/2021



Heather Cherniack and Sue Ronan (witness and presider), Treasurer—Louise LaMarca-Gay, Vice Minister—John Wentworth, Secretary—Holly Wentworth, Minister—Gloria Hayes, Councilor—Ed Hayes, Councilor—Linda Howlett, Formation Director—Armand Villemont.

St. Margaret of Cortona, Roxbury MA— Elected 12/5/2021



Spiritual Assistant—Fr. Claudino Vieira, OFM CAP., Secretary—Manuel Montiero, Formation Director: - Sergio Monteiro, Treasurer—Moises N. Martins, Vice Minister—Sebastiana Lopes Carvalho, Minister—Maria de Lourdes Gomes



A joyful reunion of long-time friends at Franciscan Day, August 21st, 2021. Pat Mountain and Miriam Kennedy reminisced about a “road trip” across the top of the region to visit several fraternities in 2015. See article about Franciscan Day on back cover.

Our Franciscan Family

We hope to be able to feature a different Franciscan community in each issue of the Herald in order to raise awareness of the richness of our Franciscan Charism.

A Glimpse into the Lives of the Poor Clares, Monastery of St. Clare, Andover, Massachusetts Gloria Goodnow, OFS

In the historic town of Andover, MA, approximately 35 miles North of Boston, you will find the Monastery of St. Clare situated on quiet River Road which runs alongside the Merrimac River. A silver Cross adorns the pinnacle of the Chapel and just below is a statue of St. Clare firmly holding a Monstrance. A small wooden sign at the driveway entrance welcomes visitors.

Six Poor Clares and one Postulant physically reside in the Monastery: Abbess (Sister Therese Marie), Sister Mary, Sister Mary Theresa, Sister Mary Angela, Sister Mary Paul, Sister Mary Juliana and Postulant Marie. Three other Poor Clares reside in nursing homes: Sister Cecelia, Sister Mary Clare, and Sister Christina. At the time of this writing, Sister Cecelia passed into eternal life December 6, 2021.

The Sisters at St. Clare are a loving, synergistic community sharing their varied talents and complimentary charisms. There is heartfelt warmth in their welcome in the true Franciscan spirit of joy.

Their daily lives consist primarily of private and communal prayer and penance. The Sisters may rise as early as 3 AM for private prayer. At 10 of 6 the Sisters gather in the Chapel for communal prayer.

Their prayer schedule, before the Blessed Sacrament and the Limpas Crucifix, includes: Hymns of adoration to the Blessed Sacrament. Prayers are offered for the Holy Souls and those who are to die that day, as well as for peace, vocations, and requested prayer intentions. The Angelus, the Divine Office, Novenas and the Rosary are also prayed.

All attend a Communal meal at noon. After evening prayer, the Sisters may use this time for personal reading or other prior to retiring for the night.

Abbess and Novice Directress (Sister Therese Marie)

Sister Therese focuses primarily on the Sisters' needs, candidate formation, and the Monastery's business. She teaches candidates the customs, the Divine Office and other relevant prayers, and arranges for Priests to provide

instructional "mini retreats".

Sister Therese reads and responds to community mail and vocation inquiries.

Sister Therese oversees maintenance and ensures that fire/sprinkler systems/alarms/etc. are routinely inspected.

Sister Therese makes music selections related to the Gospel and the Saint of the Day, coordinating with the musician.

Sister Mary

Sister Mary has been confined to a wheelchair since her stroke. Sister Mary Theresa helps her daily. Sister Mary, astonishingly, has catalogued books for their library numbering 4,000+.

Sister Mary is the original designer of the Monastery in that she provided a hand drawn sketch to the Architect who used them to develop his blueprints. Sister Mary strategically laid out rooms, windows, and corridors for efficiency as well as to maximize natural light throughout. Each room has a five foot window. There are skylights in the Chapel and a couple of enclosed glass solarium spaces, lending themselves to tranquility in bringing in nature and natural light.

At one time, Sister Mary designed and created the Priests' vestments, stoles, and albs.

Sister Mary Theresa

Sister Mary Theresa stays current with her RN certifications. She uses her skills assisting Sister Mary and any other Sisters in need. She was a Nurse and Chaplain prior to entering the Monastery. She had originally thought she would continue her work in hospitals with the infirm. God had other plans for her. When she entered the Monastery for the first time, she knew immediately that this is where God was calling her. Providentially, she was "the answer to another's prayers"- Sister Mary,- who had been praying for a Nurse to help the community. At St. Clare's, Sister Mary Theresa provided nursing care and comfort to 10 Sisters and journeyed with them until they entered eternal life.

Sister attended daily Mass since 1988 and she is responsible for the placement of the outdoor sign at the driveway entrance welcoming visitors to join them at daily Mass. Sister Mary Theresa is also responsible for the Refectory.

Sister Mary Angela

Sister Angela is responsible for the kitchen and the preparation of weekend meals for the community. There is often a Tanzanian flavor to it. Tanzania is her native homeland. She has a passion for cooking and it complements her hospitality.

Sister Angela is very eager to improve her English speaking skills and is committed to learning using the internet and YouTube tutorials. Sister Angela has a lovely flower garden with the rose garden being especially beautiful.

Sister Mary Paul

Sister Mary Paul's duties vary. She is the phone receptionist and acts as a "porter" to greet visitors. She prepares outgoing mail, pays bills and prepares deposits. When prayers are requested, Sister Mary Paul promises to pray for those incoming intentions. Sister Mary Paul also maintains a small garden in season and plants carrots specifically for the rabbits to divert them away from the other plants. Sister Mary Paul is also from Tanzania bringing the beauty of cultural diversity.

Sister Mary Juliana

Sister Mary Juliana is the Sacristan, preparing and maintaining the Chapel. At 5:45 AM she puts on the lights in the Chapel to embark on Adoration and morning prayers. She arranges the flowers, places Altar linens and the cruets, lights candles, sets out vestments for the priest, and places the daily Mass intention for the Priest's use. She sets out the Altar bread. Sister Juliana also washes the vestments.

Sister Juliana, from Nigeria, is in formation and has taken her temporary vows and she receives religious courses from Priests and other vocation programs.

Summary

The Poor Clares are a congenial, hospitable, loving and welcoming community. Their love for Christ, our Blessed Mother, and one another is their way of life, following in the footsteps of St. Clare and Seraphic St. Francis.

Abbess Therese Marie welcomes inquiries about life in community at the Monastery of St. Clare and a vocation as a Poor Clare. She encourages those who feel they may have a calling or a spiritual curiosity to be in touch with her personally: 978 683 7599. She will joyously share those insights.

Gloria Goodnow is a candidate in St. Francis Fraternity, Tewksbury, MA. She is a dear friend of the Poor Clares.

Sites to See

Catholic Climate Covenant inspires US Catholics to care for creation and care for the poor.

To learn more, visit:

<http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org> and see them on YouTube at [Catholic Climate Covenant - YouTube](#)

Check out the new "Pray With Us" tab on the National Website home page: <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/>

Requiescat in Pace

St. Anthony—Roxbury MA

Alice O'Donnell—3/19/2021

Terry Kingston—5/9/2021

Joseph Ralph—8/13/2021

Saint Bernard, Leominster MA

Fred Pierce—5/13/2021

Joyce Maxim—8/4/2021

St. Francis of Assisi, Lewiston ME

Kathleen D'Amboise—5/16/2021

Cecile Hecker—6/11/2021

St. Mary of the Angels, St. Johnsbury VT

Germaine Desilets—6/12/2021

Kenneth Poirier—11/10/2021

Blessed Lucius, Brockton MA

Francis L Gammon—7/3/2021

Sacred Heart, Plattsburg NY

Paul LaFontaine—7/7/2021

Saint Francis, Milton MA

Ellen Gill—7/20/2021

Saint Francis of Assisi, Medford MA

Nancy Canada—8/29/2021

Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Fair Haven VT

Cassius Burlette—9/6/2021

St. Anthony, Nashua NH

Jeannine Boyer—10/1/2021

Saint Francis, Tewksbury MA

Gladys Dyer—10/4/2021

St. Michael & the 9 Choirs of Angels, Rochester NH

Melanie Villemont—10/19/2021

St. Mary Portiuncula, Hanover, MA

Charles Donovan—12/15/2021

"Our brothers and sisters, were washed clean in baptism and nourished with the Body and Blood of the Lord in the Eucharist. As Secular Franciscans, they were united more closely with the Lord and with us through the observance of our way of life. As they strove to follow this Rule of Life, may the Lord now take them to Himself and grant them a place among His saints in glory. "

From the Franciscan Wake Service—St. Margaret of Cortona Region
<https://secularfranciscansusa.org/franciscan-wake-services/>



Newly Elected St. Elizabeth of Hungary Regional Council:

From left to right:

Sarah Anderson, OFS, and Alice Aubuchon, OFS—Regional Spiritual Assistants
Dorothea MacNeil, OFS, (Presider, Regional Minister of Blessed Solanus Casey Region)
Donna Sullivan, OFS— District 6 Councilor
Sue Ronan, OFS—District 4 Councilor
Theresa Pratt, OFS— Regional Minister
Joe Makley, OFS-Regional Vice Minister
Mary Stavro, OFS-District 2 Councilor
Margaret Jankins, OFS-Regional Secretary
Ronald Lacey, OFS-District 5 Councilor
Jane Hosmer, OFS-District 1 Councilor
Dan Spofford, OFS-District 3 Councilor
Bob Swegart, OFS-Regional Treasurer



Upcoming Events

2022 Regional Chapter

3/25/2022—3/27/2022

St. Anthony Monastery, Kennebunk, ME

2022 Regional Retreat

5/13/2022—5/15/2022

St. Anthony Monastery, Kennebunk, ME

2022 Franciscan Day

Saturday, 8/27/2022

St. Anthony Monastery, Kennebunk, ME

2022 Formation Conference

9/30/2022—10/2/2022

St. Anthony Monastery, Kennebunk, ME

Franciscan Day, August 28th, 2021

During the easing of Covid restrictions this summer, we were finally able to celebrate a long-standing tradition in our Region—Franciscan Day. We gathered outdoors by Mary's grotto. We prayed the Franciscan crown together, enjoyed each other's company, and, of course, broke bread together with our own "bag lunches". There were 39 of us from eleven of our fraternities, from Cape Cod to Plattsburg NY.

Happily, being outside drew the attention of some of the vacationing guests from the Franciscan Guest House. One young woman joined us with her little baby, who stole the

show. Another couple brought their guitar out to our gathering and asked if they could provide a little background music for us. It was beautiful! We were also joined by two young Franciscan Sisters from Norway, ME.

Pictured on the left: Mary Ann Barresi, Elaine Lareau, Pat Brandwein-Ball and John Barresi.

