

THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY
of
THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER



Newsletter

Fall, 1990

THE NAME OF MARY

James David Lynch, SFO
National Minister

The name, Mary, is found among the Jews in days of the Old Testament. Since the coming of Christianity it has been a most cherished name. Frequently, when we utter the word Mary, we are referring to an ordinary being, but, when we kneel in prayer and invoke God's Mother by name, the word Mary takes on a new and heavenly meaning. It now becomes a sacred name. It brings to our minds the Queen of Heaven with all her wonderful graces and privileges.

In prayer we utter the words, "Hail, Mary... blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus." We instantly realize that we are addressing the highest of all human beings. Most firmly do we believe that we are speaking to the highest of all human beings. Most firmly do we believe that we are speaking the name of her whose Son is truly God, truly man, and the Savior of the world.

When we repeat the holy name of Mary in prayer, we are aware that we are invoking

the only person in the world's history who was always free from the darkness of sin.

Our thoughts flash back across the years to that winter's day in Lourdes when St. Bernadette knelt at the grotto of Massabielle and asked the beautiful lady who she was. "Who are you? What is your name, please?" asked the child. And the Lady answered humbly in a voice trembling with emotion, "I am the Immaculate Conception." I am the Immaculate Lady known to you all by the name of Mary. The voice was the voice of her whose name is Mary.

Next to the word, Jesus, Mary is the first word a mother will teach her children. The sick and suffering invoke it in their distress; the dying whisper it as life is departing. Everywhere in the world, in the fields, in the streets of the cities, in the mountains, on ships at sea, at desert outposts, in convent chapels, in our churches, in planes above the clouds, there daily ascends to heaven the joyous praise of a million hearts: "Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother!"

As Franciscans, let us often invoke the name of Mary, "our life, our sweetness, and our hope."

IN IMITATION OF CHRIST

Rev. Francis A. Lonsway, OFM Conv.
National Spiritual Assistant

We cannot approach Fall without thinking of the two great feasts of Saint Francis, the Stigmata (September 17th) and the celebration of his resurrection (October 4th). The first commemorates his near perfect identification with the suffering and death of Jesus Christ; the second, his return to the Father whom he loved so deeply.

It is uncomfortable for us to think of the pain of Saint Francis at the very time we want to celebrate his memory. It is a side of life of our Founder that we oftentimes prefer to forget.

I have been celebrating my Silver Jubilee of ordination all year, although only March 13th technically qualifies. Early on I decided what I was going to do with the gifts I might receive. The Catholic Conference Center, already home to Saint Bonaventure House, needed a trail and an outdoor statue in honor of Saint Francis.

There are two options for life-size statues. The one surrounds Francis with birds and other animals. The other, with hands scarred by the stigmata, has our Founder contemplating the cross with a skull at his feet, a sign of his identification with the early great monks and penitents.

I chose the latter representation so that all who visit the Center can be caught up in Saint Francis' commitment to follow Christ perfectly. I offer you the same opportunity. Revel in Francis' love of all creation, but recognize the full extent of his love in imitation of Christ.

PLEASE REMEMBER -

Rev. Antonio Pedrelli, OFM Conv. who died July 26, 1990 following a long illness. The

funeral was held in the Basilica of the Twelve Apostles, the Conventual Curia in Rome; burial was in Bologna.

Father Antonio served as a General Spiritual Assistant until ill health forced his retirement a few years ago. In 1985, the National Fraternity welcomed him as pastoral visitor at Mount Saint Francis, Indiana.

Another of his long time services was as a regular confessor at Saint Peter's, Rome.

ON SECULAR FRANCISCANS

To Secular Franciscans of Italy

"The Secular Franciscan Order, as is well known, represents the most ancient form of organization of lay people who, under the guidance of the Church, fraternally united, and inspired by the charism of St. Francis, are committed to bearing witness to the Gospel by their lives, dedicating themselves to the apostolate according to the various forms required by the conditions proper to their lay state. Called to live in the world but impelled by the Holy Spirit to reach the perfection of charity, on the model of the life of the Seraphic Poverello of Assisi, you work in the world like a ferment, filled with the Christian spirit, conscious of having to journey generously on the way of holiness."

ON FRANCISCAN INSPIRATION (op. cit.)

"Today also the basic rule of all the children of St. Francis in the Secular Order asks that they conform their own way of thinking and acting to that of Christ, through a radical internal change and a true conversion brought about day by day. Consider then how valuable is the rule of life proposed by your order. The modern man and woman, caught up in the consumer society, needs to rediscover a true orientation for the plan of life's daily choices."

FRANCIS' VISION OF UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD

Reflection by Rev. Lawrence Landini, OFM

Like that other great poet of Italy, Dante Alighieri, Francis had clear eyes that picked out the hideous beasts, the sinister creatures stalking the world. These beasts are the murder called warfare, its root which is hatred, the poison of envy, the ferment of unrest, the seductive lust for power. Francis challenged the beasts of his day with the most peaceful and powerful of weapons - Christ.

Francis and his early followers had a vision of Christ which made them incredibly happy. If we could see as they saw, we too would be blest. Those Franciscan men and women saw the image, the likeness of Christ in the brows and wrinkles of human faces. They saw what the later English Jesuit poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, painted in words:

Christ truly plays in ten thousand places,
lovely in limbs,
and lovely in eyes not his,
Top the Father, through the features of
men's faces. (Poem 57)

Those early Franciscans not only saw more deeply; they reflected back what they saw. People saw in Francis' eyes their dignity, their beauty. Often without a word, the early Franciscans announced good news. Long before Don Quixote, those troubadours from Assisi sang their Dulcinea to all the sinners of their day and sang many Aldonzas into the Kingdom of God.

Francis inspired his followers to dream impossible dreams for humanity, because he knew that even sordid facts about people are lies about their true identity. Francis and his followers perceived men and women as pearls of great price for whom Christ, their brother, had sold everything - even his life - to possess.

Franciscans, like everyone else, can certainly find truth, goodness and beauty in great and lofty works of art, in towering mountains, deep canyons and vast seas. The unique Franciscan contribution to the world through almost eight centuries was summed up by the Oxford professor friar and bishop Robert Grosseteste: "Franciscans can find God's truth, beauty, and goodness also in the speck of dust that whirls in the sunlight."

As D. L. Jeffrey of the University of Ottawa has pointed out, Franciscans know that when Christ became human something important happened: the poor, shepherds, carpenters, donkeys, cows, and even straw were elevated, lifted up. More than that, they were all glorified. They were recognized as worthy of God's Son, and that means they are truly worthy.

When Francis runs to embrace the leper's sores, when he preaches to the birds, or gives his last rags to a beggar, he acknowledges something true: that God has already glorified humble folk and humble things. The world is essentially good and has already buried deep within it the seeds of transformation unto glory.

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME TO -

The Holy Family in Norway, Maine, and St. Michael And The Nine Choirs of Angels in Rochester, New Hampshire, two newly established fraternities in the Secular Franciscan Province of St. Casimir.

And to Our Lady of the Atonement, Long Beach, New York, and St. Boniface, Elmont, New York, recently established in the Secular Franciscan Province of St. Mary.

A special prayer for a St. Barbara fraternity in Washington State which, after many years, is returning to activity.

THOSE WHO SERVE US

Laura Haukaas, SFO, International Councilor

In September, 1981, St. Joseph Cupertino, which had been a Conventual custody, became a province; during that same year, Laura Haukaas made her profession. Within a year, she was appointed Provincial Minister to three dying fraternities. The Province now numbers nine fraternities in California and two in Hawaii, plus an emerging Hawaiian one. Laura was elected Minister in 1984 and reelected in 1987.

She served four years on the National Formation Commission, during which time the guidelines for initial formation were developed and the first work shops were held. With the geographical spread of her Province, Laura has long been interested in regionalization and is a member of that committee.

In October, 1989, she was elected to CIOFOS and, this year, became the first U.S. Councilor to be delegated to preside at national elections in another country - the Philippines.

Laura, who was widowed in 1976, has two children, six grandchildren, and one great grandchild. She worked for many years as an office manager and executive secretary.

Justin Carisio, SFO, Ecology Commissioner

Justin Carisio serves as vice minister and minister of formation for San Damiano Fraternity in Wilmington, Delaware. Prior to his National appointment, he edited the Immaculate Conception (12) Provincial newsletter, *Fioretti*.

He received a B.A. in English from LaSalle University in Philadelphia in 1975 and an M.A. in Writing Seminars from Johns Hopkins University in 1979. While a Teaching Fellow at Johns Hopkins, he concentrated on poetry; his poems have been published in several journals, including *The Cord*. Cur-

rently, he is a student in the Religious Studies program at St. Charles Seminary in Philadelphia and is specializing in dogmatic theology.

Justin works as a corporate speech writer at the Du Pont Company where he has primary responsibility for developing executive communications on environmental issues; he is part of a corporate communications group that analyzes world environmental trends. He also serves as staff assistant to Charles J. Pedersen, 1987 Nobel Laureate in chemistry.

He and his wife Teresa have two young sons. He is a lector in his parish, is on the Catholic Committee for Serving, and is an active volunteer with the Boy Scouts. In addition to his service to his local fraternity, he has supported the formation efforts of other nearby fraternities.

Gloria Shriver, SFO, Family Commissioner

Gloria Joyce Shriver felt that God's plan for her was finally shaping up when she accepted a wedding proposal from Thomas Shriver, a Yankee Catholic whose family spent winters near her home in the southernmost tip of South Carolina. "Yankee Catholic" was considered a double affliction in the deep south Bible Belt at that time. However, Gloria ignored the advice of friends and family and went through with the wedding. Those same people were sure she had lost what little sense she had left when she joined the Church a few years later.

Subsequently, while in Cincinnati, she read a pamphlet on the Third Order, but could find no information on local fraternities. After seven years of fruitless inquiry, she approached a friar on a street in Santiago, Chile; he told her that her Spanish wasn't good enough to understand formation instruction. Finally, she did find and join a fraternity in New Jersey and was professed in 1971. Still later, she, with the help of a friar,

founded a fraternity in Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

She has served the fraternity as formation director and minister, her province (Immaculate Conception, 15) as secretary, now as Vice Minister and newsletter editor. She is also editor of this newsletter.

In her parish, Gloria is Director of Religious Education, a member of the parish council, a lector, Eucharistic Minister, and a member of the RCIA team.

She holds a B.S. from the University of South Carolina and an M.A. in communications from Regent University in Virginia; she has done additional graduate work at several universities. She has been head of a high school science department, head of the foreign language department of a grade school, a newspaper correspondent, a magazine and book editor, and has had various business and civic commitments.

Gloria and Tom have four children and four grandchildren.

Joseph J. Halka, SFC, Work Commissioner

Joe was born in the small mining town of Mahanoy City, Pa. An only child, he was raised in a religious atmosphere by his father, an army major, and his mother, a dental hygienist. Active involvement in religion is a family tradition; one thousand years ago, a Knight Halka was commissioned by Prince Vladimir of Kiev to bring Christian missionaries to the Ukraine.

He received a B.S. from Kings College and his M.D. from Temple University. In 1984, he received an M.A. in Franciscan Studies from St. Bonaventure University.

He credits his strong impression of the Franciscan Order to the Franciscan Sisters who taught him in St. Casimir grade school. Professed in 1959, he says that the Secular Order enhances his faith as it gives him a sense of community and a prayerlike outlook

on life that is happy and healthy.

In 1977, he became a member of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. Joe is also a deacon and is assigned to San Juan Capistrano Mission.

He is a past Provincial Minister of St. Barbara and remains very active in the Province, especially in formation.

While an intern at St. Mary's Hospital in Tucson, Arizona, Joe met Felicia, a young nurse. They were married in 1965 and have four children.

(Annette Halka, the eldest, wrote this biographical of her father. The Newsletter is most grateful.)

FRATERNITIES AND COMMISSIONS

It may be difficult, especially in small fraternities, to have a representative to each of the Apostolic Commissions. If your fraternity is having problems, appoint one person as the representative to all Commissions; be sure to notify your provincial representatives so that the chain of information is not broken.

The representative must be diligent in passing on Commission information and in developing plans of action for fraternity members.

Keep in mind that, if fraternity members write letters, boycott, or whatever, it must be done as private citizens. Our tax exempt status prohibits certain Church or Order actions. Although National Fraternity finances may not be too affected by tax exemption, our participation in prohibited actions as members of the Order could adversely affect the friar Orders or even the Church.

Also remember that, in letter writing campaigns, each letter counts as one, regardless of the number of signers. To have maximum impact, then, each person should send a separate letter even if it is a form letter.

Let us always remember that, in our attempts to influence, Franciscan means peace.

SELF-EVALUATION FOR SFOs

From the Cabrini Herald

Why am I a member of the Secular Franciscan Order?

How faithful am I to the spirit of the Order?

Do I read the Rule regularly to remind myself?

Do I read Franciscan literature?

Do I examine my life from the angle of my Franciscan commitment?

Am I faithful:

in attending monthly meetings and taking an active part?

in saying some form of daily office?

in trying to change my life daily toward greater simplicity, "purifying self from every tendency and yearning for possessions and power"?

in reading the gospel regularly?

Am I growing in my sacramental life: Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

Am I seeking by prayer, action, and suffering to live for others, not just for myself?

Am I "in the forefront promoting justice" in my neighborhood and in my world? Am I well acquainted with the Church's teaching on social justice and human rights?

Am I exercising due stewardship toward the gifts of God in nature?

Am I an instrument of the Lord's peace in the family, the parish, the neighborhood?

AD MULTOS ANNOS

We join the Byzantine Franciscans in giving thanks to God on the recent occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination of Rev. Basil Schott, O.F.M.

Father Basil currently serves as a local assistant to the Secular Province of St. Mary of the Angels. He has also been Minister Provincial to the friar province and Provincial Spiritual Assistant to the Seculars.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION EXPLAINED

The National Newsletter is sent to members of the National Executive Council; to those who are appointed by the Council; to provincial councils; to local fraternity ministers.

If we have received the provincial roster, mailings are direct. If not, and a few provinces have not yet sent rosters, mailings of the first three issues have been to the provincial minister with enough copies for local fraternities. The Executive Council has directed that, as of this issue, extra copies are not to be sent, because there is every evidence that they are not being forwarded to the local ministers.

Local fraternity ministers are requested to share their copies with their members. Obviously, it would be financially impossible for National to send a copy to each member. However, we recognize that, particularly in large fraternities, it is all but impossible to duplicate enough copies. So, the Executive Council has approved private subscriptions.

The subscription cost is \$2.00 per year (four issues) and will be mailed directly to the subscriber. Subscriptions received after this issue will begin with the winter issue.

Checks should be made payable and sent to:

National Newsletter

R.D. 1, Box 1251

Brandon, VT 05733

As a further service, either in the winter or spring issue, there will be an insert of "Where To Get It." Local fraternities are often at a loss to know where to get *The Little Red Rule Books* (presentation copy), catechisms, miscellaneous Franciscan literature, etc. If any fraternities or provinces have a mail-order service and wish to be listed, please notify the Newsletter; give the categories of items that you have for sale.

NEW FRANCISCAN SISTERS

In the spring issue, one of the articles under "The Vineyard" was about a new religious institute in formation in Steubenville, Ohio. Since then, we have had several inquiries concerning their possible need of financial help. They do, indeed, need assistance, especially now that they have twenty-seven members. (Many of the members have come from Steubenville University's SFO fraternity.)

Checks may be made payable to:
Franciscan Sisters, TOR, Sorrowful Mother
and sent to:

Mr. Terry McCook, SFO
2721 Whitehaven Blvd.
Steubenville, OH 43952

Terry is handling their financial affairs as one of his apostolates.

REGIONALIZATION UPDATE

The three Secular Provinces in California, St. Barbara, St. Joseph of Cupertino, and Our Lady of Angels, have had their initial meetings and set up their steering committee. The remainder of the year will be spent in meetings dedicated to prayer and unity. They are most enthusiastic, as regionalization appears to have been accepted by the entire west coast.

The mid-west area, mainly in Minnesota and involving the Provinces of Sacred Heart, St. Joseph, the Immaculate Conception #12, and Our Lady of Consolation, are progressing. Formal approval from all Provincial Councils is anticipated by the end of 1990.

The eastern test area, Boston, will have its first meeting on September 15. This area involves five overlapping Provinces: St. Mary, St. Anthony of Padua, The Assumption, Holy Name, and The Immaculate Conception #2. Fr. Claude Scrima, OFM, of Immaculate Con-

ception is the only resident Provincial Assistant; others are in New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Wisconsin. As of this summer, the friar Province of St. Mary will have no presence in the area.

Florida, with thirty-five fraternities from three Provinces, Holy Name, Immaculate Conception #12, and Immaculate Conception #2, was not one of the test areas targeted by the Regionalization Committee. It did, though, request to be one. It is hoped that total Provincial approval will be forthcoming.

One of the aims of the Committee was to involve each geographical region of the country and to include a range of fraternities from city to small town. The three sites chosen by the Committee do not have to be the only ones. Like Florida, other areas may apply. The prerequisites are provincial approval and a basically workable situation.

Father Lawrence Landini, OFM, the friar member of the Committee, is presently working on governance guidelines for the test areas. This, too, is receiving plaudits from provincial ministers and friars, all of whom feel that standardized governance throughout the nation is well worth the effort.

It is anticipated that the test areas will be ready to begin by July, 1991.

As a matter of interest, Laura Haukaas, presider at the Philippine national election, reported that that country is regionalized. On the national level, spiritual assistance is supplied by all four friar obediences. The country is composed of 74 fraternities and 36 emerging with a professed membership of 2200, 1500 candidates, and 2000 inquirers. There are 51 youth groups with a membership of over 1000. Formation receives strong attention; formators are instructed monthly in on-going formation.

The Franciscan family in the Philippines receives tremendous support from the diocesan clergy, among whom are Cardinals Jaime L. Sin and Ricardo Vidal, both SFOs.

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CIOFS CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS

The International Fraternity will meet in Fatima, Portugal, from October 13th to the 20th. Nominations will be made at the time of the meeting; only those who are members of CIOFS may make nominations or be nominated for the various offices.

Although no announcement has been made at this time, it is expected that the new general constitution may be presented.

The United States National Fraternity will be represented by James Lynch, SFO, Marie Amore, SFO, and Laura Haukaas, SFO. Thomas Ricard, SFO, is a member of the International Executive Council as the representative for English speaking countries. He has said that he will retire after this meeting.

Manuela Mattioli, Minister General, has asked the prayers of all Seculars for the success of the Chapter.

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

October 15, 1990

Please send newsletters & items to:

Mrs. Gloria N. Shriver, SFO, Editor,
Rt 2, Box 17-N,
Ashoskie, NC 27910.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - NATIONAL

The National Chapter will be held at the Madonna Retreat Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 24 through 27. (Meetings begin on the 25th.) Elections will be held for a vice-minister and secretary.

A letter has been received from the Most Rev. Robert F. Sanchez, D.D., Archbishop of Santa Fe, stating that he will be pleased to celebrate the Eucharist with us at noon on Friday the 26th. The Archbishop is a Secular Franciscan.

After the close of the meeting and lunch on Saturday, Our Lady of Guadalupe (33), the host province, will offer a tour of Santa Fe. There will also be the celebration of the anticipatory Mass at the Santa Fe Cathedral of San Francisco de Asis.

CULPABILITY

Jaime Cardinal Sin, SFO, (see end of Regionalization Update), once remarked that, at the time of his birth and because of his size, he was considered just a venial Sin, but, as he grew larger, it was realized that he was a mortal Sin.