



Franciscan Friars, Third Order Regular Province of the Immaculate Conception, USA Province Newsletter • October 2010

*“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers
into his harvest.” Luke 10:2*

Index

1.....Justice, Peace, & Integrity of Creation	Brother John Kerr, T.O.R.
2.....Spiritual Assistants' Congress	Father Christopher Panagoplos, T.O.R.
3-7.....News from around the Province	
8.....Vocations	Father Patrick Foley, T.O.R.
8.....Contact Information Updates	

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Brother John Kerr, T.O.R.

Dear friars,

I just spent the last few days in Chicago with members of the whole Franciscan family (minus the Second Order) at a justice and peace workshop sponsored by the Franciscan Action Network (FAN). I always enjoy getting together with Franciscan brothers and sisters but gathering around “Ours to Do” moved me to appreciate the powerful collective voice we bring to the world. As followers of Francis we offer unique values and a vision to share with one another and with all of those with whom we’re in relationship. During these days we shared what we do, how we do it and how we may do it more Franciscan-like.

On the bus ride from Minneapolis I realized that immigration is one contemporary issue that reflects much of our province’s history as well as our present ministry. However, as our mission statement says, “We seek to address the changing needs of the Church and the world...” and sometimes those needs haven’t changed much. Yet certainly the people have—no longer Italian but Hispanic and many other. Our ministries to immigrant peoples in Florida, Texas, West Virginia and occasionally Pennsylvania and Minnesota embody our values of “gentleness, hospitality and service” in concrete and often challenging ways.

How we minister to them as people of justice is really the same question as how we minister to anybody—incorporating our Franciscan values in all we say and do. When we get concrete with those values, put them into practice, then we take on a new challenge. Jesus’ words and example as well as Francis’ guide and inspire us, and yet we must take that leap of faith to follow them in our 21st century worlds. Our Franciscan tradition of stories reminds us that every human being has a sacred story to share and may seek our listening ears.

During the workshop we talked about “Franciscanizing” our model of acting. As followers of the Poverello we are called to be listeners and experts at relationships. Also, we live in liminal space, on the edge, as in our origin. Like Francis, we are always reimagining ourselves. Finally, we are prophetically pragmatic.

I know I have a long way to go to minister like Francis. Still, it is comforting and inspiring when you, my brothers, and those of our First Order along with the brothers and sisters of religious Second and Third

Order communities as well as our Secular Franciscans are walking similar journeys. I urge you to join me in taking action—a phone call, email, or prayer--when FAN and other groups tell us the time is now. τ

Spiritual Assistants' Congress

Father Christopher Panagoplos, T.O.R.

Provincial and Regional Spiritual Assistants to the Secular Franciscan Order met in Beaverton, Oregon, 15-18 September 2010. The work of the Congress participants was to continue building on the groundwork for lay spiritual assistance to fraternities where no friar is available.

Formation for lay spiritual assistants is necessary. After the last SFO General Chapter of 2008 approved the practical interpretation of Art. 89.4b of the General Constitutions, it is now no longer possible to have a fraternity without its Spiritual Assistant. At its conclusion, the Chapter indicated its plan of action and the five priorities the whole Secular Franciscan Order must commit to during the next six-year period. The first priority is formation.

In her letter of September 2009, Encarnacion del Pozo, SFO Minister General, is calling the attention of the national councils throughout the world on the need to identify and prepare Secular Franciscans, whether lay or cleric, to assume the delicate and highly important task of providing spiritual assistance to local fraternities when necessary.

Bob Fitzsimmons, SFO, National Formation Director, outlined for us the “Formation Project” of forming the formators:

2006-08:

- Initial Formation of Formators [Project I]
- Ongoing Formation [Project II, themes of *Sense of Belonging, Profession in the SFO, Gift and Commitment*]
- A Manual for Initial Formation for the *formandi* [Project III]

2009:

- Formation of the Secular Franciscan Spiritual Assistant [Project IV]
- Formation of Animators of Franciscan Youth [Project V]

Defining the role of spiritual assistant, being a priest is not a requirement, as his/her role and specific duty is not “sacramental” assistance, but spiritual assistance. The First Order and TOR can designate a brother or sister, who may not be a priest, to assist the SFO fraternity on condition that he/she is “*suitable and well prepared.*”

Suitable and well-prepared. The Congress participants concluded with the statement that the Secular Franciscan fraternity must rise to the level of a true school of evangelical and Franciscan formation, to turn out passionate spirits, like Francis of Assisi, for Christ and for the Church. It needs

- spiritual assistants who will collaborate, especially in the formation journey, in making the fraternity convincing and consistent with their vocation; and
- spiritual assistants who can help them to fully comprehend the mission to be accomplished – witnesses of Gospel living. τ

**The brothers and sisters are to love the Lord with their whole heart,
their whole soul and mind and with all their strength,
and to love their neighbor as themselves.
Let them glorify the Lord in all they do.
For he has sent them into the world so that they might give witness
by word and work to His voice
and to make known to all that the Lord alone is God.
Rule and Life, Chapter IX, #29**

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PROVINCE

Pennsylvania



The Third Order Regular Franciscans, Immaculate Conception Province, celebrate 100 years of ministry at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Altoona, Pennsylvania, this year. The parish celebrated with a festive liturgy and social on September 11, 2010. It was on January 1, 1910, that Father Jerome Zazzara, T.O.R. was installed as pastor of the parish. Fr. Jerome answered the plea from Bishop Eugene Garvey, the first Bishop of Altoona, to minister to the Italian immigrants at the parish. The work of the eleven Third Order Regular Franciscan pastors and the fifty-five Franciscan Friars who served with them has met the many pastoral needs of the people while communicating to all the charism of Saint Francis of Assisi. The message of this great saint is one of peace, loving respect for all creation, and recognition of the common brotherhood of all. It is characterized by a love for the poor and care for the earth and always points the way to Jesus Christ. During these past one hundred years the friars have worked with the people of the parish to help spread the good news of Jesus and to build up the Church of God. We give thanks to God for the past one hundred years of ministry and ask God to bless us in the next hundred! *Father Frank Scornaienchi, T.O.R.* τ

More pictures ⇒



Headline: *Faith Day at Ballpark a Hit*



The entire article from the Altoona Mirror about Faith Day at the Altoona Curve stadium can be found at:
<http://www.altoonamirror.com/page/content.detail/id/531124.html?nav=742>

Minnesota

On August 27th, **Anthony Criscitelli**, **John Kerr**, and Sr. Linda Solers, OSB were featured on the local affiliate of Relevant Radio (1330AM). As the PBS Trio (Priest, Brother, Sister), they discussed the nature and importance of prayer, especially in the lives of religious men and women. You may listen to their broadcast on the Internet at relevantradio.com; it is under Audio Archives – City Winds.

On October 1, **Anthony Criscitelli**, **John Kerr**, and Sr. Joan Tuberty, OSF (Little Falls) were once again on 1330 AM Relevant Radio speaking about Francis of Assisi and his relevance for today. You may listen to their broadcast on the Internet at relevantradio.com, under Audio Archives – City Winds.

On Saturday, September 25, **Anthony Criscitelli** was the featured speaker at the annual Queen of Peace Regional Gather of the Secular Franciscan Order. He was invited to speak on the topic: The Secular Franciscan and the Apostolic Life. Later that same day, Anthony was part of the Blessing of Dogs at the annual Dog Daze Celebration at Folwell Park in north Minneapolis. This yearly celebration is sponsored by the neighborhood association and the Minneapolis Park Board. Since it occurs so close to the Feast of St. Francis, Anthony and **John Kerr** suggested to the organizers that the traditional blessing of animals associated with St. Francis might occur at this neighborhood event. They began about six years ago and now it is an ecumenical event with ministers from the United Methodist Church and English Lutheran Congregation.

For the Solemnity of St Francis of Assisi, the friars and members of the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity of the SFO attached to St. Bridget in North Minneapolis hosted the annual celebration of Transitus on the evening of October 3rd and a festive Eucharist on the evening of October 4th. Within the celebration of the Eucharist, two members of the local Fraternity made their profession as members of the Secular Franciscan Order. Kathy Irvin, a member of St. Gerard, Brooklyn Park, and Kay Larson, a parishioner from St. Austin, Minneapolis prepared for this day by spending 18 months in prayer, study, and discernment. They expressed gratitude for the support of the friars—at St. Bridget's and St. Gerard's (past and present), the members of the fraternity, and their families. Kay Larson's spry 93-year old mother was present at both events, along with other members of her and Kathy's families. Other members of the SFO, parishioners, guests, and area Franciscans were also present.

On Sunday, October 10, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Columbia Heights, MN, the St. Alphonsa Fraternity of the SFO was canonically established. This fraternity was initiated by **Rev. Thomas Kunnel, TOR** (Province of St. Francis, India) and placed under the patronage of then-Blessed Alphonsa. She was later canonized by Pope Benedict XVI and is the first native-born Indian woman to be raised to the altar. At the request of **Christopher Panagoplos**, Provincial Spiritual Assistant, **Anthony Criscitelli** was present to witness the occasion on behalf of our Province, under whose care the fraternity has been established.

On October 18, the friars at St. Bridget, Minneapolis, will meet with Sr. Clara Stang, OSF (Little Falls) and members of their community's Franciscan Volunteers to discuss a possible collaborative ministry/outreach to the poor in north Minneapolis. Both the local friars and the parish of St. Bridget are exploring ways to use the former convent in the service of the poor in and around the parish community.

Father Anthony Criscitelli, T.O.R. τ

Franciscan Federation Annual Conference

Frank Scornaienchi, T.O.R., Giles Schinelli, T.O.R., and John Kerr, T.O.R. attended the Annual Franciscan Federation Conference held in Buffalo, NY, on July 28-31. The theme of the Conference was "Passionately Embracing Gospel Living." Br. Bill Short, O.F.M. and Sr. Claire Andre Gagliardi, O.S.C. were the co-presenters. The theme may be summarized by the following quotes: "As Franciscans we have a great gift to offer to our world, the Gospel form of life embraced by Francis and Clare. As sisters and brothers, we are part of a global Franciscan family committed to the Good News of Jesus proclaimed to the poor." (Bill Short, O.F.M.) and "If each day we did nothing else but prayed with the Gospel of that day and allowed it to confront us and change us, we couldn't help but find ourselves living at the core of our Franciscan Charism." (Claire Andre Gagliardi, O.S.C.) During the Conference, Frank Scornaienchi, T.O.R. was elected to the Executive Committee of the Commission of Elected Leaders. The Commission provides a forum for leaders to

deepen their T.O.R. charism in light of their role as minister-leader. The Executive Committee coordinates and animates the work of the Commission. Over 400 Franciscans were in attendance at the Annual Conference. τ

Father Frank Scornaienchi, T.O.R.

Florida



Does this picture really need a caption? Father Patrick Foley, T.O.R. served as ‘Priest of the Week’ for the Scripture Camp at San Pedro Center in Winter Park, Florida. The photo above shows him after the ‘Gold Rush’ activity at the camp, which is an opportunity for the children to go a little wild—and very messy! τ

CMSM Conference



Father J. Patrick Quinn, T.O.R. (Provincial) and Father Bill Linhares, T.O.R. (Econome) attended the annual CMSM conference held during the week of August 3-6, 2010 in California. τ

From Our Retreat Master

The Provincial Retreat was held at Priest Field Pastoral Center in West Virginia, from August 2-6, 2010, as we all know. Father Robert D'Aversa, T.O.R. was kind enough to share this message from our retreat master, Father Scott Brodeur:

Hi Robert,

How wonderful to hear from you! You cannot imagine how often I too have remembered our few days together at the beginning of August. It was truly a profound experience for me as well. I was deeply moved by your community's fraternal, open and joyful spirit and it made me proud to be a religious. I really felt at home with you all within minutes. And once I felt at home it was so easy to talk about Philemon and then preach the Good News, too!

Isn't it just amazing how such a brief little letter has done so much good??!! I too am continually struck by it. A year ago when you asked me to preach I just instinctively knew that it was the Pauline letter to develop during my talks. And then I had the idea of moving on to other letters in light of a shared theme, for the meditations, ... and well, you know the rest.

A big hi to Blase from me. And to all your confreres when you speak with them.

Thank you, Father Brodeur. τ

Fall Update on Vocation Office and C4C Ministries

Father Patrick Foley, T.O.R.

Peace and good! It hardly feels like fall is upon us with the recent weather trends! I heard that it was in the 90's at the end of September in PA! Soon enough, however, the leaves will be turning and littering the ground with their reminder that "nothing gold can stay" (in the words of Robert Frost). Having settled in recently at the friary here at Mount Dora, I'm looking forward to the opportunities that this move will bring. My plan for the vocation office ministry is to spend as much time as possible with the Catholic Campus Ministries at the various Colleges/Universities here in Central Florida. I will again be collaborating with the Diocese of Orlando vocation office on another discernment retreat at San Pedro Center in December. Please keep this retreat in prayer. Please also keep in prayer the following persons who are in discernment with us: Daniel Akins, 27, Patrick Stewart, 27, Stephen Ramsey, 34, and Jorge Guzman, 32. Jorge will be visiting us in PA during my time there in October. Speaking of which, I will be in PA during this time for some C4C related events and for the "changeover" of the community gardens from Blair County to our community. Please keep this process in prayer as well. Finally, we will have a Fall Harvest Festival on October 9th (Saturday), from 6-9 pm. We will be providing sweets, a marshmallow roast, a bonfire, and hayrides as a way to welcome the fall and end another successful C4C season. Hope to see you there! Pat, TOR

Contact Information Updates

Father Seamus Corcoran, T.O.R.

P. Seamus Corcoran, T.O.R.
c.c. 1531
Asuncion
Paraguay, S. America

Father Carl Vacek, T.O.R.

304-616-0603

Father Edward Sabo, T.O.R.

763-424-8770, ext. 120
fredward@st-gerard.org

Father Ambrose Phillips, T.O.R.

202-529-0171, ext. 2416
The listing under 'Province Houses' in the Directory has the wrong extension number.

Brother Matthew Hillman, T.O.R.

202-529-0171, ext. 2435

Brother Jeffrey Wilson, T.O.R.

202-529-0171, ext. 2436

"And then, all together, may we always come alive -- whether to sing, to breathe, or to cry, but always full of trust in Christ, who helps us and hears us, let us continue along our path."

Pope John XXIII, October 11, 1962, *Moonlight Speech*

fine

