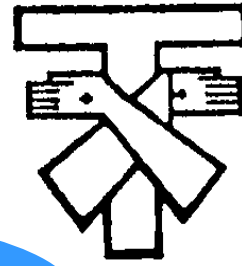




TROUBADOUR



Holy Family Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order

October, 2009
Newsletter

Pax et Bonum!



The Transitus.

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Saint Francis died on October 3rd, after sunset. For the Church at the time, as in biblical times, the day began once the sun had set. This is the reason we celebrate his feast on the fourth. This is also why we can have vigil masses. On the third of October, we, Franciscans, celebrate Saint Francis' death, the *transitus*. *Transitus* literally means going from one place to another. Saint Francis is

buried in the place he loved, a small chapel, now in the basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, often referred as Portiuncula, which means 'little piece.' The Benedictine monks of Mount Subasio ceded the land to Saint Francis for a nominal rent Franciscans still pay yearly—a basket of fish. Though Saint Francis' feast is often the day in which there are special blessings for animals in

many parishes, this is not the case everywhere. In Spain and Latin America, these blessings occur on the feast of another Franciscan, Saint Anthony of Padua. Our Seraphic Patriarch's feast, however, is the perfect time to renew our love, above all, for the Holy Eucharist, and for peace, simplicity, and social justice. The world is still as desperately in need of them as it was in Saint Francis' time. †

Special points of interest:

St. Francis has inspired more art and poetry than any other saint.

Few know that Francis is his nickname, not his name.

God's Troubadour was leery of books.

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING

Holy Family Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order
September 19, 2009

The following were present at the meeting: Teri Baker, Adelaida Lower, Michael Clinton, Peggy Gregory, Jeanne Davis, Diane Bigos, Maura Needham, Carol DeGeorge, Dave Scoffone, and Joe Harkins.

We welcomed two professed members of another fraternity today. Their names are Brian and Susan Majewski and they indicated they would like to join our fraternity.

The meeting commenced with the Liturgy of the Hours followed by the opening prayers of the Ritual. Diane then did a reading from St. Luke, Ch. 18, vs. 1-9 from page 64 of the Ritual. Immediately following the reading, everyone introduced themselves for the benefit of Brian and Susan.

Diane mentioned an e-mail she received from the minister at St. Francis Fraternity inviting us to their *Transitus* on Oct. 3rd at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Triangle, VA. Diane said there is also a *Transitus* at the Franciscan Monastery where Bishop Whuerl is scheduled to speak.

Diane told us the list of things that the fraternity will bring to the Oct. 3 profession ceremony for Aida and Teri. She said that Fr. Kevin Treston, O.F.M., who replaced Fr. Matthew, will preside at the Mass. Diane also thanked Jeanne for sending out the e-mail asking for items for the House of Mercy, Serve and AAA Women for Choice.

Aida said the new name of our monthly newsletter will be the *Troubadour*. Aida said she found a website that contains clip art that is to be used for religious purposes. She said many Franciscan brothers and sisters do the art and Aida will explain in the newsletter the history of the organization.

Diane mentioned that All Saints has a stewardship Sunday on Oct. 11. She said we signed up to do all the Masses and we will

have a stand in the gym. She asked for volunteers to cover the booth after the morning Masses.

Someone will be needed from 8:15 to 9:00 AM; from 9:45 to 10:30; from 11:15 to 12:00 PM; and from 12:45 to 1:30.

Diane spoke about the upcoming elections in November for our fraternity. All the offices are open. Diane said she and Mary Lynn are not running for anything due to school and family. Diane also mentioned that Charlene will have our funds switched to SunTrust Bank before the new officers come in. We have at least two candidates for each office except for Formation Director. Diane thought it was an appointive office but subsequently found out it is elective.

Jeanne Davis spoke about the upcoming 40 Days for Life which runs from September 23 to November 1. She said the place we can stand has been shortened and we can have no more than five signs. Jeanne said that Ken Rose from Holy Trinity Parish is really pushing this. Jeanne gave everyone a prayer card for priests.

After the break for refreshments, and since this is the 800th anniversary of the Franciscan Rule, Peggy discussed the origins of the Rule. She mentioned there have been only four official rules in 800 years.

The last rule was promulgated in 1978 and is referred to as the Pauline Rule because it occurred during the pontificate of Pope Paul VI. The current Rule was the result of a call from Vatican II for Church Orders to go back to the charism of their founder. Peggy said that next month Mary Lynn will give a presentation on the 4th Article of the Rule. (Continues)



(Continued from page 2)

Peggy passed out a paper on the 4th Article which contained the words of the Article, four questions and two things to reflect on.

The meeting closed with prayers from the Ritual. †

Submitted by:

Joseph Harkins, SFO

Secretary

Holy Family Fraternity



PLEASE PRAY FOR

- Jeanne's intentions, particularly Claudia who has bone cancer and Jennifer Diaz who has bipolar schizophrenia.
- Cathy Lowell's mother and her family
- Peggy's daughter
- Norman M. Takac (Mary Lynn's father)
- Norman Joseph Takac (Mary Lynn's brother)
- Special intention for Teri Baker's nephew Ethan Baker and for the conversion of her sister-in-law Lisa
- Repose of the soul of Kathy Scatius
- Healing for Sam Smyth & Mariel Martin
- Conversion of David Bigos' family
- Holy Family Fraternity
- Special intention for Joe's sister Mary
- For Luciana's son Nathan, who was beaten up when leaving school
- Repose of the soul of Ken Concannon who passed on Jan. 28 and Concannon Family intentions.
- Peggy Gregory's granddaughter Kathryn Fortenberry.
- Maura's special intentions, Mary and family, and Anne.
- Michael's sister, Mary, who is having problems coping as a single mother, and prayers for his neighbor Josephine who has breast cancer.
- Deacon Dick O'Connell and his wife Sally.
- Courtney Hamblen, almost 2 years old with cerebral palsey
- Barbara Smyth & Family
- Conversion of Ansel Olson (Joe's son) and his wife Katherine.
- Manuel Paulete, (Adelaida's friend), undergoing chemotherapy and for Adelaida's intentions

FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

"It is impossible to know what a Jesuit is thinking, where a Dominican is going, or how many Franciscans there are in this world."

Look out for the illustrations in *Troubadour*, they are thoroughly Franciscan. Many come from a website that has compiled drawings for religious publications. The site, hermanoleon clipart, is accessed at <http://www.cruzblanca.org>. Cruz Blanca is Spanish for 'White Cross,' after the White Cross Franciscans. As I mentioned at our meeting, I wrote to the manager to make sure we could use the artwork. Brother Juan José responded and confirmed that indeed we could. Check the portrait of Jesus in this month's Favorite Prayer's page; it is as serene as any I have seen. It is one of Brother Juan José's. Since I didn't know much about the White Cross Franciscans I did some searches. According to their website, their charisma adds a fourth vow to the usual three—chastity, poverty and obedience—to care for the terminally ill and the poorest. White Cross Franciscans live in very small communities, actually houses, sharing their day-to-day with mentally and physically ill people, with alcoholics and AIDS patients. Their communities were founded in the 1960's by Brother Isidoro Lezcano (1935-2006). As a young man doing military service, Isidoro was sent to North Africa as a paramedic, and realized the tremendous need in the impoverished quarters of what were at that time Spanish colonies. A little later, he returned to North Africa and began offering health care to the needy. Soon, others joined him and they decided to live, following the steps of St. Francis. In 1989, they were canonically established. White Cross Franciscans have since spread to Venezuela and Morocco. *Pax et Bonum*

Submitted by Adelaida Lower



Father Pateras, of the White Cross Franciscans, receives a dinghy with undocumented refugees in Spanish shores.

FAVORITE PRAYERS

This month we are highlighting short prayers or jaculatories. Some come from sources you will recognize, others are personal, others yet have roots in Scripture. They were submitted by Peggy Gregory, Irene Hamblen, Susan Majewski, Mary Lynn Pitts, and Dorothy Jeanne Davis. They are all beautiful in expression and sentiment. The last block, of course, is St. Francis'.

"My God, I love You"

*"Oh, Bleeding Face, Oh
Face Divine, Be every
adoration Thine"*

*"Oh, Mary, Conceived
without sin, Pray for us
who have recourse to
thee."*

*"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the
Living God, Have mercy on me, a
sinner"*

"Jesus, I trust in You"

"My God and my All"



"The Dream"

Written by Michael Clinton

I climbed into a tree house,
And became a child once more.
I ascended the rickety ladder,
And popped right through the door.

I saw before me, grandly laid,
A table for a king.
Fine silverware and crystal cups,
And just about everything.

Quickly I sat at the table so fine,
On a gold chair with goose down seat!
Then seven angels came out to serve,
The best that man can eat.

All my favorite foods were there,
And I ate and ate my fill.
The drink I drank was so superb,
But alas! There was no bill!

"Who is the chef?" I just had to know.
"This meal is most divine."
"Why, it's Jesus Christ," they all replied.
"He'll be out any time."

Well, he did come out eventually,
But just before He came,
His mother appeared at the kitchen door,
And "Mary" is her name.

She said, "My son will be out soon
To share with you a toast
To love and life and happiness,
but he drinks to 'Love' the most.

"Soon I'll place before your eyes
A cup shaped like a dove.
With that we'll drink to happiness
And life, but mostly love."

She placed before my wondering eyes
That cup she just described,
How beautiful, intricate and ornate,
I was so mesmerized.

Then, at last, her Son showed up,
Holding a pitcher so clear.
I thought to myself, 'It's just plain water!
What a ghastly faux-pas, I fear.'

But as this plain old water
Into my "dove-cup" came,
Something happened to my cup
It came to life and sang my name.

This dove then flew into the air,
And nestled on my head.
Well, it dissolved into my brain.
So, to Jesus Christ I said.

"What happened! What was that!
Oh, please, won't You explain!
For that cup shaped dove (or dove shaped cup)
Just dissolved into my brain!"

Well, Jesus Christ just laughed and laughed,
While His mother sat there smiling.
A beautiful smile so radiant,
And twinkling eyes beguiling.

"That water I poured into your cup,"
Jesus started to say,
"Was some living water that I make up,
And just love to give away.

"That lovely dove that came to life,
And dissolved into your brain,
Was the bird of wisdom and of truth,
Or 'Holy Spirit' by name."

How beautiful! How beautiful!
We danced the night away,
Just Jesus, Mary, the Holy Spirit and me,
Til the night turned into the day.



FRANCISCAN LIFE

Written by Michael Clinton

Eve Lavalliere, a beautiful actress who led a very immoral life, also practiced Satanism. Born Eugenie Marie Fenoglio in Toulon, France in 1866, Eve's childhood was a tragic one. Her father was an alcoholic who would beat Eve's mother. Eve and her mother would leave and stay with relatives, but would return. At the age of 10, Eve was sent to a Catholic boarding school where she knew much happiness and made her first holy communion. However, at the age of 12, her mother decided to divorce and took Eve from the school. The father tracked them down, and shot his wife and then turned the gun on himself. Poor Eve then spent the next two unhappy years in and out of relatives' homes.

At 18, Eve became the mistress of the Marquis de la Valette and began honing her craft. Four years later, she fell in love with Fernand Samuel. Both Fernand and Eve maintained a common law marriage until his death in 1914. From 1901-1917, Eve Lavalliere reigned as the "undisputed queen" of the French stage. She entertained royalty, but Eve was spiritually dead, attempting suicide three times.

Finally, in 1917, Eve met Fr. Chasteigner. Through his guidance she returned to the



Sacraments and became a Secular Franciscan. In the end, due to a severe case of peritonitis, Eve lost all her beauty. She would thank God for allowing her to repent for all the sins she had committed through each vanity as all her teeth fell out and her mouth and gums became a mass of swollen tissue. She was also thanking God in this same way as a doctor, without anesthesia, sewed her eyelids shut to keep her eyeballs from falling out. Thus, a great lady lived and suffered for Christ, her true love. †



Article 20: The Secular Franciscan Order is divided into fraternities of various levels—local, regional, national, and international. Each one has its own personality in the Church. These various communities are coordinated and united according to the norm of this rule and of the constitutions.

*Holy Family
Fraternity Has
New Members:*



*The Rite of Profession
into the Secular
Franciscan Order of,
Teresa Baker, SFO and
Adelaida Lower, SFO
was beautiful.*

*It was celebrated at All
Saints Parish, in
Manassas, Virginia, on
the third of October.
Father Kevin Treston,
OFM, from Holy Land
Franciscan Monastery
officiated the Mass. He
was assisted by Deacon
O'Connell. Joseph
Angsten, Peggy
Gregory's grandson,
helped as altar server.*



*Maura Needham and
David Scaffone were
Teresa and Adelaida's
sponsors.*

*Peggy Gregory and her
daughter Frances
Reynolds treated us with
amazing renditions of
"All Creatures of Our
God and King," "Prayer
of Saint Francis," "Here
I am, Lord," and a
breathtaking, "Panis
Angelicus" that brought
heaven to earth.*

*Diane Bigos, our
minister, led the
congregation as we
welcomed our new
additions into our family.*

We are growing with joy!

Written by Michael Clinton



GOOD NEWS

- Carol's new grandson, Brodie Van Walters was born on 6-15-09. At birth, he was 20 inches long and almost 8lbs. Carol thinks he looks like Joe, her husband. Congratulations, DeGeorge family!
- Welcome to Brian and Susan Majewski, members of All Saints Parish, both SFO's.

THANKS

- Teresa Baker and Adelaida Lower would like to express their appreciation to the entire Holy Family Fraternity for their beautiful Rite of Profession into the Secular Franciscan Order, and the wonderful reception afterwards.

HOLY FAMILY FRATERNITY

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