



NEWSLETTER
JULY-SEPTEMBER 2015

From the (Vice) Minister

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For the past forty-two years, our family has spent summer vacations in Indian Rocks Beach, Florida. We've had many exciting adventures, probably enough to fill a book. Some events occurred with our immediate family and other with our extended family members. Many of the happenings are recorded in my personal and spiritual journal into which I faithfully wrote every day.

Approximately twenty-eight years ago, while sitting on our patio, writing in my journal and gazing out at the Gulf of Mexico (which when rough reminded me of the ocean), I felt God telling me to write down my childhood recollections of growing up on a Jersey shore barrier island. Inside me there was a burning desire to keep alive the memories of my beloved New Jersey relatives who were with the Lord, as well as the landmarks in my home town that were so special to me. But what a huge undertaking!

Although I was an avid reader, the thought of writing a book was extremely scary. After much prayer I said to the Lord, "If you want me to write a book, You will be in charge." This exciting endeavor involved the help and support of family members – immediate and extended. With God's guidance and the encouragement and input of friends and relatives, especially my mom who was born and raised in the town, the project was started..

It began with summer vacations, as well as reliance on the Lord. After years of research involving photos, documents, interviews and hours on the computer, the book was finished! In then said to the Lord, "This book is in your hands, so if You want it published, You will have to handle that for me." And He did!

Summer family vacations will be forever special to me.

Peace and blessings!

Sandi

Celebrations

Anniversaries

Sandi Scionti (September 17, 2004)

Maria Nicotra (September 17, 2005)

Movie Night!



MARY OF NAZARETH is an epic motion picture on the life of Mary. A full-length feature film, it was filmed in Europe in very authentic locales with a strong cast, and a majestic music score.

In his remarks after viewing the movie, Pope emeritus Benedict XVI said“ it is not easy to characterize the figure of any mother, because the riches of the maternal life are difficult to describe, but this is even more challenging when it comes to the Mary of Nazareth, who is the mother of Jesus, the Son of God made man.”

Thus it is with Campiotti’s production. Like most cinematic Marian narratives, this latest motion picture draws heavily from Holy Scripture, thus presenting, in Benedict XVI’s words, a “respectful approach to the life of the Virgin Mary.”

Mary of Nazareth

On May 20 and June 17, after the administrative business and Evening Prayer, we all settled down to watch Mary of Nazareth in Classroom 24 of the Parish school building.

Theater-style snacks, such as sodas and candy bars and chips – including hot popcorn – were provided by a number of Brothers and Sisters.

Notwithstanding some technical difficulties with the new sound system, everyone enjoyed this truly epic presentation of Our Mother’s life and calling as the Mother of God.



Five Franciscan Martyrs Region

A Privileged Place

by Marie Thomas, OFS, FFM Regional Minister
(condensed from the Summer 2015 FFM Newsletter)

Our Rule, Article 24 states: *“To foster communion among members, the council should organize regular and frequent meetings of the community ...”*



In other words, fraternity is extremely important – unfortunately, it is one that we often fail to experience and celebrate. Our call is from God and it is a call to a relationship - a deep, inner relationship with God Himself and a relationship, just as deep, with our brothers and sisters in fraternity. However, we often settle for a relationship that is shallow and maybe only skims the surface. What a pity! God wants us to experience His overwhelming love so we can share it with all others.

He did not call us to be people who live on the surface - He calls us to a profoundly deep way of life, a life in which we are to become the men and women that He has created us to be. This can only be done by living the promises we made during our profession in fraternity. Think about it: if we are cannot rejoice in a true fraternal life with all our members but gossip about them, it means that we are not in true communion with God.

To put it in a nutshell: the quality of our fraternal life is a reflection of the quality of our relationship with God!



Feast of St Louis IX

August 25

“Fair son: the first thing I would teach thee is to set thine heart to love God. For unless he loves God, none can be saved.”

King Louis IX is a patron saint of Secular Franciscan Order. He ruled France from 1226 to 1270, and is the only French king canonized by the Church. His reign and his life were directed by Christian values. He was a judicial reformer who introduced the presumption of innocence, royal justice and the institutes of provost and bailiff.

Wed to Margaret of Provence, they had a long and happy marriage, and were blessed with eleven children!

After a miraculous cure, he chose to lead the Seventh Crusade. Initial victories were followed by a devastating loss and he was captured. Ransomed, he spent the last four years of his life in the Holy Land, rebuilding Christian defenses and conducting diplomacy.



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The recent decision by the Supreme Court to change the definition of marriage requires a response. Jesus, with great love, taught unambiguously that from the beginning marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman. We agree with those who seek change in the definition of marriage in one thing: that every person has equal dignity. We disagree about the nature of marriage.

The Church recognizes marriages and families as the foundation of the Church and society. The permanent, faithful, and fruitful bond of marriage is the normative and beautiful structure God designed for how individuals are brought together into relationships of life-giving love. However, in light of the Supreme Court decision, we will face greater pressure now to mute our voices. As the dissenting justices recognized, the freedom to run our ministries and participate in the public square while holding to the teachings of Jesus will likely be challenged. So I ask you to remember that this is not the first – and unlikely to be the last – time the Church has been led by her beliefs to be counter-cultural.

We must, in faithfulness and obedience, be firm, absolutely committed to what Christ taught us; but let us also speak and act with love. Our witness is needed in public and in private and gospel life is often not easy.

Archbishop Kurtz, President USCCB

(condensed from a June 29, 2015 article)

Family Focus on Sandi

Our New Vice Minister!



Sandra Ann was born to Ray and Sue Garza in Philadelphia in 1945. An only child, she was raised on the Jersey shore in Stone Harbor. A “military brat,” as she got older they moved around the country. Her dad retired in 1962 and the family put roots in Tampa.

She attended University of Tampa, where she met Joseph Scianti. Married at St Pat’s in 1966, they have 4 boys and 9 grandchildren! She’s also a pianist, poet, free-lance writer and author.

Sandi’s been with St Pat’s for 53 years and has served with the:

- Music Ministry - Liturgy Committee - CCD
- Lector Ministry - Prayer Group Ministry Catechist

She was also very active with the John Michael Talbot ministry.

Sandi started her Franciscan journey with St John Capistrano Fraternity in 1994 and professed with St Michael’s ten years ago .



Laudato Si'

by Karen Szczesniak, OFS

(condensed from the 2015 Summer FFM Newsletter)

Here is an excerpt of Pope Francis' new encyclical - it says a lot more but I thought this part would be of most interest. I am excited!!

10. I do not want to write this Encyclical without turning to that attractive and compelling figure, whose name I took as my guide and inspiration when I was elected Bishop of Rome. I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He was particularly concerned

for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his open heartedness. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.

11. Francis helps us to see that an integral ecology calls for openness to categories which transcend the language of mathematics and biology, and take us to the heart of what it is to be human. Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever he would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise. He communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them "to praise the Lord, just as if they were endowed with reason".[19] His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists. His disciple Saint Bonaventure tells us that, "from a reflection on the primary source of all things, filled with even more abundant piety, he would call creatures, no matter how small, by the name of 'brother' or 'sister'".[20] Such a conviction cannot be written off as naive romanticism, for it affects the choices which determine our behavior. If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously. The poverty and austerity of Saint Francis were no mere veneer of asceticism, but something much more radical: a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled.

Seasonal: Labor Day!

by Bishop Paul S. Loverde

(condensed from an article on Labor Day 2014)

Christ Himself took up the tools of a carpenter, working with human hands for most of His life on earth. As we recall the image of Christ the worker, I invite you to reflect with me on the implications for the observance of Labor Day.

Work is, in the words of John Paul II, “a fundamental dimension of Man’s existence on earth” (“*Laborem Exercens*”). Therefore, Church teachings rightly remind us of the value of work: among other things, work enhances our human dignity, it is needed in order to form and maintain a family, and it contributes to the common good of our local, national and global communities. Workers today, like my parents in their time, know the value of what they do in order to provide for themselves and their families and to contribute to the development of society.



This Labor Day, let us reflect on the value of work and on how we recognize and respect the dignity of all workers, including those who have immigrated to our local area. Undoubtedly we can do more. I pray that we are first and foremost a people of charity. “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mk 12:31).

MIRACLE PRAYER

Fr. Peter Mary Rookey, OSM, died on September 10, 2014, a priest of 73 years. Starting in 1948, he was blessed with the gift of healing. In 1987 he founded the International Compassion Ministry in Chicago. This is his prayer.

Lord Jesus, I come before You, just as I am.

I am sorry for my sins. I repent of my sins, please forgive me!

In Your name, I forgive all others for what they have done against me.

I renounce Satan, the evil spirits, and all their works.

I give You my entire self, Lord Jesus, now and forever.

I invite You into my life, Jesus. I accept You as my Lord, My God and My Savior.

Please heal me! Change me! Strengthen me, in body, soul and spirit.

Come Lord Jesus, cover me with Your precious blood, and fill me with Your Holy Spirit.

I love You, Lord Jesus! I praise You, Jesus! I thank You, Jesus!

I will follow You every day of my life! Amen.

**Mary my mother, Queen of Peace,
all the angels and saints, please help me! Amen.**

Mary Our Mother

Queenship of Mary

August 22

At the Annunciation, Gabriel announced that Mary's Son would receive the throne of David and rule forever. At the Visitation, Elizabeth calls Mary "mother of my Lord." As in all the mysteries of Mary's life, Mary is closely associated with Jesus: Her queenship is a share in Jesus' kingship.

In the fourth century St. Ephrem (June 9) called Mary "Lady" and "Queen." Later Church fathers and doctors continued to use the title. Hymns of the 11th to 13th centuries address Mary as queen: "Hail, Holy Queen," "Hail, Queen of Heaven," "Queen of Heaven."

The Dominican rosary and the Franciscan crown, as well as numerous invocations in Mary's litany, celebrate her queenship. The feast is a logical follow-up to the Assumption and is now celebrated on the octave day of that feast.

In his 1954 encyclical *To the Queen of Heaven*, Pius XII points out that Mary deserves the title because 1) she is Mother of God, 2) she is closely associated as the New Eve with Jesus' redemptive work, 3) of her preeminent perfection and 4) of her intercessory power.

condensed from AmericanCatholic.org



THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED AT THE MARRIAGE OF
MARIE ROSE COADY AND DAVID ALAN KOEHLER
SATURDAY, THE THIRD OF OCTOBER AT TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
ST PARTICK CATHOLIC CHURCH, 4518 S MANHATTAN AVENUE, TAMPA
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



**"Place your mind before the mirror of eternity!
Place your soul in the brilliance of glory!
And transform your entire being into the image of
the Godhead Itself through contemplation!"**

-- *St Clare of Assisi*
Feastday August 11

Reflection

Adolf Hitler Said that Medical Research Was Critical Too

by John Linder, 18 year Congressman from Georgia

(condensed from his article of July 23, 2015)

Among the first to be designated as not useful <by the Nazis> were retarded children who were ripped from the arms of sobbing Nuns and carted off to the ovens. C. Everett Koop and Francis Shaeffner addressed this in “Whatever Happened to the Human Race?”

“The first to be eliminated were the aged, the infirm, the senile and mentally retarded and defective children. Eventually as World War II approached the doomed undesirables included epileptics, WWI amputees, children with badly modeled ears and even bed wetters. Physicians took part in this planning ... to save society’s money.”

When Hitler reclassified Jews as not useful it was just another step along a tragic path and the German people stood silent as their Jewish neighbors were carried off to their deaths. When Roe v. Wade was decided I was one who expressed concern about the slippery slope. I predicted that the time would come when abortion would become a tool of gender selection. My comments were met with universal disdain. “No one would ever do that!”

Just four months after Roe v. Wade, Nobel Laureate Dr. James Watson suggested that a child not be declared alive until it was three days old so that the parents could make an informed decision as to whether to keep it. Five years later Watson’s partner in earning the Nobel Prize for discovering DNA, Dr. Francis Crick, suggested that human life be ended at 80.

Planned Parenthood physicians were recently captured casually discussing the market value of organs from babies whose lives, in their eyes, hold no value whatever. Senate Democrat Leader Harry Reid defended Planned Parenthood’s actions. “Human fetal tissue research has been critically important for biomedical research for a long, long time ...”

Medical research was critical in Germany too. There may have been a time when America could look down sadly and say, “We didn’t know.”

That time has passed.

