

December 2015

The Franciscan Joy

St. Peter Fraternity 168 John F. Kennedy
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Visit our website :
<http://sfosomersetnj.sfousa.org/>



From the Minister's Desk

Peace and All Good!

I know everyone is saying it – and I feel it too – where did the year go? 2015 has been a year of ups and downs for me personally and for the country as a whole, but the guidance of St Francis keeps us going and following the path to Christ. As a fraternity, we held a Holy Hour for Peace. We celebrated with our own Sal Bonfiglio as he was ordained a deacon. We conducted a Transitus of St Francis for the St Matthias community and assisted Our Lady of the Angels Secular Franciscan Region as we hosted the National Elections. The National Elections were held in our region for the first time – and we showed off the beauty of New Jersey and the elegance of the



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Cathedral

Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. By all accounts, it was a very successful and enjoyable weeklong event. Next year brings the profession of Michael Seiler and brings our membership up to 14. We are testing the waters for a few different apostolates to see which one or two might be a good match for our fraternity. Exciting times for our little fraternity as we continue to grow and blossom.

We have much to be thankful for – “If the only prayer you said in your whole life was Thank You, that would suffice”. . Peace my friends.

Mary Frances Reavey Minister

Profiles of Joy

"My Journey"

I have been a practicing Catholic my entire life and I owe a great deal to what I know about my faith to the nuns I had in grammar school and my parents. Later in life, I would read to learn more about specific issues of interest.

I believe that God gives us "challenges" to bring us along incrementally in our faith—nothing spiritual is a coincidence.

I have been blessed with the ability to help others and I enjoy being able to give of myself to others because it generates an inner peace in me that has helped transform me somewhat to become the person that I am today.

My experience was not like St Francis' San Damiano experience – "Francesco – rebuild my church." My experience was that I kept receiving "voices or images" guiding me to do more to help others and being directed to help them through charitable acts. I was able to view many shows on EWTN that impacted me tremendously. (Mother Angelica's teachings. Certain priest's sermons and the Franciscan way of life.)

My prayers became very different and I started to pay much closer attention to what the words actually meant and were asking rather than just reciting the prayers by rote.

As a boy and then a young man I worked for and with the "Little Sisters of the Poor" in Newark for ten years before they moved the elderly to Totowa, NJ. It was here that I probably found true charity and humility and I thank them for the experience. I would cook for 300

people every weekend and helped the nuns with the care of the men who were having difficulty shaving, etc.

I have been helping in my parish acting as an altar server, a Eucharistic Minister, and performing charitable works as a member of the Knights of Columbus as well as physical labor when needed. I will be making my fourth K of C degree in November. Recently, my priest and deacon approached me to teach and work with people wishing to become Catholic (RCIA). I imagine that they want to tap my teaching experience and religious experience to help others grow in their faith.

I am not a student of music, but there are many meaningful songs which have inspired me as well. Make Me a Channel of Your Peace, I will follow Him, Be Not Afraid, Is it I Lord? - to cite just a few.

In reality, I probably have been a Franciscan my entire life. I did have to do a lot of searching to find our fraternity in this region. A Franciscan on Catholic Answers sent me in the right direction to find St. Peter's Fraternity and the rest is now history.

I am developing a deeper yearning to be more contemplative in prayer and being in union with others.

Pax et Bonum. –Michael Seiler



“LIFELINE” OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS

FORMATION MANUAL



This is the last installment from the timeline.

Ministry and Mission

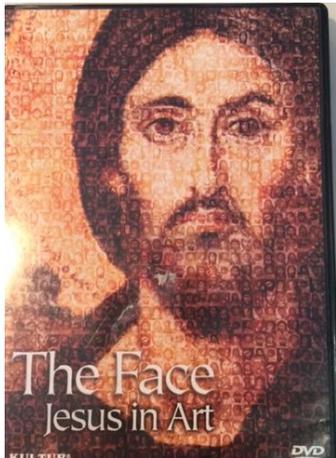
- Francis longs to spread the Gospel and hopes for martyrdom.
- Sets out and seeks an audience with the Sultan Malekel-Kamel of Egypt.
- The first “Third Order” fraternity is canonically established by Cardinal Hugolin and Francis in 1221 in Florence. (Third Order Rule of 1221).

- Francis writes the final rule for the Order of the Lesser Brothers.
- Celebration of Christmas at Greccio – crib scene – Mass at Midnight – the
- Christ of Christmas and the Christ of the Mass are the same.
- Retreat on Mount LaVerna where he receives the Stigmata
- During illness and pain his “Canticle of Creatures” is completed.
- Final visit with Clare and the sisters.
- Death at the Portiuncula on the evening of Oct. 3, 1226. Placed naked on the ground, his soul ascends to God.
- Francis is canonized a saint by Pope Gregory IX on July 16, 1228.
- Clare lives 27 years after Francis. She does much to preserve the ideals that Francis put forth for the Order.
- Clare passes on to eternal life in 1253 and is canonized in 1255.
- All three branches of the Franciscan family continue to this day.

Approaching God through the world of art was the focus of ongoing formation at our meeting on November 21, 2015

Joe McKenna our ongoing formation leader asked each of us to bring an example of art or poetry that has spiritual meaning. We enjoyed excerpts the DVD

"The Face Jesus in Art".



Everyone revealed their special story about the images or writings.



These included Desiderata by Max Ehrmann; Triptych Icons of the Holy Family, An Angel at the Cross statue; a picture of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini; The Pieta; a picture of Our Lady of the Mines from Hazard Kentucky Mines; a scene of Christ in Gethsemane; and a simple nativity scene.

Advent 2015

From Sr. Valenta

Oh Little Babe

Oh little Babe

Of Bethlehem

Be my heart

And Love tonight

Be the evergreens

Sturdy and bright

Be my garland

Of the Holy delight

Be my trimmings

And visual sight

Be the cova

Of gentle light

Be my star

On Christmas night



Visit the following website for more resources.

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Advent/faqs.asp>