

THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY
of
THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER



Newsletter

Summer, 1990

BLESSED BE HIS MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

James David Lynch, SFO
National Minister

Pope John XXIII recalled to us in an Apostolic letter the devotion to the Most Precious Blood. To make sure that we should not forget it, he added to the Divine Praises the permanent invocation: *Blessed be His Most Precious Blood*. Exhorting us to love Christ, Pope John said, "To encourage the worship of Jesus there is nothing better than meditating upon Him and invoking Him under the aspect of His Most Precious Blood. It is a devotion close to our heart." The Holy Father then reminded us, "It is the Precious Blood of Jesus which permits us to ask forgiveness of our sins." It is this fact St. Peter speaks of when he writes that we were not redeemed in earthly currency, silver or gold; it was paid in the precious blood of Christ; no lamb was ever so pure, so spotless a victim. (1 Peter 1:18).

"So prodigal was our Savior in paying the price that he shed his blood to the last drop, though a single drop would have been sufficient to save the entire world from all iniquity. Most readily did he pay the price, and most generous was that price. None but the

Heart of Jesus that loves men so much could have been so lavish in giving of its very life-treasure, its blood. No wonder St. Paul exclaims: A great price was paid to ransom you; glorify God by making your bodies the shrines of His presence." (1 Corinthians 6:20.)

It is only proper that contiguous months should be dedicated to the Sacred Heart and the Precious Blood, because, for all humanity, heart and blood are inextricable. In this relationship, we find even another miracle, the Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano.

In the eighth century, a Basilian monk was having problems accepting the Real Presence. One day, just after the consecration, when his doubts were at peak, the host changed into something that had the appearance of human flesh; the wine appeared as blood.

The species are still reserved in the church which, since 1258, has been under the custody of the Friars Minor, Conventual.

In 1971, two professors of pathology analyzed them. The flesh consists of human heart muscle; the blood is human, type AB. Without artificial preservatives, both heart and blood still exhibit normal human chemical make-up.

Let us glorify and thank Jesus now for his love and generosity. Let us show our appreciation of that love and generosity by living our lives according to the pattern he laid down for us.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT

As a concrete sign of communion and co-responsibility, the councils on various levels, in keeping with the constitutions, shall ask for suitable and well prepared religious for spiritual assistance.

The Rule, Chapter 3:26.

Francis Anthony Lonsway, for as long as he can remember, wanted to be a priest. It was his early education that led him into the Franciscan Order; he was taught by Franciscan Sisters. He ascribes his direction to their example and gentleness.

The youngest of three children, he entered the Conventual seminary of the Assumption in Chaska, Minnesota, and was ordained at the cathedral in St. Paul in 1965.

He holds master's degrees in theology and in education administration and earned his doctorate from the University of Minnesota in the psychology of learning.

Since completing his doctorate, Father Francis served as co-director of the merger of Bellarmine and Ursuline colleges in Louisville, Kentucky. He is a Fellow of the U.S. Office of Higher Education and has held a full-time position with the Association of Theological Schools which accredits Catholic and Protestant seminaries in the United States and Canada.

Foremost among his Franciscan family duties, he is Spiritual Assistant to the Secular Franciscan Province of Our Lady of Consolation, Spiritual Assistant to the National Executive Council, and president of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants. (A prime obligation of the four-friar Conference is the pastoral visitation of Secular provinces.)

Father Francis, through his province, also serves as director of the Catholic Conference Center, St. Bonaventure House, a new diocesan conference/retreat facility set in the

rolling hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains outside of Hickory, North Carolina.

This past March 13th, Father celebrated his Silver Anniversary of Ordination. *Ad multos annos!*

NEW OMNIBUS EDITION ANNOUNCED

The Very Rev. Robert J. Karris, OFM, wrote, "I come with cup in hand as a mendicant, begging funds for a new edition of the *Omnibus* of Franciscan Sources."

It is anticipated that the first of (probably) four volumes will be published late in 1991 which will not only be more manageable than the present large book, but will provide... "introductions and notes that give the reader various perspectives: biblical, historical, sociological, hagiographical, as well as spiritual and pastoral." And will "situate Franciscan texts within the Christian tradition and the context of their day: the legends of saints, popular religiosity, ecclesial and secular society."

The National Executive Council, on behalf of the National Fraternity, pledged \$2000 in four annual installments toward the achievement of this tremendous and tremendously important work. More donations are needed.

Individual Franciscans, local fraternities, and provinces are invited to participate. Please send your contribution to the National Treasurer: Mr. William H. McVernon, SFO, 2000 S. Eads St., Apt 420, Arlington, VA 22202.

Make checks payable to NAFRA-Omnibus.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

Rev. Lawrence Kubera, OFM Conv, who died May 9th. Fr. Larry, ordained only fifteen years, had served as Spiritual Assistant to local fraternities, to the Secular Province of St. Anthony of Padua, and to the National Fraternity. His most recent assignment was as Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Bessamer, Alabama. For many years he had suffered from a pulmonary condition.

FIVE PROFESSED AT NEW YORK STATE PRISON

From an interview with John Dougherty, SFO
St. Bernardine Fraternity, Holy Name Province,
Loudenville, N.Y.

St. Bernardine Fraternity in Loudenville, New York, professed five brothers at the maximum security prison in Comstock, New York, on April 7th. This was the culmination of two years of hard work on the part of a group headed by Deacon Lee Hansen of Clifton Park which has been visiting the prison monthly and providing formation for interested inmates.

The ten to twelve Secular Franciscans who go to the prison to carry on this work meet with twelve to fifteen inquirers, novices, and professed who are allowed to spend from 7:30 to 11:30 one Saturday morning each month, learning about the Gospel life and the Secular Order. The instructors are allowed to take pastries and coffee into the prison, a special exception, so that they can minister in a more relaxed atmosphere.

"Prison officials have been extremely helpful," says John Dougherty, one of the team. "They have even offered to let us continue after lunch, but so far we have not taken advantage of that."

"One of the biggest problems with the ministry is that it is hard to complete the candidacy program, because, very often, the prisoners are either released, paroled, or transferred in less than the time required for this formation," says Dougherty.

The five new brothers were professed by St. Bernardine's minister, Irene Ryder, SFO, during a Mass offered by Father Reginald Reddy, OFM, a professor at Siena College.

Although there are no women at the Comstock prison, and women cannot help with the formation meetings, St. Bernardine Fraternity is also involved with ministries at the Warren County Jail and the Salem County

Jail. Both of those facilities have women inmates, and some of the fraternity sisters are involved in ministries there. John Dougherty and his wife, Ann, visit the Warren County Jail regularly.

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS

Every morning we dedicate our prayers, works, sufferings, and joys of the day. Yet how many times in the course of a hectic day have we thought, "If only there were time for quiet, personal prayer"? Perhaps we can't do it, but there are many who do it for us - our shut-in Seculars. We owe them so much, and one way of repayment is "Lift Up Your Hearts."

For some time, Fr. Lawrence Landini, OFM, has written the monthly, spiritually oriented letter for the shut-in members. These may be ordered in bulk by local fraternities. The cost is five cents per letter (sixty cents per year) plus postage. Present distribution is being handled by:

Mr. William H. McVernon, SFO
2000 Eads St., Apt 420
Arlington, VA 22202

TAKE A MOMENT

If you own or have access to *The Franciscan Book Of Saints* (Marion A. Habig, OFM, Franciscan Herald Press, 1975) take a moment to check the list of Seculars for June through August.

At least eighteen of them came from royalty and/or substantial material wealth. None seems to have been impressed by possessions; none was ensnared by them. Each worked untiringly for the oppressed, the poor, the ill. Amazingly, especially for women in that age, their charities were not in giving to some cause, if causes existed, and, then, feeling content in their virtue. They actually did the work; they kissed the leper.

OUR FIRST TASK IS TO KNOW HIM

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

The brilliance of Easter overwhelms us. So, too, does the fullness of a beautiful Spring which accompanies this holiest of seasons. Peter, chronicled in Acts of the Apostles, said, "I take it you know what has been reported all over Judea about Jesus of Nazareth..." (Acts 10:34) Indeed we do. We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus as the undeniable sign that He is the Son of God.

The Rule, Chapter 2, states that "Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to Him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which He has come to give abundantly."

The task for us, then, is to know Him and follow His way. The first is done best through a careful study of Scripture, in particular the New Testament. Members of the Executive Council and Directive Board hear reports of fraternities that accept the challenge of studying the bible. Most think that it will be like a refresher course, but quickly learn how much research has been done in the last several decades and how thoughtful the new insights. The good news? After the members of the fraternity accept the discipline of New Testament study, they delight in how much richer the Scriptures are now than before.

Consider, then, at this moment in your formation, the power of entering more deeply into the resurrection of Christ through the study of the New Testament. You have been made "living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ..." (Rule II:6).

When St. John Mary Vianney, SFO, arrived in the village of Ars, he was told there was nothing to do there. He replied, "Therefore, there is everything to do."

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

From the Editor

As mentioned in the last issue, the object of the National Newsletter is to inform, educate, and spiritually enrich. To do so, it must reach every member of our Order in the United States, not just the National Directive Board and local fraternity ministers.

For that reason, the National Secretary, Elizabeth Ryder, whose job it is to make that possible, has asked all provincial ministers to send her their rosters.

Some have done so, and the Newsletter is being mailed directly to provincial council members and local fraternity ministers.

Those who have not yet complied are receiving bulk mailings, but, because of the printed postage permit, this is causing problems, extra work, and expense. Please send your rosters to Elizabeth. Don't forget updates.

Also, apparently some local ministers do not understand that they are to circulate their copy - duplicate them and pass them out to the fraternity members.

Any effort you make to help us reach our entire membership will be appreciated so much. We also welcome any suggestions as to how we can help you accomplish this. We thank you.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 8-13: Week of Community, St. Barbara Province: The Five Commissions, St. Anthony Retreat House, Three Rivers, CA.

August 2-4: Provincial Conference, St. John the Baptist Province, Peoria, IL.

August 3-5: Provincial Convention of Holy Savior Province, St. Francis Retreat Center, Easton, PA. Theme: SFO Call and Leadership.

THE VINEYARD

The Secular Franciscan Province of St. Joseph regularly chooses an annual theme. For this year, it is based on Matthew 20: 1-7, "You, too, go into my vineyard," a theme in keeping with the required apostolic activity of our Order. Our shut-ins devote much time to private prayer; our young parents concentrate on family; the rest of us engage in Order, parish, and community work. By our attitude and ethics, we take Christ into the market place.

Occasionally, some of us go beyond the required. We celebrate them and thank them for their courage and example.

Dr. Richard Ward, SFO, has retired from his medical practice and entered Mater Dei (Jesuit) Seminary in Spokane, Washington, where he hopes to begin a life of real healing. He is a member of St. George Fraternity, St. Barbara Province, in Seattle.

The Most Rev. Kelvin Felix, Archbishop of Castries, St. Lucia, West Indies, requested help. He needed teachers and religious educators. Richard and Margaret Bronson, also members of St. George Fraternity, responded. Richard holds a master's degree in religious education and pastoral ministry; Margaret is a teacher too. Nevertheless, the Archbishop thoroughly investigated them. Dr. Kathryn Keyes, SFO, Minister of St. George, said she was asked to supply a fair amount of information. She explained that, while St. Lucia is "relatively well-off", it is still third world and that will require newcomers to be adaptable. (St. Lucia is one of the Windward Islands, about seventy miles north of Trinidad and two hundred miles southeast of Puerto Rico.)

The Bronsons will be leaving Seattle in July to take up their new ministry which will

last at least three years. Joining them, of course, will be their three year old son, Emmanuel, who, according to Kay Keyes, never misses a Fraternity meeting.

Near the juncture of Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania is Steubenville, Ohio, the type of community that one would expect within commuting distance of a busy city such as Pittsburgh. But, perhaps more important, it is home to the University of Steubenville, an apostolate of the Third Order Regular of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

There are several non-academic items that the visitor to the University finds impressive: the dress and grooming of the students is far more conservative than among most youth; the attendance at daily Mass, although not required, is substantial; and the student interest in the Secular Franciscan Order is healthy and encouraging. At graduation, the young SFO is referred to a local fraternity near his/her new location. But...not all of them leave Steubenville.

Mother Angeline Hensen, T.O.R., has written that, three years ago, while working in SFO formation with young university women, she felt called by God to form a new Third Order Regular religious community which would be contemplative-active with a ministry to the poor and the unwanted that would flow from its life of contemplation.

On August 15, 1988, the Most Rev. Albert Ottenweller, Bishop of Steubenville, erected the group as an Association of the Faithful, a religious institute in formation.

The first five novices were from the Secular Order; of the next group of nine, some were also SFOs. Inquiries and answered vocations continue. As Mother Angeline points out, it is traditional for Third Order Regulars to come from the Third Order Secular. She says, "I wish you could see the miracle that stands before me!"

BLESSED KATHARINE DREXEL FRATERNITY - A FIRST

On April 22nd, 1990, the Secular Franciscan Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus celebrated the canonical establishment of Blessed Katharine Drexel Fraternity in the Church of St. Matthew in Philadelphia. The concelebrated Mass was attended by more than one hundred fifty Secular Franciscans, including the National Minister. A reception followed at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People, the religious institute founded by Katharine Drexel.

This is the first fraternity to be named for Blessed Katharine whose early life style might have been comparable to the camel's passing through the eye of a needle had it not been for devoted and devout parents.

In the last century, young ladies were most often trained at home, and the training was directed towards being a lady, genteelly running a household, and the proper direction of children and servants. The Drexel daughters received far more. They were trained in "correct habits of orderly thinking and purposeful concentration...they were to acquire a penetration of the liberal arts and a corresponding mental poise and dignity."

They were taught history, especially that of the United States, English, French, and Latin classics, logic and moral philosophy.

"On Sunday evenings, Mrs. Drexel arranged little literary seminars on the saints where they read, narrated, and discussed the lives of various saints including their patron saints and the family favorite, St. Francis of Assisi. The devotion to the poor man of Assisi was fostered in Katharine as a child. It was to remain with her all her life."

Before founding the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Katharine had been a Secular Franciscan. She was also a banker's daugh-

ter. Did she really love poverty?

Mr. Drexel left her a trust fund of over fourteen million dollars, the interest of which supported her congregation and its works. However, at her death, it was to be divided between the archdiocese and specified charities; it was not to remain with her spiritual family. This was probably not a slight on her father's part, but, rather, failure to update his will. She was advised that breaking the will would be a simple matter. Obviously, she trusted the material support of the Sisters to the highest Authority, because she did not attempt to contest the document.

But let it not be said that she lacked astuteness when it came to gathering favors for herself and her Congregation, spiritual favors, that is.

She obtained affiliation with the Benedictines and, in addition to the regular habit, her Congregation was given the privilege of wearing the Benedictine scapular. That was not enough. She received permission from Rome to wear the Franciscan cord. The new missionaries were, indeed, well dressed.

In addition to the Blessed Katharine Drexel, we offer congratulations to several other new fraternities that have been established since the last edition of the Newsletter:

Francis, Little Poor Man, Secular Franciscan Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe (#33).

San Damiano and Brother Juniper, Secular Franciscan Province of St. Barbara.

St. Clare, Secular Franciscan Province of St. John the Baptist. Over one hundred Seculars from Biloxi, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, and Lafayette attended this Louisiana event, which, according to Fr. Larry Landini, was followed by a spectacular reception featuring Cajun-crawfish fettucini. That is Franciscan hospitality!

(Katharine Drexel quotes are from Katharine Drexel, a biography, by Sr. Consuela Marie Duffy, S.B.S. Published by Mother Katharine Drexel Guild, 1966.)

MODERN DAY ST. FRANCIS

Fr. Joseph Nelson, OFM, of Cuauhtemoc, Mexico, gave a retreat entitled "What is the Charism of Franciscans?" in Toledo, Washington, for the members of four fraternities and other interested Christians.

Father answered this question by dividing the retreat into five sections: "Intensive Life with God," "Fraternity," "Life in Minority," "Availability to Others," and "Refusal of Power (or Poverty)." Those in attendance felt that these five points answered the question very well.

However, the story is far more reaching than his just being a good retreat master. He arrived in Seattle, carrying a backpack and very casually dressed, a fact which not only mirrored his poverty, but his humility - in Mexico, it is forbidden to wear clericals or habits in public. If priests and religious are to be able to pursue their ministries, they must obey civil restrictions.

Father Joe has completed two years of voluntary mission work in Cuauhtemoc where, literally, he dwells with Lady Poverty. His home is without electricity or plumbing. Like Francis, he is assisting in building a church which now has three sides. The building where the church's interior appointments are being made does have electricity. But the people are too poor to afford power tools. Father had mentioned the extreme length of time that it was taking them to finish the pews; so, while in the States, he was given an electric sander.

He gave the retreatants one more thought to ponder when he said, "While I am lonely without a fellow priest, I work with Christ in the persons of my flock. I find solace in those people, God's poor."

St. Paul placed the virtue of charity above all other charisms.

THE HOUR OF THE LAITY

The Hour of the Laity: Their Expanding Role by Msgr. Peter Coughlan. Published by E. J. Dwyer, Australia, 1989.

(The Pontifical Council for the Laity was begun, experimentally, by Pope Paul in 1967 and was given permanent status in 1976. Its competence covers the apostolate of and the discipline of the laity.)

In 1987, a world Synod of Bishops was held in Rome to define the apostolate of the laity. In preparation for the synod, bishops held consultations with the laity, including those who headed secular orders and societies. Our National Minister attended two meetings.

Following the synod, the Holy Father issued the post-synodal exhortation *Christifideles Laici* (available from the Daughters of St. Paul, 50 St. Paul's Ave., Boston, MA 02130). Msgr. Coughlan's book, according to the reviewer, Mary Kenny, adds much of what the Pope's exhortation could not: synod propositions, deliberations, and Monsignor's commentaries. She wrote, "Inevitably, a discussion of the layperson in the church gives rise to knotty questions which refuse to go away: the role of women in the church; the scope of lay participation; the definition of ministry; the place of lay associations within the church." The book reveals that many synod participants recognized the desire of lay Catholics for more meaningful participation.

The book contains information that each of us should have, especially as Secular Franciscans are committed to absolute fidelity to the magisterium. Considering the apostolates that are open to us today (ministers, including women, within the sanctuary, Eucharistic ministers to shut-ins, conducting services in the absence of a priest or deacon, etc.) one wonders what the synod participants meant by "the desire of lay Catholics for more meaningful participation."

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DOUBLE PLUS FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

The Secular Franciscan Minister General, Manuela Mattioli, SFO, has been appointed to a five year term on the Pontifical Council on Justice and Peace.

In this country, Anneta Duveen, SFO, is representing our Peace and Justice Commission with the Franciscans at the United Nations. This past March, she journeyed to Seoul, Korea, to participate in the Convocation of Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation. Some of the issues discussed were Religious Freedom, Third-World Loans, Global Warming, The Effects of Migration, Health Issues, Deforestation, Famine, Education and Employment.

PROFILE OF ANNETA

Gloria Shriver, SFO
Editor

Anneta Duveen, SFO, of Port Chester, New York, is a woman of many talents. She has served as Minister of the Secular Franciscan Province of the Immaculate Conception (#2), National Minister from 1975 to 1981, and has had several terms as a Councilor to the International Council. While serving as a member

of the Pauline Rule Commission for the final writing of the Rule, she represented all English speaking Franciscans. She has also worked with Catholic Charities doing inner city and waterfront work in New York.

Anneta is the president of Duveen International, Ltd., a firm producing sculptures and other works of art.

She has gained international recognition as an artist, and her works have been exhibited both here and in Italy. Included in her many sculptures are: Pope John Paul II, Robert Kennedy, and St. Maximilian Kolbe. She has also illustrated books and encyclopedias. She is a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Presently, she is designing stained-glass windows for a church in Brasilia. Soon, she hopes to begin a sculpture of the martyred cardinal from Brazzaville, Emile Biayenda.

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

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Please send news, articles, and newsletters to:

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