



# Newsletter

## of the Immaculate Conception Province

Order of Friars Minor • Province of the Immaculate Conception

Volume 7, Issue 1

*Pax et Bonum!*

Summer 2011

### ‘Spirit of Assisi’ Lives On



ASSISI - For some years now friars and sisters have found an Ordo reminder for October 27 about preserving the “Spirit of Assisi” on that date “in the best way the Lord of peace inspires them.”

The Lord of peace inspired John Paul II in 1986 to gather religious leaders in Assisi, making it effectively the capital of peace, and to solicit their pledges to work for peace especially by contributing to the removal of its major obstacles—war, injustice, racism, and the denial of rights of all kinds. Benedict XVI described this important meeting as an “event destined to leave its mark on history.”

Three other dates involving Assisi and the cause of universal peace are January 24, 2002, October 27, 2006, and October 27, 2011.

After the terrorist attacks on the US in 2001 and the start of military action in Afghanistan, Pope John Paul II called for a day of fast on December 14, 2001, and a pilgrimage to Assisi on January 24, 2002, to pray “for an end of hostilities and the advancement of true peace.” He circulated among heads of state what was called the “Decalog of Assisi,” ten proposals formulated by representatives of the more than 150 religious leaders present there that year.

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the first Assisi assembly, in 2006, Pope Benedict XVI wrote the bishop of Assisi, noting the religious and academic events scheduled for the occasion. In reviewing the history of the two-decade interval, the pope cited the fall of totalitarian regimes in Eastern Europe as the most significant event. Yet, terrorism constitutes a present and continuing threat, he noted, with religious motives offered by some as a justification for violence against others.

### All Province Assembly (APA) Preparations

NEW YORK - The Provincial Definitory met at the Provincial Curia on Monday and Tuesday, May 2nd and 3rd. At that meeting, the plans for the upcoming APA (All Province Assembly) were discussed and several areas of preparation will be implemented soon. Some of these points are:

An APA Planning Committee was established by the Provincial Definitory.

The membership of this Committee is as follows:

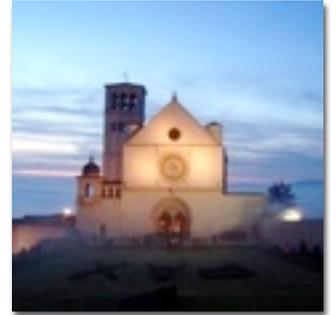
- Br. Ed Coughlin, OFM, Facilitator
- Fr. John Scarangelo, OFM, Chair
- Fr. Daniel Morey, OFM
- Fr. Armand Padula, OFM
- Fr. Charles Gingerich, OFM

Faith in God, however, promotes universal brotherhood. And prayer in whatever form is a powerful contribution toward peace.

October 27, this year, is the twenty-fifth anniversary of “Assisi 1986.” Pope Benedict has planned a day of reflection, dialog, and prayer for peace and justice in the world. This time, in addition to religious figures, the pope will invite figures from the “world of culture and science.”

The participants will begin their itinerary, or, better, pilgrimage, by boarding a train in Rome with the Holy Father. Their first stop in Assisi will be the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, where speeches and an address by the pope will be delivered. A simple lunch will follow. The next destination will be the Basilica of St. Francis – the silent passage to which will symbolize the journey involved in seeking truth and promoting justice and peace. Outside the Basilica – the location of the previous Assisi gathering – the group will in solemn fashion jointly renew its commitment to peace.

Pope Benedict XVI calls on us all to pray for the success of this important event, as he will do in a vigil at St. Peter’s on October 26th.



- Fr. Michael Corcione, OFM
- Fr. Roger Hall, OFM
- Fr. Alexis Anania, OFM

The first meeting of the APA Planning Committee was held on Thursday, June 2nd at 11:00AM at the Provincial Curia.

In order to assist the APA Planning Committee with the agenda, the Regional Chairmen of the Province were asked to convene the friars in their respective regions for a meeting no later than May 31st. At those regional meetings, friars were asked to submit topics to be discussed at the APA. All minutes of the Regional Meetings were forwarded to John Scarangelo.

Further details regarding the APA in October will be forthcoming.

## Poor Clares Celebrate 8th Centennial



ASSISI - The years 2011 and 2012 mark the eight hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the Poor Clares, the Second Order of religious women inspired by St. Francis. Quite dramatically, the evening of Palm Sunday 2011 (or, for some, 2012), Clare slipped out unnoticed from her family home and met St. Francis and the other friars at the little Chapel of the Portiuncula. There, in what must surely have been a simple ceremony, she pledged herself to live the gospel wholeheartedly and in short order she established

herself at San Damiano and the epic story of the Poor Ladies of Assisi unfolded.

Eighth-centennial celebrations began on April, 16, 2011, with a vigil procession stepping off from San Rufino Cathedral, where St. Clare's receiving the palm was recalled, and making its way to the Clares' protomonastery and then to the

Portiuncula. There Jose Carballo welcomed the assembly and concluded the vigil.

Palm Sunday 2012, will have community as well as liturgical significance. On St. Clare's feast day the same year

solemn celebrations will be had at the Portiuncula, San Damiano, and St. Clare's Basilica.

Cultural events will complement the religious commemorations. Thus, at St. Mary of the Angels, during September, 2011, a study week dedicated to St. Clare will be held. Next Spring, in the same place, there will be exhibitions and two international conventions for Second Order spiritual assistants and Poor Clare Presidents of the various federations. Concerts and days of recollection will also be had.

The Clarian Year will end with an August 11, 2012 convention at the Portiuncula and the dedication of a Portiuncula shrine at St. Clare's Basilica.



## The 'Elijah Cup' and Vocations

WALTHAM - Our Sacred Heart Parish, Waltham, MA, staffed by Dennis Wheatley, Richard Donovan and Damian Johnson, is strong on praying for vocations. One way of doing so is by using the "Elijah Cup" as a focal point for family prayer.

Elijah was an Old Testament prophet. First Kings 17 recounts a fascinating miracle he worked for the benefit of a poor widow. He asked her to make him a small loaf of bread from the little flour and oil she had left, promising that the supplies of both would last until the dry spell was over. She trustingly complied and for one whole year she fed herself, her son, and the prophet from the undpleted flour jar and oil jug.

At Sacred Heart, one Sunday a month, a special chalice that belonged to a deceased Stigmatine priest of the parish is presented to a family for display during the coming week in their home at a convenient time for common prayer for the increase of vocations to church lay ministries, the consecrated life, and the



diaconate and priesthood. The family is also given a journal with the chalice to write down their prayer intentions and how this prayer time has affected their family. The following Sunday, the chalice is returned to the church and is brought to the altar during the offertory procession together with the gifts of bread and wine. The pattern is repeated each month with another family.

A beautiful teaching moment! All of us have been given the Lord's mandate to pray for an "increase of laborers in the vineyard." God, we know, is the one who calls but the Christian community, especially at Eucharist, is a source of inspiration and support for all those not deterred by the sacrifice and generosity a response requires.

## Farewell To St. Emery's

FAIRFIELD - On Sunday, June 5, 2011, the friars of our beloved province formally returned the administration of St. Emery Parish in Fairfield, CT back to the Bishop of Bridgeport, CT.

On that day, a farewell mass was celebrated by His Excellency, Bishop William Lori, S.T.D., at 11:30 am concelebrated by Fr. Primo Piscitello, OFM and Fr. John Scarangelo, OFM along with several diocesan clergy. The Bishop was effusive in his praise for the friars and their 79 long years of dedicated and loyal service to that parish community. In

his remarks, Bishop Lori also mentioned the hard work and dedication of our last pastor, Fr. Louis Pintye, OFM.

The bishop did assure the many people gathered there that they would continue to be ministered to and that the Hungarian Mass would continue to be celebrated. A festive reception then followed in the parish hall.



### PHOTO ESSAY: Farewell Mass at St. Charles Parish in Toronto

TORONTO - After 35 years of serving the community of St. Charles Parish, the Franciscans bid farewell to the parishioners at a Mass on the 25th of June presided by the Most Reverend John Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, with Fr. Michael D’Cruz and other friars concelebrating. The packed congregation of the Saturday Vigil Mass was challenged by the bishop in his homily to continue to be faithful to the eucharistic charism of St. Francis and to show their appreciation to the friars by continuing

the good works that the friars have begun. Following the celebration of the Mass, a simple reception was held in the basement hall where parishioners were able personally to greet, thank and say goodbye to the Franciscans. A farewell concert the following Sunday evening, organized by the St. Charles Children’s Choir and joined by the Italian and English choirs of St. Charles, ended the weekend-long farewell events. Below are some photos of the event, courtesy of Mary Magno.



Some of the concelebrating friars with the bishop before the Mass



The Liturgy of the Eucharist



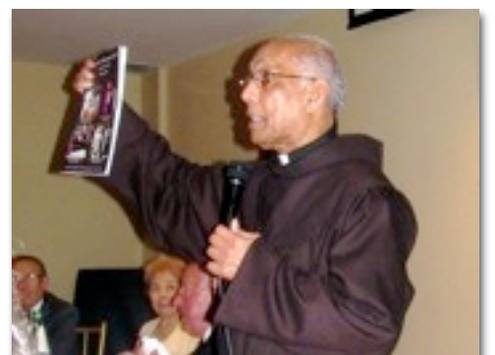
Fr. Michael D’Cruz and Bishop John Boissonneau



The packed church



The reception after Mass



Fr. Michael presenting the souvenir booklet

### PHOTO ESSAY: Golden Jubilee Celebrations

The year 2011 marks a milestone for these friars: Fr. Fred Mazarella and Fr. Claude Scrima celebrate their 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood while Br. Philip Adamo celebrates his 50th anniversary of profession. Friars and family members gathered with them for these joyful occasions.

Fr. Fred celebrated his anniversary at the Columbus Centre in Toronto on May 13, 2011 and Br. Phil celebrated his at the Caledon Banquet Hall on June 26, 2011. Fr. Claude held his at St. Leonard’s in Boston. Below are photos of the events.



Fr. Fred with Fr. Giacomo and the other friars residing at St. Francis  
(Photo: Camille Mainelli)



Br. Phil before slicing the cake



Fr. Claude with postulants (L-R) Zach Wood, Walter Vijil and Jared Cowell  
(Photo: Jared Cowell)

## Roman JPIC Course

ROME - Christopher Gaffrey, Provincial JPIC animator, and Courtland Campbell attended this course at the Antonianum as



ICP representatives from May 3-13, 2011. Attention was given in the morning sessions to the role of the provincial animator and in the afternoon ones to topics dealing with the ethical use of the environment and economic resources.

Michael Perry, vicar and procurator general, told those in attendance that an animator is charged mainly with helping other friars integrate JPIC values, both personally and provincially. The acronym may be new but the objectives described are biblical, spiritual, and part of the Church's extensive social teaching and essential elements of the new evangelization.

Our GC's first article (paragraph 2) says: "Friars, followers of Saint Francis, are held to live a radically gospel life; namely, to live in the spirit of prayer and devotion and in brotherly communion; to bear witness by penance and minority; to bring the gospel message to the whole world by love of all others; to preach reconciliation, peace, and justice by their works, and to show respect for creation."

Gearoid Francisco O Conaire, OFM, Executive Secretary JPIC Commission, USG/UISG, gave the participants a 2002 handout

## A Word of Gratitude

Dear Brothers:

May the Lord give you His peace!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to so many of you for your kind and caring expressions of sympathy to me on the loss of my mother, Lena. So many Friars called, wrote, e-mailed and were present at the time of the funeral.

You cannot imagine how comforting and reassuring it was not only for myself but for my sister, my brother-in-law, my nieces and my extended family as well.

It was certainly one of the many moments in my life as a Friar that made me so very proud to be a member of this fraternity, the Province of the Immaculate Conception.

Brothers, may the Lord continue to bless you all and reward you a hundredfold for the loving and generous spirit that you have graciously shared!

With affection,  
John S.

"Towards a Spirituality of JPIC Animation" and made practical suggestions about **projects** (keep them simple; take advantage of what already exists; involve more friars; plan with others, and do evaluations). As **fundamental attitudes** he listed: respect for brothers (offer rather than impose); be positive (blame yourself and not others); be persistent (the project is the Kingdom's, not yours); love the brothers (even in resistance), and celebrate successes...



Afternoon sessions focused on today's global economy and some alternative models. Emphasis was placed on the dignity of the human person and reliance on "solidarity and subsidiarity," especially as promoted in church documents. The fair-trade movement (an Irish experience was described in a circular) and integral development were key topics.

Closer to home, the group reviewed *Economy and Mission in the Consecrated Life Today*, a document issued by the Union of Superiors General (USG). These leaders urged fellow religious to insure that their investments are ethical and, if possible, promote development.



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