



VOL. 72, NO. 1
JANUARY 2012

THE POWELL

ST. BONAVENTURE SECULAR FRANCISCANS ✦ DETROIT, MICHIGAN



1212 - 2012

800th Anniversary

of St. Clare's Consecration

MINISTER'S LETTER

My dear brothers and sisters,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May God's peace and joy reign in your heart!

THANK YOU

I want to express my thanks to **Theresa Westbrook-Lienert** and **Tony Lienert** for organizing the reception following the Christmas Concert, to **Patricia Cardello**, **Ilene Manning**, **Stella Mordarski**, **Bev Sapien**, **Stephen Haycox**, **Brother Pat**, Chuck Sapien, and **Joe Sapien** for helping in the kitchen and/or assisting with the set up and clean up for the reception. I also want to express a big *thank you* to everyone who brought food and beverages. The choir members, their family and friends, and all of our guests were impressed with the incredible banquet we prepared for them. Great job, everyone!

FAIR SHARE and POVERELLO

If you have not yet sent in your share of our fraternity's *Fair Share* and *Poverello* costs, please do so as soon as possible.

CHAPTER

At our fraternity gathering on Sunday, January 15, the elected members of the Leadership Council will give an accounting of their service during the past year. A copy of their written Chapter reports will be mailed to you prior to the fraternity gathering. In order to make the best use of our time on January 15, I would encourage everyone to read the reports and prepare any questions you may have before coming to the fraternity gathering.

XVIII Quinquennial Conference

The SFO XVIII Quinquennial Conference will be held from July 3-8, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Northshore in Chicago. During the conference we will explore and reflect on the wisdom and gifts of our Franciscan heritage, allowing the Spirit to deepen and widen our sense of vocation. The week will culminate in a process of discernment on the future direction of the SFO in the United States. If you are interested in attending this conference, please complete the registration form found in this issue of the *Poverello*. Also, please join in praying the prayer for the Quinquennial 2012 Conference.

Reflection

As you sit and read this issue of the *Poverello*, I'm sure you are breathing a sigh of relief that you made it through another Christmas. All of the frenzied activity of shopping, decorating, baking, planning menus, making travel arrangements, celebrating with friends and family is finished. Perhaps we can now take some time to pause and ponder the true meaning of Christmas – the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and God's tremendous love for us in giving us the greatest gift of all – the gift of his Son.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life (Jn 3:16).

During this Christmas season, let us take time to gaze upon the Christmas creche, which is an especially important element in Franciscan spirituality for it was Francis himself who brought about this tradition. A description of that first Nativity scene on the mountaintop of Greccio is recounted by St. Bonaventure in his Major Life of St. Francis:

Three years before he died, St. Francis decided to celebrate the memory of the birth of the Child Jesus at Greccio with the greatest possible solemnity. He asked and obtained the permission of the pope for the ceremony, so that he could not be accused of being an innovator, and then he had a crib prepared, with hay and an ox and an ass. The friars were all invited and the people came in crowds. The forest reechoed with their voices and the night was lit up with a multitude of bright lights, while the beautiful music of God's praises added to the solemnity. The saint stood before the crib and his heart overflowed with tender compassion; he was bathed in tears but overcome with joy. The Mass was sung there and Francis, who was a deacon, sang the Gospel. Then he preached to the people about the birth of the poor King; whom he called the Babe of Bethlehem in his tender love.

– St. Bonaventure, *Major Legend of St. Francis*, Chapter X, 7

St. Francis created a living enactment of the Incarnation for the people of Greccio to experience the wonder and joy of that extraordinary moment in history when the Word became flesh. When we read this story, we see that Francis provides us with more than just a reminder of the birth of our Lord and Savior many years ago; he reminds of the Incarnation of the God-with-us today in Word (Gospel message) and in Eucharist.

For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. All of this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means God is with us (Mt 1:20-23).

God *is* with us. The Spirit of the living God is present to us in the Eucharist and in his Word. The transforming power of God's infinite and unconditional love is with us today. Whenever we receive him in the Eucharist or hear the Word proclaimed, Christ is once again born in our hearts. God is with us.

As you journey through this new year, may you experience anew God's presence with you and his gifts of peace, joy, hope and love surrounding you. As you have generously received from our Father who loves more than you can imagine (see Eph 3:20), may you be transformed into a beacon of God's light and an instrument of his peace and joy to all those who journey with you in the new year.

Your sister in Ss. Francis and Clare,
maryann

From the Friars' Choir



Faith can move mountains,
but don't be surprised
if God hands you a shovel.



- 3 Alice Vier
- 4 Joe Driessen
- 7 Gary Johnson
- 8 John Bodell
- 8 Tony Lienert
- 10 Mary Lou Catino
- 10 Bridget Schultz
- 15 Natalie Grabowski
- 16 Sylvia Stanik
- 19 Gloria Longueuil
- 25 Thomas Nozewski
- 25 Paul Catrow
- 28 Beverly Hanus
- 30 Kathleen Lang
- 30 Patricia Vail



Deceased:

Emanuela De Nunzio († Nov. 10, 2011)
 Thelma Marotta († Dec. 15, 2011), mother of Daniel
 Veronica Yuhase († Dec. 25, 2011), mother of Clare Johnson

Members needing prayers:

Wilhelmina Adkins	Frank & Rosalie Liccardello
Peter Aluzzo	Tony Lienert
Kay Balas	Rose Longo
Gertrude Beattie	Ilene Manning
Mary Lou Catino	Joseph Marra
Rocco Cesaro	Sophie Martin
Mary Gillen	Mabel Michaels
Natalie Grabowski & Family	Clara O'Keefe
James Heymes	Barbara Pardington
Caroline Hojna	Bob Peckham
Anna May Jezak	Terry Pfaendtner
Donna Marie Johnston	Joseph Pierce
Beverly & Louis Joseph	Mary Saber
Mary Klein	Francis Scallion
Lorraine Korte	Alice Vier
Mary LaBudie	Helen Wardowski
Les and Josie Lafata	Joseph Wisk
	Steve Yuhase

Relatives needing prayers:

Theresa Brannigan, daughter-in-law of Marguerite
 Alice Greene, sister of Hank Forys
 Fr. Jim Hast, OFM Cap
 Ted and Judy Hojna
 William Pierce Hunter, great-grandson of Mary Hebert
 Denise Joseph, daughter of Beverly & Louis
 Esther Mae Kelley, wife of Charles
 Fred LaChance, brother of Donna Marie Johnston
 Albert P. Long, Sr., husband of Patricia
 Albert P. Long, Jr., son of Patricia
 Jerome & Tristan Manning, grandsons of Ilene
 Rosemary Marson, sister of Ralph
 Jean Nozewski, wife of Thomas

Teresa Poole, mother of Mary
 Lori Roberts, cousin of Julia Ertzbischoff-Donohue
 Family of Joanne Schumacher
 Victoria Snigier, mother of Sylvia
 Chester Wisk, brother of Joe

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Andrew Arcznski	Thomas Greenia
Christopher Beattie	Michael Manning
James Anthony Brannigan	John Marra III
Thomas Chmielarczyk	Joseph Marra, Jr.

Please help to keep our list up-to-date. Call:

Jo Marie Nardi at 586-978-2335



Konner
7 years old
Burkitt lymphoma

Konner, a usually rambunctious little boy, was feeling withdrawn and experiencing frequent stomach aches. Tests revealed a blockage of sorts in his abdomen, which led to the discovery of a mass. Konner's parents were beside themselves. A biopsy was made and the results were devastating: Konner suffered from Burkitt lymphoma.

At St. Jude, Konner received chemotherapy. Even though his family was going through the most frightening experience of their lives, they found comfort at St. Jude. "A lot of people don't realize that St. Jude not only takes care of the patient, but they take care of the whole family," said Konner's mom. "Emotionally, mentally, financially; they assist with all of that."

Konner finished treatment and returns to St. Jude for regular checkups. Today, Konner is back to playing outside and running around. He's in first grade and a football fan. When he grows up, he wants to play football for Louisiana State University.



Celebrating Paul Catrow



Paul was born on January 25, 1961 to Martha and Richard Catrow at St. John's Hospital in Detroit. He is the youngest of five siblings: Laurie, Rick, Mark and Kim. Paul grew up in St. Clair Shores where he continues to reside. He attended L'Anse Elementary School, James Rodgers Junior High School, and graduated from Lake Shore High School in 1979. Paul enrolled in classes at Macomb Community College and earned a certificate in tool design engineering. Paul also earned a certificate in Homeland Security from FEMA. Paul has been employed at a restaurant, a carpet store, in construction, and for approximately 15 years, at an automotive engineering firm as a manual draftsman in checking systems.

Paul met his wife, April, through mutual friends. Paul and April were married at St. Gertrude's Church (now Our Lady of Hope) in 1997. When they married, Paul became a stepfather to April's children from her first marriage: Vince, Isaac, Brandy and Karriann. Paul and April have been blessed with six grandchildren (Savannah, Cecily, Layla, Kadin, Morgan and Olivia).

During Paul's visits to St. Bonaventure Monastery for religious training and counseling, he met Fr. Gerald Schmidt, OFM Cap, who told Paul about the Secular Franciscan Order. Paul attended formation classes at Marie Amore's home, and was professed into the Secular Franciscan Order at St. Bonaventure Monastery in April of 1986. He is a permanently excused member of our fraternity, but participates in our fraternity gatherings as often as he is able to do so.

In his free time, Paul enjoys biking, walking, camping, backpacking and swimming.

We love you, Paul!



8TH CENTENARY

Eight hundred years ago, on the night of Palm Sunday of 1211 (or 1212 according to some), a young noble woman of Assisi fled in secret from her parents' home and went to the little chapel of the Porziuncula in Assisi, where Francis and his brothers lived. She desired to follow his Gospel way of life and with her newly received tonsure, she embarked on a life of penance and consecration which, at the time, was unusual and original. According to the sources at hand, the beginning of the conversion of Clare of Assisi is known based on this episode.

She began her new lifestyle first at the Monastery of the Benedictine Nuns of St. Paul, then at the Church of Sant'Angelo of Panzo, and finally at the Church of San Damiano in Assisi. It was there that Clare began receiving women of the area (including her sisters Beatrice and Agnes, and her mother,

Ortolana) and, soon afterward, from diverse social backgrounds and from all over the continent. Noteworthy is the originality of the evangelical intuition of St. Clare and the fact that she was the first medieval woman to draw up a Rule for women, thus giving rise to a movement of extraordinary importance for the life of both the Church and the world. This year – 2012 – marks the 8th centenary of Clare's commitment to live the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Visit our website: <http://www.sfofbonaventure-detroit.org>

Emanuela De Nunzio

Former SFO General Minister



On Thursday, November 10, 2011, 82-year-old **Emanuela De Nunzio** passed away at Salvator Mundi Hospital in Rome. She had been General Minister of the Secular Franciscan Order from 1990 until 2002.

Emanuela was professed into the SFO in the local fraternity of San Cristoforo of Rodi Garganico in Apulia (Italy) on March 3, 1949. In 1959, she was elected secretary of her local fraternity. She also served as the SFO National Minister of Italy within the National Fraternity assisted by the Conventual Franciscans, during the days when the Order was structured according to “Obediences”.

She was elected SFO General Minister at the 1990 General Chapter celebrated in Fatima, and re-elected at the 1996 General Chapter in Rome. As SFO General Minister, Emanuela was the first secular to join the Conference of the Franciscan Family and opened the door to a true partnership with the other General Ministers. She “fought” courageously so that the SFO would be recognized as an equal component of the Franciscan Family and worked tirelessly with the Conference in mutual collaboration.

Among her many duties as General Minister, she was responsible for the promulgation of the Order’s General Constitutions in February 6, 2001. In her letter accompanying this promulgation, she referred to the Secular Franciscan way of life, a way that she herself attempted to live until the end of her life:

Our Profession represents for each one of us the point of reference for daily experience, beginning with a specific vocation and precise identity. On this basis, we need to re-shape our existence and find a project of life (Franciscan evangelical radicalism) and a place of Church communion (the Fraternity), in which it should be possible for us to “learn the purpose and the way of living, loving, and suffering” (Constitutions, Art 10).

She traveled throughout the world, tirelessly visiting constituted and emerging national fraternities, and bringing the newly approved General Constitutions to each brother and sister so that they might love, study and apply them, and thereby give new blood to the SFO.

As a legal professional, she always offered her knowledge to the service of the SFO, even until her last days, supporting the work of the Juridical and Patrimonial Commission of the Presidency. In 2002, she also was appointed by the Holy Father as consultant to the Pontifical Council for the Laity and cooperated with the CIOFS Presidency of the SFO both as member of the Juridical Commission and head of the International Bulletin.

Emanuela addressed the Capuchin General Chapter on July 5, 2000. She said to the Capuchins:

The charism of St. Francis is a single, indivisible reality, passed down directly from him to his sons and daughters – both religious and lay.

...Our General Constitutions... have been effectively instrumental in reclaiming, at a deeper level, our core identity as *consecrated* lay Franciscans and of our position within the Franciscan family.

...During the difficult task of making a reality of the unity and autonomy of the SFO, someone argued, “Who’s afraid of the friars?” Certainly not I. However, I would like to turn the question around and ask: “Who’s afraid of mature, well-informed lay people?” I believe that only mature, well-informed Secular Franciscans add to the growth of the entire Franciscan family and, within it, to each of its component parts. What need do you religious have for a “pious confraternity?” What use is it to you to have “generic workers” doing little voluntary jobs in your churches and friaries?

...Our common objective, then, must be to have an adult Secular Franciscan Order, strongly bonded in a “**reciprocal communion of life**” with our religious brothers [and sisters] – not in filial submission, but in fraternal co-responsibility.

...Laity and religious must form a partnership in the missionary dimension. We should be able to collaborate in presenting Christ, in opening doors to Christ, in revealing Christ, in fostering encounters with Christ, in a holy synergy and complementarity.”

...Br. Raniero Cantalamessa [i.e., the Capuchin papal preacher] remarked that the world is asking us to make Francis visible. “But,” he specified, “more than the poet, the friend of creation, it is the saint that the world needs to see, the man who followed the Gospel to the letter...” This is what we are trying to do through the renewal of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Emanuela, woman of faith and courage, has been called home. May she rest in the infinite love of God and receive her well-deserved rest in God’s loving embrace.

We Have to Ask Ourselves

from an address by Emanuela De Nunzio to the 2008 SFO General Chapter

What does it mean today to be a Secular Franciscan? What are people seeking who are making their Profession in the Order today? These questions do not annoy us and do not worry us more than any other time because it seems to us that our reply is already given in the everyday. All seems resolved: in the every day, each person is what he does, and each Fraternity is what it accomplishes. Nevertheless, with a spirit less accommodating, we should not satisfy ourselves with this first response. Anyone can fulfill the functions that we practice in the world, and any association or movement can fulfill the apostolates that we do without the need to belong to the SFO. When we realize that, an abyss is opened in front of us. We worry, and our conscience accuses us of inconsistency and of scarcity of radicalness in “following the poor and crucified Christ”, in the manner of Saint Francis. To appease ourselves we seek to give a Franciscan color to what we do (or what the Fraternity does): we promote devotion to Saint Francis, we organize Franciscan exhibitions of articles, we put on stage the *Transitus* of St. Francis, we talk about St. Francis on radio programs. Can this Franciscan color be perhaps superficial? Could it not be that the Franciscanism that we promote is an incidental reality, secondary, accessory? In other words: it will not be that we are professionals, students, businesses, directors, ministers of the Eucharist, habitual attenders of parish groups, and in addition also Franciscan? Or perhaps, to be Franciscan belongs to the most intimate part of our personal identity, to the marrow of our being, to the most authentic essence of what each of us is? At the beginning of the Rule are found, in concise form, the fundamental elements of the Secular Franciscan life. In Article 2, Secular Franciscans are men and women who, “led by the Spirit, strive for perfect charity in their own secular state. By their profession they pledge themselves to live the gospel in the manner of Saint Francis by means of this Rule approved by the Church.” The updated legislation of the SFO (Rule and General Constitutions) states that the identity of the Secular Franciscan is expressed in a triple dimension: **personal** (the inner life), **fraternal** (co-responsibility) and **universal** (the mission).



Prayer for Quinquennial 2012

Dear and gracious, loving Lord and Father,
 We bring to you the upcoming Quinquennial.
 We thank you for the gift of our vocation to the Secular Franciscan Order,
 and for our brothers and sisters whom you have also called.
 Thank you for the example and inspiration of Francis and Clare,
 And grant us a new understanding and vision of their calling, and ours.
 Prepare our hearts to hear your call anew,
 and enkindle in us a new spirit of conversion and dedication.
 Bless those who will share with us,
 Bless those who will attend in person,
 Bless those who will attend in spirit.
 Let your Holy Spirit be poured out on our entire National Fraternity,
 That through this Congress we may together discern your heart,
 and become all that you want us to be,
 In order "to bring about a more fraternal and evangelical world,"
 bringing to life more fully the Kingdom of God.
 We pray in the holy and blessed Name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

XVIII QUINQUENNIAL

JULY 3-8, 2012

REGISTRATION FORM

Congress begins on Tuesday, July 3rd with dinner at 5:00 pm – Opening Liturgy is at 7:30 pm.

Important Instructions:

1. Please TYPE or PRINT all information clearly.
2. Only one participant or married couple per registration form.
3. Payment must accompany this form and is **NON-REFUNDABLE**.
4. Make your check for registration and meals payable to **NAFRA**.
5. Mail this form with payment to: **Cecilia Maljan, SFO**
1111 Freyburg Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1211
cylmaljan@earthlink.net
6. **Hotel reservations must be made separately by each person (see bottom of this form).**

PLEASE TYPE or PRINT CLEARLY

Title	First Name(s)	Last Name
-------	---------------	-----------

Address	City	State	Zip	Country
---------	------	-------	-----	---------

Region

Home Phone	Cell Phone	E-Mail Address
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Early Registration: # of people _____ x \$ 275. = \$ _____ (After June 1, 2012 the fee is \$325. pp)

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Need for handicapped facilities _____

Language preferred for small group Sessions _____

I need a roommate – please try to match me with someone _____

Housing and the Congress are at Holiday Inn Chicago North Shore Skokie Hotel

5300 West Touhy Avenue • Skokie, Illinois 60077

Toll free number: 866-750-3369 • Hotel Direct: 847-679-8900 • <http://www.hiskokie.com/>

[begin_of_the_skype_highlighting](#)

The Group Code for Skokie is: **FRO** • The Group Name is: **Quinquennial Congress 2012**

NAFRA has arranged for a **discounted room rate** of \$ 87 (plus Illinois hotel tax) per night. Each room has twin double beds with 1 to 4 occupants possible. You should **make your own room arrangements directly** with the hotel **prior to June 9** in order to get this reduced rate. *In the event that the Holiday Inn North Shore, the location for all conferences and activities, has been filled, additional rooms will be made available at the nearby Holiday Inn, O'Hare. The hotel will provide timely shuttle service between the two hotels.*

The Hotel provides free shuttles to and from O'Hare Airport based upon scheduled runs.

JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>MARY, MOTHER OF GOD Pss. Proper</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Holy Name of Jesus</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>EPIPHANY Pss. Proper</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Baptism of the Lord Pss. Proper</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Ordinary Time Week 1 Pss. Wk. I</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>MELDRUM KITCHEN 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Sunday II Ord. Time Pss. Wk. II</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Fraternity Council 1:30</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Sunday III Ord. Time Pss. Wk. III SFO CHAPTER Formation: Noon ALL: 1:30 PM</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Bl. Luchesio: 7:30 PM</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Sunday IV Ord. Time Pss. Wk. IV</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

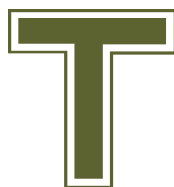
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Pray for Vocations
to the SFO
Daily

FAX ET PHONUM

Minister

Maryann Kummer

Vice Minister

Teresa Westbrook-Lienert

Treasurer pro tem

Eugene Snyders

Secretary

Patricia Meldrum

Initial Formation

John Bodell

Councillors-at-Large:

Stephen Haycox

Tony Lienert

Beverly Sopian

Chuck Sopian

Spiritual Assistant:

Br. Patrick McSherry

APPOINTMENTS

Infirmarian:

Jo Marie Nardi

Continuing Formation Commission:

Chuck & Bev Sopian (chairs)

Christian Service Commission:

(call for information)

Hospitality Commission:

Teresa Westbrook-Lienert

& Tony Lienert (chairs)

Vocations Ministry Commission:

To be announced (chair)

Eucharistic Mission Band (EMB):

To be announced

MAKING FRATERNITY HAPPEN

The entire St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity gathers on the Third Sunday of every month. For more information, contact:

Chuck & Bev Sopian

In addition to our monthly Fraternity gathering, some members also gather in small groups:

Fr. Solanus Cell (2nd Friday, 7:30 pm):

Mary Ann and Hugh Montpetit

Bl. Luchesio Cell (4th Friday, 7:30 pm):

Connie Musial

FRATERNITY MINISTRY OUTREACH:

Meldrum Soup Kitchen

Usually on the 2nd Friday of each month.

&

Healing Service Social

(call for information)

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Deadline for articles and news items is 3:30 PM
on the Third Sunday of each month.



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