

FRANCISCAN MIRROR

FALL
2005

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Region
covering most of Upstate New York & Northwestern Pennsylvania

ALL-COMMISSIONS WORKSHOP IN ALLEGANY

31 SFOs Offer Tips & Ideas For Living Out Vocations

Thirty one people from four fraternities offered some practical tips as well as ideas for Secular Franciscans to consider in living their Franciscan vocations.

The tips and ideas grew out of an All-Commissions Workshop conducted May 5, 2005, at St. Bonaventure Church in Allegany, NY.

"It was a joy to see the excitement of the participants, and hear their frank appraisals and insightful comments," said Mary Stornach, SFO, who led the workshop along with her husband, Bob. The Stornachs are All-Commissions coordinators for the Blessed Kateri

Tekakwitha Region.

Hosted by St. Bonaventure Fraternity, the workshop was the second in a series that the Regional Council hopes to present in different parts of the region. Join-
See *WORKSHOP* – P. 7



Members from four fraternities got to share one-on-one during the workshop's opening "icebreaker"



FLICKINGER COMING TO REGION
Amazon Relief founder Jim Flickinger, SFO, (shown with wife Lois), will be the featured speaker at the Regional Annual Gathering, which will be held May 5-7, 2006 at Stella Maris Retreat & Conference Center, Skaneateles, NY.

ON-GOING FORMATION **Region Hosts Day of Reflection On Francis, Clare**

As this Year of the Eucharist winds to a close, the Alma Kraus Fund is sponsoring an **Ongoing Formation Day of Reflection on Francis, Clare and the Eucharist** in each area of the Region (Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 19).

See *DAY* – Page 15

BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA REGION
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Minister

William L. Heinz, SFO
(716) 754-4971
LBHeinz@aol.com

Vice Minister

Phylis Bruno, SFO
(814) 838-7702
stpetersfo@webtv.net

Secretary

Mary M. Smith, SFO
(607) 732-1080
smithmarym@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Donna Roberti, SFO
(814) 723-3817
roberti@westpa.net

Formation Director

Patricia A. DeWitt, SFO
(716) 713-4076
pattidewittsfo@yahoo.com

Councilor-Eastern Area

Wayne R. Carpenter, SFO
(518) 853-4272
wcarpent@nycap.rr.com

Councilor-Central Area

Anne C. Thomas, SFO
(315) 646-3687
nannygoat_98_99@yahoo.com

Councilor-Western Area

Kimberly A. Marks, SFO
(716) 668-3830
kmarks2@buffalo.edu

Council Advisor

Ed Czapla, SFO

*

All-Commissions Co-Chairs
Mary & Bob Stronach, SFO
stronach@borg.com

*Youth/Young Adult
And Ecology*

Commissions Chair
Riobart (Rob) Breen, SFO
riobart.breen@anamduan.org

Family Commission Chair

Marie Diehl, SFO
mdiehl@nycap.rr.com

*Peace & Justice
Commission Chair*

Sandra McCoy, SFO
sjmccoysfo@verizon.net

Work Commission Chair
vacant

FRANCISCAN
MIRROR
FALL 2005

EDITORS

BOB STRONACH, SFO
MARY STRONACH, SFO
(315) 735-8904 (H)
(315) 796-9284 (C)

PLEASE SEND
NEWS ITEMS AND
FRATERNITY
NEWSLETTERS TO:

MARY & BOB STRONACH
PO BOX 232
MARCY, NY 13403.
STRONACH@BORG.COM

FRANCISCAN MIRROR IS
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.
DEADLINES: AUG. 15,
NOV. 15, FEB. 15, MAY 15



Minister's Message

Peace and All Good.

Let me start by saying *thank you* to all the Secular Franciscans in our Region. You are good and very hard working Franciscans. Without your help and cooperation, we could do nothing. It is your inspiration that keeps us all going.

We must remember, though, never to become complacent. That brings me to the topic of Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel, the very center of our being.

Matthew 13:44 *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in the field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."*

Could the treasure that we found be that of being a Secular Franciscan? Did we go out and hide that treasure, or are we in the world celebrating our find? Did we go out and sell all we had, not literally, but did we change ourselves to daily conversion? Are we hiding our treasure or are we celebrating our treasure? That is something to think about.

Luke 8:16 *"No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even*

Continued on Page 7

AROUND THE REGION

HOLY FAMILY EMERGING

FRATERNITY in Vernon surprised Bill and Duff Geary, SFO, with a party in June in honor of the 25th anniversary of their profession. Secular Franciscans from Assumption (Syracuse), St. Joseph (Utica) and Blessed Virgin Mary (Minoa) fraternities attended, along with Regional Minister Bill Heinz and Regional Councilor Anne Thomas.

BRO. ANTHONY LOGALBO, OFM, St. Bonaventure Fraternity (Allegany) Spiritual Assistant, is going on a nine-month sabbatical to study in England.



Brother Anthony



Duff and Bill Geary, SFO, receive a surprise party in honor of 25 years as Secular Franciscans.

ST. PATRICK'S FRATERNITY, under the direction of Minister Marie Meyer, SFO, hosted a special Franciscan Day at Villa Maria on Doat Street in Buffalo on Sunday, Aug. 21.

ST. ANTHONY FRATERNITY in Lockport plans to profess four members on Sept. 17, the feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis. Those being professed are Debra Goodlander, Jeanne Heiferty, Susan McCanna and Fredericka Soles. The profession mass

and ceremony is to take place at Holy Family Chapel on the Tuscarora Indian Reservation, with Fr. Peter Calabrese, CRSP, and Minister Rob Goodlander, SFO, officiating.

OUR LADY OF ANGELS FRATERNITY sponsored a Blessed Kateri Mass on July 14 at the Tuscarora Indian Reservation. The Holy Family Chapel was filled to capacity. A number of other fraternities came -- St. Anthony, St. Francis (Athol

Springs), St. Patrick, St. Joseph, St. Francis and St. Thomas More.

OVER 100 SECULAR FRANCISCANS

from around the Region gathered for the annual Franciscan Day on Aug. 21 at the National Shrine of Bl. Kateri Tekakawitha in Fonda.

At the opening mass, Fr. Kevin Kenny, OFM Conv., drew murmurs of appreciation when he began the homily with: "I just love Secular Franciscans!"

He noted that SFOs have a way of bringing love into everything they do. "But...you're not perfect," he quickly added to laughter.

He challenged the visitors to discover "Kateri's holy presence lingering here."

"Open up to it. Absorb the basic characteristics of Kateri...her love of

Continued on Page 4



Fr. Julian Davies, OFM, and Fr. Kevin Kenny, OFM Conv., con-celebrated Mass for the Fran-ciscan Day in Fonda, which also included a Rosary procession (below right).



penance and her love of the cross.”

Fr. Kevin urged Secular Franciscans to share Blessed Kateri’s desire to be co-redeemers with Mary and Jesus in embracing the cross, in embracing any

sufferings in our daily lives – which is “not a popular topic today.”

He also spoke of St. Peter’s love for Jesus. As Franciscans, he said, we share many of the human attributes of Peter, who, for example, had a sharp sense of his own sinfulness, who could be paralyzed by fear, who had a temper, who could be over confident, who could be inquisitive, who could be easily bedazzled.

However, “what set Peter apart was his great love for Jesus.”

Fr. Kevin added: “What would our



answer be if Jesus said to us, ‘who do you say that I am?’ ... What is Jesus in

our lives?...In our daily activities, do we ask ourselves, ‘what would Jesus do?’”



Statue of Blessed Kateri in the outdoor chapel.



Members of Holy Family Fraternity look out from the second-floor entrance to the main shrine chapel.

Bill & Duff Geary – Family of the Year

Bill and Duff Geary, SFO, have been named the 2005 Regional Family of the Year, Regional Minister Bill Heinz, SFO, announced. They will be honored at the annual meeting in May 2006.

The Gearies made their professions 25 years ago on Nov. 23, 1980, at St. Elizabeth-St. Bonaventure Fraternity, Syracuse. A few months later, they transferred to St. Joseph Fraternity in Utica, where Bill held several positions before serving as minister. While minister he was elected to Immaculate Conception Province Council as provincial treasurer, an office he held for two terms. Then he was elected provincial minister.

At the time national regionalization was taking place, and he assumed the position of regional coordinator for the Northeast with the responsibility of coordinating the establishment of a regional structure to



Duff & Bill Geary with Regional Minister Bill Heinz

replace the provincial structure. He was elected vice minister at Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha Region's first regional election. At the second Chapter of Elections, he was elected regional minister. He completed one three-year term and then one year of a second term before resigning for medical reasons.

Then Bill and Duff began the development of a new fraternity in Vernon, NY (Holy Family). Starting with five professed members five years ago, the emerging fraternity now has 22 active

members and is seeking canonical establishment. Bill serves as advisor. Furthermore, he recently completed the "Life Giving Union" course to serve the Order as a spiritual assistant.

Duff is described as being instrumental in bringing about a more family-orientated and social atmosphere within church and fraternity. She is very involved in a prison ministry, plus she cooks at Hope House in Utica a couple of times a week. She was coordinator of Oneida Council of Churches Soup Kitchen for

several years.

Duff and Bill pick up baked goods from Tops Market four times a week for the Rescue Mission, St. Francis Food Outreach and Hope House in Utica. Every year they collect blankets, winter coats, and underwear to deliver to St. Francis Inn, Philadelphia, PA.

In February Duff coordinates a Country Breakfast Buffet with proceeds going to a Franciscan Outreach Program she developed to assist the working poor. They have raised over \$1,200 each year for the outreach program, thanks in large part, Bill is quick to point out, to "the efforts of every member of our new fraternity."

Duff has assisted in establishing 24-hour Adoration at their church, and she also co-ordinates the ARC program at church.

The Gearies had been involved in foster care for over 30 years, and even adopted two of their foster children.

New Commission Chair Combines Youth with Ecology

Riobart É. (Rob) Breen, SFO, director of the Franciscan Ecology Center in Syracuse, has been appointed to chair both the Regional Ecology and Youth/Young Adult Commissions, Regional Minister Bill Heinz, SFO, announced.

“Rob brings a vibrant approach to the commissions by inspiring youth in the areas of Franciscan eco-justice and Franciscan eco-spirituality,” Heinz said. “He works with youth on high school and college campuses,



Rob Breen, SFO

and in Syracuse’s inner city; and he collaborates with the Franciscan Spirituality and Nature Center at Alverna Heights, operated by the Sisters of St. Francis.”

He said Rob is in

a unique position to teach interested Secular Franciscans how to be leaders in environmental issues and then how to work with and inspire youth in the areas of Franciscan ecology and spirituality. He has formed Franciscan Earth Corps and Franciscan Earth Clubs in schools and churches – even reaching out to unchurched youth.

Breen, who said he first fell in love with Francis in high school, has been involved in the Secular Franciscan Order for years, but

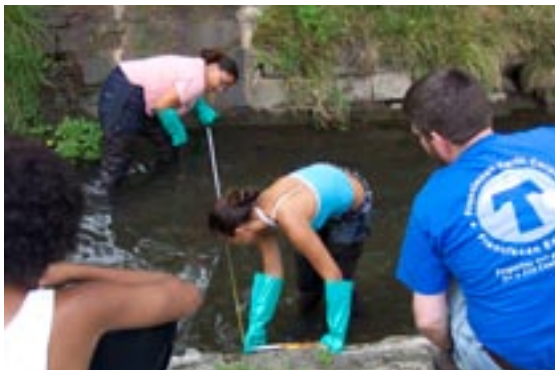
a move to Arizona interrupted his formal formation process, which he was finally able to complete with Holy Family Emerging Fraternity earlier this year.

When not working with youth and ecological issues, he teaches at Siena College near Albany. Breen is a doctoral candidate in environmental policy issues.

His wife, Meghan, runs the Alverna Heights Nature Center for the Franciscan Sisters.

Franciscan Earth Club

We work with inner city youth doing citizen science skills. We are testing an urban creek in their neighborhood that is heavily polluted with raw sewage. They learn about environmental science as a way of exploring “the Book of Creation,” but also as a means of understanding eco-justice issues. After understanding the ecological and social



Rob Breen and Franciscan Earth Club youth test Harbor Brook in Syracuse in August.

issues related to the creek, we will get them engaged in bringing issues to the attention

of community leaders, and help them come up with ways to do related ecological restoration

service projects.

While we were there doing testing, a truck pulled up and began dumping trash over the top of the hill about 150 yards from the edge of the creek. Rain water will drain through the dump and empty into the creek. The creek runs under their high school (mostly poor minorities) and an elementary school of mostly poor minorities.

-- Rob Breen, SFO

WORKSHOP

Continued from Page 1

ing St. Bonaventure were fraternities from New York's Southern Tier, including St. Patrick, St. Pius X and St. Irenaeus (Emerging).

The workshop is designed to immerse fraternity members into the concepts of the Apostolic Commissions, which "provide a way to live out our Secular Franciscan promise to bring Gospel to life and life to Gospel," Bob Stronach said.

After an opening ice-breaker exercise, participants broke into five teams to tackle a different commission -- Ecology, Family, Peace & Justice, Work, and Youth/Young Adult.

While Formation as a commission was not specifically addressed, the whole workshop experience, Mary Stronach noted, should be regarded as part of ongoing formation.

Each team explored the National Fraternity's mission and goals for its respective commission, and then discussed how they might be carry-



Teams tackle the Commissions.

ing out the commission already, and what else they could be doing, individually and as fraternities.

Each team was asked to develop a recommendation for action, and to select a spokesperson to present it to the whole group.

THE ECOLOGY TEAM zeroed in on the stone that Francis used to begin rebuilding the church, seeing it as an ecological symbol and encouraging us to be humble, to be less materialistic, to conserve



Jan Walker
Ecology Team

and to focus on the Lord. Spokesperson **Jan Walker** of St. Irenaeus offered the following action items for individuals and fraternities:

- encourage and educate children.
- smile and encourage people.
- take care of the altar.
- plant flowers.
- plant vegetables.
- share garden growth with family (Franciscan and individual).
- help someone who can't garden.
- feed birds and animals.
- take care of soil, flowers, trees.
- take care of yourself with healthy eating and exercise.
- in the work- and marketplace, use the lunch hour to take a

Continued on next page.

Minister's Message

Continued from Page 2

what he thinks he has will be taken from him."

We, as Secular Franciscans, are the light of the world. Do we hide ourselves, or are we the light that shows the way for others? Are we feeling so secure in our Fraternities that we are not going out into the world and letting our light shine brightly? As I read the scripture, **we were given more, and more is expected of us.**

Is there more we can do, continuing on the work of our founder, Saint Francis of Assisi?

Pope John Paul II exhorted us to go out into the deep. Don't hide your light in a jar or under the bed. Don't find your treasure and then go out and bury it again. Let us all go out into the deep together, securely hand in hand, showing everyone that we go from Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel.

With love and gratitude,
Bill Heinz, SFO
Regional Minister

WORKSHOP

Continued from Page 7

walk and appreciate the environment.

THE FAMILY TEAM encouraged fraternities to recognize family as an all-inclusive concept, from natural family to immediate Franciscan family to the entire world including all races and faiths.

"We need to go beyond mere sharing of our gifts by actually searching for the opportunity to assist members of our extended families," reported spokesperson **Donna Roberti** of St. Bonaventure.

For fraternities, the team suggested developing or joining a ministry to the incarcerated, and fostering a relationship with families of prisoners; or adopting foster



Discussing the commissions.

families and providing coats and mittens.

The team recommended that individuals begin with prayer, and then:

- minister spiritually to sons/daughters not attending church.
- minister to "town outcasts."
- develop closer relationships with children and grandchildren who live in distant areas.
- attempt to excite grandchildren about their spiritual life.
- seek a deeper spiritual family.
- participate in Eucharistic ministry to shut-ins.

"THE SPIRIT OF ST. FRANCIS should be always the center of what we do," noted the

Peace & Justice Team recorder, **Fr. Philip Billotte** of St. Pius X. "Be ready and willing to speak out on issues of Peace and Justice.

Communicate to all fraternities and individuals the understanding of Peace and Justice, so that all can act in ways that further Franciscan principles."

Action items for fraternities to consider:

- volunteer in schools.
- volunteer in hospitals.
- work with youth do-

ing community service.

- visit the home-bound.
- take part in silent demonstrations (along with other religious).

Individuals could tackle the Peace & Justice Commission by:

- praying for success of the fraternity through daily mass and communion.
- being in communion with more people.
- taking family unity training as a parent aide (child abuse).
- participating in prison ministry.

THE WORKPLACE IS AN opportunity to live the Gospel and elevate the dignity of workers and their work, reported **Work Team** spokesperson **Gloria House** of St. Pius X.

Fraternities should identify areas that need support, and develop a plan to address the need. A few examples:



Donna Roberti
Family Team



Fr. Philip Billotte
Peace & Justice Team



Gloria House
Work Team

- work and justice legislation.
- fair treatment of migrant workers.

- layoffs.
- letters to the editor.

The team encouraged individuals to also write letters to the editor on work-related issues, pray for fraternity members who are experiencing job problems, and participate in Eucharistic ministry to the home-bound.

THE YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT TEAM concluded it was important to find meaningful ways to

involve the SFO with youth, noted spokesperson **John Dutcher** of St. Irenaeus.

Fraternities and individuals could look at ways to introduce youth to St. Francis and St. Clare -- to provide a link between the youth of today and the youthful radical conversion of Francis and Clare. For example:

- plan/sponsor an activity involving youth.
- create a Franciscan youth project.
- help sponsor youth financially as members of a group or organization.
- involve youth in a cleanup project (combining ecology and youth commissions).
- offer to take youth to community meetings.
- recruit youth to visit older neighbors.



John Dutcher
Youth/Young Adult Team



Teams offered their work to the Lord with the help of spiritual assistants. From left are Mary Stronach, Donna Roberti, and Spiritual Assistants Bro. Anthony LoGalbo and Fr. Philip Billotte.

- be available; speak out; be gentle in explaining things.
- be a quiet example for your children/grandchildren.

In a concluding prayer service, each team offered its work to God. Two spiritual assistants participating in the workshop -- Fr. Philip Billotte and Bro. Tony LoGalbo, OFM -- accepted the worksheets on behalf of the Franciscan family and blessed them.

Participants, by fraternity, were:

ST. BONAVENTURE: Guy Benoit, Judith Benoit, Sandy McCoy, Barb Spencer,

Francis Osborne, Sara Mollica, Elizabeth Wilcox, Donna Roberti, Jack Feneran, Cela Pontzer, Tom Pontzer, Anthony Belli, Emeline Belli, Ryan Goshin, Jane Meissner, Ila Cook, Lenora Michalek, Stanley Kolkowski, and Bro. Tony LoGalbo.

ST. IRENAEUS
Emerging Fraternity: John Dutcher, John Milatker, Jan Walker.

ST. PATRICK: Rosemarie Anderson, Marie Kuhn.

ST. PIUS X: August Titi, Marie Titi, Gloria Snell, Dom Ferreira, Joann Mahoney, Gloria House, Fr. Philip Billotte.

'SMOKE SIGNALS'

A Reflection on Visitations

By ED CZAPLA, SFO

It is now almost ten years since the matter of Visitations was discussed in this *Smoke Signals* newsletter, and since this is the **year for Visitations**, it would be well to focus again on its fine points.

At the outset, let it be remembered that Visitations are required by the National Statutes, and so, are never treated casually. Also, a Visitation is much more than a mere "visit", so it should never be referred to as such. Persons conducting a Visitation, *both fraternal and pastoral*, represent the higher level, and deserve the respect of the whole fraternity. All paperwork and action requested by them, should be completed in cheerful cooperation.

The primary purpose of Visitations is to observe and evaluate the "life in fraternity", particularly on these



Ed Czapl, SFO

aspects: formation, leadership, apostolate, spirituality and sense of community. When the fraternity does well in all of these categories, and when they are kept in proper balance, the fraternity functions at its best; the members have the best environment in which to grow in the spirituality of their founder.

Conversely, when any of the "aspects" of fraternity are neglected, the imbalance will cause hardship in the membership. In such a case it becomes the duty of the Visitor(s) to identify the problem and to suggest corrective measures. The council then applies the

correction.

Because of the comprehensive nature of the typical Visitation, the Visitors need a maximum of time to do a fair assessment. For this reason, the fraternity should be "at par"; i.e., no other activity, such as elections, retreats or special programs may be scheduled on the same occasion. To do so would seriously hinder the process, if not frustrate it completely.

Prior to 1994, when our Regional Fraternity was being organized in order to comply with the Pauline Rule, the *Steering Committee*, appointed for this purpose, was faced with many vexing problems. One of them was the cost of operation, as reflected in the increase in the *fair share*. In order to ease the burden on struggling fraternities, the Committee chose to suspend Visitation stipends outright,

expecting that the costs could be paid out of Regional funds. This has not always worked well.

In the decade since regionalization, one might reasonably assume that the fraternities of Bl. Kateri Region have adjusted to the realities of the economy, and are now better prepared to hold their own. Since Visitations are done for the fraternity's benefit, the costs that accrue are the fraternity's, so it would be appreciated if, whenever possible, some offering were made.

Visitations have the potential to revitalize our fraternities across the regional map, and ultimately, to enhance the quality of our life in fraternity. **May you have a grace-filled Visitation!**

Ed Czapl, SFO, is advisor to the Regional Executive Council and author of the periodic newsletter, Smoke Signals.

OUR FAMILY: FRANCISCAN LOVE FOR ALL

By MARIE DIEHL, SFO
Family Commission Chair

Our present world is in extreme need of our true Franciscan love for all, which is a supernatural gift of our Heavenly Father and our seraphic father Francis. If we live our Franciscan lives conscientiously for our Family, our world will become aware, as it did with Francis.

What about us today? Does our Heavenly



Marie Diehl, SFO

Father have any plans or expectations of us, His children? Does Francis share the family feeling of Jesus for His other

brothers and sisters? These questions apply differently to each of us and each fraternity. As Secular Franciscans, our service and dedication is for the world that God has given us. This is our “job”, given by God with Francis as an example, to be part of our life. Think. Pray, relying on the Holy Spirit. (It wouldn’t do any harm to ask Francis’s help.)

A slight review as

to who is “our family”: Ultimately everybody. Not everyone is extremely likeable, but, in obedience to Jesus, we have His “orders” (commandments) to love them as He does.

If we listen, He will lead us. If we work at it and follow in His way, He will see results, even if we don’t. This is our gift to Him, to show Him and others our love and Franciscan consecration.

DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY RESULTS

Women outnumber men three to one.



Women outnumber men three to one in the Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Region.

Although that may not be a surprising statistic, it is one of several findings in the 2004 demographic survey that the International Fraternity asked all national fraternities to

conduct. Over half of the region’s fraternities participated, with 318 women and 92 men responding.

The survey showed a predominately aging membership. The majority (257) were over the age of 65 in the region. The next largest group -- 114 --

was between 51 and 65; some 36 were aged 36 to 50; and only one was under 35.

Married and widowed comprised the vast majority, with single numbering 46.

Well over one-third of professed members were college graduates (131), with nearly

two-thirds completing high school and a few finishing elementary school.

By a 2 to 1 margin, members reside more in urban centers versus rural areas; and the vast majority regarded their economic status as “medium class” (vs. “poor” or “high class”).

Blessed Marianne Cope

*Excerpted from an article by Robert Stronach, SFO, in
Mohawk Valley History (Vol. 2, No. 1, 2005)*

In her lifetime she was decorated by the king of the Hawaiian Islands with the pendant cross of the Royal Order of Kapiolani for her acts of benevolence to his suffering people; she was celebrated in poetry and letters by Robert Louis Stevenson for her comforting presence in a place of "infinite pity"; and she was the subject of a musical composition by Professor Henri Berger, the longtime leader of the Royal Hawaiian Band, for her role in the "protection of womanhood and the uplifting of the races."



That description by Sister Mary Laurence Hanley, OSF, in the book, "Catholics in America: 1776-1976," paints a quick picture of the impact of a girl from Utica, NY. Born in Germany in 1838, a year before her family immigrated to the U.S., Barbara Cope (Koob)¹ grew up in West Utica. Barbara was educated at St. Joseph School, was a parishioner of St. Joseph Church (now St. Joseph-St. Patrick), and worked at a neighborhood woolen mill before joining the Sisters of St. Francis. She had delayed entering the convent to help support her family, but in 1862, after her father died and

her siblings were older, she joined the Franciscan order, taking the name of Marianne.

In the years that followed, she taught school and worked at parishes in Rome, Syracuse and Oswego; helped found Utica's St. Elizabeth Hospital and Syracuse's St. Joseph Hospital, where she became administrator; and was elected the second mother superior of the Syracuse-based religious community.

A PLEA FROM HAWAII

Then, in 1883, she responded to another call -- a plea to help leprosy patients in the Hawaiian Islands. The bishop in Hawaii

dispatched Father P. Leonor on a quest for volunteers. He visited or contacted by mail more than 50 religious communities in the U.S. and Canada. A letter from him fascinated Mother Marianne, even though it mentioned nothing of the dreaded leprosy. She wrote a reply indicating her interest in mission work, so Father Leonor came to Syracuse, where he revealed the true nature of what he was asking. "Mother Marianne listened gravely to Father Leonor's proposal and his frustration at being unable to enlist a single volunteer... Mother Marianne called the Sisters together and told them

of Father Leonor's request. She spared none of the details of this evil and most maiming of human illnesses. Thirty-five of the sisters and nearly all of the Novices volunteered at once."³

The Order couldn't spare all who volunteered, so six were chosen, and "Mother Marianne decided to accompany the Sisters and return to Syracuse as soon as they were properly settled."⁴

The Sisters arrived in Honolulu on Nov. 8, 1883.

The more Mother Marianne saw of leprosy, the more involved she became. "Victims were exploited -- often punished cruelly -- by



Beatification of Mother Marianne at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, May 14, 2005.

the very people who were paid to care for them. More than once she faced down a bullying attendant at the leper station, and she was becoming a familiar figure in the waiting rooms and offices of the politically mighty.”⁵

By 1885 she had become a “fixture in island affairs” and it became clear Mother Marianne was in Hawaii to stay. Then, in 1888, with Father Damien DeVeuster, the Molokai chaplain, deteriorating from the disease himself, the Hawaiian government asked Mother Marianne to supervise a new home

for the young daughters of leprosy patients in Kalaupapa on Molokai. She accepted, and along with two other sisters, moved to Kalaupapa to care for more than a hundred homeless girls.

After 30 years of serving leprosy patients, Mother Marianne died in 1918 at the age of 80 and was buried near the home for girls.

RECOGNITION BACK HOME

Thirty years later, Oneida County Historical Society in Utica inducted Mother Marianne into its Historical Hall of Fame. But ten

years earlier, in 1938, while speaking before the Historical Society, Dr. T. Wood Clarke, pediatrician and historian, said:

“By her self-imposed exile, by her sacrifice, by her endurance, and by her enthusiasm, Mother Marianne...has taken her place as one of the world’s greatest women... This woman... will undoubtedly be canonized by the Catholic Church and enrolled among the greatest of its saints.”⁶

Sister Mary Laurence, Mother Marianne’s official biographer, referred to Dr. Clarke’s

statement as prophetic -- because today she is a candidate for sainthood. In 2004 the Catholic Church granted her the title of Venerable, and on May 14, 2005, Mother Marianne was beatified at the Vatican, giving her the title of Blessed.

Sister Mary Laurence says Mother Marianne must have been beautiful in her younger years, and later photographs reveal “she was a most handsome woman.”

“Portrait photographs taken of her as Mother Marianne, when she was



At papal audience following Mother Marianne’s beatification, Pope Benedict XVI wears Hawaiian leis that were gifts of the Sisters of St. Francis and other members of the delegation from New York and Hawaii.

about forty one years old, show little more than the face (framed in the Franciscan habit). The strong well-shaped nose and wide firm mouth, above all the black eyebrows and the dark eyes looking out upon the world with an insuperable dignity, compose a countenance that is noble as well as beautiful. We today, seeing that face in an aged photograph, can understand how, without having to say a word, she could quell rioting lepers, captivate a Hawaiian king and queen, (and) charm niggardly politicians into fits of generosity...”⁷

1. Cope is an Americanized spelling.
2. Sister Mary Laurence Hanley, OSF, and O. A. Bushnell, *Pilgrimage and Exile: Mother Marianne of Molokai* (University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu, 1991), Pgs 4-5.
3. Nelson Shreve et al, *A History of Caring: 50th Anniversary Book*, (St. Francis Hospital, Honolulu, Hawaii, 1977), Pgs 11-15.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. T. Wood Clarke, MD, *Barbara Kopp of Schuyler Street: Utica's Most Distinguished Woman* (Oneida Historical Society manuscript, 1938).
7. Sister Mary Laurence Hanley, OSF, and O. A. Bushnell, *Pilgrimage and Exile*, Pg 11.

HOW YOU CAN HELP SPONSOR THE MIRROR

We are looking for sponsors to help defray the cost of printing so that the Regional Fraternity can continue to improve your Franciscan Mirror... with more color, more pages and more features.

Individuals, fraternities and businesses may sponsor one or multiple issues, and receive recognition in a special ad in each issue they sponsor. The sponsor ad is a one inch strip across the bottom

of a page (4 col. x 1”). Sponsors may use this space to offer a message or promote something. The sponsorship cost is as follows:

\$100 – one issue.
\$300 – four issues.

To reserve a sponsorship, or for more information, contact Mary Stronach at 315-796-9284, or email her at stronach1@adelphia.net.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE WALL OF HONOR

The Regional Fraternity is starting a Wall of Honor page in the Franciscan Mirror to provide a way to memorialize or honor Franciscans, family members or friends.

For example, you may want to remember a Secular Franciscan who has embraced Sister Death, or honor someone for such things as an achievement or anniversary, or to publicly thank

him/her for something done for you or the fraternity.

To submit a name for the Wall of Honor, fill out the form and mail it along with a \$10 donation. Funds raised through the Wall of Honor will be used by the Regional Fraternity to help pay for publications aimed at benefiting the region’s fraternities (such as The Mirror and formation materials).

WALL OF HONOR FORM

Name of Person Submitting Form

Contact info: phone Email

Address

Name of honoree

Select one: in memory of in honor of

List reason/occasion

(e.g., profession anniversary, gratitude for service, etc.)

Donation: \$10 per name.

Please make checks payable to Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha Region (BKTR).

Send completed form with check to:

The Franciscan Mirror, P.O. Box 232, Marcy, NY 13403

AROUND THE REGION

SISTER DEATH EMBRACES...

- **Andrew Hart**, minister, St. Louis Fraternity, Troy.
- **Cassie Pimentel** and **Marion Murphy** of St. Anthony Fraternity, Catskill.
- **John Moriarity**, St. Patrick Fraternity, Buffalo.
- **Marian McInerney**, past minister, St. John the Baptist Fraternity, Elmira.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sept. 17 - Stigmata of St. Francis
Sept. 18 - Talks on frescoes in Basilica in Assisi and Francis’ vision of Eucharist; 1 p.m., St. Joseph-St. Patrick Parish Center, Utica (St. Joseph Fraternity).
Sept. 20 - 24-Hour Franciscan Peace Vigil, 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph-St. Patrick Church, Utica.
Sept. 30-Oct. 2 - Secular Franciscan Retreat, given by Franciscan Friars of Atone-ment in Garrison, NY (call 845-424-3671, ext. 3505).
Oct. 3 - Transitus (the passing of St. Francis from earthly to eternal life).
Oct. 4 - Feast of St. Francis
Nov. 5 - Mercy and the Eucharistic Con- gress, with Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR, at Samuel’s Grande Manor, Williamsville.
Nov. 13 - Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, patroness of SFO.
Nov. 19 - Feast of St. Agnes of Assisi (Clare’s sister).

DAY OF REFLECTION

Continued from Page1

The presenter is **Sister Mary McCarrick**, OSF, a Stella Niagara Franciscan, former Provincial and graduate of St. Bonaventure University’s Franciscan Institute. The days of reflection are:

- **Sept. 10**, National Shine of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Fonda, NY.
 - **Oct. 8**, Assumption Parish, Syracuse, NY.
 - **Nov. 19**, St. Francis Parish, Athol Springs, NY.
- “This Day of Reflection will be an opportunity to come together as brothers and sisters and deepen our understanding of this core reality of our tradition and our faith,” Regional Formation Director **Patti DeWitt** said.

“All are welcome to attend” including the professed, those in formation and those interested in becoming Franciscans. “Although there will be no cost, there will be handouts, so we need an approximate count.”

To register, please email, phone or mail the registration info to Patti Dewitt (*see below*).

Each workshop begins at 9:30 with registration and refreshments. Lunch will be provided. Ador- ation and liturgy conclude the day’s activities.

NAME: _____

FRATERNITY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL (if available) _____

I plan to attend the Day of Reflection on:

___Sept. 10th ___Oct. 8th ___Nov. 19th

I am responding for my Fraternity.

Number coming _____.

Return to:

Patti DeWitt, 599 Eggert Rd., Buffalo, NY 14215.

Phone: 716-835-9702 or 716-713-4076.

Email: pattidewittsfo@yahoo.com.

Franciscans of All Stripes Are a Hit at New York State Fair



A Franciscan booth at the State Fair in Syracuse attracted young and old alike. The booth was a joint effort of the Sisters of St. Francis, Conventual Franciscan Friars and Secular Franciscans from a number of fraternities. Visitors found vocation and spiritual info. Youngsters had fun decorating food pantry bags and writing messages to children in Africa.

FRANCISCAN MIRROR
P.O. BOX 232
MARCY, NEW YORK 13403

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SANBORN, NY
PERMIT NO. 579