

# FRANCISCAN MIRROR

WINTER  
2017-2018

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

## CHAPTER REPORT 'REGION GROWING'

“The region is growing!”  
“We’re experimenting with new things.”

That’s how Regional Minister Alfred Picogna opened his annual report to the 2017 Regional Chapter, held Sept.



*Al Picogna discusses the state of the region at the 2017 Chapter.*

8-9 in Syracuse.

Despite a decline in number of members due in large

part to Sister Death, he said, the region was in the process of reactivating a fraternity

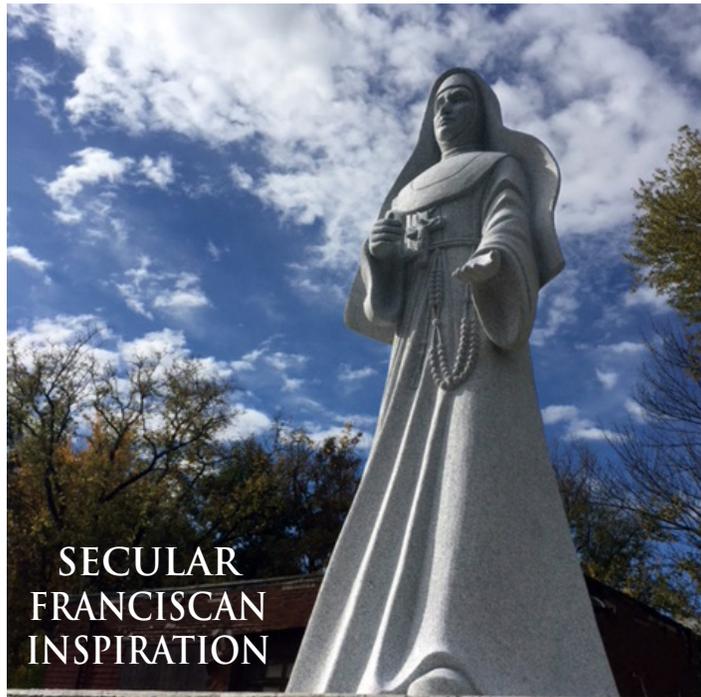
(Our Lady of Angels) in the Geneva/Auburn area.

*See PAGE 4.*



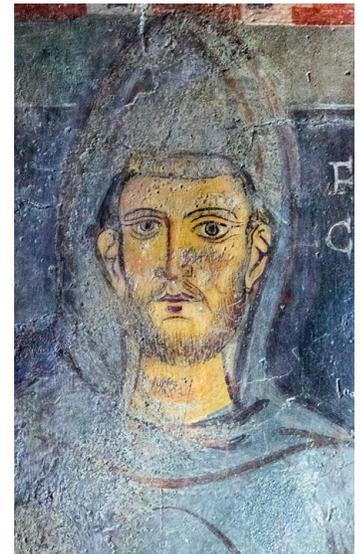
## AMAZON RELIEF FOUNDER

Jim Flickinger was the featured speaker at an OFS Day sponsored by St. Bernadine of Siena Fraternity. PAGE 7.



## SECULAR FRANCISCAN INSPIRATION

*A statue of St. Marianne Cope watches over her garden on land where she grew up in Utica in the mid-1800s. Secular Franciscan Rick Roberts suggested the design of the garden shrine, which St. Joseph-St. Patrick Parish embraced and implemented. PAGE 10*



## ONE ORDER

The General Chapter revealed a worldwide fraternity, and offered a chance to see a portrait of the real Francis. PAGE 8.

**SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA REGION**  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

*Minister*

**Alfred J. Picogna, OFS**  
(716) 946-1403  
alfred.picogna@kateriregion.org

*Vice Minister*

**Joanne Lockwood, OFS**  
(315) 269-5616  
lockwood@kateriregion.org

*Secretary*

**Kathy Schmidt, OFS**  
(585) 637-2411  
kaschmidt@kateriregion.org

*Treasurer*

**Eleanor D. Cox, OFS**  
(716) 549-0505  
eleanor.cox@kateriregion.org

*Formation Director*

**Layna Maher, OFS**  
(518) 332-4722  
layna.maher@kateriregion.org

**FRANCISCAN  
MIRROR**

WINTER 2017-2018

EDITORS

BOB STRONACH, OFS  
MARY STRONACH, OFS  
(315) 796-9284

PLEASE SEND NEWS  
& NEWSLETTERS TO:  
MARY & BOB STRONACH  
PO BOX 232  
MARCY, NY 13403.  
STRONACH@KATERIREGION.ORG

DEADLINES:  
MARCH 15, OCT. 15.

*Councilor-Eastern Area*

**Linda Quaranto, OFS**  
(607) 797-2378  
linda.quaranto@kateriregion.org

*Councilor-Central Area*

**Catherine E. Koscinski, OFS**  
(315) 797-1985  
koscinski@kateriregion.org

*Councilor-Western Area 1*

**Mike Hall, OFS**  
(716) 285-3725  
MikeHallOFS@twc.com

*Councilor-Western Area 2*

**Carol Onuffer, OFS**  
(716) 285-3725  
814-923-7410  
caol101@yahoo.com.sg

*Spiritual Assistant  
vacant*

*Council Advisor*

**Mary Frances Charsky, OFS**  
(607) 724-4528  
charsky@kateriregion.org

*Youth / Young Adult Chair*

**Peter Wooschlager, OFS**  
(315) 346-1015  
peterpiano61@gmail.com

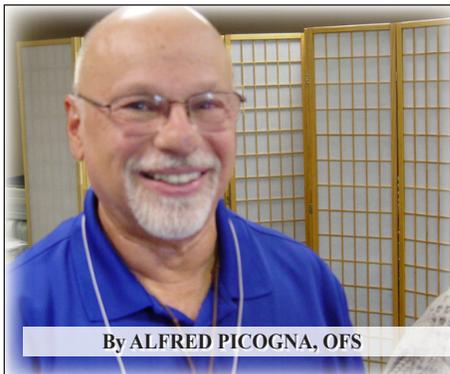
*JPIC\* Chair*

**Don Watkins, OFS**  
(716) 474-7327  
don@dgwenterprises.biz

*Vocations Chair*

**Bob Stronach, OFS**  
(315) 796-9468  
bob.stronach@kateriregion.org

*\*Justice, Peace & Integrity  
of Creation Commission.*



**Regional  
Minister's  
Message**

By ALFRED PICOGNA, OFS

**PREPARING FOR HEAVEN**

Sisters and Brothers,

Recently I visited my eighth grade teacher who is 97 years “young.” Sister Mary, SSMN, told me that she busies herself at this point in her life with her preparation for meeting the Lord. And then she said, “I wonder what heaven is really like?”

That visit was so memorable and personally powerful for me. During the weeks of Lent, and after, what are we doing to prepare ourselves for our eventual meeting of the Lord? Our heart and our soul need scouring, scrubbing and old fashioned elbow grease. Our Lord deserves nothing less than total purity. Contemplate your short-comings, your habits, good or bad, your relationship with family, friends, co-workers and others. Do we practice all of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy?

Yes, there is much to be done in preparation for that glorious day. Start today and do not stop ---continue daily as we journey in life. If we are serious about our preparation, we will not have to worry about what “heaven is really like,” we will be there.

Pax et Bonum.



**SUMMER EVENTS FOR OFS**

JULY 12-15, 2018

**9th Summer Seminar  
for Secular Franciscans**

St. Francis University, Loretto, PA

*“Francis the Troubadour: How  
Can I Keep from Singing?”*

Information – jlehman@francis.edu.

JULY 13-15, 2018

**Workshop for OFS**

St. Bonaventure University  
& Franciscan Institute

*“Becoming Prayer;  
Becoming Presence.”*

Info - Jill Smith, 716-375-2062,  
or jmsmith@sbu.edu.

SAVE THE DATE

## 2018 REGIONAL CHAPTER IS SEPT. 8-9

The Regional Chapter in September 2018 features something new.

For the first time in several years, the chapter returns to a retreat center – this time, Christ the King Retreat Center in Syracuse. In addition, a first-time workshop for all spiritual assistants in the region takes place in conjunction with the chapter. It runs Friday-Saturday, Sept. 7-8, while the chapter runs Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 8-9.



Merton meeting room at Christ the King Retreat Center in Syracuse.

### SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT WORKSHOP PRECEDES CHAPTER

A workshop for all spiritual assistants in the region will help kick off the weekend of the Regional Chapter in September.

The workshop starts at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 7, and continues the next day with

the opening of the Regional Chapter.

The topic of the workshop is, “*Pastoral and Canonical Dimensions of Being a Spiritual Assistant to the Secular Franciscan Order.*”

The presenter is **Fr. Chris-**

**topher Panagoplos, TOR**, a member of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants.

“The plan is for the spiritual assistants to be involved Sept. 7 with their workshop and then stay overnight and be at the Saturday Chapter of

Visitation as long as possible, even into Sunday,” noted Mary Frances Charsky, OFS, advisor to the Regional Executive Council.

The workshop is made possible by an OFS Duns Scotus Fund grant.

### ST. BONAVENTURE HITS WORKSHOP HOMERUN

By ALFRED J. PICO GNA, OFS

St. Bonaventure University once again offered a Summer Conference in 2017. From July 21 to 23, many Franciscans hung on the words of the dean of the School of Franciscan Studies and director of Franciscan Institute, Fr. David B. Couturier, OFM Cap., in his presentation, “*The Development of the Franciscan Person*”.

Several parables were explored while keeping in focus the words of St. Francis, “*Who are you, Lord, and who am I?*”

Two notable parables (the Lost Son and the Woman with a Hemorrhage) were examined using modern psychology to further the depth of the Lord’s message. There was insight into Jewish custom, the mentality of the people at that time and the laws which placed heavy control on all.

The woman, for example, merely touched the hem of Christ’s garment. This action was explored, defined, and ushered into 21st century focus.

She was apparently alone with no one to care for her.

An adult woman without a husband or some other male, a son, for example, was unacceptable in Jewish society. Nevertheless, after many years of suffering and being a Samaritan, she apparently sensed that she had nothing to lose.

Touched she did and the energy of Christ flowed into her and through her resulting in a cure in her physical being and more importantly in her presumed spirituality.

Relating this act to the above question posed by Francis made a solid connec-

tion with who the Franciscan person should be and who the Franciscan person is in reality.

It was examples such as that which kept the many participants spell-bound. Attendees came from several OFS regions, the National Executive Council, and even Japan.

Two books served as backdrop for discussion: “*The Canticle of the Creatures: Francis of Assisi Reconciled (2016)*” and David B. Clouturier’s “*The Four Conversations: A Spirituality of Transformation (2017)*”, both Franciscan Institute publications.

# 2017 REGIONAL CHAPTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Regional Minister Al Picogna introduced Bernie Tomasso, OFS, who was helping to spearhead the effort to establish the fraternity. “We have eight professed members (plus a ninth in a nursing home) and three inquirers,” Bernie noted.

The region has 417 professed members, spread over 22 active fraternities, and 17 candidates. The previous year saw 423 members and 39 candidates. Fifteen embraced Sister Death.

Al pointed to the spiritual assistant training program, with 11 Secular Franciscans enrolled, under the guidance of Br. Lawrence LaFlame, OFM Conv. Completion of this program was slated for April 2018 – at which time successful graduates “may be commissioned and assigned to fraternities in need of a spiritual assistant,” Al said.

He also was pleased to report that, since the last chapter, the region was able to appoint Don Watkins, OFS, as JPIC coordinator, Peter Woolschlager, OFS, as Youth/Young Adult coordinator, and Robert Stronach, OFS, as vocations coordinator.

•••

Al encouraged all ministers to completely fill out their annual reports to the region. It helps him immensely in reporting to the National Fraternity how alive the region is.

He also reminded ministers to keep the region apprised of any changes in their fraternity



## FRATERNITY EMERGING IN FINGER LAKES REGION

A core group of five professed members from throughout the Finger Lakes region in the Diocese of Rochester started meeting regularly in January, 2017. They contacted and met with representatives of the Regional Executive Council and began the journey to establish a fraternity – in

this case, to reactivate one. By the time they held a Day of Reflection in August (at a Capuchin friary in Interlaken), they were up to nine professed members and three inquirers.

“Many of our members came from inactive fraternities,” coordinator Bernie Tomasso, OFS, said. “Plus,

one is from Paraguay (who was professed there).”

Bernie was professed in the St. Marianne Cope Fraternity in Syracuse, but lives and works in the Rochester Diocese (serving as a pastoral associate for two parishes in Auburn).

The other professed members are: Margie Tomasso, OFS; Victor Burgus, OFS; Nancy Rowe, OFS, Bill Alexander, OFS; Barb Van Ditto, OFS; Mary Anne Tissott, OFS; John Balmer, OFS, and Clare Smyula, OFS (nursing home).

Added Bernie: “God brought us all together, and we’re patient and willing to wait as it all comes together. We’re enjoying being together.”



**Joanne Lockwood, OFS, left, and Kathy Schmidt, right, are the contacts for updating fraternity info on the national database.**

rosters – from contact info to status of members – so that the national database is up to date. Vice Minister Joanne Lockwood, OFS, and Secretary Kathy Schmidt, OFS, are the contact points for

updating the database, which provides mailing lists for the national Tau-USA and the regional Franciscan Mirror.

•••

Al noted that one creative idea the region was consider-

ing involves establishing a “ghost” or holding fraternity to use as a communications vehicle for those members who have become inactive for such reasons as health or distance, or because their fraternity no longer meets.

They have identified more than 20 members who fall into that category, and a few they have contacted so far appreciated the order staying in contact with them.

A roundtable discussion that closed the chapter showed a consensus of support for moving the project forward.

“It’s about creativity,” Al said. “It’s about trying something new.”

## BUDGET

Ministers and delegates unanimously approved the 2018 budget of \$33,300, an increase over the 2017 budget of \$30,804.

During the budget discussion, Al and Mary Frances Charsky, OFS, a national councilor who serves as advisor to the Regional Executive Council, reported that the region planned to hold a workshop for all spiritual assistants (lay, clergy and religious) in conjunction with the 2018 regional chapter. A line item in the budget would cover room, meals and materials for the pre-chapter workshop and to have the spiritual assistants stay on to participate in the annual chapter. Mary Frances noted that the region had applied for a national Duns Scotus Fund formation grant to help defray the expense.

## GUIDELINES

The body voted overwhelmingly to approve amended Regional Guidelines.

The changes elaborated on the expectations of local fraternities to participate in regional activities (such as the annual chapter).

They also clarified who sits on the regional executive council, identified appointed regional positions and defined duties, elaborated on regional councilor and regional spiritual assistant duties. The changes also identified membership status according to three categories: active, excused and lapsed.

*Mary Frances Charsky, OFS*



*Treasurer Eleanor Cox, OFS, presented the budget.*



*Formation Director Layna Maher*

## FORMATION: FRANCISCAN FAMILY

Interactive formation discussions wove throughout the chapter.

Formation Director Layna Maher started out discussing the Franciscan Family, handing out a diagram of the Franciscan Family Tree. It illustrated that from the roots of the Holy Spirit, Francis spurred the three main orders and their various branches.

“This is where we came from, this is where our spirituality came from.”

She reminded everyone that “we’re called to daily conversion” and in need of “continual, on-going formation.”

**“Back in their day, Francis and Clare were social rebels.”**

They dug deeply into Gospel values; that’s how they lived their lives.

She asked attendees what drew them to the Franciscan Order. Several referred to Franciscans being do-ers or living by example and how they relate to people (seeing God in everyone and everything) as well as their hospitality.

In other words, Don Watkins quipped, he found Franciscans to embody the notion of “preaching the Gospel at all times” – with or without words.

## FORMATION: RESOURCES

In another session, Layna reviewed a diagram of the pathway to profession, showing a minimum of three months for orientation, a minimum of six months for inquiry, and 18 to 36 months for candidacy. Not only are the Franciscan Journey book and the FUN Manual together great guides for initial formation, but also their chapters and topics are good for on-going formation. Articles in Tau USA are also a good resource for on-going formation lessons.

## FORMATION: EMBRACING OTHERS

She pointed to the parable of the prodigal son, who not only had squandered his inheritance, but in his sinfulness had become, in Hebrew tradition, “unclean,” “untouchable.”

Despite that, his father embraced and welcomed the son home.

“That’s what we’re called to do,” she noted, and asked: “Who are the untouchables today?”

With that in mind, she added, “Francis and Clare gave us an understanding of how to see God in all the messiness around us.”

## FORMATION: TRAVELING WORKSHOP

Layna announced that the region was working with St. Bonaventure University and its Franciscan Institute to develop a traveling on-going formation program that could come to each area of the region (west, central and east), possibly starting in 2018.

“I think that’s going to be a blessing for our region.”

## FORMATION: ST. CLARE

The final formation session zeroed in on St. Clare’s impact and her similarity to Francis, with her own unique gifts, and offered an example of her method of meditation or contemplation that includes:

- gazing at an object or scriptural passage.
- considering the image or story it evokes.
- contemplating the scene with your hearts to gain an inspiration.
- imitating; that is, savoring the inspiration and deciding how to confirm/apply it.

## FORMATION: SPIRIT OF POVERTY

A discussion of the spirit of poverty rounded out the session. Layna pointed to a sense of detachment, about recognizing priorities, and about embracing a sense of “littleness.”

“Happy are those who are poor in spirit,” she quoted.

*“What does that mean?”*

Don Watkins offered a perspective that struck a chord with a number of attendees. “Poverty is really about being open... about not having a lot of set ideas about myself, about the world, about politics.”

Added Rick Heist, OFS: “Possessions include our system of thoughts;” that is, “biases,” “opinions,” pre-conceived notions.

“Not to cling to my opinions and be open-minded to others really is a spirit of poverty that is open to love.”

Said Layna: “We’re recognizing value in others.”

Barbara Quebral, OFS, suggested that it’s not so much about material possessions as it is about detachment and stewardship.

“It’s sharing,” noted Sr. Pat Larkin, OSF. “It’s more about being and working together.”



**Don Watkins, OFS**



**Rick Heist, OFS**



**Sr. Pat Larkin, OSF**



**Barbara Quebral, OFS**

## CHAPTER CANDIDS



# OFS DAY FEATURES FOUNDER OF AMAZON RELIEF

AURIESVILLE – An OFS Day here last June featured Amazon Relief founder Jim Flickinger, OFS.

Sponsored by St. Bernardine of Siena Fraternity (out of St. Francis Chapel in Colonie), the June 16th event took place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs and attracted 55 attendees from 11 fraternities, reports St. Bernardine Vice Minister Angela Nelligan, OFS.

“Amazon Relief, which has no administrative costs, helps people near the equator (in Brazil), 1,200 miles up the Amazon River,” Angela noted. “The area is called ‘green hell’ because there is



**Jim Flickinger, OFS**

no sanitation, much disease, unbearable heat and humidity, lack of food, and Leprosy (Hansen’s Disease).”

In existence since 1995, “Amazon Relief is trying to break the cycle of poverty,” she reported. Its programs include, among other things,

funding schools; helping children with food, medicine, clothing, and counseling; operating three weekly soup kitchens for the poor, and assisting victims of leprosy and their families.

“We all were quite astonished at what one OFS could

accomplish with the Holy Spirit,” Angela said.

The OFS Day also featured mass in the shrine’s Coliseum, celebrated by the fraternity’s spiritual assistant, Fr. Mike Tyson, OFM.

In addition to St. Bernardine, the following fraternities were represented: St. Anthony (Catskill), St. Joseph of Cupertino (Watertown), St. Marianne Cope (Syracuse), St. Thomas More (Fonda), St. Stephen (Croghan), Our Mother of Sorrows (Jim and Lois Flickinger’s fraternity in Grand Rapids, Michigan), Holy Family (Vernon), St. Kateri Tekakwitha Region, St. Joseph (Utica), St. Elizabeth-St. Louis (Albany).

## CHAPTER CANDIDS



# INSTANT CONNECTION TO OFS AROUND GLOBE

## EDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE OF GENERAL CHAPTER IN ROME

By BOB STRONACH, OFS

An amazing thing about the OFS is the instant connection one experiences with brothers and sisters from around the globe.

This was evident at the General Chapter, held at the Collegium Seraphicum in Rome in November 2017, where people from 110 countries worked and prayed side by side for over a week. The smiles, the hugs, the sharing, the voicing of opinions as brothers and sisters. It was a truly international fraternity.

The OFS is a worldwide order, and is canonically recognized as an integral part of the Franciscan Family. There was no greater evidence of this than the Vatican and the First & Third Order friars directly participating in the chapter. Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin celebrated the opening Mass to help kick off the chapter, followed by daily masses celebrated by the First Order ministers general.

And then there were the general spiritual assistants participating in the daily proceedings – the four friars assigned to CIOFS (the OFS international executive council, or Presidency) by the OFM, the OFM Conventuals, the OFM Capuchins, and the Third Order Regular (TOR).

We made new friends from



**Minister General Tibor Kauser, OFS, chats with Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin following the opening mass of the General Chapter.**



**YouFra leaders were an exuberant presence at the General Chapter.**

Belgium, England, the Netherlands, Eastern Europe, New Zealand, Africa, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Central and South America. The sense of family, of a truly Franciscan Family, was pervasive.

During the week leading

up to the chapter, Mary T. Stronach, OFS, (nee Maria Teresa Saporetti) served as an interpreter for the Presidency meeting and worked on its formation commission.

During the chapter, she represented the U.S. as its

international councilor.

I served the Presidency as editor of its international publication, *Vox Franciscana* (Franciscan Voice), and as a member of its communications team at the chapter.

## PRIORITIES FOR THE ORDER

Thanks to feedback and input from national fraternities, the General Chapter agreed on eight priority areas. The chapter voted to establish international offices for formation, communications, and Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC). The chapter also approved a “Life in Fraternity” proposal to review and possibly modify the structure of the Order, including the General Constitutions; a proposal to develop a financial strategy; and a multi-pronged leadership development plan.

The 7th & 8th priority areas involve Spiritual Assistance (encouraging fraternities to foster relationships with the First Orders and TOR and promote spiritual assistant training) and Franciscan Youth (encouraging fraternities to animate and accompany YouFra).

## A BENEDICTINE-FRANCISCAN CONNECTION

Following the General Chapter, Mary and I met up with Mary’s brother and his wife to spend a couple of weeks in her hometown – Scauri, a seacoast village between Rome and Naples. It’s nestled between the Tyr-

rhenian Sea on the west and the Apennine Mountains on the east.

Just around the bay to the north is the port of Gaeta, and a little to the northeast is Monte Cassino, where St. Benedict wrote his Benedictine Rule and introduced western monasticism to the world in the 6th century.

Further north (and south of Rome) is another mountain-top Benedictine monastery at Subiaco. That’s where Benedict holed up in a cave



*Fresco of Francis of Assisi painted by the Benedictine monks at Subiaco.*

after fleeing the “sinful life” of Rome’s noble society. His holiness as a hermit attracted followers and he experimented with a type of hermit-like monasticism.

It wasn’t until he left there and settled at Monte Cassino that he established a monastery of monks praying and working together.

The monks at Subiaco eventually built a monastery enshrining Benedict’s sacred cave or grotto (Sacro Speco). In the 1200s, Francis of Assi-

si, another future saint who had an affinity for caves, visited Subiaco. He must have left a big impression on the monks because they painted a fresco of him in one of their chapels. Historians believe it is the first, and likely accurate, portrait of Francis, created in his lifetime.

We drove up the steep, narrow winding road to the monastery at Subiaco, and were thoroughly impressed with the architecture and the frescoes that adorned the entire inside of the mountain-side complex. Not to mention the por-

trait of Francis – unadorned with any saintly appellation or halos, as it was painted before he was canonized.

To sum up, our time in Italy was precious. It was a thrill to experience “fraternity” at the international level. It was a thrill to discover a likely accurate portrait of St. Francis – how he looked while still alive. All because some followers of St. Benedict took a liking to the Gospel-spirited man from Assisi who sparked the Franciscan movement.

# HOW THE ST. MARIANNE GARDEN SHRINE DEVELOPED

By DEBORAH SULLIVAN

UTICA -- Rick Roberts, a Secular Franciscan, approached my husband, John Sullivan, and myself immediately following a St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church 175th Anniversary committee meeting.

Rick told us that St. Marianne's homestead was heavy on his heart and he handed John a picture of his vision. It was a beautiful garden with a circular sidewalk. The center, the heart of the project, featured a statue of St. Marianne. It was love at first sight for John and me. We could see it. The vision was introduced and nurtured from that moment on.

John Sullivan and Sons Construction brought to life the vision of the circular sidewalk with the addition of a pedestal of repurposed stone from St. Patrick's Church (torn down years earlier after merging with St. Joseph's).

One of the Sullivan brothers, James, surprised us all with a carved heart in the center of the pedestal, a gesture of how much St. Marianne loved and is loved. The next step was to find an artist to capture St. Marianne to bring her home.

From Endicott, NY, we found Dennis Camarda, owner of Endicott Artistic Memorials, the artist of the sculpture of St. John Paul II, who watches over Holy Trinity Church in Utica. It turned out that Dennis' family were dear friends of our pastor, Fr. Richard Dellos. Coincidence, I think not. Divine coincidence, definitely.

Raising funds for the project was successful and rewarding, offering "in memoriam" plaques for a loved one for a donation of \$100 or more. This is an ongoing endeavor with donations now going towards garden upkeep.

The Rick & Rose Marie Roberts family kicked off the landscaping for St. Marianne's Home Garden Shrine with a very generous donation.

We are pleased that to date the statue and landscaping are paid for in full, with the great response to see this vision unfold.



## VISITING ST. MARIANNE'S NEIGHBORHOOD SPURS IDEA

By RICK ROBERTS, OFS

UTICA -- Shortly after St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church purchased the lot on Schuyler Street in Utica, where the homestead of Saint Mother Marianne Cope once stood, I began to pray and think about Mother Marianne, and her years in the neighborhood. Occasionally driving up and down Schuyler Street, seeing the lot (706 Schuyler Street), I would think about how Mother Marianne was once

a youngster there. Imagining her in her home and yard, helping with the care of her siblings, walking to St. Joseph's Church, walking up and down the street, and to the mill where she worked.

I remembered things I had learned about her, such as how as a young adult she took care of her father when he became ill. St. Marianne was always giving of herself and thinking of others first. It was after completing the 8th

grade that she went to work in the factory to help care for her invalid father and younger siblings.

I thought of her life and all that she did for others, feeling very strongly that something should be done to call attention to the fact that her home once stood on that lot, and that she grew up in that neighborhood during her formative years. I wanted to honor and promote the fact that Utica has its own saint.

She received her calling to the religious life during the time she lived in that home but delayed answering the call until after the passing of her father and when her younger siblings were of age and able to support themselves. In 1862, at 24 years of age, she entered the convent of the Sisters of St. Francis in Syracuse.

I also thought of how as a Sister of St. Francis she was  
*Continued on next page.*

it was the token of the times to put such remedies for the sick into things like cookies, which hid the often bitterness of the draughts. It is suggested that Jacopa was, therefore, bringing St. Francis herbal remedies to try to heal him or ease his suffering prior to his death.

Lady Jacopa is known as a leader, as a support for family, as a Franciscan healer, as someone who comforted and honored the dying, as a peacekeeper/reconciler, and as someone deeply attached to relationships.

## ANGELA OF FOLIGNO

Angela may be considered the “First Female Theologian”. Born in 1248, Angela was a wife, mother, widow, and mystic. Canonized in 2013 by Pope Francis, she was quoted by many saints such as Teresa of Avila, Francis de Sales, and Alphonsus Liguori. Pope Benedict XIV considered her on the same terms as Teresa of

Avila, John of the Cross, and Catherine of Siena.

In 1285 she had a conversion experience, where she was meditating in front of a picture of Christ holding Mary, and had the experience of Christ holding her. In 1288 her husband, mother, and sons died. In 1291 she joined the Third Order. In 1292 a Brother was assigned to write about her life and experiences as she dictated them. 1294-96 she is said to have experienced the “dark night”. In 1309 she died. 1505-1510, due to the invention of the printing press, the first printing of her writings was published. She is very Franciscan in that Angela takes her theology and finds Christ in the poor. While Angela lived in times where religious were asked to stay in cloisters and pray, Angela was advocating for religious TO GO OUT to meet God, in the poor, sick, and marginalized. She advocated that one needs to look in a mirror to try to see

Christ in oneself and others, advocated the tenet of the Immaculate Conception (at a time that this concept wasn’t even a thought), and that the world was “pregnant” with God. In other words, that God is present in every creature and in everything.

## JUANA DE LA CRUZ

Known as a mystic, Juana was born in 1481 and professed a nun 1497 when she was 15 years old. By 1505 Cardinal Jimenez de Cisneros decides that Juana “speaks with the words of Christ”, thus paving the way for her to develop her 72 Sermons and avoid the Inquisition.

In 1524 Juana received the Stigmata, and she dies in 1534. Juana is known as a preacher in the Franciscan Tradition, but only six of her 72 Sermons are currently translated into English. Her sermons are reminiscent of “Midrash”; in other words, her sermons are

made up of many metaphors and storytelling. She elaborates on truths to gain the attention of her listeners and to draw them into the Catholic faith.

Example: On the Annunciation, she has the angel asking her to be the Mother of God, but instead of saying “yes” automatically, Juana has Mary asking the Angel eight questions, and it is only after these are answered to Mary’s satisfaction that she agrees to become Jesus’ mother. The moral of the story? God doesn’t do anything without informed consent! Another example is the story of Moses leading his people through the Red Sea. Yes, the Hebrews are rejoicing that God saved them, but Juana has God crying in Heaven. When the angels ask why He is crying, He says that even though the Jews are safe he cries because His other people, the Egyptians, are dead when the waters returned to normal. The moral? God loves everyone. Everyone is His people.



*Continued from previous page.* credited for participating in the establishment of St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, Utica (and eventually lead a group of sisters to Hawaii to care for victims of leprosy).

I started looking for pictures of different landscape designs for her home site with

thoughts of a statue of St. Marianne as the focal point.

I decided to show one of the pictures to Betty Frank, OFS, founder of the Mother Marianne Cope prayer group, which prayed for Mother Marianne’s canonization. Betty responded with great joy, saying, “My prayers have been

answered.” Then I attended one the of the church’s 175th anniversary planning meetings and gave Betty a copy of one potential design.

Betty immediately showed Parish Historian Richard Dukette, and Father Richard Dellos, pastor. Interest grew and everyone at that meet-

ing, including contractor John Sullivan and his wife, Parish Office Administrator Debbie Sullivan, got very excited about the possibilities of having St. Marianne Cope’s Home Shrine erected on the lot.

The shrine now provides a place for all to pray at and appreciate where she grew up.

## FRANCISCAN WOMEN FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY 4 FRATERNITIES PARTICIPATE IN OFS DAY IN UTICA

By MARSHA U. KISTNER, OFS

UTICA – St. Joseph Fraternity hosted a day-long workshop on Sept. 16, presented by Kevin C.A. Elphick, D. Min., on “*Franciscan Women for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*” Members of three other fraternities participated: Holy Family in Vernon; St. Thomas More in Fonda, and St. Francis in Binghamton.

Following is a brief overview of the three women highlighted in the presentation.

### LADY JACOPA DEI SETTESOLI

Known as the “Grandmother of the OFS”, Lady Jacopa (also spelled Jacoba) was born around 1190 AD. She is said to have met Francis in Rome around 1209-1212 (possibly meeting him prior to his meeting with St. Clare). In 1212, Lady Jacopa’s husband and two sons died, leaving her in charge of her considerable wealth. Lady Jacopa then negotiated a peace treaty with the Pope in 1217, continued



**Lady Jacopa visits Francis.**

Artwork by Howard Schroeder, OFS; used with permission.

Check out his art at [paintedpsalms.com](http://paintedpsalms.com)

to have conversations with Francis throughout his lifetime, and was at his deathbed in 1226. (Francis dubbed her “Brother Jacopa.”) In 1228 she donated considerable monies for the monks to build

the Basilica in Assisi. In 1254 she died and in the Basilica there is a crypt there that is marked “Fr. Jacopa”. When she went to St. Francis’ deathbed, there is a story about her bringing him almond cookies.

Current scholars suggest that the cookies were brought not just because St. Francis had a sweet tooth, but that Jacopa knew a lot about herbal medicines and remedies and

*Continued on Page 11*