

FRANCISCAN MIRROR

SUMMER
2014

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



REGION HAS NEW MINISTER

Alfred Picogna, OFS, is now regional minister. He stepped into the position after Kimberly Marks, OFS, resigned in July.

PAGE 4.

CHAPTER TO FEATURE SISTER PAT 'FRANCISCAN THEOLOGICAL TRADITION'

Franciscan Sister Pat Larkin will bring the Franciscan theological tradition to the Regional Chapter, which runs Sept. 12-14 at Stella Maris Retreat Center in Skaneateles. Her program is titled: "God's Extravagant Love: Reclaiming the Franciscan Theological Tradition."



PAGE 3. *Sr. Patricia Larkin, OSF*



ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

Representatives of seven fraternities enjoyed a sunny pilgrimage to Kateri Shrine in Fonda.

PAGE 8.



ONE COOKIE AT A TIME

Fraternity bakes and sends cookies to raise awareness and remember victims of gun violence.

PAGE 10.

SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA REGION
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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

**FRANCISCAN
MIRROR**
SUMMER 2014

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The Secular Franciscan Order is a Catholic order of married and single people who strive to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.



**Regional
Minister's
Message**

By ALFRED PICOGNA, OFS

A NEW BEGINNING!

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

A new chapter has begun in our Region. As I survey the depth and responsibility of all that has been placed upon me, I must admit there are moments when it appears daunting.

However, I know that Almighty God never gives us more than can be handled. This is so true for all of us. We are a team, a large team of men and women individually and collectively striving for and searching for union with God one day.

In order to reach that summit we must work together, bond ourselves to each other and truly live our profession in the OFS every moment of every day.

I ask you to pray for me and for our Regional Executive Council, knowing that we pray daily for you.

Your brother in Christ and St. Francis,

Al

JOIN DISCUSSION OF FRANCISCAN THEOLOGICAL TRADITION AT CHAPTER

The Regional Chapter, which runs Sept. 12-14, will feature a program on the Franciscan theological tradition.

The presenter is Franciscan Sister Pat Larkin, OSF. The title of her program is: "God's Extravagant Love: Reclaiming the Franciscan Theological Tradition."

The chapter gets underway Friday morning, Sept. 12, at Stella Maris Retreat Center in Skaneateles, NY. Fraternity members and observers are welcome along with ministers and delegates.

Following greetings, introduction of the regional executive council, and roll call of all fraternities in the region, the business meeting gets underway with reports from regional leaders and a review of the 2015

proposed budget. The business meeting continues in the afternoon as needed.

Friday evening includes the introduction of Sister Pat and social time.

On Saturday Sister Pat begins her presentation at 9 a.m., continues in the afternoon and wraps up on Sunday

morning. Some of her sessions include such topics as: "Love and the Primacy of Christ," "Creation and the Humility of God," and "The Dignity of the Human Person."

A spiritual director who co-directs Stella Maris retreat center, Sister Pat is a member of the Sisters of St.

Francis of the Neumann Communities.

Vigil Mass will be celebrated on Saturday afternoon.

The chapter comes to a close at noon on Sunday.

For questions about the chapter, contact Regional Minister Al Picogna (see phone and email on page 2).

Wall of Honor
In Honor Of
Immaculate Heart of Mary Fraternity
on 10th anniversary of canonical establishment
by fraternity members, Hilton, NY

Roberta Mickey, OFS
for receiving Immaculata Award
by St. Joseph Fraternity, Utica, NY

In Memory Of
Albin Schenck, OFS
for his strong faith, remembered by
St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity, Athol Springs, NY

How to participate in the Wall of Honor – Page 11.



Keith Douglas Warner, OFM, (above) of Santa Clara University presented a workshop on the topic, "Franciscans, Money and Business," for a group of Secular Franciscans July 4-6 at St. Bonaventure University, Allegany, NY. Brother Keith was "funny, engaging and dynamic," noted Secular Franciscan Spiritual Assistant Linda Robinson, MD, OFS.

CHANGES IN REGION'S LEADERSHIP TEAM

The region's leadership team elected at last September's chapter took on several changes in July, with Alfred Picogna, OFS, of Sanborn, NY becoming regional minister. The former vice minister stepped into the position following the July 11th resignation of Kimberly Marks, OFS, of Cheektowaga, NY, who cited health reasons, Picogna said. He announced other changes:

Don Montero, OFS, of Cheektowaga resigned as western area councilor "stating work related problems." Former Councilor Marie

Meyer, OFS, of Buffalo was brought back on board to fill that vacancy and assist the other western area councilor, Eleanor Cox, OFS.

Secretary Joanne Lockwood of Barneveld, NY has moved into the position of vice minister. A new secretary will be appointed, he said.

PICOGNA is a retired secondary school teacher who has been serving as minister of St. Anthony Fraternity in Lockport, where he also served as formation director. Prior to joining that fraternity, he had served as minister of Our Lady of the

Angels Fraternity in Lewiston. He is president of St. Vincent de Paul Society at Divine Mercy Parish, where the society operates a large food pantry. A member of the Knights of Columbus, he is a third degree knight at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston.

LOCKWOOD is minister of St. Joseph Fraternity in Utica, where she had been involved in the founding and initial running of Mother Marianne's West Side Kitchen. She volunteers at St. John Bosco House shelter for homeless boys and

young men in Utica.

MEYER, in addition to serving as regional councilor, has been regional secretary and minister of St. Patrick Fraternity, Buffalo. She is retired from Kaleida Health (Buffalo General Hospital). In her parish she is Eucharistic minister and lector.

Other officers:

• **TREASURER**

James Fagan, OFS, of Corning, NY. An engineer and project manager at Corning Inc., he is active in All Saints Parish. He co-headed an effort to show the Catholicism Series in a theater and later in the



Joanne Lockwood
regional vice minister



James Fagan
regional treasurer



Layna Maher
formation director



Linda Quaranto
eastern area councilor



Katie Koscinski
central area councilor



Eleanor Cox
western area councilor



Marie Meyer
western area councilor

parish school, and has volunteered for the annual Christmas breakfast for children. He is treasurer of St. Pius X Fraternity in Corning.

• **FORMATION**

Director **Layna Maher**, OFS, of Fonda, NY. She is a trainer for the New York State Justice Center in Delmar. Confirmation director for both St. Cecilia and Sacred Heart Parishes, Maher is on the Kateri Tekakwitha National Shrine council, and leads youth retreat programs there.

In St. Thomas More Fraternity in Fonda, Maher has served a minister, vice minister and formation director.

• **EASTERN Area Councilor Linda Quaranto**, OFS, of Binghamton. A retired school principal, Quaranto is a member of St. Francis Fraternity in Binghamton and is active in St. Francis of Assisi Parish. She has been involved in a number of community organizations, such as: Special Olympics

coordinator; Broome County ARC Board; director, Early Childhood Coalition of Broome County; Holy Family Vocational Orphanage Foundation (orphanage is in Uganda, Africa).

• **CENTRAL Area Councilor Katie Koscinski**, OFS, of Utica, NY. She is former minister of St. Joseph Fraternity. A retired mental health worker, she is involved in her parish as a catechist, Eucharistic minister, lector and RCIA facilitator.

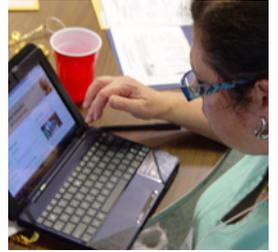
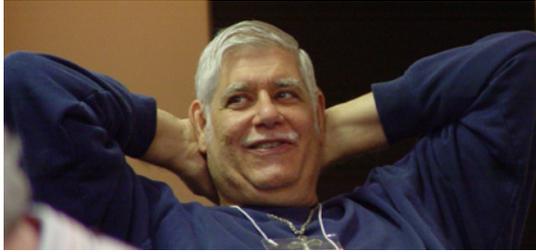
She was involved in the founding of Mother Marianne's West Side Kitchen.

• **WESTERN Area Councilor Eleanor Cox**, OFS, of Angola, NY. A retiree, Cox is active in St. Francis Fraternity in Athol Springs as treasurer and in St. Anthony Parish as a Eucharistic minister. She is a board member and treasurer of Lake Shore Association of Christian Churches, which operates a food pantry.

2013 CHAPTER CANDIDS



2013 CHAPTER CANDIDS



BETTY FRANK RECEIVES PEACE AWARD

UTICA FRATERNITY MEMBER FOUNDED ADORATION CHAPEL

UTICA, NY -- Elizabeth "Betty" Frank, OFS, of St. Joseph Fraternity in Utica has been awarded the Franciscan Peace Award by Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Region.

"Our (2013) national theme is to *'Be a Bridge -- Accept All People As a Gift of God'*," Mary Stronach, OFS, the U.S. international councilor, noted during an awards ceremony Oct. 27.

"Betty Frank is that bridge."



Betty Frank, OFS

Stronach, representing then-Regional Minister Kim Marks, OFS, said Frank was a "mover and shaker

for the order and the church."

She listed several accomplishments:

- co-founder of the

24-hour Adoration Chapel at St. Joseph-St. Patrick Church.

- active supporter for Mother Marianne's Cope's sainthood, including forming the Mother Marianne Prayer Group and helping to establish Utica's Mother Marianne Shrine.

- recipient of the Pontifical Cross, "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice," the highest honor the pope can bestow on a lay person.

PROFESSED 70 & 65 YEARS

UTICA -- Members of St. Joseph Fraternity recently honored two long-time Secular Franciscans -- Joseph Schmitt, OFS, and Elizabeth (Betty) Frank, OFS, who this year celebrate the 70th anniversary and 65th anniversary, respectively, of their professions.

Members hailed Joe's years devoted to social justice, the fraternity and the rosary. "No one can mention Joe without remembering his stories as a railroad engineer and his enduring love for trains," noted Minister Joanne Lockwood, OFS.

Betty spoke of how her love for St. Francis and the Rule influenced her life.

She recalled transitioning between the older and newer versions of the Rule, with the current one more joyous.

"Now the fraternity is more community centered," she said.

Her advice to those in formation: "Become acquainted with the other members; they are humble and do a lot of charity on their own."

FROM HOLY GROUND TO HOLY HANDS

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO KATERI SHRINE AT FONDA

Sunday, Aug. 10, was a sunny beautiful day for the annual Secular Franciscan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of St. Kateri Tekakwitha in Fonda, NY, reports former Regional Minister and National Councilor Mary Frances Charsky, OFS.

After registration, Mass began at 10:30 a.m. with Friar Mark Steed as the celebrant.

"Mass began with song, reminding us that we were standing on holy ground," noted Regional Vice Minister Joanne Lockwood, OFS. "The hymn selection," Charsky added, "was



Friar Mark Steed, OFM Conv., celebrates mass at National Shrine of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. Photo by Joanne Lockwood, OFS.

moving and contributed to the prayerful, reverent spirit of the day."

Following mass, "our sisters and brothers of St. Thomas More Fraternity welcomed us and offered lunch," said Lockwood, who took time to also welcome

participants, read a message from Regional Minister Al Picogna, and introduce Regional Council members who were present. Members from seven of the local fraternities in St. Kateri Tekakwitha Region were in attendance.

Layna Maher, OFS, regional formation director and a member of St. Thomas More, led a meditation, "Surprised by the Spirit," "on the beauty and holiness of our hands, reminding us that Jesus has no other hands but ours," Lockwood said.

Participants were invited to go to the Shrine Museum, follow the Stations of the Cross, visit the chapel and tour the archeological site of the village that St. Kateri once lived in.



Some of the Pilgrimage Day participants. Photo by Joanne Lockwood, OFS.

WHAT ADMISSION TO ORDER MEANS

MESSAGE FROM DATA BASE COORDINATOR

By Joanne Lockwood, OFS

The Rite of Admission celebrates admission into the Secular Franciscan Order. It not only marks a change in status, from inquiry to candidacy, but also admits a candidate as a non-professed member.

With the admission also come obligations, of the fraternity to the candidate and of the candidate to the fraternity. The fraternity bonds itself to the candidate and becomes responsible for the member's fair share contribution to the region. The candidate bonds himself/herself to the fraternity by striving to live the Rule, which includes the obligation of attendance at fraternity gatherings and financial contributions.

The obligations that come with admittance and profession make the discernment process

of vital importance to the life of fraternity. Formation directors, the formation team and council members must take this responsibility seriously and impress inquirers and candidates to do the same.

Below are some descriptions of member status. Please use them as a guide for your membership and database designations.

ACTIVE : An active member is one who participates both by attending fraternity meetings and by providing financial support, or whom the fraternity has excused from such obligations. *N.S. 18:7a*

EXCUSED: Insertion into a local fraternity and participation in fraternity life is essential for belonging to the SFO. Appropriate initiatives should be adopted according to the direc-

tives of the national statutes, to keep those brothers and sisters united to the fraternity who - for valid reasons of health, family, work, or distance - cannot actively participate in community life. *GC53.3*

LAPSED: Those who neither attend meetings, support the community financially, nor have valid reasons due to health, family, work or distance and who, after personal invitations to return to fraternity, consciously and deliberately reject or ignore the invitation, will be termed "lapsed" and will not be carried on the fraternity membership roll nor be reported as a member to higher fraternity Councils. *NS 18:7b*

WITHDRAWAL AND DISMISSAL:
From GC 53:

1. Members who find themselves in difficulty may request temporary withdrawal. The council will evaluate the request with love and prudence, after a fraternal dialogue between the minister and the assistant with the person concerned. If the reasons appear to be well founded, after the brother or sister in difficulty has been given time to reconsider, the council agrees to the request.

2. The repeated and prolonged default in the obligations of the life of the fraternity and other conduct in serious opposition to the Rule have to be discussed by the council in dialogue with the person at fault. Only in the case of obstinacy or relapse may the council decide, with a secret vote, to suspend someone. It communicates its decision in writing to the person concerned.

BUILDING A MORE FRATERNAL AND EVANGELICAL WORLD... ONE COOKIE AT A TIME

by Don Watkins, OFS

What does it mean to build a more fraternal and evangelical world? How do Secular Franciscans respond to everyday problems and situations that arise in our lives? John and Anita Dutcher are both professed Secular Franciscans of the St. Irenaeus Fraternity in West Clarksville, NY.

At a fraternity gathering they shared how deeply they had been affected by the Sandy Hook tragedy (December 2012), especially because they had lost a close relative to a gun death. At the time the two of them were making gingerbread cookies. When former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, also a victim of gun violence, asked everyone to “do something,” they decided to share the cookies, decorated as



children either killed or affected by the violence, with their legislators along with a message calling for responsible handling of guns and gun safety. On Feb. 16, at Mt. Irenaeus, after Mass and brunch, Secular Franciscans gathered to make cookies and decorate them for this

purpose.

Cookies provided the perfect metaphor for articulating a pro-life issue as sensitive as gun violence has become in our society. These boy and girl cookies represent the many children who have been exposed to misuse of firearms, those whose lives were

lost and those who were able to survive.

The boys and girls with the black sashes represent those children who have survived. They grieve for their friends who will never again play or open their eyes. The little girls are trimmed in green for life, hope and joy. The boys and girls with closed eyes are trimmed in red, white and blue. Their right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness has been denied. They are now with God.

Boxes of six such cookies are mailed to

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federal and state officials reminding them of their responsibility for action concerning the sale of weapons. Cookies have traveled as far as Denver, CO; California; Florida, and NY City.

Decorating the cookies turned out to be a community event as students from nearby Houghton College, St. Bonaventure University, and visitors to Mt. Irenaeus all participated in the decoration and packaging. Each gingerbread cookie, after trimming, is zipped into a clear plastic bag with a note tucked into the reverse side, encouraging owners to use their responsibility

to keep their weapons locked away, with ammunition locked away elsewhere. In addition, to make sure that only healthy and stable people are given access to those weapons. A serious right to life issue is brought to light, lives change and conversion takes place around this issue in a way that invited everyone to think of how they could help families and children.

Want to share this ministry? Contact John and Anita by email at AnitaDutcher@earthlink.net or write them at to Mt. Irenaeus, PO Box 100, West Clarksville, NY 14786.

SPONSOR THE MIRROR

We need sponsors to help defray printing cost so that the Regional Fraternity can continue to improve your *Franciscan Mirror*.

- 6"x1" ads
- \$100: inside page.
- \$150: inside cover.
- \$200: back cover.

Mail your message/ad, with check made out to SKTR, c/o Franciscan Mirror, PO Box 232, Marcy, NY; or contact Mary Stronach at 315-796-9284, or stromach@kateriregion.org.

YOU CAN REMEMBER OR HONOR SOMEONE IN THE WALL OF HONOR

A Wall of Honor page offers a way to remember, honor or thank Franciscans, family members, friends, business associates. Fill out and mail form along with a \$10 donation. Funds will be used 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 _____

Name of Person/Group Doing the Honoring (if different from above)

Contact info: Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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 St. Kateri Tekakwitha Region (SKTR).

Send completed form with check (payable to SKTR) to:
The Franciscan Mirror, P.O. Box 232, Marcy, NY 13403

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
P.O. BOX 232
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PEACE AWARD



Betty Frank, OFS, poses with Peace Award in front of stained glass window showing St. Marianne Cope caring for leprosy patient. PAGE 7.