



NEW VENUE FOR 2015 CHAPTER

With Stella Maris closing, the Regional Executive Council is securing a new site for the 2015 Annual Chapter.

PAGE 14



Franciscan paparazzi snapped pictures (with cells phones and cameras) of Peace Award and Family of Year Award recipients

John Sanborn (left) and Rick Heist at the regional chapter. PAGE 4.



CATSKILL'S FOOD PANTRY

Secular Franciscan Patricia Dushane, OFS, responded to God by feeding the hungry.

PAGE 8.



FINDING KINSHIP

Angler Jim Armienti, OFS, didn't catch any fish; he did find a little kinship with creation.

PAGE 12

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FRANCISCAN MIRROR

WINTER 2014-2015

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*Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Commission.



OUR BOSS IS HEAVENLY!

Recently I attended the National Chapter in Dallas, Texas from October 21 to 26. In short, it was an experience I will treasure for years to come. Steeped with spirituality at Montserrat, a Jesuit Retreat House, and coupled with many meetings I believe we were all filled with a far greater insight into the workings and aspirations of our Order.

There is so much to be done in our Region as we venture forward. I ask all fraternity members to work with their ministers in developing fresh ideas concerning JPIC (Justice and Peace with integrity of Creation), Youfra (Youth Commission) and Vocations. What can we do? How can we animate these "adventures"?

If we individually do our part and follow the directions and inspirations of the Holy Spirit in concordance with our Rule---well, we cannot help but succeed.

You are special people called by God to continue His work in the world. Our boss is heavenly!

Pace e bene.

FRATERNITY HOSTED 'DAY WITH ST. FRANCIS'

CORNING -- St. Pius X Fraternity hosted "A Day with St. Francis" on October 4, on the saint's Feast Day. The full title of the event was: "A Day with St. Francis: How Do We Build Up the Church."

Augie Titi, OFS, councilor, John Christofaro, minister, and Cindy Snyder, OFS, vice minister, "planned and organized a prayerful and an informative day for us," reports Mary Frances Charsky, OFS. "Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters came from not only the Corning/Elmira St. Pius X Fraternity but also from Buffalo and from Binghamton."

The day began with refreshments and then welcoming remarks from Christofaro, Fr. Patrick O'Connor, OFS, spiritual assistant of St. Pius X Fraternity, gave a talk about St. Francis, his life and works.

Then Bernie Tomasso, OFS, from St. Marianne Cope Fraternity, Syracuse, was introduced. He is currently serving as Pastoral Minister at St. Mary and Martha Parish in Auburn. He spoke on "the San Damiano Crucifix and the evangelization of St. Francis." He continued to share about "Evangelizing Yourself" and after a

lunch, "Evangelizing Family and the World."

"We had surprises throughout the day, such as John Christofaro receiving the handmade quilt that he had won at the Regional Chapter," Charsky notes.

"We had three birthdays to celebrate that day -- Al Picogna, regional minister; Marsha Ertola, inquirer, from

the St. Francis Fraternity, Binghamton, and another Al from the local fraternity. A surprise decorated birthday cake arrived with the three names on top for a second dessert, which added to the celebration of the day."

FRIAR **PROVINCES** MERGE

On May 5, 2014 the former Immaculate Conception Province and the former St. Anthony of Padua Province of the Conventual Franciscan Friars joined into one new province, under the title and patronage of Our Lady of the Angels.

Fr. Peter Knaapen has been reassigned and Br. Larry Laflame will serve as the provincial spiritual assistant for those fraternities affected by the change. -- Joanne Lockwood, OFS



by Jeannette Williams St. Joseph Fraternity, Utica, NY

Matthew 25 Food Pantry

by Bob Stronach, OFS St. Joseph Fraternity, Utica, NY

In Memory Of

Marie Diehl, OFS

remembered by Mary Stronach, OFS, St. Joseph Fraternity, Utica, NY

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

REGIONAL ANNUAL CHAPTER

MINISTERS OK BUDGET, HEAR SPIRITUAL MESSAGES

The Regional Chapter, held Sept. 12-14, featured, among other things, a program on the Franciscan theological tradition.

Franciscan Sister Pat Larkin, OSF, gave a presentation entitled, "God's Extravagant Love: Reclaiming the Franciscan Theological Tradition "

Held at Stella Maris Retreat and Conference Center in Skaneateles. the annual chapter also featured an awards presentation, spiritual messages, and a business meeting.

Fraternity ministers

and delegates unanimously approved a \$32,135 budget for 2015, which for the first time includes fair share contributions for candidates, not just professed members. The fair share contribution is \$45 for each professed member and \$25 for each candidate

IPIC, VOCATIONS CHAIRPERSONS APPOINTED

Regional Minister Alfred Picogna, OFS, announced the appointments of chairpersons for vocations and for Justice, Peace and

Integrity of Creation (JPIC).

Rosemary Costa, OFS, a former minister of St. Marianne Cope Fraternity in Syracuse, is the new regional vocations chair, and Jim Armienti, OFS, a member of St. Elizabeth-St. Louis Fraternity in Albany, is the new JPIC chair

Costa, who is formation director for her fraternity, is a parish council member. Eucharistic minister and staff member at the Franciscan Church of the Assumption, Syracuse. She also is

director of The Franciscan Place at Destiny USA

Armienti, a retired engineer, teaches gardening, cooking and food preservation. He assists the non-English speaking population in gardening and in English lessons.

FR. LINUS URGES: Trust and Move FORWARD

"It's the nature of humankind to move forward, to grow..."

Even so, Conventual Franciscan Friar Linus DeSantis continued in his homily on the





Regional Minister Al Picogna and Fr. Linus Sr. Pat Larkin, featured speaker

opening day of the regional chapter, people may find themselves in a sort of stasis, or paralysis – unable to move forward, afraid, not trusting in God.

The gospel in the day's liturgy asks why "you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?"

"Removing that beam takes a lot of work," the friar suggested, and noted that St. Paul "speaks of running the race," of "transformation." It's about moving forward, he said, the beginning of achievement, of fulfillment. The angel said to Mary, "do not be afraid," he quoted. "As regional leaders, do not be afraid" – "of change," "of the call of the Lord." Transformation occurs in conjunction with being open to the grace of God.

"A time of Chapter is a time to trust...and to be open to grace." And the Holy Spirit.

"Trust in God,"
Father Linus urged, and be open to "the opportunity for growth," "for transformation."

Region Presents Peace and Family of Year Awards

John Sanborn of Grand Island, NY, was presented with the Franciscan Peace Award, and Rick and Mary Heist of Hamburg, NY, were named Franciscan Family of the Year by the Secular Franciscan Order's St. Kateri Tekakwitha Region.

Regional Minister Alfred Picogna, OFS, announced the awards Sept. 12 during the annual regional gathering.

"John is a loving and compassionate Franciscan and brother to all," noted Picogna.

A Secular Franciscan and former minister of St. Patrick Fraternity in Buffalo, Sanborn has served the Order as national treasurer, national vice minister, national chairman of the 2007 Quinquennial Congress, and regional treasurer. He also coedited the book, "Essential Documents of the Secular Franciscan Order." In his parish, he has served as Eucharistic minister and lector.

In the community, Sanborn has served as local treasurer for the Boy Scouts of America, treasurer for Niagara Polish Cultural and Historical Society, and volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

Sanborn is a retired tax audit supervisor for the State Department of Taxation and Finance. He and his wife, Christine, are both natives





VOCATIONS AND JPIC CHAIRS: Rosemay Costa and Jim Armienti



PEACE AND FAMILY OF YEAR AWARDEES:

Al Picogna (center) with John Sanborn (left) and Rick Heist

of Niagara Falls and graduates of Niagara University. They are parents of four grown children (a son and three daughters) and seven grandchildren.

RICK HEIST, a
Secular Franciscan who
is vice minister of St.
Patrick Fraternity in
Buffalo, is executive
director of Our Lady
of Victory Homes of
Charity in Lackawanna,
NY. Mary is admin-

istrative assistant for the Buffalo Diocese Counseling Center for Clergy and Religious, a division of Catholic Charities.

They have been members of Saints
Peter & Paul Parish in
Hamburg, NY for over
25 years, where they served in leadership roles in the Parents
Guild and on various committees when their three children attended

the parish elementary school. Mary continues to serve on the parish outreach committee, regularly assisting in meal preparation for the "Friends of the Night People" ministry to the poor and homeless, and on the annual parish Christmas Craft Bazaar committee.

They both were involved with the St. Francis High School Parents Guild, and Rick served as chair of St. Francis School Board. They are past Parent Guild chair-couple at Immaculata Academy.

Active with the National Catholic Development Conference for over 25 years, Rick served for six years on the NCDC Board of Directors and as board chair. In addition to their son and two daughters, they have two grandchildren.

CHAPTER SNAPSHOTS















FRANCISCAN MIRROR - 6 - WINTER 2014-2015

THE CROSS IS OPPORTUNITY

Tay Thi Nguyen, born to an improverished farming family in Vietnam's Mekong Delta, became the first person in her village to graduate from college this year, thanks to a relentless determination to get an education and return to her village "to teach the children and change the world," New York Times columnist. Nicholas Kristof wrote.

Fr. Jerry Katz referred to the May 24th column about Tay Thi because of numerous obstacles she faced --



Fr. Jerry Katz

even starving herself to have money for tuition, in the classroom

The retired diocesan priest, who celebrated the Exaltation of the Cross vigil mass for the transformation "

In fact, Father Jerry added, "the crosses that Christ bears with us are crosses of hope, and of joy...not only for ourselves, but for others."

Our crosses, he continued, "are vehicles for discovering meaning and the journey that God has set us on "

They're encounters with God

that "surprise us," that "enliven us "

As the name of the feast day suggests, "out of it (the cross) comes new life, new hope beyond our wildest imagination."

-- Bob Stronach, OFS

to the point of fainting

regional chapter Sept.

CHAPTER SNAPSHOTS











13, saw her obstacles as

In fact, he said, "Tay

Thi's cross is a passion

cross as passion, as op-

"Her cross became a

means for new life a

for education." The

crosses.

portunity.



'GOD IS ALIVE AND WELL'

GOSPEL PULL LEADS TO OFS. THEN FOOD PANTRY

by Bob Stronach, OFS
CATSKILL, NY -Patricia Dushane, OFS,
for a long time felt an
action-oriented pull of
the Gospel – as Franciscans would say, Gospel
to life and life to Gospel
– and felt out of sink in
her ministries, including when serving as a
religious ed director
and youth minister in
her parish.

Then she encountered the Secular Franciscan Order.

"I found my home," said Dushane, who now is formation director for St. Anthony Fraternity in Catskill.

Then, as she put it, "the Lord put it into my heart to start a food pantry."

She went to her parish first about the idea, but was turned away.

However, "I put God first, and things fell into place."



Her husband let her use an adjacent vacant apartment. Donations of food and supplies came in. After six months, she was able to set up a 501(c)3 not-for-profit and become part of the food bank network. Then she moved Matthew

25 Food Pantry to a storefront on Main Street in Catskill at a cost of \$600 per month

But fire struck, and local politicians offered her the use of a former Greene County Dept. of Social Services building for \$1 a year. Dushane and her volunteers spruced it up, painting and renovating, but discovered the building needed a new

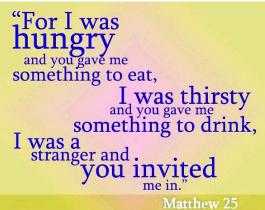
25 Food roof. She got a phone Pantry to a call from a stranger storefront offering to donate the on Main roof.

Today Matthew 25 has been operating out of the building for more than two years and is staffed four days a week (two for food distribution and two for stocking and cleaning) by fraternity members, community volunteers and family members. It's also available 24-7 on an emergency basis.

"Everybody who comes in is treated with dignity and respect," she noted, "because it's God's pantry."

They preach by example, she said, never pushing religion, but they do hand out prayer cards inscribed with the peace prayer.

"We give out between five and seven days' worth of food," Dushane said, noting



that clients are given an assorted menu of breakfast lunch and dinner items to select from such items as eggs and meat and produce.

In August, she noted, they served "790 individuals and 174 families." In addition to food, they also gave out we treat them with

clothing and furniture, plus backpacks for children returning to school.

"We don't baby them. They don't get everything they want. They have to fill out forms...But they like coming here because

dignity and respect."

She added: "Everything is provided by the community and the grace of God."

When people offer thanks and praise, she tells them: "I am a Third Order Secular Franciscan and a servant of God. Don't thank me; thank God."

The need is great, she said, and she could not emphasize enough that it's God's doing. "I'm just along for the ride. When the shelves are empty, He sends people with food and donations...God is alive and well."

A SECULAR FRANISCAN FOR LIFE

REACHING OUT TO LAPSED MEMBERS

By Joanne Lockwood, OFS rule for bringing about

A lapsed member is just that -- a member of our fraternity and the Order...for life. Therefore their addresses need to be current and their deaths recorded in the Book of Life and the data base. They need to be remembered in prayer and welcomed home if and when they return. Unless, they express otherwise, it is good practice to remind our brothers and sisters regularly that they are loved, missed and prayed for often. How better to live out our

a more evangelical and fraternal world than by starting with our own.

Some articles of our Rule to consider:

- Art. 5) Secular Franciscans, therefore. should seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters.
- Art. 9) The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her (Blessed Mother) by imitating her complete selfgiving and by praying earnestly and confidently.
- Art. 12) Witnessing to the good yet to come and obligated to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced. they should set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters.
- Art. 19) Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power

of love and pardon. Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others.

Some outreach suggestions to consider would be:

- A visit or phone call once a year, leaving a card or message if not at home
- · Christmas and/or Easter Cards or a card on the Feast of St. Francis or St. Clare
- Set up "prayer partners" with active members who can send cards for birthdays and profession dates and to pray for them throughout the year

4 MARKS OF A GOOD FRATERNITY GATHERING

PRAYER, FORMATION, FRATERNAL SHARING, NECESSARY BUSINESS

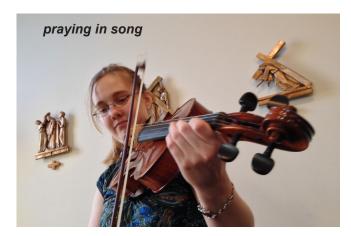
By Layna Maher Formation Director

Several members of the Executive Council were approached at the annual Chapter of Ministers in September and asked for clarification on how our monthly Fraternity gatherings should be run, what we should be doing and how to allocate the time. Wonderful guidance was given by our National Minister, Tom Bello in the Tau, Winter another's salvation. 2010 issue and when he attended our Chapter of elections in 2012. Here are excerpts from Tom's guidance.

"I write this article to remind you that from our SFO Rule, General Constitutions and SFO Ritual, the four marks of a good Secular Franciscan Fraternity, whether at the local, regional, national or international level, are: Prayer, Formation, Fraternal Sharing and **Necessary** Business...

First is Prayer: We are wasting our own time and each other's

time if we are not striving to achieve our own and one Without question, the essential element of 'fraternity' is the spiritual; leadership must never sacrifice the spiritual to business...Now, there are many forms of prayer. We have our Liturgy of the Hours; we have our SFO Ritual... I am not specifying what form of prayer, nor did Father Bart, but he said to vary the



forms of prayer and not become 'stuck' in the same...

Second is Formation: If fraternity itself is our main business, then our main

fraternity business, after prayer, must be formation. Good fraternities need solid formation: initial formation, ongoing formation, formation







leading to transformation and conversion of heart...

Third is Fraternal Sharing or the purely social aspect of our gatherings. No fraternity need ever apologize for spending time for socializing or fraternal sharing. In Part II: Prayers for Fraternity Meetings Preface in the SFO Ritual, Number 2 reads: 'The goals of (fraternal) gatherings and meetings are indicated in the Rule, namely, to promote charity among the

members and to foster their Franciscan and ecclesial life' (SFO Rule 22,24). Number 4 reads: 'The following gatherings of the fraternity are required by statutes: a. a time for getting to know one another as brothers and sisters.'

Of course, Fourth, there is always **Business:** Budgets have to be approved. Reports have to be given. Occasionally, bylaws need to be rewritten. Yes, but not first and not only!... Prayer, Formation,

Fraternal Sharing and Necessary Business, and in that order! However much time your local or regional fraternity has to gather, please strive to budget your time accordingly. After all, they are not 'our' fraternities; they are God's, and if we seek first to spread the kingdom of God, all else will follow!"

Please contact Layna Maher at layna.maher@kateriregion.org for the full article from Tom Bello or for more information.

TIBOR **KAUSER IS** GENERAL MINISTER

Tibor Kauser, 55, of Hungary, is the new general minister of the Secular Franciscan Order. He was elected to a six-year term during the General Chapter, held Nov. 1-9 in Assisi, Italy. Tibor was previously councilor for Englishspeaking countries.

Elected vice general minister was Chelito de Núñez of Venezuela.



Tibor Kauser, OFS

UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS OF GOING FISHING

FINDING KINSHIP WITH CREATION

by Jim Armienti, OFS

JPIC Chair

I needed a break from my late summer gardening chores. Algorean weather patterns had worn me down.

It was early October and time to try fishing for the walleye. They feed heavily, as the pond water temperature drops and daylight shortens. So, I decided to go to a local pond that was fed by quality creek water and had been stocked with walleye years ago. It was a sunny Friday, not ideal for fishing this species, but praying near water was on my mind. Gear was packed and off I drove. As I neared the general parking lot, I sensed to try the back side of the pond for a change.

Loaded with my gear I had to walk more than forty yards of active



railroad tracks. I looked down a steep thirty-foot slope toward the water and noticed someone, who was wearing what looked like a linen lamp shade. I yelled down to see if things were OK to approach. The person turned around, looked up to me and raised one arm and extended an index finger. It was 1:00 p.m. and the sun was high and hot as it reflected off the black crushed rock bed of the rail tracks. I guessed that the index finger meant that one fish was in a five-gallon pail near the person. There was plenty of room to fish without interfering,

so I carefully walked down to the water and set up my five-gallon pail seat.

The person faced me and laughed in a happy way that sounded not like an American style. This was an Asian woman and the lampshade was a traditional hat. I guessed that she was in her fifties She shyly kept silent and continued to fish leaving me only to view the back side of her lamp shade hat. I quickly baited my hook with a night crawler, cast out away from her spot and decided to scan the pond edges using a pair of 8x10 mini binoculars. As I scanned the shore line, I noticed a lot of folks relaxing on park benches. We were facing south to southwest and the afternoon sun was as hot as in August. My polarized sunglasses kept my eyes from glazing as the sparkles on the gentle ripples pacified the view.

I began silent prayers and studied the woman's lack of success for twenty minutes. Maybe it was her technique, I wondered. Suddenly, I heard a noise above me. It was an Asian man, whom I guessed was the husband. He bowed, walked down the bank and quietly greeted the woman.

I attempted a conversation with him, since the woman had not spoken one word of English. I said with query three words, "Vietnam, Cambodia, China"? He quickly replied "China" and immediately, "No English." We smiled at each other, bowed our heads in respect and continued our fishing. He offered me worms, but I pointed to my bait container. After that, he climbed the bank and disappeared. He was being polite in allowing the woman and me to share our twenty feet of shore line between us.

I continued my Rosary prayers and decided to study a flock of fifty gulls that was frolicking, diving into distant pond sparkles and squawking, as gulls do at the ocean. I had never witnessed so many of the local landfill gulls diving and preening. The day was shaping into a mini vacation for all of God's creatures at the pond.

Suddenly, I heard a happy shriek and looked over to see. the Asian woman standing and reeling in a small fish. I yelled, "Good, good... two fish, two fish."

She looked at me and I held up my right hand with two fingers extended. I repeated "Good, good, two fish" and pointed to my extended fingers. She smiled and appeared very happy.

Balancing her fishing pole on one shoulder, she wrapped the fish in a small kitchen towel to remove the hook. I stood and lifted the cover off her plastic pail. She dropped the fish in and bowed to me while laughing. We were now a team, I sensed. It was a happy moment to cut through the veil of shyness between us.

We repeated this sequence of my speaking English and showing her the fingers that represented the number of the fish caught. God was answering prayers

for sure. It was colossal

fun. She was tickled pink. I failed to consider that her laughter might cause the man to reappear as a Ninja.

After her fifth fish had been caught, a large yellow black tiger swallowtail butterfly flew directly across our shore spot about ten feet in front of us. I yelled, "Look, look... butterfly, butterfly", while pointing toward the swallowtail. It fluttered and tacked into the gentle breeze.

She looked at me and then to where I pointed. She nodded and watched, while say- ing something in Chinese. It an exchange. She then refocused herself back to staring at the water.

Two hours of hot sun were enough for me. My face and exposed arms felt the effects from a low afternoon sun that had reflected off the water to create more of my summer's tan. I quietly reeled in my line, packed my pail and extended a good bye to her. She turned with a surprised look on her face that quickly melted into a broad and wrinkled smile. I climbed the bank toward the rail tracks.

When I reached my car, I recalled other times that God had sent a butterfly to cap an event. It typically happened when I had associated with foreign strangers. I smiled and drove three miles home without fish but memories of fishing. The smile lasted all the way home.

NEW VENUE FOR ANNUAL CHAPTER IN 2015

FRANCISCAN SISTERS CLOSE STELLA MARIS RETREAT CENTER

With the Sisters of St. Francis deciding to close and sell Stella Maris Retreat Center, the St. Kateri Tekakwitha Region's annual chapter will move to a different venue in 2015.

"We have made every effort to find accommodations that would be suitable, centrally located and affordable," noted Regional Minister Al Picogna. "After reviewing the offers from many hotels in the area, we feel the Comfort Inn & Suites on Buckley Road in Syracse would best fill our needs."

He added: "While many details have yet to be completed, we do know the cost will increase and you may need to adjust your 2015 budgets for this expense."

The chapter will take place Sept. 11-13. The estimated per-person



cost for two nights for room, meals and venue expenses are:

- Single room: \$275.
- Shared room: \$225.

The commuter rate would be \$62.50 a day.

The Sisters of St. Francis announced in November they would close the Skaneateles facility as of Jan. 26, 2015, after coming to the conclusion that Stella Maris would no longer be self-sustaining. The sisters ran the retreat center for over six decades. It was originally a mansion built in the early 1880s by Frederick Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt's

cousin, Syracuse.com reported (although a plaque near the front entrance says, Anno Domini 1879). Syracuse.com reported that the 58-room mansion is assessed at \$3.4 million. It is located at 130 E. Genesee St. in the village of Skaneateles and sits on 6.14 acres, with gardens and a boathouse. The news website noted that Syracuse business owner Burns Lyman Smith (Ithaca Gun and Smith-Corona Typewriter) purchased it after Roosevelt died He left it to his sister, Flora Bernice Smith, who sold it to the sisters







Mary Stronach, OFS, (3rd from left above) shares a light-hearted "Kodak moment" with Secular Franciscan brothers and sisters from Africa and North America. LEFT: Bob Stronach, OFS, with General Minister Tibor Kauser, OFS. Mary represented the U.S. at the General Chapter and Bob was the chapter photographer (go to ciofs.org to see his photos). They're members of St. Joseph Fraternity, Utica.

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

Mail message/ad, with check made out to SKTR, c/o Franciscan Mirror, POB 232, Marcy, NY; contact Mary at 315-796-9284, stronach@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 Name of Person Submitti			
Name of Person	/Group Doing the Honoring	g (if different fr	om above)
Contact info: Phone	Email		
Address	City	State	Zip
Name of honoree			
Select one: in memor List reason/occasion	_		
(e. ₅	g., profession anniversary, gra	atitude for service	e, etc.)
Donation: \$10 per name Please make checks payable	to St. Kateri Tekakwitha Regio	on (SKTR).	
	ith check (payable to SKT P.O. Box 232, Marcy, NY	· /	





Participants at the General Chapter in Assisi got to see the Portiuncula Chapel, which St. Francis himself repaired, and which now rests in the central nave of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels. The two women at right are from St. Kateri Tekakwitha Region -- Mary Stronach, OFS, the U.S. international councilor, and Mary Frances Charsky, OFS, national councilor. MORE PHOTOS, PAGES 11, 15.