

# FRANCISCAN MIRROR

WINTER  
2012-2013

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

## REGION NOW ST. KATERI; CHAPTER MOVING TO SEPTEMBER

With the pending canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha, the Regional Chapter approved revised Regional Guidelines that change the region's name from "Blessed" to "Saint Kateri Tekakwitha."

The Chapter also approved moving the date of the annual gathering from spring to fall. Thus the 2013 regional elections will take place during an annual chapter set for Sept. 13-15, 2013. The executive council will stay in office an extra five months.

## CHAPTER FULL OF SPIRITUAL PRODDING



A recurring message to be open to the prodding of the Holy Spirit greeted some 73 participants at the Regional Annual Chapter.

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**YOUFRA AT THE Q:** The Region was well-represented at the Quinquennial Congress in Chicago in July. The contingent included Franciscan youth (YouFra) who got to meet General Minister Encarnita del Pozo. From left: Pamela Townsend, Encarnita, YouFra mentor Rob Breen, and Gladys Veloz.

## SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA REGION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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

## FRANCISCAN MIRROR

WINTER 2012=2013

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DEADLINES: FEB. 15,  
MAY 15, AUG. 15, NOV. 15.

## 2 STEP DOWN FROM COUNCIL

Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM, and Cathy Feheley, OFS, have stepped down from their respective positions as spiritual assistant and councilor for health reasons.



## Regional Minister's Message

By MARY FRANCES CHARSKY, OFS

## HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO SERVE THE REGION

This message is to thank you. With my election to the office of national councilor (of the eastern regions of the U.S.A.), which took place during the October NAFRA Chapter of Elections in Denver, CO., I must resign from the office of regional minister. I leave the region in the very capable hands of Kim Marks, OFS, and the current regional council members.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you, the members of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Region, over the past five and a half years. Thank you for your love, service and cooperation. Being a Secular Franciscan is like breathing...it is our life, our daily conversion, our seeing Jesus in each person we come in contact with.

THE REGIONAL Council is planning opportunities to gather with our brothers and sisters in 2013, including:

- Leadership Workshop: April 27.
- OFS Days in: Binghamton, Utica, Fonda.
- Area Retreats in: Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany.
- Sept. 13 -15 Regional Chapter of Elections.

## LOCKPORT FRATERNITY HITS 50TH

On Sunday, May 20, St. Anthony Fraternity in Lockport celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Members attended the noon Mass at St. John the Baptist Church, where Father James Waite, the pastor, assisted them in renewing their profession. (Father James has great experience with Franciscanism having spent a considerable time in Assisi).

After the liturgical celebration, the fraternity gathered across the street from the church and enjoyed an anniversary luncheon.

-- *Al Picogna, OFS*

## TRANSITUS OF CLARE IN BUFFALO

The Transitus of St. Clare was held at St. Clare Parish, 193 Elk Street in Buffalo on Aug. 10. This depiction of the passing of

St. Clare was presented by Marge Musial, Sue Siuta, Patti DeWitt and members of St. Francis Fraternity along with Monica Kwiatkowski from St. Patrick Fraternity.

Fr. Steven Pavignano, OFM, invited everyone for fellowship afterward.

-- *Marie Meyer, OFS*

## Wall of Honor

In Honor Of

### All Servant Leaders

by *Mary M. Smith, OSF*

*Glory of Most High Frat., Rochester*

### Jo Ginnity, OFS

recipient of Immaculata Award

by *Betty Frank, OFS*

*St. Joseph Fraternity, Utica, NY*

### In Memory Of

### Ed Shirley, OFS

remembered by

*Bob and Mary Stronach, OFS*

*St. Joseph Fraternity, Utica, NY*

### Frank Tangorre, OFS

remembered by

*Mary Smith, OFS*

*Glory of Most High Frat., Rochester*

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

"It was a wonderful success with participants from eight fraternities," noted Regional Minister Mary Frances Charsky, OFS.

Besides Mary Frances, presenters included Regional Secretary Joanne Lockwood, OFS, who reviewed contents of the new FUN Manual and CD; Regional Formation Director Mary Stronach, OFS, who covered Franciscan theology, and Layna Mahar, minister of the hosting St. Thomas More Fraternity, who spoke about teaching adult learners.

There were Formation Team participants from these fraternities:

- St. Elizabeth-St. Louis, Albany.
- St. Thomas More, Fonda
- St. Francis, Buffalo
- St. Anthony, Catskill
- St. Joseph, Utica
- St. Patrick, Buffalo
- Immaculate Conception, Schenectady
- St. Francis, Bingh-  
hamton.

## WORKSHOP SERIES KICKED OFF IN FONDA

A series of Formation Workshops/ Secular Franciscan Days have taken place across the region in 2012, kicking off with a Feb. 18th event at the Kateri Shrine in Fonda in the eastern area.



# QUINQUENNIAL IN CHICAGO



*Formation Director Mary Stronach, who was the personal interpreter for General Minister Encarnita del Pozo of Spain, receives a public thankyou and gift from her and General Vice Minister Doug Clorey.*



*Tutti Wagner of Holy Family Fraternity, Vernon, helped facilitate small-group breakouts.*



*Many of the people representing Kateri Region at the Quinquennial Congress in Chicago in July got together for a group photo with General Minister Encarnita del Pozo (middle, 2nd from left) and General Vice Minister Doug Clorey (front, 3rd from left).*

## 2013 DATES TO CIRCLE

**April 27:** *Leadership Workshop*, for all local fraternity council members, Stella Maris Retreat Center, Skaneateles, NY.

...

**July 4-7:** *Secular Franciscan Summer Seminar*, at St. Francis University, Loretto, PA. *History of the Secular Franciscan Order in the USA. Dramatization.* Bill Wicks, OFS, and Cindy and Jim Wesley, OFS.

...

**July 25-28:** *National JPIC/Youth Rally* at Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, Illinois.

...

**Sept. 13-15:** *Annual Regional Chapter, and Chapter of Elections* at Stella Maris Retreat Center, Skaneateles, NY. ALL ministers required to attend.

...



**National Minister Deacon Tom Bello, OFS, greets Regional Youth Chair Rob Breen, OFS, and Siena College YouFra member Gladys Veloz at the opening of the Quinquennial Congress in Chicago.**



**Bill Geary, OFS, and Ann Thomas, OFS, participated in sessions for spiritual assistants at the Quinquennial Congress in Chicago.**



**General Minister Encarnita del Pozo was happy to pose for pictures with Quinquennial attendees, including Karen Szczesniak, OFS, (l), and Joanne Lockwood, OFS. She also snuggled in a kiss with her interpreter's husband, Bob Stronach, OFS.**



# CHAPTER FULL OF SPIRITUAL PRODDING

NATIONAL VISITORS, FAMILY & PEACE AWARDS, YOFRA HIGHLIGHT GATHERING

by Bob & Mary Stronach, OFS

A recurring message to be open to the prodding of the Holy Spirit greeted some 73 participants at the Regional Annual Chapter, held April 27-29 at Stella Maris Retreat Center in Skaneateles.

"God asks us sometimes to look at something differently, and it may take us awhile to see," noted National Spiritual Assistant Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap., during Mass that capped the opening day. Like Saul who had a dramatic turnaround from persecuting the followers of Jesus, "the Lord is saying to us, 'I have great things in store for you.'"

The relationship with God should lead to relationships with others. "Franciscan spirituality is about relationships,"



**Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap., and Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM (below).**

he said.

Regional Spiritual Assistant Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM, put it another way during morning Mass that kicked off the second day of the gathering. "New life has to be more than a warm feeling," he said. Franciscans need to take the Gospel "into our hearts, and change the way we look at things, change

the way we deal with each other."

Like Apostles who raised the dead, Franciscans with Christ-centered relationships should be "raising people from being trapped in a dead life."

DOSES OF on-going formation and spiritual prodding permeated the chapter, which also featured an official visi-



tation by Father Lester and National Minister Dc. Tom Bello, OFS, along with an appearance by four members of an emerging YouFra (Franciscan youth) fraternity and the presentation of the Family of the Year and Peace Awards.

Deacon Bello praised the "vitality" of the regional fraternity, and said: "I leave you with this challenge -- keep the momentum going."

He added: "If your local executive council works as well as your regional executive council, you've got a dynamite fraternity."

He urged the regional executive council to take the region to the next level by fostering leadership training.

THE GATHERING gave a rousing welcome to four Siena College students who are members of St. Clare YouFra Emerging Fraternity. They are among ten active mem-



**National Minister Dc. Tom Bello and Regional Minister Marcy Frances Charsky.**



**YouFra from Siena College: Gabriel Mulero, Christina Tompkins, Pamela Townsend, Ciara Gannon.**

bers, which include a couple of students from other colleges, they said. Their mentor, Rob Breen, OFS, Ph D, is minister of St. Joseph Emerging Fraternity, which sponsors the YouFra group. Other fraternity members also mentor the youth,

including Walt Chura, OFS, and Meghan Breen, OFS.

Ciara Gannon, a graduating senior and outgoing YouFra minister, said they typically get together twice a month to pray, eat and share, and like to participate in the

Catholic Worker Mass in Albany.

Gabriel Mulero, a junior, said they've tackled environmental service projects and even prayed the stations of the cross in the woods around the Breen farmhouse. He dubbed it, "stations of



**Regional Minister Mary Frances Charsky presents Family of Year Award to Rob Breen and Peace Award to Cathy Feheley.**

the trees."

Christina Tompkins, a freshman, said she was looking for a faith-based group on campus when she discovered YouFra. "It's so cool," she said, "especially because it incorporates environmental issues... and lots of time to bond and express our faith."

Incoming You-Fra Minister Pamela Townsend, a sophomore, said she would like to bring YouFra to the rest of the campus during the next academic year and

work with the Catholic Worker House.

The youth took the opportunity to present a \$250 check to the national minister for the Lenten H2O project, which supports the drilling of wells to provide fresh water in Third World countries.

Chapter attendees were so moved by the youth and their enthusiasm that they collected \$1,000 from among themselves to give to St. Clare YouFra.

THE STUDENTS and chapter attend-

ees gave a standing ovation as Rob and Meghan Breen were named Family of the Year. Regional Minister Mary Frances Charsky, OFS, cited their "striving to live a Franciscan lifestyle; raising three young children; embracing Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation: leading ecology and sustainable environment projects; launching an emerging fraternity; and building a Franciscan Youth program."

Another standing

ovation greeted Peace Award recipient Cathy Feheley, OFS, central area councilor and minister of St. Francis Fraternity in Binghamton. Charsky cited her "key role in bringing together three fraternities into one in a peaceful welcoming way" and "creating a more vibrant fraternity dedicated to service and ministry."

IN HER STATE of the Region, Charsky said the past year was full of successes -- from maintaining



membership levels and appointing Secular Franciscan spiritual assistants to conducting a major formation workshop and a series of Secular Franciscan Days in each area of the region.

With 28 fraternities, she said, the region has 441 professed members, nearly equal to the previous year's 442 members, despite 22 deaths.

MINISTERS AND delegates took action on several proposals on Saturday, approving:

- a \$37,000 budget for 2013.
- an updated set of regional guidelines, including changing the name of the region from Blessed Kateri to Saint Kateri.
- moving the annual chapter from the spring to the fall, with the regional executive council staying in office an extra five months next year as the 2013 Chapter of Elections takes place Sept. 16-18.



**Formation Director Mary Stronach and Pastoral Visitor Fr. Lester Bach, OFM Cap.**

FORMATION Director Mary Stronach opened the chapter on Friday by taking participants on a "Quantum Leap" exploring the responsibilities of local fraternity officers. That was followed by a presentation on the first national JPIC Rally held two weeks earlier at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois. Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Chair Bob Stronach, OFS, and Spiritual Assistant Mary Smith, OFS, represented the region at the rally.

Then Charsky, Vice Minister Kim Marks

and Treasurer John Sanborn briefed the assembly on the proposals and budget.

IN CLOSING remarks on Sunday, Father Lester pointed to Secular and First Order Franciscans as being "joined at the hip." Maintain the "sense that we are one family." He reminded the group that Franciscans are not so much about success as about "being faithful to the call you have." Whether something works well or not, "don't stop the visioning," he said. Don't get discouraged. The Holy Spirit is already inside, he said; one just needs to bring Him out.

"He already lives within you... That gives us hope."

But, he added, "be careful about letting the Spirit free because it may change your life."

Quoting the Secular Franciscan Rule about "bringing about a more fraternal and evangelical world," he said: "You guys will never be unemployed."

And quoting the New Testament about loving enemies and to "treat others as you would like them to treat you," he said: "That's conversion," and "that's what we bring to the church -- the ability to live out the Gospel."

# A SENSE OF COMING HOME

by Suzanne English

Being professed as a Secular Franciscan at Mt. Irenaeus last fall was like coming home for me — reaffirming, this is where I belong.

I have been becoming Franciscan for a very long time. When I was a child, our tiny church, St. John in Duke Center, Pa., was by a fluke of location, and the generosity of the friars, served by the Allegany Franciscans, although it was in another diocese and state.

Years later, I would choose to study at St. Bonaventure University, mostly because of its renowned journalism program. Because I was a nontraditional student, busy with work and three children — and a fourth we were blessed with between my junior and senior years — I never visited Mt. Irenaeus as a student, but I came to know several friars and sisters and learned about being Franciscan, both intellectually and as expressed in their lives.

I spent 10 years report-

ing and editing at a local daily newspaper, as well as stringing for the Erie diocesan paper and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, before returning to St. Bonaventure to work in public relations. A few years later, after I was widowed, I went to the Mountain for the first time, seeking peace and quiet time with God. In the end, though, what I found was community.

I LOVED sharing thoughts and intentions at Mass in the chapel, enjoyed the conversation at the potluck brunches and heard about the Evenings of Re-Creation, summer evenings of prayer, thoughtful reflection and discussion on topics of faith. The first such evening I attended touched on diversity, and Tony Lo Galbo, OFM, commented, "We welcome others with both hands open, one to reveal the beauty of our tradition, and the other to receive the riches they have to share with us." I

*A newly professed member of St. Irenaeus Fraternity reflects on her journey.*

remember feeling such a sense of connection with that statement, a sense that I belonged with these people.

Eventually, I heard about the Secular Franciscan fraternity that was forming at the Mountain, began attending its meetings and went through the inquiry process. As I prepared to enter candidacy, I felt the weight of being a single mother trying to give her daughters the time they needed, working and finishing my MBA, and felt that I couldn't give the process the time it deserved. When I told our minister, John Dutcher, he reminded me that I would always be welcomed back.

I loved the opportunities that working at St. Bonaventure offered to remain connected with the Mountain community. I served five years on the Mountain Auction Committee with a talented and fun group of

people, attended weekend Mass and Evenings of Re-Creation when I could, and sometimes just went hiking when I felt the need for contemplation or wanted to mull over a question.

As our daughters went off to college, I moved six hours west for an exciting new job. After settling in with my local parish in Ohio, I attended an area SFO meeting, but learned the truth of the statement that each fraternity has its own charism. The people were wonderful, but I didn't feel the bond that I did with the St. Irenaeus group.

And I knew, also, that it wasn't just the fraternity. It was also the connection to the friar community at Mt. Irenaeus, and the place itself. I remember the late Dan Hurley, OFM, saying that coming to Mt. Irenaeus is also a coming to discover that the place where a person is can influence the way a person is, the way he or she feels and grows.

In fall 2009, I contacted Larry and Bonnie

*Continued from previous page.*

Orsini, the formation advisers, and asked if the fraternity would consider allowing me to continue my formation. I promised to attend as many of the monthly meetings as possible, to meet with my advisers while in town and to work online with them as well. I cried when I got the email saying, "Your request to be re-admitted into formation was approved unanimously."

REJOINING the fraternity has meant driving 650 miles round-trip for each meeting, but I can say without hesitation that it is worth the trip. While coming home for meetings is also coming home to the place where I grew up, there is no place that I feel more at home than in the chapel or the

main house at Mt. Irenaeus. The members of the fraternity discuss and support each other's efforts to understand and live the Franciscan call, and to bring about a more just world both through formal ministries we support and through our daily lives.

I was professed on Sept. 25, 2011, surrounded by members of my fraternity, family and other friends. Our longtime spiritual adviser, Louis McCormick, OFM, offered the homily, noting that my profession was simply a continuation, a step in my journey.

*This is excerpted from the Jan. 18, 2012 issue of HNP Today newsletter, published by Franciscan Friars of the Holy Name Province.*

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- 6"x1" ads
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Mail your message/ad, with check made out to SKTR, c/o Franciscan Mirror, PO Box 232, Marcy, NY; or contact Mary Stornach at 315-796-9284, or [stornach@kateriregion.org](mailto:stornach@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

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## REGION LEADERS ELECTED TO NATIONAL POSTS

Regional Minister **Mary Frances Char-sky**, OFS, was elected national councilor, and Regional Formation Director **Mary Stronach**, OFS, was elected international councilor during the National Chapter held October 16-21 in Denver, Colorado.

With their election, Regional Vice Minister **Kim Marks**, OFS, has assumed the position of regional minister, and the Regional Executive

### KIM MARKS NOW REGIONAL MINISTER

Council has appointed **Linda Robinson**, M.D., OFS, as formation director.

National officers cannot serve simultaneously in elected positions at lower levels.

With regional elections scheduled in 2013, the executive council decided to take no action on appointing a vice minister.

Also at the national chapter, regional youth chair **Rob Breen**, Ph.D., OFS, was appointed to head the national Youth and Young Adult Commission.

THE NATIONAL chapter also saw Deacon Tom Bello, OFS, reelected to a second three-year term as national minister, along with National Vice

Minister Elaine Hedtke, OFS, National Secretary Jan Parker, OFS, National Councilor Mary Bittner, OFS, and National Councilor Arturo Villareal, OFS. Newly elected was National Treasurer Cecelia Maljan, OFS.

Father Kevin Queally, TOR, the new president-in-turn of the Conference of National Spiritual Assistants, also joins the National Executive Council.