



Pace e Bene

Peace and Good

Immaculate Conception
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Volume 6 Issue 5

June, 2015

"I Heard my Heart beat for the first time!"



My pilgrim companions had become so trusting, that when we visited the Carceri, no one voiced any objections when I led them into a narrow descending stairway carved into the rock walls which led to the cave where St. Francis spent many hours in prayer. What they would later learn, is that it lay directly across a seemingly endless crevasse where Francis's confident and confessor, Brother Leo, also had a cave hugging the side of that steep descent. More about Leo's place of prayer later.

My pilgrims couldn't have known at the top of the stairway what lay at the bottom and how they would exit from that narrow passageway: namely, a small door with dimensions of perhaps two by four feet long. Yes, most of us had to work a little to squeeze our large American frames out onto the small porch outside the door labeled, "No entry". What lay inside would not allow for "two way" traffic!

The first pilgrims who emerged from that miniscule door, enjoyed watching their companions baffled facial expressions before they attempted to shoe-horn their frames to the outside. But when all had successfully emerged unscathed and incredulous about the size of the door they had just exited, we continued our silent walk.

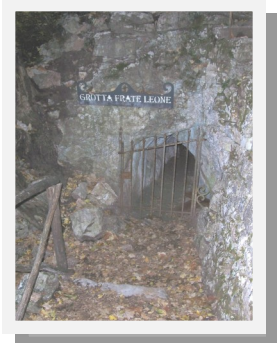
After crossing a natural bridge to the opposite side of the crevasse, pilgrims were met with a set of Lorenzo Bacci's statues of Francis, Leo, and Maseo reflecting on God's beauty reflected in the woods and the stony walls of the Carceri. As one would expect, the statue of St. Francis has him lying on his back looking up to the skies toward Brother Sun, Sister Moon and Stars.

Looking downward into the valley, pilgrims could see the iron gate which now protects Brother Leo's cell which lies opposite of Francis's on the other side of the crevasse. If it were possible (as it once was) to descend to Leo's place to be alone with his God, one would see that it is really an open ended passageway suspended on the side of the crevasse. Natural air-conditioning, one might say! Although after having been at the Carceri once during a snow fall, I'm not overly convinced that it was used during winter months — as tough as those early friars were!

Continuing our silent walk, we then ascended about 10–12 age-worn stone stairs

somewhat displaced by the feet of thousands of pilgrims and the gnarled growth of tree roots attempting to reclaim the forest. Hanging on to the thick chain rope, pilgrims quietly came into a lovely clearing with benches formed from trees. Here, each of us fashioned small crosses from the natural twigs, grasses, and vegetation in the area to place in the cracks and small crevasses beneath the large wooden cross. As each was inserted into its place, the intention of each pilgrim was lifted in prayer. Some pilgrims carefully crafted more than one small cross and other pilgrim visitors to the site, taking our example, joined in fashioning their own cross to add to the scene.

I suspect the small crosses are still there in that silent place as signs of intercession for all the intentions our small pilgrim band brought with us from home. And the many hours of prayer which Francis, Leo, and Maseo spent here are still echoing in God's ears as pilgrims continue 800 years later to walk silently and prayerfully in this holy sanctuary.
—Sr. Agnes Marie





June Fraternity Meeting Schedule

- 7:30** Doors open, welcoming conversation,
Drop off and set up of food items
- 8:15** Initial and Ongoing Formation in Respective Meeting
Rooms
- 8:15** Ongoing Formation for Professed in Auditorium
- 9:30** St. Francis Convent Main Chapel for Morning Prayer
- 9:40** Liturgy of the Hours: Morning Prayer
- 10:00** Eucharistic Celebration
- 10:45** Community Social in Auditorium
- 11:15** Business Meeting
- 12:00** Concluding Prayer and Dismissal

Calendar of Events for June, July, August 2015

- June 4, 2015: Meeting of the Council at 6:00 pm in the St. Louis Parlor
- June 12– 14, 2015: Triennial Visitation of Our Lady of Indiana Region by Tom Bello, OFS, National Minister of the SFO at the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne
- June 13, 2015: **Feast of St. Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor**
- June 20, 2015: Monthly Fraternity Meeting in the Auditorium
- June 28, 2015: Serve Breakfast at Catholic Worker House: 7:15am-10:30 am
- July 2, 2015: Meeting of the Council at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Louis Parlor
- July 11, 2015: Regional Study Day in Kokomo: Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM
- July 15, 2015: **Feast of St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor**
- July 18, 2015: Monthly Gathering and**
- Profession of Peg Salkay, Julie Scalese, and Amy Porter**
- July 26, 2015: Serve Breakfast at Catholic Worker House 7:15am-10:30am
- August 6, 2015: **Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of Portiuncula**
- August 8, 2015: Unity Day for Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity in Kokomo
- August 11, 2015: **Feast of St. Clare, Virgin**
- August 15, 2015: Monthly Fraternity Meeting in the Auditorium: see schedule above
- August 30, 2015: Serve Breakfast at Catholic Worker House: 7:15 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Regional Study Day III

Saturday July 11, 2015 10:00am

St. Joan of Arc Parish Kokomo Indiana

Regional Study Day IV

October 2015

These days are for those studying to become a Spiritual Assistant and for those just yearning for Franciscan Enrichment. Contact Sr. Agnes Marie for more info.

Don't forget to add the following date to your calendars

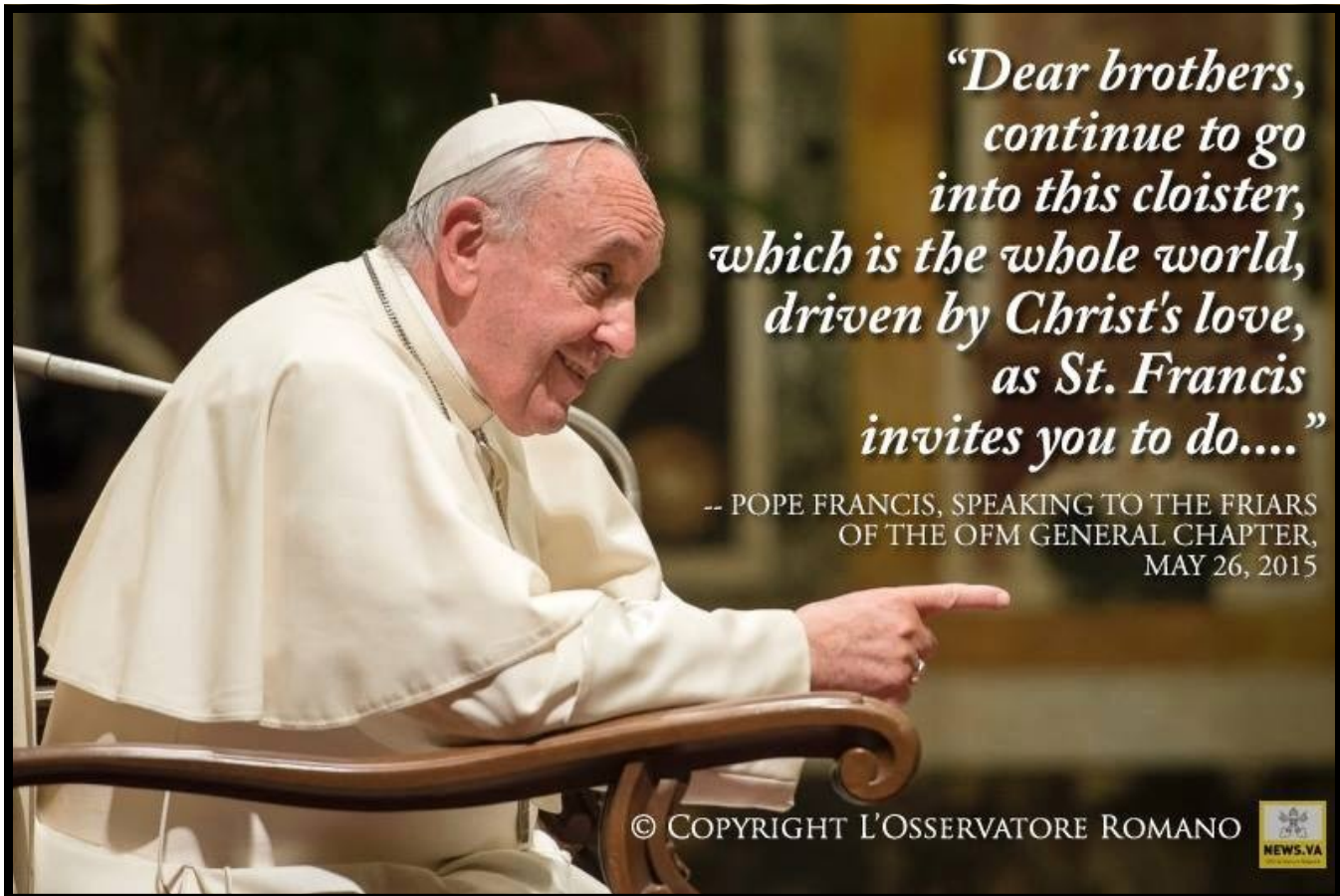
August 8, 2015

UNITY DAY

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
Kokomo, IN

Mass / Formation / Fraternity / Regional Resources

Visit the Immaculate Conception fraternity website at: <http://immaculateconception.sfousa.org>



*“Dear brothers,
continue to go
into this cloister,
which is the whole world,
driven by Christ's love,
as St. Francis
invites you to do....”*

-- POPE FRANCIS, SPEAKING TO THE FRIARS
OF THE OFM GENERAL CHAPTER,
MAY 26, 2015

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Our Lady of the Road Outreach



The next serving date is **Sunday June 28**. All are invited. Please note that cooks should arrive at **7:15am** and everyone else at 8:30am. Cooks should be ready to leave at 9:30am. We want to finish up by 10:30am so people can make it to 11:00am Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

At all Fraternity meetings we will be accepting monetary donations in the Red Box that will be going around the room when the Brown Bag is circulating. If you are unable to participate please feel free to make a donation toward the food. See you Sunday June 28th at Our Lady of the Road at Bronson and Main Street!

Thank-you, Dan K

Dan Kreager— 574-231-8823 or 574-265-4857 dnkreager@gmail.com



He who feeds the birds of the air and gives raiment and nourishment to the lilies of the field will not leave you in want of clothing or of food until He comes Himself to minister to you for eternity. — St. Clare of Assisi



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St. Francis
Convent,
1515
Dragoon Trail,
Mishawaka,
Indiana
(across from
Marian High
School)

For more
information please
contact any
council member.

Pace e Bene— Peace and Good

**Our Regional Prayer
a Gift from St. Francis**

Holy Virgin Mary, among all women born into the world, there is none like you. Daughter and Handmaid of the Most High, sovereign King, the heavenly Father, Mother of our most holy Lord Jesus Christ, Spouse of the Holy Spirit. Pray for us with St. Michael the archangel and with all the powers of the heavens and with all the saints together with your most holy beloved Son, Lord and teacher.



June Birthdays, Profession Anniversaries, Death Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Donna Manzuk OFS-2
Sandy Waggoner OFS-2
Monica Higginbotham OFS-4
Lillian Leap OFS-7
Frank Vargo OFS-8
Pam Walerko OFS -9
Deb Jankowski-10
Jennifer Hunter-14
Anita Harker-18

Anniversaries

6/3/1984 Fred Kagel; 6/6/1989 Sarah Beiting;
6/11/2001 Bill Schmitt; 6/13/1992 Lucy Wargo;
6/15/1996 Frank Vargo; 6/17/2000 Laura Mallozzi;
6/19/2004 Kurt Belting; Rev Mr. Bill Gallagher; Jack Witucki

Remember in Prayer: Continued prayers for all those who are sick and suffering. Let us remember our elderly fraternity members that aren't able to participate in person but are with us in spirit. Let us pray for all the fraternity members that couldn't be with us this month and for those members that have asked for our prayers.

Communications Committee Update

Randy Thomas will head up the Hospitality Area.

Wendy Summers will head up the Media Area.

Anita Harker will head up the Kitchen Area.

And Neal Wozniak OFS will head up the Liturgical Area.

In the coming weeks these chairpersons will be reaching out to the fraternity for assistance in fulfilling the various duties that are unique to each area of communication. At the June fraternity meeting there will be sign up sheets for each area— Hospitality, Media, Kitchen, and Liturgical— so fraternity members can sign up and then be contacted by these chairpersons. We are hoping for full participation as together we discover the gifts that reside within each of us thus enabling us to serve one another. Any questions feel free to contact these chairpersons or myself.— Mary Andrews OFS

