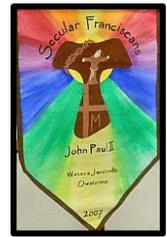




The Prism

Blessed John Paul II Emerging Fraternity
Secular Franciscan Order
Queen of Peace Region
National ID# 55-10602



Mission Statement:

We as Franciscan Laity are committed to seeking and promoting a closer relationship with God for ourselves and others by living the Gospel of Jesus Christ and by following St. Francis' and St. Clare's example of simplicity, humility and service using the Rule of Life of the SFO as our guide.

April 2012

Waseca/Janesville/Owatonna MN

Volume 6 Issue 4

April Formation



We will not have an April Meeting due to the April 21st Queen of Peace Formation Commission presentation "Yes, This is What I Want" at St. Bonaventure, Ambrose Hall from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Car poolers will meet at Sacred Heart Church in Waseca. Time to be determined. Owatonna Franciscans will ride together and make their own arrangements.

Formation will resume in May.

OFS Mass and Breakfast: April 17th at 8:30 at Sacred Heart Church in Waseca.

Council Meeting: No April meeting.

April 15th is Divine Mercy Sunday. Let us all try to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for God's mercy on the souls He asked St. Faustina to bring to Him. If possible include the Novena by praying it every day for 9 days at 3:00 pm

Sustain the Grace and Joy of Resurrection

Sr. Lois Erpelding, OSF, Spiritual Assistant

Within the sharing at our last Franciscan monthly gathering, we were challenged to pray with eyes open: helping to build relationships, allowing transformation, and making present the Kingdom of God.



During the Holy Thursday service we heard the Scripture, witnessed washing of the feet, and feasted on the Eucharist. As many parishioners left the Holy Thursday Service, I mediated on the varied service that they contribute: some of this service is within parish, some beyond parish life.

Francis also valued the rhythm of Holy Week and Easter in his life. On the Resurrection, the brothers in Greccio prepared an elaborate feast. Viewing this, Francis exited, and came back dressed as a beggar outside this hermitage. He was invited in and given food. Francis said to them: "I saw a table set and made ready, and I know that it is not the table of the poor men begging from door to door." (FAED II, 793)

Many times a beggar's request does not come at a convenient time. This happened to people of diverse religions on Holy Thursday. A man of Jewish faith found a woman walking along a highway. He listened to her story. He drove her extra miles hoping that there would be bus transportation for her in Waseca. Several of us attended to Joyce's immediate needs while another tried to find bus connections. Eventually a parishioner volunteered to take her to Mankato to receive housing for the night and the needed early morning bus connections for ride home on Friday.

Later I felt graced at the willing people involved to meet the Jesus in this woman. Holy Week added this new dimension of uniting Jewish and Christian prayer—putting new faces to those in need and those generous responders. This response was not in foot washing but in feeding the hungry, providing shelter, travel and safety. As we continue our Easter living, sustain in us open eyes to the grace and joy of Jesus' resurrection.

A Letter from the Poor Clare's in Bloomington

Shared by Doreen White, ofs

From the water of our baptismal renewal to the altar of communion in our Lord, we are called together as God's people. Born from the Water, entering into the Light, we celebrate in joy the Resurrection.

This year, 2012 has an added luster. It is the 800th anniversary of the first community of poor sisters and lesser brothers at the church of San Damiano outside the walls of Assisi, Italy. We remember particularly Clare and her companions who opened up a new path of ministry, service and prayer for women as partners in a world needing care, mutual respect and reverence. Faced with misunderstanding, Clare lived her life with quiet conviction which resonates in the form of life of the poor sisters which the blessed Francis founded and a small corpus of writings attributed to the poor sisters and lesser brothers who lived gospel community there at San Damiano from 1212-1255.

In 1225 at San Damiano, Clare nursed Francis who was suffering from an illness of the eyes. During this period, the nearly blind Francis composed the *Canticle of the Creatures*, the son praising God through all creation from the cosmic to the incarnational, calling for peace between the bishop and the mayor, and in the last stanza of the song, and welcoming Sister Death as she leads us home to God. "Praised be you my Lord, through all your creatures", and that includes us all.

Just What the Master Ordered ~ Total Abandonment

Bonnie Johnson, ofs, Formation Director



Recently I was looking for something “different” to read, something unusual that could feed my spirit in a new way, if that makes sense. What I found was a novel about the followers of Christ after he had ascended to heaven. (The Damascus Way). What I realized after I read the book was that I was reading the 3rd book in a series. But I enjoyed it enough that I have since ordered the first two. While it is a novel, not non-fiction it was just the spiritual food I needed. It took me back

to the life of the apostles and the followers of Jesus and the persecution they endured from Rome, from the Pharisees and the Sanhedrin. I found myself pondering the similarities in our lives...and have come away renewed. Just what the Master ordered.

What has been re-energized in me through my reading is the inner peace that the Lord gives those who seek Him. Today I pray that all of us will find a peace that allows us to carry our cross with courage and as obediently and accepting as Jesus was; a love that stirs us to do our Lenten “penance” all year long, a faith that trusts in the mercy of the Lord that we might daily look into the eyes of Jesus while asking for the grace to see and overcome our sins.

Just as the early Christians drew close, praying daily, ready to face persecution and even death, we should do no less. That may sound a little extreme, but if Sister Death approached today, would we be as ready as they were? As St. Francis was?

I love the prayer of Bl. Charles de Foucauld in the *Suspice* below. This abandonment was also prominent in St. Francis, St. Clare, the Apostles, the early Christians and I pray someday in all of us.

Father,

I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will.

Whatever you may do, I thank you: I am ready for all,

I accept all. Let only your will be done in me,
and in all your creatures –

I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul:

I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,
for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands without reserve,
and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father.

Let us all say this prayer today, knowing that God does nothing in vain. We are created to do Him a definite service. It is only in abandoning ourselves to Him with the trust of a child or as a lamb to the Shepherd, as the early followers did, that we find the peace, courage and happiness that allows us to fulfill our purpose and receive His gift paid for through His Passion, Death and Resurrection: Eternity with Him.

Rule #10 of the Secular Franciscan Order Says



United themselves to the redemptive obedience of Jesus, who placed his will into the Father's hands, let them faithfully fulfill the duties proper to their various circumstances of life.

Let them also follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to him even in difficulties and persecutions.

Blessed Elisabetta Vendramini

1790-1860

Born in Bassano del Grappa near Treviso,



Elisabetta broke off a 6 year engagement to marry at age 27 and decided to alleviate the moral and material sufferings of the poor. She began working at a girls' orphanage in her hometown in 1820 and joined the Secular Franciscan Order the following year. After moving to Padua in 1828, she

continued working with children. In 1830 she founded the Franciscan Tertiary Sisters of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary. Until her death Elisabetta guided this community, which dedicated itself to teaching as well as caring for the elderly, orphans and the sick. She united her physical sufferings with those of Christ and the Sorrowful Mother Mary. Elisabetta was beatified in 1990.

Source: St. Anthony Messenger website

April Franciscan Saints and Blesseds

2	Bl. Elisabetta Vendramini	23	Bl. Giles of Assisi
3	St. Benedict Moor	24	St. Fidelis de Sigmaringen
6	St. Crescentia Hoss	25	Bl. Pedro de San Jose Betancur
12	St. Bernadette Soubirous	27	St. Zita of Lucca
17	St. Benedict Joseph Labre	28	Bl Luchesio & Bonadonna
21	St. Conrad of Parzham	30	Sts. Joseph Benedict Cottolengo, & Benedict of Urbino



If any man hear My words, and do them, I and My Father will come to him, and make Our abode with him

John 14:23

Remember To Offer Prayers For:



- **Patrick, son of John Conway, ofs**
- **Ray Fell, and the Fell family**
- **Dave Kahnke and Evie Kahnke, ofs**

Our Pope, Bishop, priests, deacons and seminarians that God will continue to bless and guide them

Happy Birthday



Doreen White, ofs 5-1
Bonnie Johnson ofs 5-6
Ellyn Jardine, Inquirer 5-15
Lisa Falenschek ofs 5-16



Prayer of St. Padre Pio for Trust and Faith



O Lord, we ask for a boundless confidence and trust in Your divine mercy, and the courage to accept the crosses and sufferings which bring immense goodness to our souls and that of Your Church.

Help us to love You with a pure and contrite heart, and to humble ourselves beneath Your cross, as we climb the mountain of holiness, carrying our cross that leads to heavenly glory.

May we receive You with great faith and love in Holy Communion, and allow You to act in us, as You desire, for Your greater glory.

O Jesus, most adorable heart and eternal fountain of Divine Love, may our prayer find favor before the Divine Majesty of Your Heavenly Father. Amen.

Ponder the "Jesus Nut"

The "Jesus Nut" is the nut that secures the main rotor blade of a helicopter to the aircraft. If this nut comes off, the main rotor detaches, the chopper crashes to the ground like a rock. It is the one thing that the aircraft cannot do without.

Did you know that the cause of the Jesus Nut coming off is invariably a human failure to check that it was securely fastened? How securely are you fastened?

Joys of a Secular Franciscan



- ✧ Etch the Commandments of God and the precepts of Holy Mother the Church in your heart and live them daily.
- ✧ Participate joyfully the monthly meetings with your Fraternal family.
- ✧ Pray the *Liturgy or the Hours* devoutly gleaning God's message for you each day.
- ✧ Faithfully wear your Tau cross as an outward declaration of your desire to imitate Christ.
- ✧ To reverently say Grace before and after meals regardless of whom you are with and where you are at.
- ✧ Humbly examine your conscience each night asking God to help you see your weakness and overcome them with His help.
- ✧ Faithfully meet your Savior at daily Mass, as often as possible.
- ✧ Generously support your Fraternity through donations to the common fund.
- ✧ Joyfully give good example, avoid disputes and minister to the needs of other, especially the disenfranchised and the poor.



Coming Soon!

Tips on How to Conserve Water this Summer-from

Ellyn Jardine, JPIC Point Person

The **PRISM** is published monthly by the
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www.queenofpeaceregion.org
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Fraternity Gatherings are held on the 4th Sunday of every month from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Parish Center at Sacred Heart Church.