

Secular Servite News

Winter 2007



The Rule of Life Chapter 6: Apostolate

In the Rule of Life, the emphasis on the active involvement of the laity in the Church's ministry is reflected in Chapter 6. It is in Chapter 6 that the Secular Servites are called upon to participate in the Order's particular mission and ministry.

Throughout the history of the Servite Order, the Lay Servites have assisted the Order in its mission of bringing the compassion of Jesus to others in the example of Mary at the Foot of the Cross. The Servite Friars and Sisters have in many instances ministered to God's people with the lay members of the Order. Together they have reached out to bring Jesus' hope, love and healing to a world which starves for this. Lay ministry within the Church and the Order is important if the message of Jesus is to be proclaimed to all the world. Article 39 of the Rule of Life states that the Secular Servite "cooperates in the building of a new world in the light of Gospel values". This is the reason for the existence of the Servite Secular Order, to give assistance with the rest of the Order to those who are in need and to those who suffer.

Such ministries as visiting the sick and the imprisoned, healing, care of the aged, the orphaned and the poor, and ministry to the dying have become Servite ministries for they are ways in which we as Servites can reach out and touch people with the compassion of Jesus.

Today, we as Servites are called to bring Jesus' compassion to those around us. One Servite Secular fraternity prays for the sick in their monthly meeting. Another Secular fraternity writes cards and letters to the sick and shut-ins of their parish. These and other ministerial possibilities are ways in which Secular Servites can become active in the ministry of the Church and of the Order. Ministry is important for Servites for it defines us as SERVANTS as well as CHRISTIANS, and it allows us to put into practice the call of Christ: "Whatsoever you do to the least of my sisters or brothers, you do to me".

To be Servants of Mary means to serve others with the love of Jesus following the example of Mary. Let us challenge each other and our fraternities to see how together we can serve those around us who need to feel the love and compassion of Jesus and, thus, to be known as SERVANTS OF MARY.

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Thanksgiving
Omaha, Nebraska
Sr. Mary Hogan, OSM

As I prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving Day I remember all the things I am thankful for during the past year. One memory that came to mind is the days with the Servite Secular Order at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine October 26-28. With fondness I remembered the people and activities of those days.



Sr. Mary Hogan, O.S.M.

It's not often that one gets to experience the whole Servite Order in action. But there we were – Friars, Sisters and Secular Servites working together to grow in understanding and love of the gift we have in our call to live the charism of the Order in various levels of commitment. The prayer those days in Belleville was unifying, talks inspiring, the workshops engaging, the meals delicious, and the fun times really fun. I'm so happy that I learned how to swim without getting wet in the cold winter months!

Thanks to each of you for your loving presence and commitment to the witness of compassionate living so needed in our world today.

BEATITUDE PEOPLE

“Blessed are those who value the love of family over everything else - the brother or sister who is always there for the family, the devoted hospice or soup kitchen worker; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who grieve for the lost and struggle to cope and continue - the single parent trying to raise a family alone, the mother or father who keep an open heart and outreached hand to the wayward son or daughter - for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are those who find their joy in the happiness of others - the devoted parent, the dedicated teacher - for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who manage to see beyond their own interests and needs to the greater common good and their responsibility to others, for they will be fulfilled.

“Blessed are those who treat classmates, co-workers and employees with respect and dignity, who are sensitive to the needs and feelings of others, who remember that they have been forgiven by a compassionate God and readily extend that forgiveness and compassion to others, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are those who dedicate their lives to seeking God's justice and forgiveness in all things and those who put themselves at the service of others to help them discover the joy of God's presence in their lives, for they will see God.

“Blessed are those that are peacemakers - those who possess that rare gift for bringing people together when anger and selfishness threaten to drive them apart, who readily take the first step in forgiving and being reconciled with others, who bring healing to those who have been hurt, forgotten or marginalized, for they are the sons and daughters of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted and ridiculed for what is right and just-parents, teachers and dedicated individuals who stand in opposition to false perceptions, destructive stereotypes and an ever more alienated and cynical society, who speak for the needs of children and for justice for the poor, compassion for the fallen and lost and loving support for the abused for the reign of God is theirs.”

In every time, in every place there are people of the Beatitudes. May God give each one of us the vision, courage and grace to embrace the “blessedness” of the Beatitudes - to seek the presence and joy of God in all things.

Source: *Connections* published by Media Works

Orden Seglar Siervas de María Celebró 60 Aniversario Cochabamba, Bolivia Edson M. Choque Véliz, OSM

La Orden Seglar Siervas de María, de la Fraternidad Virgen de los Dolores, el 16 de noviembre celebró sus 60 años de vida al servicio de Dios, inspiradas en la Virgen María, humilde Sierva, atendiendo las necesidades de nuestros semejantes, con la fe, esperanza y el amor a Cristo.

La celebración fue presidida por fr. Sebastián Sandóval, Prior del Convento “Nuestra Señora del Socavón” y concelebrada por fr. Nico , Rector del Santuario y fr. Marcelo, Asesor de la Orden Seglar. Asimismo, contó con la presencia del Diácono fr. Lorenzo -quién este año también celebra 60 años pero de vida misionera-, una delegación de las fraternidades seglares de Cochabamba e invitados especiales.

Durante la celebración eucarística, la Hna. Ana, Priora de la fraternidad Virgen de los Dolores tomó la palabra para recordar a tantas personas que colaboraron en la extensión de esta expresión de la Orden en la ciudad de Oruro. De la misma manera, destacó el trabajo realizado por sus hermanas en todos estos



años: servicio a ministerio (eucaristía, visita a los enfermos), catequesis, charlas a jóvenes de colegios, centro de madres, educación social, higiene y salud mental, alcoholismo, ayuda a hospitales, cárcel, guarderías, comedor popular, etc. Posteriormente, la fraternidad seglar se dispuso a renovar su promesa frente a la imagen de la Virgen de los Dolores, su patrona.

Al terminar la comunión, la srta. Alejandra Aranibar renovó públicamente y por quinta vez su promesa como Laica Consagrada. La asamblea aplaudió tal ofrecimiento.

Pasada la celebración se procedió al brindis de honor que se realizó en los ambientes del Centro Mariano, al son de la música mexicana y bailes nacionales. La alegría por parte de las integrantes de la fraternidad Virgen de los Dolores y de los asistentes fue inevitable.

Muchas personas las felicitaron y entregaron sus presentes, mereciendo especial atención la entrega de un cuadro con la Imagen de la Virgen de los Dolores donado por el Prof. Enrique Patiño.



Passion for Humanity: 3rd National Conference Impression and what we took home Pat Miller and Joyce Conley, SOSM

Pat Miller and myself Joyce Conley, representing our community, St. Julianna Falconeri, of Cleveland, Ohio brought back the following ideals: But first we would like to thank all who were instrumental in organizing such a beautiful weekend. The National Council, Fr. Vidal, speakers, group leaders, the staff of the Shrine of Our Lady of Snows and all involved behind the scenes for such a prayerful, knowledgeable, peaceful, fun loving weekend. It will be remembered in our hearts for years to come.



Dr. Scott Alexander

We were very happy to arrive safely to our destination, more so, when we saw Fr. Vidal, Fr. Borntrager with our fellow brothers and sisters to greet us. After our arrival we found our rooms, rested, prepared for dinner. Dinner was absolutely delicious and most welcomed. Fr. Vidal showed slides of his international travels and via slideshow we met other brothers and sisters of the Servite Secular Order.

Dr. Scott Alexander was our first speaker. “No Hope: Christian and Muslim Perspectives on a Forgotten Virtue” was the title of his talk. What we took away from Dr. Alexander’s talk was this: through love, reconciliation, hope and faith we are to come to know the humanity of all people. Giving respect by listening to what they have shared and respecting them for what they believe. Whether or not we agree, we can agree to disagree peacefully. We need to remember God is the Creator of all and loves all. The Kingdom of Heaven is in each of us. We need only to look inside ourselves to find it.

Pat attended “Giving Life to the Secular Community” by SOSM panel. Pat shared that all have similar problems and it helped to discuss and share the thoughts and resolutions to these problems. Pat said, “All were of the same mind and thoughts. Everyone spoke from their heart.” Pat also attended “The Church’s Social Teaching and How Secular Servites Can Implement It.” Cecilia Fandel, O.S.M. Pat

could not mention any one particular thing but shared that the handouts were a great help. We have already started by presenting one of the questionnaires to our community.

I attended “What is St. Peregrine Ministry?” by Fr. Joseph Chamblain, O.S.M. Fr. Joe opened with the question of the title of his talk. Proudly, I announced that our community meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm in the chapel of St. Vincent Charity Hospital with the Blessed Sacrament exposed, and pray through the intercession of St. Peregrine for healing of cancer and incurable diseases. This is televised throughout the hospital. Someone else told of how their community helps to feed and cloth the poor. Another told how they are part of the bereavement program at their parish.



Giving Life to the Local Community workshop



Conference music ministry



Bob and Virginia



Conference participants gather for group photo



Laughs at the Saturday evening Fiesta Celebration

Passion for Humanity: 3rd National Conference Mary Ornberg, SOSM

WAS IT GREAT? YES! SI! OUI! And enjoyed by Servites from Ohio, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Mexico, California, Oregon, Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin. And what a subject – Passion for Humanity!

Our Lady of the Snows arranged for mild weather and sunshine at her Shrine in Belleville, Illinois. Bob Kozlowski and the other members of Seven Holy Founders Community (Affton, MO) met each one, not only with smiles, but with tables of good things to eat and drink during afternoon registration – a happy forerunner of all the wonderful meals served during the weekend.

The Grand Opening was Fr. Vidal Martinez's welcome followed by the prayer: *In Praise of St. Juliana*, led by St. Juliana Community (Ladysmith, WI). And from grand it went to "Wow!" with the first of the three keynote speakers. Dr. Scott Alexander, a faculty member of the Catholic Theological Union, in Chicago, had no difficulty keeping the attention of his audience as he spoke on "No Repentance, No Hope: Christian and Muslim Perspectives on a Forgotten Virtue." The theme was hope in difficult circumstances, pointing out the necessity of repentance, humility, and conversion for all, traits that are not popular in today's culture. The room was absorbed by his insights. Dr. Alexander had profound answers for the questions asked at the end, and concluded with the heartening thought, that God has hope that all will remain in His grace, or at least in the end, will return to Him.



Fr. Perry McCoy, OSM

How nice it was to end the day with Salve Regina Community (Fullerton CA) leading the Vigil of Our Lady. Saturday began wonderfully in the mosaic covered Chapel of the Sorrowful Mysteries. St. Peregrine Community (Kissimme, FL) led the Servite Rosary and Fr. Vidal was the main celebrant at the Mass.

After a great breakfast for over 60 Servites, the second keynote speaker, Fr. Bob Warsey, OSM, gave a marvelous talk on "Mary: Mirror of Justice, Comfort of the Afflicted." Fr. Bob emphasized that to reflect Mary to the world, the requests she has repeated in her many apparitions – "Prayer!" (be aware of God) and "Penance!" (be aware of others) must be implemented. In other words, live the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. He made a plea for Mary-like openness to those with broken dreams and lost hope, as well as for those with physical problems. It was an inspiring reminder of the role that Mary would like to play in each of her children's lives.



Giving Life to the Local Community workshop

The final keynote speaker, Sr. Sandra DeGidio, OSM, made a wonderful impression, because she personally reflects her topic, "Passion for Humanity: the Servite Perspective." Sister Sandra noted that Mother Cabrini, Dorothy Day, Dr. Tom Dooley, and Mother Teresa taught by the way they lived, putting the focus on others instead of themselves, thus giving rise to Hope. Compassion knows no age, no gender and no excuses. Compassionate people are the least fearful, the most self-confident, and the happiest, and it can be seen in their faces. She counseled the listeners to "be Mary at the foot of the cross" to those they encounter.



Secular Servites of Palm Bay, FL

“Church’s Social Teaching and How Secular Servites Can Implement It” was presented by Sr. Cecilia Fandel, OSM & Theresa Orozco, SOSM, and “Action on Behalf of Justice for Local Transformation” was presented by Sr. Mary Hogan, OSM. Though completely separate units, the two presentations complemented each other, and their audiences were impressed with the depth not only of their knowledge, but their commitment to the tasks they’ve chosen to pursue. There was also an abundance of resources and supplements provided for later reflection – as examples, *The Two Feet*, needed to balance as Christians living in today’s world, and *Reflecting on Mary’s Sorrows, Praying for Peace*.

was very well received, not just in his sharing with the gathering on the History and Spirituality of the Servants of Mary, but with all the Servites present for the conference. He gave an example of openness, cordiality, kindness, and what all Americans love so much – good sportsmanship!

St. Anthony Pucci Community (Marrero, LA) led the evening prayer, *In Praise of St. Anthony Pucci*, and then it was time for another fantastic dinner and Fiesta! From the sublime to the ridiculous, Fiesta had it all! The guests enjoyed music, skits, poetry, and snacks. Nothing was missing and time flew. It seemed only an instant later that it was morning and Sunday Mass time, again in the beautiful chapel. Following was the General Assembly, the Closing Prayer Service, *In Praise of Our Seven First*

“Historia y Espiritualidad de los Siervos de Maria,” by Fray Enrique Camps, OSM,



Sr. Cecilia Fandel, OSM, presents *Implementing the Church’s Social Teaching* workshop

Fathers, by the Seven Holy Founders Community, (Afton, MO), and the only difficult part of the Conference — good-byes to old and new friends.



Secular Servites of Lady Lake & St. Petersburg, FL



Fr. Enrique Camps conducts workshop in Spanish

**Secular Order National Council: 2004-2007
Thank You! God Bless You!**

On behalf of all the Servite Family, we wish to thank the members of the outgoing National Council of the Servite Secular Order for their years of service in support and encouragement of the life and welfare of the local Secular Order fraternities. Each one of them contributed their time and talent with generosity, care and concern. We have been blessed with their presence, their insight, their dedication and their love for our Servite Order. May our Sorrowful Mother and our Seven Holy Founders intercede for each of them and their families. Thank you so much: Bob Ornberg, Virginia Gaspar, Bob Kozlowski, and Kathy Spacone!!



The Secular Servites on the National Council: 2004-2007
Bob Ornberg, SOSM: St. Juliana Community, Ladysmith, WI;
Bob Kozlowski, SOSM, Seven Holy Founders Community, Affton, MO;
Virginia Gaspar, SOSM, St. Anthony Pucci Community, Marrero, LA;
Kathy Spacone, SOSM, Sts. Alexis & Juliana Community, Hillside, IL.

Palm Bay, Florida
Mary, Queen of the Servants Community
Deacon Jack Rhine, SOSM



Some members of the Mary, Queen of the Servants Secular Order Community were involved in the establishment of the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) Seafarer's Center in Canaveral, Florida. The AOS is an international Catholic organization that provides social, spiritual, and material support to seafarers and helps them to facilitate communications with friends and families they have left behind. This is done at the center through the use of internet, webcams, and digital phones. Financial and travel services are also available and Mass is offered on Sundays. The center has no paid

employees and relies on donations and volunteers. Clerical staff consists of: Fr. Edward McCarthy, Director of Tourism and Seaport Ministry for the Diocese of Orlando; Deacon William Wanca, SOSM, who is also the Director of the Center and a Port Chaplain; Fr. Carl Feil, OSM, Port Chaplain; and Deacon Jack Rhine, SOSM, Port Chaplain. Other Secular Order members instrumental in establishing the Center are Phil and Joan Borsik, Tony Ferrer, Bob and Bev Olson, Karen Rhine, and Ed and Janet Schmitt.



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Coming Servite Feasts

January

**12 - St. Anthony Mary Pucci
15 - Bl. James, Defender of the Poor**

February

**3 - Bl. Joachim of Siena
17 - Seven Holy Founders
19 - Bl. Elizabeth of Mantua**

March

14 - Mary at the Foot of the Cross