



GUESS WHO'S COMING TO VISIT?

Fr. Vidal Martinez, OSM

The Particular Statutes of the OSSM National Council states that one of its functions is to “make at least one official visit to each local community during the four year term of the Council”. What is the purpose of the visit? Who is expected to make the visit? “The National Assistant or Friar Representative will accompany the regional councilor to visit each community in their region”. They will meet “with the Council and with the Community to understand: (a) the workings of the community; (b) what things are working well that might be considered by other communities; (c) areas in which the community might need help or change”.

The visitation seeks to promote fidelity to the Servite charism; observance of the Rule of Life; and to provide support in the life of the community, by helping the community to evaluate itself, by providing inspiration and information as well as an experience of unity with the total Servite Family.

Prior to the visit, the local council is asked to complete a questionnaire to provide basic information and data regarding their local community. This is an opportunity to update the community register as it appears in the National Office. Besides the facts and data about the local community, the questionnaire focuses on three areas considered to be significant in the life and well-being of all OSSM communities: FORMATION & SPIRITUALITY, WAY OF LIFE, COMMUNICATION. For each one of these areas, there is a series of questions that the local Council is to consider and answer regarding their experience as Servite Secular Order community. The

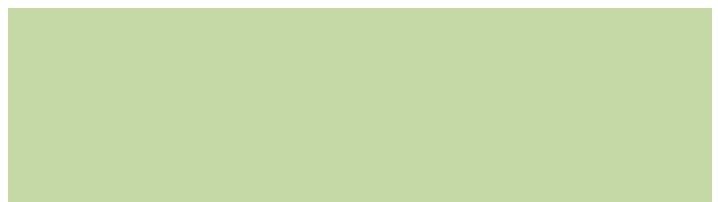
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questions are intended as a guideline to assist the community in evaluating itself. The questionnaire is sent to the Prior/ess, at least, two months prior to the date of the Official Visit.

Therefore, the Official Visit is based on the information and input provided by the local Council. It consists of two meetings: a meeting with the local Council and a meeting with the community. For the meeting with the Council, which usually takes 90 minutes, the visitors will provide the agenda. The visitors will attend the community meeting as observers and will participate as requested. The community meeting should have an agenda that reflects what normally occurs at regular monthly meetings.

Within several weeks of the visit, the visitors will provide a report to the prior/ess and spiritual assistant that summarizes impressions of the visit and recommendations. This report is to be shared with all members of the local Council.





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www.servite.org
www.servidimaria.org
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Coming Servite Feasts

July 1 - Bl. Ferdinand Maria Baccilieri, SOSM

July 4 - Bl. Ubald of Borgo Sansepolcro

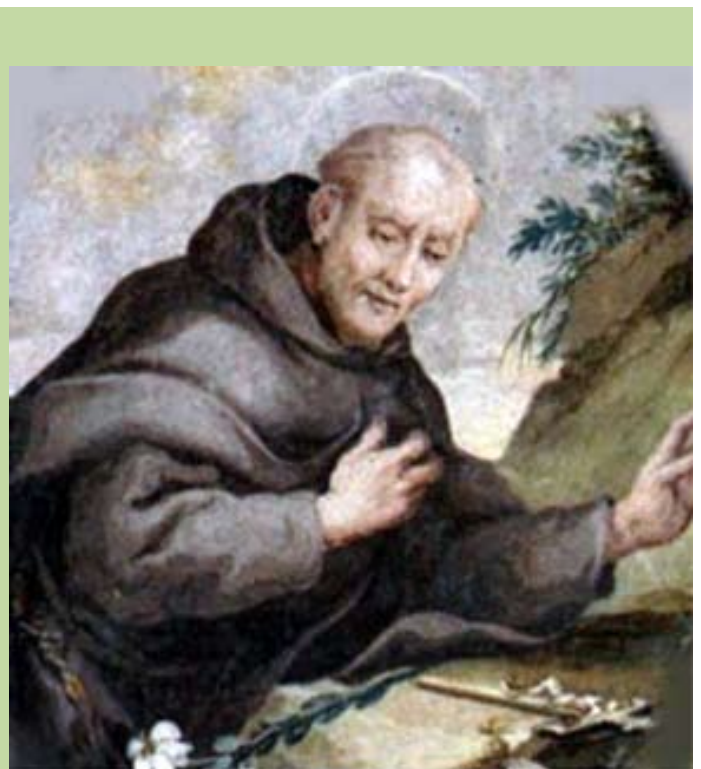
July 13 - St. Clelia Barbieri

August 23 - St. Philip Benizi

August 31 - Bl. Andrew of Borgo Sansepolcro

September 1 - Bl. Joan of Florence

September 6 - Bl. Bonaventure of Forli



¿ Puede tener sentido hacerse Siervo de María hoy?

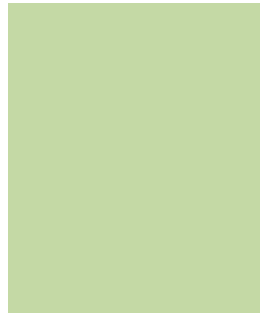
Fray Clovadis M. Boff, O.S.M.

... Yo desearía que los Siervos fuesen personas más insertas en el corazón del pueblo, en una relación existencial con la fe del pueblo, con su vida y sus esperanzas. Una presencia testimonial, de sencillez, de pobreza, de evangelización. Una presencia mariana como la de la Virgen en medio de la Comunidad Primitiva, que era una comunidad, pobre perseguida. Una presencia sencilla, de animación evangélica, discreta, como fue siempre la presencia de la orden en toda su historia; sin grandes figuras, sin grandes santos, sin grandes intelectuales,... pero una presencia eficaz, viva, silenciosa, decisiva,... como la de María en medio de la Iglesia primitiva.

Me siento muy feliz de ser Siervo de María. Muy feliz por muchas cosas, pero sobre todo por tres: en primer lugar, porque los Siete Santos, y la orden en general, me transmitieron esa figura maravillosa, que es la figura de María. Si no hubiera sido por la orden, ¡claro está!, la habría recibido de la Iglesia, porque la Virgen es una figura eclesial; pero no con aquella profundidad y riqueza, con aquel <<privilegio>> con que la tiene la orden. Siempre estaré agradecido a los Siete Santos porque tuvieron esa intuición.

En segundo lugar, por la extrema libertad de la orden. Pienso que la caracterización de la orden es la figura de la Virgen. Pero se puede ser ermitaño, monje, misionero, obrero, artista, intelectual, teólogo, ignorante, sabio,.. se puede ser de todo en la orden. Es la orden más abierta, más libre. Cada uno puede tejer su vida de manera absolutamente nueva. original. La única figura central, el único eje es esa figura de la Virgen, en torno a la cual estamos todos unidos. Uno con sus libros, otro con sus sistemas de trabajo, otros con ... en fin. Yo no creo que exista un orden más libre. Por eso yo siempre he dicho que lo típico de la orden es ser <<atípica>>, no tener una imposición. También la figura de la Virgen es una figura libre y liberadora.

Y en tercer lugar, porque nuestra orden es un grupo pequeño, sencillo, reducido, humilde. No es demasiado conocido a nivel mundial, no tiene grandes figuras, escritores o teólogos, o cualquier otra cosa; y esto facilita que sea sencilla y, por lo tanto, le da un toque de humildad, de pequeñez, que es muy importante.



Cemetery of the Innocents

*Bob Ornberg, OSSM
St. Juliana Community
Ladysmith, WI*



– a pro-life program, inspired through the example, inspiration, and intercession of our Blessed Mother.

In 2009, a pro-life group in the Hayward, Wisconsin area began to take form; two of the planners being members of the Order of Secular Servants of Mary, St. Juliana Community in Ladysmith, Wisconsin. Specifically, this was Robert and Mary Ornberg, OSSM, and as the group began to grow to its present membership of 16 active lay persons, a title for the group was necessary as an identifier: “Queen of Peace, Protector of Life.”

In the course of planning pro-life projects, the “Cemetery of the Innocents” became an obvious and desirable goal. It actually involves the display of 400 white crosses made from PVC pipe, standing 40” tall, spaced 3 feet apart, normally in a square, each side being 57 feet. The crosses represent roughly 4000 abortions daily in the USA, and send a silent but powerful message and prayer in support of the sanctity of life. One very special location was on the property of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Ladysmith, Wisconsin. The Knights of Columbus were instrumental in helping to promote this project, and youth from Our Lady of Sorrows School assisted in the set-up.

If you would like more information about this group and the “Cemetery of the Innocents”, you can contact Robert Ornberg, OSSM, at 715-699-1287 or email at rornberg71@gmail.com.

Merci Beaucoup! Que Dieu Vous Benisse

Thank you very much! May God bless you!
¡Muchas gracias! ¡Que Dios les bendiga!

The Children, Parents, and Staff Child Jesus School Petit-Goâve, Haiti



We would like to express our sincerest thanks to all who have contributed towards the construction of our new school building. We have anxiously and happily watched as it has been constructed and prepared for our future use. We are all looking forward to the next school year, because we hope that we will be moving into this newly constructed school. Thank you to all in the Servite Family for your generous contributions, your prayers, and your compassionate love for all of us.

In a very special way, we say THANK YOU to the Sister Servants of Mary, Ladysmith, WI for their generous donation in support of this project of construction. Also, our hearts go out to the young people, faculty and staff of Servite High School, Anaheim, CA for their generosity and care. We could not have accomplished this new construction with your support, encouragement, love and prayers.

In the next few weeks, the windows, doors, and iron grills and railings will be installed. The indoor and outdoors of the building will be nicely painted. New toilets and sinks will be installed. As we watch, we become more and more excited about our new school building and what it will provide for us. After the earthquake and all the suffering that we have endured, this is a sure sign of God's love for us.

A new school building requires new blackboards, desks for teachers and staff, benches for the children. Can you help us with a donation to cover these expenses? Please make your check to: Servants of Mary. Send your donations to: OSM Haiti Relief, 3121 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60612.

For further information about Child Jesus School, please click the following link:
<http://sites.google.com/site/servantsofmarycenterhaiti/news-1>.



Our Special Calling

*Joanne Thomas, OSSM
St. Juliana Community
The Grotto, Portland, OR*



In the early days of the last century, a call went out from the Great Northwest. Archbishop Christie contacted the Servants of Mary to ask them to settle here and build a church in North Portland that was to become known as Assumption Church. Answering the call were Father Leander and Father Ambrose Mayer, who carried a special calling in his heart. For when he was but a young boy living in Canada, Father Mayer had promised God and Our Mother he'd do something great for the Church and begged them to let his mother, near death from childbirth, live. Our God, in His tender mercy, granted the little boy's wish, and in 1924, Father's mother stood before The Grotto as Archbishop Christie dedicated the sanctuary hewn from rock, love, and faith. It was to become an oasis of peace to people of all faiths and no faith - a haven where one could find God in the rushed, sometimes pressured and stressful world of living. And so it is today.



This then is the mission of everyone who works, ministers, volunteers at The Grotto—to be here in this beautiful garden and bring peace and hope to those whom God sends. This too, the purpose of the Secular Servants of Mary who belong to Our Most Sorrowful Mother Community here in Portland, OR.

Our members serve Jesus and Mary in their own parishes as well as in a variety of positions at The Grotto. You will find us ministering as Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers and greeters, holding the hands of the ill and convalescing, the dying in nursing and private homes, carrying signs along a busy Portland street to support Life, leading Saturday rosaries, working in The Grotto kitchen and at the Sunday donut cart, volunteering at the Christmas Festival of Lights, welcoming visitors in our information center, leading groups as a tour guide, doing whatever is needed to stand as did Mary at the foot of many crosses.



We're there too at The Grotto's Bible Studies, retreats, and its many other spiritual offerings and celebrations, welcoming others, spreading Jesus' and Mary's love and hope as we too are led further up the path towards holiness and joy. Like a family, we support each other and reach out to others, person to person, and with an active prayer ministry. We are truly blessed.

We are happy to have been called. I know too, that I speak for all of us in saying we are grateful to Father Vidal, Father Jack Topper, Our Grotto's Director, and our Assistant Father Ignatius for their help, encouragement, and guidance. And to all of you for your prayers.

Meet the Prioress: Betty Schwind, OSSM

Mary, Queen of the Servants Community

Palm Bay, Florida

Interview by Deacon Jack Rhine, OSSM

Q: When and why did you become a Servite?

A: I made my Promise in 2001. I saw the example of how people who were Servites treated each other and I wanted to be part of the Order.

Q: What is it about the Servite charism that draws you to the Order?

A: I have always had a fascination with Mary, since I was a small child. Hospitality and prayer are very important to me.

Q: What are the joys of being a Prioress?

A: Watching the community grow and come together. I enjoy planning for the spiritual and on-going formation programs of the community.

Q: What are the challenges of being a Prioress?

Keeping the community motivated and united. Making sure the community is spiritually and intellectually nourished in a way that is interesting to them. A major challenge is bringing back inactive members into community life.

Q: Do you have a supportive Council?

A: Yes, the Council has always been cooperative and supportive in what I have tried to do in the community. Our Council is extremely cohesive.

Q: What are some of the activities you've been involved in since becoming Prioress?

A: Encouraging community members to pledge to support the Servite Center in Haiti as well as participating in the parish Alternative Christmas Market to do the same. We have had several garage sales to assist members in attending the upcoming OSSM National Conference.

Q: What's the most fun you've had as a Servite?

A: It is always fun to be involved with fellow Servites. There is always joy and laughter whenever Servites gather for prayer, sharing and good food.

Q: Have you had any specially memorable experiences?

A: Helping with the formation of the new community at St. John Fisher Parish in West Palm Beach. I am excited about attending their Promise Ceremony in October.

Q: What would you still like to accomplish before your term is over?

A: I would really like to see the Florida OSSM communities provide great hospitality at the National Conference in October. Although we have had three new members make their Promise since my term as Prioress began, I would like to see a greater increase in members, particularly with younger people. I would like to establish an annual crowning of Mary ceremony.

Q: Do you have any words of wisdom for other Priors and Prioresses?

A: Just to know that it is a big responsibility, but it has helped me to grow in faith and delve further into the Servite Order, particularly in the area of Servite saints and blessed. To ensure the continued existence of the Order, we all need to work to include younger people

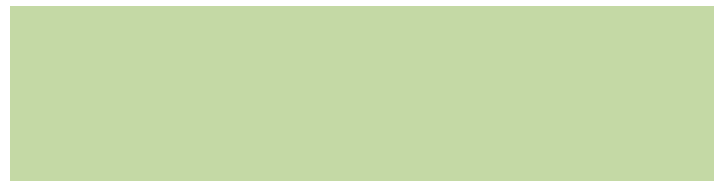


Florida Multi-Community Promise

*Deacon Jack Rhine, OSSM
Mary, Queen of Servants Community
Palm Bay, FL*

The three OSSM Communities of the Diocese of Orlando, FL held a very special event on May 14, 2011. Margarita Martinez of St. Peregrine Community in Kissimmee, Jan Ochal of Our Lady of Sorrows Community in Lady Lake and Mary Catherine Pearce of Mary Queen of the Servants Community in Palm Bay professed the Promise at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Community in Palm Bay. Fr. Carl Feil, OSM, presided. Deacon Jack Rhine, OSSM assisted and pre-

sided over the Promise ceremony. The Prioresses, Margarita Colon, OSSM of St. Peregrine, Barbara Gorry, OSSM of Our Lady of Sorrows, and Betty Schwind, OSSM of Mary, Queen of the Servants, also assisted. Members of the three communities as well as members of St. Phillip Benizi Community in St. Petersburg, Fla., witnessed the ceremony and welcomed our new Servites. Mass was followed by a sumptuous pot luck meal in the Servite tradition.



OSM Lay Diakonia

Loree Nauertz Spooner, Wisconsin

On February 15, 2011, the Lay Diakonia families in formation from Spooner, Wisconsin, had a wonderful visit from Fr. Vidal and two Lay Diakonia families from Italy: Remigio and Marisa Cecchetto (*Diaconia della Misericordia*) and Lorena Righi (*Diaconia della Vita*). Remigio and Marisa are one of the original couples to join the Lay Diakonia Movement which began in Italy in 1982. They were in the United States to join in the “Diakonia of the Blessing” for Ed and Mercedes Thrush, a couple from Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, El Paso, TX. Ed and Mercedes, Diakonia della Bendicione, are the the first Lay Diakonia couple to join in the United States.

As soon as Fr. Vidal, Remigio, Marisa, and Lorena arrived, a spirit of love and fellowship filled our home. After hugs, handshakes, and introductions, we moved to the living room where we celebrated the Feast of the Seven Holy Founders of the Servites of Mary. Following Mass, Fr. Vidal presented the families with a beautiful picture of Our Expecting Mother Mary, a gift from the Lay Diakonia Council.

After Mass, we enjoyed a meal together. Much conversation and laughter was had by all. We especially enjoyed the hilarious stories of our guests’ travels

to the U.S. We also appreciated the advice given to us concerning the Lay Diakonia ministry. We were reminded of the importance of first being in service to one another as husband and wife so that our love for each other can flow out to others. Prayer is essential and must be a priority in our lives. We cannot thank enough our friends in Christ for making the long trip to Wisconsin and sharing their lives with us. We have memories we will always keep close to our hearts.

We continue to meet once a month for our formation. These meetings have centered on the topics of The Domestic Church and The Rule of Life of the Secular Order of the Servants of Mary. We are currently focusing our discussions on prayer. We are a very real group of Catholic Christians striving to live out our baptismal promises with all our faults and failings. We are very honest in the areas we struggle with as Christian spouses and as parents. We have laughed and we have cried (mainly from laughing so hard), and we thank God for the fellowship we share as we discern our calling within our vocation of married life.

In June, Sr. Anne Marie Caporale, O.S.M., from Chicago joined us to talk about Mary and her role in our lives. Please keep us in your prayers!



SERVANTS OF MARY *and* Care of Creation

Keynote Speakers:
Dr. George Maul
Dr. Javier Orozco, SFO
Sr. Ginny Silvestri, O.S.M.



Conference Fee
\$180 double occupancy
\$255 single occupancy
\$110 commuter

a surcharge of \$20 will be added to registrations
received after September 1, 2011

IV National Conference Servite Secular Order: USA

October 28-30, 2011
San Pedro Center
Winter Park (Orlando), FL

Registration Deadline is October 1, 2011

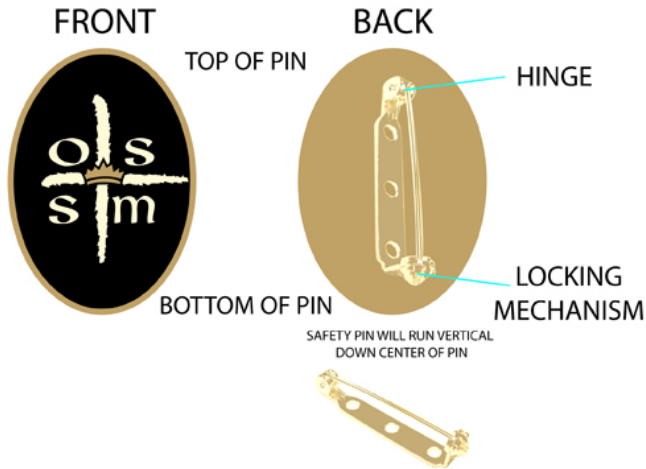
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Chicago IL 60612-2729

Contact Betty Schwind OSSM at 321-698-6753 or at
basch420@aol.com for pre and post conference tour
packages and for information on transportation between
the airport and the San Pedro Center.

Workshops include:

Created in His Image: Appreciating Diversity in
America * Immigrants in the Shadows * Con-
sumption and the Common Good * Connected
by Clay * Hacia Un Credo Ecológico (Spanish)
* María, Creación y Nosotros: Hacia una Re-
flexión Teológica de Conjunto (Spanish)

<http://sites.google.com/site/ivossmnationalconference/>



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