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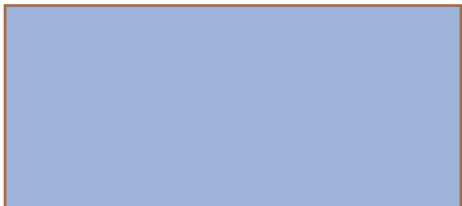
JUNE 2012

Secular Servite News

Assumption BVM Community Denver, CO

- Jim Younger, OSSM

On April 14th, 2012, Fr. Gabriel Ramacciotti, O.S.M., conducted the ceremony of the Rite of the Promise At Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church for Joyce Gallager, OSSM. Prioress Micky Macias assisted. Joyce has been very active in the Parish volunteering for Parish ministries as well as other needs of the Parish. She is very devoted to the Order of the Secular Servants of Mary and to the parish community. Joyce has a cheerful personality and a deep concern for others. Join us in welcoming Joyce to the OSSM Family. Joyce has already proven to be a welcome addition to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary OSSM Community. God Bless all the Servites wherever they may be.



INSIDE

- Lay Diakonia Families 4
- Florida Prison Ministry 6
- Tradition Worth Continuing .. 9
- A Holy Priest11
- UNIFAS is Coming12

Comunidad Nuestra Señora de los Dolores Fullerton, CA

*Elsa Luna, OSSM
Prioress*

Las Fraternidades de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores y Salve Regina de Fullerton, CA se unieron en el amor de Cristo para celebrar el 46 Aniversario de la Ordenación de nuestro párroco, Fray David Gallegos, OSM. Compartimos algunas fotos de dicha celebración cual fue una bonita oportunidad para dar testimonio de lo que es ser Siervos de María.



The OSSM Communities of Salve Regina and Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, Fullerton, CA joined together, in the love of Christ, to celebrate the 46th Anniversary of Ordination of our Pastor, Fr. David Gallegos, OSM. We share with you some photos of this celebration, which was a wonderful opportunity to show others what it means to be Servants of Mary.



St. Peregrine Community, Rice Lake, WI, St. Juliana Community, Ladysmith, WI, Mary, Mother of Compassion Community, Spooner, WI

*Sr. Marguerite Samz, OSM
Spiritual Assistant*

OSSM's Day of Reflection in Northern Wisconsin

The three northern Wisconsin OSSM communities, St. Peregrine-Rice Lake, St. Juliana-Ladysmith, and Mary, Mother of Compassion-Spooner, sponsored a Retreat Day on Saturday, April 21, 2012, at St. Joseph Parish in Hayward, WI.

The presenter for this day was Sister Mary Alice Willems, OSM, a member of the Ladysmith OSM Leadership Team. The theme for the day was "Mary, Woman of Compassion; Woman of Hospitality." Events included presentations, quiet time for personal reflection, and times for group sharing. The day ended with an opportunity to join the local parish for the Saturday evening Mass at 4:00 pm.

In speaking about Mary's hospitality, Mary Alice quoted from Henri Nouwen's book *Reaching Out*: "Hospitality...is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not a method of making our God and our way into the criteria of happiness, but the opening of an opportunity to others to find their God and their way. The paradox of hospitality is that it wants to create emptiness, not a fearful emptiness but a friendly emptiness where strangers can enter and discover themselves as created free; free to sing their own song, speak their own languages, dance their own dances; free also to leave and follow their own vocations." Mary Alice related to Mary's life as she emptied herself to make space for others as a woman of hospitality.

Compassion's meaning as presented is to share with others, to break bread with others. Mary's arms are around all people as she models for us "to love what is mortal, to hold it against your bones knowing your own life depends on it. And when the time comes to let it go."

A nourishing lunch also provided an opportunity to visit and get acquainted with OSSM members and OSM sisters.

As a closing ritual, an array of beautiful photos of flowers were available. Each participant was invited to choose one photo to present to another with the

sending forth, "Go forth and sing your Magnificat" to which most often the response was a hug of support for each other. Mary Alice also brought several books with the invitation to scan through them as she noted they would often stretch ones understanding of Mary. These books were *Truly Our Sister* by Elizabeth Johnson, *In Search of Mary* by Sally Cunneen, *Untie the Strong Woman* by Clarissa Pinkola Estes, *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong, and *A Reader in Latina Feminist Theology* edited by Maria Pilar Aquino, Daisy L Machado and Jeanette Rodriguez.

This day was a great experience of sharing our Servite life and supporting one another.



Servite Lay Diakonia Families Spooner, WI

*Sr. Dominica Effertz, OSM
Spiritual Assistant*

Greetings from Northern Wisconsin! Our three families are alive and well! With the newest addition last Fall to the Nauertz family (6 boys) we now number 6 parents, 10 boys and 1 eight-year old girl, Anna Silvis, who is the “princess” of our Diakonia group!

We meet every month, and the children look forward to our meetings as much as their parents do. We always gather first for prayer, share a meal, and then have some very interesting adult sharing while the children enjoy being together elsewhere, building their own sense of community. Our Diakonia families were admitted into their formation program in September 2010, and after studying the Servite charism and spirituality, and Rule of Life for Secular Servites for 2 years are prepared to make their Promise.

The date chosen for this ceremony is the third Sunday of September, celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, September 16, 2012.

On Sunday, May 14th, 2012 our three families gathered in prayer to honor Mary, our heavenly Mother, and also to honor the mothers of these three families. We began by raising our voices in prayer and song to Mary during an outdoor service by the statue of Our Lady. Anna Silvis crowned the statue of our Blessed Mother, and the service concluded with the prayer: “Consecration of our Families to Mary.”

Then we were treated to an elegant meal planned, prepared and served by the 3 dads and the children. They had decorated the room

with flowers, linen table cloth set with their finest china. At each of our places was a beautiful menu “Welcome to Mothers’ Café” You wouldn’t believe all the choices---varieties of appetizers, main course, side dishes, salads, desserts and beverages. The men even did the “clean up” after the meal! What a wonderful day of celebrating motherhood!

Over this period of formation for our Diakonias I have witnessed a beautiful growth of these three families, taking on the charisms of the Servite Order---Community (sense of belonging to the wider Servite Family), love and devotion to Mary and a sense of service to others. Our theme song is: “The Servant Song”---Diakonia meaning service, first of all to each other in our families and then reaching out to others beyond the family. “They’ll know we are Christians by our love”---They’ll know we are Servites by our Compassion and Hospitality”.



OSM Familias Diaconías Laicas Spooner, WI

*Sr. Dominica Effertz, OSM
Spiritual Assistant*

¡Saludos a todos desde el Norte de Wisconsin! Nuestras tres familias están vivas y se encuentran muy bien. Con el nacimiento en el otoño pasado del sexto varón de la Familia Nauertz, tenemos 6 parientes, 10 niños y una sola niña de 8 años de edad, Ana Silvis, quien es “la princesa” del grupo.

Nos reunimos cada mes y los niños participan con tanto interés como sus padres. Siempre comenzamos con la oración, una cena compartida, y luego la formación para los adultos mientras los niños disfrutan compartir entre ellos, formando entre sí un sentido de comunidad. Nuestras Familias Diaconías fueron admitidas a su programa de formación en septiembre del 2010, y después de estudiar sobre el carisma y la espiritualidad Servita y la Regla de Vida de la Orden Seglar

durante dos años están preparados para hacer su Promesa. La ceremonia será el tercer domingo de septiembre, 16 de septiembre, Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores.

El domingo, 14 de mayo de 2011, las tres familias se reunieron para orar y honrar a María, nuestra Madre celestial, y además para honrar a las madres de las tres familias. Celebramos una ceremonia al aire libre con oración y cánticos a la Virgen María junto a su imagen. Ana Silvis tuvo el honor de coronar la imagen de la Virgen María y concluimos la ceremonia con la oración: “Consagración de Nuestras Familias a María”.

Entonces disfrutamos una cena muy elegante, preparada por los 3 papás y sus hijos. Decoraron

el comedor con flores, manteles en las mesas y la mejor vajilla. No pueden imaginar la variedad de comida que prepararon – aperitivos, cena principal, ensaladas, postres, bebidas. Y los papás fueron los que recogieron y limpiaron todo al final. ¡Qué bella celebración de la maternidad!



Servites Ministering at the Brevard County Florida Jail

Debbie Horst, OSSM

About 6 months ago, Betty Schwind, OSSM prioress of Mary, Queen of the Servants community at the time, mentioned that she was thinking about joining the jail ministry, something her husband Andy had been doing for some time. As most of you know, when the Holy Spirit is at work, it's hard to ignore and so I gave Betty a call to get more information. Pretty soon we'd met with the chaplain at the county jail, had our background checks done and got all the training necessary to clear us for visiting the jail. Each Wednesday evening since then, Betty, Trish Hebert, another parishioner from Our Lady of Grace Church and I go and spend some time visiting the incarcerated women in the county jail.

We have anywhere from 8 to 18 women each week and since the jail population changes constantly we are meeting and reaching out to many women who have really been struggling with a myriad of problems that ended up with them being incarcerated. Some are there for only a few weeks, while others can be there for more than a year while waiting for trials and sentencing before going to prison.

Our prayer service is usually the readings for the coming Sunday and a short discussion and then Communion. I often bring one of the Henri Nouwen meditations that Father Vidal emails us and they are very popular and get a good discussion going too. We usually end with a song and the

women do love to sing. We are there for only an hour but we can see that this time is really meaningful for the women who attend. We know we can't solve all their problems but we can encourage them and show them that they are children of God who are loved and cared for by Our Lord.

This experience is showing Betty, Trish and I how much work needs to be done in our community to help the incarcerated when they are released from jail. It's an enormous problem and we are brainstorming to figure out ways to be part of the solution. Meanwhile we continue to do our weekly visits and go figure, we are receiving so much more than we are giving.

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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 15 - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin
August 23 - St. Philip Benizi
August 28 - St. Augustine
August 31 - Bl. Andrew of Borgo Sansepolcro

September 1 - Bl. Joan of Florence
September 5 - Bl. Maria Maddalena Starace
September 6 - Bl. Bonaventure of Forli
September 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows
September 17 - Bl. Cecilia Eusepi
September 22 - Dedication of the Basilica of Monte Senario

Mary, Mother of Compassion Community Spooner, WI

*Sr. Dominica Effertz, OSM
Spiritual Assistant*

In January, 2012 seven Promised members who belonged to the St. Peregrine Community of Rice Lake, WI for almost three years decided that it was time to establish their own identity as a local OSSM Community in Spooner, WI. We have chosen the name Mary, Mother of Compassion Community and we had elected Jacene Silvis as Prioress; Joanne Melcher--secretary; Jan Masterjohn—treasurer, and those three persons along with Carol Nickell make up our Council. We spent much of the first two months with organizational details, formulating our Mission Statement and our OSSM Community statutes while at the same time focusing on devotion to Mary, building community and how we can serve others in our Spooner community.

We very recently received canonical approval for our Mary, Mother of Compassion Community here in Spooner, WI from Fr. Angel Ruiz Garnica, OSM, Prior General in Rome.

On April 21st we participated in the OSSM Marian retreat at St. Joseph's Church in Hayward, WI. This was sponsored by our three Secular Servite

Communities here in Northern Wisconsin. On May 3rd Mary, Mother of Compassion OSSM Community prepared and served a free will offering Italian dinner at our Parish Hall for about 120 people. We were very blessed to have Jan Masterjohn, who owned a restaurant to coordinate this project for us. The Secular Servites have done this for the past three years, and we agreed that we would continue to be responsible for this dinner each year in May.

We gather as OSSM Community and welcome others to join us in Liturgy of the Hours every Wednesday morning, and for Liturgy of the Hours and the Servite Rosary every Saturday morning.

We meet on the second Monday of every month at 1:00 p.m. At our May 14th meeting we had 3 new people join us as inquirers, and several others have indicated an interest in learning more about the charism and spirituality of the Servite Order. I truly believe that the Secular Servites give us much hope for the future of our Servite Order!!



Our Lady of Marian Lake Community, Plainfield, IL

*Tony Cipriano, OSSM
Prior*

On February 11, 2012 Rev. Vidal Martinez O.S.M. presided over the induction of new officers for the Secular Servites from Marian Lake in Plainfield, IL. The induction took place following the St. Peregrine Mass at the Mantellate Sisters Servants of Mary Lake House at which Fr. Vidal officiated.

The first picture is of the table of Mary with Secular Servite Information Brochures for all attendees to read, we were also available for any questions after the mass.

The second picture is Fr. Vidal with the newly inducted officers. From left to right Richard Grenier (councilor), Marlene Grenier (councilor), Fr. Vidal O.S.M., Kathy Trippiedi (councilor), Patricia Cipriano (secretary), and Tony Cipriano (Prior). Absent were John Eckhorn (treasurer), and Fred Miller (councilor).



A Tradition Worth Continuing

Deacon Jack Rhine, OSSM

A tradition dating back to the early 1990s and its founding by Servite friars, Our Lady of Grace Parish in Palm Bay, Florida has created an annual hand crafted Christmas ornament as a parish fundraiser. A few years after the friars left in 2000, the parish craft guild, which sponsored, designed and produced the ornament, disbanded and the tradition sadly ceased. Longtime parishioners, including members of Mary, Queen of the Servants Community, missed the annual ornament, so the Secular Order community began producing them again in 2010.

Our community is fortunate to have a craftsman, Ed Schmitt, OSSM, who donates the wood for the ornament and cuts out the design. Joan Borsik, OSSM our resident artist, supplies the paint and determines how the ornament will be painted. Many members of Mary, Queen of the Servants Community as well as other parishioners participate in the painstaking process of hand painting the ornaments. The finished products are offered for sale, raising about \$1000 in 2010 and the same in 2011.

Mary, Queen of the Servants Community donated the 2010 proceeds to Our Lady of Grace Parish in appreciation for our use of parish facilities over the years. In 2011, \$750 was donated to the Our Lady of Grace St. Vincent de Paul Conference for their service to those in need and the remaining \$250 to Our Lady of Grace Parish. A design for the 2012 ornament, an angel, has been chosen and production will begin soon.

We still have a number of 2011 ornaments, pictured at the right, and they are available for \$7.50 each including postage and handling. Please contact Deacon Jack at jrhine@cfl.rr.com if you are interested in ordering the ornament.



St. Juliana Community, Ladysmith, WI

*Maryann Luplow, OSSM
Prioress*

The St. Juliana Community of Secular Servites in Ladysmith, WI, honored St. Peregrine with a Mass and St. Peregrine service of healing and anointing on May 8, 2012, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church. The Mass and service were celebrated by Fr. Shaji Pazhukkathara, Pastor, and Fr. Chris Kemp, Associate Pastor. The attendance was approximately 60. Afterwards, St. Peregrine oil, cards, and medals were available and refreshments provided. At this time our plans for the future are to conduct this celebration annually on or near St. Peregrine's feast day, May 4. This Mass and healing service was enjoyed by all.



Fr. Damian M. Charboneau, OSM, A Holy Priest

Mary Ann Andersen, OSSM

Some years ago
A small band of men and women
Wishing to serve Mother Mary
Looked to him, their beloved
Damian
As they were unsure of where to go
Or how to get there

Led by his gentle steps
And unassuming ways
Together they sowed tiny seeds
Of faith, hope and charity
Soon tender shoots
Of a new Servite community
Began to see the light of day

Damian blessed them
And nurtured them
Taught them the Rule of Life
Unwrapped the mysteries
Of the Seven Sorrows
He worked patiently, tenaciously,
With kindness and love
As he had skillfully done
For so many others in years before

St Mary Source of Our Joy
It became known
Its name revealed
Through prayer
And quiet contemplation
Father Damian, they asked,
How will we know our mission?
Mary will guide, he assured
Just pray
And they did
Certain he was right
And soon it came to pass
Love poured in
Through heaven's grace

Blessed to have shared
So much together
Laughter, hospitality
Caramels and chocolate
It could not go on forever
Father had much more
To teach them
To touch their lives
In an ever deepening
And unforgettable way

How to suffer
Some call it
Redemptive suffering
Especially in the face of death
He always considered others
Before himself, they said

And as he taught them
How to live as a Servite
He now taught them
How to die as a Servite
Keeping a steady gaze
On Jesus, Mary's Son

Oh how they miss him
Oh how they mourn him
All the while
Celebrating their good fortune
To have had the gift of him
To hold the memory of him
Treasuring the many joys
He left behind

When asked for a word
To sum him up
Someone said, I know
The word is Gumption
He used it a lot
Father Damian
He was a man of gumption
And, as so many have observed,
He was a holy priest.



Immaculate Conception Community Spring City, PA

Ceal Prizer, OSSM

On Tuesday, April 10, 2012, Fr. Donato Silveri, Spiritual Assistant celebrated the Rite of Admission for 19 candidates, Immaculate Conception OSSM Community, St. Joseph Parish, Spring City, PA. Please keep our sisters and brothers in your prayers as they begin their Year of Formation.

Immaculate Conception OSSM Community will be reactivated, after two years of being deactivated due to lack of members. Besides the 19 candidates that were admitted in the Year of Formation, there are two Secular Servites who will also participate in the formation sessions so that they can renew their Promise. Your prayers and encouragement for this OSSM community are greatly appreciated.



UNIFAS is Coming, UNIFAS is Coming!

**Deacon Jack Rhine, OSSM
UNIFAS-USA Secretary**

We are excited! The UNIFAS-USA Congress of 2012 is coming together. It will be held at the San Pedro Center near Orlando, Florida, October 26 -28. Check in time is 4:00pm on Friday the 26th and the congress will conclude with Mass at about nNoon on the 28th. For those with flight schedules requiring that they arrive on Thursday, 25th, a suitable place to stay is at the [Airport West La Quinta Inn](#).

The phone number for the hotel is 407-857-9215. La Quinta offers a shuttle between the airport and the hotel. Attendees who stay at the La Quinta and have requested round-trip airport transportation when they register, will be picked up at the La Quinta on the 26th and brought to the San Pedro Center.

UNIFAS is a wonderful opportunity to truly experience the entire Servite family. Besides Secular Order members, you will get to know friars, sisters from the three Servite congregations in the US, Servite Associates, Servite CoJourners and others. This makes the UNIFAS-USA Congress different from a Secular Order National Conference. Secular Servites attending previous UNIFAS Congresses have expressed the joy of being with the entire Servite family.

The theme of the congress is One Journey: Pilgrims Joining Pilgrims. We are all on a life journey and during our journey; others join us and walk with us for a time. The three keynote presentations and roundtable discussion will approach the topic from a theological, historical and real-life point of view.

The first two presentations are theological and will be given by Servite friars: *Mary's Second Sorrow: The Need to Welcome the Stranger* by Fr. Bob Warsey, OSM; and *Walking With Our Servite Ancestors: St. Peregrine Joins the Pilgrim Way*, by Fr. Chris Krymski, OSM. The third presentation, *Return Path to Nowhere: Historical Patterns in the American Immigration Debate*, is by Dr. Heather Fryer, assistant professor at Creighton University, Omaha, NE. The roundtable discussion will be led by a group of young people who were involuntary pilgrims when they were brought to the United States as young children who know only American culture but are in

immigration limbo. For the first time in UNIFAS-USA history, the talks above will also be offered in Spanish or a Spanish translation will be provided.

Another difference between the UNIFAS-USA Congress and the Secular Servite National Conference is the Saturday night celebration. Instead of a fiesta at the retreat center, the celebration moves to area attractions. This year there are two choices. One, a tour of the Lakeside Winery that includes tasting followed by dinner at the Mission Inn Prime Rib and Seafood buffet. The second choice is a trip to Park Avenue in Winter Park where you can stroll, the avenue, visit shops and boutiques and enjoy a fine dinner at Pannulo's restaurant.

If you have not received your brochure and registration form, contact your prior or prioress.



Doing Good for the Price of a Chocolate Bar

Mary Ann Andersen, OSSM

“It has to be easy, measurable, and capture the imagination,” David and I agreed with a seriousness that reflected the task at hand. Together we quickly began to draft a Mission Statement emanating from the workshops we attended during the Servite Secular Order National Conference, held in Florida, last October. We were challenged to bring home to our Servite brothers and sisters something of value concerning our Care of Creation, the theme of the Conference.

Ultimately, we agreed on three mission statements, the second of which was: “to explore the establishment of a Fair Trade Program...” While on face, this appeared to be a big undertaking, the fact that David knew a Chicago area parish that already administered a successful program, gave us the confidence to move forward.

Why a Fair Trade Program? Frankly, we were justifiably horrified to learn about the deplorable conditions and child labor involved in the production of some of our easily taken for granted products, like chocolate and coffee. And, we were pleased to learn that by partnering with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the international humanitarian agency of the US Catholic community, we could promote economic justice for artisans, farmers and workers living in poverty overseas. Thus, began our internal community dialogue, which led to opening shop in the church hall of

Chicago’s Assumption Church, on Illinois Street, the first Sunday of each month, offering for sale coffee, chocolate, cashews, soup mixes, dates, jam, olive oil and tea. This humble effort is a tiny piece in a much larger picture, which in fact is a partnership between producers and consumers that (1) aims to eliminate relationships that are considered to be exploitative, (2) ensures farmers and artisans receive fair prices for their goods, (3) supports sustainable production methods.

When speaking about the CRS fair-trade program last year, Jackie DeCarol, a senior program advisor, told CNS, “The Gospel call focuses on trying to reach out to our brothers and sisters. We are called to remember those folks who are suffering and struggling to fulfill their human potential. This

is a way to live faith and do it in a personal way. It’s very tangible.” We couldn’t agree more. Since we are offering our parishioners products they can feel good about purchasing, the attainment of our mission statement is a win-win for everyone.

For information about the Fair Trade Program, sponsored by St Mary, Source of Our Joy Secular Servite Community, Assumption Church, Illinois Street, Chicago, email David Iaccino at dgi60465@gmail.com



Mother of Divine Mercy Community West Palm Beach, FL

*Gloria Stewart, OSSM,
Prioress*

Mother of Divine Mercy Community took part in the Annual Diocesan Rosary Festival, Diocese of Palm Beach, FL, on May 6, 2012. We were too busy during the procession to take pictures, but I took these photos afterward. The Secular Servites carried, in the procession, the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows as well as helping me carry the statue of Our Lady of Kibeho. For some of the members of our OSSM community, this was the first exposure to the Annual Diocesan Rosary Festival and all enjoyed the experience which included the procession of various images, the recitation of the Rosary, singing, Benediction, sharing of ethnic foods and dancing.

