



SERVITE SECULAR ORDER NATIONAL COUNCIL

There are six members on the National Council. Two of the members are appointed by the Prior Provincial of the Friar Servants of Mary and four of the members are elected by the Secular Servites at the National Conference. Fr. Vidal Martínez, OSM is the National Assistant of the Secular Order. Fr. Robert Warsey, OSM has been appointed by the Prior Provincial as the second Servite Friar on the National Council. At the Second National Council in October, 2004, four Secular Servites were elected by the participants to represent them on the National Council. They are: Virginia Gaspar, Kathy Spacone, Bob Ornberg, Bob Kozlowski. They are elected for a term of three years, which is when the next National Conference will take place: 2007.

Recently, the National Councilors have each been assigned as responsible for one of the four regions into which the various Secular Order communities have been divided. The Northeast Region includes the Secular Order communities in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. The Southeast Region includes the Secular Order communities in Louisiana, Florida, and Alabama. The Midwest Region includes the Secular Order communities in Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Ohio. The Southwest, West, Northwest Region includes the Secular Order communities in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Oregon, Utah, and California.

Bob Ornberg has been assigned as the Northeast Regional Councilor; Virginia Gaspar as the Southeast Regional Councilor; Bob Kozlowski as the Midwest Regional Councilor; Kathy Spacone as the Southwest/West/Northwest Regional Councilor. Each of the regional councilors will be contacting the Prior or Prioress of each community. We encourage the local communities to feel free to contact their regional council with any concern they may have. The National Council meets three times a year to discuss the issues and concerns that may arise.

Meet Your Regional Councilor

Bob Kozlowski: Midwest Regional Councilor

I grew up on the south side of Chicago and attended St. Columba School and St. Frances de Sales High School. I remember a couple of lessons from my grade school years: 1) God has a calling for us and if we do not follow it, He will make us unhappy for the rest of our lives, and 2) if we listen at Mass there is always a message for us. The first lesson really tested me when my 6th grade teacher, my principal, and my pastor all thought I had a calling to the priesthood. I was not as enthusiastic as they were but certainly did not want God to make me unhappy for the rest



Virginia Gaspar and members of the St. Anthony Pucci Community, New Orleans, LA

of my life. I prayed to God for most of my 7th and 8th grade years for him not to make me be a priest.

My prayers were answered and I learned that God will speak to us directly if we choose to listen. Over the years, I've learned a new interpretation to the "calling" lesson I was taught in those early years of school. First, a calling isn't a "one time" deal. We are being called to many things throughout our lives. Second, a calling is not a unilateral decision by God for our lives. The calling exists within us only sometimes God knows it is there when we don't. The threatened "unhappiness" isn't a punishment from God but our own dissatisfaction for not being true to who we are.

I have consistently used the second lesson about listening in Mass throughout my life and have always found it to be true. I have consistently used the second lesson about listening in mass throughout my life and have always found it to be true. I have solved many problems, have been comforted, and have changed many a foul mood just by being open to what I hear at Mass. The key is in having faith that something will happen and in being open to the message.

I moved to St. Louis in 1983 to attend pharmacy school. I met my wife, Jean, at pharmacy school. My wife and I have four children, Margaret (15), Adam (12), Simon (5), and Andrew (2). I am currently employed as the Director of Pharmacy at Metropolitan St. Louis Psychiatric Center. I've been in and out of management positions for the past 12 years. I really do not like managing so to speak, but it does allow me more freedom to create my work environment. I really love the people I work with and I believe we provide a great service to our hospitals and the mentally ill people we serve. I believe we accomplish this through respect for each other and for what we do. We also come from varied religious backgrounds but are not afraid to share our faith with each other. It is a great illustration of how a diverse group can come together with mutual respect to enrich each others lives and the lives of others.

In the year 2000, I entered the formation group of the Secular Order of the Servants of Mary at Seven Holy Founders. I have found my experience in the Secular Order to be a natural extension of whom I am and a great foundation for who I'd like to be. The Rule of Life was easy for me to accept although not always easy to practice. One of the greatest things the Secular Order has given me is the courage to talk about my faith. It is a great way to grow spiritually when you can share with others. I find some of my beliefs reinforced and others changed. I do not always agree with others but I have learned to respect their beliefs.

Bob Ornberg: Northeast Regional Councilor

I was born in Chicago, Illinois. We moved to the suburbs after World War II. I was baptized at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Des Plaines, IL. In high school, I excelled in sports and lunch! I graduated in 1957. After high school, I completed one year at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN. I married my high school sweetheart, Mary Blase, at St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church, Park Ridge, IL in 1958. We have 5 grown children and 10 grandchildren, all of whom are Catholic. I was a Police Officer with the City of Des Plaines, IL for some 21 years and retired as Patrol Sergeant in 1981. We moved to Hayward, WI in 1981 and built a log home on an area lake. I was a member of the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department for some 15 years, retiring in 1997 as Jail Administrator. I attended the Protestant Church off and on, with no prayer life for most of my life. I experienced a profound



Bob Kozlowski and Family



Bob and Mary Ornberg, daughter Julie and her husband Kevin and children Cameron, Anna, and Bryce

conversion experience in 1997 for which I will be forever grateful. I received my First Holy Communion at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Hayward on December 23, 1997. I am active in my local Parish. I made my Promise as a Secular Servite in May, 2001. I enjoy being with our family, digital photography, fishing, golf (I try!), studying Church history.

**Ladysmith, Wisconsin
St. Juliana Community
Bob Ornberg, National Council
Mary Ornberg, Prioress**



Secular Servites in the Jarales Chapel



Stations of the Cross, San Luis, NM



Combined meeting of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Belen Communities

In mid-September, my wife, Mary, and I had the opportunity to visit the Southwest, primarily New Mexico. The initial purpose was to visit two Secular Servite communities near Albuquerque. We extended our stay to include a visit with a family in nearby El Paso and to do some sightseeing. On our day with the Secular Servites we were warmly received and began with Mass at Our Lady of Belen Church in Belen, NM, followed by attending a combined monthly meeting of Our Lady of Belen Community and Our Lady of Sorrows Community of Peralta, NM. Included was the rosary with the addition of some live music which made it extra special. Afterwards, we joined with them in fellowship and a good meal. There was some interest in making cord rosaries, and we'll provide some instruction for that purpose. Our thanks go to Sue Cordova, Prioress, and Rebecca Cordova, Prioress, and all the Secular Servite community members for receiving us in true Servite tradition.

Everyone we encountered that week was very friendly and helpful. New Mexico is quite different from what we are used to in northern Wisconsin . . . big mountains, what seems like endless desert terrain with unusual plant life, lizards, scorpions and other creepy crawlers, quite hot at times with low humidity, many adobe dwellings, and lots of Spanish speaking people and good Mexican food. We learned that ranches down here require at least 40 acres of grazing area for each head of cattle. There is a beauty here that one can appreciate, looking across 50 or 60 miles of rangeland with little dots of cattle here and there and an occasional antelope, different colored soils, the many examples of Spanish architecture, and, of course, the vast and intriguing Carlsbad Caverns 750 feet below the surface.

There is also much history here; we attended the New Mexico State Fair in Albuquerque and particularly enjoyed seeing the local artwork. There are many old and beautiful churches, and devotion to the Blessed Mother is obvious throughout the state. One such church was *El Santuario of Chimayo*, at which many healings have been reported. In 1813 they began building the church, and we were told that each year 300,000 people visit Chimayo, including 25,000 on Good Friday. We noticed a rack full of crutches left behind by pilgrims.

We did drive into southern Colorado to the town of San Luis in the lush San Luis Valley surrounded by beautiful mountains. A community of about 700, San Luis was officially founded on April 9, 1851, with a settlement of fifty families. It is considered the oldest surviving in that state. Our reason for visiting was to make the Stations of the Cross up a winding trail on a plateau-like hill with a beautiful chapel at the top overlooking the town. Each station has beautifully sculptured figures done by a local sculptor well known throughout the country. We decided to make a DVD disk of the Stations of the Cross using digital photos taken at each Station as we made the climb. Included on the disk is an introduction of photos of the San Luis area

(musical background), the 15 Stations (silent background), and closing of photos of some of God's handiwork (musical background). With the DVD will be a prayer booklet of the 15 Stations. If you would like to have a copy, please contact us at 715-634-2810 or email bobbyo@charter.net

7 Key Elements of Lay Spirituality

by Mark Quinn (Source unknown)

Is there a distinctive spirituality for Christian lay people today? If spirituality means, as I think it does, an ultimate relationship with God, then there can be only one spirituality. Since there is only one God, there can be only one true spiritual union. Nevertheless, there are as many ways of living out this one spirituality as there are Christians.

1. First and most important is prayer. Anyone serious about modeling life according to God's plan, must pray frequently....

Prayer is talking over my life with God. The goal of all true prayer is to look at life with the eyes of God. Prayer attempts to make me patient with myself, compassionate toward others and peaceful most of all. How can I tell if I am really praying or just mouthing words? If I am at least somewhat calmer and more joyful afterward, then I have been praying.

Ten or fifteen minutes a day reading the Bible or just sitting quiet, with a willingness to listen to God's silence, is not impossible.

2. The second important aspect is intimacy. Intimacy means more than proximity; it means sharing the depths of self with another. To be intimate is to be completely honest about myself....

Encouragement is another facet of intimacy. Where family members thank each other...pay each other sincere compliments...and resist the many opportunities to be critical of each other, there is a loving household. Sin, as well as charity begins at home. Supporting one another, and above all, listening to one another, can insure it is charity and not antagonism based on defensiveness, that arises from family intimacy.

3. A third characteristic of Christian spirituality is forgiveness....Forgiveness is not exclusively other-centered. Very often the hardest person to forgive is myself. There are only two practical methods for getting over my own blunders: forgetting and forgiving. Forgetting means mentally shoveling dirt on the painful incident so it can no longer haunt my self-image. Unfortunately, this method often verges on repression.

A better method is forgiving. This means looking directly at the harm I've done and praying about it until I can see it as humbling me down from my pinnacle of self-importance so that God can fill me with His own selfless love. In this way, the more I am forgiven, the more of God's love there is in me.



October 22, 2005 Lay Mass in Thanksgiving for Secular Orders, Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica



Annunciata Community with Bishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller at October 22 Mass

4. The fourth aspect of spirituality is work. For work to be truly Christian, the worker must be creative. One must try to bring order out of chaos...The creative worker is goal-oriented; not haphazard, sets aside time to think about the implications of one's work.

5. A fifth aspect of spirituality is hospitality. Hospitality is an attitude of attentiveness that makes the one encountered feel valued. By spending time with someone, listening to him, I affirm that he is more than an object. I make him feel as a cherished member of the human community, instead of an intruder.

6. The sixth aspect of spirituality is networking, or forming associations in order to meet human needs. So long as the project is pursued prayerfully, enthusiastically and with tolerance for the truth of opposing viewpoints, it fulfills the second Christian commandment: love your neighbor as yourself.

Networking counteracts the tendency to narcissism so prevalent in our society, by focusing attention away from self to the urgent needs of others . . .

7. The seventh and last aspect of spirituality is play. Play is the imaginative construction of one segment of reality. Play is much more than diversion or exercise. It is creativity in preliminary form, the fore-runner of authentic change.

Play is creative time-wasting. It relativizes the tyranny of time and the dictatorship of duty. It introduces joy into the seriousness of reality. Play is important for the Christian because it requires a certain distancing from all that is usually considered important.



Newly promised members of the Assumption Community, Denver, CO

FRIDAY: A DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

The Secular Servites are invited to respond to Jesus' command: "Pray to the master of the harvest to send out workers for the harvest" (Mt. 9:38) and to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, especially for the Order of Servants of Mary. It is our hope that this time of prayer will also encourage each of us to take seriously our vocation as members of the Body of Christ and encourage all of us to pray for the gift of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We believe that the Spirit is calling men and women for our faith community to these roles of service. May our prayer help inspire young women and men to be attentive to the movement of the Spirit within them and to step forward in faith and with generous hearts to go wherever the Spirit leads them. Through our prayer, may we help raise awareness of the need for vocations among the Catholic faithful.

We encourage each Secular Servite to make the personal commitment to pray for this special intention each Friday. We suggest that Secular Servites pray the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows (the Servite Rosary) or the Novena of Our Sorrowful Mother (the Via Matris) for this particular intention: for vocations to the Servite Order. Both of these prayers can be found in the Prayer Book of the Servite Secular Order. There is also a Prayer for Vocations in the Prayer Book that Secular Servites can pray. Let us join together and pray to the Master of the harvest. Lord, hear our prayer!

THE VOCATION CROSS: Each Secular Order community in the United States will receive a simple wooden cross to be distributed among its members as a further reminder and encouragement to pray for vocations. The Vocation Cross is to be taken home each month by a different member of the community with the commitment to pray during the month for vocations as well as to give thanks to God for all Servants of Mary: priests, nuns, brothers, sisters, and Secular Servites. Each community is to determine the process they will use to distribute the Vocation Cross from member to member each month.

Fullerton, California Salve Regina Community

The new Salve Regina Community promised twelve candidates on August 21, 2005. This solemn event took place on St. Philip Benizi's Feast Day at St. Philip Benizi Church in Fullerton, California.

The ceremony took place at the 8:30 AM Mass on that Sunday so that parishioners could participate in the happy day for the new Secular Order candidates being promised. Concelebrating the Mass was Fr. David Gallegos, OSM, Fr. Gerald Horan, OSM, and Fr.

George Luznicky, OSM. Also officiating were Bro. Arnaldo Sanchez, OSM and Bro. Joel Lechner, OSM.

Newly promised of the Salve Regina Community are: Aliene Aaron, Connie Brinker, Michael Childress, Adrian Dickey, Ray Dickey, Grace E. Krajacic, Inez Meadowcraft, Dave Moynahan, Kay Moynahan, Mona Shick, W. Joseph Simmons, and Margaret Zavala.

The Salve Regina Community, SOSM wish to particularly thank Fr. Pergrine M. Graffius, OSM, who died on December 3, 2004, and began teaching these fledglings the Servite Rule of Life, Fr. Vidal Martinez who lovingly took over for him until Brother Arnaldo Sanchez lead us to complete our year of study. Bro. Arnaldo, thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule of Directorship of Religious Education and the two parishes you supervise in Chicago and coming to Fullerton to be with us! Thanks to Fr. Gallegos, our Pastor and Facilitator, to Fr. Gerald Horan, Fr. George Luznicky, and Bro. Joel Lechner, and all the family, friends, and parishioners who helped us celebrate and made this such a beautiful and happy day for us.

Kissimmee, Florida

St. Peregrine Community

Sandra Blasini

The Secular Servites, St. Peregrine Community, Kissimmee, FL, helped to coordinate a Social Security Seminar for the benefit of the "Golden Age" generation of St. Catherine of Siena Parish. Nede Mansour, from the Office of Social Security, jovially greeted the parishioners as the Secular Servites of the St. Peregrine Community shared the bread with their guests. The new program offered under Medicare will provide coverage for prescription medication. This program will be in effect January 1st, 2006.

Our animated speaker provided additional information regarding the procedures for those who currently have Medicaid coverage for medical prescription in addition to Medicare or Medicare plus supplementary health insurance. There was ample opportunity for questions and answers. Mrs. Mansour eloquently addressed questions posed by English speakers as well as Spanish speakers. The audience became actively engaged in a questions and answers session in which the speaker recognized the importance of the participation of not only the elderly, but also the physically challenged as well as the visually impaired that were present. There were some in attendance who represented their family members who were unable to attend.

It was both a privilege and a blessing to live this testimony of service to our "Golden Age" members. Thank you Jesus for the opportunity to serve and for our Holy Mother's guidance to organize! We are grateful to our Servite brothers and sisters who helped us coordinate the event along with Deacon Juan Vargas, our parish's Social Needs Director.

Ladysmith, WI

St. Juliana Community

Sr. Marguerite Samz, O.S.M.

Members of the St. Juliana Community in Ladysmith, Wisconsin, were gifted with the presence of Fr. Conrad Borntrager, O.S.M., at their meeting on August 10, 2005.

In a presentation, Fr. Conrad gave an overview of the historical development of the Order of Servants of Mary over the centuries. He gave the history of the spread of the Order of Friars throughout the world, the number of friar members, and explained major historical events that affected the growth of the Order and the termination of communities in some areas.

Fr. Conrad then talked about the development of Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He noted that the particular devotion stressed and meaningful for people in a given historical period was influenced by happenings within a current culture and within the Church at that particular time.



Newly elected officers of the St. Juliana Community,
Ladysmith, WI

Through these presentations, SOSM members gained new insights and an appreciation for their role within the Order and its importance in the Church and the world today.

The meeting concluded in the chapel with the prayer, the Vigil of Our Lady, from the SOSM Prayer Book.

A social followed in the Servants of Mary dining room with time to visit with Fr. Conrad.

On Thursday, August 11, Fr. Conrad met with members of the St. Peregrine Community in Rice Lake, WI to share the historical presentation.

We are grateful to Fr. Conrad for spending this time with us to share his historical knowledge and his enthusiasm for the Servants of Mary.



Fr. Conrad being introduced prior to his presentation

Coming Servite Feasts

Jan 12- St. Anthony Pucci

Jan 15 - Bl. James, Defender of the Poor

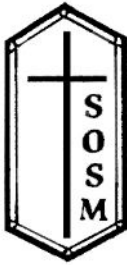
Feb 3 - Bl. Joachim of Siena

Feb 17 - SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS

Feb 19 - Bl. Elizabeth Picenardi

Order of Friar Servants of Mary
3121 W Jackson Blvd
Chicago IL 60612-2729

www.servite.org
www.servidimaria.org



Secular Servite News is published by the Office of the National Assistant to the Servite Secular Order

Kindly address all correspondence to:

Fr. Vidal Martinez, O.S.M.
3121 W Jackson Blvd
Chicago IL 60612-2729
osmsecular@aol.com

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