



Photo courtesy: Janet Gardner

Volume 3 ~ Issue 4 ; March 1-14, 2018

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On Sunday, February 25, at the 9:30 a.m. Mass, the Parish of Sts. Simon & Jude, Huntington Beach, California held its first Family Focused Mass where the children were invited on the altar for an interactive homily with the pastor, **Friar Daniel Barica**. To listen to Daniel's homily click on the following link: <https://www.ssj.org/liturgy-sacrame.../liturgy/homily-archives>.



Entry, San Luis Rey Parish, Oceanside, CA

LENT 2018
Some Resources for Friars

As Henri Nouwen once observed, "Lent is a time of returning to God. It is a time to confess how we keep looking for joy, peace and satisfaction in the many people and things surrounding us, without really finding what we desire. Lent is a time of refocusing, of re-entering the place of truth, of reclaiming our true identity as beloved sons and daughters of God." Here are a few resources which may help to enrich your experience of the beauty and joy of the Lenten season. If you have additional references, feel free to send them to me at ofm.fyi@gmail.com – ct



Ash Wednesday, Parkland, Florida

FROM POPE FRANCIS:
What Should I do for Lent?

*Selected from Around the Province (ATP), newsletter of Sacred Heart Province, **Friar Pepe***



Every year Catholics try to answer the age-old question: What should I do for Lent? Well, who better to pick for as your Lenten spiritual director than Pope Francis? He has some great ideas for you! □

1. Get rid of the lazy addiction to evil

“[Lent] is a ‘powerful’ season, a turning point that can foster change and conversion in each of us. We all need to improve, to change for the better. Lent helps us and thus we leave behind old habits and the lazy addiction to the evil that deceives and ensnares us.”

2. Do something that hurts

“Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt.”

3. Don’t remain indifferent

“Indifference to our neighbor and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year, during Lent, we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience. God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation.”

4. Pray: Make our hearts like yours!

“During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: ‘Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum’: *Make our hearts like yours* (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference.”

5. Take part in the sacraments

“Lent is a favorable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ.”

6. Prayer

“In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could harden our hearts, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of God’s boundless love, to taste his tenderness. Lent is a time of prayer, of more intense prayer, more prolonged, more assiduous, more able to take on the needs of the brethren; intercessory prayer, to intercede before God for the many situations of poverty and suffering.”

For the full list all 10 tips for Lent from Pope Francis, see: <https://focusoncampus.org/content/what-should-i-do-for-lent-pope-francis-10-tips> For more comments and reflections from Pope Francis, see **Zenit: The World Seen From Rome**. Daily reports from the Vatican and around the world, featuring the homilies and addresses of Pope Francis. <https://zenit.org>

• From Provincial Minister David Gaa

“Dear Brothers, May the Lord give you peace. I hope you can take a few minutes to watch the short Lenten video message, only 3:18 minutes, in the hope that you will watch it. I wish you a blessed Lenten season.”

—Fraternally, David



2018 Creation Care Lenten Calendar
New Mexico Conference United Methodist Women

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This Creation Care Lenten Calendar has been designed as a Lenten practice to help us all become more aware how the daily choices we make about how we live our lives impact people both locally and around the world.</p> <p>You are invited to consider ways you and your family might be more faithful in becoming better stewards of God's creation. As you read and act on the suggestions in this Calendar, do so with a prayer.</p>						
February 18	February 19	February 20	February 21	February 22	February 23	February 24
Put out some bird food. Birds will almost certainly find it wherever the location. Enjoy the gift of these and other creatures on God's Earth.	Turn your air conditioner thermostat up by one degree during the warmer months and your central heating thermostat down by one degree or more during the cooler months. Replacing a dirty filter can save 15% of the energy used.	Check that all electrical equipment is switched off rather than on standby when not in use. Use a power strip to turn off computers, TVs and other electronic equipment at the end of the day. Screen savers do not save electricity.	Give thanks for all the people who harvest the fields, mill the flour and bake the bread you consume. Utilize local shops or farmers' markets and purchase products which have traveled the shortest distance.	Find ways to save paper. For example, set your computer printer to print on both sides. Save paper printed on one side and feed it back in to print on the second side.	Purchase permanent cloth or canvas bags and use them for your future grocery shopping. Save plastic bags and donate them to a local animal shelter for re-use, or recycle them at grocery stores.	Refresh your memory regarding which items your city/county allows for curbside recycling. Start adding items to your bin that you normally haven't recycled.

- **From Franciscans for Justice**
Members of the New Mexico Conference of Methodist Women have created a [Lenten calendar of spiritual practice](#) to care for creation. Any faith community or individual is welcome to use it as is or change to fit their needs. Click the link above to access PDF.

This Creation Care Lenten Calendar has been designed as a Lenten practice to help us all become more aware how the daily choices we make about how we live our lives impact people both locally

and around the world. You are invited to consider ways you might be more faithful in becoming better stewards of God's creation. As you read and act on the suggestions in this Calendar, do so with a prayer." FFJ is a joint project of the St. Barbara and Our Lady of Guadalupe provinces. **Friar Mark Schroeder** is Director. The home page for FFJ is: <http://www.franciscansforjustice.org>

- **From the Network Catholic Lobby for Social Justice**

These are the Catholic religious sisters of "nuns on the bus" fame. Here you can subscribe to their Lenten series of reflections: <https://networklobby.org/lent-sign-up>

- **From Bishop Robert Barron:**

[The Word: Scripture Reflections](#)

Throughout Lent, this site will supplement its weekly Scripture reflection podcast with daily reflections from scriptural scholar Elizabeth Kirkland Cahill. Each reflection will focus on the Psalm from that day's Mass. These five-minute audio reflections will include questions to help guide your personal prayer. Subscribe to "The Word" today and add these reflections to your daily Lenten routine.



- **And finally. . . A few words from Provincial Minister Robert Campagna of the Immaculate Conception Province.**

From a letter to the friars of IC Province:

Dear Brothers, All we have to do is look at the daily newspapers, or watch the cable news networks to realize how much our nation and our world are in need of God's saving help. The rash of school shootings that we've seen in our country, or the continual news of government scandals, or the influence of foreign countries in our electoral process show in a very clear fashion why we, as Catholics and Franciscans, are called to bring about a change of heart- not only for ourselves but for others. Our world and our society are sorely in need of God's saving



grace. We know that the process of conversion is slow and often very difficult. We rarely do well with even the most superficial of changes. The slightest change in our lives often takes weeks to get used to. Imagine the impact of a "change of heart," when we are called to make changes to the very depth of our soul.

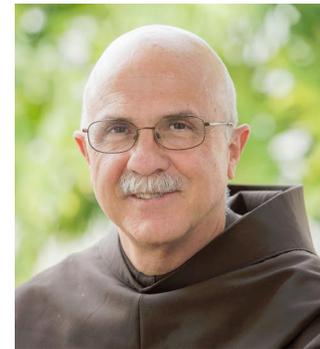
Sin can become so embedded in our lives that it can easily become an addictive habit. Our desires often become needs, and our needs become so much a part of our daily lives that we cannot live without them. This, of course, flies in the face of our vows, especially the vow of poverty.

Lent affords us the opportunity to take steps toward God and away from our own selfish desires. We are not so naïve as to think that these changes will happen quickly or automatically.

Each change of heart will be a struggle and a sacrifice. But each day, each hour, each minute of Lent should be an opportunity for us to grow closer and closer to God- and away from all those things in our lives which are contrary to the Gospel and which separate us from the Lord. We should all hope that, on Easter morning, we can look at ourselves in the mirror and say that we are holier and closer to God than we were on Ash Wednesday. And it is important that Easter not be the time for us to abandon our efforts, but to continue to grow closer to God every day of our lives."

25TH JUBILEE CELEBRATION FOR FRIAR TOMMY KING

Tommy writes: "Indeed my 25th celebration was wonderful. As you can see in the attached photos, about 17 friars attended. With family, friars and friends, about 100 people attended the Mass of Thanksgiving in the beautiful new Conventual Church of Our Lady of the Angels at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale. Marge and Walt Gipson, my sister and brother in law, hosted a wonderful party afterwards at their house in North Phoenix.



We gathered for Mass at 2:00 PM on Saturday, February 3. I presided with **Friars John Hardin** and **Tom West** –close friends and novitiate classmates– concelebrated. Norbert Zwickl provided glorious liturgical music. As I reflect on 25 years of Franciscan priesthood, it seems to me that working in cultures that are not my own and in a language that is not my first language helps to keep me humble. And humility is such a very important value in our Franciscan life."

All photos below courtesy of Friar Dick Tandy.



Friars at the 25th

Front row (l to r): Friars Michael Weldon, Peter Boegel, Hajime Okuhara, David Paz, Vicar-Provincial Martín Ibarra, Ignatius DeGroot, Tommy King (presider), former Provincial Minister John Hardin, Ed Shea (SH), Oscar Mendez, Bob Valentine.

Back row: Bill Minkel, David Buer, Garrett Galvin, Richard McManus, Tom West, Joe Schwab, Bob Brady.



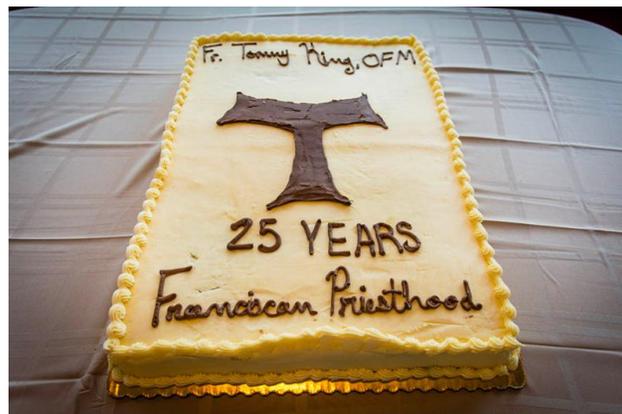
Tommy and family



Friar Luis Baldonado



Gifts on the altar



Members representing some 25 fraternities comprising the St. Junípero Serra Regional Fraternity Conference of Provincial Assistants (northern California) met at San Damiano Retreat in Danville, California recently (February 23-25) for their Regional Deliberative Chapter. Present for the event from our Province were **Friars Bob Brady, Mark Schroeder, and Richard McManus. Friar Alexander (Alex) Escalera, OFM.Cap.,** who serves as a Spiritual Assistant to fraternities on the regional, provincial, and national levels, was also present.



At right: Friar Bob Brady and Joanna Dobrynski OSF.



Much of the business of the meeting was about— business. Spiritual Assistants and members gathered to discuss the fraternal, financial, and administrative concerns of the region and its constituent fraternities. The liturgical highlight of the weekend was the closing Mass, at which Richard presided, which featured the certification of Francisco Ahn, OFS, as a new Spiritual Assistant.

At left: Friar Richard McManus



(l to r) OFS members Rose Mullinix, Anne Twitchell, Friar Alexander Escalera OFM. Cap., Mary Carson, Friar Bob Brady, and Michael Song.

(l to r) OFS members Larry Levin, Rose Mollinix, Friar Mark Schroeder, and Mary Carson.



From the Office of Communications...



A BIRD'S EYE VIEW: Communications Summit February 8, 2018

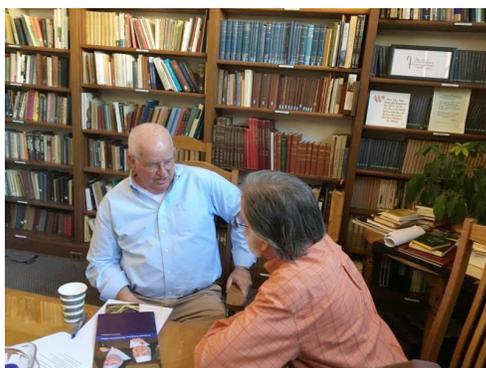
Representatives of various provincial entities dealing with shared communications needs—the Provincial office, Office of Communications, Vocations, JPIC, and Outreach/Development met for a full-day session at St. Elizabeth Friary, Oakland, on Thursday, February 8.



Provincial Minister David Gaa

opened the meeting by reminding the dozen participants present that “seamless communications does not happen without cooperation and hard work.” He recounted from his own experience how provincial communication, both internal and external, has morphed within just a very few years from the relatively restricted realm of Definitorium reports and *WestFriars* into a sophisticated, multi-faceted process and organization. “Friars used to complain that they never got enough information from the Province. Now, they come to tell me that they are overwhelmed by the amount of information they are receiving on a daily basis,” David quipped.

Above right: A bird's eye view of the Communications Summit. (Clockwise, starting from head of the table) Provincial Minister David Gaa, Stan Raggio, Mark Schroeder, empty chair of Charles Talley, Eric Pilarcik, Lara Hansen, Sam Nasada, Kevin Murray, Tamara Johnston, Zeno Im, and Oscar Mendez.



Within the space of little more than 18 months, Province-wide communications efforts have resulted in the publication of the biweekly *OFM.FYI* newsletter, revival of *The Way* magazine, the continuation of *WestFriars* under the direction of **Friar Warren Rouse**, design of new province website (www.sbfranciscans.org), and more recently, the development of social media involvement through Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube—not to mention as well periodic email blasts and even video clips. On the national level, the development of the www.usfranciscans.org website has been vital to the current R + R (Restructuring + Revitalization) process.

Above left: PM David Gaa and Mark Schroeder

Early on, David stressed the importance of building unity and resisting the development of “silos” – by which individuals and entities are prone to gather and shelter resources without communicating or collaborating with others.

Those present took turns reporting on the activities of their own areas—developments, accomplishments, and ongoing needs. They also addressed the ongoing challenge of communicating and collaborating among themselves and with colleagues across the Province and the country. Throughout the meeting, participants spoke of ways in which we all could share and, where possible, “re-purpose” information and resources both to amplify our messaging and to cut expenses. Future efforts include the possible development of a video history of the Province involving interviews with senior friars; the offering of workshops to help friars and those involved in communications to develop social media skills; and, the continuation of our commitment to sharing resources and information wherever possible. The next meeting of communicators will take place in September, 2018.



*Above right: (l to r) Friar Eric Pilarcik, Lara Hansen, Friar Sam Nasada, Kevin Murray, and Tamara Johnston. All photos courtesy of **Friar Charles Talley***

A NUN AND A FRIAR WALKED INTO THE CAPITOL...

**Catholic Social Ministry Gathering
Washington, DC
February 3-6, 2018
By Friar Sam Nasada**

There's no joke here. On February 6, 2018, I went with Sister Leonette Kochan, a Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity and the Coordinator of Tucson Diocese's Office of Human Life and Dignity to visit all the Arizona legislators in United States Senate and House of Representatives in Washington D.C. This visit was part of the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG), an event sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).



The gathering started on February 3 at a hotel in D.C. I was able to obtain a scholarship from CSMG's Diversity Outreach Initiative, which paid for my hotel and the conference's registration fee. Our province's Office of Ongoing Formation contributed to my plane tickets. For three days, I attended workshops that broadened my knowledge on different social issues that the Church advocated for and made part of its ministry. We were also given some basic skills on how to “lobby” our representatives in Congress to prepare ourselves for our visit to the Capitol.

It was also an opportunity to network with other Catholics who were involved in different ministries and social organizations in the Church. I was mostly grateful for making new contacts with Patrick Carolan from Franciscan Action Network, Liz Hughes from Franciscan Mission Service, and **Friar Jacek Orzechowsky** (Holy Name Province), who is very involved with social activism in the D.C. area and is now working for Catholic Charities. The highlight for me was walking through the corridors of the Capitol office buildings with Sister Leonette. Here we were, two religious walking around in their habits among other lobbyists in their fancy business suits. I experienced the different atmospheres and receptions between different representatives' offices. We were only able to meet with their staff but they exemplified the positions that each member of Congress had. There were three issues that each state contingent was charged to bring into their state legislators' attention as priorities of the Bishops, on behalf of all U.S. Catholics:

- Preserve and strengthen poverty-reducing international assistance
- Preserve the social safety net

- Provide protection for “Dreamers”



I felt energized to be able to do something important together with a great group of Catholics who were equally passionate about social justice issues. It also felt great to be able to exercise my rights as a citizen of this country and experience first-hand the excitement of American democracy, especially since I only became a citizen two years ago! If you'd like to learn more about CSMG, go to: <http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/catholic-social-ministry-gathering/index.cfm>. Maybe we can get more Franciscan habits filling the corridors of U.S. Congress next year.

*Above photo: **Friars Jacek Orzechowsky** (left) and **Sam Nasada** (right) holding banner. Shown here with other CSMG participants after prayer service in front of the Capitol.*

Photo: courtesy Friar Jacek Orzechowsky

SIM: MISSIONARIES OF THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST

Formation Weekend

San Damiano Retreat, Danville, CA

February 16-18, 2018

Some 15 members of SIM, Secular Institute of Missionaries of the Kingship of Christ gathered for retreat and leadership meetings at San Damiano Retreat, February 16-18. **Friar Charles Talley** led the retreat portion —“The Solitude and Service of Francis and Clare”—for members currently in formation.

At right: Sue L. (l) and Doreen R. (r) receive two new aspirants.



Founded in Italy in 1919 by Servant of God Arminda Barelli and **Friar Augustine Gemelli** (of Gemelli Hospital fame), SIM was officially recognized as a Secular Institute by Pope Pius XII in 1947. On the 750th anniversary of the death of St. Francis, SIM was formally aggregated to the Order of Friars Minor.

Numbering upwards of 2,800 members worldwide, members of SIM are laywomen who “consecrate their lives totally to the service of God through the evangelical counsels in a secular vocation, without entering a religious institute.” They live on their own, “hidden in the world”— and are self-supporting through a profession or occupation. Since their purpose is to act as leaven in the world, they do not wear a specific habit or religious symbol indicating membership. The group has more than 50 members in the United States, including the 7 women presently in formation. **Friar Dominic Monti** of the Holy Name Province on the east coast serves as the Ecclesiastical Assistant of the US Zone and **Friar Charles Talley**

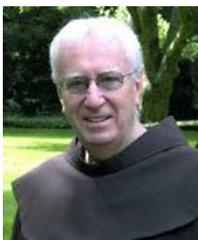


INTERPROVINCIAL RETREAT
Francis of Assisi and the Logic of the Gospel
St. Francis Friary, Burlington, Wisconsin
March 12-15, 2018



Friar Michael Blastic (Holy Name Province) is the scheduled presenter at the second interprovincial retreat offered this calendar year.

The event is slated for St. Francis Friary (former site of the interprovincial novitiate), Burlington, Wisconsin, March 12-15. The complete title of the retreat is "Francis of Assisi and the Logic of the Gospel: Relinquishment, Fraternal Life, and Misison." Michael is presently on the interprovincial novitiate team at Old Mission Santa Barbara, California. The event, sponsored by our confreres of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (ABVM) province, is free of charge to friars. Those who are also participating in the R + R interest groups are welcome to stay an extra night (meals included) in order to do their work. Deadline for receipt of registration is February 28. Download, complete and mail (snail mail!) the application form on the flyer. [Click here for the flyer.](#)



Saint Bonaventure's Journey into God
A Centennial Franciscan Retreat Experience
Mt. Alvernia Retreat House
Wappingers Falls, NY
Friar Andre Cirino, OFM and Josef Reisch, OFS
August 9-17, 2018

Within the present decade of this new millennium, the eighth centenary of the birth of one of the most distinguished friars of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition invite you to celebrate the eighth centenary of the birth of the Seraphic Doctor, St. Bonaventure, by attending a retreat on his masterpiece, *Itinerarium Mentis in Deum*, his *Journey into God*. (Pictured left: Fr. Andre Cirino)

The retreat opens with a presentation on the life of Bonaventure in order to provide a context for reflection on his work. Each of the eight days of the retreat is then dedicated to one of the chapters of *The Journey*. Each day is a balance of instruction on the text, periods for reading and personal and communal participation in Eucharist, morning and evening prayer. The liturgical and para-liturgical prayer is especially designed by the presenters to disclose the profound themes in a contemporary experience.

Each retreatant will need two book: *Journey into God (Raischl and Cirino)*; and

the songbook, *Love Holding Love*, both available from Tau Publishing, Phoenix, AZ.

**Thursday evening, August 9, 2018
to Friday August 17, 2018, after lunch.**

Fees (8 days, all options include 24 meals):

Single occupancy room - \$800.00

Double occupancy room, per person - \$700.00

Commuter - \$500.00

After March 1, 2018 :

Pay \$200.00 with registration, *non-refundable*.

Balance due by **July 23, 2018**

Initial registration payment applies to total.

Please send registration and check to :

Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center

P.O. Box 858

Wappinger Falls, N.Y. 12590.

***Trump's Wall Ignites Tensions in Arizona
Tohono O'odham Nation featured in
The Guardian Video***

In a recent (February 25, 2018) video clip, *The Guardian* reporter Paul Lewis interviewed Verlon Jose, vice-chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation concerning President Trump's controversial proposal to construct a wall along the US-Mexico

border. When asked about how he felt concerning the possibility of having such a structure separating both countries, Jose responded: "I would feel very sad. . . . I can't see my homeland no matter which side I stepped on. I couldn't see my family. . . . I could not reach out to my friends—bring your hand—to greet them, to feel them, to let them know that we're okay."

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2018/feb/26/this-country-has-been-violated-trumps-wall-ignites-tensions-in-arizona-video?CMP=share_btn_link



Update

Requiescant in Pace

Mary Catherine Tintle, the sister-in-law of **Fr. Ray Tintle, OFM**, died on Thursday, February 22, 2018 in Nipomo, California. She was 75 years old and surrounded by her family at the end.

Maximina Ortiz, the mother of **Fr. Emerito Gomez, OFM**, died on Wednesday February 21, 2018 in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico. She was 97 years old and her family was with her at the end.

Gustavo Vega, the brother of **Br. Victor Vega, OFM**, died on Monday, February 19, 2018 in Michoacan, Mexico. Mr.Vega was 45 years old.

Retired Deacon Bill Cobbett of Sts. Simon & Jude Parish, Huntington Beach, CA, passed away on Saturday, February 11, 2018. A Vigil was held on Monday, February 19, in the Church, with the funeral Mass on Tuesday, February 20.

Sr. Donna Johnson, OP, a Dominican Sister, died on Thursday, February 16, 2018. Sr. Donna taught at St Elizabeth's High School in Oakland from 1963 to 1965 and at St Elizabeth's Elementary School in the Vision of Hope Program from 2001 to 2016.

Matthew Thompson, the nephew of **Fr. Chris Mondor, OFM** died tragically on Saturday February 17, 2018. Please keep him and his family in your prayers in this time of loss.

† **Fred Schneider, OFM (94), SH**, died on February 17, 2018, at Saint Mary's Nursing Home in Manitowoc, WI. Fred was a friar for 75 years and a priest for 68

† **Robert Leonhardt, OFM (91), SH**, died on February 18, 2018, at Saint Mary's Nursing Home in Manitowoc, WI. Bob was a friar for 65 years and a priest for 58.

† **Richard Jeske, OFM (85) SH**, died on February 13, 2018, at Saint Mary's Nursing Home in Manitowoc, WI. Richard was a friar for 65 years and a priest for 59.

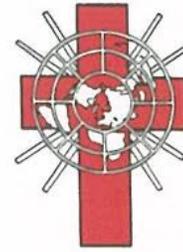
† **Albert McMahon, OFM (83), IC**, died on February 8, 2018, at Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY.

Natalie Liss, the mother of Friar Walter Liss, (HNP), a member of the Interprovincial Postulancy Team at Holy Name College in Silver Springs, Maryland, died Tuesday February 13, 2018, at home in Connecticut.

Opportunities

Please contact Joanne Romeo at jromeo@sbofm.org if you would be able to do any of these Mission Coop Assignments - Most dates are open - it's your choice!

St. Michael Church - Livermore, CA
St. Peter Martyr – Pittsburg, CA - July 14 & 15
St. Lukes – Woodburn, Oregon



CORRECTION

The correct address for the **Ite Nuntiate Friary** is
P.O. Box **54** ~ Elfrida, AZ 85601
Please change this on page 56 of your 2018 Provincial Directory

2017 Calendar

From Lara Hansen

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

Discernment Dinner in Los Angeles

March 15 - 18 ~ Anaheim Convention Center

Religious Education Congress

March 16-18 ~ Anaheim Convention Center

Discernment Dinner/Prayer/Discussion

April 13 ~ Assumption Friary, Boyle Heights, 5PM

Come and See Discernment Weekend Retreat

April 27-29 ~ Santa Barbara

Come and See Discernment Weekend Retreat

June 8-10 ~ St. Elizabeth, Oakland, Calif.

OFM.FYI, the bi-weekly newsletter of the Franciscan Friars Province of Saint Barbara, is published on the 1st and 15th of each month. Editor: Charles Talley ofm.

Relevant submissions of texts, photos, etc., are welcome at any time

and will be placed in the next appropriate issue.

Send submissions to: ofm.fyi@gmail.com

Visit our website