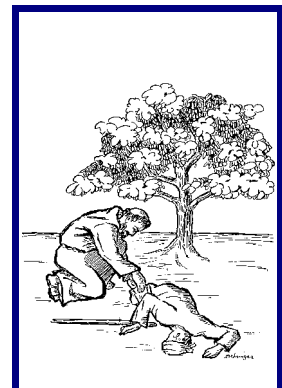


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FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF JESUS CRUCIFIED

December 2010 Vol. 25



WELCOME! We extend a warm Franciscan welcome to the newest participants in our Candidacy Program:

JASON HELIK from Point Pleasant Beach, NJ.

Those of you who were on our annual retreat, this past summer, will remember Jason. He graduated from the University of Scranton and completed an involved internship with the Advocacy Alliance for the rights and ways of the mentally ill. He

has a great zeal for the Word of God in scripture. And reflects often on the words of Bl. Theresa of Calcutta, "I am called not to be successful, but faithful." His address is: 605 Bay Ave. Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742 (732-295-9583) best time to call is 5:30 - 7:00 PM. (B'day March 13) E-mail: animalis1779@yahoo.com. Jason will be in the St. Clare Local Mission.



MARY JANE GROSS from Portland, ME.

Former Associate received approved for re-admission into our Candidacy Program. Her strong determination, patience and perseverance to live consecrated life as an FMJC never diminished over the years,

it has only been enhanced through her trials and sufferings, and we believe this is a sign of God's graces for a vocation. Address & Phone same.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR...
FMJC ANNUAL RETREAT
JUNE 5-11, 2011**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CONFERENCE CALLING

With our General Assemle scheduled for June 10, 2011, at the end of retreat, we need YOU to step up to the plate and try to find new ways of making communication accessible for those who are unable to go on retreat. Samuel Horton is still waiting for YOU to connect with him using *Skype-to-Skype video calls -it's FREE!* All you need is a computer.... Anyone willing and able to try it out for us please give Samuel a call.

Free Conference Calling for Friends & Family.

All agree on an access code (something you will remember) agree on a time to call in - dial 1-218-936-1200 (input access code #) your in! Charges are according to your individual phone plan. If you have free minutes after a certain hour, or on weekends and call during that time it's free. Try it, you'll like it!



Congratulations! Kathleen Kaney,
a proud new Grandmother of
Violet Eilleen Kaney.

May you share lots of hugs, kisses & giggles together.



**BIG THANKS TO
SONJA STEELE
& KATHLEEN KANEY
FOR COORDINATING OUR
COMMUNITY GATHERINGS THROUGH
CONFERENCE CALLING.**



A TIME SPENT TOGETHER BUILDING COMMUNITY, BY PRAYING TOGETHER, SHARING FAITH STORIES AND REFLECTING ON OUR VOCATION. AT OUR LAST GATHERING, BILL WATTS SHARED HIS FAITH STORY AND HOW HIS DISABILITY AFFECTED HIM, HIS FAMILY AND EVENTUALLY BROUGHT HIM TO HIS VOCATION IN FMJC. ON PRIOR GATHERINGS KATHLEEN KANEY AND LENA CELANO SHARED THEIR STORIES. WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR THIS UPLIFTING EXPERIENCE THE NEXT TIME WE COME TOGETHER.



JESUS IS COMING!

"Prepare the way of the Lord." (Mt 3:3)

This Advent Season I find myself reflecting, more than usual, on the fact that Jesus IS coming and that the time is nearer with every passing moment. Like most thoughts, at least for me, each one acts as a springboard taking me sometimes deeper, or to someplace else. Such was the case that brought me to reflect on our little community in relation to Jesus' coming.

Will we be ready? Are our lantern's lit? Have we invested wisely the gifts that God has given to us? Will we return to him as bronze, silver or gold? These are not questions that any one person can answer for the whole community, rather each individual most answer for themselves.

I think it's safe to say that everyone wants to return to God the gift of gold. And if that is the case then we must expect to be put to the test. **The crucible is for silver and the furnace for gold, And each is tested by the praise accorded him.** (Proverbs 27:21). ... so that the **proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;** (1 Peter 1-7).

For a long time now, our community has been undergoing many trial, tribulations and temptations. But it should come as no surprise to disciples of Jesus Crucified. **Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him** (James 1:12). God is bringing us into the light. Revealing to each one of us, myself included, areas that may need better light, pruning, cutting, re-potting or watering. This is a blessing, that the world cannot see, for it is seen only in faith, through the eyes of the soul.

Let us renew our "YES" with Mary, our Blessed Mother, **may it be done to me according to your word...**(Luke 1:38). *Peace be with you. Bonnie*



STAYING CONNECTED

FMJC'S WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING! Thanks to Bill Watts and his father, Bill Watts, Sr., and Sonja Steele we have a website to be proud of. There is still work to be done, so check it out and let them know what you think. WWW.FMJCCommunity.com

United State Conference of Secular Insitutes (USCSI) Newsletter, "The Mountaineer" is now on line at: www.SecularInstitutes.org. If you do not have a computer and/or internet connection, please contact someone in your local mission to send you a copy.

2011 ORDOS have been ordered by Local Missions. If you haven't received one please contact your Local Minister.



**Is your FMJC Medal tarnished?
Try washing it with baking soda.**

ON GOING FORMATION

In staying with our 2010 Retreat theme:
"Theology Of The Body"

Our Retreat Master, Fr. Raphael Bonanno has recommended the following books:

Books by Jean Vanier:

- Essential Writings - *Modern Spirituality*
- *Becoming Human*
- *From Brokenness to Community*
- *Community and Growth*

Book by Hans S.Reinders

- *The Paradox of Disability*

We now have in our FMJC lending library one of each of the books listed above. Books may also be purchased on line through Amazon.com or Borders.com.

SPIRITUAL ASSOCIATION

Please keep in prayer all persons enrolled in our Spiritual Association/Memorial Fund especially on your Day of Recollection offering that Mass for all those who have been enrolled in the Association. This is a serious obligation binding on all FMJCs.

The following additional deceased person(s) have been enrolled in this Association since our last ECHO: **Linda Bonbissuto** (deceased) and **Candelario Roman** (deceased).

PRAYER INTENTIONS

1. Fr. Stephen Hartdegen, all our benefactors, all who have asked our prayers, those for whom we promised to pray, and those who have no one to pray for them.
2. For the bishops of all the dioceses in which there are FMJC members, and especially for Bishop Hubbard of the Diocese of Albany.
3. For those who are considering FMJC vocations, that they may be open to the Holy Spirit and know the will of God for them, and for those who have been part of our community.
4. In gratitude for the graces bestowed upon us as individuals and as a community.
5. For members of the Missionaries of the Kingship of Christ, the Poor Clare Nuns of Roswell, NM, the Poor Clare Nuns of Andover, MA and the Sisters of Jesus Crucified.
6. That the vocation to consecrated secularity be better known and understood.
7. That we may be of one mind and one heart, insuring peace and unity within the community.
8. For each other and for all Community Intentions and for the members of our Spiritual Association/ Memorial Fund.
9. For the souls of all our deceased Franciscan Missionaries of Jesus Crucified.



*Merry Christmas
and
a Blessed New Year*



God is with us!

