

BISHOP MALONE VISITS ST. ELIZABETH MOTHERHOUSE

On Wednesday, April 24, Bishop Richard J. Malone of the Diocese of Buffalo visited the St. Elizabeth Motherhouse for the first time since his appointment last year.

Bishop Malone celebrated Mass for the sisters at 11 a.m., then dined and took time to tour the renovated area and visit with the sisters on the second floor.

Bishop Malone said he had looked forward to the visit since the invitation was extended to him, and spoke with fondness of working with **Clare Bertero** in Boston.

Following his visit to the Motherhouse, Bishop Malone spent the remainder of his afternoon enjoying the peaceful beauty of Mt. Iranaeus in West Clarksville.



Fran Cardillo to be Recognized at Federation Conference



Frances Cardillo has been selected as this year's congregational recipient to be recognized at the annual Franciscan Federation conference.

This year's theme is *A Franciscan Life in Evolution*, and Fran was chosen because of her recognition of the interconnectedness of all creation; her willingness to accept change and evolve over the years with an attitude of openness to the unknown; her willingness to respond to an emerging need through a new endeavor and her integration of science, theology and spirituality in her ministry.

Fran will be recognized during the banquet held on the last night of the conference, scheduled for July 19 - 22.

Congratulations, Fran!

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Mission Statement

We, the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, seek to live the Gospel of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. We witness to God's love in the Franciscan tradition by living as sisters with all creation and by joyfully serving others, especially those who are poor or marginalized.

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Attention

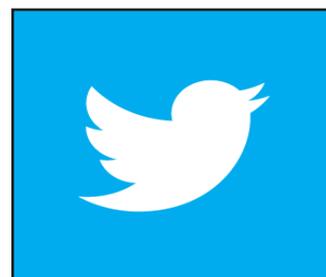
The deadline for material for the next issue is

June 7

We welcome all material relating to our sisters and associates and their ministries. We would also like to encourage our Julilarians to send us their reflections on what the jubilee year means to them. These can in the form of poetry, prose, art, etc.



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Allegany and Associates



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@FSAllegany

This Month in History by Ellen Winger, Congregational Archivist

MARCH

In March of 1859, a woman named Mary Jane Todd arrived in Allegany. She came to this small town with the intention of becoming a Franciscan sister in a new community that was being established with the help of Father Pamphila da Magliano. A month later, Mary Jane received the habit of the new congregation, taking the name **Sister Mary Joseph** and becoming the first novice to enter the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany.



APRIL

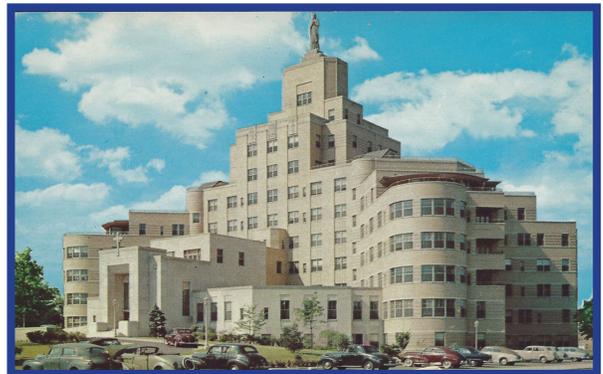
On April 24, 1955, the sisters held the groundbreaking ceremony to begin construction of the new Motherhouse. **Reverend Mother Jean Marie** had recognized the need for a new building due to increasing demand for accommodations during the summer months. The old Motherhouse was becoming overcrowded, and living conditions were undesirable.

Three years later, newly elected **Reverend Mother Joan Marie** presided over the opening and dedication of the beautiful new building, which we call home to this day.

MAY

On May 28, 1950, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Camden, NJ, was dedicated. Bishop Bartholomew Eustace had been urging Reverend Mother Jean Marie for some time to build a hospital in Camden, as there was no Catholic hospital in the diocese. After securing land and funds to build the hospital, construction began in 1947.

When the building was dedicated in 1950, over 4,000 people attended the ceremony, including the Governor of New Jersey and the Mayor of Camden! The hospital opened to patients in July of that year.



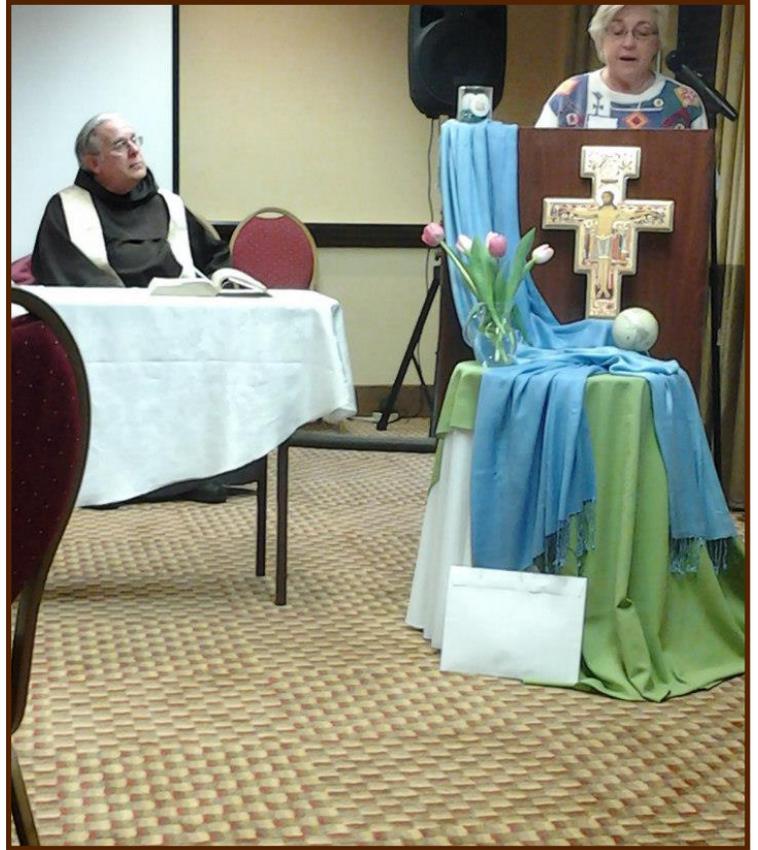
DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE MOMENT IN OUR ALLEGANY FRANCISCAN HISTORY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FEATURED HERE? Please write to Ellen Winger, archives@fsallegany.org.

SPRING ASSEMBLIES 2013

Allegany Photos by Denise Bunk-Hatch



New Jersey Photos by Margaret Magee, OSF



Florida Photos by associate Linda Dees



Margaret Rudolph Receives FANM Lifetime Achievement Award

by Lucy Cardet for Miami associates and sisters

Margaret (Peggy) Rudolph has been a faithful member of the FSA associate group in Miami for over 20 years. Originally from Ohio, Peggy retired after a 40-year career as a public school art teacher. She is also a long time volunteer in several local organizations, including Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami, Inc. (FANM), Safespace (battered women and children's shelter), United Teachers of Dade, Florida Education Association, Guardian Ad Litum, Miami Shores BPW, and is a Girl Scout leader, as well as an active member of her parish and its ministries.

Peggy is the longest serving board member of FANM (Haitian Women of Miami), and has a deep understanding of community-based organizations, their struggles, and their aspirations. She could always be counted on to fulfil what she considered her duty: to give back and help others.

FANM is an advocacy and social service agency located in the heart of Little Haiti (in Miami), serving the needs of low income women and their families, as well as victims of abuse, neglect, violence, discrimination and racism. Since 1991, FANM has championed and advocated for the rights of those who have been underserved, marginalized, disenfranchised, and discriminated against in South Florida. The organization recently recognized Peggy's generous spirit and faithful service with FANM's "Lifetime Achievement Award".

The biography accompanying her award describes Margaret as "a humble servant who shies away from the limelight. When duty calls, she responds. She sees human beings first, it does not



matter the color, religion, economic status, or sexual orientation. She is patient, non-judgmental, open, loving, and fair. ... Margaret is an ordinary woman who does extraordinary things for others every day of her life. She is a universal woman, a hero for peace."

What an example of walking in the footprints of Jesus! We are happy to share in her recognition.

AFM Funds Efforts to Address Human Trafficking Part I

Sophie's Story

"My childhood was not so great. I always felt loneliness and was upset a lot. When I was 8, I was sexually abused by my older brother, who I trusted, for several years not really knowing what was going on. When I got older and began to understand what was going on, my behavior changed at school and at home. Arguments got really loud. I didn't want to tell anyone because I felt like nobody loved me or cared, so why should I say anything? Instead

I started running away and hanging out until one day I met a recruiter who was finding girls to prostitute. It was more than just me. There were 3 other girls who were 16 and 17 years old. I was the youngest. I was 13 at the time. The recruiter also owned a tattoo parlor, so he branded us by tattooing our street names on our bodies. He took us to a house run by two female pimps. They told us the rules. We couldn't go anywhere. We would have to take turns cleaning the house. No talking to the clients and if the client

wanted to hang out with you, charge them extra. If we broke the rules or we didn't have \$300 by the end of the night, she would beat us with a broom."

Sophie's mother heard about Project GOLD at Kristi House (the Children's Advocacy Center for Miami-Dade, which provides services to child victims of sexual abuse and their non-offending caregivers from extremely low to low income households), and was able to convince Sophie at age 15 to meet

(Continued on Page 7)

a Kristi House counselor. Initially, Sophie didn't want help. But she didn't like the violent life she was living either. Project GOLD staff got her engaged in the program and Sophie started actively participating.

"...I thought I was alone in this before I knew about this program. Now it's been a year and I'm thankful to them for helping me. Like the name Project GOLD stands for, now I really am a "Girl Owning my Life and Dreams!"

Allegany Franciscan Ministries has funded efforts such as Project GOLD

to address human trafficking since 2007. To date, at least 13 grants totaling \$375,500 have been awarded for this purpose, including at least one grant in each of our funded regions and through each of our grant programs (Major, Tau, ACOR, All Region and Scholarship). Funded projects have been local, regional and national, focusing on education, advocacy and victim services.

In addition to our grant-making, Allegany Franciscan Ministries staff have participated and sometimes led regional convening efforts designed to strengthen current partnerships

among law enforcement, government agencies, nonprofits, and faith communities. We have attended and hosted meetings and brought potential partners together to strengthen relationships. One staff member completed a 4-hour training course on human trafficking through the Florida Regional Community Policing Institute at St. Petersburg College.

Below are brief summaries of two human trafficking related grants awarded most recently. In subsequent issues, we will continue to tell the story of AFM's history in funding these efforts.

Florida West Coast Public Broadcasting (WEDU), Tampa, FL **Human Trafficking, \$50,000 (2012)**

WEDU will create, produce and air a documentary to develop a deeper understanding of human trafficking's impact, considering elements of both labor and sex trafficking. The hour-long program will expose the worldwide human trafficking epidemic and its presence in Florida and specifically in Tampa Bay. This documentary will highlight the health risks and the mental and physical impact on victims. The hour will be divided into a 40-45 minute documentary and a 15-20 minute complementary panel discussion with experts in the field. In addition, WEDU will work with community partners to develop an ongoing awareness campaign, including the creation and airing of 30-second vignettes for use in a web based format.

International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators (IAHTI), Oldsmar, FL - Human Trafficking Education Program, \$10,000 (2012)

IAHTI will host educational outreach presentations in the Tampa Bay area. Over the past three years IAHTI has conducted outreach throughout Florida, and other states including Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Virginia, Texas, and the District of Columbia. IAHTI staff consists of current and retired human trafficking investigators who educate the community through their own real life experiences. IAHTI has presented at schools, civic group meetings, churches, Department of Justice trainings and for the National Institute of Justice. The education is intended to help members of the community identify potential victims of modern day slavery and properly report their suspicions. In addition, it targets youth to help protect them from becoming victims of trafficking. IAHTI will host an annual training conference so law enforcement, victim service providers and faith based organizations can stay up to date with the most recent technology and ways to assist victims of human trafficking.

The Best Kept Secret Of Catholic Social Teaching: The Death Penalty Is A Pro-Life Issue

by Sister Kathie Uhler, OSF, Staff Writer for Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Blessed John Paul II have urged U.S. and all other world leaders to end the use of the death penalty. The popes base their position on the dignity of every human being. As Pope John Paul said in his visit to the U.S. in 1999, “The dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil.” (*St. Louis, MO, Jan. 27, 1999.*)



Likewise, Pope Benedict made this direct appeal to end the death penalty in 2011: “Together with the Synod members, I draw the attention of society’s leaders to the need to make every effort to eliminate the death penalty and to reform the penal system in a way that ensures respect for the prisoners’ human dignity.” (*After a Synod of Bishops in Benin, Africa, Nov. 19, 2011.*)

These papal appeals have been made in recent years along with similar, strong statements issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) over the past 30 years. “Our witness to respect for life shines most brightly when we demand respect for each and every human life,” the bishops said, “including the lives of those who fail to show that respect for others. The antidote to violence is love, not more violence.” (*USCCB, Living the Gospel of*

Life, no. 22, 1998.)

Why has ending the death penalty, then, been the best kept secret among pro-life issues?

Some say: Since the moratorium on the use of the penalty in the U.S. ended in 1976, each state has been left to decide on its use. So the legal right to use the death penalty makes it morally right, in some minds. But the same thinking can be applied to the use of abortion and yet the millions of the Pro-Life movement, thankfully, have not been persuaded in this manner.

Looking at it another way: Is it somehow “politically correct” to value the life of an innocent victim more than the life of a murderer? According to conventional wisdom, it is an easy “yes.” But too easily, “politically correct” becomes an all-or-nothing point of view in which a murderer has forfeited any chance at life.

Related to this, is there something deep in the popular culture like revenge or the need for eye-for-eye retribution that drives us to execute, that makes us unforgiving and merciless when faced with a murderer? Yes: it is self-evident that people should be held accountable in proportion to their actions. But it’s not that simple. Or is it?

It seems that pop logic about the rightness of the death penalty makes it a “pro-death issue” for all too many people.

Taken to another level of consciousness, is the death penalty at base racism? After all, the black population on the death rows of our country (42 percent) far out numbers their U.S. population (13 percent). And, 80 percent of executions take place in the former slave states of the Southern Region of the U.S., with only one percent of executions in the Northeast. Yet it must be said that racism alone doesn’t explain why over 90 percent of death row inmates are poor persons who could not afford their own attorney. There are no wealthy persons on death row, no matter what their race.



In truth, there is a constellation of prejudices embedded in the popular conscience that militates against viewing the death penalty as a pro-life issue of importance in the moral mainstream with abortion and other issues.

The Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty (CMN) has its work cut out for it! Launched in 2008 as a collaborative of the USCCB, CMN is missioned to proclaim Catholic social teaching on the death penalty and restorative justice as part of the spectrum of pro-life issues, along with abortion and euthanasia. Please go to the CMN website to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter and for downloadable resources and state-by-state news on repeal of the penalty: www.catholicmobilizing.org. Prejudices are harmful opinions. Once examined over against the facts, prejudices may be changed into life-giving beliefs. Not all persons are innocent but all persons are sacred: It is by this most basic belief in the sanctity of all life that the Catholic church—popes, bishops and laity—bases its social teachings and establishes “ending the death penalty” as a mainstream, pro-life issue.

Philanthropic youths help assist local poor

By Lindd Reeves, reprinted with permission from The Florida Catholic



WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. - With the knowledge of representatives of a Catholic organization with whom they've been working and the guidance of educators, Cardinal Newman High School students have learned a great deal about those who serve the underserved.

"I thought the project was fun," said Michael Dulman, one of the 18 International Baccalaureate program students working on the "Youth Philanthropy Project," a pilot program at Cardinal Newman initiated by school leaders and Allegany Franciscan Ministries. Michael said the experience opened his eyes and heart to many excellent nonprofits working in the Palm Beach County area that he "didn't know were in the area," he said. "It is nice to help."

"Allegany Franciscan Ministries contacted us at the beginning of the school year with the idea of a youth philanthropy project," said Peggy Skantar, Cardinal Newman campus minister and community service coordinator. She explained that the school project was about helping students learn how to identify community challenges and how to address them. Students also learned about the process that charitable foundations undertake in order to

obtain grant funding.

"Allegany Franciscan Ministries made \$10,000 available to the students to allocate to an agency or organization of their choosing," she added. "Members of the Allegany Franciscan Ministries board came to (religion) classes approximately every two weeks between September and the end of February, to guide the students through the process."

After seven months of research, homework, interviews, presentations and reflection, students collaborated, scored local nonprofits and their work, and selected candidates for funding. Then, the students voted to select one unique organization to present with \$10,000 in financial support.

Lighthouse Café, headquartered in Pahokee, was named recipient. It was established nearly 20 years ago to help the hungry, those who are overcoming addictions, and those recently released from jail and returning to society with aims on living productive lives as good citizens, but who have no one to turn to for help. Students, school educators and representatives of Allegany Franciscan Ministries were on hand for the March presentation.

"We go there to minister to the

people, and we are ministered to," said Paul Allen, vice president of RC Hatton, a large farm in the western community that supports Lighthouse Café, along with other farmers and members of the community who donate time, efforts, food and funds. He was at the presentation with Martha Lynn Weeks, manager of Lighthouse Café. "I see a lot of leaders out there," Hatton added as he praised the students for their project work and dedication. "God bless you all."

Franciscan Sister **Joan Dawson**, diocesan episcopal delegate for religious, is a member of the Allegany Franciscan Ministries regional commission, and she helped with the school project and actually worked with students in the classroom. Commission members Lisa Johnson of St. Rita Parish in Wellington and Tom Siccone of Ascension Parish in Boca Raton also guided the students, sharing their knowledge of charitable gift-giving and ministry selection.

"The students have come a long way. They were nervous about picking up a phone and calling people at first," explained Sister Dawson about the high-tech students who text, email and use ultramodern ways to communicate rather than the old-fashioned telephone.

"They learned that you have to call and talk to people," she said. "They researched groups, and representatives came out and talked to the students. They learned that Lighthouse Café is a grassroots organization that needs the basics — a refrigerator, pots, pans. That was their choice."

Johnson said she enjoyed helping students learn about philanthropy.

(Continued on page 10)

Youth Project *(Continued from page 9)*

When asked about the overall message of the lesson, she gave a simple reply. "Every person has the ability to make a difference and impact someone's life," she said.

Siccone said he hopes to see philanthropy projects like this in other schools. "Our hope is that this goes way beyond this project," he said. "The committee will be meeting to see if we can do it in other schools."

Student Melissa Carabello said she learned a great deal about local giving

organizations, and she particularly liked working closely with other students. "I learned a lot about charities in general," she said. "I learned about working with others. I really enjoyed it."

Students at Cardinal Newman High School and other diocesan Catholic schools perform acts of philanthropy throughout the year that go beyond monetary support to provide time, talents and service. However, students also give funds raised through projects and fundraisers to charities and programs that help needy.

The philanthropy project is in keeping with the mission of diocesan schools to educate the whole person — spirit, mind and body — and help students develop God-given talents according to the Gospel values of Jesus Christ. Organizers hope that students stay involved with philanthropy for the long term.

"The young people are our future," said Sister Dawson. "The students are learning about philanthropy. They see that these (the needy) are our brothers and sisters."

Associate News

Marie's Prayer *shared by Lucy Cardet, OSF*

From Lucy Cardet: I have come across this prayer in a few places (among Mom's belongings) and have concluded that she wrote it or "made it her own" heart-wisely. ... others may find it helpful, too.

An invitation

"Invade my soul, Oh God! Penetrate deep into the innermost reaches of my being and drive out all that is unclean. Bathe me in your Spirit and let your healing light shine in me. Strengthen the areas that are weak, Mend the places that are broken. Create a new heart in me, oh God. Let me sing and rejoice in the goodness of my Lord. Amen. Alleluia.

Lord God, I pray earnestly for a concrete renewal of the power of the Holy Spirit in my life. I ask you explicitly that all the graces of Baptism and Confirmation burst into life within me [and come] to the surface in me and become the empowering dynamism within my personality. Father, may I really experience the power and direction of the Holy Spirit in my life. Amen."

Marie Cardet

Note: *If you did not have the pleasure of knowing Marie, in addition to being Lucy's mother, Marie was a long time associate of the FSAs. She was a joy to be with and was loved by everyone who was privileged to know her.*

- Editor

Allegany *Sandy Teevans, OSF*

Please note that this article was unintentionally omitted from a previous edition of Allegany Connections

On October 14th, the Allegany chapter of associates gathered to renew their commitment, also using the occasion to cite their areas of involvement in outreach in the Church and civic community.

Following is a list of our associates and the outreach in which they are involved:

Mary Kay Tambash visits The Pines, a senior care facility in Olean twice a week. She is also a Secular Franciscan.

Gail Sweitzer is a caregiver for her husband and visits him at the Pines daily. She has served on special boards connected with the FSAs, namely the Renodin Foundation and the Board of

St. Francis Hospital of Olean. She also worked on the Olean Hospital General Board for 13 years, and is involved with her parish, St. Mary of the Angels.

Mary T Skrobach belongs to a number of significant groups in her parish, including Bible study, choir and prayer group and she volunteers for church festivals and prepares funeral lunches. She is also a Secular Franciscan.

Paula Scaba belongs to the

(continued on page 11)

Associates *(continued)*

Franciscan Sisters of Washington, D.C., and teaches at St. Bonaventure University. She is a minister in residence and chaplain for women's sports. Paula can be found helping out at local activities at Canticle Farm and Mt. Iraneus, a SBU ministry for students.

Cecelia Pleakis helps out at The Pines and The Bridge, a thrift store that is part of St. Bonaventure Parish. The proceeds from The Bridge are used to help people who are poor. Ceil is also involved in the Olean General Hospital Guild and is a greeter at Mass.

Mary Laubenthal has a long history with the associates, having begun her membership in South Jersey when the program started. She served on the associate board when it was originally formed. When Mary moved to Buffalo

to care for her sister, she joined our Allegany group. She volunteers two days in a hospital and has what she calls a general ministry to help where needed. She is also a Eucharistic Minister in her parish.

Marlene Eaton is a caregiver for her mother and also volunteers with the Red Cross. At her parish, she attends a Bible Study group and is both a lector and Eucharistic Minister.

We find **Varma Childs** in many roles, especially in her parish, St. Mary of the Angels, where she functions as a volunteer and conducts the R.C.I.A. program. She is also a lector and Eucharistic Minister. Another of her duties in the parish is to help plan funerals. She is a shareholder at Canticle Farms and helps lead the associates here in

Allegany. Varma has also served on the associate board for the congregation.

Pat Chwala is involved with the Foster Grandparent program with the first grade class. She works with home health care and Hospice as a volunteer. In her parish, she participates in both the prayer group and Bible Study

Carmella Bartimole, our newest member, is a counselor at the Olean branch of Jamestown Community College. She has a doctorate in counseling or education with a specialty in death, dying and grief work. In the past, she worked for Hospice as a bereavement counselor.

Calabash *Kathy Doyle*

As February is the month of Valentine's Day, it seemed appropriate to incorporate a LOVE theme into our work and meeting. We continued to put our love of life and peace into practice by participating in the Franciscan Action Network initiative's "Gun Violence Call-In Day" on Feb. 2, and were among the more than 10,000 people who contacted their legislators that day. **Teddy Altreuter**, who was selected for the Learning Community on the Environment, spoke about her meeting in Tampa with the other members of the group. She also reported on the

work she and **Gayle Hughes** are doing locally to witness to the Franciscan model of Love of Creation - investigating how our local waste management handles mixed recyclables.

Kathy Doyle reported on the meeting she had with Srs. **Margaret Magee** and **Jeanne Williams** about the new co-director position for the associate program. **Carol Carolson** reminded everyone that her tenure as local area coordinator will expire at the end of the year and asked everyone to consider taking up the mantle.

March was a very busy month, literally marching on by! On the 2nd the

associates coordinated and provided food and entertainment for Kathy Doyle's retirement party (from the position of parish Social Ministries Coordinator).

On the feast of St. Joseph, the associates joined the parish in offering the program, *Praying with Color*, presented by **Sr. Anne Martin Robonie**, who demonstrated how mandelas can be used to personalize and stimulate your prayer life. The program was offered to the parish and local community and was attended by about 60 people, including several from other denominations.

On March 20, we had our regular associate meeting with Sr. Ann Martin as our special guest, sharing tales of her years in Jamaica and leading us in a group *prayer in color*. It was interesting to see how one intention blossomed into a work of art!

Thanks to FAN (Franciscan Action Network) we

(Continued on page 12)



Kathy Doyle's retirement party



Anne Martin with associates

learned that the Friars of the Holy Name Province were missioned in areas that were hard hit by Superstorm Sandy. After contacting them, we learned that many senior citizens had suffered losses of furniture and appliances too old to be covered by insurance. We took this information to our pastor and he agreed to use this special need as our parish Lenten Almsgiving Project. When Kathy Doyle attended the Cranford, N.J., assembly she told Sr. Pat Klemm, and N.J. associate **Maddie Foley** (a Sandy victim who had just gotten back into her home), that we had raised over \$5,300!

Bread for the World was the topic of our April meeting. After viewing

their DVD about hunger in the US and around the world (the Calabash group is willing to lend this out to anyone who wishes to view it), we signed a petition to President Obama asking that he work with Congress to end hunger at home and abroad. We also wrote letters to our federal legislators urging them to support adequate funding for SNAP (food stamps) and the EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) and CTC (Child Tax Credit), all of which help families at risk.

On another note, **Pat Bueter** was recently approved to lead parish Eucharistic services when a priest is not available. We are planning a recommitment ceremony with a pot luck dinner for our June meeting.



Above: Anne Martin with Praying with Color group;
Right: Pat Bueter



Need a Spot?

a reflection by Sheila Vincent, Tampa Bay Associate

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Phil 2:4

If I asked you to “spot me,” what would go through your mind?

At a gym recently, a young lady asked me to “spot” her as she was lifting weights. Just for clarification, let me say that as the weight you lift increases (especially in the bench press), so do the consequences of a mistake or failure. The risk is usually considered to be worth it in achieving a “personal best.” The spotter stands overhead ready to grab the bar if something goes wrong, thus avoiding, at the very least, some very expensive dental surgery. Now back in my younger days, I confess I could easily be spotted by a 6-year-old girl licking a lollipop, such were my intense workouts, but that’s another story.

When my thoughts turned away from the gym toward life, I wondered: *Have I ever been a spotter to someone as they attempted a personal best in their*

life? It’s scary to try new things and it always helps to have someone there, ready in a moment’s notice to grab the bar in your life if something goes awry.

Rather than criticizing you for your failures, a spotter encourages you to think positively in order to achieve a personal best. They don’t pull for your defeat; instead, they share in your personal triumphs. Just walk around a gym and you will hear no shortage of encouragement being voiced.

But moving out from the gym, how are we around our co-workers, our children, or even our fellow Christians? Do we serve as their spotters as they push for personal bests? Can we let them proceed with confidence that if they fail, someone will be there to grab the bar? One rule of the gym is that to *have* a spotter, you should *be* a spotter. In other words, for us to enjoy the encouragement and support of others, we should provide the same, either when asked or when we sense a need.

So I guess the question we should all ask ourselves is, “Hey, do you need a spot?”

Brazil



With great joy and motivated by our Franciscan charism, we, as lay associates of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, gathered at the Convent Mãe Admirável (Admirable Mother) on February 27, 2013, for a fraternal meeting and election of new leaders who will coordinate our activities and the initiatives of the Associates in Anapolis, Brazil from 2013 to 2014. We are happy with the election and we thank them for their availability and commitment. May we all be fortified spiritually in the Poverello of Assisi! Congratulations!

(Photos and text from Brazil's Facebook page; for more, go to: http://www.franciscanasgo.org.br/index.php?option=com_morfeoshow&task=view&gallery=39)



Thank You, Sister Fatima by Lilian Cristina Pinheiro, OSF



impressed by her quiet and calm demeanor; it was so good to sit in the kitchen for a meal with her and listen to her stories. She taught us the history of the congregation and when, in our immaturity, we said something absurd, she would simply roll her eyes and smile – it's as if I can still hear her laugh as well as feel her jokingly pulling my ear, saying, "You're all too noisy."

Sr. Fátima touched me by her example, her witness; living with her was the greatest gift the congregation gave me. I learned from her day-by-day what it means to give over one's life for the benefit of a common mission, of a charism. It didn't take much to make one love her, you just had to look into her small, sincere eyes, or receive a wonderful hug.

After a long drought, today began with rain here in Macajuba. The day became a little sadder when we received the news that **Sr. Fatima** had returned to our Father's house. It felt like the rain was my tears of sorrow over her departure, but as I watched the rain fall outside the window, a lady walked by and said "Sister, this rain is a blessing, rain is always a sign of blessing." I thought a lot about that.... Sr. Fátima touched me with her kindness, her enthusiasm and love for each one of us in formation; or as she liked to call us, her little witches.

That's when I understood that rain really is a blessing from God. It is life, drop by drop, nourishing the soil. That's how Sr. Fatima's life was – drops of life falling wherever she walked. As I watched the rain through the window, I saw the drops as a blessing from God, in thanksgiving for her return to Him. And it is Sr. Fatima's love that is nourishing life in our congregation.

Thank you, sisters, for providing me with the opportunity to live with Sr. Fátima; thank you for the gift she was to us!

During my first year as an affiliate, I was always

We Remember in Prayer...

Our deceased sister,

Maria de Fátima Laborão, OSF

and our deceased relatives, friends, benefactors and those in association with our congregation, especially:

Fr. René F. Phillips, OFM

Fr. Venant Lalonde, OFM

Michael MacDonald, nephew of Eileen Joseph Regan

John Augustini, brother of Mary

Bob Doyle, brother-in-law of Pat Tyre

Robert Wachter, nephew of Ann

Richard Potter, consultant, advisor and friend

to the Franciscan Sisters and the Finance Committee

Odilon Santana, uncle of Dayanne Rodrigues Santana

Abel Costa Araújo, brother of Liliane Araújo Costa

Cardyn Brow, sister of Margaret Rumsey

May They Rest in Peace.