



The Franciscan Legionnaire

Newsletter of the Friars Legion of St. Peter's Church in the Loop

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May the Lord Give you Peace!

By Fr Chuck Faso, OFM (www.frchuckofm.org)

FI and FAN – Sign Memorandum of Understanding

On Thursday, July 11, 2011, FI (Franciscans International at the United Nations in New York and in Geneva, Switzerland) and FAN (Franciscan Action Network in Washington DC) publicly signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the two Organizations. This important symbolic moment confirmed the collaborative work and networking that is already in existence between FI and FAN.



Over 100 Franciscans witnessed the signing during a breakfast meeting at the annual Franciscan Federation Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Present at the Conference were five hundred Franciscan Sisters representing the sixty-two different Franciscan Congregations in the United States who are members of the Conference.

(There are about seventy-two Franciscan Sisters Congregations in the United States. Also present were five Franciscan men from Third Order Regular, from the Atonement Friars and me, a member of the First Order. The Conference is an organization for Third Order Regular Franciscans. Since I am a Friar Minor of the First Order, I cannot be member of the Conference but only an associate member. Since I am preaching seventeen retreats in 2011 to Franciscan Sisters of eight different congregations, I needed to be with these Franciscan Sisters and come to know their spirituality better.) FI is the voice of

the global Franciscan Family at the United Nations and FAN works with American Franciscans at Capitol Hill in Washington DC. Both organizations lobby and advocate in order to address justice issues that impact negatively on the most vulnerable people in the world.

John Doctor OFM, the former Provincial of Sacred Heart Province, president of the International Board of Directors of Franciscans International Board, and Sister Margaret Mary Kimmins OSF, president of the Board of Directors of Franciscan Action Network, signed the Memorandum of Understanding as well as Sister Denise Boyle, FMDM, executive director of FI and Mr. Patrick Corolan, executive director of FAN on behalf of their respective organizations.

The signing was an important and historical moment for both organizations.

The signing during the annual meeting of the Franciscan Federation Conference was a significant witness to the importance of both FI and FAN to the Franciscan presence in the United States. The UN and our Congress listen to our Franciscan voice – prophetic as it is calling for greater compassion and justice for so many people in need. These bodies of law makers and influence listen to us Franciscan because they know that we are everywhere in the world. And we work with the grassroots people and their needs.

The prayer attributed to St Francis and his values states well the mission of these two groups: Lord, make us instruments of your peace! Where there is hatred, let us sow love, where there is injury, pardon...

Did you know?

Patron for Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking and Slavery is St Josephine Bakhita, born

in Olgassa, the area of south Darfur in Western Sudan, Africa. She was kidnapped at age 7 and sold into slavery. She was sold five times to the slave markets of Sudan. Eventually she arrived in Italy and after some time was declared free. She became a Roman Catholic Canossian nun in Italy, living and working there for 45 years. She was canonized in 2000



and earth. You are Three and One, Lord God, all Good. You are Good, all Good, supreme Good, Lord God, living and true. You are love. You are wisdom. You are humility. You are endurance. You are rest. You are peace. You are joy and gladness. You are justice and moderation. You are all our riches, and You suffice for us. You are beauty. You are gentleness. You are our protector. You are our guardian and defender. You are our courage. You are our haven and our hope. You are our faith, our great consolation. You are our eternal life, Great and Wonderful Lord, God Almighty, Merciful Savior. Amen.”

What are your Names of God?

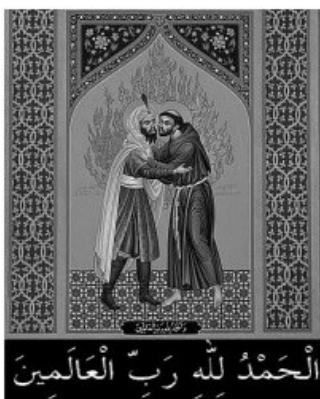
The Muslims have 99 Names for God (Allah). All the Names come from the Koran, their holy Scriptures.



(God, the Compassionate One)

Devout Muslims memorize all 99 Names and recite them with the help of 33 beads strung together like a rosary. Some of the Names are: Most Compassionate, Most Gracious, Most Holy, Most Merciful, The King, The Creator, The Provider, etc.

When St Francis traveled to Egypt in order to preach peace to the Crusaders and to the Muslims, he saw the Muslims with their beads in their hands and mouths naming Allah.



(St Francis embracing the Sultan of the Muslim in Egypt)

When Francis returned home in 1221, he wrote his own list of names for God: “You are holy, Lord, the only God, and Your deeds are wonderful. You are strong. You are great. You are the Most High. \ You are Almighty. You, Holy Father are King of heaven

What are your names for God? Here are a few of my names for God: Source of Strength, Lover of Life, God of the Heavens, Friend of the Poor, Source of Courage, Heavenly Father, Holy Mother, divine Challenger, Creator of the dawning sun, Stream of enduring love, Dancer of Creation, Companion of my Solitude, Singer in my soul, Comforting Mother, Transforming Presence, Surprising One, The Overflowing Fountain of goodness, God who does Wonders, Creator God, Transforming God.

God is beyond all of these names and all the names we could possibly come up with. We cannot name God, the Holy One who is beyond all of our thoughts and imaginations. For God lives in the unapproachable light, and at the same time, God reaches out to touch us, embrace us, love us, forgive us. God is neither male nor female. God is all that and beyond all that. We have glimpses of God through the beauty of Creation, through the love of one person for another, in the smile of an infant, in the wonder of a child, in the wisdom of our elders.

In our first year Theology in Teutopolis IL in 1964, we seminarians were given a book to read in Scripture Class. I have never forgotten this book. This book was entitled: “Is Your God too Small?” Most of us want to make God much smaller than God truly is. Perhaps this has to do with control – we like to have control of everything including God. If there is not control, then what? And that is the point.



(Four Hebrew letters that the Jews used to indicate God without writing God’s name)

The Jews never would write or pronounce the Name of God. For to write or say God's Holy name is an attempt to know and be able to control God. Not possible. Take off your shoes in God's Presence and bow down in humble love. Then we can begin to know God – just a wee bit.

So, what are your names for God? And hopefully, God's names have changed for you over the years as your relationship with God changes. As Hosea the prophet wrote about this God of tender intimacy: "I will allure you and will lead you into the desert and speak to your heart. I will espouse you to me forever. I will espouse you in right and in justice, in love and in mercy. I will espouse you in fidelity and you shall know the Lord." The Mighty God who is beyond the beyond, yet reaches to embrace each of us with "Hesed" – loving, faithful mercy!

How do we name this God, this God experience? Humans have attempted to name this God-Experience throughout the ages and we still do. And each name falls far short of the reality that God is.

When Elizabeth and Thomas first met, they called each other just that – Elizabeth and Thomas. After a few dates and a change in their relationship, the names Elizabeth and Thomas did not truthfully name their deepened experience of each. So they called each other Betty and Tom. After a few more dates, their names become Liz and Tommy and then Honey and

Have our names of God stayed the same as when we were children or have God names changed because our relationship with God has changed – has become so much more real, deepened, close, passionate, profound, intimate, deeply felt, awesome – for God is an awesome mystery that entices and overwhelms us.

Write down your names for God. You may wonderfully surprise yourself.



800th Anniversary of founding of Poor Clares

This year, 2011-2012, all Franciscans are celebrating the 800th Anniversary of Women living the Gospel in a new way. This year celebrates the specific incident of St Clare leaving her home in Assisi on Palm Sunday in 1212 to join St Francis and the Friars at Our Lady of the Angels Porziuncola in the valley below Assisi.

There Francis cut her hair and robed her in the poor tunic and cord as the Friars wore. Thus was born the Poor Clares and indeed all the Sisters of the Franciscan Congregations throughout the world. Each month, I will include words from or about St Clare. Together, St Francis and St Clare are the co-founders of the Franciscan Movement.



Papal Decree of Clare's Canonization, 15 August 1255

Clare,
brilliant by her bright merits,
by the brightness of her great glory in heaven,
and by the brilliance of her sublime miracles on earth,
shines brilliantly.
Clare,
her lofty way of religious life glowed here on earth,
while the magnitude of her eternal rewards
radiates from above
and her virtue begins to dawn upon all mortal beings
with magnificent signs.
It should not be surprising that a light so enkindled,
so illuminating could not be kept hidden
without shining brilliantly
and giving bright light in the house of the Lord;
nor could a vessel filled with perfume be concealed
so it would not give fragrance to the Lord's house.
Since she broke the alabaster jar of her body
in the severity of her cloistered solitude,

the whole aura of the Church was imbued with the fragrance of her sanctity.

Your Personal Financial Considerations

Retirees face longevity and reinvestment risks. The right strategy can help you enjoy your retirement years. Here are some questions you might want to consider in shaping a financially comfortable retirement.

- 1) What options do I have to maximize Social Security benefits?
- 2) How can I supplement my Social Security and my pension?
- 3) How can I allocate my investments to help reduce risk while maximizing return potential?
- 4) If you could get a strong income in retirement, how long would you like it to last?
- 5) How much of your retirement savings can you afford to lose?
- 6) How important are guarantees to you?

7) If you could get a guaranteed income for the rest of your life, how much of that income would you like to guarantee?

8) Is income for life that is safe, predictable and guaranteed of prime importance to you?

9) Have you considered strategies to make the most of your “just in case” funds?

10) Is your Single Sum meeting your legacy needs for family and/or your favorite charity?

If you would like a free meeting to discuss any of the above considerations or other ideas/strategies you would like to pursue, call Peter Wells at 847-543-4886.

Church in the Loop

St. Peter Church in the Loop is a sacred space where much healing and spiritual comfort and rejuvenation occur. Would you please consider leaving a legacy in your will or estate plan for St. Peter Church in the Loop? Would you like to leave St. Peter Church say \$10,000 or \$25,000 or \$50,000 or more from your current assets or *create* such an asset for a fraction of the ultimate gift? For ideas on how to create your dream gift to St. Peter Church in the Loop call Peter Wells at 847-543-4886.

APPLICATION FOR YEAR-LONG MEMORIAL CANDLE

(Please print, leaving a space between each word.)

To be lit in honor of:
Living _____ Deceased _____

Requested by:

Date candle is to be lit: Immediately _____ Specific Date _____

The offering for the Memorial Candle is \$150.00. Please enclose a check for the full amount with this form.

APPLICATION FOR PERPETUAL ENROLLMENT IN THE FRIARS LEGION

(Please print, leaving a space between each word.)

Please Enroll:

as a Perpetual Member of the Saint Peter’s Friars Legion.

Living _____ Deceased _____

Your Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

OFFERING: Individual, \$25.00 _____ Family, \$100.00 _____ (Immediate family, parents and children)