



## The Associate Alliance

The manger was prepared, the hay had been brought, the ox and the ass were led in. There simplicity was honored, poverty was exalted, humility was commended, and Greccio was made, as it were, a new Bethlehem. The night was lighted up like the day, and it delighted men and beasts. The people came and were filled with new joy over the new mystery. The woods rang with the voices of the crowd and the rocks made answer to their jubilation. The brothers sang paying their debt of praise to the Lord, and the whole night resounded with their rejoicing. The saint of God stood before the manger, uttering sighs, overcome with love, and filled with a wonderful happiness.

- Thomas of Celano (Chap. 30)

### The Associate "Way of Life"

*Jeanne Williams, OSF*

Over the past several months, Associates have engaged in various conversations about the deep significance of the Associate "Way of Life". The Associate Guidebook, revised at the meeting of the Associate Advisory Committee in September, states it well when it says: "Those who choose to associate with the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany do so in order to embrace Franciscan values and the Congregation's spirit and charism. They are committed to becoming followers of Clare and Francis while maintaining their chosen state of life."

The commitment to become followers of Francis and Clare leads us to walking in the footprints of Jesus, as Francis and Clare did in their own lives. The beginning of the Rule of Life of each branch of the Franciscan Family reminds us that the "Way of Life" of Franciscans is to "observe the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ". The charism which we are called to live is rooted in being Gospel people following Jesus Christ after the example of Francis and Clare. The very foundation of living as Jesus did is allowing ourselves to be transformed by God through contemplative prayer as we gaze, consider and contemplate. Consistent practice of prayer in our lives enables us to imitate Jesus as we gradually become the very incarnation of Him in our own day within our chosen state of life.

Living the Gospel message also calls us to fidelity to our Mission "to be and to witness". Often our witness takes the form of a loving caring presence – a "being with" those in need. As we share our gifts and talents with others, especially the poor and marginalized, we are being the community of faith and love that honors the dignity of all persons as our brothers and sisters. Jesus tells us: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life". When Jesus is truly the center of our lives, then we are indeed living out the "Way of Life" to which all Franciscan women and men are called.

Grant us, we pray,  
O Lord our God,  
the constant gladness  
of being devoted  
to You  
for it is full  
and lasting  
happiness to  
serve with  
constancy the  
Author of all that  
is good. Through  
our Lord,  
Jesus Christ, who  
lives and reigns  
with You  
in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, one  
God  
forever and ever.



# Associate Communities



L-R: Pat Chwala, Varma Childs, Marlene Eaton, Mary Laubenthal, Paula Scraba, Kathy Waters, Kathy Doyle. Seated: Mary Kay Tambash and Sr. Toni Pellegrino

## Allegany, NY



Mary Kay Tambash delivered the Associate Report

The Franciscan Sisters of Allegany and Associates of Southern New Jersey held their yearly retreat on November 18 at the home of Carol Ciesielski and Edna Suckow, who provided a wonderful continental breakfast and delicious luncheon for everyone!

*"Love Unfolding .... Becoming Whole-makers"* was presented by Jeanne Williams OSF and Kathy Doyle. In keeping with the topic, the community filled a car trunk with donated Christmas presents for two needy families in the area.

## New Jersey



Joan Hoolahan and Edna Suckow load the trunk with Christmas Gifts

L-R: Edna Suckow, Lauretta Chiarini, Sandi Klose, Sr. Jeanne Williams, Maddie Folely, Barbara Angelini, Mary Jacques, Carol Ciesielski, Joan Hoolahan, Pat Sheeran and Pat Simmons



Both the Sisters and Associates learned quite a bit from the presentation in Tampa.

## Florida

## Mark the Calendar: The Sultan and the Saint on PBS in December

If you have not yet seen ***The Sultan and the Saint***, here is your chance. This movie is a depiction of Muslim-Christian peace as told through the story of St. Francis of Assisi and the Sultan of Egypt. In addition, there is also an opportunity for you to host a "viewing party" when the film airs on PBS in December. This unique idea will allow us to further engage more people and communities in peaceful, inter-religious dialogue. Be a part of it!

The announcement from Public Broadcasting System (PBS) is that the film's airing will be December 26th at 8 pm. There will be a "Check Local Listings" advisory, but most PBS stations will air it at this time. Please continue to check your local listings at [PBS.org](http://PBS.org). We realize the day after Christmas may not be the best time to host a viewing party, but we suggest recording it and hosting the party at a more convenient date. Also, PBS sometimes airs things multiple times.

The FAN staff, along with partners from Unity Productions Foundation (UPF), JustFaith, and the Catholic Round Table have been working to develop tools and resources for use in the planning of your event. Once you register your party, you will receive a discussion guide and organizer packet from UPF. You can even apply to receive a \$250 mini grant to help support your viewing party. To register your Viewing Party, go to:

<https://www.sultanandthesaintfilm.com/viewing-parties/>



## First Commitment in Tampa ...

Marion Tarallo made her first commitment as an Associate of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany during a ceremony held at the Chapel of St. Elizabeth Convent in Tampa. Welcome to the family, Marion!

Picture L-R: Myrnamae Engleton, Judy Radell, Cindy Housely, Marion Tarallo, Sr. Jeanne Williams, Linda Dees and Laura Grasso.



## ... and First Commitment in Miami

Rani (Sorojini) Biswas also made her first commitment at a ceremony held on November 12 at the San Damiano Convent in Miami. We are glad to have you join our community of Associates, Rani!

Picture: Rani receives the Blessing of St. Francis from other Associates

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called  
to one hope when you were called; to each one of us  
grace has been given as Christ apportioned it

Ephesians 4:4,7

## A Family “Peale-grimage”

*Kathy Doyle*

My husband, Gus Doyle, is a descendant of Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827) who was the head of an early American family of patriots, artists, scientists, entrepreneurs, naturalists and tinkerers. A firm believer in education, all 17 of his surviving children (girls too) were schooled.

Trained in England under Benjamin West, Charles began his artistic career by painting portraits of America's founders, including the first portrait of George Washington. In 1786, he converted his portrait studio into the nation's first successful public museum, eventually housing it on the second floor of Independence Hall. He retrieved the world's first mastodon skeleton from the Hudson River Valley and mounted it for display at his museum, originally with the tusks pointing down!

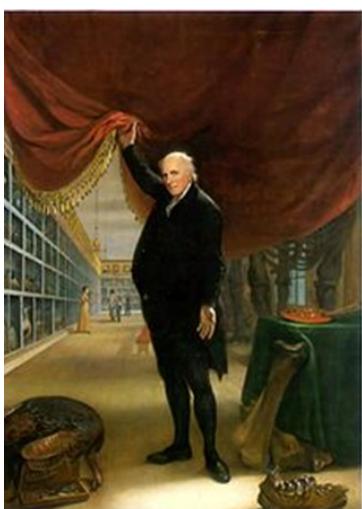
When Gus' aunt died, he came into possession of a letter from one of CWP's sons to another son, addressed simply, "the Museum in Philadelphia." Written on June 15, 1819, while on board a steamship going up the Mississippi, it describes the towns and people, military placements, ship building and the agriculture he saw.

Since moving back to Pennsylvania, Gus and I agreed that the letter should be donated to the American Philosophical Society (APS) in Philadelphia where CWP was a member. The APS library holds many Peale materials ranging from letters, diaries, and sketchbooks to oil paintings, patent models, and silhouettes. So, on a recent Saturday autumn afternoon, Gus and I, our children, grandchildren and many cousins (nearly 50 of us) gathered at the APS Library to make the formal donation of our letter.

We had access to their library and the privilege of seeing a letter written by CWP to his father-in-law describing the death of his first wife, Rachel. Peale's tears stain the letter. After the donation, we went across the street, behind Independence Hall, to the APS museum to see the "Curious Peales" exhibit. Following that we went around the corner for a tour of what was the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Bank, established by Alexander Hamilton, which is now home to 96 of the 250 Peale's American Founders portraits, drawn from live sittings that lined the walls of his museum and owned by the City of Philadelphia.

I have an unusual connection to CWP too, having once attended a school that was located on the grounds of Peale's suburban Philadelphia home, "Belfield." From there he corresponded with Thomas Jefferson about gardens, plants and their many inventions. One of his buildings, which still stands, is where I ate lunch! The property is now part of La Salle University campus.

Although the Peale name has died out in this bloodline of CWP's descendants, it is our prayerful hope that some of the younger generation in our family will remember this event and the part their ancestors played in forming our nation and be inspired to consider pursuing a career in the arts, sciences or history. If you are ever in Philadelphia, the APS museum rotates exhibits and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bank gallery is free.



## Left: Artist' Peale's self-portrait



Right: Kathy  
and her  
family

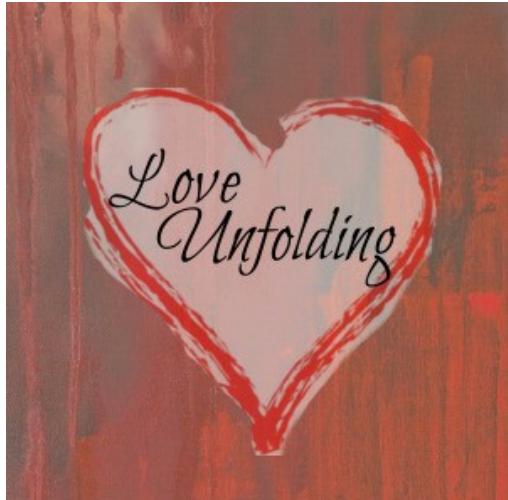


## North Carolina Associates “Walk the Walk”

Betty Parbst

The Allegany Franciscan Associates of North Carolina joined with others in the area for the 2017 Crop Walk on November 5th this year. The  mile walk raises money for the South Brunswick Islands Interfaith Food Bank. Besides the walk, the day included prayer, music and snacks donated from various local businesses. A good time was had by all!

Pictured left to right are Ellen Nash, Janet Shirdon, Rita Canfield, Cynde Mitchell, Betty Parbst and Pat Buerter.



### Upcoming Retreats for Associates

November 18, 2017

December 9, 2017

January 13, 2018

January 28, 2018

Long Beach Island, NJ

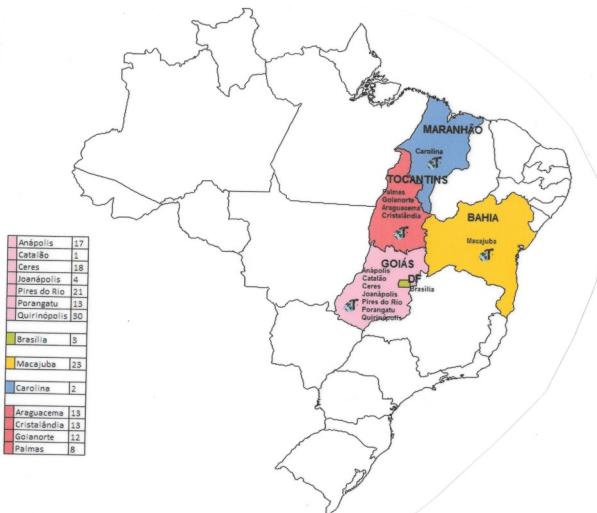
Kingston, Jamaica

Miami, FL

Tampa, FL

Let us remember in our prayers our Sisters who are in the Formation Process:





# Brazil

Brazil currently has more Associates than any other area: **178!** Spread out over four states and the capital, they are involved in parish ministries, vocation work, education and outreach to the poor and marginalized, among other things. Vergilina Rezende, an Associate from Anápolis, is assisting Sr. Bernadete Albernaz as co-director for the Associates - as such she is doing quite a bit of travelling, staying in contact with all of the communities.

# When Hope Entered the World

Pope Francis

Pope Francis asks us to focus our reflection during Advent and Christmas on the moment when hope entered the world with the incarnation of the Son of God. With Christmas, God fulfils his promise, becoming man; He does not abandon his people, He gets closer to them until He strips Himself of His divinity. In this way, God shows His loyalty, inaugurating a new Kingdom that gives hope to humanity: eternal life. When we speak of hope, we often refer to what is outside human power and invisible, but Christmas speaks of a different kind of hope, a hope that is reliable, visible and comprehensible because it is based on God. By entering the world, he gives us the strength to walk with Him – God walks with us through Jesus towards the fullness of life; to be in the present in a new way, however difficult it may be. So for a Christian, hoping means journeying with Christ towards the Father who awaits us: hope is never still, hope is always on a journey and sends us on a journey. The Holy Father invites us to ask ourselves: Do I walk in hope or is my spiritual life stationary? Is it a closed or open door for hope that sends me on a journey?

During Advent, Christian homes prepare the Nativity Scene according to a tradition that dates back to St. Francis of Assisi. In its simplicity, the Nativity Scene transmits hope; each of the characters is immersed in this atmosphere of hope. In Bethlehem, which is very small and for this very reason chosen by divine providence which likes to act through the small and the humble, Jesus is born. "In him, the hope of God and man meet." In the name of Jesus there is hope for every man, because through that Son who was born to a woman, God saves humanity from death and sin. This is why it is important to look at the Nativity Scene, to stop for a moment and contemplate how much hope there is in those people - in that Nativity Scene there are shepherds who represent the humble and poor people who await Messiah, the "comfort of Israel" and the "redemption of Jerusalem." In that Child, they see the materialization of promises made and hope that God's salvation will finally reach each and every one of them.



*Merry Christmas ...*

*... Happy New Year!*



**The Associate Alliance** is a publication of the Associates of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY.

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