



## The Associate Alliance

### Co-Creating the Future God Desires

*excerpted from The Associate (NACAR)*

Like our first sisters, we are meant to live “eyes wide open, ears attentive, spirit alert, sleeves rolled up” to address the miseries of our day. We look at the world God loves and see a country divided, a crisis of what media to trust, a world of devastating piecemeal wars, orphaned children, persons trafficked, countless refugees, festering pockets of hate, and a resistance to what science is telling us about the plight of Earth. It is easy to be overwhelmed and paralyzed by the scope of the needs that can block us from the seemingly small but great good we can accomplish where we are.

#### Reflection questions:

1. How do the challenges of today’s world resemble those faced by our first sisters?
2. What graces do I need to respond as generously as they did?
3. How can we support one another and practice together non-violence in thought, speech, action?

Set a daily intention to let your mission and charism permeate all you do, asking God’s help and the intercession of Mother M. Teresa O’Neil.

### Thanks for the Connection! *Claudio Alves Oliveira*

During our March meeting, the Associates of Pires do Rio each received an issue of the Associate Alliance newsletter, printed in color. Everyone was delighted, especially since there was an article about the group. Sr. Ana Cristina reiterated how important it was to maintain this communication amongst ourselves, since it allows us to all be connected – not only to the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany but to all of the other Associate groups in Brazil, the US, and Jamaica as well.

Perhaps the most delighted Associates were Mr. José Matias and Mrs. Tininha. Both are over 90 years old; he can no longer participate in our meetings, so a copy was given to him at home. They both were very happy to read all the news and to see one of their children, a grandson and a daughter-in-law in the picture! We look forward to future issues.

Holding up their copies of the Associate Alliance are: Maria Creuza, Glorinha, Sebastiana, Ilina, Cláudio, D. Tininha, Anésia, Ivanir, Sr. Francis, Sr. Vitória, Aparecida, Iolanda e Sr. Ana Cristina.



### Inspirational Words

From a more positive way of thinking about God and creation, we can see the world from a different consciousness. Francis honored the world around him and was ignited in praising God from his experiences. Franciscans should not split the world into that which is profane and that which is holy, but should see God in the dirt and the worms, in the suffering of life, and in the leper. The Franciscan way of seeing moves us away from dividing up the world in the good and the bad which, as Sr. Ilia Delio says, is “always capable of identifying God’s absence, but rarely consistent in affirming God’s presence in everything that is.” Francis was able to see God imbedded in a marvelously interconnected world with God as the source of each and every thing. He saw the world in universal kinship, with the moon, the water, and the birds as his sisters and the sun and the wolf as his brothers.

“My soul in an excess of wonder cried out: ‘This world is pregnant with God!’ Wherefore I understood how small is the whole of creation - that is, what is on this side and what is beyond the sea, the abyss, the sea itself, and everything else - but the power of God fills it all to overflowing.”

- Angela of Foligno

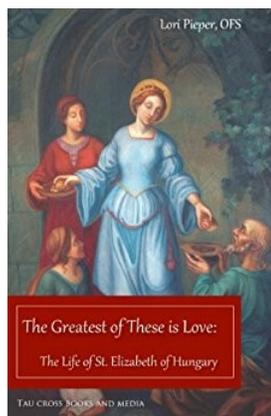
## Living With Immigrants

Teddy Altreuter

I recently became involved in a very intense Bible Study Program in our local Parish, St. Brendan the Navigator, in Shallotte, NC. I am in the first year of a four year program. Our last lesson was reading and reflecting on the Book of Judges. This bloody and violent account of the conquest of Canaan, "The Promised Land," by the Israelite people truly shocked me. To read of the cruelty, slaughter, abusive, and contemptuous treatment of the Canaanites by people believing, or at least claiming, that they were doing God's will, shook me to the bone. (Our class had been warned that the program would test and change our personal faith).

As I worked through this thought-provoking assignment to, first, catalogue the disturbing elements of the stories and second, try to understand what these stories and their "disturbing elements" have to do with my faith, it dawned on me: the Israelite people were landless people and they needed a place to survive and grow. They were not welcomed. They were resisted and hated, but they persisted and won. They thought it was because they were guided and helped by God. That's what the Pilgrims thought as well. The Native Americans resisted but tried to get along with the newcomers, but they lost.

Today, immigrants and refugees have turned to us because they need a place where they can survive and grow. Maybe, if we have learned enough, we can help these immigrants and refugees instead of resisting and hating them - maybe then we will really be following God's plan! That's what immigrants are hoping: that God wants us to share, to care and to help all of us survive and grow.



## A Woman for Today Book Review

Kathy Doyle

Just about this time last year, Sr. Jeanne Williams and I, as Co-Directors of the Allegany Associate Way of Life, were entrenched in preparing for Chapter, working to develop a leadership process for associates and improving our associate formation, especially in regard to the charism of the congregation.

Hearing Mary Beth Imler, OSF, and her reflection at the June convention in Milwaukee on the past and present of the Franciscan Federation, operating from its foundational evangelical core, Mary Beth held up a light to the specific charism of the Third Order Regular with a great emphasis on St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Jeanne and I were ecstatic!

After researching books on St. Elizabeth that would meet our needs – not too scholarly, one which would present Elizabeth as a happily married, contemplative woman whose love of God was demonstrated in her exceptional care for the poor, and that could be translated into a world 800 years into the future, we highly recommend THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE: THE LIFE OF ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY.

In her second edition book, Lori Pieper, OSF, offers Elizabeth as a woman of great wisdom and conviction who, among other things, "developed a modern approach to the problem of poverty and looked to its cause which she identified as coming from greed, neglect or mismanagement by the rich. She gave well-balanced attention not just to government assistance for immediate needs but to achieving a sound workforce and economic production that would contribute to the country's income" and continued to maintain her deeply contemplative prayer life!

Born in 1207, Elizabeth lived just 24 years, but she is most definitely a woman for today and well worth emulating.

## Rosuilma Rosal ~ Associate from Cristalândia, Brazil

Rosuilma Carneiro Rosal, an Associate from Cristalândia, Tocantins, Brazil, was born in Anápolis, Goiás. She has been married for 42 years to Otocar Moreira Rosal, has three children, and seven grandchildren.

Holding a Masters in Language and Literature, Rosuilma is retired but still teaches occasionally. She is President of the Apostolate of Prayers and is a Catechist at the Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. She also participates in the ministry of visiting the

sick and the elderly in the community.

“I have learned a lot from my relationship with the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany and what I have learned, I follow to this day. The most important thing was that I learned to love. As a woman, as a person, in many aspects of my life, I can truly say that I now recognize that, since I married very young, immaturity led me to many decisions which youth had not given me the experience to handle well. I did, however, learn to care for my

family and my home through their lessons of love.

I also credit them with a deep spiritual formation. With their help, I learned to have a healthy communion with God, always seeking divine intervention in my life.

I cannot say enough about how the sisters taught me to interact better, improving my social skills. I was taught to take time out of my schedule and dedicate time to fraternal issues, to look at the needy in a different way, to be more



Rosuilma Carneiro Rosal

humane and give as much as I can, to show caring, love, attention, to say a friendly word, to listen ... in other words, to share the Franciscan-Clarian charism with all in a fraternal manner.

## Associates of Macajuba welcome visitors from the USA

*Isabel de Carvalho*

Greetings, Peace and All Good!

We would like to introduce ourselves. We are Brazilian Associates who live in the town of Macajuba - BA, in the Parish of St. Lucy. It is with great joy that we are Associates and Inquirers of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany.

We meet once a month, either at the Sisters' House or one of the members. We pray, reflect on biblical or spiritual themes, we celebrate birthdays, we share our lives, we support each other, and we are friends. We have committed to journey with the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany through our actions, our faith and our prayers, following the example of Francis and Clare.

It is our wish to continue this mission and to, someday, meet with other Associates to celebrate our commitment.

We are very happy with our **Associate Alliance** newsletter, which allows us to communicate with each other and know each other better!

Fraternally,  
Macajuba-Bahia



As Associadas de Macajuba, Bahia, Brasil

com a Ir. Margaret Mary Kimmons, Ir. Pat Tyre e Ir. Rosimeire Noleto

“Hi Sheila. Susan Hines shared the latest Associate newsletter with me. There is a wealth of good information in there. I am delighted to see associate groups supporting charitable activities. ACOR Grants are available to complement this work. Please encourage any interested groups to reach out to me.

Is it possible to be added to the distribution list? I find this information very encouraging and inspiring.

Take care,

Erin Baird

Director of Grants & Technology

Tel: (727) 507-9668

Email: [ebaird@afmfl.org](mailto:ebaird@afmfl.org)”



For those who are interested in obtaining a grant, follow these easy steps:

First, review ACOR Grant guidelines -

<http://afmfl.org/index.php/grants/current-funding-opportunities/acor-grants/>.

Ask the nonprofit organization who will be receiving the grant funds to apply using the following the directions:

1. Visit [www.afmfl.org](http://www.afmfl.org)
2. Locate *Login* menu on top of home page, select *Applicant/Grant Partner Login*
3. If new applicant, click link to *Create a New Account*. Complete registration information. If current/past grant applicant, login using email and password.
4. Locate *ACOR Grant Application* on *Apply* page. Click *Apply* link.
5. Complete application. Note an *Affiliation Form* is included in the application and needs to be completed by a Franciscan Sisters of Allegany or Associate. Upload the completed form to the application.
6. Submit application

That's it! Reach out to Kathie Hardy at (727) 507-9668 with any technical questions. It's also in Portuguese!



The New Jersey Associates

### New Jersey Meeting

*Lauretta Chiarini & Robin Roche*

After prayer, the South Jersey Associates discussed the effects of the drug culture on our society. Everyone shared how the drug culture had affected their lives personally.

We were shocked to read that tobacco use inflicts the highest cost to health care. Alcohol abuse is second. Illicit drug use is third. We talked about the ease with which doctors prescribe narcotics.

Young people are starting to use drugs and alcohol at a younger age. Statistically, more young people 18-22 years of age die from

using drugs. We were very surprised to hear that in a local Catholic high school, students must take a breathalyzer test before they are allowed into a dance at school. They also have random drug testing at this school and random locker checks. We were also told that if a student was caught dealing drugs in this school, they were expelled from the school system.

There was a discussion about the spirituality in the AA program. This is an important part in helping them improve their lives and move on from their addictions.

We talked about the terrible impact the drug culture has on the family: the cost of rehab and how children from wealthy families can get drugs and/or alcohol more easily.

It was noted that the money spent on incarceration and rehabilitation could be better spent on children through support of music programs and the arts, as well as athletic programs.

The discussion was followed by a luncheon provided by Peggy Madison.

# Assemblies March/April 2017



**Allegany Associates**



**New Jersey Associates**



**Tampa & Miami (Florida) Associates**



**Associates of Anápolis  
(Brazil)**



**Montego Bay & Kingston Associates  
(Jamaica)**

*Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God.  
Give us the grace to do for You alone,  
what we know You want us to do and  
always to desire what pleases You.  
Inwardly cleansed, interiorly enlightened  
and influenced by the fire of the Holy Spirit,  
may we be able to following the footprints  
of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and by Your grace alone, may we make our way  
to You.*

*- from Francis' "Letter to the Entire Order"*

# Sharing Faith... and Food ... as People of God

Elizabeth Parbst



Making egg salad sandwiches are: Rita Canfield, Betty Parbst, Gail Callan, Janet Shordon and Sharon Abbate.

In our area, we have a group called the Greater Shallotte Ministerial Association. It is a group of Christian leaders who have united to raise the consciousness of our communities to the faith we share as people of God and to facilitate fellowship among local ministers. The focus is on unity amid the diversity of our many denominations.

One of the things established through the years is the "Lenten Lunches." Every Wednesday during Lent, one of the churches hosts a bag lunch for all who wish to come (usually about 200 people). We eat our sandwiches, pray, sing hymns, and listen to a reflection from one of the leaders or pastors of the different churches. It only lasts for about an hour and is a wonderful way to share with our fellow Christians. The association has also established the tradition of walking the main street of Shallotte while praying and taking turns carrying a large wooden cross on Good Friday afternoon.

Our church, St. Brendan the Navigator, usually hosts the first luncheon on Ash Wednesday and our Allegany Associate group prepares the food



Gail Callan, Sharon Abbate, Betty Parbst, Rita Canfield, Bobby Caldwell and Ellen Nash with finished food bags. (Missing: Teddy Altreuter and Rosemary D'Ettore)

and decorates the church hall.

*PS: Everyone seems to know us as the Calabash group and some of us do come from the Calabash area – we are also in Ocean Isle Beach, Shallotte, Sunset Beach and Carolina Shores. Since we are meeting in Shallotte at St. Brendan's Church, from now on we should be known as the **North Carolina Associates!***

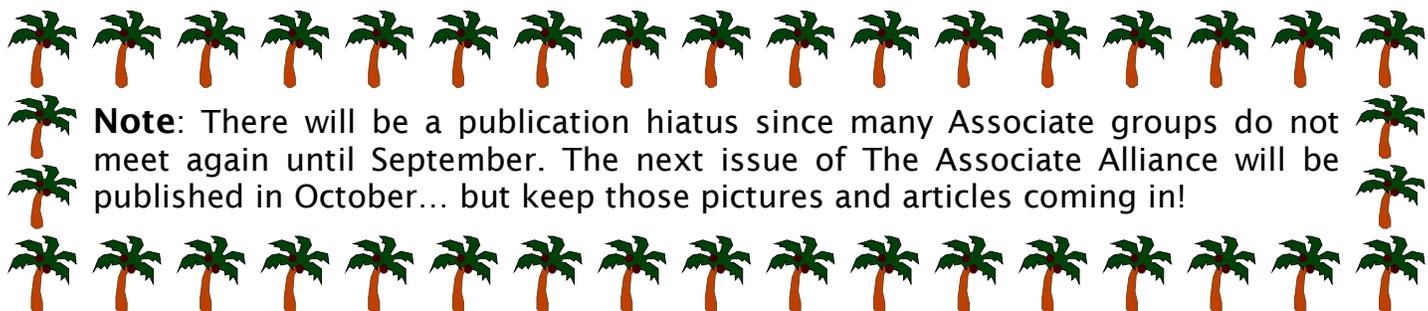
## What is Charism?

**"The Institute's mission and spirituality."** This expression broadly equates to "charism."

In a February 2 speech, Pope Francis spoke of Simeon and Anna, old but full of hope, as witnesses to the promise of a Messiah (Lk 4:18-19). Pope Francis then proceeded to say, "We have inherited this hymn of hope from our elders... in their faces, in their lives, in their daily sacrifice, we were able to see how this praise was embodied. We are heirs to the dreams of our elders..."



I think that is a rich way of paraphrasing the Greek-root "charism" - **the dreams of our elders**. If we look at the evolution of meaning that "charism" received since the Second Vatican Council, we can see how the spirit of life in the church has breathed the breath of life into the charisms of religious life by inspiring associates to take their place alongside their religious brothers and sisters. The religious institute itself continues to reinforce its identity in sharing such an identity with others, in calling associates forth.

 **Note:** There will be a publication hiatus since many Associate groups do not meet again until September. The next issue of The Associate Alliance will be published in October... but keep those pictures and articles coming in!

**The Associate Alliance** is a publication of the Associates of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY.  
Editor/Translator: Sheila Vincent      Contributors: Teddy Altreuter, Elizabeth Parbst, Claudio Alves Oliveira, Kathy Doyle, Erin Baird, Rosuilma Rosal, Robin Roche, Lauretta Chiarini, Isabel Macedo de Carvalho  
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