



The Seraph Messenger

of St Ann's Fraternity, Green Bay, WI
"My God and my all"

May/June 2022

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In This Issue

- Minister's Corner
- Prayer room to be dedicated to Adele Brise
- A Brief History of Adele Brise
- Poem
- Upon Further Reflection
- Upcoming Events
- Kindly keep in prayer

Minister's Corner

I recently enjoyed powerful images and stories of circus aerialists. The images and stories were told by Richard Rohr and by Maureen Brunsdale.

Richard Rohr's Franciscan charism satisfies my appetite for fresh ideas which prompt new insights. An idea which he developed about LIMINAL TIME AND SPACE prompted additional reading. More about the ideas in a moment.

Like St. Francis, Rohr seems to teach best in a theatrical manner. There is no reason to suspect that Francis ever prepared lecture notes. The environment supplied stage props, he supplied the imagery and the message. Rohr might be comfortable with lecture notes. He seems very adept at telling stories which develop ideas. St. Francis and Rohr are storytellers. It seems to me that they enriched stories, added color to ideas, with dazzling metaphors.

An image which Rohr used in remarks about LIMINAL is the trapeze aerialist. Rohr knows that we will immediately fill in details when we look at this picture. In other words, we must hurry and develop a story. The story must develop instantly, we want happy endings.



The trapeze story was discussed in the most recent episode on my podcast. The guest, Maureen Brunsdale, is specialist in circust stories and history. One part of her conversation amazed me because it immediately reminded me of Rohr's Liminal Space idea.

Rohr introduces the idea of Liminality with:

"It is when we are betwixt and between, have left one room but not yet entered the next room, any hiatus between stages of life, stages of faith, jobs, loves, or relationships...it is the ultimate teaching place."

This idea suggests that we are somewhat lost in an unknown place when in Liminal place. This is an important concept. It names the place I often find myself in. Not only does Rohr name this place, but he enriches my understanding with intriguing metaphors. If you read more about the subject

you will find many metaphors which enrich the concept even more so. One metaphor describes the elevator as Liminal Space.

Maureen begins with several short stories of boys, that entertained themselves in ways that developed trapeze acts. Two of the kids later become world renowned trapeze artists. Guess what? They were truants from the neighborhood school. Maureen makes a remark about the Green brothers “finding themselves” flying through space with outstretched arms, hoping to find the next fly bar.

Can we begin exploring the ideas of Limina Space and Time as they relate to our Fraternal life? I plan to add more soon.

Your Minister, at your service.

Pax et Bonum,

Patrick Miner

May 2022

[Prayer Room to be Dedicated to Adele Brise](#)

We will dedicate and rename our prayer room/library in honor of Adele Brise during our monthly gathering on Monday, May 16, at 6 PM. Following the dedication there will be a potluck and social. The dedication prayer will be led by Fr. Pons Macabalo, the fraternity’s spiritual assistant.

According to Tom Koene, fraternity secretary, Adele Brise, to whom the Blessed Mother appeared in 1859 in Champion, WI, was not a Third Order Franciscan but she lived her life in accordance with the Secular Franciscan rule. “The message our beloved Mother gave Adele, ‘to gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation,’ was not much different from St. Francis’ call to ‘rebuild my church,’ said Tom. “Thus, Adele Brise was selected for the room dedication.”

St. Ann’s Fraternity has been in existence since the founding of St. Mary of the Angels Parish in 1898. Please join us for this important prayer room/library dedication to Adele Brise.

[A Brief History of Adele Brise](#)

Adele Joseph Brise’s story began when she arrived from Belgium with her parents, Lambert and Marie Catherine Brise, two sisters and a brother in 1855. They bought a farm at Red River, near the border of Brown and Kewaunee counties.



Adele had her first of three apparitions while carrying grain to a mill near Dyckesville on Oct. 9, 1859. On the following Sunday,

while walking to Mass in Bay Settlement, the Blessed Mother appeared again. During the third vision, while returning home from church, Adele said Mary identified herself as “the Queen of Heaven” and told her, “Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation. Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the cross and how to approach the sacraments. That is what I wish you to do. Go and I will help you.”

So, the 28-year-old gathered the children and taught them about the faith. She would travel to farms, sometimes 50 miles away, to teach them. While Adele was never a vowed religious, she gathered a lay community around her, known as the Sisters of Good Help. Adele, called Sr. Adele, became their leader.

It wasn't until 1867 or 1868 that the first school was built on the chapel site. St. Mary's Academy, a boarding school, had 95 students enrolled by the 1871-72 school year. Sr. Adele supported the school by relying on God and the generosity of those she met. She sometimes went begging for what she needed.

One of Sr. Adele's students was 6-year-old Odile Allard, who arrived at St. Mary's Academy with her baby sister after their mother died. Odile, (later Sr. Marie du Sacré Coeur) stayed until she was 15. “I don't remember that there were less than a hundred children, the year round at the Chapel, mostly orphans,” she wrote in a letter to the sisters at Bay Settlement.

The first shrine chapel was built by Adele's father. It measured 10 feet by 12 feet and was located near the spot where Mary appeared to Adele. A larger chapel was built in 1865. The present chapel was completed in 1942. The altar in its crypt stands over the site of the reported visions.

Bishop John Doerfler, who was once a rector at the shrine shared, “What is really remarkable about Adele,” he said, “is that her life had a real focus to pass on the faith to the children. She gave her whole life to this. And she was a simple, yet strong and dedicated, woman of faith. It was not an easy life. Yet she lived this life with joy, with humility, with abandonment to God's providence and reliance on the intercession of the Blessed Mother.”

Sr. Adele was well known for her faith. When the Peshtigo fire of Oct. 8, 1871, threatened the area, people brought their families and farm animals to the grounds of the chapel. During the night, the faithful, led by Sr. Adele, carried a statue of Mary around the perimeter of the grounds in prayer. By the morning, a downpour doused the flames. Outside the perimeter of the chapel grounds, everything was burned; yet the inside of the five-acre perimeter remained unscathed. To this day, many consider the event a miracle and the procession around the grounds has been repeated every year on Oct. 8.

(Compass Article: 12/9/2010)

[Poem for the Month](#)

Lead, Kindly Light

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home,--
Lead thou me on!
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene,--one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou
Shouldst lead me on:
I loved to choose and see my path, but now
Lead thou me on!
I loved the garish days, and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will: remember not past years.

So long thy power hath blessed me, sure it still
Will lead me on;
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone;
And with the morn those angel faces smile
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

(St. Cardinal John Henry Newman)

“This poem, formally titled “the Pillar of the Cloud,” constitutes a heartfelt prayer to the Holy Spirit imploring light at his (Newman’s) time of sadness, while pointing to a coming struggle.

It has been set to several tunes and is found in many hymnals; as a hymn, it has been sung around the world and in many notable occasions, including aboard the Titanic. The regular meter, or beat of this poem, which makes it well suited to hymnody, also gives the poem a reassuring rhythm. This reassurance is a good example of “sound echoing sense,” which means not only do the words themselves give reassurance, but the very sound of the words in their verses, the cadence, add to the soothing nature of the poem.

This poem’s success and popularity as a hymn also results from the meaning of the poem. It can be understood on a literal level, the longing for one’s earthly home, and as an allegory of a soul yearning for heaven — the archetypical longing for “a homecoming.” Lastly, it can be read as expressing Newman’s doubt in his secular age, and his seeking for firm direction in his faith.”

Prof. Barb H. Wyman (from
www.cardinaljohnhenrynewman.com/lead-kindly-light)

[Walk to Mary 2022](#)

I was happy again to participate in this year's "Walk to Mary", a pilgrim marathon from the Shrine of St. Joseph's at St. Norbert's College to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, WI, a distance of 21 miles or so. The first 7 miles run along the beautiful Fox River and seem to go by without much effort. The next 7 miles travels by Bay Beach, through the UWGB Arboretum, and then along Bay Settlement Rd, offering beautiful views of the Bay. However, the last 7 miles seems the most difficult. One is tired and the empty and dry farm field reminds me of a desert. It is open land and the wind hits you hard and it is the hottest part of the day. It is a time for perseverance and prayer. With hills to climb and everyone walking the same road, one is inspired to see one vast group of pilgrims walking for miles. It is also a time for much encouragement, asking a fellow foot-dragging pilgrim how they are doing and then telling them they can make it. I was also very glad to meet fellow fraternity member, Mike Bors, the last few miles from the Shrine finish. His cheerfulness and prayer warmed my tired heart. This pilgrimage is very unique, with so many different people and cultures participating but each here with much prayer and petition in their hearts. Please consider joining us next year!

(Deacon Mark)

Upon Further Reflection

A bishop, priest and a deacon were about to be executed for preaching the Gospel in a foreign land.

They bring out the bishop first and the guard shouts, "Ready...Aim..." and suddenly the bishop yells, "EARTHQUAKE." When everyone looks around, the bishop runs off.

Next, they bring out the priest. The guard shouts, "Ready...Aim..." and suddenly the priest yells, "TORNADO." When everyone ducks, the priest runs off.

By then, of course, the deacon has it figured out. They bring him out, and when the guard shouts, "Ready...Aim..." Suddenly the deacon yells, "FIRE."

Upcoming Events

-Fraternity Meeting: Monday, May 16 at 6:00 PM, St. Clare Hall. Dedication of prayer room/library to Adele Brise. Please feel free to bring a something for a shared pot luck.

-Fraternity Meeting: Monday, June 20 at 6:00 PM, St. Clare Hall. Please sign-up to bring a snack.

- Join with your La Verna Region Secular Franciscans to **pray the Rosary together each Wednesday evening**. To access the audio conference call, please dial the following number: 978-990-5000 and then enter the access code: 328279. We will begin the Rosary each Wednesday at 7 p.m. and continue until we overcome the COVID-19 crisis. Please pass on the information to other Franciscans.

- **Lifest, July 7-10, 2022**, Osh Kosh, WI. Annual Christian music fest. For more information, go to [Oshkosh - Lifest](#)

-Save the Date: Saturday, Aug. 13: Fraternity Summer Picnic

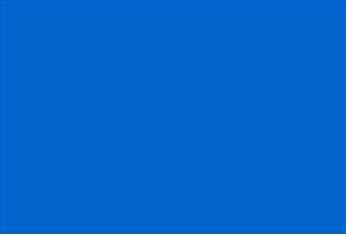
Fraternity Birthdays

No fraternity birthdays in May or June, to the best of our knowledge!



Kindly Keep in Prayer

- Please pray for the suffering people of Ukraine. Pray for peace and an end to the war.
- Please pray for Jan Campbell's sister, Jennifer, who has been diagnosed with uterine cancer.
- Please pray for Richard Raflik, who currently has Covid (5/9/22).
- Please pray for Patrick's sister Mary and her husband, Dave, for their health.
- Please remember to pray for these recently departed souls, Roxanne Miner's brother, and for Mike Bor's wife, Julie.
- Please pray for all fraternity members who are unable to be with us for our meetings.



To request prayers on the St. Ann's Fraternity prayer chain please email Jeff Gumz@ jagumz@gmail.com or call Jan Campbell @920-609-3544.