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## The Troubadour, Issue 103 (April 15, 2009)

Cardinal Stritch University

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# THE TROUBADOUR

APRIL 15, 2009

ISSUE 103



Father Jim Gannon, OFM, executive director of the Office of Mission and Identity

## LETTER FROM FATHER JIM GANNON, OFM

Dear friends and colleagues,

Peace and all good!

*“When God gave me some brothers, there was no one to tell me what to do; but the Most High God made it clear to me that I must live the life of the Gospel.”*  
- St. Francis of Assisi

It was the Spring of 1209. Francis was in the second year of his conversion. God indeed sent him “some brothers.” Francis and eleven followers made their way from Assisi, by foot, to Rome. In Rome, they met with Pope Innocent III and presented to him a simple rule of life, based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This was where their desire to form their own rule hit a road block. Innocent’s Counsel of Cardinals, his advisors, reminded him that a recent Church Council had forbidden the approval of new religious communities. This rule was established to take control of the flourishing heretical movements throughout Europe. Pope Innocent initially followed the advice of his council and denied Francis’ request for the Church’s blessing on his new adventure.

The road block was torn down by a dream. Innocent had a dream in which he recognized the poor man from Assisi, holding up the crumbling Basilica of St. John Lateran, which is the Mother Church of Christianity and at that time was the residence of the Pope. He summoned Francis and his followers and gave verbal approval of Francis’ primitive rule because it embraced the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How fortunate for all of us that Innocent III was inspired by God to break his own rule.

Before Francis died on Oct. 3, 1226, there were over 5,000 brothers throughout Italy and Europe.

Franciscans around the world will gather this spring to celebrate the Eighth Centenary of the 1209 Rule of St. Francis of Assisi. Despite the many road blocks that followed over the past 800 years, the dream of St. Francis and St. Clare continues in the lives of hundreds of thousands of Franciscan women and men throughout the world; and in the thousands of institutions that incorporate Franciscan Values in their mission.

Stritch will host a special celebration marking this momentous anniversary this Saturday, April 18, at 1 p.m. in the Sister Camille Kliebhan Conference Center. I encourage faculty and staff to attend. It is truly a testament to the breadth and depth of this institution’s history and mission that the bond between it and the order of Franciscan men and women continues to grow closer.

Stritch is the largest Franciscan university in the United States. In 2012, Stritch will celebrate its 75th anniversary. The dream to serve the people of Milwaukee and Wisconsin continues to evolve with the impending opening of the City Center campus and the dream of a south side campus. Despite some road blocks, we continue to move forward just as Francis did so many years ago.

### About the 800th

Saturday, April 18, 1 p.m.

Sister Camille Kliebhan Conference Center.

Following presentations and discussion, there will be a 4 p.m. Mass in the Conference Center, followed by a reception at 5:15 p.m.

**Details:** [www.stritch.edu/800](http://www.stritch.edu/800).

The event cost is \$15, which can be paid at the event or via phone with a credit card.

Seating is limited.

RSVP to Jenny Nichols, director of special events, at (414) 410-4203 or [jrnichols@stritch.edu](mailto:jrnichols@stritch.edu).

## FACULTY AND STAFF ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND REINVIGORATED HONORS CONVOCATION APRIL 22

The annual Honors Convocation ceremony that brings closure to the academic year by celebrating student achievement and involvement will be held April 22 at 2:45 p.m. in the Nancy Kendall Theater.

Traditionally held in the Fieldhouse, convocation is being moved to the Nancy Kendall Theater because of the success of the first-ever Matriculation ceremony held there last year, which established a new tradition that is now connected to Honors Convocation.

The featured speaker will be Stritch alum Jose Perez, an economic development specialist for the City of Milwaukee who won the University's first Multicultural Image Award in 1999.

The event will more meaningfully involve and recognize Stritch students. The program will also feature student performers, including the choir and piano accompaniment.

These student service awards will include a new honor, the Pace e Bene Award, given to a senior who by their everyday words and actions recognizes the goodness and dignity in everyone, actively incorporates Stritch's mission into their personal spiritual and faith life and that of campus as a whole.

Stritch President Dr. Helen Sobehart will give a special presentation unveiling the first-ever official University ring, swear in the new Student Government Associate executives, and induct a new SGA board for the 2009-10 academic year. A reception will follow the ceremony in the lobby outside the Theater.

Classes held during the time of the Honors Convocation will be cancelled so that students and faculty may attend. Anyone with questions about Honors Convocation is encouraged contact Jenni Kiekow, director of Student Leadership and Involvement, at [jrkiekow@stritch.edu](mailto:jrkiekow@stritch.edu) or ext. 4195.

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## COMMON VENTURE GROUPS WILL EXPLORE FRANCISCAN VALUES; FACULTY AND STAFF INVITED TO MAY 21 RETREAT

The Office of Mission and Identity has formed Common Venture working groups to enhance and enliven the Franciscan values that serve as the foundation of Stritch's mission and identity. Four groups comprising students, faculty and staff have been formed, one group per value. The Office of Mission and Identity hopes to expand this effort by inviting and encouraging other members of the University community to join the established work groups.

Each group will creatively gather ideas and resources, and explore ways to implement and promote awareness of one Franciscan value throughout a given year, on all levels at the University. During the 2008-09 academic year, approximately 40 enthusiastic students, faculty and staff were involved in these groups, including for the value of the year, peacemaking.

### The annual value planning timeline is as follows:

- 2009-10 Creating a caring community
- 2010-11 Showing compassion for others
- 2011-12 Reverence for creation

Those interested in the Common Venture are encouraged to contact Father Jim Gannon, OFM, or Sister Mary Jeanne Michels, OSF, by August 8.

In addition to involvement with the Common Venture groups, faculty and staff are also invited to participate in a day

of reflection on Thursday, May 21 from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the Troubadour Room at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, in St. Francis.

The free retreat will involve reflection on the Franciscan values and how they help define our work of transforming lives through value-centered education while enhancing who we are as individuals and as an institution. The retreat will include prayer; guided discussion of compassion, peacemaking, reverencing creation and creating a caring community; and quiet reflection. Lunch is included.

Sister Joanne Meyer, OSF, retreat and spiritual director, and Father Roch Niemier, OFM, Franciscan pilgrimage leader, will present and guide discussion.

The registration deadline is Friday, May 15. RSVP to Sister Mary Jeanne Michels, OSF, at [michelsmj@stritch.edu](mailto:michelsmj@stritch.edu) or ext. 4968.

The goal of the Office of Mission and Identity is to educate, clarify and promote awareness of the Catholic, Franciscan and liberal arts tradition within the University community. The office collaborates with other areas of the University to create a climate in which the Franciscan values and the Stritch motto, *Ut Probetis Potiora*, "to approve the better things," are embraced and lived on a daily basis.

# STRITCH NOW PART OF MILWAUKEE'S GALLERY NIGHT FESTIVITIES

As a member of the Milwaukee Art Dealers Association, Stritch's Northwestern Mutual Art Gallery is now part of Milwaukee's Gallery Night events.

The opening reception of the gallery's BA/BFA exhibition will coincide with Gallery Night on April 17 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. The exhibit will feature the work of graduating seniors Melanie Helgerson, graphic design; Kayla Williams, visual studies; Ashley Young, photography; and Jeff Zimpel, graphic design. A student string ensemble led by faculty member Scott Wenzel will also perform. The exhibit will be on display until April 26.

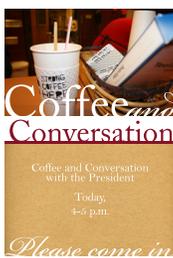


April 17 also marks the opening of "Zombies From the Beyond," a musical comedy satire of 1950s science fiction films set at the Milwaukee Space Station where a flying saucer lands, piloted by Zombina, an alien aviatrix. The book, music and lyrics were written by Milwaukee native James Valcq.



The musical is presented in the Nancy Kendall Theater by the Stritch Music and Theater departments. Performance times are April 17, 18, 24, 25 at 7:30 p.m.; and April 19, 26 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$6 for students. For more information or to order tickets, call the Box Office at ext. 4171.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



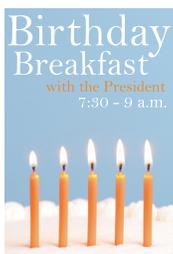
### Coffee and Conversation with the President

Wednesday, May 6

Tuesday, June 9

4-5 p.m.

Sister Camille Kliebhan Conference Center, room 1108



### Birthday breakfast with the President

Wednesday, April 29

Thursday, May 14 *(also includes June, July, August birthdays for faculty gone for the summer)*

Tuesday, June 23

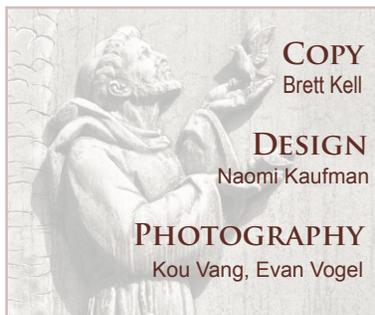
7:30-9 a.m.

President's office

## THE TROUBADOUR

The Troubadour supports the overall mission, goals and objectives of Cardinal Stritch University, and is meant to serve as a communications tool for the campus community. If you have feedback or story ideas, please contact Public Relations at [prdept@stritch.edu](mailto:prdept@stritch.edu).

For complete information on University public relations, media relations and publications, please see the PR brochure, which is available in My Stritch by clicking on "Public Relations Information" in the "Other Employee Info Pages" folder under the "Employee Info" tab.



### Looking for back issues of The Troubadour?

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