



# The Patriot



POPE JOHN XXIII ASSEMBLY 906 January-July 2014 Vol. XLX No. 5

## Bridges to Forgiveness, Peace

**The Navigator's Nocturnal**

**By Bernie Covino**

**Faithful Navigator**

Last March I prepared a talk on Oregon's Coastal bridges for the Yachats Academy of Arts and Sciences. It was well received and a pleasure to present. In doing this I thought where would we be without bridges today in terms of transportation of people and food and fuel? I guess there would probably be a lot of waiting for a lot of ferries to cross all of those rivers (see photo below of 1935 Yaquina Bay prior to the completion of the bridge).

I spent about 10 years of my working career trying to increase the lifetime of this and other bridges on the Oregon coast that were built by Conde B. McCullough.



The fascination with bridges, real or symbolic, and the power they have to transform society can be seen in literature as well as real life. A past President vowed to build a bridge to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A very commendable goal. But Pope Francis has some equally commendable and infinitely more powerful goals using the symbol of bridges. In the past year he has suggested that humans build bridges of dialogue, not walls of resentment and build a bridge between the historical culture of the church and modern secular culture. I'll offer a few thoughts on these two ideas..

Pope Francis says that rather than letting resentment or hate build up in our hearts, we should use dialogue to build a bridge to reconciliation. So whether it is our married lives, professional lives, church lives, or any other part of our life, it is always better to talk out problems without delay to try to resolve differences. It is important to build a bridge of dialogue as soon as possible because time allows the walls of resentment to grow ever higher.

How do we build a bridge between our Church culture and the secular culture? Through the path of humility instead of self-importance and love and forgiveness instead of judgment and control. By choosing St. Francis of Assisi as his inspiration, Pope Francis has chosen the human saint who everyone, of all religions and of no religion, can discover and enjoy

## Calendar of Events

**June 2014:** - 22 – 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly Meeting, St. Edwards Church, Lebanon, Mass at 10:30 am., followed by Corpus Christi procession. BBQ after procession. **July:** -20 – 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly Meeting, Sizzler, 3 p.m. with installation of officers. **August:** 17 – 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Meeting, Sizzler, 3 pm.



**Members of the Assembly laid a wreath at Memorial Day ceremonies in Albany**

