

# Up to Now

Newsletter of the St. Margaret of Cortona Region of the Secular Franciscan Order

Covering the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia,  
and portions of West Virginia and Pennsylvania



Fr. Philippus Philippus, OFM/Cap

Volume 21, Issue 2

*Let us begin again, for up to now we have done nothing.*

November 2017

## Nominations for Regional Council

**O**n April 21, 2018, the St. Margaret of Cortona Region will elect new officers. We need each fraternity to submit nominees for the offices of Minister, Vice-minister, Secretary, Treasurer, Formation Director, Area Councilor MD/PA, Area Councilor Metro D.C., Area Councilor VA/WVA and Area Councilor MD/DE. When submitting a name, give the fraternity name and the office for which the person has agreed to run. Those nominated for office must consent to the nomination. Those nominated will be asked to submit a short biography, which is to include SFO experience, as well as other pertinent experience.

### **From the General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order:**

#### **THE OFFICES IN THE FRATERNITY**

##### Article 51

1. While firmly upholding the co-responsibility of the council to animate and guide the fraternity, the minister, as the primary person responsible for the fraternity, is expected to make sure that the directions and the decisions of the council are put into practice and will keep the council informed about what he or she is doing.
2. The minister also has the following duties:
  - a. to call, to preside at, and to direct the meetings of the fraternity and council; to convoke every three years the elective chapter of the fraternity, having heard the council on the formalities of the convocation;
  - b. to prepare the annual report to be sent to the council of the higher level after it has been approved by the council of the fraternity;
  - c. to represent the fraternity in all its relations with ecclesiastical and civil authorities. When the fraternity acquires a juridical personality in the civil order, the minister becomes, when possible, its legal representative;
  - d. to request, with the consent of the council, the pastoral and fraternal visits, at least once every three years.

- e. to put into effect those acts which the Constitutions refer to his or her competence.

##### Article 52

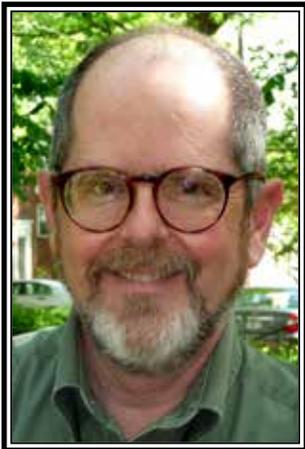
1. The vice-minister has the following duties:
  - a. to collaborate in a fraternal spirit and to support the minister in carrying out his or her specific duties;
  - b. to exercise the functions entrusted by the council and/or by the assembly or chapter;
  - c. to take the place of the minister in both duties and responsibilities in case of absence or temporary impediment;
  - d. to assume the functions of the minister when the office remains vacant.
2. The secretary has the following duties:
  - a. to compile the official acts of the fraternity and of the council and to assure that they are sent to their respective proper recipients;
  - b. to see to the updating and preservation of the records and the registers, noting admissions, professions, deaths, withdrawals, and transfers from the fraternity;
  - c. to provide for the communication of the more important facts to the various levels and, if appropriate, to provide for their dissemination through the mass media.

(See "Nominations" on page 7)

### **In This Issue . . .**

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## Regional Minister's Message



### 2018: A YEAR OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

"I ask to be admitted to profession of the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order and to make a permanent commitment to the gospel life. The experience during my time of formation has strengthened me in the conviction that the Lord is calling me to observe the holy gospel of Our

Lord Jesus Christ by following the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi." From the Rite of Profession or Permanent Commitment to the Gospel Life, *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*

Brothers and Sisters, when each of us made our permanent profession to our Rule, we entered into a lifelong commitment to observe the gospel by following our Holy Father Francis. In 2018, we will commemorate the 40th anniversary, when, on June 24, 1978, Blessed Pope Paul VI approved a Rule that had been 10 years in the making. In his Decree of Promulgation, the Holy Father thanked the Fathers General of the First and Third Order Regular, and said that our new Rule, "...was necessary because of the changed condition of the times and because of the teaching and encouragement given them by the Second Vatican Council.... In this way, we nurture the hope that the form of life preached by that admirable man of Assisi will gain a new impetus and will flourish vigorously." Each and every fraternity should commemorate this occasion, and use it - in the words of the Fathers General - to return "to the origins and to the spiritual experience of Francis of Assisi and of the brothers and sisters of penance who received from him their inspiration and

Get into the holiday spirit by volunteering! There are countless ways to help improve your community—and the planet—from cleaning up a local river to helping inner city kids experience the outdoors for the first time. Organizations and charities all over the country need your time and/or your money to make a difference, so you can have a great impact for a small amount of effort.

guidance. This renewal also depend upon openness to the Spirit in the signs of the times."

The theme of our region's Chapter of Mats is "Renewed and Confirmed: Live the Treasure!," and it will be held June 29-July 1 at Priest Field Pastoral Center. More information and registration forms will be in the February *Up to Now*.

### REGIONAL ELECTIONS

As dictated by our Constitutions and Statutes, every three years the ministers of all the fraternities in St. Margaret of Cortona region come together to elect a new regional council. Regional elections will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2018, at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, in Washington, D.C. Please pray for all the ministers as they gather to make these very important choices.

And please consider putting forward your name to serve on the council. Rule 21 of our Order states:

On various levels, each fraternity is animated and guided by a council and minister who are elected by the professed according to the constitutions.

Their service, which lasts for a definite period, is marked by a ready and willing spirit and is a duty of responsibility to each member and to the community.

The positions on the regional executive council are:

Minister  
Vice Minister  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Formation Director  
Virginia Area Councilor  
Metro DC Area Councilor  
Central/Southern Maryland and Delaware Area Councilor  
Western Maryland and Pennsylvania Area Councilor

We are all called to serve one another, brothers and sisters. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in this discernment. There is more information on page 1 and a nomination form on page 6 in this edition of *Up to Now*.

Peace and all good  
Patrick Martin  
Regional Minister

## Formation Director's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters! Peace of Christ!

In October, we held our Second Annual Formation Director's Workshop at Loyola. Twenty-seven people attended, including formation directors and several fraternity ministers. The weather was beautiful, and we closed with a celebration of the Holy Mass on Sunday with Fr. Kevin Treston, OFM, one of our Regional Spiritual Assistants, presiding.

The theme of the workshop was "Communicating Christ to Others in the Spirits of St. Francis & Clare." The main topic discussed was On-going Formation. At the workshop, a thumb drive and manual were given to each fraternity attendee. There were four presentations, along with time for discussions, which also included additional phases of formation. I would like now to extend my thanks to the following who helped make the workshop a success: Michael Huether, Jeanie McLees, Denise and Jerry Miente, and Gary Burton. They all contributed their expertise with a variety of tasks, as well as inspiring talks! I would also like to thank the Good Lord, as well as all those who brought snacks, or helped in any way.

The October 2017 manual's outline was built around the answers I received from the questionnaire I sent out in May to all the fraternities. Thank you to those formation directors who took the time to reply. Your feedback was very useful in creating the manual and in teaching others better communication skills. In reviewing the answers, I was also able to learn new methods of technology to reach out better to members in all phases of formation. This includes those who are infirm or who can no longer attend the meetings.

The table of contents of the workshop manual includes some of the following topics: *Prayer Before the Crucifix and for Vocations, Duties of the Master of Formation, Tools Used for Formation, Topics and Methods for On-going Formation, PowerPoint Presentations, Website Video Links, A Guiding Principle of the Franciscan Order, Ideas that Work Well, The Four Pillars of Formation*, and many more!

Brothers and Sisters, as Franciscans and formation directors, we have a duty to set the proper example for every member of the Order! But our work does not stop there. Outside of the Order and within our own communities, we are called to be holy examples of Christ and St. Francis. This is our task: to live out peaceful lives, full of hope and joy in our Risen Savior.

I would like to quote our own late beloved Deacon Tom Bello from his book, *For All the Saints: St. Francis' Five Point Plan for Salvation*. In it, he speaks of the four basic Cs of the Franciscan Charism. The first C is the Crib. Deacon Bello points out that the Franciscan Charism with

the Crib is our firm foundational faith in the Incarnation; namely that the Word was made flesh. The second C is the Cross. Jesus' love for us, he writes, carried Him all the way to the cross to die for our salvation. The third C is the Cup. Deacon Bello explains that the Cup of the Eucharist, the Holy Blood and Body of Christ, keeps us close to the Christ of the Crib and the Christ of the Cross. And lastly, the fourth C is for Creation. Here, he affirms that the love of St. Francis for all of God's creation is a love of God in all Creation.

As we approach the Advent Season in preparation for Christ's birth into the world, I would like to leave you with this thought, taken from the Franciscan Media Website: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-francis-and-the-crib/>. It speaks about the origin of the first crèche and says:

The home crib became popular in Catholic Europe after 1600, owing, it is said, to the efforts of the Capuchins.

Francis would smile at our nice varnished cribs, though he would bless any home that has one. Probably he would prefer those set up outdoors with live animals. And if he were to stand by one and preach today, he might say something like this:

Look deeper than this pleasant scene. See your God become your food for eternity in a feeding place for animals. See the simple bands wound around the helpless baby, not the embroidered dress. See a man and woman wearing the clothes of the poor. See and smell the animals. Feel the cold and dirt of the cave, lighted only by a little fire. And adore your God, who took a human heart that could know the greatest love and the sharpest pain, arms that could embrace the sinners, the neurotics, the lepers, and hands that could touch cheeks running with tears, and be pierced with nails. Adore your poor and humble God.

Brothers and Sisters, I would like to leave you with this thought for meditation during this Advent and Christmas Season: Do not forget the Christ Child, who has redeemed you and given birth to your hearts, so that you may live in utmost poverty on earth, in order that you may enjoy the extreme riches of eternal glory.

As always, I hold you within my heart in prayer. Please do the same for me!

Fraternally yours,  
Victoria Spalding, OFS



## Letter Written by Fra Giovanni

I am your friend and my love for you goes deep. There is nothing I can give you which you have not got, but there is much, very much, that, while I cannot give it, you can take.

No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in today. Take heaven!

No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present little instant. Take peace!

The gloom of the world is but a shadow. Behind it, yet within our reach is joy. There is radiance and glory in the darkness could we but see - and to see we have only to look. I beseech you to look!

Life is so generous a giver, but we, judging its gifts by the covering, cast them away as ugly, or heavy or hard. Remove the covering and you will find beneath it a living splendor, woven of love, by wisdom, with power.

Welcome it, grasp it, touch the angel's hand that brings it to you. Everything we call a trial, a sorrow, or a duty, believe me, that angel's hand is there, the gift is there, and the wonder of an overshadowing presence. Our joys, too, be not content with them as joys. They, too, conceal divine gifts.

Life is so full of meaning and purpose, so full of beauty - beneath its covering - that you will find earth but cloaks your heaven.

Courage, then, to claim it, that is all. But courage you have, and the knowledge that we are all pilgrims together, wending through unknown country, home.

And so, at this time, I greet you. Not quite as the world sends greetings, but with profound esteem and with the prayer that for you now and forever, the day breaks, and the shadows flee away.

Giovanni Giocondo was born in Verona around 1433. He joined the Dominican Order at the age of eighteen and was one of the many of that Order who promulgated the Renaissance. Afterwards, however, he left the Dominicans and entered the Franciscan Order. Giocondo began his career as a teacher of Latin and Greek in Verona, where Julius Caesar Scaliger was one of his pupils.

As a young priest, Friar Giovanni was a learned archaeologist and a superb draughtsman. He visited Rome, sketched its ancient buildings, wrote the story of its great monuments, and recorded, deciphered and explained many defaced inscriptions. He stimulated the revival of classical learning by making transcriptions of ancient manuscripts, one of which, completed in 1492, he presented to Lorenzo de' Medici.

Giocondo soon returned to his native town where he built bridges and planned fortifications for Treviso, acting as architect engineer, and head-builder during the construction.

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/o6563a.htm>



### IN THE MAIL NOW!!! **Franciscan Spirit**

A new journal of inspiration in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi

Published two times a year, *Franciscan Spirit* features writing from scholars and devotees of the way of St. Francis, striking photography, information on new releases, and special readers-only discounts.

It's free. You can't get it on the newsstands. There will never be ads. This is a unique way to immerse yourself in the spirit of St. Francis.

Highlights from the inaugural issue:

- Interview with Richard Rohr, OFM, on writing about his own Franciscan tradition
- Excerpt from Robert Ellsberg's *The Franciscan Saints*
- Essay from Brian Doyle's *Eight Whopping Lies and Other Stories of Bruised Grace*

For more information and to subscribe (free): <http://info.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit-0>

You can also read the article online at <https://blog.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit>

## Franciscan Mission Service

### FALL SAINTS, FALL SOULS

*Editor's note: In late summer, Rose Urankar, a 2015 grad of Notre Dame, joined the ranks of Franciscan Mission Service D.C. Service Corps volunteers. Though they come with diverse interests and backgrounds, all volunteers are young adults who commit to a year of service, spiritual growth, and simple living in community. In this reflection, we read Rose's spiritual musings on the transition from fall to winter during a session on Laudato Si' led by Lonnie Ellis, OFS.*

If there is ever a time to walk around in nature and be astounded by the creativity of God, it's during the fall. Sure, most flowers are still in bloom, but the leaves steal the show. Each one radiates a unique warm hue, as if the summer sun spent its final days painting them with golden rays.

Earlier this week, some members of the Casa Community were invited to go on a nature walk through the gardens of the nearby Franciscan monastery. Our guide told us to contemplate nature, keeping in mind Pope Francis's words from *Laudato Si'*: "The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face."

It wasn't difficult to find the fullness of God in nature that day, as mid-October presented us with the fullness of fall. Every leaf was a masterpiece in its own right: blushing reds, drunk on cabernet; fiercely speckled orangey yellows that could have camouflaged jaguars; bossy greens, boasting their hold on the classic mossy hue.



But as I walked among the colorful garden, I began to feel a winter chill. My fingertips froze, and I hugged my jacket a little tighter. After fall comes winter, death, and these pretty falling leaves just lead to wintry woes. For a moment I was sad at the impending doom of cold to come.

Then my gaze lifted and I saw, again, the triumphant trees. With this visual shift in perspective came a mental one as well. Instead of bemoaning the end of the year, I should be celebrating it like nature—taking joy

in the details of each leaf, their splendor multiplied by their community. The leaves are only able to be beautiful because they will fall and die. Their beauty is revealed through their variety, through their communion, and through their end.

I find myself pondering the same thing during this time of celebrating the feasts of All Saints and All Souls that marks the beginning of the Church's full month of remembrance for those who have died. Rather than feeling blue at their loss, we notice the radiant beauty each one bore before passing away. We see the variation of each call to holiness: Joan of Arc's bold red battles; Augustine's spotty early years and fierce conversion; Francis's pure green oneness with all of creation. No saint could capture all it meant to be holy because their lives were short and their callings distinct. Rather, each saint—including the ones we encounter every day—is a single stroke in the communion of saints, coming together to form a much grander tapestry that proclaims God's vibrant grace.

**Reflection question: In what unique ways is God coloring your life?**

### Mark Your Calendar



**November 18, 2017 – Regional Chapter.** St. Clement Mary Hofbauer parish, Rosedale, Md. Participation by minister or delegate is mandatory. (1212 Chesaco Avenue Baltimore, MD 21237)

**April 8, 2019 – Eighth Annual Day of Reflection for Inquirers, Candidates and Newly Professed.** St. Anthony Shrine, [12290 Folly Quarter Rd. Ellicott City, MD 21042](http://www.12290follyquarter.com)



**April 21, 2018 – Regional Elections.** Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, Washington, D.C. [1400 Quincy Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017](http://www.1400quincystreet.com)



**June 29-July 1, 1918 – Chapter of Mats.** Priest Field Pastoral Center [4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV 25430](http://www.4030middlewaypike.com)



ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA REGION  
 CHAPTER OF ELECTIONS  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Fraternity \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to serve as:

Select one

- Minister
- Vice Minister
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Formation Director
- Area Councilor Metro DC
- Area Councilor VA
- Area Councilor MD/DE
- Area Councilor PA/MD

My Qualifications are:

Year professed: \_\_\_\_\_

How I serve my fraternity/the region:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Why I feel called to serve the region:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Patrick Martin ([jpmmartin@gmail.com](mailto:jpmmartin@gmail.com))

Ann Corro ([Anncorro@aol.com](mailto:Anncorro@aol.com))

Carolyn Protin ([ceprotin513@gmail.com](mailto:ceprotin513@gmail.com))

**DUE NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018**

## What Are We Doing?

### MARIE DENNIS, OSF, SPEAKS AT THEOLOGY ON TAP

On Monday evening, October 23, 2017, the friars of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Triangle, Va., hosted an event in their ongoing series of Theology on Tap at the Ornerly Brew Pub in Woodbridge, Va. The speaker for the evening was Marie Dennis,



OFS, co-president of Pax Christi International, who addressed members of the parish, parish council, and others in attendance. Marie explained that Pax Christi is a Catholic sponsored organization that is international in scope, with more than 100 member organizations. Created after World War II to assist with reconciliation and reconstruction, Pax Christi is comprised of lay brothers and sisters, women religious, and clergy who work to promote non-violence, peace and justice, and reconciliation between groups throughout the world.

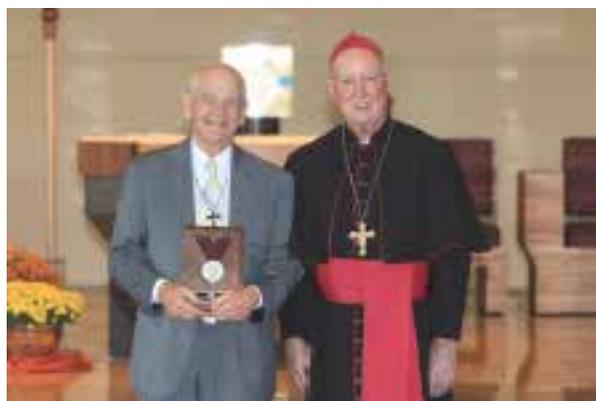
Marie helped the assembled group understand the difference between non-violence and pacifism, spoke about some of the

prominent figures who promoted non-violence (Ghandi and Martin Luther King), and the Scriptural basis for all non-violence demonstrated through the life and deeds of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. She also spoke of the successes of the organization, along with some of the ongoing efforts concerning non-violence. One of those is a discussion with the Vatican, coupled with a position paper and a proposed conference to adjust the criteria for application of the Just War theory. Subsequent to her talk there was a question and answer session, followed by prayer to close the event.



### TOM CARTER, OFS, RECEIVES MEDAL OF MERIT

Bishop W. Francis Malooly of the Archdiocese of Wilmington has awarded Tom Carter, OFS, of St. Clare Fraternity in Rehoboth Beach, Del., a Medal of Merit for his service to St. Edmond Parish, Rehoboth Beach, Del.



("Nominations" from page 2)

- c. to provide for the communication of the more important facts to the various levels and, if appropriate, to provide for their dissemination through the mass media.
3. The master of formation has the following duties:
  - a. to co-ordinate, with the help of the other members of the council, the formative activities of the fraternity;
  - b. to instruct and enliven the inquirers during the time of initiation, the candidates during the period of initiation formation, and the newly professed;
  - c. to inform the council of the fraternity prior to profession, concerning the suitability of the candidate for a commitment to live according to the Rule.
4. The treasurer, or bursar, has the following duties:

- a. to guard diligently the contributions received, recording each receipt in the appropriate register, with the date on which it was given, the name of the contributor, or the one from whom it was collected;
- b. to record in the same register the items of expense, specifying the date and the purpose, in conformity with the directions of the fraternity council;
- c. to render an account of his or her administration to the assembly and to the council of the fraternity according to the norms of the national statutes.

Additionally, the council has four regional area council members, representing the minister at fraternal visitations and local elections. The four areas are: the Virginia area, the Maryland/Pennsylvania area, the Maryland/Delaware area, and the metro D.C. area.

## Around the Region

### NEWLY ADMITTED

Chris Gordon, St. Pope John XXIII Emerging Fraternity, Davidsonville, Md.  
Ann Marie Pessagno, St. Pope John XXIII Emerging Fraternity, Davidsonville, Md.  
Nina Teti, St. Pope John XXIII Emerging Fraternity, Davidsonville, Md.



Emerging Fraternity Pope St. John XXIII celebrates its first Rite of Admission. From left: Ron Van Nest, OFS, Minister; Jeanne Catrow, OFS, Director of Formation; New Candidates Anne Marie Pessagno, Nina Teti, Chris Gordon.

### RECEIVED AS CANDIDATES

Louise Hotovy, OFS, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Ellicott City, Md.  
Mike Hotovy, OFS, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Ellicott City, Md.  
Mike King, OFS, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Ellicott City, Md.  
Mimi Cox Owens, OFS, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Ellicott City, Md.  
Joanne Patton, OFS, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Ellicott City, Md.  
Melissa Reed-Konigsdorffer, OFS, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Ellicott City, Md.  
Bill Siefken, OFS, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Ellicott City, Md.  
Alice Umigirane, OFS, St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Ellicott City, Md.



St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity Candidates, from left: Alice Umigirane, OFS, Bill Siefken, OFS, Melissa Reed-Konigsdorffer, OFS, Joanne Patton, OFS, Mimi Cox Owens, OFS, Louise Hotovy, OFS, Mike Hotovy, OFS and Mike King, OFS

### NEWLY PROFESSED

Hazel Cummings, OFS, St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity, Rockville, Md.  
Kathleen Cunningham, OFS, Mount La Verna Fraternity, Charlottesville, Va.  
Brenda Dawson, OFS, St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity, Rockville, Md.  
Portia Fiesta, OFS, St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity, Rockville, Md.  
Sheila Herlihy, OFS, Mount La Verna Fraternity, Charlottesville, Va.  
Judy Marie Manuel, OFS, St. Thomas More Fraternity, Arlington, Va.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED



Our Lady Queen of the Angels Council (from left): Kelly Ann Lynch, OFS, Minister; Mary Anne Fanale, OFS, Vice Minister; Susan M. Rineer, OFS, Secretary; Larry A. Rineer, OFS, Treasurer; Beth Treier, OFS, Formation Director; Julie Rasp, OFS, Councilor; Lourdes Morton, OFS, Councilor; Cindy Evans, OFS, Regional Councilor; Donna Willard, OFS, Spiritual Assistant

### Our Lady Queen of the Angels Fraternity, Lancaster, Pa.

Minister: Kelly Ann M Lynch, OFS  
Vice-Minister: Mary Anne Fanale, OFS  
Secretary: Susan M. Rineer, OFS  
Treasurer: Larry A. Rineer, OFS  
Formation Director: Beth Treier, OFS  
Councilor: Julie Rasp, OFS  
Councilor: Lourdes Morton, OFS

### LOSSES IN THE FAMILY



Joseph Roccapiore, OFS, June 22, 1925 – August 22, 2017. He was a member of St. Thomas More Fraternity, Arlington, and was professed on June 11, 1968.



Julia Stratchko, OFS, died September 26, 2017. She was a member of Mt. St. Sepulchre Fraternity, Washington, D.C., and was professed October 1, 1977. She was an active member in spite of her long illness and was loved by the members of her fraternity.

## *Franciscan Saints, Blesseds and Feasts*

(click on the name to go to a Web link)

### NOVEMBER

- 15 [Bl. Mary of the Passion](#), Virgin, Founder, 3rd Order Regular, d. 1904
- 16 [St. Agnes of Assisi](#), Virgin, 2nd Order, d. 1253
- 17 [St. Elizabeth of Hungary](#), Virgin, Patroness of Secular Franciscan Order, Plenary Indulgence (renewal of Tertiary engagement), d. 1231  
[Bl. Jeanne de Signa](#), Virgin, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1307
- 18 [Bl. Salome de Cracovie](#), Virgin, 2nd Order, d. 1268
- 19 [Bl. Salvatore Lilli](#), Priest, 1st Order, martyr, 1895
- 20 [Bl. Milagros Ortells](#), Virgin, Capuchin religious, martyr, 1936
- 21 [Feast of the Presentation of the Holy Virgin Mary](#)
- 24 Commemoration of all the Deceased of the Franciscan Family (I, II, III Orders)
- 25 [Bl. Elizabeth of Reute](#), virgin, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1420
- 26 [St. Leonard de Port-Maurice](#), Priest, 1st Order, d. 1751
- 27 [St. François-Antoine Fasani](#), Priest, 1st Order, d. 1742  
[St. Humilis of Bisignano](#), Religious, 1st Order, d. 1637
- 28 [St. James de la Marche](#), Priest, 1st Order, d. 1476
- 29 Saints of the Seraphic Order  
[\(We pray the Franciscan Litany of the Saints\)](#)
- 30 [Bl. Antoine Bonfandini](#), Priest, 1st Order, d. 1482

### DECEMBER

- 2 [Bl. Marie-Angele Astorch](#), Virgin, Capuchin religious, d. 1665  
[Bl. Raphael Chylinski](#), Priest, 1st Order, d. 1741
- 4 [Bl. Francois Galves](#), Priest, 1st Order, martyr, 1623  
[Blessed Pietro Tecelano](#), 3rd Order Secular, d. 1289
- 8 [Feast of the Immaculate Conception](#), Patroness of the Seraphic Order, Holy Day of Obligation, Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cord bearers
- 11 [Bl. Hugolinus Magalotti](#), 3rd Order Secular, d. 1373

- 12 [Discovery of the tomb of St. Francis 1820](#)
  - 13 [Bl. Pius Bartosik](#), Priest, 1st Order, martyr 1941
  - 14 [Bl. Jean Discalceat](#), Priest, d. 1349
  - 15 [Bl. Mary Francis Schervier](#), Virgin, 3rd Order Regular, d. 1876
  - 19 [Bl. Conrad of Offida](#), Priest, 1st Order, d. 1306
  - 23 [Bl. Nicolas Factor-Estaña](#), Priest, 1st Order, d. 1583
  - 24 [Bl. Bentivolio of Bonio](#), Priest, 1st Order, d. 1231
  - 25 Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
  - 27 [Bl. Matthia Nazzarei](#), Virgin, 2nd Order, d. 1320
  - 28 [Feast of the Holy Innocents](#)
  - 29 [Bl Gerard Cagnoli](#), lay brother, 1st Order, d. 1342
  - 30 [Bl. Margaret Colonna](#), Virgin, 2nd Order, d. 1280
- ### JANUARY
- 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
  - 3 Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus
  - 4 [Bl. Angela of Foligno](#), widow, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1310  
[Bl. Ruggiero da Todj](#), religious, 1st Order, d. 1237
  - 5 [Bl. Diego José of Cádiz](#), priest, 1st Order, d. 1801
  - 7 [St. Charles of Sezze](#), lay brother, 1st Order, d. 1670
  - 8 [Bl. Eurosia Fabris](#), 3rd Order Secular, d. 1921
  - 10 [Bl. Gregory X](#), pope, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1276
  - 11 [St Thomas of Cori](#), priest, 1st Order, d. 1729
  - 12 [St. Bernard of Corleone](#), lay brother, 1st Order, d. 1667
  - 13 Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ
  - 14 [Bl. Oderic de Pordenone](#), priest, 1st Order, d. 1331
  - 16 [Sts. Berard and Companions](#), Protomartyrs of the Franciscan Order, d. 1220
  - 17 [Bl. Matthew of Girgenti](#), Bishop, 1st Order, d. 1451
  - 20 [Bl. Jean-Baptiste Triquerie](#), priest, 1st Order, martyr 1794  
[St. Eustochia Calafato](#), virgin, 2nd Order, d. 1491
  - 21 [Bl. Joseph Nascimbeni](#), priest, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1922
  - 22 [St. Vincent Pallotti](#), priest, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1850

- 23 **St. Marianne Cope**, virgin, 3rd Order Regular, d. 1918
- 24 **Bl. Paula Gambará-Costa**, widow, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1515
- 26 **Bl. Georges Matulwicz**, Bishop, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1927
- 27 **St. Angela Merici**, virgin, founder, 3rd Order Regular, d. 1540
- 28 **Bl. Bienvenu de Recanati**, priest, 1st Order, d. 1289
- 29 **St. Francis de Sales**, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, Corderbearer, d. 1622
- 30 **St. Hyacintha de Mariscotti**, virgin, 3rd Order Regular, d. 1640
- 31 **St. John Bosco**, priest, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1888

## FEBRUARY

- 1 **Bl. Patrick O'Loughran**, Priest, 1st Order, martyr, d. 1612
- 2 **Bl. Andrea Ferrari**, Bishop, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1921
- 3 **Martyrs of Japan**, 1st Order, lay brothers and 3rd Order Secular, d. 1597  
**Bl. Andrew of Segni**, religious, 1st Order, d. 1302
- 4 **St. Joseph de Leonisse**, Priest, 1st Order, d. 1612
- 5 **St. Jane of Valois**, Virgin, 2nd Order, d. 1505
- 6 **Bl. Pius IX**, Pope, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1878
- 9 **Bl. Leopold of Alpendeire**, lay brother, 1st Order, d. 1956
- 10 **Bl. Alojzije Stepinac**, Bishop, martyr, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1960  
**Bl. Clare of Rimini**, Virgin, 2nd Order, d. 1346
- 13 **St. Eustochium of Messine**, Virgin, 2nd Order, d. 1485  
**St. Giles Mary of St. Joseph**, lay brother, 1st Order, d. 1812
- 15 **Translation of the relics of St. Anthony**
- 16 **St. Veridiana**, Virgin, 3rd Order Secular, d. 1242  
**Bl. Philippa Mareri**, Virgin, 2nd Order, d. 1263
- 17 **Bl. Luke Belludi**, Priest, 1st Order, d. 1286

## Websites of Interest

Empathy program to follow over the holidays.  
<http://www.upworthy.com/forget-the-mannequin-challenge-try-the-empathy-challenge-this-holiday-season>

Do you remember how Tysons Corner used to be?  
<http://wtop.com/fairfax-county/2017/08/photos-tysons-corner-through-the-years/sthash.YUAR-2Wox.gbpl/slide/30/>

The oldest, continuously inhabited private house in England – from the 12th century.

<https://www.thevintagenews.com/2017/04/06/saltford-manor-the-oldest-inhabited-private-house-in-england/>

Thanks, Honey Scott

The End of Prayer Shaming

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/jFz4uUfPf-N8?rel=0&autoplay=1>

Thanks, Bob Longo

Rare white giraffes – and be sure to scroll down to see the white lion cub.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/16/world/afri-ca/rare-white-giraffe-kenya.html?login=email&auth=login-email>

Catholic cartoons

<http://www.jasonbachcartoons.com/catholic-01.html>

The world's oldest active gymnast. Something for us older Seculars to aim for?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o625rylh-3bY>



"Monk at Computer" from the Centre for the History of the Book, University of Edinburgh

*The Regional Executive Council  
wishes you a blessed Advent  
and a holy and joyous Christmas season.  
Peace and all good to you  
and all you hold dear.*