



IMMACULATA

My God and my all!

Newsletter of Immaculata Fraternity, Fredericksburg, Virginia



Edition 1., December 2018

Welcome to the First Edition of the Newsletter for Immaculata Fraternity

This newsletter is yours, and I mean that sincerely. I will try to include timely information and inspiration, as I find it. The letter will contain lists of birthdays, profession anniversaries, saints' feasts and other commemorations. Also, I encourage you to submit to me your ideas and articles. Send me your insights, revelations, poems or any other musings! Jot down your thoughts about how a Franciscan story touched you, how a passage from a Gospel got you thinking, or what Christian action spurred you on. Send it in!

-- Skip Wallace, OFS

Pope Pius XI (a Third Order Franciscan): Personal reflection on the Rosary

"The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight and to keep oneself from sin . . . If you desire peace in your hearts, in your homes, and in your country, assemble each evening to recite the Rosary. Let not even one day pass without saying it, no matter how burdened you may be with many cares and labors."

St. Margaret of Cortona Region — Chapter of Ministers

The Region's Chapter of Ministers was held on November 3 at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas, VA. Immaculata's Minister Skip Wallace attended the day-long session, whose theme was "Many Parts - One Body." Main presentations were made by the Region's Minister, Bob Longo, OFS, and by Fr. Charlie Miller, OFM. Small group sessions during the day involved discussions among the various Fraternity representatives about what was working -- and not working -- in the life of their Fraternities. The day closed with a remembrance ceremony of those sisters and brothers who passed on during the last year. Pictured below are the participants:



December Feast Days and Holy Days for Secular Franciscans

- 5. Bl. Pierre de Sienne, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1289
- 6. Bl. Elisabeth la Bonne, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1420
- 8. Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the Seraphic Order, Holy Day of Obligation, Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cordbearers
- 9. Bl. Delphine de Glandeves, Virgin, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1360
- 11. Bl. Hugolin Magalotti, Confessor, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1373
- 14. Bl. Barthole Buonpedini, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1300
- 25. Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Holy Day of Obligation
- 31. St. Gaspard Buffalo, Priest, Franciscan Third Order Secular, d. 1836; Plenary Indulgence (Chant the Te Deum in public)



Milestones

Fraternity Birthdays

Colleen Faini December 11

Skip Wallace December 12

Peg Murphy December 29



Minister Messages

You may remember that in October I traveled to western Washington state to be with my mother in her last sickness and death -- to be with my siblings and their spouses, too. And, to be with some of Mom's many friends. Experiencing times like those as a Christian, there are senses of pain and senses of "gift." It's hard to put into adequate words.

A Mass was said for my Mom on Friday, November 23. Blessed Miguel Pro's feast day was celebrated, but the scripture readings were from the regular day. One was Revelation 10:8-11. St. John wrote of his vision of the voice from heaven directing that he take a scroll from the angel, and that he eat the scroll which would taste sweet as honey in his mouth, but bitter to his stomach.



Virginia Lu Wallace

I didn't understand the meaning of the scripture passage, but a bit of research found it: the scroll related both the sufferings and the victories of the Church. The bitter and the sweet.

My Catholic life takes cues from the Word of the Lord, of course. But mortal life is steeped in this world with all the challenges presented, all the advantages Satan uses to woo one's soul, all the opportunities to despair. And despair may be the most insidious surrender of all: lost hope in God and the resultant vulnerability of the soul to the diabolical. I don't despair.

That Mass, said for my Mom on that day with its mysterious Word of the Lord, helped me with my inadequate words about her death. Yes, her death was a sad thing and I miss her terribly. But being with her on the days of her passing, being with family and friends, and hearing all the messages of love for her were moments full of wonder. Tears and wonder. Bitter and sweet.

Skip Wallace, OFS

Dreams of my loved ones

Last night my dreams took me back to evangelization days. Newly committed to letting Christ be my Shepherd, My Savior, My Lord for life. My family was involved and I had to stand back and watch them struggle and respond to Jesus outreaching love and compassion. I had to find the updated pathway for myself in trusting him to be my life long guide.

At the same time I had to encourage my family to trust Him and no longer demand to be in control of their own life paths. I found the deep but perplexing importance of giving my family away to Him like Mary did at the presentation. I recalled many of my friends in Officer Christian Fellowship and our Charismatic Community in Monterey, CA at the Postgraduate School. I remembered the strength of their faith and encouragement as we all spent hours in prayer for each newly born Christian who received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.



I woke up so joyful and thankful for all the ups and downs coming in my life.

I saw each member of my immediate family struggle and I obediently stood back and got out of the Lord's way to allow others to serve him and my loved ones. As I let go of each of them I felt such peace, wisdom and joy. My trust grew leaps and bounds!

I don't know the hour or the day, I only know that I will serve Him and trust Him to bring salvation to my family. Sometimes the best we can do is get out of His Way, stop silently judging others' pathways, and leave His crumbs of wisdom along the way.

Maggie Fischer, OFS -- August, 2018



If you suffer with Him, you will reign with Him. If you cry with Him, you will have joy with Him. If you die with Him on the cross of tribulation, you will possess the eternal dwelling place in the splendor of the saints. And your name, written in the book of life, will be glorious among men.

- St. Clare of Assisi -